HAPPY
25th
ANNIVERSARY

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FUTURE MEETING DATES & PROGRAMS

May 10, 2008 — Open Office—Lester Larkin   **2nd**

June 14, 2008 —TBA   2nd

July 12, 2008 — No Meeting   **2nd**

August 9, 2008 — TBA   2nd

September 9, 2008—TBA   2nd

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2007-2008

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The LCACE News Journal is published eleven times annually. Members are encouraged to submit contributions and will be acknowledged in this newsletter.

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The News Journal is produced using a Dell Dimension 8200, HP Printer(s), and MS Publisher 2002 software.

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts
LCACE
c/o Group Ambassador
Mr. Mike McEnery

Membership

Membership for LCACE is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are $20.00 per individual/family. Associate membership is only $10.00 (out of state, unable to attend meetings). Membership includes a one year subscription to the LCACE News Journal and access to all club libraries and functions. Applications for membership may be obtained at the monthly meeting, by request on the club Hotline, and are now available on our WEB site at - http://www.lcace.org.

Meetings

LCACE meetings are usually held on the second Saturday of each month at the Grayslake Area Public Library, 100 Library Lane, Grayslake, Illinois. The meeting room opens at noon and the formal meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend!

Advertising

Ad rates per issue: Full page - $25, Half page - $15, Quarter page - $10, Business Card - $5. Discounts are available on advance purchase of multiple issues. Please send camera-ready copy and payment to the club address by the 21st of the month preceding publication. For more information on ad pricing, please call our Hotline. Ads are FREE to all paid members.

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President's Ram

April brings to us - April showers and LCACE elections!

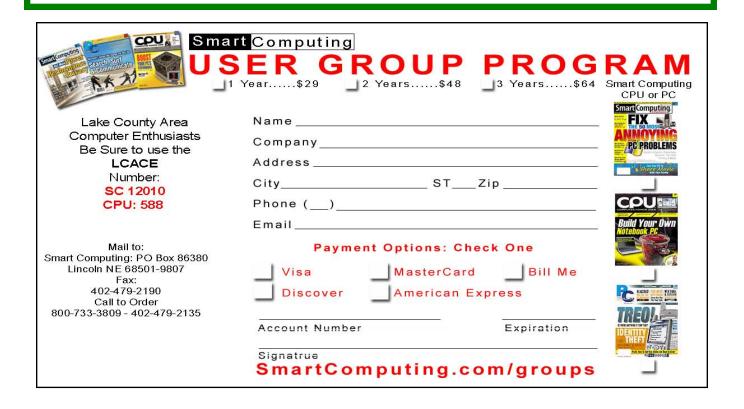That's right, on April 12th, you could be elected as one of the prestigious new LCACE officers.

We are celebrating our 25th anniversary, where does the time go? We've had a lot of fun, made many new friends, and learned about the new technology out there. For our 25th anniversary, we will be having a special door prize - an HP LaserJet 1810 printer. You must be present to win. And, of course, there will be cake.

The meeting on April 12th will be an election day for us. We are having a "show and tell" segment. If you have anything you want to share with the rest of us, please do - whether it be about the newest program you are trying out, past times with the club, pictures from past meetings, or just good old fun times - bring it on! Some of our past officers are planning to be there, also. It will be a good time to see everyone again.

April is also dues month, so please get those in.

Hope to see you all at the meeting on April 12th.

Mike

LAKE COUNTY AREA COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS
Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President McEnery at 12:34 p.m.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the February 9, 2008 minutes as published in the *News Journal*.

Treasurer Frost reported lthat the Holiday Party ended up costing the Club $107.86. The checkbook balance at the end of February 2008 was $2,053.25. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Membership Chair, Dorothy Sutherland, reported no new members.

Public Relations Chair and Webmaster, Lester Larkin, reported that PR was going well.

The floor was opened for nominations for the Board of Directors. Due to a technicality, Terri Hanlon had to be re-nominated. Done. Nominated and nomination accepted were: Linda Busch, Winnie Frost, Mike McEnery, Robin Seidenberg, Lester Larkin, and Terri Hanlon. Nominated and nomination declined were: Fred Barnett and Donna Kalinoski. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to close the nominations. Nominations will be accepted at the April meeting.

Next month's meeting will be a celebration of Lake County Area Computer Enthusiast's 25th Anniversary and L.C.A.C.E.'s founder's birthday. Mike is getting the cake. There will be a gift for J.J. for his twenty-five years of devotion to the Club. No other food than cake and fruit can be brought into the library. The very special door prize for the anniversary meeting is a HP LaserJet printer. Winner must be present to win. An invitation will be extended to former L.C.A.C.E. officers to attend the party.

April's program will be a show and tell by Robin.

Linda will do the election ballots.

There has to be some program reviews and demos done for MindShare in order to keep their programs coming.

There is a place on Route 83 in Grayslake that refills printer cartridges. Office Max also does that and gives you credit towards your next purchase. Lester gets his cartridges refilled at Walgreen's.

President McEnery suggested that the new Board consider buying the Club a laptop. And, he asked if Jim (Rutledge) has the Club's camera. And, he asked if anyone is interested in doing a Club blog.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to close business portion of the meeting. Business closed at 1:06 p.m.

The 50/50 raffle was conducted. Dorothy Sutherland won the $18.00.

Meeting turned over to Lester Larkin for his e-mail presentation..

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda E. Busch

Linda E. Busch
Secretary

Quick Studies

Email
Open-Source Spicebird Takes Aim At Outlook

Spicebird

Beginner

How-To

There are a lot of great email clients out there, but none seems to roll the whole personal information package together like Microsoft's venerable Outlook. That may be changing.

Spicebird, a free, all-in-one email, calendar, address book, and task list program, is a potential Outlook rival. While it has barely even reached the beta stage, it is generating some excitement online and is well on its way to being a useful tool. Spicebird is an open-source program and is based on the Mozilla Thunderbird email client, which means much of the application is already tested, proven, and popular. If you've been searching for an email client that goes beyond the inbox, Spicebird is worth a look.

Set Up Spicebird

Synovel's Spicebird is an open-source effort based on Mozilla Thunderbird that combines email, a task list, contacts, and a calendar. It's not a match for Outlook yet, but it's starting to show some potential.

Download the latest version of Spicebird from www.spicebird.com. After installation, Spicebird asks whether you want to set up a new email account, RSS (Really Simple Syndication) reader, or newsgroup account. Another wizard lets you set up an instant messaging account. Enter the appropriate IDs and passwords and then start exploring.

Users navigate Spicebird using a small collection of tabs at the top of the main screen. The Home tab collects applets, such as a simple list of inbox contents, your calendar agenda, an RSS feed, and clocks for different time zones. There are not a lot of applets to choose from at this stage, but it's easy to imagine a future more capable dashboard presenting a summary of all the important information you'd need to start the day.

Click the Mail, News tab to get to the heart of the program. The mail component of Spicebird is essentially Thunderbird in disguise. If you are familiar with and like Mozilla's open-source email client, you'll feel at home with Spicebird. Spicebird does add a few touches that leverage capabilities found elsewhere in the package. For instance, you can click names in email headers and select a command to begin IM

(instant messaging) sessions with those correspondents. Spicebird also attempts to detect emails with appointment information and automatically asks whether you want to add an entry to your calendar.

■ Save The Date

Spicebird's calendar is based on the Lightning extension for Thunderbird, another popular pre-existing product. Spicebird's tabs clearly separate your mail from your calendar, which some might find easier to use than the standard Lightning/Thunderbird combo.

As in Outlook and most other calendar programs, you can choose different date views using buttons along the top of the window: Day, Week, Month, Multiweek, etc. Enter a new appointment by clicking the appropriate day in the calendar or with the New Event button in the toolbar. If you like, you can also set up multiple calendars to keep track of different types of events. Calendars can be viewed individually or in combination with others.

Calendars also can be stored on a server to give multiple users access to the same information. As with Outlook, Spicebird can help set up meetings by comparing attendee calendars to help you find a time when everyone is free.

■ More Tabs

The Tasks tab is fairly basic, but it includes the essentials. Enter a task by clicking the New Task button in the toolbar. You can set tasks to be due at particular dates and times, set up repeat tasks, and sort the task list in different ways. Tasks are assigned to a particular calendar, which means you can create different calendars for different projects and set up tasks accordingly. Multiple calendars can be selected simultaneously if you want to view all of your tasks at once.

The Contacts tab is where you can both keep track of people and chat with them immediately through instant messaging. Spicebird builds in a Jabber-compatible IM client, which can be used to chat with users of Google Talk and most other services through various software extensions. As with calendars, you can set up multiple address books if you want to separate contacts in different ways or view them all at once.

One of the most important Spicebird features is yet to come: Developers say that the program will eventually include support for Microsoft Exchange, which means it would work in corporate environments, as well as at home. At that point, Spicebird really will be a realistic—and according to developers, still free—alternative to Microsoft Outlook. ■

by Alan Phelps

Quick Studies

Email
Store Documents In Web Email

Yahoo! Mail

Gmail
Beginner
How-To

We've all heard it a million times: Backups are a must. Still, many people do not back up their data as often as they should. Maybe one reason is that backing up is not always terribly convenient. It's not much of an excuse, given the risk, but there you have it.

If you find it hard to get in a full-on backup habit, you should at least be able to save emergency copies of your most important files using popular Web-based email services. Email sites such as Yahoo! Mail (mail.yahoo.com) and Gmail (mail.google.com) could not be more convenient. They also offer unlimited or practically unlimited storage space you can access from any Internet-connected computer, anywhere. Backing up a file is as easy as attaching it to an email and clicking Send.

■ Access Anywhere

Online email clients, such as Gmail, can be used as a simple backup solution for your most important files or files you're currently working on. Filters can help automatically sort files away from your inbox for safekeeping.

Online email sites are not the way to go for large backups, either in terms of megabytes or number of files. This isn't the way to safeguard a folder full of pictures or videos, but it works great for critical files, such as documents you're in the midst of editing or PDF (Portable Document Format) files of important information. Space, at least, is not much of an issue. Yahoo! Mail offers unlimited storage space to users, providing plenty of room for saving document attachments. Gmail doesn't technically provide unlimited space, but the 6.5GB (and counting) currently available to each user is plenty of storage for the kind of operation we're describing.

Another nice thing about saving files on Yahoo! or Gmail is that any text you type in the Subject line or body of the email itself becomes, in essence, tags for the attached file. These tags help you find the file later, without laboriously searching through your bevy of stored files. Just enter some keywords into the search box, and you'll quickly find the file you want based on the same keywords you saved along with the file.

■ Express Delivery

Both Yahoo! Mail and Gmail also offer ways to automate the process somewhat through customized email addresses and filters. Send files to a particular address and then use filters to store all messages sent to that address in a special folder or with a special tag. Your important documents can be filed away without cluttering your inbox, yet ready the moment you need them.

In Gmail, customized addresses are as simple as finding the plus (+) key. If your email address is John.Smith@gmail.com, for instance, mail addressed to John.Smith+AnotherWord@gmail.com will be sent to your inbox, as well. Gmail ignores all characters after the plus sign. However, you can set up a filter to look for specific extended addresses and act on them accordingly.

For example, you might decide that mail addressed to Your.Email+files@gmail.com should be recognized as containing a file you want to archive. To automate the process, click the Create A Filter link next to the Gmail search box. In the To: field that appears in the first Create A Filter screen, enter the expanded address you plan to use. Click Next Step and then select Skip The Inbox, Mark As Read, and Apply The Label. In the Choose Label drop-down menu, select New Label. Name the new label Files. Click OK and then click Create Filter. Test it by sending yourself a file to the +files address. The file-laden email won't bother your inbox, but it will instead be archived until the day you decide to search for it using any keywords you enter.

AddressGuard, Yahoo! Mail's similar disposable address option, is available to users who choose to buy Yahoo! Mail Plus for $19.99 a year. Mail Plus also boosts the maximum message size to 20MB (message size limit for standard Yahoo! Mail is 10MB), which can also be useful for backing up large files. If you don't use Gmail or don't want to pay for Yahoo! Mail Plus, you could set up a filter to work the same way by looking for a particular word or phrase in the Subject line.

Once everything is set up, your email backup system is ready to store your most important files. Now all you need to do is remember to send them to yourself. ■

by Alan Phelps

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members

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TIME TO RENEW

All memberships are now renewable annually on April 1st. This change in the paying of annual dues will allow the Treasurer to budget our money more closely. Members joining after April 1, will have their dues prorated.

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NEXT MEETING
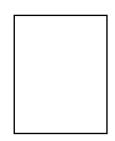### April 12, 2008

Grayslake Public Library
100 Library Lane
Grayslake, IL

12:30 — 3:00 p.m.

This month:

Happy 25th Anniversary, L.C.A.C.E.!

Show and Tell

$ DUES ARE DUE $

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