



March 2007

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President's Note: As I write this note I am picturing in my mind the schedule on the bulletin board in the Computer Room outlining all the diverse and interesting classes that our Club has to offer and realizing that is due to our members who live up the Club motto "Computer Users Helping Users."

Our Club has now reached the 500 mark in membership. We have a lot of new members this year and I have had an opportunity to talk to a number of you and am much impressed with how computer savy you are.

March will just fly by with all the activities going on in the Resort. The Club will be involved in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16 and in the Arts and Crafts Show on March 23, so plan on joining us in those events. The next four Thursdays of the month will give us an opportunity to be fully involved in our meetings. March 1 is our Business meeting when we will have our elections for Officers and Board members for the 2007-2008 season, so come join us and cast your vote. March 8 will be a lot of fun when we meet together for the recognition dinner. March 15 we will get valuable information on identity theft. March 22 is our last meeting and will be the final day to get our questions answered for this year.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our meetings and activities.

Kathie Favaro, President

Computer Room

- Room hours are 6:15 am - 9:45 pm. All Resort Club rooms are locked by 10:00 pm
- **The new door** only locks from the outside...so don't forget to lock up if you are the last one out of the room!

Review of Spin It Again *Written by Rod Rakes,*

APCUG Advisor; President & Editor, Gwinnett SeniorNet PC Users Group, Georgia; Editor & Webmaster, Huntsville PC User Group, Alabama **Convert vinyl records and cassette tapes to MP3's and CD's** <http://www.Acoustica.com>

What is it? Spin It Again by Acoustica is a software program that will make it easy to convert your collection of cassettes, 33's, 45's and even 78's to MP3/WMA/WAV files or directly to CDs. Some folks have even used the program to rip 8-Tracks. Remember those?

Cost? \$34.95 retail, but \$27.96 for User Group members. This 20% discount is available online from the link above. You must use the code "CLUB2007." You will receive a registration code via email. But, you can try it free for three times. (3 albums).

Where do I get it and/or read more? <http://www.Acoustica.com> The program is an 8+ MB download.

System Requirements: If you have a Windows computer with a soundcard you're ready to use the software!

Recommended? YES!

How good is it? REALLY GOOD! First off, I was impressed by the voice instructions when the program starts. There is a Hookup Wizard with photos of how to connect to your amplifier, cassette player or turntable. Songs are automatically divided into files based on the lull between songs. A Level Wizard sets the volume level automatically based on playing a portion of your loudest song in an album.

You can save the files as MP3, OGG, WMA or WAV files. A variety of choices are available to clean up the recordings, e.g., Damaged Record, Damaged Tape, Tape clean with Equalizer, Tape Noise Begone, Warped record, even a No-preamp blues setting, etc. Someone referred to this as a Mikey cereal eater that eats Snap, Crackle and Pop. Accept the defaults and it's very easy work.

I recorded three record albums and two cassette tapes of music using a stereo amplifier, cassette player and turntable. The result was free of any clicks, pops and hiss of the original recordings, at least to my ears. The only "problem" I had was a song by Judy Collins that had long silent passages which fooled the software into thinking there were several songs. But, it was easily fixed with the Merge options. (Be sure to read the tutorial.) I chose to save the songs in MP3 format and gave each a name in

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Review of Spin It Again *Written by Rod Rakes,*



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the chart before actually hitting the Save/Convert button. You can embed in the files the Artist, Title, Genre, Year and add comments. On the last test I chose to record an album directly to CD using the Spin It Again software. It worked like a charm with no need to make a later recording from the MP3's using Nero, Roxio, etc.

I had a priceless cassette tape of family nonsense that had been re-recorded from reel to reel tapes from long ago when my children were small. The volume varied greatly. I placed the cassette tape in a small inexpensive hand held player (Walkman type) and connected a cable between the speaker jack and the Line In jack in the back of my computer. This meant I could adjust the sound during the low and high volume sections of the tape by using the player's volume control. That worked satisfactorily since the tape was not perfection in the first place. The recording was even better than the original with little or no hiss and a more consistent volume level! There is an option for auto-leveling the volume for a given song to eliminate distortion on high peaks.

An MP3 file of LaPaloma had a loud click at the 51-second mark that could not be cleaned properly even with the special peak click filtering after manually isolating the click. I was finally able to eliminate the click but each side of the original click had a warble that was worse than the click. The Help file said if this happens, try to make a better recording somehow. Since it was only one click, I would guess there was a spot of something on the vinyl surface or a pin point gouge. You can't make a purse out of a sow's ear, huh?

One of the fun and useful features is the ability to adjust the speed of a recording. I recorded several old 78 RPM records using the 45 RPM speed of my turntable and increased the speed accordingly using the drop-down menu until it sounded normal. I'm trying to find my 78 RPM copy of Roy Acuff's "Sixteen Chickens in a Frying Pan." Everybody needs to hear that.

For the tinkering types out there, many tweaks are available including a change in sampling rates, sensitivity of track detection, recording levels, etc.

Highly recommended. *Rod Rakes*

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Pandora – a Free Music Resource *Written by Sandy Berger,*

CompuKISS www.compukiss.com [sandy\(at\)compukiss.com](mailto:sandy(at)compukiss.com)



The Internet is filled with free resources, but some are better than others. Here is one of the best free music resources on the Web.

Pandora is one of my favorite music websites. Just surf over to www.pandora.com and type in a song or an artist that you like. Pandora analyses your choice and creates a music station with similar-sounding music. It will then play comparable songs that it thinks you will like. You can add more music and/or artists to the station to refine your choices. You can also tell Pandora whether or not you like the song that is playing. It uses your likes and dislikes to refine the songs it chooses. You can create up to 100 different stations with different types of music.

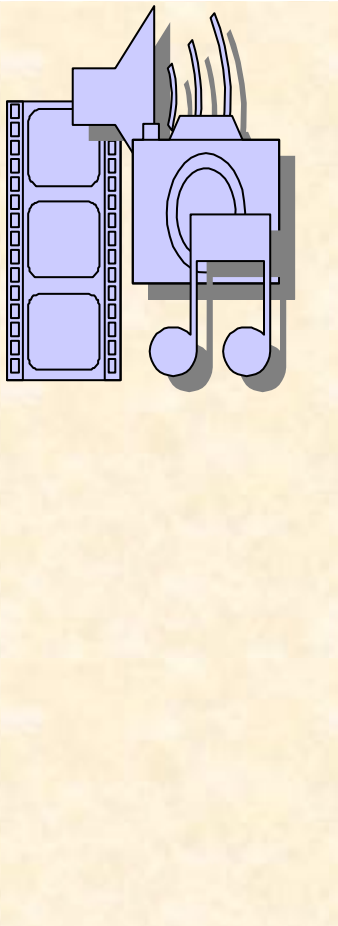
Pandora was created by the Music Genome Project, a group of musicians and music-loving technologists who have broken music into hundreds of music attributes or “genes” such as melody, harmony, rhythm, instrumentation, orchestration, arrangement, lyrics, and harmony. They then use high-tech methodology to analyze the musical qualities of each song and rendition.

The results are uncanny. I created several music stations with different genres that I like and in almost every case I was presented with similar music that I found very pleasing. You can experiment with different combinations. For instance, putting James Taylor and Willie Nelson together gave me an interesting, but likable mix of music.

Pandora is pretty smart. Typing in The Christmas Song and choosing Diana Krall as the artist gave me a whole station of mellow Christmas music which is just what I was looking for. Typing in The Nylons and Take 6 gave me a nice selection of acappella and harmonistic music.

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Pandora – a Free Music Resource *Written by Sandy Berger,*



Pandora also lets you bookmark songs or artists so you can remember what you liked. You can look up more information about artists and songs right on the site. Two clicks will lead you to iTunes or Amazon where you can purchase the music. You can also share your music by emailing your stations to friends.

Pandora is ad-supported so you will see ads for everything from gym shoes to cell service. I found the ads to be unobtrusive, but if you want to get rid of them, you can pay to eliminate them. For \$36, you get 12 months of unlimited use with services exactly the same as the free version, but without the ads.

Since the ads don't bother me, I'll continue to use the free version of Pandora. It's an entertaining website that provides much listening pleasure to keep me company when I am working on the computer.

If you are into music, you may also want to check out two other music resources. MusicIP Mixer and Goombah. Like Pandora, both of these sites provide intriguing music adventures.

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The Big Red X *Written by Vinny La Bash,*

a member of the Sarasota PCUG, Florida www.spcug.org [labash\(at\)spcug.org](mailto:labash(at)spcug.org)



Email, along with the spreadsheet, is one of the greatest computer applications ever developed. Along with its usefulness are a few minor, but irritating inconveniences. The one we'll address in this article is the frustration with observing a red X where an image should appear.

There are several possible causes for pictures failing to materialize. They are not particularly difficult to correct, but the method is far from obvious. Start by right-clicking the red X and from the popup menu select "**Show Picture**". If this works, consider yourself blessed. More likely is that either your email setup is not allowing the picture to be viewed or the sender's options are not allowing the picture to be sent. Let's make sure that your setup isn't causing the problem, and then we'll figure out what to do with the sender.

If the problem is at your end, it could be caused by having Internet Explorer's email settings too restrictive. To reset the default settings for Internet Explorer 6.0 open Internet Explorer, click Tools from the top menu bar, and select Internet Options.

1. Click on the General tab to make sure it's active.
2. Click Delete Files.
3. Check Delete All Offline Content, and click OK.
4. Click the Delete Cookies button, and click OK.
5. Click the Settings button.
6. Set cache to 25 MB or less, and select Every Visit to Page, then click OK.

Next, make the Security tab active by clicking on it. There are four zones listed on the security tab: Internet, Local Intranet, Trusted Sites, and Restricted Sites.

1. Click Internet.
2. Click the Default Level button.
3. Repeat the steps for each of the remaining zones.

Third, click on the Privacy tab, and click the Default button. If the Default button is grayed out, ignore this step. Now click the Connections tab.

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The Big Red X *Written by Vinny La Bash,*

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1. Click the LAN Settings button.
2. Make sure nothing is checked, and click OK.

Last, click on the Advanced tab.

1. Click Restore Defaults.
2. Click Apply and OK.

Internet Explorer 7 is similar, but there are enough differences to warrant its own set of instructions. Open Internet Explorer, click Tools, and select Internet Options.

First, look at the General tab.

1. Click the Delete button.
2. The Delete Browsing History dialog box appears. Click the Delete Files button.
3. Select Yes in the confirmation box.
4. Repeat step 2 for the Delete cookies, and Delete history buttons.
5. Click Close.
6. Click the Settings button in the Browsing history section.
7. Select "Every time I visit the webpage," then set the "Disk space to use" value to 50 Megabytes or less.
8. Click OK.

Next, click the Security tab. There are four zones listed on the security tab: Internet, Local Intranet, Trusted Sites, and Restricted Sites.

1. If the **Set all zones to default level button** is not grayed, out click it and you're done with this section. Otherwise continue with step 2.
2. Click Internet.
3. Click the Default level button (if it is not grayed out).
4. Repeat the steps for the remaining zones.

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The Big Red X *Written by Vinny La Bash,*

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Click on the Privacy tab, and click the Default button unless it's grayed out. Then click the Connections tab.

1. Click the LAN settings button to activate another dialog box.
2. Make sure nothing is checked, and click OK.

Finally, click on the Advanced tab.

1. Click the Restore advanced settings button. **Don't**, repeat **don't** click the Reset button as that will delete any forms and passwords saved through auto-complete.
2. Click Apply and OK.

That takes care of your browser. If you're using Outlook or Outlook Express, you need to check several more options that control how images are received or sent. There are two ways to send pictures in Emails. You can embed the picture in the email or you can send the picture as an attachment. Whichever way you choose, you need to set your email client so it can handle pictures, and you do that by setting your email to work in HTML format. We'll start with Outlook Express and finish up with Outlook.

We'll make a big assumption that all of your recipients are set up to receive their Email in HTML format. You need to make sure that you have Outlook Express set up to send Email in HTML. Service Pack 2 should be installed on your system. Because of its extra security features, you need to avoid blocking attachments when you send or receive email.

1. Open Outlook Express, go to the Tools/menu, and click "Options",
2. Click the "Send" tab, and then select "HTML" as the format to send mail.
3. Click the Button to the right that's named "HTML Settings", and put a check in the box that says "Send Pictures with Messages". Be sure that "Quoted Printable" is the selected in the "Encode text using" box.
4. Click OK.
5. Click the Read tab.

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The Big Red X *Written by Vinny La Bash,*

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6. Confirm that the “Read all messages in plain text” is not checked.

Your machine is now setup to correctly send and receive images. If people who are receiving your email complain about red Xs, send them these instructions. If you want to check out your system, try sending some emails to yourself.

If you’re using Outlook, perform the following check.

1. Open Outlook and select Options from the Tools menu.
2. Select the Mail Format tab.
3. In the “Message format” section select HTML from the drop down menu.
4. Click the Internet Format button
5. In the HTML options section, confirm there is no checkmark in any of the boxes in the dialog box.
6. In the Outlook Rich Text options section, select “Convert to HTML format” from the drop down menu.
7. Click OK to save the settings.
8. Click OK to exit.

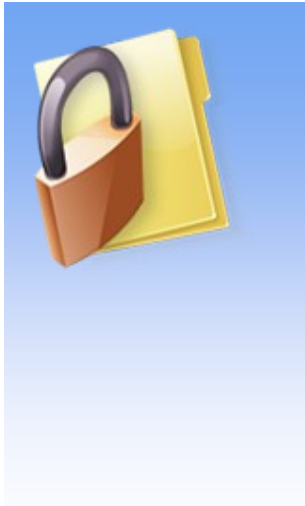
Other possibilities that could prevent pictures being displayed in your email are your anti-virus and firewall settings. You may need to relax the security settings on these programs. We can’t provide instructions for this because we don’t know whose software you’re using. You may need to contact the producer of the software for information.

If you create and send an email with a photo image or forward an email with a photo in it and the recipient gets a red X instead of the picture, you can be fairly confident that their email, firewall or anti-virus setup is preventing the picture from being seen. Send these instructions to them.

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THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS *Written by S. Jack Lewtschuk,*

Monterey Bay Users' Group-PC Columnist www.mbug.org/ [blacklion\(at\)royal.net](mailto:blacklion@royal.net)



WORDS OF WISDOM

If builders built houses the way programmers build computer programs, the first woodpecker to come along would destroy civilization!

KEEPING TRACK OF MULTIPLE PASSWORDS

Passwords are a part of our everyday life: we use them for e-mail, online banking, stock trading, shopping, blogging, etc. For good security, you should have a different password for each website you enter. But how can you remember so many passwords?

A password manager is a great way to consolidate all your passwords without compromising security. Generally, a password manager is a program that stores all of your passwords for you. All of your passwords are kept secure with—you guessed it—a password.

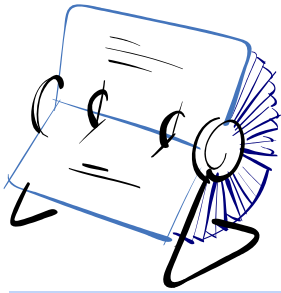
The key advantage to using a password manager is that you only have to remember one password. That's not too bad. Then you can retain unique passwords for each of your various accounts without taxing your memory.

There are several pay programs that work this way. Before buying one, try KeePass (<http://keepass.sourceforge.net/>), a simple, *free* password manager. It can help you organize your passwords and also enter them into log-in forms.

How does KeePass work? After you download and install it, there are several easy steps to setting it up. The first time you open it, you have to create the file that will store your passwords. Click the "New" button at the top left of the window which will prompt you for a "Master Key." Make it one that you can easily remember, but which someone else can't easily guess (e.g., your birth date, your spouse/child's/pet's name), because it's the password you'll use from now on to unlock all your other passwords.

KeePass includes categories for online functions such as e-mail, home banking and others. To put a password into KeePass, select a category and then click the "Add Entry" button. You'll be able to enter a title for the password, which will help you easily identify where the password is used.

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS *Written by S. Jack Lewtschuk,*



Let's take Hotmail as an example—an effective title for a Hotmail password could be simply “Hotmail.” You could also enter the web address where the password is required. KeePass automatically fills the password box with a random password. Chances are that it's stronger than the password you already use for Hotmail, but to make it work, you have to log into your account and change it to match KeePass.

If you want to keep things simple, erase the pre-filled box and put in the password that you already use and click “OK”. Do the same steps for all of your everyday passwords and take a load off your memory. You can drag and drop passwords directly from KeePass. Click the password you need from KeePass and move it to the blank form on a Web page. The password will appear in the blank.

KeePass keeps your entire password file encrypted. The only way to open or read it is with your master password, so don't lose it!

In addition to Windows, “switch-hitters” can download versions of KeePass for Macintosh, PocketPC, Palm and Linux. You can also take KeePass with you on a thumb drive by copying two files onto your thumb drive. One is the KeePass program (KeePass.exe), and the other is the file containing your passwords (the default is called Database.kdb).

BACKING UP *OUTLOOK* CONTACTS

Outlook stores all data in a single file called a “.PST file”. This file contains your contacts, e-mail, calendar items and tasks. It's easy to back up your entire Outlook .PST file—just locate it and copy it as you would any other file. Backing up individual folders within Outlook is also easy, so you can export your entire “Contacts” list. Simply highlight “Contacts” in your Outlook folders list. Then click “File,” and “Import and Export” to open the “Import and Export Wizard.” Select “Export to a file” and click “Next,” to choose from a list of options (I recommend Microsoft Excel as the best one to choose in order to export all your contacts into a nicely ordered spreadsheet). After making your selection, click “Next.” You'll be given the option again to select the folder you want to export. Highlight it, click “Next,” and specify the name and location where you would like to save your file (use the “Browse” button if needed), click “Next” and then click “Finish.”

THINGS, THINGLETS & THINGASSOS *Written by S. Jack Lewtschuk,*

You can use the same procedure with other items in the Outlook folder list. This is handy if you only want to export certain parts of your Outlook data file. You can use the files with other programs such as a "Database." You can also use it to share information with other people. Say you want to share your contacts with friends or coworkers: just export them, and others can import your list into their Outlook program.

To import a file, click "File," and "Import and Export." Select "Import from another program or file," click "Next," and select the type of file from which you're importing. In this case, select "Microsoft Excel" and click "Next." Click "Browse" to locate the file you wish to import, and then select your import options. You may want to allow duplicates, or you may wish to replace duplicates with imported items. You can also specify that duplicates not be imported. Click "Next," select the destination

folder, click "Next" again, and finally, click "Finish."

NOVICE CORNER

Starting Your Computer in "Safe Mode"

At some point in time you may need to start your computer in "safe mode." You should print these instructions before continuing as they will not be available after you shut your computer down in step two.

Click "Start," click "Shut Down," and then in the drop-down list click "Shut down." In the shut down window dialog box, click "Restart," and then click "OK." When you see the message "Please select the operating system to start" or "Windows" appears on the screen, press the "F8" key several times. Use your arrow keys to highlight the appropriate "safe mode" option, and then press "ENTER." If you have a dual-boot or multiple-boot system, choose the installation that you need to access using the arrow keys, and then press "ENTER." ◆

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YouTube Revolutionizes the Internet! *Written by Linda Gonse,*

**Editor & Webmaster, Orange Country IBM PC Users' Group, California Editor(at)orcopug.org
www.ocropug.org**

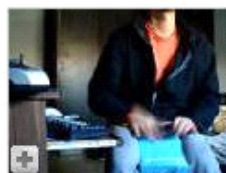
Just when I thought creative ideas were running out for ways to use the Internet, along comes YouTube, www.youtube.com. Its content includes movie and TV clips, music videos, and amateur works — such as video-blogging. The innovative site's popularity is staggering. Almost 20 million visitors browse YouTube each month, according to Nielsen/NetRatings. And, in confirmation of YouTube's originality, Time magazine named it the "Invention of the Year" in 2006.

Although I only discovered YouTube in December 2006, it was founded in February 2005. In about a year and a half, YouTube has been so successful Google sealed the deal to buy it in November 2006 for \$1.65-billion! Not bad for a site that was launched with a video of a co-founder's cat playing with a dangling string!

Now, "Users upload 6500 new videos to the site every day," according to a January 2007 Time magazine article. Many of the videos are taken with home camcorders and cell phones. In fact, vid-

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Choose videos from categories like Recent Videos below, which include viewer ratings, video length, and description



Pickup to Electronic Snare Drum

00:46

Added: 1 week ago
From: [mekarer](#)
Views: 520,994

★★★★☆
1744 ratings



Slamball accident

01:17

Added: 6 months ago
From: [mcburger](#)
Views: 1,014,178

★★★★★
4962 ratings



Change One Thing - OneTube For Orbvious

05:17

Added: 1 week ago
From: [OneTubeGroup](#)
Views: 173,383

★★★★☆
1094 ratings



Chinese Food on Christmas

03:18

Added: 2 weeks ago
From: [BrandonHarrisWalker](#)
Views: 289,677

★★★★★
2419 ratings

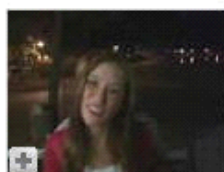


Power Tool Drag Racing 4

02:55

Added: 5 days ago
From: [slamer123](#)
Views: 543,127

★★★★☆
968 ratings



Nerdcare For Life Trailer

04:09

Added: 1 week ago
From: [NerdcareForLife](#)
Views: 503,157

★★★★☆
1521 ratings

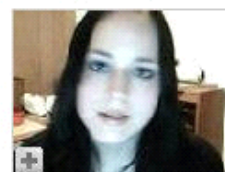


Vader Dad

00:45

Added: 5 days ago
From: [wwwBLACK20com](#)
Views: 1,001,437

★★★★☆
4356 ratings

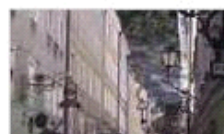
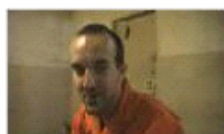


The 12 Days of Christmas

05:47

Added: 1 week ago
From: [Zipster08](#)
Views: 1,291,520

★★★★★
4852 ratings



YouTube Revolutionizes the Internet! *Written by Linda Gonse,*

(Continued from page 13)

eos that showed L.A. police repeatedly punching a suspect on the ground, a college student being tasered, and an outraged comedian yelling disparaging ethnic descriptions, were shown on television news after first being uploaded to YouTube. These homemade videos, which were a sensation on the news, initially prompted me to check out the site.

Incredibly, YouTube viewers watch 100 million videos each day — up from 10 million last year. The most-watched clip, with over 36+ million views is a compilation of head-butt animations inspired by the one Zinedine Zidane administered in the 2006 World Cup soccer game.

YouTube is free. You only need to sign up if you want to leave comments about the videos, rate them, or upload your own.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

Tidbits:

March 2007

March 1- Business meet

March 8 - Luncheon

March 15 - Lifelock, identity theft information

March 22 - Questions and Answers

March 29 - No meeting

Class and Special Interest Group Schedule is posted on the website and is updated frequently! Check the CALENDAR page.

Articles for the next issue of Tales from the Mouse are due on Feb. 1, for publication Feb. 10, 2006.

Tales from the Mouse is produced monthly from November thru March/ April and a summer issue in July. Sunflower Resort Computer Club is a member of the Arizona Alliance of Computer Clubs (www.AZacc.org), the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (www.APCUG.org) and registered with Microsoft Mindshare.

Business Meetings 9:30 am-11:00 in the Ballroom

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