The Hartford User Group Exchange, Inc.

Founded in 1981

presents

The Pulp

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Happy New Year 2004

GENERAL CHIT–CHAT STARTS AT **6:00** P.M.

General Meeting
Rescheduled: January 26TH due to holiday
7:00 P.M.

Pot Luck and What was New at MacWorld
MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE EAST HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
MAIN ST. AND CENTRAL AVE., EAST HARTFORD, CT.

HUGE this month!

Jan. 12 OS X Beginners SIG – Topic: The Finder
Wethersfield Public Library..................7 p.m.

Jan. 18 Deadline for **ALL** Articles. Please upload
articles to editors@huge.org or give them to
the Pulp Editor...............................**Midnight**

Jan. 26 General Meeting — See above 7 P.M.

Feb. 9 OS X Beginners SIG – Topic: The Finder
Wethersfield Public Library..................7 p.m.

January 19th is a state
holiday in honor of
Martin Luther King.

Coming General Meetings
February – Guru Software

MEETING LOCATIONS
East Hartford Public Library
Main & Central Avenue
in the Lion's Community Room
Downstairs

Wethersfield Public Library
500 Silas Deane Hwy., Wethersfield, CT

The President's Message

George Carbonell

Happy New Year!

2004…What does it have in store for us? We will just have to wait and see, won't we?

MacWorld San Francisco…What did it bring us this year? We will have a report on what is new at the January 26th, General Meeting; the Group would like to access the Internet from the Lions meeting room, speaking with the head librarian at the Raymond Library the first week of January.

The January General Meeting will be Q&A. Bring in your questions.

What did MacWorld have to offer?

Connecting to the web from the your home or Library.

Reviewers are needed. Do you like to get something for your efforts when helping others? I sure do. A "thank you" is always nice. Review a software package, and you can and help others by exploring all its features and deciding whether or not it will solve a particular need. Submit your review to the Pulp, and the software is yours.

Ted Bade is starting a SIG about OS X. Many new software programs support only OS X, and those companies no longer support the previous systems. There will be an OS X SIG meeting at the Wethersfield Library starting soon. Watch the HUGE Website for updates to the actual date and time.

See you at the meeting, and yes, reviewers are needed to handle the request we have to test and comment on new software packages.

How do I now when the General Meeting is cancelled due to weather? If you hear that the East Hartford Raymond Library is closed, then the meeting has been canceled. When do I start listening to the Radio or TV or checking the Web for closures? Early in the afternoon, especially if you hear of school closings or early dismissals. Channel 3 and 30 have Websites with all the information we need to know.

The Digital Camera SIG Meeting is going on winter vacation.

In January and February, the General Meeting will move to the 4th Monday.(Library closed on 1/19 and 2/16). In addition, I have commitments in March (I'm teaching a couple of Adult Ed classes in West Hartford.)

The SIG might resume next Spring.

Charles Gagliardi

P.S. If you want to get a free newsletter about photography – digital and film, you can sign up at www.photoalley.com

The Apple MUG Store

The Apple MUG Store is giving away printers, MP3 players, extra RAM and more to MUG members with the purchase of select new Apple computers. To take advantage of these deals, or browse the selection of refurbished Macs and blowout specials, go to: http://www.applemugstore.com

User ID: G5

Password: processor

You can also order by calling one of the PowerMax consultants at 800–689–8191.

Don't forget to tell them the name of your User Group (**HUGE**). When you purchase and are a confirmed Apple User Group member, your particular group will receive special awards points which can be redeemed for merchandise and Apple logo materials.

A Cautionary Rebate Tale
Stuart Rabinowitz

A few months back my son purchased a **Belkin** broadband/gateway router (model F5D5231-4) at Office Max that was on sale with a $30 rebate. It seemed like a good price after rebate and Belkin has a good reputation. My son clipped the bar code, filled out the form and enclosed the sales receipt. Then he forgot the cardinal rule: **always make a copy.**
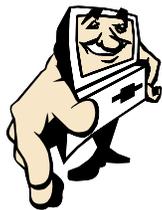
About a month passed, he received a postcard (#45178876) informing him that the bar code he submitted, for a Wireless PCMCIA Card (model F5D6020) was not included in the promotion. We called on two (2) occasions but the Belkin rebate staff was not helpful. They admitted that the paperwork was on file, but they would not check it. They stated that we could re–submit a copy for processing, but as noted above, he forgot the cardinal rule: **always make a copy**.

So, as you sort through all those presents purchased for the holidays (or in the future) with rebates, remember to: ALWAYS MAKE A COPY. I would also suggest that you want to consider a brand other than Belkin when making a purchase, I know I will.

As a follow-up to the story, Belkin did send a partial rebate ($20) with a notation that it was a different model.

Attention! Are you interested in MacOS X Beginners Special?

The first meeting of the MacOS X beginners Special Interest Group was held on January 12th at the Wethersfield Public Library from 7 to 9pm. The meeting topic was: "The Finder".

I spent half the meeting on the presentation and the other half discussing questions emailed to me first then open the floor to general questions. All people planning to attend are welcome to email a question about MacOS X to me for discussion at the meeting.

This meeting is intended for people new to MacOS X. I intend to keep the topics basic and will stick with only those questions I feel appropriate for beginners. All beginners are welcome.

TidBits

A Slew of Apple Software Updates by Adam C. Engst <ace@tidbits.com

We weren't the only ones in a mad rush toward the end of the year, and some of Apple's engineers probably enjoyed their holiday breaks more after shipping a variety of updates. They include Mac OS X 10.3.2, iTunes 4.2, QuickTime 6.5, and Battery Update 1.1.

Most awaited of the updates is Mac OS X 10.3.2, which promises improved file sharing and directory services for mixed Mac and PC networks, mre robust printing to PostScript printers, improved font management, updates to Mail and Address Book, and new ATI and NVIDIA graphics drivers. Apple offers an expanded change list on the Web. Improvements in 10.3.1 and recent security updates are also bundled in for anyone who hasn't already gotten those. Unfortunately, Apple says nothing about the problems users experienced with FireWire 400 hard drives in Panther, merely reiterating the note from 10.3.1 that says users with FireWire 800 drives should still upgrade their drives' firmware. Mac OS X 10.3.2 is available in Software Update as a 38.2 MB download; it is also available separately as a 36.4 MB download. http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=25652 http://www.info.apple.com/kbnum/n120288

QuickTime 6.5, an 18.2 MB download from Software Update, enables creation and playback of 3GPP2 and AMC "mobile multimedia" formats, improves text track support and DV playback options, and enhances support for iMovie, iDVD, and Final Cut Pro. QuickTime 6.5 requires Mac OS X 10.2.5 or later. http://www.apple.com/quicktime/

Lastly, owners of white iBooks and aluminum PowerBooks will see Battery Update 1.1 appear in Software Update as a 520K download (it's also available as a 160K standalone installer). Battery Update 1.1 claims to enhance the performance of the battery to ensure that full capacity is available. Some users on TidBITS Talk reported significantly increased fan activity after installing Battery Update 1.1 and Mac OS X 10.3.2; see the discussion on TidBITS Talk. If you