Libraries in the 21st century - Libraries in an online world

Submitted by Ron McDermott

Faith Johnson has a dream - Or maybe it's a plan. Faith is the director of the Town of Ulster Public Library, and she joined us for our June general meeting. Her topic was, "Libraries in the 21st century - Libraries in an online world". Faith would like her library to be the hub for community activity; a place where people routinely gather to share, learn, work, and play. This is a dream which would have been unrealistic in the libraries of the past.

In my younger days, the library was a place where one would go to find information and take out books, One's access to information, however, was limited to what the library actually had on hand, and the first stop in the journey involved sorting through a card catalog by hand; followed, perhaps, by a stop at the front desk to get some help finding a particular item. Well, it's a different world now!

Computers have changed the face of libraries completely. The local library is now a single element in a broader set of libraries. Faith's library, for example, is part of a five-county network encompassing Ulster, Dutchess, Putnam, Greene, and Columbia counties.   In practice, then, a patron now has access to the resources of a great many libraries scattered throughout a wide geographic area. And in place of that card catalog, we now have a computer database that allows you to rapidly search for an item in ANY of the libraries in the network. You can go to the library to make your search, or you can do it from home. Find what you want, and put in a request/hold. Then simply wait, and when your local library contacts you to tell you that the item is now available, you can stop in and pick it up. What could be simpler than that?

Faith Johnson

And it's not just books and magazines. Music, dvds, and video games can also be found there. But wait, there's more! You can now download e-books (books you can read; even audiobooks that will be read TO you). This is an especially great resource for young children who now don't have to wait until you have time to read to them. I suspect that streamed video/movies won't be far behind. You can now get access, online, to major newspapers, to financial

news, and to any number of specialized data-bases for scientific, political, financial, and legal information, to cite just a few possibilities. In the past, a single library might not have the financial support to pay for the use of such databases, but a network of libraries can pool their financial resources and make these databases available. As a result, even the most isolated of libraries, in the smallest of communities, can have access to expensive (multi-thousands of dollars) databases. Many libraries now have dedicated computer resources for children, complete with educational games. Or they may even have dedicated computers for job searches and resumes.

One of the more fascinating revelations Faith made concerned the existence of a thriving Wii bowling league operating out of her library (and others)! Apparently, Wii games are very well received by patrons of all ages! Interestingly, but perhaps not surprisingly, Faith indicated that despite the revolution that computers have created in the library sciences, library personnel have not, in general, kept pace with the technology. As a consequence, she feels that libraries are not realizing their full potential. As an aside, as a retired school teacher, I can tell you that the same thing is true in our schools, although that seems to be changing over time, as it no doubt will in our libraries.

Faith also suggested that people take advantage of the opportunity to join the New York City Public Library. Anyone who resides in New York State qualifies for a library card, which can be applied for at: http://catalog.nypl.org/screens/selfregpick.html. Follow the directions provided to complete the application, and either pick up the card, or have it mailed to you.

Faith came prepared with a PowerPoint presentation that went into some additional detail about specific resources that are available at her

library, but we kind of sidetracked her with our questions. She was kind enough to allow us to post the PowerPoint presentation on our website in case anyone would like to investigate further. The link is: http://www.mhcug.org/presentations/FJohnson.ppt Please take a moment and look it over.

We want to thank Faith for a totally engrossing presentation and discussion, and maybe we can get her to come visit us again sometime!

The June 10 Survey Says…

During the sign-in for the MHCUG's General Meeting held June 10, 2010, a two part question was asked:

Do you presently own an Apple iPad?

Do you plan on buying one?

	Apple iPad	
# Members Signing-in	# Members: Owning	# Members: Planning to Buy
30	0	0

The results were unanimous for the 30 members who signed-in. *Not a single member owned the very popular Apple iPad nor was planning to buy one…*Steve Jobs would be very disappointed!

MHCUG July General Meeting

Bruce Preston

Thursday, July 8, 2010

Computer Group presentation: Converting LP's & Tapes to MP3's and CD's

Bruce Preston

7:30 PM JULY 8 at Mercury Grand Hotel, 2170 South Rd, Rte. 9, Poughkeepsie, NY in the Hudson Room. Bruce tells us he will bring several LPs that could "use work". One LP has a vocal which provides for a good example of what happens if you record at too high a level - clipping. The Benny Goodman Carnegie Hall Concert from the 1930's has lots of noise that cleans up very nicely - an impressive demonstration. I usually bring a few others that have "pops" or other problems. Because the ripping process from LPs is a real-time process I usually do not do entire album sides (although you could, of course.)

- The outline of the presentation:

- Is It Legal?

- Background: Different Recording Technologies

- What Hardware Do I Need?

- What Software Do I Need?

- What Kind of Blank CDs?
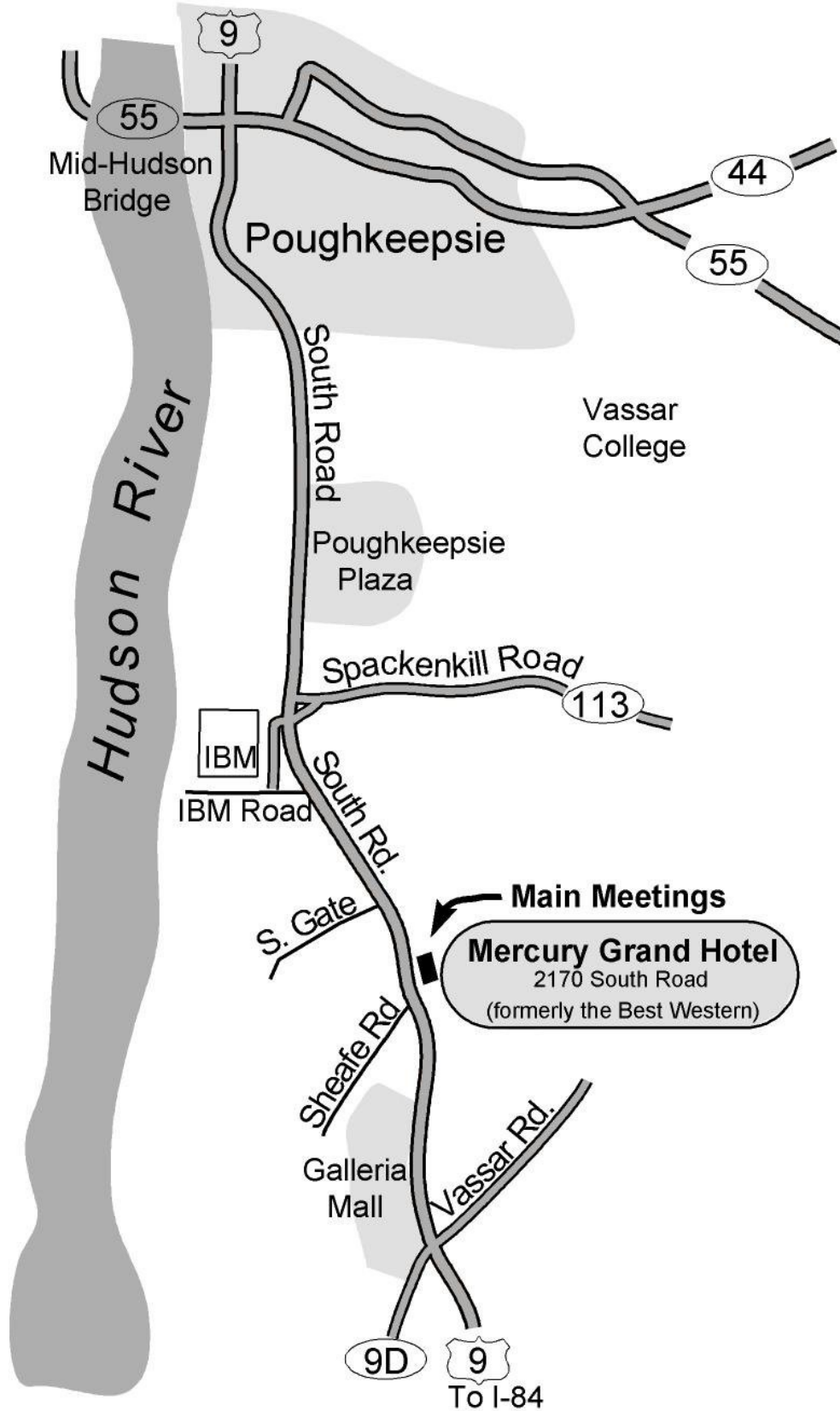
- The Process

- Demonstration

 The software is open source - 100% free, and is available for PC, Mac, and Linux. As for hardware, it is highly probable that all you need is a cable from RadioShack that costs about $8. I cover connecting to compact stereo systems, component systems, and the standalone turntables that come with a USB connection.

 Mid-Hudson Computer User Group is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit educational organization and welcomes the public to attend this meeting. There is no admission charge. Further information concerning this event, or membership details may be obtained by contacting Dick Kranz at 845 896-7376 or going to http://mhcug.org.

MHCUG MAIN MEETING LOCATION

9

55

Mid-Hudson Bridge

Poughkeepsie

44

55

Hudson River

South Road

Vassar College

Poughkeepsie Plaza

Spackenkill Road

113

IBM

IBM Road

South Rd.

Main Meetings

S. Gate

Mercury Grand Hotel
2170 South Road
(formerly the Best Western)

Sheafe Rd

Galleria Mall

Vassar Rd.

9D 9
To I-84

Technology Workshop

by Harry Elder

Smart Computing Ends Unlimited Free Tech Support

Well, it finally happened. That fabulous, incredible deal that we had for so long has finally ended. Subscribers no longer get free, unlimited computer support from the people at Smart Computing magazine.   Now, Smart Computing subscribers get one free computer problem solved per yearly subscription. That's for print subscribers only.   On-line only subscribers aren't entitled to any free technical support.   After your freebie, all other successfully resolved technical issues are charged $29.

This was first reported to us by Gim Lee in our May Upgrade and Repair SIG. We were all convinced that Gim was wrong. We were wrong. Ed Terpstra brought us the bad news this month. I found out by calling for help last month.

No whiners please. Smart Computing still has a wealth of information to help you out online, including a Q&A board, Solutions Knowledgebase, and article search. They've recently added a new 'what to do when' section. After that, pony up $29, after your first free fix.   Your other option? Join Mid Hudson Computer User Group!

It's 10:00 PM. Do you know where your backups are?

Do you diligently take the time to backup all of your precious, and not so precious photos? Do you also backup your financial data, important documents, and all of your music and videos? Great! Wonderful! Bravo!   Except …. your CDs and DVDs may have expired. Sorry, there's no expiration date to check. This can happen when you save your pictures on a CD or DVD with a short shelf life (read – 'cheap').

Jeff Dowley led a discussion on the pitfalls and perils of CD/DVD life spans, aging, and data loss. Not all CD/DVDs are created equal. They can age and lose data - your data.   Jeff recommends using premium media like Verbatim Data Life.   When you consider that ordinary CD/DVDS cost about twenty-five cents in bulk, paying fifty cents, or even a dollar for a premium product is still a bargain. Be careful of what you buy. Thanks Jeff.

My own thoughts on this are to go and buy superior CD/DVDs right now, and re-record your data. Having duplicate copies, or even triplicate copies, is always prudent. Keep one copy outside of your home, such as in a safe deposit box, or at a trusted relative's home.

If you trust the cloud, backup to sites like Mozy and Zmanda. I wouldn't rely only on the cloud though.

Finally, consider using an external hard drive. Prices are crashing – can you hear them?   One terabyte drives for under $100 are the norm now. One popular web computer store recently had a sale - $39.99 (after rebate) for a one terabyte Seagate hard drive.

Round the room

We went around the room as usual; other interesting topics were discussed.

Lloyd Quick told us that he recently bought a USB-powered LED mini-light at a local 'dollar' type store, but it only lasted for a half hour. Thanks for the warning, Lloyd; so noted. Caveat Emptor.

Jack Marsella brought in an 'antique' IBM hard drive to show us. It was a rather curious-looking device, and it had a variable storage size, from 4 -16 GB, pin-adjustable.

A guest came in asking where he could get drivers for a presumably older HP printer. Charlie

Patterson suggested that he search with Bing; I assume Charlie has had better luck searching for drivers with Bing over Google.

Thanks to all club members for a great meeting. Please join us at our next MHCUG Technology Workshop on first Thursday of the month, in room "A23B" at Guardian Storage Business Development Center, 3 Neptune Road; Town of Poughkeepsie. Contact Technology Workshop leader Dick Kranz for additional information.□

MHCUG Items for Sale

MHCUG microCHIP is introducing a new **For Sale by Members** column. Please send a description of your computer-related item, or items, to: editor (at) mhcug.org. Include 'for sale' on the subject line. Please include item description, price, and your preferred contact information—email, phone, etc. You can include pictures; the editor has the option to include or remove.

Disclaimer: MHCUG offers this service as a courtesy to members only. MHCUG does not warrant any item as to its condition or suitability. All terms and conditions are strictly between the selling member and the buyer. □

July MHCUG Meetings

Thursday, July 1, MHCUG Board meeting
5:30 PM   Guardian Storage Building

Thursday, July 1, Technology Workshop
7:00 PM Guardian Storage -

Thursday, July 8 MHCUG General Meeting
6:30 PM Hudson Room, Mercury Grand Hotel
See page 3 for details

Thursday, July 15 , Upgrade and Repair 7:00 p.m.   Guardian Storage Building

Tuesday, July 20 Ulster Computing Workshop 7:00 PM Esopus Library - Canal Street, Port Ewen NY

Thursday, July 22, Digital Media 7:00 p.m. Guardian Storage Building

All meetings at Guardian Storage are in room A23B □

All submissions for the Microchip must be in the hands of the editors by the Thursday following the General Meeting. Any articles or information received after that date will be held for the following month's publication. E-mail: editor (at) mhcug.org

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Special Interest Groups are for people with common computer interests—novice through expert. Call the group leader to verify schedule.

Upgrade/Repair

Leader: Jeff Dowley (845) 453-2754

e-mail: j.dowley (at) hotmail.com

Schedule: 3rd Thursday 7:00 PM

Location: Guardian Storage (Neptune Road)

Room A23B

Technology Workshop

Leader: Dick Kranz

Tel: (845)297-1813, (845) 896-7376 or

(845) 265-4169 or e-mail:

dickkranz (at) optonline.net

Schedule: 1st Thursday , 7:00 PM

Location: Guardian Storage (Neptune Road)

Room A23B

Digital Photography

Schedule: 4th Thurs. 7:00 PM

Location: Guardian Storage (Neptune Road)

Room A23B

Ulster Computing Workshop

Leader: Robert Morales

Schedule: 3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM

Location: Esopus Library - Canal Street, Port Ewen NY

Interested in starting a Special

Interest Group?

Contact Jack Marsella

Minutes of the June 2010 MHCUG Board of Directors Meeting

The June 3rd meeting of the MHCUG Board of Directors was called to order at 6:05 PM by Jeff Dowley, MHCUG President. This meeting is regularly held on the first Thursday of the month in Conference Room A23B of the Guardian Center which is located at 3 Neptune Road in Poughkeepsie. All Board meetings are open to the public.

Officers and Board members attending were Jeff Dowley, Dick Kranz, Bob Morales, Ron McDermott, Rolf Nijhuis, Jim Peabody, Dan Sullivan, Bob Gieseler and Ed Terpstra. Non-Board members Peter Gum and Harry Elder (microCHIP editor) also attended.

A motion to approve the minutes of the May Board meeting was made by Dick Kranz and seconded by Rolf Nijhuis. The motion was unanimously carried.

Treasurer Eli Cohen's financial report as of May 31, 2010 was read by Jeff Dowley. It was approved by Dan Sullivan and seconded by Jim Peabody.

The positions of VP-Programs and Secretary remain unfilled.

There was no VP activities report.

For our June 10, 2010 main meeting, Rolf Nijhuis will monitor the sign-in sheet and poll questions. Lloyd Quick will moderate the Q&A. Bob Morales will stand by as backup if needed. Our main presenter will be Faith Johnson, Director of the Town of Ulster Library. Lead Story and Technology writers are needed. Bob Morales will video tape the presentation.

Dan Sullivan reports our membership status as 81 total, with 73 members paid through 3rd quarter of 2010, and 8 memberships are set to expire at the end of the second quarter 2010.

microCHIP editor Harry Elder reported that the June issue will be published on or before the June main meeting.

SIG meeting attendee counts for May were: Technology Workshop (18), Upgrade and repair (17), Digital Imaging/Multi Media (14), Ulster Computing Workshop (6).

Bob Gieseler will handle publicity for the June main meeting. Edward Morzen was not present.

Videos for the main May meeting were not uploaded to our web site.

Dick Kranz reported that we have presenters for our July and August main meetings.

New Business:

Peter Gum reported that he taught a class on Yahoo to senior citizens at a local library under the auspices of MHCUG.

The topic of including an 'Items for Sale' section in our newsletter was brought up. No action was taken.

Bob Morales suggested that we have a 50/50 raffle at our main meetings. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Jim Peabody and seconded by Dick Kranz to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Harry Elder □

The MHCUG is a non-profit educational organization which promotes activities encouraging the use of computers by its members. The MHCUG encourages professionalism and the development of technical skills. A Member may be anyone with an interest in computers who supports the purpose of the MHCUG. A Student-member must be under 25 years of age and attending an educational institution full-time.

If new applicant or renewal, please check one:

‰ Member: dues: $35 per year

‰ Student: dues: $15 per year

Full-time ID (required) _____

I am enclosing a check for ‰ 1 ‰ 2 ‰ 3 yrs

(Students renew yearly)

Make check (on US bank only) payable to:

Mid-Hudson Computer User Group

Send form and check to: Attn Treasurer

Mid-Hudson Computer User Group

PO Box 1962

Poughkeepsie NY 12601-0962

Mid-Hudson Computer User Group, Inc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City State Zip: _____

Telephone: (   ) _____ E-mail: _____

Would you like an e-mail reminder of upcoming meetings? ‰ Yes ‰ No

How did you hear about us? _____

If sponsored by a member, please provide name: _____

Dues Amount _____Additional Contribution Amount_____ Total _____

Mid-Hudson Computer User Group, Inc.

PO Box 1962

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-0962

2010 Officers

President: Jeff Dowley

Vice President of-Programs - open

Vice President of-Activities - Dick Kranz

Secretary - open

Treasurer - Eli Cohen

Past President - Dan Sullivan

BoD members for 2010

Ron McDermott

Bob Morales

Ray Polivka

Ed Terpstra

Rolf Nijhuis

BoD members for 2010 and 2011

Bob Gieseler

Rolf Nijhuis

Jim Peabody

Linda Ritch

Standing Committees

WebSite: Jerry Clark

Database: Dan Sullivan 229-0241

Publicity: Edward Morzen 849-1231

SIG Chair: Jack Marsella 632-1478

Membership: Open

Monthly Meetings - Scheduled the second Thursday of every month. Check **www.mhcug.org** for possible changes to general and SIG meetings. Local radio stations will be advised if a meeting is cancelled unexpectedly.

microCHIP **staff**

Harry Elder, Editor, e-mail: editor (at) mhcug.org

Advertising

Peter Dowley, Ad Manager, e-mail: pdowley (at) juno.com * 889-4850

Ad Rate Sheet: www.mhcug.org/library.htm

Notices

* **All area codes are 845 unless shown otherwise.**

Website: www.mhcug.org