

ICON PC User Group



* Brentwood, NY

<http://www.iconpcug.org>

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Presidents Message for January 2004

Happy New Year



ing or have a connection with someone that might be of interest to the membership, we would be happy to follow up on a lead. One of the places we are looking for help is at meetings end to break down the equipment and put it away while we try to get people to leave on time.

Our final meeting of the year presented by Andy Gilbert of PC Richards and Sons was attended by over 80 people, not bad for a meeting that had to be rescheduled because of a snow storm. The prizes supplied for our holiday meeting were fantastic and the demo of video DVD creation ranked as one of the best of the year. Unfortunately I didn't come out a winner this year, but some went home with terrific gifts.

Tom Engel
President

The ICON PC User Group is venturing into it's 14th year, and last year was one of our best. I was one of the original 6 members and the only one still active in running the group. I have been lucky enough to have recruited many good people to help, and have had the support of all the members of the club (I think). The last couple of years with the economy being as it is we have had trouble getting demos, but have somehow come up with something for each meeting. Things are starting to improve in the tech world and one would hope that with a little money being made by the remaining companies that their user group programs will increase as well. This year we had 39 sign up for the dinner and all had a good time. The food was limitless and with the format I was able to spend a little time with most of the attendees. For some of us the evening didn't end until 2:00AM on Sunday, after viewing some of the pictures taken that night. I hope everybody that attended had as good a time as me.

This year we opened up our Christmas Party to members. In the past we had these dinners for the people that have been of assistance running the club. These have always been run without any club funds, and this year was no exception. I think the social aspect of these dinners have helped in knowing the people working with me. Our thought in opening the dinner to all members would help those that attend to become more familiar with us and maybe more willing to help. There are a couple of jobs that are difficult and could use help in getting completed. I don't want to say that any one job is more important than another, but if you look around at a meeting you will see some people working more than others. Then in order to put the newsletter together these jobs are behind the scenes and show up at the meeting without much fanfare. Then others are meeting with companies for the purpose of getting them to do a future meeting. If any member has time to help and thinks they can contribute a little please get in touch with one of the board members. If you come up with an idea for a meet-

Special points of interest:

- Our Get Together
- We Need Special Help
- PC Richards and Sons

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2004 OFFICERS

President	Tom Engel	Technology Specialist	Randy Gilbert
Vice President	Randy Gilbert	Media Coordinator	Fran Kiperman
Secretary	Jaye Vullo	APCUG Rep	Harry Eaton
Treasurer	Marty Rosa	Membership Chairman	Charlie Wagner
Newsletter Editor	John Prankaitis	Program Chairman	Harry Eaton

Members Corner

Charlie Wagner

We'd like to welcome the following new members who joined the ICON PC User Group family in last month:

Audrey & Alan Axelrod

Michael Kelledy

Claude Chirignan

Gail & John Mauck-Brandt

Bill, Bob, Chris & Jim Cotgreave

Joe Morgano

Ed Farah

Reinaldo Peters

Cleveland, Gloria, Janet & Jenfear Graham

We hope that our new members -- and all of our existing members as well -- will speak to one of the club officers about your computer interests so that we can try to tailor our programs to better meet your needs. And if you can spare a bit of free time to volunteer, ask one of us about presenting a topic you know well at one of our meetings, writing an article or product review for our newsletter or helping man the ICON table at one of the local computer shows. We rely on volunteers for our continued growth, success and very existence. And I promise, it'll make you feel good too. Let your friends know about us also. We're glad you joined the ICON PC User Group and made us your computer club!



Our good friend and ICON treasurer, **Marty Rosa**,

will be laid up for a while after having undergone heart bypass surgery last month. Our best wishes go out to Marty and his family for a full and speedy recovery. Marty, we'll miss you and hope to see you back at the meetings soon!

We are desperately in need of someone to **coordinate the computer shows** at Sports Plus and Farmingdale. The job involves contacting membership to make certain there is adequate coverage, faxing applications to the show management and taking responsibility for the show equipment. The coordinator doesn't have to attend all of the shows, but he or she has to make certain that responsible people are there to set up and break down the club's table.

Contact me about the details if you think you're interested. You'll have a great time doing it, get into the shows for free and you'll help the club grow because this is where we continue to find most of our new members. The next computer show will be **MarketPro January 17 & 18** at **Sports Plus** in Lake Grove. And when you go to any of the shows, be sure to ask them where the computer club table is. We want the show management to know that people come into their shows looking for us. Thanks!

*Our best wishes go out to Marty
and his family for a full and
speedy recovery.*

Beginners Workshop

Charlie Wagner

I encourage all members to stop by our **Beginners Workshop** that meets the last Friday of the month. We'll meet this month on **January 30** when we will be presenting a series of introductory **Computer Basics** sessions taught by our

own **Richard Roberts**, a seasoned adult education computer trainer. So if you, a parent or spouse is a little rusty in the basics or totally clueless about computers, be sure to attend these meetings! Even a pro might pick up a useful tip or two.

These workshops are a free benefit of your ICON membership but seats are limited, so if you'd like to attend, email me at cwagner@iconpcug.org and we'll put you on the reminder list.

Meet your new Editor

Hi, my name is John Prankaitis and I volunteered to do '04 newsletter (*if I last that long*).

For me, looking at the past newsletters makes me wonder if I could meet the standard set forth. Be as it may, I am looking forward to the challenge. If I bomb at this, should I be putting my picture in front of this article?

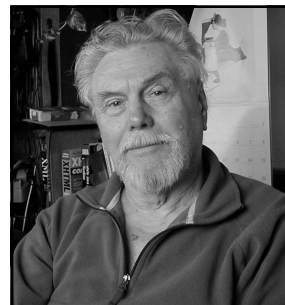
I have been coming to ICON meetings for about ten years, and I am always aware at these meeting it attracts the most knowledgeable people. When a question arises, voices from all over the room can be heard with ready answers or some

more puzzling questions. Take our President for instance, at the beginning of our meetings; he tries to answer all questions from the floor. I been with computers over 40 years and I am amazed how *he* could do it.

Intel manufactured the first CPU chip and they did not have programs written for it. They had to give it away so someone could find out who could use it. Fifty years later, they developed a 64-bit address CPU that is super fast and now they are looking for USERS. Bottom line is if you want to be a "Computer Expert" you must become a USER. This is why the

ICON PC User Group is a service to our community. To use all the hard drive and memory to its maximum limit. Let your keyboard follow the yellow brick road.

I love to hear what you have to say, pro or con. Please email at johnpbt@excite.com. Thank you Ruth my loving wife and proof-reader. xxx



Something Interesting

I was requested to write this little note by one of our members so here goes. Those of you who are familiar with "Thumb Drives", "Portable storage devices", "Keyring drives", "Micro vaults" etc. can pass this article up. For those of you who don't have one or want to know more about these great little gadgets please read on.

These devices go by almost as many names as there are devices. They are small, generally about the size of your thumb and have a USB connector on one end. They work with any USB 1.1 or 2.0 connector. The ones that have a USB 2.0 connector read and write faster than those with a USB 1.1 connector. Read the packaging to see what you are buying. They in short are fantastic! They let you move, copy *ANY KIND OF DATA* between two or more computers. Some have slots for removable smart media cards, and some have lights that light up when they are being written to or read from. They are completely silent in operation. The computer (Windows '98 Second Editions and

up) sees the device as a new removable mini hard drive. They weigh almost nothing and can easily fit in a shirt pocket or purse. They have NO moving parts so they should last for a very long time indeed. Some store more than a CD! That's one GIG of storage capacity but admittedly these are not somewhat rare and are understandably expensive. The more common ones range from 32Megs to 256megs. That's just over 177 3½ floppy disks. They are also a good bit faster than floppies too.

Let's say that you have a document that you want to work on at home. This can be done by copying the document and then transferring to another computer. Moving the data around is so easy, you wonder why you didn't get one sooner. Prices range from approximately \$29 (256 megs) on sale to \$300 for a one Gig size. Check those Sunday fliers and you can find a sale on one of these handy little trinkets. They make great stocking stuffers, require no device drivers to be loaded (again Win '98 SE and up) and are fun to use. Some come equipped with password

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protection so if you lose it, the person who finds it won't be able to get to your data. They are as simple to use as plugging in a plug to a wall outlet. Everyone should have one of these nifty little toys near his/her computer.

I hope that this has piqued your interest so keep an eye out for those sales.

Stay warm and well.

Season's Greetings. Tom



Lighten-Up

Tom Engel

To all - Recently, I was diagnosed with AAADD --

Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder. This is how it manifests:

I decided to wash my car. I start toward the garage; I spotted the mail on the hall table. I should go through the mail before I wash the car. I lay the car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the trashcan under the table and notice that the trash can is full. So, I put the bills back on the table and take out the trash first. Since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the trash anyway, I might as well pay the bills first. I see my checkbook on the table, but there is only one check left. My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go to my desk, where I find the bottle of juice that I had been drinking. I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the juice aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. But the juice is getting warm, and should be put in the refrigerator to keep it cold. Heading toward the kitchen with the juice, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye. They need to be watered. I set the

juice down on the counter, and find my reading glasses, for which I've been searching all morning. I had better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers. I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water, and suddenly spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table. Tonight when we sit down to watch TV, we will be looking for the remote, but nobody will remember that it's on the kitchen table. I should put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers. I splash some water on the flowers, but most of it spills on the floor. So, I put the remote back down on the table, and get some towels to wipe up the spill. Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do. At the end of the day: the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm bottle of juice sitting on the counter, the flowers aren't watered, there is still only one check in my checkbook, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what I did with the car keys. I'm trying to figure out why nothing got done today; It's quite baffling because I

know I was busy all day long, and I'm really tired. I know this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail

This New Years, if you are at your computer and not watching TV try logging on this site submitted by **icontom**

www.yuqop.com/ver3/stuff/03/fla.html

Computers can figure out all kinds of problems, except the things in the world that just don't add up.

The toughest decision a purchasing agent faces is when he is about to buy the machine designed to replace him.
James Magary

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This newsletter is freeware / shareware—It may be copied, duplicated and shared with others. The information that has been placed into the newsletter has

been obtained from many sources and cannot always be verified. It is always recommended that you obtain professional advice from

software / hardware distributors, manufacturers, salesmen, or other professionals dealing with articles that appear in these newsletters.

ICON PC User Group meeting times and Library location

The **ICON PC Users Group** meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at the Brentwood Public Library. The meetings begin at 6:30 PM and at 8:45 PM. The Library is located at the corner of 2nd Ave. and 4th Street in Brentwood, New York

