

Toledo PC User's Group

A Forum for Personal Computer Users **August 2005**

The **JULY MEETING** of the
Toledo PC Users Group
will be held on
Monday, August 1st at 7:30 p.m.

**“New Technology in the
Radiology Department”
Speaker: - Bobby Miller**

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Notice:

All current and future
TPCUG Newsletters may
be viewed at our website:-
<http://www.toledocug.org>

Meetings held on the
1st Monday of each Month
at the
UAW Local 14 Hall,
5411 Jackman & Northover
(Between Laskey & Alexis Rds)
Toledo, Ohio
Visitors Are Always Welcome!

Toledo PC User's Group

P.O.Box 13085

Toledo OH 43613

Officers

President - **Floyd Miller**

Vice President - **Rick Snyder**

Secretary - **Halasz Sandor**

Treasurer - **Steve Tryc**

Standing Committees

Computer Shows - **Steve Tryc**

Programs - **Lester Miller.**

Public Relations - **Lavern & EugeneCurtis**

Membership - **Roy Ballogg**

Newsletter - **Nina Sherman**

Complaint Dept. - **Helen Waite**

SIG Leaders

Internet SIG: **Jim Bell**..... 419 877-1109

Statement of Intent: The Toledo PC Users Group is a not-for-profit corporation, formed to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information regarding the use and enjoyment of personal computers.

Affiliations: TPCUG is a member of APCUG (Association of Personal Computer User Groups) which provided the APCUG Logo.

Meetings: Meetings are generally held the first Monday of each month, at the UAW Local 14 Hall, 5411 Jackman Rd., Toledo OH. In the event of emergency, members may be reached during meetings at a pay phone in the hall, 419 473-9571

Visitors are always welcome at monthly meetings! Executive Board Meetings will generally be held after the regular meeting.

Membership: Dues are \$25. per year. To obtain an application, call any officer or member.

Moving? Notify the Membership Chairman to redirect your newsletters.

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the publisher of this newsletter, is a not-for-profit organization. Although it asserts a copyright for the newsletter, permission is granted to reprint this publication in whole or in part for any non-commercial use, with credits acknowledged.

Newsletter Deadline is the 15th of each month.

All members are encouraged to contribute articles and reviews for this newsletter. Submissions may be made by email to the editor.

Advertising:

Business cards (2 x 3-1/2") \$5. for 3 issues

Commercial ads: 1/4 page - \$10. “

“ 1/2 page - \$20 . “

“ 3/4 page - \$30. “

“ Full page - \$40. 2 “

Larger ads will be run in two issues, and should be a graphics format such as jpeg or tif, or camera ready copy. Members may place free ads for the sale of computer related personal items on a space available basis. Contact editor for details.

Production Notes: This newsletter was compiled in Adobe Pagemaker7 for Windows and printed on a HPDeskjet d135.

TPCUG Mailing List: If you're on the Internet, keep in touch with Club doings by subscribing to the TPCUG mailing list: Send e-mail to tpcug-request@toltbbs.com

with only

subscribetpcug@toltbbs.com

in the body of the message. You will then receive communications sent to the list through e-mail.

Send e-mail to:-

who-tpcug@toltbbs.com

to see who else is subscribed to the list.

Presidents Message:

Who would have thunk it - to use an ungrammatical phrase.

IBM is teaming up with CenterPoint Energy to test technology that could turn power lines into a high-speed network capable of delivering Internet access to consumers and providing real-time monitoring of the power grid. CenterPoint has already opened a center at one of its facilities in Houston to test the technology. CenterPoint is seeing download speeds up to two to three times faster than cable Internet service.

Because BPL (broadband power lines) essentially turns the electrical grid into an Internet-based network, every device attached to the grid will be able to communicate with other devices on it. This means BPL technology has the potential to develop a "smart grid," which could allow for such services as automated meter reading, real-time system monitoring, preventive maintenance and diagnostics, outage detection and restoration, as well as other potential applications .

"An Internet-enabled power grid could also have helped prevent the Northeast power blackout in 2003", said IBM's Blair.

"Power companies would have been able to shut down parts of the network," he said. "Or they could have identified a weak transformer and proactively fixed it before it caused the entire blackout."

There has been renewed interest in the technology as companies such as Google make

significant investments in companies delivering BPL service. "A lot of people have been focusing on BPL as the third competitive leg in the broadband market," said Raymond Blair, vice president for IBM's Broadband Over Powerlines initiatives.

Because BPL uses the radio frequency signals sent over medium- and low-voltage AC power lines to connect customers to the Internet, it can cause interference with HAM radios and emergency radios.

With many of the technical issues ironed out, BPL is slowly getting deployed. More than 50 utilities across the country are looking into it. Duke Power, along with Progress Energy in Raleigh, N.C, and Consolidated Edison in New York, is one of three power companies currently in trials with EarthLink.

Duke began its trial with 500 homes and plans to launch a commercial service to 10,000 to 15,000 homes by the end of this year, said Gerardi. The company, which will rent access to its network to ISPs such as EarthLink, said it will be able to handle high-speed data services at 512kbps to 5mbps, along with voice over IP services. The cost of the service will likely be about \$30 a month.

You won't be able to plug your modem into the electric socket for a few years. That experience awaits the investment of billions of \$\$'s and more technological development. Non-the-less "we've come a long way baby" since those early connection days with d/l speeds that merely crawl.

Don't know if I'll be around for the first PCUG program on BPL, but I plan to be around for the next meeting in August. See you at the "old stand" same time, same day of month and the same wanna-be geeks sharing considerable knowledge. Lester Miller will have another good program topic for us.

Your Prez: *Floyd L. Miller*

Treasurers Report		
<u>Balance</u>	6/01/05	\$1,6,32.42
<u>Income:</u>		
	Deposit (Not previously reported)	75.00
<u>Expense:</u>	None-	___-0-
<u>Balance Ending</u>	7/15/05	\$1,707.42
Submitted by Steve Tryc, Treas.		

Secretary Minutes July, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 19:40 by Floyd Miller, pres.

The minutes were accepted, except that Rick Snyder, not Michael Snyder, is on the ballot for vice-president.

The treasurer's report was accepted, subject to audit.

The Internet SIG meets per usual, on the third Monday, at Belltech in Whitehouse, same place, same time, maybe new faces, surely new topics.

There is material from Donna Bardis, about the investment SIG, in the newsletter.

There is in the newsletter a picture from the editor, suggesting that the members forward material to her for including it in the newsletter.

The nominations were closed, and all on the ballot were elected.

Lester Miller is in charge of program. Roy Ballogg is in charge of membership. The (absent) Curtises are in charge of publicity.

There was no old bizness.

There was no new bizness.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:51, followed by the program on hard-drive-cleaning.

Sandor Halasz, Secretary

Next Meeting of the Computer Investing Group

August 6, 2005, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Heatherdowns Library, 3265 Glanzman Road

Toledo, Ohio 43614 phone 419-259-5270

map on chapter web site:

<http://www.betterinvesting.org/chapter/nwohio/events/5988>

NAIC Take Stock

A look at NAIC's software which teaches the neophyte about Stock Selection Guides, and is also a resource for the more experienced investor. It shows a completed SSG for the company and a quality rating developed by Ellis Traub. The software is based on his great book by the same name, Take Stock, which shows how it doesn't have to be complicated to choose good investments.

To learn more about the program, including downloading a demo, go to:

http://www.iclub.com/products/take_stock.asp

No registration, no fees; just come to learn.

For more information on the computer group, to add a friend to our mailing list, and to send ideas of possible programs, please contact Donna Bardis, at (419) 535-6146 or

pbardis@pop3.utoledo.edu

Toolkit Offers

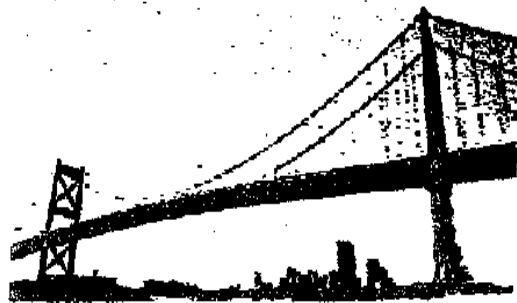
The special offer to upgrade from Toolkit 4 to Toolkit 5 for the great price of \$89 has been extended through the end of July.

Clubs can get copies of Investor's Toolkit 5 or Classic Plus at a significant discount to the list price by ordering 5 or more copies of Investor's Toolkit (\$99) or Classic Plus (\$59) at one time. You can't mix and match. You must choose one or the other and pay for them in a single purchase. All members must be listed on the club's NAIC BetterInvesting membership roster, and there is a single \$10 shipping and handling fee per order. Orders under this program are non-refundable, so everyone should review the system requirements and/or download a demo before ordering to ensure compatibility with their computers. This offer is good through the end of October.

Toledo PC Users' Group

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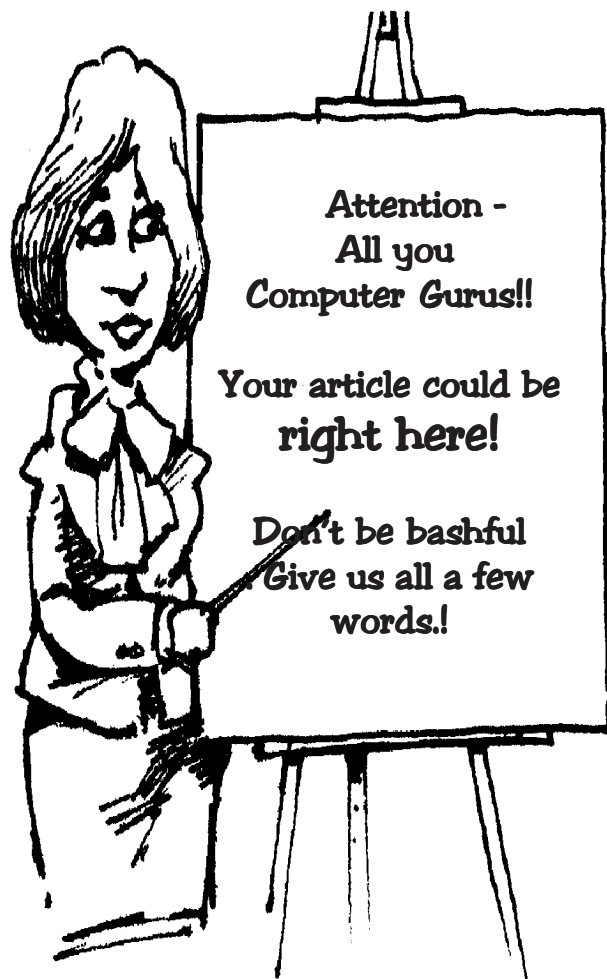
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The sky's the limit now that we are on the internet. Any and all contributions will be welcome. Just email them to me. Ed.