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# RASCAL

VOL XIX ISSUE II — FEBRUARY 2006 - ROGUE AREA SENIOR COMPUTER ASSISTANCE LEAGUE

## RASCAL OFFICERS\* & SUPPORT STAFF

### President

rascalprez@rascal.cc  
\*William Rose 476-5070

### Vice-President

rascalvp@rascal.cc  
\*Lou Garrotto 955-1950

### Secretary

rascalsecretary@rascal.cc  
\*Jane Frincke 472-9212

### Treasurer

rascaltreasurer@rascal.cc  
\*Arlie Smith 476-9424

### Education Director

rascaleducation@rascal.cc  
\*Patricia Hentges 956-1470

### Membership Director

rascalmembership@rascal.cc  
\*Maggie Robson 476-1687

### Communications/Facilities

Director  
rascalcomm1@rascal.cc  
\*(position open)



### Administrative Assistants

rascalaa1@rascal.cc  
Lou Lyons 476-6405  
Nancy Kain 955-4800

### Community Relations

Bob Cartmell 476-9437

### Data Base

Mark Simonds 955-4810  
Shirley Byrd 476-4978  
Audrey Williams 955-4720  
Betty Buskirk 474-1381

### Historian

Vivian Dagnan 582-0824

### Hospitality

Tom & Bernice Buntin  
.....472-1549  
Duane Sagen.....476-0779

### Human Resources

Mac McGahan 472-8027

### Membership Greeters

Marie Hutchins 476-3783

### Newsletter

editor@rascal.cc  
Joan McDowell 472-0377

### Social Director

Dawn Shively 955-9626

### Speaker Scheduler

Ken Mitchell 476-1883

### Sunshine - Artistic Design

Lee Cathcart 479-5778

### Webmaster

rascalwebmaster@rascal.cc  
Ginny von Gal 474-7566



## RASCALS and THE CHRISTMAS of 2005

~ by Jane Frincke

*Editors Note: At the writing of this report, Christmas Day was still ahead. By the time you receive this newsletter you will be well on your way in the New Year, but you might enjoy taking a moment to relive our celebration on December 13th or, if you weren't there, to read all about it here.*

With goodwill abounding, 121 RASCALS and guests gathered at Wild River Pub on December 13, 2005 for the annual Christmas party. Frank Kain (photo at left) welcomed

the partygoers at the door with hearty holiday handshakes and hugs. Inside, warm greetings were extended by Shirley Byrd and Maggie Robson as they checked everyone in.

Nancy Kain was a sparkling mistress of ceremonies. She opened the merrymaking by thanking Social Director Dawn Shively for organizing, planning and arranging such a festive party. With remarkable talent, Dawn and Sandy Dreyer created the 16 table centerpieces, which were so beautiful it appeared they had just been flown in from St. Nick's elegant Fifth Avenue boutique. One lucky person at each table won the centerpiece to take home. Dawn and Sandy also created an additional centerpiece and a wreath that were auctioned as a fund-raiser for the club.

When Nancy called Joann Garrotto to the stage, her eyes were as wide with surprise as if she'd just seen Santa emerge from the chimney. On behalf of the club, Joann was awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership, along with flowers and candy, in recognition of her dedicated service to RASCAL.

The wonderfully talented Emmons Sisters took the stage and provided spirited entertainment for the partygoers. The sisters, aged 18, 16, 14 and 12, sang traditional songs of the season as well as some of their original compositions. Their beautiful harmony and bluegrass renditions soon had the crowd tapping toes, clapping hands and singing along. A generous luncheon of pork tenderloin with all the trimmings was served, after which the RASCALS departed with hearts and tummies full of the season's spirit.

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All the while, Bill Porter was an almost invisible elf snapping pictures of the festivities (below). Please be sure to check the RASCAL web site to enjoy the full collection, in living color, of photos by Bill Porter and Ron Stephen.



Patricia Hentges, Esther Snyder, & Ron Stephens arrive early in anticipation of a special afternoon.



The creators of the artful centerpieces and the beautiful auctioned items, Dawn Shively and Sandra Dryer, are ready to enjoy the proceedings.



Gene and Arlie Smith light up the room with warmth and good cheer.



Belinda Blauer, was the high bidder for the two auctioned creations. Karen Oman enjoys her victory.



Joann Garrotto receives her Lifetime Membership.



**NANCY & FRANK**

Our scintillating MC and our celebrated greeter sit back for a moment of enjoyment with the rest of us.



**RESPONSIBLE  
RASCALs RECYCLE**  
~ by Joan McDowell

*As good citizens who care about the environment in which we live, and breath, and eat, and drink, RASCALs want to know how to safely recycle old computer systems and monitors.*

An average monitor contains about eight pounds of lead. Lead is also found on computer circuit boards. Many PC batteries contain mercury, lithium, and cadmium, which are toxic at high levels. Other toxins, such as PCBs, are used in computer capacitors and are also hazardous. Millions of computers become obsolete each year. We don't want them in our landfills. So what do we do with them? Here are some solutions sought out by concerned and responsible RASCALs.

Last summer Belinda Bauer was seeking a safe way to dispose of an old monitor. After searching the web and after many phone calls, she found a source for reuse and disposal that is not only inexpensive, but that also does a valuable service by employing the disabled. It is:

**The American Appliance Recyclers (AAR) in White City at 645 Avenue G,  
telephone: 541-826-2211**

[www.americanappliancecyclers.com/services](http://www.americanappliancecyclers.com/services)

This facility is currently employing seven adults with disabilities. Their jobs involve dismantling and preparing for recycle major appliances such as: clothes dryers and washers, stoves, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners, as well as computer components. **AAR is recognized by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality as a qualified recycling center for all of the above and is certified by the EPA for Freon refrigerant recovery.**

To utilize their services you may call them to advise what you have for recycling. They will either come to you for a curbside pickup or you may take your appliance to them for a drop-off. At the time of this printing, the drop-off fee for a monitor, for instance, is \$15. The pick-up at your curbside fee for a monitor, would be \$40; each additional appliance at curbside would be \$20. More pricing details can be found on their website, listed above.

Belinda dropped her monitor off at the AAR facility. She was pleased with what she saw there and felt gratified that, **not only was her monitor disposal not going to contaminate, but its processing was also employing the disadvantaged.**

Another nearby source for monitor and computer disposal is:

**Alliance Computer and Electronics Recycling, or ACE, located in Grants Pass at The Three Rivers Industrial Park, 2163 Spaulding Ave., #12; telephone 597-4586 or 326-7427**

This is a start-up organization which its owner, David Gilchrist, says has plans for doing reclamation locally in the future. Currently, they ship electronics to companies overseas which rebuild or disassemble for parts. The downside to this is that we don't know, and have no control over, how the harmful leftovers are disposed of in a country such as China. The up-side for donors here (if you can set aside environmental uncertainties in other countries) is that ACE accepts monitors, towers, etc. at their location above, for no fee if you deliver to them between the hours of 9:00 a.m., and 12 noon, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. It is recommended that you call first. They will pick-up one or more items within a 15 mile radius for a flat \$15 fee; and within 15 to 60 miles for a \$25 fee.

**Finding a Home for a Working Computer**



**As reported in the March '05 RASCAL newsletter, a local option for donating functioning computers is the JoMacs Project Restart ([www.jomacs.org](http://www.jomacs.org)).** Also, check with local schools, who may be able to use old systems in computer construction training programs.

*However you choose to recycle your computer, be sure to erase all personal data from your hard drive. If you don't know how to do this, ask for help.*

**The disposal of ink cartridges is also an environmental concern. Over one-million cartridges end up in landfills every day.** The plastic casing doesn't decompose, even after 1,000 years! So, what to do? You probably know that some retailers will take used cartridges for recycling. They may offer a few dollars off of the price of new cartridges, in exchange for each name-brand used cartridge brought in.

**Another option would be to make a contribution to your club by donating used cartridges to NetInks ([www.NetInks.com](http://www.NetInks.com)) and Partner Services, an ink cartridge recycling company.** RASCAL is registered as a non-profit with them for the receipt of credit for any name-brand empty ink cartridges they receive from our members. Just put each cartridge in a plastic sandwich bag, bring to any General Meeting and pick up the self-addressed, postage-paid NetInks envelopes at the Welcome Table. NetInks will credit RASCAL with two dollars for each name-brand used cartridge received.





## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FEBRUARY

### E-MAIL & INTERNET, Beginning

**Pre-Req: Introduction to Computers & Beginning Windows.** Very detailed, very basic class. Handouts will teach you how to get started in e-mail and the Internet. Create, send, and receive e-mail over the Internet using Outlook Express. Search, surf and download using Internet Explorer.

### EXCEL, Beginning

**Pre-Req: Beginning Windows, Beginning E-mail & Internet.** Learn to locate and name the elements of this spreadsheet program, with emphasis on the Standard, Formatting, and Formula bars. Apply basic number and cell formatting, simple formulas, open and close workbooks correctly, print and save to a floppy.

### GENEALOGY, Beginning

**Pre-Req: Beginning Windows, Beginning E-Mail & Internet.** Learn to get started compiling your family history, and organize your findings. Research both off and on line. Learn how to download an excellent free genealogy program from the Internet.

### INTRODUCTION to COMPUTERS

**Required for First-Time Computer Users.** A fun class. Learn the proper method to turn a computer on and off. Learn to use the mouse and keyboard. Get acquainted with hardware, software, and computer vocabulary.

### MICROSOFT PAINT

**Pre-Req: Be able to navigate through computer screens, handle the mouse, cut & paste, save your work.** Paint is a simple, basic program for manipulating images. The program's tools are basic to other paint programs, therefore it is worth learning and may be useful for graduating to more complicated image programs.

### MS WORD, Intermediate

**Pre-Req: Beginning Windows.** Learn the names and locate elements of this Microsoft word processing program. Emphasis on the Standard and Formatting tool-bar buttons. Work with documents, print, and save.



## WIRELESS NETWORKING

~ by Phyllis Wilkey

*Editor's Note: Phyllis Wilkey is a new RASCAL member who has a wealth of experience, wide and deep, in many areas of computer usage. She is offering assistance to fellow RASCALS in several areas on our Dial-A-Pro page. Wireless Networking is one of these. If you use a laptop in addition to your desktop, or if you are using more than one desktop, this article is for you.*

**What does it mean to “go wireless” and what is needed to do so?** For starters you must have at least two computers. A desktop and a laptop make a great wireless network. Two desktops also can be used. I personally have a wired desktop, a wireless desktop, and two wireless laptops — all running from one modem. For now, we will stick with just a desktop and a laptop. The other important thing is to have a high-speed internet connection. It can be Cable or DSL. Dial-up is just too slow to be worthwhile.

So what is needed to make your laptop wireless and what exactly does that mean? **What I am talking about is setting up a network between two computers so that you can share your internet connection wirelessly.**



A wireless router.

What you need, in addition to your computers, is your high-speed modem which you rent from your ISP, or one that you purchase. You will also need a **wireless router** if you have cable internet. If you have DSL, the wireless capability is

built into the modem that the phone company offers. This is a bit confusing because your router and modem are wired to your main desktop. The best way to setup the wired part of your network, is to use **Ethernet** connections. If you don't have Ethernet on your computer, you can also use USB, but it is slower and not as efficient as the Ethernet. Most routers come with an extra Ethernet cable.

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# Need Help? • Dial-A-Pro

Just call or e-mail and an attempt will be made to solve the problem by phone or e-mail. If that isn't enough, most of those listed will make house calls on an individually arranged basis.



## GENERAL TROUBLESHOOTING

Most Areas of Computing

George Steffensen	474-4305	stefff@peoplepc.com
Gerry Tank	476-7667	badger1gt@charter.net
Wally Zittle	476-9800	wzittle@charter.net
Bob Booth	474-2993	robtb@terragon.com
Ray Lake	956-6302	raylake@charter.net
Lou Lyons	476-6405	luckylou@charter.net
Chris Oman	474-0161	ckoman@rvi.net
Len Richardson	866-2541	len_r@yahoo.com
George Spencer	474-0899	gspencer1earthlink.net
Phyllis Wilkey	1-541-459-1915	celticphyl@charter.net

## BEGINNER'S HELP

Laura Dunwald	479-9076	beagenie@charter.net
Ginny von Gal	474-7566	skipjack@echoweb.net
Gordon Rendall	955-1000	grandpaw5@charter.net
Gerry Tank	476-7667	badger1at@charter.net
Marv Wilson	471-1867	mwlw86@charter.net
Phyllis Wilkey	1-541-459-1915	celticphyl@charter.net

## WINDOWS INFORMATION

Laura Dunwald	479-9076	beagenie@charter.net
Phyllis Wilkey	1-541-459-1915	celticphyl@charter.net

## WIRELESS HARDWARE

Phyllis Wilkey	1-541-459-1915	celticphyl@charter.net
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## APPLICATIONS & OTHER SPECIFIC HELP

### DIGITAL CAMERAS & PHOTOS (for beginners)

Ken Mitchell	476-1883	ks4lb444@rascal.cc
Phyllis Wilkey	1-541-459-1915	celticphyl@charter.net

### EXCEL

Ron Willing	582-9694	rwilling@charter.net
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### GENEALOGY

Laura Dunwald	479-9076	beagenie@charter.net
Phyllis Wilkey	1-541-459-1915	celticphyl@charter.net

### GRAPHICS

Bill Porter	[phone n/a]	silverfox@terragon.com
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### HAM RADIO

Ben Skinner	479-3965	benbarb@rascal.cc
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### ICQ

Jean Kraft	664-8197	hikraft@charter.net
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### INTERNET, General

Lou Lyons	476-6405	luckylou@charter.net
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### MACINTOSH OS

Joanne Shields	[phone n/a]	maclady@charter.net
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### OUTLOOK EXPRESS

Nancy Kain	955-4800	nankain@rascal.cc
Jean Kraft	664-8197	hikraft@charter.net
Cliff Worden	471-1292	cliffmar@charter.net
Phyllis Wilkey	1-541-459-1915	celticphyl@charter.net

### QUICKEN

George Steffensen	474-4305	stefff@peoplepc.com
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### WEB PAGE HTML BASIC

Mark Simonds	955-4810	mcsimonds@rvi.net
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### WORD, MS

Marion Miller	955-0712	marion@uci.net
Phyllis Wilkey	1-541-459-1915	celticphyl@charter.net

### WORD PERFECT & MS WORD (for beginners)

Karen Janssen	956-6067	ilea@terragon.com
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## EXCHANGE COMPUTER RELATED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

For RASCAL members only. Limited to technical problems and responses. Subscribe to the FREE Technical Help

ListServe e-mail forum for help with your computer problems at

<http://mailman.userservices.net/mailman/listinfo/rascal-tech>. Subscribers use **rascal-**

**tech@mailman.userservices.net** for discussion. The Listserve Moderator is reached at

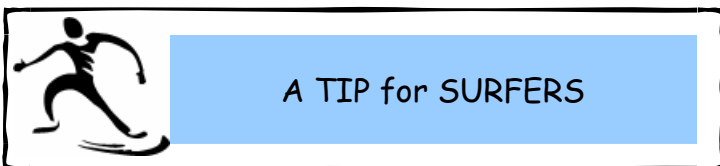
**rascal-tech.admin@mailman.userservices.net**.

Once you have your router connected and set up, it will send out (route) a wireless signal that can be used by your laptop to access the internet. In order for your laptop to do this, it will have to have built-in wireless capabilities, or a PCMCIA wireless card that is installed in the PCMCIA card slot in your laptop.

When you go to your local Office Max, Staples, or the store of your choice, you will be looking for a 2.4 GHz, 802.11G Wireless Router. You will notice that there will be 802.11B and 802.11A routers also. Stick with the G model. It will give you good speed and is basically status quo for the moment. If you need a PCMCIA wireless card buy the matching card. If you buy a Netgear 802.11G Router, buy the Netgear 802.11G PCMCIA card to match. You can mix cards and routers, but if you do and you have problems and need tech support, the manufacturers always like to blame the other guy's equipment. If you have the same brand throughout your network, it is harder for them to pass the buck. Try to stay with same brands such as Linksys, Netgear, or D-Link.

Once you have everything set up you can have your desktop in your office and take your laptop into the living room, click on Internet Explorer and surf the web while you sit by the fire. There will be no wires needed. Your laptop will run off of your charged battery and will get its wireless signal from your router in the next room. Enjoy!

*Feel free to e-mail me with questions or comments at <celticphyl@charter.net>*



If you have trouble reading small fonts on some web sites, there is an **Internet Explorer** feature that may help. While on the page you want to read, click on **View** on the IE menu bar. Select **Text size**. You are offered sizes from Largest to Smallest. Click on your size preference. If you wish, you may put this feature on your toolbar by right-clicking on the toolbar. Choose **Customize | Available Toolbar Buttons | Size | Add | Close**. You will see a new icon named **SIZE**. Click on it and you will get the size selections. Sizing does not work on every page you may visit.



## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

~ by Jane Frincke

Please see the **RASCAL Website** at [www.rascal.cc](http://www.rascal.cc) for complete minutes of the December 6, 2005 Board Meeting.

Since this was **Communications Director, Wally Zittle's** final Board Meeting, he received a round of applause for his dedicated service to the club. **Membership Director, George Simington** reviewed the November 2005 Membership Report which showed a record 51 new members joining during this month. **The Board** discussed and tabled a decision on contracting for outside computer repair service when club members cannot correct technical problems. **President Bill Rose** revealed state highway department drawings to reconfigure Redwood Highway in the next several years. The plans, as currently proposed, may impact the Floral Building as a meeting hall for RASCAL.



This is a reminder that this newsletter, plus back issues, plus an index to technical articles, can be found at your fingertips anytime, day or night, on the RASCAL website at [www.rascal.cc](http://www.rascal.cc). You will be able to view it in color and may also print it out that way if you choose. Give it a try. Go there, click on the "Newsletter" link on the left side of the home page, select an issue, and check it out. If you think you would **prefer** to access your newsletter this way **instead of** receiving it in the mail, please let us know by e-mail at [editor@rascal.cc](mailto:editor@rascal.cc).

*If you make this choice we will remove you from the monthly hard-copy mailings.*

*If you don't wish to be removed from receiving newsletters in the mail, you may, of course, continue to also access them on the web.*

# RASCAL

COMPUTER CLUB  
214 SW 4th STREET  
GRANTS PASS, OR 97526



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PLEASE NOTE: Your month of membership renewal is located in the upper right corner of your mailing label. Please mail yearly dues (\$15 single membership: \$20 for couples, \$75 Lifetime) to the RASCAL address listed above or submit at a General Meeting.

## KEEP in TOUCH



Let RASCAL know when you change your e-mail address, your telephone number, or your residence address. Contact the Membership Manager at [rascalmembership@rascal.cc](mailto:rascalmembership@rascal.cc)

RASCAL meetings are held in the Floral Building at the Fairgrounds in Grants Pass. Weekly meetings are on Tuesdays, except holidays. The General Membership meets from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. The Beginners' Meeting is held from 10:50 to 11:30. All members are welcome to attend both meetings. Come early for coffee and chat with friends.

We also invite you to visit our website:  
[www.rascal.cc](http://www.rascal.cc)

for up-to-date information about our club, our members, classes, meetings, and links to other websites. Our website is managed by Ginny von Gal and hosted by Smartwire Internet.



Ready to make vacation plans for this new year? Thinking of cruising the net in time-consuming searches for a good travel package? Check out **Yahoo! FareChase**. This is a travel search engine that speeds up the search and does the leg work for you. It searches dozens of travel websites and displays all the prices and availabilities in one place.

**BON VOYAGE!**

