PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to the first spring edition of **The Printer**. We have a very busy set of meetings for April. I think the meetings will be very interesting to many of the members of the group and I hope that you can make the general meeting and the SIG meetings.

Technology SIG Meeting – April 6

At the April 6, Technology SIG meeting we will demonstrate running multiple operating systems simultaneously at the same time on the same computer. The program that is used is **VMWare**. There is more information on this program later in this issue of the Printer (see page 10). We will also demonstrate a Macintosh simulator for Windows, PearPC (see article on page 4).

General Meeting – April 13

At the General topic meeting, we will review Web Logs, known as Blogs. We will show how to setup your own Blog and how they are used. There is more information on Blogs and Blogging on page 5.

May General Meeting

At the May 11 meeting, our **Investment SIG** chairman will demonstrate how to use the Internet (and other sources) to research and make wise investment decisions. Many of the members have had questions on this topic and knowing Len, it will be very interesting and helpful.

Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Emoticons (Smilies)

by
Fran Damratowski

As I said in previous issues of **The Printer**, because there are thousands of abbreviations used, only selected abbreviations and symbols will be presented here. For those who haven't seen earlier issues, an emoticon is a way of expressing emotions when sending e-mail - an emotional icon (look at them sideways). If I missed an important or favorite abbreviation, acronym, or emoticon between   A   and   W,   email   me   at fdamratowski@comcast.net. I will include it in the final list. We will continue with the letter:

X

X2B: heXadecimal To Binary
X2D: heXadecimal To Decimal
X3: Image Sensor
XBRL: eXtensible Business Reporting Language
XD: Picture Card
XGA: eXtended Graphics Array (1024 X 768)
XHTML: eXtensible HyperText Markup Language
XID: eXchange IDentification
XIFF: eXtended Image File Format
XIOS: eXtended Input/Output System
XMIT: TransMIT
XML: eXtensible Markup Language

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - cont'd

June General Meeting

We are going to wrap up our meetings before the summer, with a bang. We will have three short demonstrations, which will include a special guest speaker from a local software company. I will give you more information as the time approaches, but plan on making the June 8 meeting.

Club Dues

The users group has many ongoing expenses and the club dues are our only means to pay for these expenses. It's very important for you to keep your dues current and paid up to date. For all of the meeting benefits, the dues are truly a bargain.

One more added ChPCUG Benefit

The Chesapeake PC Users Group has applied for an associate status to the NASA Federal Credit Union to allow us the use of their financial services by members. If accepted, this may require a modification to our By-Laws.

Alot is going on with the users group and I hope that it will be helpful to everyone in the group.

See You at a Meeting or Two!

Michael Young

Chesapeake PC Users Group

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from the Secretary's Desk
Minutes of CHPCUG Board meeting on March 16, 2005

Attendees: Mike Young, David Cunningham, Karl Richmond, Jim Quinn, Mike Regimenti, Fran Damratowski, Jerry Moskowitz, and Mike DeLucia

Mike Young opened the meeting and discussion followed about our general meeting agendas. Our agendas change frequently due to the availability of people to present and the amount of time required for the presentation. The present agenda schedule is as follows:

April 13 - All about *"Blogging"*—Mike Young   See website www.blogger.com

May 11 - Financial Research————Len Lindenmeyer

June 8 - *PhotoStory v.3*—Fran Damratowski and VOIP—Ed DeMeter

Sept 14 - Comcast/Telephony—Justin Green

Oct 12 - *Photo Shop* presentation by **ADOBE** -*(Tentative)*

Technology SIG -Mike Young will discuss *VMWare* (Virtual Machine) at the April 6 meeting

CRSIG - Msgr. Gilbert Kolumbu of the Archdiocese of Bidia-Kananga recently visited the CRSIG. We provided 34 computers to the Archdiocese in November of 2002 and are presently getting ready to furnish additional computers to them. Program is in conjunction with the Rotary Club that has a program to ship books to them.
Jerry Moskowitz is continuing to work with the Crownsville personnel to determine the future status of that location and how it impacts our use of the facility.

Finances
Karl provided the board with a year to date summary of our financial position.

New Business
Mike Young discussed the need for the club to update our projector and laptop hardware. He has done some shopping around for prices. It appears that the club will need to spend $2500 to $3000 for high quality products. Discussion followed and Mike will continue to look and get back to the board.

Old Business
Karl discussed additional information relative to getting additional members and improving our financial position.

Jim Quinn

X - cont'd

XML-QL: eXtensible Markup Language-Query Language
XMLC: eXtensible Markup Language Compiler
XMLDSIG: eXtensible Markup Language Digital SIGnature
XMLP: eXtensible Markup Language Protocol
XOFF: Transmitter OFF
XON: Transmitter ON
XP: Cross Platform
XP: eXtreme Programming
XPFE: Cross Platform Front End
XQL: eXtensible Query Language
XRT: eXtensions for Real-Time
xSP: eXternal Service Provider
XTAL: CrysTAL
XVGA: eXtended Video Graphics Array

http://www.acronyms.ch/
http://www.steves-digicams.com/
digi_dictionary.html
Toshiba Glossary
Add ins

Don't miss the next to last exciting and breathtaking installment of

Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Emoticons (Smilies)

Macintosh Emulator for your Windows PC

About PearPC

If you have ever wanted to experiment with a Macintosh, but don't want to shell out the money on something that you are not sure will actually work for you, PearPC may be the answer that you are looking for. In short, this is a Macintosh emulator for a Windows PC. It is an Open Source project, but it is inspiring commercial ventures as well. If you would like more information and links to download the product, visit their web site, ***www.pearpc.net*** . More information is below. We will demonstrate this at our April 6, Technology SIG meeting.

PearPC is an Open Source PowerPC emulator, licensed under the GNU General Public License (GPL). The main developer behind PearPC is Sebastian Biallas. With this emulator it is possible to run software, that normally only runs on PowerPC CPUs, like Mac OS X, GNU/Linux for PPC, Darwin, etc.

The speed has been much improved since the very first version and you will be able to run most software quite acceptable, if you have a fast computer. The awesome developers, who made this dream a reality, are always working to make PearPC even better.

4

What is a Blog?

by
Mike Young

On the Internet, a blog (short for weblog) is a personal journal, that is frequently updated and intended for general public consumption. Blogs generally represent the personality of the author or reflect the purpose of the Web site that hosts the blog. Topics sometimes include brief philosophical musings, commentary on the Internet, and other social issues, and links to other sites the author favors. The essential characteristics of the blog, are its journal form, typically a new entry each day, and its informal style.

The author of a blog is often referred to as a blogger. Many blogs syndicate their content to subscribers using **RSS**, a popular content distribution tool.

So, what is a WebLog?

A weblog (sometimes shortened to blog or written as "**web log**" or "**Weblog**") is a Web site of personal or non-commercial origin that uses a dated log format, updated on a daily or very frequent basis, with new information about a particular subject or range of subjects. The information can be written by the site owner, gleaned from other Web sites or other sources, or contributed by users.

A weblog often has the quality of being a kind of "log of our times", from a particular point-of-view. Generally, weblogs are devoted to one or several subjects or themes, usually of topical interest, and, in general, can be thought of as developing commentaries, individual or collective on their particular themes. A weblog may consist of the recorded ideas of an individual (a sort of diary) or be a complex collaboration open to anyone. Most of the latter are moderated discussions.

Since there are a number of variations on this idea and new variations can easily be invented, the meaning of this term is apt to gather additional connotations with time. Currently, the most popular weblog is *Slashdot.org*, the product of programmer and graphic artist Rob Malden and several colleagues. *Slashdot.org* carries discussion threads on many subjects including: Money, *Quake* (the game), *Netscape*, *Sun Microsystems*, Hardware, and *Linux*. *Slashdot.org* solicits and posts interesting stories reported by contributors, includes a link to the story, and manages the threads of the ensuing discussion by other users. Another well-known weblog is Jorn Barger's *Robot Wisdom Log*, which is more of a collection of daily highlights from other Web sites. Jessamyn West's *librarian.net* is a daily log of items interesting to librarians and possibly others, too.

As a format and content approach for a Web site, the weblog seems popular because the viewer knows that something changes every day, there is a personal (rather than bland commercial) point-of-view, and, on some sites, there is an opportunity to collaborate or respond with the Web site and its participants.

Chesapeake PC Users Group

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Dell Color Laser Printer 3100cn Review

A Hard-Copy Heavyweight

Whether it's business letters or brochures, employee handbooks or color transparencies, **Dell's** *Color Laser Printer 3100cn* is a powerful solution to the printing needs of a small business. And with a well-equipped color laser of this quality available for $549*, there's simply no reason to hold back on bringing color capabilities into your office.

The *3100cn* is the upgraded sibling of **Dell's** *3000cn* ($449). Both are four-pass or rotary-design color lasers with 600 by 600 dpi resolution, rated at 25 pages per minute for monochrome and 5 ppm for color. Each comes with a 10/100BaseT Ethernet interface as well as USB and parallel ports, and offers a maximum duty cycle of 45,000 pages a month.

Compared to the *3000cn*, the *3100cn* adds a second, 250-sheet paper drawer as well as the built-in 150-sheet input tray. (A 500-sheet third drawer, bringing total paper capacity to 900 sheets, is $230 extra.) It also supports *PostScript 3* as well as PCL 6 emulation and comes with full-capacity (4,000-page) toner cartridges, instead of the half-full starter cartridges that are the bane of printer buyers' out-of-the-box experience.

The Line on Lasers

Compared to inkjet printers, color lasers are faster and better for handling the volumes of pages that small businesses generate, and cost considerably less per page — **Dell** estimates the 3100cn's consumables use at 1.5 cents per black-and-white and 9.9 cents per color page.

While inkjets do create more attractive color images, particularly when it comes to digital photographs on glossy paper, color laser printers do an excellent job of producing crisp text, graphics, and line art, and they produce adequate photos. The *3100cn* comes with 64MB of memory upgradeable to 320MB — a good option if you print a lot of high-resolution graphics.

As with many other affordable color lasers, the **Dell's** four-pass design slows printing considerably for color pages — in our real-world tests, the *C3100cn* more or less matched its advertised 5 ppm for color documents while producing black-and-white files at roughly 19 ppm. Black text was crisp and clear, and color images had decent saturation and accuracy.

As mentioned, the printer's black, cyan, magenta, and yellow toner cartridges have an estimated life of 4,000 pages (at 5-percent coverage); replacements are $95 each for the three color cartridges and $45 for a black cartridge, though **Dell** lets you save a few bucks with a four-pack — one of each — for $310. The imaging drum is a separate unit, estimated to last for 42,000 pages; a replacement costs $170.

6

Cheaper, Faster and More Versatile:
External Hard Drives from CoolMax, Maxtor & Seagate

Before mulling over the different options available, it is vital to first determine exactly what your storage needs are. If all you want is many more gigabytes, a hard drive enclosure with USB and or Firewire should fit the bill. You can buy the matching hard drive later .

The latest product generation from respected manufacturers goes much, much farther, however: Besides the capability to back up all your data on the external drive, today's models also include more or less user-friendly back-up programs. To make use even easier, the trio of **CoolMax**, **Maxtor** and **Seagate** provide different controls.

CoolMax lets you backup the entire system drive or predefined directories at the press of a button; the same goes for restores. Maxtor's unit has a multi-function button, which can either start a back-up or any other application. **Per default, it will initiate a system back-up, too. Seagate's** device also offers a one-button backup.

CoolMax exploits optional user-defined controls to the fullest. The CD included launches an emergency DOS version to start system recovery. Although **Maxtor** and **Seagate** offer a wide range of useful backup features, they do not include **the option of restoring the whole system that fast, since you need to do a basic OS installation first.** However, **Maxtor** and **Seagate** offer the best look and feel as well as the most extensive range of interfaces.

All three manufacturers convincingly relieve users of the irksome task of making back-ups - even if the range of functions craves improvement. **Maxtor and Seagate** also provide automatic shutdown to go easy on the drive. A package consisting of the XtremeFiles and a hard drive of your choice, however, is generally cheaper.

Education Sources
by
Len Lindenmeyer

Here are a few informative and educational sourses to improve your investing skills. Each of these can be accessed relatively easily and conveniently. They are 1) *Value Line* through the Anne Arundel County Library System, 2) *The Motley Fool* through their Web site *www.fool.com*, 3) *NAIC* investment education via the Web and *Better Investing* magazine.

I have spoken several times about *Value Line* and the resources they offer through the library. In this market, I particularly like their Industry rankings as well as their Top 100 stocks for appreciation in the current year. It takes less than 3 minutes to bring up the *Value Line* web site at the library. I usually visit the library once a week and spend 30-45 minutes doing some research.

The Motley Fool offers a wonderful web site with lots of information and ideas. They have a number of services that offer specific stock selections, but these are subscription based. If you are going to use *www.fool.com*, start by just using the free services to see if it is for you. I would make the same recommendation about *Morningstar*. *The Fool* web site offers some different ideas on valuing certain stocks. Give them a try, think about their opinions, and decide for yourself.

Finally, take a look at all of the opportunities with *NAIC - National Association of Investor's Corporation*. The purpose of *NAIC* is investment education, but it offers far more. It publishes a monthly magazine called *Better Investing*. If you want to take a look at some of the articles as well as their many services, go to their web site at www.better-investing.org . Their approach to investing is based on data analysis of sales, earnings, growth, and some balance sheet data. As part of the analysis, a high and low price is calculated based on historic P/E ratios. They also offer a good stock analysis software program called Toolkit. I use it and like it very much.

7

Buyer's Guide - Entry Level to Mid-Range

System Summaries

With the Intel and AMD options, we end up with four configurations. The true budget setups will use the cheapest components in each area, while the upgraded alternatives will use the more expensive components. If you only want a few of the upgrades, it is also possible to come up with something in between, but we're only providing the maximum and minimum cost budget configurations.

AMD Budget Summary

Budget AMD Sempron System

Hardware	Recommended Component	Price
Processor	AMD Sempron 2800+ 1.6 GHz 256KB L2	$89
Motherboard	EPoX EP-8KDA3J	$74
Memory	1x512MB PQI POWER Series CL2.5	$51
Video Card	MSI Radeon 9550 128MB DDR 128-bit 250/400	$67
Hard Drive	Hitachi 80 GB 7200 RPM 8MB SATA	$60
Optical Drive	NEC DVD+RW 3520A	$57
Case	Rosewill ATX with 400W PSU model TU-155	$59
Display	Samsung 793DF/793MB	$145
Speakers	Creative Labs SBS240 2.0	$17
Keyboard and Mouse	Logitech Internet Pro Keyboard and Mouse	$25
Bottom Line		**$644**

AMD Upgraded Summary

Upgraded AMD Athlon 64 System

Hardware	Recommended Component	Price
Processor	AMD Athlon 64 3000+ 1.8 GHz 512KB L2 90nm socket 939	$146
Motherboard	Chaintech VNF4 Socket 939	$91
Memory	2x512MB PDP/Patriot PC3200, Model PDC1G3200LLK	$153
Video Card	Leadtek GeForce 6600 128-bit 128MB PCIe 300/550	$109
Hard Drive	Seagate 160 GB 7200 RPM 8MB SATA	$94
Optical Drive	NEC DVD+RW 3520A	$57
Floppy Drive	NEC, Sony, TEAC, Samsung, etc.	$8
Case	Antec SLK1650B with 350W PSU	$65
Power Supply	Enermax Noisetaker 370W model EG375P-VE-SFMA	$51
Display	Rosewill R710E 17" 16ms LCD	$210
Speakers	Logitech X-530 5.1 or Z-3i 2.1 Speakers	$57
Keyboard and Mouse	Microsoft Natural Multimedia Keyboard & Wheel Mouse Optical	$36
Bottom Line		**$1077**

Intel Budget Summary

Budget Intel Celeron System

Hardware	Recommended Component	Price
Processor	Intel Celeron D 325J 2.53 GHz 256K L2 Cache	$84
Motherboard	EPoX EP-5EPAJ 915P	$82
Memory	2x256MB GEIL Ultra Value 2.5-4-4-7	$62
Video Card	Leadtek GeForce 6200TC 64-bit, 64MB (256 shared)	$71
Hard Drive	HItachi 80 GB 7200 RPM 8MB SATA	$60
Optical Drive	NEC DVD+RW 3520A	$57
Case	Rosewill ATX with 400W PSU model TU-155	$59
Display	Samsung 793DF/793MB	$145
Speakers	Creative Labs SBS240 2.0	$17
Keyboard and Mouse	Logitech Internet Pro Keyboard and Mouse	$25
Bottom Line		**$662**

Intel Upgraded Summary

Upgraded Intel Pentium 4 System

Hardware	Recommended Component	Price
Processor	Intel Pentium 4 520 2.8 GHz 1024K L2 Cache	$152
Motherboard	Gigabyte GA-8I915G Pro i915G	$99
Memory	2x512MB PDP/Patriot PC3200, Model PDC1G3200LLK	$153
Video Card	Leadtek GeForce 6600 128-bit 128MB PCIe 300/550	$109
Hard Drive	Seagate 160 GB 7200 RPM 8MB SATA	$94
Optical Drive	NEC DVD+RW 3520A	$57
Floppy Drive	NEC, Sony, TEAC, Samsung, etc.	$8
Case	Antec SLK1650B with 350W PSU	$65
Power Supply	Enermax Noisetaker 370W model EG375P-VE-SFMA	$51
Display	Rosewill R710E 17" 16ms LCD	$210
Speakers	Logitech X-530 5.1 or Z-3i 2.1 Speakers	$57
Keyboard and Mouse	Microsoft Natural Multimedia Keyboard and Wheel Mouse Optical	$36
Bottom Line		**$1091**

You'll still need an Operating System, unless you plan on running a free OS such as one of the many flavors of Linux. XP Home runs about $90 an OEM version, which you can pick up from most online sites if you buy qualifying hardware, while XP Professional will run about $135. The Pro version includes a few networking and security extras that we like to have, but most people will be fine with Home. Running on older version of Windows is also possible, but we don't recommend it due to outdated drivers and other usability enhancements that are only available with XP. There's no point in buying new hardware and then using an old OS, especially considering that XP itself is now over three years old.

That takes care of our current recommendations for the Budget to Mid-Range segments. The difference in performance and upgradeability from the base recommendations to the upgraded alternatives, is pretty dramatic.

What Is VMware Workstation?

VMware Workstation is powerful virtual machine software for developers and system administrators who want to revolutionize software development, testing and deployment in their enterprise. Shipping for more than five years and winner of over a dozen major product awards, *VMware Workstation* enables software developers to develop and test the most complex networked server-class applications running on M*icrosoft Windows, Linux* or *NetWare,* all on a single desktop. Essential features such as virtual networking, live snapshots, drag and drop and shared folders, and PXE support make *VMware Workstation* the most powerful and indispensable tool for enterprise IT developers and system administrators.
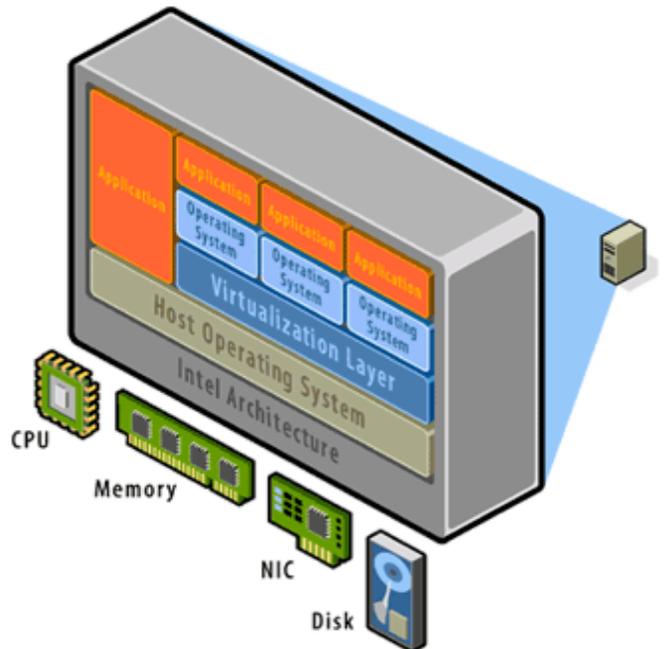
How Is VMware Workstation Used?

With over five years of proven success and millions of users, *VMware Workstation* improves efficiency, reduces costs and increases flexibility and responsiveness. Installing *VMware Workstation* on the desktop is the first step to transforming your IT infrastructure into virtual infrastructure. VMware Workstation is used in the enterprise to:

· Streamline software development and testing operations.

· Accelerate application deployments.

· Ensure application compatibility and perform operating system migrations.

How Does VMware Workstation Work?

VMware Workstation works by enabling multiple operating systems and their applications to run concurrently on a single physical machine. These operating systems and applications are isolated in secure virtual machines that coexist on a single piece of hardware. The *VMware* virtualization layer maps the physical hardware resources to the virtual machine's resources, so each virtual machine has its own CPU, memory, disks, I/O devices, etc. Virtual machines are the full equivalent of a standard x86 machine.

VMware Workstation enables enterprise software developers to develop and test the most complex networked server-class applications running on Windows, Linux or NetWare all on a single desktop.

With *VMware Workstation*:

• Build complex networks — and develop, test, and deploy new applications — all on a single computer.

• Leverage the portability of virtual machines to easily share development environments and pre-packaged operating system/ application testing configurations without risk.

• Add or change operating systems without partitioning disks or rebooting.

• Run new operating systems and legacy applications on one computer.

10

Color Laser Printer - cont'd

In addition to letter- and legal-size paper, the **Dell** does an excellent job handling various media weights as well as 4 by 6-inch postcards, 3 by 5-inch index cards, custom-size banners (up to 8.5 x 17 inches), envelopes, transparencies, card stock, and labels. The combined 400-sheet input trays are matched by a 250-sheet output tray.

Out of the Box

The *3100cn* is an absolute whopper at 16.9 by 16.3 by 18.2 inches, and it weighs a good 70 pounds with the second paper tray and consumables. Before buying such a printer, be sure you have the space and a desk or table that can support it.

While the printer is certainly sizeable, however, it's mostly self-contained: You won't find the usual assortment of protruding paper trays, and it needs no space beyond its original footprint.

A reference brochure offers advice on loading the paper trays and navigating the printer's front panel, but there's no quick-start-style document that walks you through the process of unpacking the printer and installing its main paper tray. In fact, the documentation doesn't mention how to do this at all, though you'll eventually find directions for installing the drum and toners buried near the middle of the manual. Note to **Dell**: Your customers shouldn't have to search for instructions.

Furthermore, the documentation doesn't mention the series of packing tabs that you need to remove from inside the printer before inserting the toner cartridges. Most people will eventually figure this out, but there's no good reason anyone should have to go through such a job without clear directions.

By contrast, **Dell's** software installation CD offers easy options for connecting the printer to a local PC or network, and the driver installs without any problems. The driver also lets you toggle between monochrome and color printing, using the more costly color toner only when printing important documents.

The *3100cn* uses a toner management system that automatically monitors toner and consumables levels and displays them on the front LCD panel. The front panel also provides an easy way to configure the printer with a fairly intuitive menu system.

Dell covers the printer with one year of next-business-day on-site service, promising to have a certified technician at your doorstep within one day if over-the-phone troubleshooting fails to solve a problem. Upgrading this to three-year coverage costs $218.

While **Dell** can definitely improve on its documentation, the *Color Laser Printer 3100cn* produces crisp, attractive text and images at solid speeds, for an excellent price.

*The current (4/5/05) price on the 3100cn is $399 with one(1) year NBD (Next Business Day) response on-site service. - Editor

**The Next Regular Meeting will be at
The Severn River Middle School**

**Wednesday,
April 13th, 2005
Meeting will be held in the large meeting room.
It starts at 7:00 PM with club business
and a short discussion period.**

There will be a Presentation on

Blogs
&
Blogging

Members and their friends are welcome to come, ask questions and become enlightened.

How to Find: Severn River Middle School

SRMS is close to the Arnold, MD campus of the Anne Arundel Community College. From Annapolis and parts south, take Rte 2 (Ritchie Highway) north about 3 miles from the intersection of Rt. 50, **turn right on College Parkway**. At the first light, turn left on Peninsula Farm Road. (Of course, if you are coming from points North, you would turn left on to College Parkway) about a half-mile down the road the large SRMS school building, set back off a large two level parking lot, will be visible on your right. Park here and go to the main entrance. Signs will be posted to direct you to the **Large Group Room** where we will be meeting.

How to find: The Technology SIG, A ChPCUG Special Interest Group**
Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM

The meetings are held at the SRMS in the Library.

Chesapeake PC Users Group

**1783 Forest Drive #285
Annapolis, MD 21401**

FIRST CLASS

INSIDE THIS VERY ISSUE!

**VMWARE
PEAR -Macintosh Emulator
What is a Blog?
Color Laser Review
External HD Review
... and much, much more!**

Note: *The date above your name on the mailing label is the expiration date of your membership. Contact the Membership Chairman (page 2, column 2) to update.*