



**A
BIT
OF A**

RASCAL

VOL XIX ISSUE IV — JUNE 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
*Wally Zittle 476-9800



- Administrative Assistant**
rascalaa1@rascal.cc
Lou Lyons 476-6405
- Community Relations**
Bob Cartmell 476-9437
- Data Base**
Mark Simonds 955-4810
Audrey Williams 955-4720
Betty Buskirk 474-1381
- Facilities**
Henry Cotter471-0750
- 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

A STORY OF COURAGE, GRACE, DEVOTION, and SERVICE

~ by Joan McDowell

Editor's Note: In response to many requests, this is a repeat (with some recent up-dates) of a bio-sketch which appeared in this newsletter in June 2004.



Please meet someone every RASCAL member should know. Vivian Dagnan has served this club in many capacities and is currently our valued Historian. She probably knows more about this club, cares more about it, and has experienced more in consistent service to it, than anyone you can name. After considerable persuasion, she has consented to be profiled here for more recent members who would like to know more about those who have, over the years, worked to keep their club functioning at it's best.

Vivian was raised in Gary, Indiana with two brothers. She says this upbringing is the reason why, to this day, she can "do battle" with anyone. After high school, she attended Gary Community College and took a job with the County Auditor. It was while standing on the corner waiting for the bus for work, that Vivian says she became "a street corner pick-up." She noticed a handsome young man in a gray convertible who drove by every morning. After a time, he stopped and asked if she wanted a ride to work. She says "In my defense, I did NOT accept the first offer." Six months later, she and the young man were married.

Vivian and Gene had two daughters. Mary is now a nurse at Lovejoy Hospice in Grants Pass and has two sons. Susan is a teacher in the Albuquerque Public School system and has five adopted children.

The couple vacationed in Oregon for many years, and after Gene retired in 1980, they moved here. Vivian was reluctant to leave Albuquerque where they had lived since the early sixties. She had a yard full of rocks they had collected over the years on their camping trips, plus rooms full of books. Gene promised to move every rock and every book – and he did!

On September 20, 2002 Gene ran his car off the road – reason unknown. He spent the next 152 days in the hospital, where Vivian camped out on the couch in the

A STORY OF COURAGE, GRACE,
DEVOTION and SERVICE, cont.

waiting room. "He put up one hell of a battle" says she, but his age and injuries were just too much and he died on February 19, 2003. They had been married 53 ½ years. As Vivian points out, "Not bad for a street corner pick-up."

Vivian was secretary of RASCAL during the hospital time and says, "I bless Vicki Moore, who took over my duties. I'll be forever grateful to Doyle and Nada Cable, who were my strength and were at the hospital everyday the first month and whenever I called them in the middle of the night.

My deepest gratitude also to all my RASCAL friends who supported me throughout our nightmare; and to the entire staff at Rogue Valley Hospital who not only ad-



**With Nada & Doyle Cable
(a founding member of RASCAL) at
The Rogue Valley Medical Center - November, 2002**

ministered to Gene, but also took care of me. Without all of these folks, I could not have gotten through it.

"I have been blessed in many ways: with good health; with two daughters who have accomplished a lot in their lives; and with a wonderful husband who brought me coffee in bed every morning at 6:00 a.m. and a glass of wine at 4:00 p.m., but most of all, who supported me in all my endeavors."

The Dagnan's became involved with computers in 1993 after the purchase of a Pfaff sewing machine that was "computer friendly." They had to buy a computer to go along with the sewing machine and joined RASCAL to learn how to operate the computer. E-mail became an added benefit since they were spending a fortune on



Gene, Vivian, and Gene's sister, Mary Ellen in 1997 at The Florida Air Museum with a name plate from one of the planes that said "RASCAL."

phone calls to Vivian's brother in Florida, who worked for NASA and was in charge of the computers that put the space shuttles in orbit.

Vivian was a Board Member and Secretary of RASCAL in 1995 and '96, and again for parts of 2002 and 2003. She served her last term in 2004. For six years she also assisted at the Greeters Table. For many years she was, and continues to be, the contact person listed in the Courier's Community Calendar, on our web site, in flyers, and anywhere else needed. She adds, "I have loved every minute of it. RASCAL, since the day I joined, has been my passion. It is a fine organization with many wonderful people."



Vivian and Gene, 1990

She says you can now find her each Tuesday "in the front of our meeting room harassing members into buying 50/50 raffle tickets."

"There is no personal charm so great as the charm of a cheerful temperament."

~ Henry Van Dyke, 1852-1933





FREE & EASY SOFTWARE

~ by Phyllis Wilkey

Phyllis Wilkey is a RASCAL member who builds and services computers in Sutherlin, Oregon.

One of the things that seniors enjoy is being able to get something for free, or at least at a bargain price. When you combine that with the fact that software can cost hundreds of dollars and have a huge learning curve, free software is an exciting find for me. I am always on the lookout for these free gems.

One software that all of my customers ask about when they are ordering a new computer is an office program. If they already have a computer with MS Office installed, most users only take advantage of about 5% of this program's capabilities. For a new or beginning computer user, office programs can be very complicated and if you just go and buy the software it can be expensive. Are there alternatives? Yes there are.

One office program that I like is **Easy Office**. I have used this software and it is what it says: "**Easy**." I was struggling with some task while using MS Works one day and thought there must be something simpler. I found **Easy Office** and really enjoyed it. The company gives you a free trial period and then, if it makes your life easier, you can purchase the software for \$59.00. It is not free, but reasonable for what this software can do. If you go to

www.easyofficepremium.com

you will see all the programs included with this software. Don't forget to read the FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) before downloading any software. I believe the software on disk can also be ordered. I have never found any problems with compatibility. Windows 95, Linux, and Mac do not support this software.

If you want a free, complete office program you might want to give **OpenOffice** a try. It is compatible with MS Office documents and includes a word processor, database, and spreadsheet. It runs on just about all operating systems. Always check for compatibility before downloading. Download it at www.openoffice.org and give it a try. If you have questions on using the software, the website has all kinds of FAQ's, mailing lists, and forums to help you get started. You sure can't beat the price!

If you are looking for free and/or easy software, these two programs are worth a try.

Following are instructions for downloading which you may find helpful.

Go to the desktop and right click on an empty space. Highlight **New** and click on **Folder**. A new folder will appear on your desk top. Give it a name.

Go online and find the program you want to download. Always check for compatibility issues, such as the recommended operating system, at the website for the software you are downloading.

Click "Download." From the window that pops up, click **Save**. In the drop-down menu find the folder you just created and choose it. Click on **Save** at the bottom.

Once the program is downloaded and saved to the folder, open the folder and click on the program. **Your program should start installing once you click on it.**

One thing to be aware of is that if the program you are downloading is large, the download will take awhile if you are on dial-up for the internet.



Q & A The Black Screen



Q: I'm a new computer user. My computer was working just fine until I left it for awhile. When I returned, the screen-saver (a black screen) had come up. When I pressed the space bar, which usually brings the normal screen back up, nothing happened. I had to turn the computer off and on again to get it to work. What went wrong here?

A: The answer to this question depends upon what version of windows is being used; what screen savers are loaded and running. Also, the computer hardware components will affect how the system handles power and energy conservation management.

On some computers, to get your screen back, it is best to shut down completely, as you have done, and re-boot. Then try going to the Control Panel>>Power Option. This section of Windows allows these three settings to be adjusted: (1) **the length of time before the screen goes blank;** (2) **when system power goes to standby;** (3) **and the length of time before the hard-drive is powered down.** There is also a setting in the Display properties of the Control Panel for when you want the Screen Saver to become active after a given length of time of no activity. I generally recommend that all of these items should be shut off, and then turned back on — one at a time. Check each in turn, until you are satisfied with the results.

Remember that each computer system will differ, dependent on what hardware and software components are installed; which version of windows is installed; what screen savers are loaded and active; and whether there is any virus or spyware active in the system.

~ Chris Oman



RASCAL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

JUNE, 2006

EMAIL & INTERNET (Pre-Req: Introduction to Computers & Beginning Windows.) Learn to use this data processing program to handle common data entry, storage, manipulation, analysis, and reporting tasks.

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.

PAINT — Microsoft (Pre-Req: Ability to use multiple screens, the mouse, cut & paste, save 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.

WORD, Beginning (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.

COMPUTER DEFINITIONS

BIOS - Short for Basic Input/Output System. BIOS is a chip located on all computer motherboards that contains instructions and setup for how your system should boot and how it operates.

Device Driver - More commonly known as a driver, a device driver is a group of files that enable one or more hardware devices to communicate with the computer's operating system.

HTML - HyperText Markup Language is a world wide programming language that allows a user to create his or her own web site. It is a language used to create electronic documents, especially pages on the Web, that contain connections called hyperlinks to other pages.



MIRRORING YOUR HARD DRIVE

~ by Kim Komando

Q: Is there a simple way to have everything that I do on my computer "mirrored" to a separate, external hard drive? I back up regularly, but I have learned the hard way that redundancy is the best policy.

A: You're right. It's very unpleasant when a hard drive goes south on you. There is a way to do what you want. You can make an image of your hard drive. Then, if your main drive dies, you simply install the image on a new hard drive and you're back in business. Two imaging programs are **Norton Ghost** (\$70) AND **Acronis True Image** (\$50). You'll find them at, respectively:

www.symantec.com/sabu/ghost/ghost_personal
www.acronis.com/homecomputing/products/trueimage

If you go this route, continue to do your backups. An image captures a picture of your hard drive. If you make an image monthly, say, you'll need to back up data added after each image.

A second way to go would be with **RAID** (Redundant Array of Independent Disks). There are about a dozen RAID configurations. Mirroring is RAID1. This requires two internal hard drives. I have never seen a configuration utilizing an external drive, although you may be able to cobble one together. In RAID1, the secondary hard drive looks exactly the same as the first. When you save a file to hard drive one, it is also saved to hard drive two. If hard drive one fails, hard drive two automatically takes over. This is really the ultimate in redundancy. It is obviously more convenient than making an image every month or so.

For best results, your motherboard should be capable of handling RAID. Many motherboards are. Check your computer manual. Windows 2000 and XP can accommodate RAID1, implemented with software. This is less satisfactory, because it ties up the microprocessor. As with imaging, you must still do backups. RAID1 discs are always current. If you accidentally delete a file, or if a file becomes corrupt, you can't go back in time to retrieve it.

Your ultimate setup probably would be RAID1 with backups to external media. You could back up to a Zip Drive, for instance, and take your disks off premises. That would protect your most precious data in a burglary or fire. An external hard drive is also doable, though it is less convenient to tote around.

*Reprinted by permission of the
Kim Komando Computer Show. www.Komando.com*



Need Help? • Dial-A-Helper

Just call or e-mail and an attempt will be made to solve the problem.



GENERAL TROUBLESHOOTING

Most Areas of Computing

Ray Lake	956-6302	raylake@charter.net
Lou Lyons	476-6405	luckylou@charter.net
Chris Oman	471-1058	ckoman@rvi.net
Len Richardson	866-2541	len_r@yahoo.com
George Spencer	474-0899	gspencer1@earthlink.net
Phyllis Wilkey	1-541-459-1915	celticphyl@charter.net
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

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
----------------	----------------	------------------------

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
-------------	----------	----------------------

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
-------------	-------------	------------------------

HAM RADIO

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

ICQ

Jean Kraft	664-8197	hikraft@charter.net
------------	----------	---------------------

INTERNET, General

Lou Lyons	476-6405	luckylou@charter.net
-----------	----------	----------------------

MACINTOSH OS

Joanne Shields	[phone n/a]	maclady@charter.net
----------------	-------------	---------------------

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
-------------------	----------	---------------------

WEB PAGE HTML BASIC

Mark Simonds	955-4810	mcsimonds@rvi.net
--------------	----------	-------------------

WORD, MS

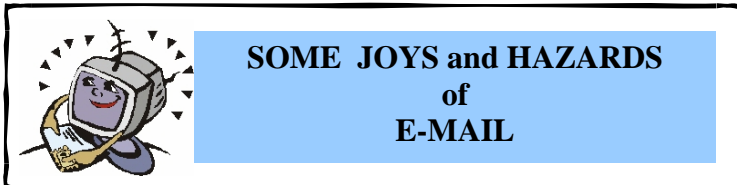
Marion Miller	955-0712	marion@uci.net
Phyllis Wilkey	1-541-459-1915	celticphyl@charter.net

WORD PERFECT & MS WORD (for beginners)

Karen Janssen	956-6067	ilea@terragon.com
---------------	----------	-------------------

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> or access through www.rascal.cc. Subscribers use rascal-tech@mailman.userservices.net for discussion. The ListServe Moderator is reached at rascal-tech.admin@mailman.userservices.net.



Mircosoft says:

**“DON’T FORWARD
CHAIN E-MAIL MESSAGES”**

“Not only do you lose control over who sees your email address, but you also may be furthering a hoax or aiding in the delivery of a virus!!! Furthermore, there are reports that spammers start chain letters expressly to gather email addresses. If you don’t know whether a message is a hoax or not, a site like Hoaxbusters at www.hoaxbusters.ciac.org can help you separate fact from fiction.”

For more about security in email go to Microsoft.com/athome/security/email/options.aspx



As a matter of courtesy, as well as of security, when sending a message to a number of recipients who may not know one another, it is best to put their names and addresses on the Bcc line, rather than on the To line. They will receive your message as usual, only without the other names appearing in a long list.

Please remember that when forwarding a message which you have received which contains many names of previous recipients, it is important to delete these names and addresses from the message pane.

This not only preserves privacy, it makes for a much more attractive and readable message.

Email, of course, can be a wonderful source of fun, inspiration, and information. It can be a lot more enjoyable and safe if we take just a moment to observe the simple practices suggested here. ~ jm

**INFORMATION and HELP FOR YOU on
The RASCAL Tech ListServ**

This service is available for you to get help from other members. After you sign up you may submit questions, or just enjoy the problems and answers submitted by others.

To sign up go to our web site at www.rascal.cc and click on the **Help * ISP** link; then click on “RASCALs Technical Support ListServer.” Under “Subscribing to RASCAL Tech” list your name and email address.

To change your email address for the TechList go to the bottom of the page under “Unsubscribe or Edit Options.”



Please see the RASCAL Website at www.rascal.cc for complete minutes of the April 11, 2005 Board Meeting.

After **Secretary Jane Frincke** reviewed a suggested amendment to the RASCAL by-laws, the **Board** unanimously agreed to present the potential amendment to the membership. The amendment proposes a change in officers’ term limits and will come to a vote of the members after a 30-day discussion period. It was also agreed that an auction of donated computer items would be scheduled for the first available date in May. **Membership Director Maggie Robson’s** report showed 32 new RASCAL members in March. **Bonnie Schilliger, Director of the Illinois Valley** membership stated that attendance is strong at the Kerby meetings. **Social Director Dawn Shively** and **President Bill Rose** discussed plans for the RASCAL float in the Merlin and Boatnik parades.



For help in getting a grip on the rising cost of gas, check out these sites that offer tips for finding the best prices and for conserving gas.

If you’re planning a pleasure trip, visit **AAA’s Fuel Cost Calculator**. It will help you figure the total cost of your trip. Just enter your car make, model, and year. Then select your starting city and destination. It also features a map that shows the average fuel prices by region. **Fueleconomy.gov** is a comprehensive site on gas prices. You can find the cheapest local gas prices here. It also lists the stations with the highest rates. You can get tips here on how to get more miles per gallon. You can also link to the AAA’s Daily Fuel Gauge Report. It displays the average price by state and metro area.

Two additional sites are **GasBuddy** and **GasPrice-Watch**. They will help you locate good prices and you can search by area, so you won’t waste gas hunting for cheap gas! ~ jm

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



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #22
Grants Pass, OR

Return Service Requested



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

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
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.



Are You Receiving NEWS DISPATCH?

Every member of RASCAL is automatically entered, at the time of enrollment, into our database to receive the News Dispatches. These are sent out to inform you of urgent club news and, routinely, of General Meetings and Special Events. If you aren't receiving these announcements, most of which go out weekly, please let us know.

Contact our Data Base Managers at rascalmembership@rascal.cc

BIT OF A RASCAL STAFF

Editor.....Joan McDowell
e-mail: editor@rascal.cc
Assistant Editor.....Nancy Kain
Columnists.....Bob Booth, Tom Crittenden
.....Laura Dunwald, Jane Frincke, Patricia Hentges, Nancy Kain, Lou Lyons
Copy Editors.....Laura Dunwald, Patricia Hentges, DeVerne Jacobsen;
.....Nancy Kain
Photos.....Nancy Kain, Bill Porter
Graphics Artist.....Patricia Hentges
Printing.....MacGraphically Yours
Seventh & 'L' Streets, Grants Pass

*We reserve the right to edit and/or omit submissions.
Items received after the newsletter deadline may appear in the next issue.*