

The

Computer Link

March 2010

The Newsletter of the Northern Neck Computer Users' Group

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Send newsletter
submissions to Editor

➔**DEADLINE**➔
for **NEXT ISSUE**,
One week after meeting

Betty Lehman Presents WEB Page Design

NNCUG Webmaster Betty Lehman was the featured presenter at the general membership meeting on February 20, 2010 at RW-C. She made a complex task seem easy, but we all know how big a job it was to get started.

Betty uses the software devised by our local Web Host, Tom Foulkes of GGCWEB.Com LLC located in downtown Kilmarnock. The instructions were simple and straightforward. She missed the classes but took the instruction book and was able to set up the templates and import information for our main page and links by heading to town for tutorials and great help.

She took us through the various phases of setting up each page, entering various colors and fonts, and setting up each part of the site so it can be easily updated. The result is that the NNCUG now has the capability of showing our photography, genealogy, newsletter and general

meeting activities to both our membership and anyone else who happens onto our web site.

Years ago Betty also ran the *ComputerLink* newsletter and was responsible for training Ed. She has held many officer positions, including President, in recent years and has been our most dedicated member. We are all very thankful for her ser-

VICES and she is willing to train anyone who wishes to become our new webmaster or start a website of their own. She gave us a great introduction at the last meeting. Thanks, Betty. **Ed.**



Betty Lehman

Photo by Alan Christensen

Election-Photo Contest

Come to the March 20 meeting at 09:30 am to nominate candidates for Club Offices from the floor and to vote for candidates of your choice. Due to term limits, there will be significant turnover in officers. **Candidates for office are: President - Chris Christensen; VP - Phil Allen; Secretary - Ann Moss; Treasurer - George Cadmus; and Member At Large - BJ McMillan.** Coffee and donuts will be provided. Also, you will get to vote for the "Photo of the Year" from monthly Photo SIG contest winners on display at RW-C. **A. Ed.**

BeWARES!

By Berry F. Phillips,

Member of the Computer Club of
Oklahoma City
www.ccokc.org
wijames (at) sbcglobal.net

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The wares have often perplexed computer users with numerous decisions regarding software. The multitude of wares have been even more confusing. **Comware** is commercial software which generally has more "bells and whistles" but requires the highest financial expenditure without the option to try the software in advance. **Trialware** is usually characterized on the Internet as a free download for a limited time but requires a purchase to continue using the software. **Shareware** is also free to download but often has features turned off or has an expiration date unless you purchase the software. Trialware and Shareware do offer an opportunity to use the software before making the decision to purchase. **Freeware** is free for personal use on the Internet but it may contain adware, viruses, or be poor software. Further, the marketing promotion of the wares can be even more misleading, causing you to download and then delete software that you thought was freeware when you discover it is, in fact, **pay ware**.

The world of wares can be very frustrating as well as expensive to the computer user. One can spend considerable time, frustration, and even expense **downloading and deleting** various wares on the Internet. Beware, retailers will not accept returned comware after it has been opened for a money back guarantee. Relax, my holiday gift to my readers is a solution to the problem that I have used for several years, saving me considerable time and money! However, I have had to endure personal comments from some of my fel-

I have nothing but freeware downloaded from the Internet on my system!

low computer users that I am "cheap!" Since my ancestry is Scottish who are known for being thrifty, I do not consider that comment an insult. However, I do prefer the use of the word **"conservative" to the rather blunt, "cheap."**

Excluding my operating system, I have nothing but freeware downloaded from the Internet on my system! Aha, you are thinking, but what about adware, viruses, or poor freeware, and the considerable time in downloading and deleting it takes to find the best freeware on the Internet? There are several sites that contain only freeware. However, I recommend Gizmo's Freeware site

because I have used it for several years and found it to be very effective in reviewing freeware and efficient to use in going quickly via links to safe and secure freeware sites for downloading. I am reluctant to recommend other sites that I have not used for purposes of this article.

Gizmo's Freeware is easy to use and makes it very simple to locate the best freeware on the Internet because it is extensively reviewed before it is recommended. Until July 2008 Gizmo was the editor of "Support Alert", a highly recommended technical newsletter that was distributed to over 150,000 subscribers. The site evolved from his highly popular list of the "46 Best-ever Freeware Utilities." The site grew well beyond 46 and reached the point that it could not be maintained by one person. Today, the site has grown into a kind of **Wikipedia for Freeware** utilizing contributions of dozens of volunteer editors who edit and moderate suggestions from thousands of site visitors. As a result, the range of free software covered by the site is ever increasing and the quality of the reviews are ever improving. Gizmo's Freeware has, in a real sense, become the "Wikipedia for Freeware." I strongly suggest you check your freeware on your system against the recommendations of the best

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and consider downloading the best.

The primary purpose of Gizmo's Freeware is to make it easy to select the best free-ware product for your particular needs. The best free-ware programs are as good or better than their commercial counterparts but finding the most appropriate programs can be challenging. There are dozens of freeware download sites but few of these actually help you select the best program for your needs. The site has no downloads just **honest advice** and useful guidance. Links are provided where you can safely and securely download the product you want. Furthermore, you will know that what you have selected is the best available. Gizmo's Freeware is easy to use and will save you time, money, and lots of frustration!

BE SURE TO BOOKMARK GIZMO'S FREEWARE BECAUSE YOU WILL USE IT FREQUENTLY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS -- SAVING YOU MONEY, TIME, AND LOTS OF STRESS:

<http://www.techsupportalert.com/>

February Photo of the Month
Great Ocean Road Tour in Australia
by Linda Boyatzies



Busy Day at the Lancaster Library

I went to the Photo Shop SIG March meeting with the best of intentions—to learn how to use my new Digital Camera to record my fondest memories of retirement. Alas, I also had another concern on my mind as did my replacement *Computerlink* editor, **Bruce McMillan**.

As we occasionally watched BJ McMillan demonstrate how to remove a stoplight from a photo and replace the side of a building behind the

light, Bruce and I worked on this issue. We made such good progress that we stayed set up at the library until Bruce had learned almost all the tricks of the trade and I felt very happy that the *Link* is now in very good hands.

I just looked back at the morgue and confirmed I took over in January 2003. It has been a long and rewarding run for a great bunch of people. Now, it is Bruce's turn to enjoy being your editor. **Ed**

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2009 Photo of the Year Contest—Vote March 20



January Windy Day



February Stairwell



April Bee and Flower



May Cat Eyes



June Twirling Pink Hibiscus



July Face on a Plank



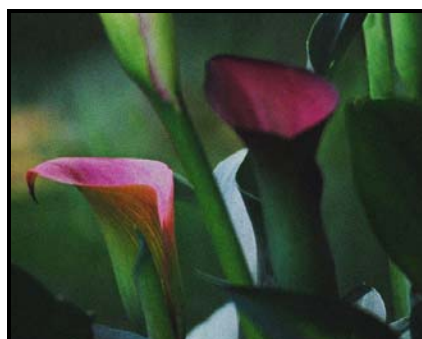
August Butterfly



September Douglas Glacier



October Mood



November Noise



December Evening Solitude

**Participating Winners—Richard Davis, Linda Boyatzies,
Bruce Mc Millan, Gerry Holmes**

Upcoming Genealogy SIG meeting Friday March 12, 2010 at 1 pm

Karen Hart, Executive Director of the Mary Ball Washington Museum & Library in Lancaster, will give a presentation about the library's online and electronic resources for genealogy research at RW-C at 1 pm.

She will demonstrate the MBWML website's searchable card catalog, discuss a variety of **in-house electronic files** of compiled and transcribed materials, and preview the Lancaster County Estates 1835-1860 database project which is about to be launched. It contains abstracted information from more than 1200 wills, inventories, and other estate documents of individuals who died in Lancaster County in this period, including information about beneficiaries, marriages, and the identification of nearly 3000 named slaves.

Karen has a B.A. in History and English from William and Mary and has worked in museum administration for more than 10 years. She joined the MBWML staff in June 2008.

Computer Genealogy SIG members can **sign up for a brief tour of the library** on the day of the meeting or make a future appointment

Karen Hart's presentation will take place in the Game Room...at Rappahannock Westminister-Canterbury at 1 am

to see the facility. Due to space, the tours on March 12th are limited to 10 people at a time and will be offered at 12:00 before the meeting and at 2:15 following the meeting. The library is located at 8346 Mary Ball Rd (Rt 3) in Lancaster Court House, across the street from

the main museum building and next to Lancaster Tavern.

Karen Hart's presentation will take place in the Game Room, opposed to the Auditorium at Rappahannock Westminister-Canterbury. The Game Room is located off the lobby to the right when you enter. There is a separate door to the room.

RSVP please: Please let me know which **time you prefer** to take the tour at the library – before or after Karen Hart's presentation? If more than 10 people select one time or the other, I will advise you accordingly so that you may choose another time that is convenient. athompson@kaballero.com

Anne Thompson

Membership Report - February 2010

Newcomers – None

RENEW March 2010 – Linda Boyatzies, Maurice Dickerson, Karen Edwards, Rich Emery, Robert Flore, Jim Harnsberger, John Helm, Lloyd Hill, Louise McIntire, Linda Small.

RENEW February 2010 – Joe Hecht, David Mower, B.J. Thomas McMillan, Clark Schumacher.

Membership dues are \$20 annually. Please make check out to NNCUG, and send to:

Jim Thompson, Treasurer, NNCUG, P.O. Box 774, Burgess, VA. 22432

For insertion into our local newspaper advertising, please send to bevnjim@netscape.com no later than 15th of the month.

February Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am with 27 members attending. The minutes of the January meeting were approved. The treasurers report was given.

After Q&A, **Betty Lehman** demonstrated how she set up and maintains the NNCUG website.

There was no drawing this month.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Don Beard, Secretary

The Computer Link

Northern Neck Computer
Users' Group
P.O. Box 774, Burgess, VA.
22432

NNCUG Meeting Dates

NNCUG GENERAL MEETING

Third Saturday 9:30 a.m.

Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury Meeting Room

BEGINNERS SIG

*Meets three times a year. Those interested, contact
B.J. McMillan at 580-8666*

GENEALOGY SIG

*Meets bi-monthly, 2nd Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.—RW-C
Contact Ann Thompson at athompson@kaballero.com
to get on the mail list for announcements.*

PHOTOSHOP SIG

*First Tuesday every month, 9 a.m.
Lancaster Community Library, Kilmarnock
For more information, Call Jim Sapione, 804-462-5831
or message Bird@kaballero.com*

For a photo treat visit
www.raptapp.homestead.com



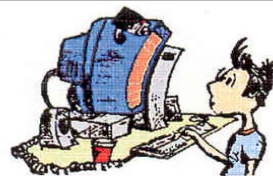
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chris@emxry.com

Computer Help available by appointment. Call Betty Lehman 435-2011 or B.J. McMillan 580-8666

Coming Attractions

Membership—March 20th, 9:30 am
Genealogy—March 12—See Article Inside
Photo SIG—April 6th, 2010 - 9 am—Library