

The

Computer Link

February 2012

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

Antiques, Collectibles and the Internet

David McDaniels, the Buyer for “50 East Church Street”, in Kilmarnock, VA, discussed how the Internet has changed the field of antiques and collectibles.

He first started out with a company that extracted gold and silver from various objects. For instance, there is about fifteen thousand dollars' worth of gold in a jet engine! David then went to school majoring in culinary arts, and entered the restaurant business. He then worked in the oil business in Louisiana, which scheduled the job as two

months on duty, two months off. During the off times he **began to develop an interest in antiques for their own history and not just for raw materials.** After concentrating mostly in antiques and coins, he saw the need to be diversified and the need to know as much as possible for a wide variety of objects. This led him to the Internet.

The Internet can offer advantages and pitfalls. One can reach out to other dealers and experts, develop contacts, and share expertise. Networks existed before, but relied on written links, personal contacts, and conferences. Just like all our communication these days, the **speed and breadth of communication has expanded exponentially in the field of antiques and collectables.** David said it is impossible for him to learn all the knowledge necessary to evaluate the pieces individuals bring to him for appraisal. Through the Inter-



David McDaniels

Photo by Alan Christensen

net, he has linked up with experts in many areas. The program “Pawn Stars”, aired on cable, perfectly illustrates the use of experts. **One should be on guard for fakes and reproductions;** having a support group helps identify clues that may indicate a different background than the seller has listed. He stated **he does not use eBay as much anymore**, it can be “great

or horrible.” The original **price and the bids on eBay do not necessarily reflect the true value of some objects. He recommends that you get a wide range of values on similar items before you determine your own price.** He uses Google extensively.

For this presentation David brought in **Bill Cunningham, a friend and expert appraiser.** As part of the presentation, he asked NNCUG members to bring in any items about which they had questions. Four items were examined: a powder horn of uncertain age; a ceramic box with a cherub on the lid; an agate ring; and a pottery vase.

Starting with the powder horn, he began a search in Google and compared the Internet pictures with the object that was brought in. Using pictures from the Internet, he could identify small differences that helped pinpoint the age. David concluded that the powder horn was a very good Italian reproduction of a Civil War one; he noted that sometimes one could make more off of a reproduction than the original.

Looking at the ceramic box, David found the word “erphila” etched on the base, and the words “Made in Italy”. He then “googled” that one keyword which led him to a full page of references to the pottery mark and made mention of Czechoslovakian origin. He then consulted with his colleague Bill, who indicated that a family active in the pottery trade in Germany might have established a business in Italy making and selling such articles in the tourist trade.

Looking at the ring that Betty Lehman brought in, David gave us a brief but fascinating overview of the antique jewelry business and the current state of the gold and silver market. Some of the pricing factors were: the stone was agate, which is very hard and difficult to work, thus pricey; artisanship is immeasurable; and every ring will be different. Sterling silver is not pure silver. The American standard is 92.5% silver content, and it is different in other places. He stated that most stones in rings are not that valuable. It is the workmanship, de-

sign, historic value, and current world market that enhances value. Scarcity is also a factor. For example, jade is not that rare a stone, but it comes mostly from China. The Chinese zealously guard the supply and do not allow it to leave the country.

Regarding the vase, David concluded that it was an Asian porcelain vase that was not too old (perhaps post World War II) due to not much crazing of the finish.

David advises people to hold onto finely crafted gold jewelry instead of scrapping it for the metal content. The gold will always be there, but **there is the added value of the artisanship** in designing and making the jewelry that can affect the price one gets.

David welcomes inquiries about jewelry, antiques and collectibles at his store in Kilmarnock. The group thoroughly enjoyed his talk as well as his interest and enthusiasm for the many possibilities of using technology to explore the history and value in old pieces.

Anne Moss

Nominations for NNCUG Officers

It is time to nominate candidates for NNCUG officer positions for 2012-2013. **Positions to be filled are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large.**

The **Nominating Committee** consists of: **BJ McMillan**, Chair, (804) 580-8666, **Alan Christensen**, (804) 438-4828, and **Phil Allan**, (804) 776-6699.

If you have a nominee for any of these offices, please provide the name to one of the Nominating Committee members. Nominations also will be accepted from the floor at the February 18, 2012, meeting.

The election will be held at the March 19, Membership meeting at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.

Ed.

Invisible Shield

By George Harding, Treasurer, Tucson Computer Society, AZ

December 2011 issue, eJournal

www.aztcs.org

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If you have a smart phone, MP3 player, tablet or other portable device, you need a durable covering for the faces of your instrument. ZAGG has a solution for you.

Why have a covering? Many reasons:

First, you want to protect the surfaces from scratches.

Plastic scratches very easily and even glass can be marred.

Second, it's easier to clean than the natural surface.

Third, even the corners and curves are protected.

Fourth, the covering is easier to hold onto, so you're less likely to drop it. And last, it's invisible.

The product is specific to each device, since it must have the proper cutouts for the device you're going to protect. ZAGG has a product for just about every device known to the tech world.

The Invisible Shield product has a lifetime guarantee. If it gets damaged, ZAGG will replace it for free. You can't get better protection than that!

Installation is carefully done. First, wash your hands (didn't think of that, did you?). Unplug or turn off your device. Wipe it clean with a lint-free cloth. The kit comes with a small bottle of spray. You spray your fingertips with it. Then remove the paper backing from the clear plastic overlay for the surface

you are working on (there are overlays for all sides of your device). Then spray the overlay.

Next, place the overlay on the surface you're working on and make sure it's aligned properly. If necessary, remove the overlay, spray it again and realign it. You can lightly spray the non-adhesive side of the overlay to make the squeegee move more smoothly. The squeegee (supplied) is then used to push out the bubbles and excess solution. Soak up any excess solution with a clean cloth. You'll want to set your device aside for overnight to let the solution dry and cure.

The overlays won't scratch, tear or become damaged and should last for the lifetime of your device. If you encounter a problem, contact Zagg for replacement of the Invisible Shield.

About: Invisible Shield

Vendor: ZAGG

www.zagg.com

Price: Varies by device, but about \$25 for most

Music Composition and Computers

At the next Membership meeting, **Nina Buzby will demonstrate creating music on a computer using the Encore music-authoring program.** This program is available in Windows and Apple Mac versions.

Nina is a classically trained cellist, coordinator of the Strings & Things Network, Musical Director of the Tuneful Teachers, and manager of the BayBells Handbell Choir.

Please join us at the next **Membership Meeting on Saturday, February 18, at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury.** Coffee and donuts available at 09:30 am, and the meeting starts at 10:00.

ED.

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ICE Your Cell Phone - Save Your Life

*By Sandy Berger, CompuKISS
Sandy (at) compukiss.com
www.compukiss.com*

You may have never heard of the ACEP, American College of Emergency Physicians, but their new consumer website is one you might want to visit. With the number of emergency room visits growing rapidly, this organization has put together a website where patients can access health information, share stories, and get involved in advocacy efforts. www.acep.org

Visits to the emergency department hit a new high in 2006. A record 119.2 million people, up from 115 million, were recorded by the Centers for Disease Control, with an average of 227 visits per minute. The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) predicts those numbers will only keep rising.

According to the report, age groups with the highest visit rates were infants under 12 months of age and those over the age of 75. In fact, people aged 65 and older are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population and are the most likely to be admitted to the hospital of all emergency patients. Researchers conclude that visits for patients between 65 and 74 could nearly double from 64 million in 2003 to 111.7 million by 2013. Despite these numbers, emergency departments continue to close - causing delays for people with serious medical conditions like heart attacks.

In honor of its 40th anniversary, ACEP will be making available video clips featuring emergency medicine pioneers, vintage photographs and radio public service announcements. In addition, the organization is launching a new consumer website, EmergencyCareForYou.org, which features extensive public information. The year-long campaign is sponsored in part by General Motors OnStar, Ultrasonix and ZOLL Medical Corporation.

The EmergencyCareForYou website is a comprehensive site that you will want to visit. It has information on everything from "how to tell if it is an emergency" to "family disaster preparedness".

One important section of this website talks about how "ICE" and Your Cell Phone Can Help Save Your Life.

The website states, "**Emergency physicians are recommending that people with cellular phones add "ICE" entries into their cell phone address books. This stands for "In Case of Emergency," and medical professionals are using it to notify the person's emergency contacts and to obtain critical medical information when a patient arrives unconscious or unable to answer questions.**"

I didn't know about this, yet it sounds like a great idea! Check it out. It may save your life. More information can be found at the ICEforHelp website. www.iceforhelp.com

Photo SIG Photography Exhibit

Please stop by the Lancaster Community Library, Kilmarnock, Virginia, to see the **first photography exhibit created by members of the NNCUG Photo SIG**. This exhibit will be open during the month of February during the normal business hours of the Library.

The exhibit encompasses a **wide range of artistic viewpoints**, from the traditional to the modern, and an equally wide range of subject matter. Many photos were created using the extensive artistic controls found in photo editing programs.

Artists contributing to the exhibit are: Linda Boyatzies; Marilyn Jurkops; BJ and Bruce Mc Millan; Marianne Miller; Joe Moeller; Judy and Jim Sapione; Loretta Stover; and Barbara Touchette.

ED.

January 21 Meeting Notes

TREASURERS REPORT: 104 members.
Treasury Balance: \$3,401.26.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: **Chris Christensen** stated that the **yearly election of officers will be held at the March 17 Membership meeting**. In addition to those candidates already identified by the nominating committee, **he opened the floor for officer nominations** to be placed on the ballot. There were no additional nominees from the floor.

SIG REPORTS:

PHOTOGRAPHY: The group is now rotating leadership each session and will evaluate how well that works. **Chris Christensen reported that members of the SIG will exhibit their photos at the Lancaster Community Library during February 2012**. The group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock. Anyone with an interest in photography, regardless of skill level, is invited. The group uses Pho-

tohop Elements 7. If you have a laptop, bring it and join in an interactive experience.

GENEALOGY: The Genealogy SIG met on January 12th. Using Google Earth to locate ancestral homes was the featured topic. Rob Mink was the guest speaker. The Genealogy SIG meets on the second Thursday of odd numbered months at 1:00 p.m. in the large RWC meeting room, and the next meeting will be March 8.

SPEAKER: **David McDaniels**, the **Buyer for "50 East Church Street"**, in Kilmarnock, VA, discussed how the Internet has changed the buying and selling in the field of antiques and collectibles, and how he uses the combination of his own expertise with internet searches to enhance his business.

RAFFLE WINNERS: **Peter Kane** had first pick and chose the HP Photo Smart Printer; **Alan Christensen** chose the Logitech Cordless Optical Mouse, and **Bill Gray** chose the Logitech Stereo Speakers for a laptop.

Anne Moss

Membership Report - January 2012

Welcome - None

RENEW February 2012 - Margaret Alderson, Simeon Burnette, Susan Christopher, Jerry Hawley, Alden Head, Susan Heath, Joe Hecht, Betty Lehman, B.J. Thomas, David Mower, Joyce Page, Brandon Rohr, Clark Shumacher, Bob Schultz

RENEW January 2012 - John Bowles, Fred Lee, Anne Moss, Bill Pregnall, Barbara Touchette, George Van Sant

Membership dues are \$20 annually. Please send to:
George Cadmus, Treasurer, NNCUG, 150 Pine Drive,
White Stone VA 22578

Election Reminder!!

The election for Officers of your Northern Neck Computer Users Group will be held **at the Membership Meeting on March 17, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.**

The meeting will be held at the Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury facility.

Your vote is important!
Please plan to attend.

Ed.

The Computer Link

Northern Neck
Computer
Users' Group
150 Pine Drive
White Stone, VA 22578

NNCUG Meeting Dates

NNCUG GENERAL MEETING
Third Saturday, 10:00 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 Thursday, 1:00 p.m.—RW-C
Contact Ann Thompson at athompson@kaballero.com
to get on the mail list for announcements.*

PHOTOSHOP SIG

*Second Tuesday, every month, 9:30 a.m.
Lancaster Community Library, Kilmarnock
For more information, Call Jim Sapione, 804-462-5831
or message Bird@kaballero.com*



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

Coming Attractions

*Membership - Feb 18, Create Music with Encore, Nina Buzby
Genealogy - Mar 8, Subject To Be Announced
Photo SIG - Feb 14, 09:30 am, Lancaster Community Library*