THE **P**RINTER
Chesapeake PC Users Group, Inc.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER
Welcome Back, Welcome Back, Welcome Back

I hope that everyone had a great summer! The days are beginning to get shorter now and it's time to come inside (from the beach, boat or backyard) to see how that computer is doing after being left alone all summer. We have been busy making plans for the upcoming meetings and we have great line-up for the fall. I don't mean to brag, but this might be the best set of presenters that we have had in many years!

September 13
3D Animation

We have confirmed with award winning animator, Ernie Berger, that he will present at the September 13 meeting. His presentation will be on 3D computer animation. While not many members will run out and make their own animations, it is a very interesting technology to demonstrate. Mr. Berger will demonstrate his techniques of making one of the ways that he creates a 3D cartoon character, how he does some of the special effects for live-action scenes, and how to make flying logos for corporate clients. *(see Ernie's impressive bio & photo on page 6)*

In addition to Ernie Berger; our own Mike 'Tony' DeLucia will give a demonstration of the new on-line application, Google Earth. A little about Google Earth:

"Want to know more about a specific location? Dive right in — *Google Earth* combines satellite imagery, maps and the power of Google Search to put the world's geographic information at your fingertips."

October 11
More digital photography with Michael Alloy

Michael Alloy will give another fantastic and insightful presentation at the October 11 meeting. At his presentation in the Spring, "Stop. Look. See. – Take Pictures A Lot. Take a lot of pictures" Mr. Alloy presented the use of digital photography day to day. You never know when you will get that once in a 'Lifetime' picture.

At the October meeting, he will expand upon this theme. If over the summer, you took a lot of pictures, *how to do you organize them?*

November 8
Adobe

I have a confirmation that Adobe will be presenting at the November 8 meeting. I am pleased to confirm Dave Helmly will give a presentation of the latest Adobe software for home users. As the time approaches, we will have more information on specifically what is to be demonstrated.

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

The Chesapeake PC Users Group is one of the organizations that will take part in the Combined Federal Campaign of Central Maryland. This can

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President's Corner

be very important for our annual funding. If you are (or know of) a Federal employee, please encourage them to select The Chesapeake PC Users Group, Inc. 2006 Federal Campaign Designation code is -

3069

SIG Meetings

The New Technology (see page 6) and the Mid-Shore Group have excellent meetings planned for the near future also. You will find articles within this issue on the details of those meetings as well. And as always, just check the ChPCUG homepage, (www.chesapeakepcusersgroup.org), for the latest, up to date information.

Membership & The Printer

Just to let everyone know - the group membership is the highest it's been this millenium - 125+. **The Printer** is now being mailed out to over 160+ readers per month. Slowly but surely, the back issues of **The Printer** will now be available on our website.

Wrap Up

As you can see, we have a very full set of meetings coming up. I hope that these are topics that you like and will attend the meetings and participate! There are many members of the Board of Directors that have worked very hard to pull these meetings together.

All we ask is your participation!

Michael

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Intel's New Core 2 Duo CPUs Hit Street

If it weren't for AMD, we wouldn't have Core 2, and if it weren't for Core 2 then we wouldn't have affordable Athlon 64 X2s. Right now is one of the best times to purchase a new processor that we've seen in a long time — assuming current prices hold and that availability of Core 2 Duo chips is reasonable in the next week or so. If you've been running a single core processor and are finally looking to make the jump to dual core computing, there's little reason not to at this point.

The processor landscape has been changed once more thanks to AMD's extremely aggressive price cuts. The Core 2 Duo E6300 is a better performer than the X2 3800+ but is also more expensive, thankfully for the E6300's sake it is also faster than the 4200+ and the 4600+ in some benchmarks. Overall the E6300 is a better buy, but at stock speeds the advantage isn't nearly as great as the faster Core 2 parts. In many benchmarks the X2 4200+ isn't that far off the E6300's performance, sometimes even outperforming it at virtually the same price. Overclocking changes everything though, as our 2.592GHz E6300 ended up faster than AMD's FX-62 in almost every single benchmark. If you're not an overclocker, then the Athlon 64 X2 4200+ looks to be a competitive alternative to the Core 2 E6300.

The E6400 finds itself in between the X2 4200+ and X2 4600+ in price, but in performance the E6400 generally lands in between the 4600+ and 5000+. Once again, with these 2MB parts the performance advantage isn't nearly as impressive as with the 4MB parts (partly due to the fact that their native clock speed is lower, in addition to the smaller L2 cache), but even with AMD's new price cuts the Core 2 is still very competitive at worst. If you're not opposed to overclocking, then the E6400 can offer you more than you can get from any currently shipping AMD CPU - our chip managed an effortless 2.88GHz overclock which gave us $1000

CPU performance for $224.

There are two potential concerns with building a budget Core 2 Duo system. The first is availability, and hopefully we will have a clear answer on that subject in the near future. The other is motherboard cost. The ASUS P5W-DH we used in this article is currently the best overclocking motherboard we've seen for the socket 775 platform, but at $250 it is anything but cheap. We have seen quite a few of the P965 motherboards that can also overclock the budget Core 2 chips to reasonable levels, with prices hovering much closer to $140. Unfortunately, none of those boards can support SLI or CrossFire at present.

If you are simply interested in maximum processor performance, P965 with any of the Core 2 Duo parts is going to be very fast. Gamers on the other hand are probably going to at least want to think about SLI/CrossFire, as typical gaming settings will be GPU limited with just about any current single GPU. That means they might need to pay more for an appropriate motherboard, especially if overclocking is a primary concern. We're also waiting to find out how nForce 500 for Intel does in the overclocking arena; at present, there's definitely concern about whether or not the Nvidia motherboards can reach the high FSB speeds that are required for overclocking everything but the X6800.

The E6300 and E6400 can easily overclock to E6700 and Core 2 Extreme X6800 levels, though the smaller cache does limit performance a bit. That being said, our overclocked E6300 was able to equal and in all cases but one outperform AMD's Athlon 64 FX-62. In fact, in quite a few benchmarks, the overclocked E6300 is essentially out of reach of anything AMD can offer with their current K8 designs. At $183, the value here is tremendous, and

Advanced WindowsCare v2 Personal
A Click a Day Keeps All PC Threats Away!

August 22, 2006

Contact: Hugo
Company: IObit.Com
Title: the President
E-mail: support@iobit.com

Over 1,000,000 downloads of the program since July 2005 show that the company upholds the highest standards, which have been assessed by thousands of its customers worldwide!

IObit.Com today announces the release of the newest version of Advanced WindowsCare v2 Personal. It is a multi-purpose Windows care tool, which is intended for solving an entire list of computer problems: removing spyware and adware, preventing security threats, privacy protection, fixing Windows registry errors, temporary files cleanup, startup cleanup, repairing Windows, speeding up system, etc. A fascinating point is that the program is 100% free. Having known about this, many experts come to an opinion that Advanced WindowsCare v2 Personal is the best choice for computer novices and IT workers.

The fresh version has a multitude of improvements. There is an updated database, online search function is added to "Startup Manager" and "Help" is linked to "Support" page. An evident advantage of the program is its ease of use: you need just one click and the program is ready to start a comprehensive examination of your OS. Secondly, the program features a special restore center, which is always ready to undo all of your changes automatically. Just one click in the RestoreCenter and a user can undo all of his\her changes. Thirdly, Advanced WindowsCare v2 Personal contains the Auto-Update option, which

helps you to be abreast of new threats. Apart from that, the program has a built-in module, which is always ready to give you a preliminary assessment of your computer configuration. You can save the latter as a text file.

The program is the only one, which is capable of challenging Microsoft's new service - OneCare. Advanced WindowsCare v2 Personal is compatible with all major anti-virus and firewall solutions. Apart from doing very hard work for keeping all intruders out of your files and keeping your Windows safe and sound, the program has some artistic merits. For example, the interface allows you to switch between varieties of themes.

Advanced WindowsCare v2 Personal Benefits at a Glance:
- Protects, repairs and maintains your computer;
- Improves your computer performance;
- Allows you to undo all changes at any time;
- 100% free;
- Easy to use.

Pricing and Availability
Advanced WindowsCare v2 Personal runs under Windows 2000 and XP. The program is available as a free download at http://www.iobit.com/BetaDownload.html 4.08 (Mb)

About IObit.Com
Founded in 2004, IObit.Com is an information technology company, which is focused on the development of the first-class free software and online services for personal or non-commercial use. In addition to Advanced WindowsCare v2 Personal, IObit.Com is the author of Advanced WindowsCare Personal, Advanced WindowsCare

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Acoustica: Photos Forever

We are giving licenses of Acoustica Photos Forever to Computer Club Members!

Photos Forever, it's boiled down to a few clicks. It finds your photos, where ever they might be. It tells you how many CDs or DVDs you'll need and then proceeds to burn them! After each disc is done, a chime sounds to let you know it's ready for the next one! After the discs are created, it'll even print out a convenient 'key' list so that you can reference what picture is on which CD!!

Don't Take Our Word for it...

Wow!!!!!!! That's all I can Say. How easy was that? I backed up1432 pictures to a CD in less that 10 minutes from start to finish. This program is no fuss, no muss. Straight forward, Nothing fancy & not a ton of options. Designed to do one thing and it does it well. I sure feel better having those 1432 pictures on a CD backup.

Ron Schol

I have never been able to copy photos to disk so fast and effortlessly! Even easier than using explorer! Much easier than XP's version of "new and improved". Keep up the good work, Acoustica! Your products haven't failed me yet!

Julie Russell

So many times I have wanted to make another copy of a photo and I have wasted so much time and photo paper trying to get the correct picture. Your site printed out for me a sheet with 184 pictures and numbers so I just choose the number I want to copy and zippo I have it.. Thanks so much for simplicity.

Please supply me with email addresses of people who are interested in receiving a license at your club.
I will email them a download link and registration code of Photos Forever.

BTW I will not put them in our mailing unless they request to have more information on Acoustica Software.

Thank you,

David Raimondo
Director Of Sales & Business Development
Acoustica Software
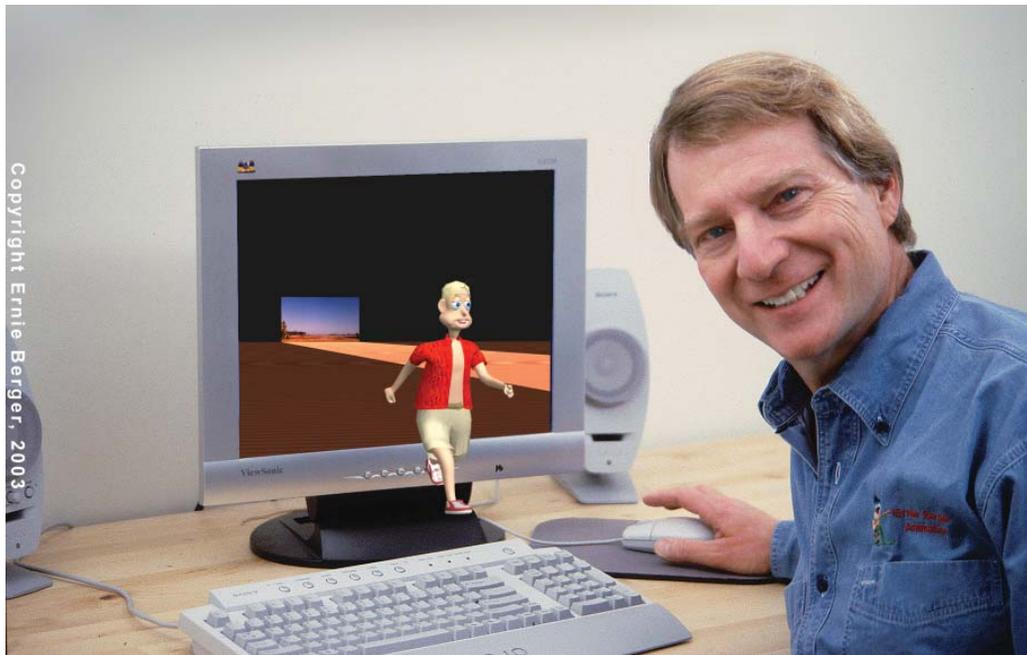40291 Junction Drive, Suite 204
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Acoustica - "Software should be easy to use!"

Chesapeake PC Users Group

E. Aloupis

Ernie Berger - Animator Extraordinaire

Copyright Ernie Berger, 2003

Ernie Berger at work or is it play?

Ernie Berger is a 3D modeler and animator, whose work in live-action and animation productions has earned him nine Telly Awards including a Gold Classic Telly (best of the past 20 years). His work has taken him to live-action filming in the Caribbean and at the White House in D.C. Most assignments have been less glamorous but still enjoyable.

Ernie received a Master of Arts from the Department of Speech & Dramatic Arts, University of Maryland (College Park) in 1976. His degree in film-making led to his writing, producing and directing more than 50 local/regional TV commercials, several documentaries, educational and promotional films/videos, and a few short dramas and comedies.

Dabbling in various animation genres since his years as an undergraduate student, Ernie Berger's first sponsored animation was a commercial featuring clay characters for Genderson Chevrolet of Annapolis. His first computer animation project was a half-hour training video for the Department of Defense in 1989. Working with Deluxe Paint software on an AMIGA 2000 with a 40Mb hard drive (He was REALLY living!), Ernie made several TV commercials in 2D animation and wanted to try 3D computer animation. Selecting NewTek's popular LightWave software for 3D modelling and animation, Ernie soon had projects in local TV commercials and launched his website at www.ErnieBerger.com. He has created computer enhanced effects and a even a 3D spider for low-budget feature film producers across the country. Currently he has clients in the defense industry for whom he creates photo-realistic scenes.

Having recently retired from 35 years teaching at A.A.C.C., Ernie Berger now teaches LightWave 3D and digital video production in his studio near Annapolis. In addition to working on projects for his defense industry clients, Ernie is currently in production on two animated shorts that he plans to place into festival competitions.

Technology SIG

Starting with the first Technology SIG meeting of the season, September 6th, I will be teaching beginning Photoshop techniques. I'll be using the newest and most powerful version – Adobe Photoshop CS2 ver 9.0.1. Even if you have an older version of Photoshop or Elements, most of these basics are identical. This material will be presented in "results" oriented topics as opposed to a Photoshop features approach. Most of us just don't have the time to really learn all the powerful features of these programs. If you're like me, you just want to know how to do what needs doing.

We will start with the very basics of photo retouching. How do I fix this really great picture of Aunt Helen, except she looks like the devil with glowing red eyes? And, isn't it wonderful to get a great photo of all the kids, except for that telephone pole sprouting out of little Jacob's head.
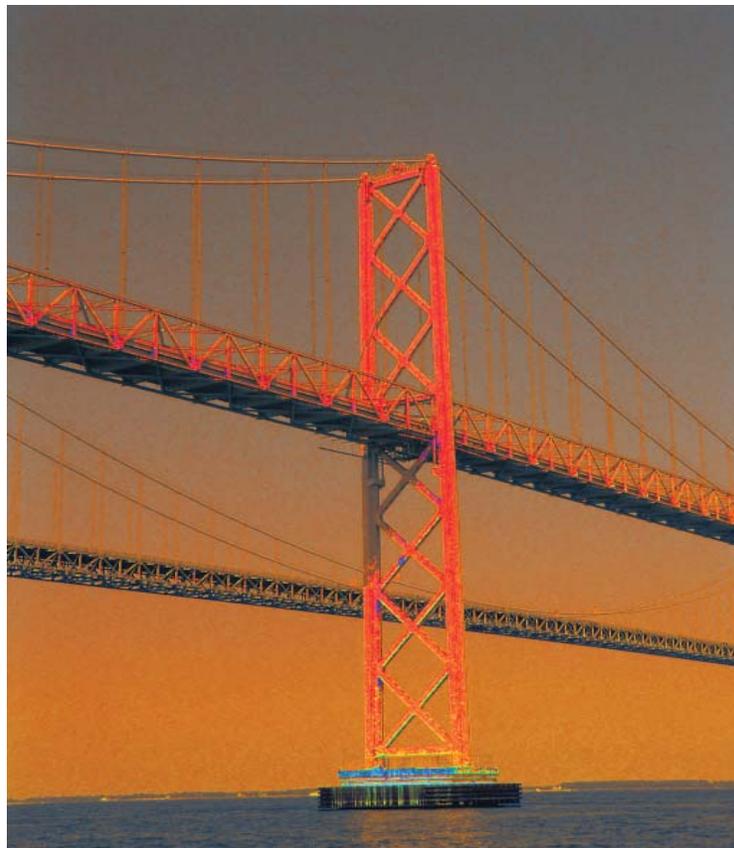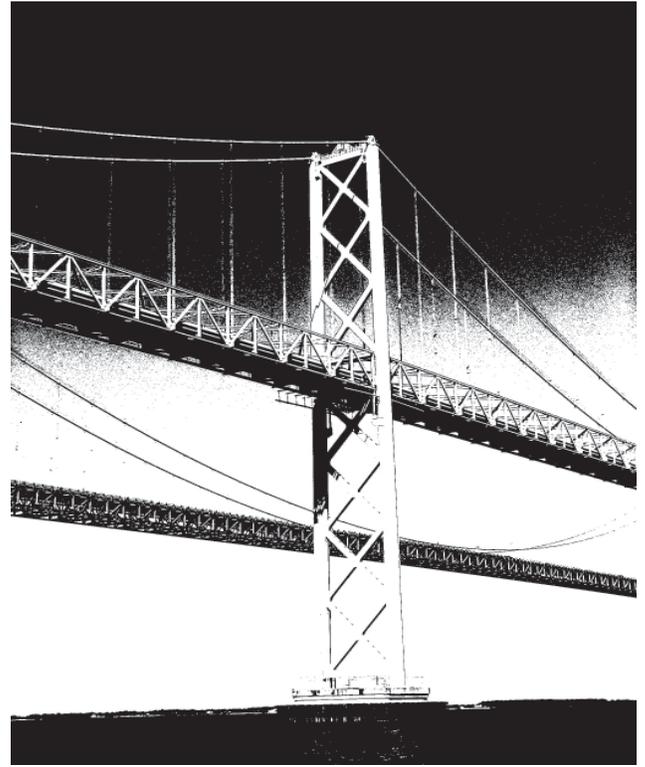
Or perhaps more subtle changes.

Technology SIG - cont'd

Or, perhaps take a good picture and turn it into something special or weird through the application of ef-

Technology SIG - cont'd

If anyone is still interested, we can move on to photo Image, Adjustments. This will include Brightness/Contrast, Inverting Colors, Posterization, and Exposure controls. Just these few "adjustments" will allow you to manipulate your digital photos like a darkroom pro.

One of the true powers of Photoshop is it its Layers feature. This can be a somewhat difficult concept to grasp and I'm just a beginner at its real power. I have used this feature and you can see some of the results in the photo on the right. I've always had a fascination with Seltzer bottles - probably from watching too many Three Stooges in my youth (last week). I do own one.

Please feel free to bring some of your "problem" or interesting photos to the meeting. We can explore both the power of Photoshop and the joy of digital photography together.

Michael Regimenti

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Q & A

Until this week it has been my practice to high-light articles from the web NYT and Boston Globe. Then using the edit menu save the item to the Desk Top or to My Documents File, titling it appropriately so I would know what it was.

Approximately Monday this week instead of al-lowing that action, the Computer pops up with a mes-sage saying, "The web page could not be saved to the selected location".

My work around is to use the dropdown menu to highlight the desired material, then copy and paste to a blank word document. That allows me to read the document then or later as a Word Document, which is sort of a nuisance.
Any thoughts on why the change in the way the Windows deals with trying to copy specific web pages?

Larry Bohan

Larry, I found the following posted on the EBSCO sup-port web site. If you are using I.E., this may be the an-swer you're looking for.
Cheers,
Dick Smith
_____

Why do I receive the message "The Web page could not be saved to the selected location" when saving full text?
When you try to save a web page using the Web Page, complete (*.htm; *. html) or Web Archive, single file (*.mht) options in Internet Explorer, you may receive the one of the following error messages:

This Web page could not be saved to the se-lected located. Due to a recent security update (MS02-023 Patch or later), Microsoft Internet Ex-plorer blocks access to the style sheet code if the code is on a different domain/server. Microsoft has confirmed that this is a Microsoft product issue.

To avoid the error message, please follow these instruc-tions:

News Briefs

Microsoft Drops OS Support

Just a gentle reminder, as of July 11, 2006, Microsoft is no longer supporting Windows 98, Windows 98SE or Windows Millenium. After this date, Microsoft will no longer provide any incident support options or security updates. Now is definitely the time to upgrade to Windows XP or wait another 6-7 months and buy a new system with Microsoft Vista..

Dell Laptop Batteries

On August 14th, Dell issued a recall on 4.1 million laptop batteries. Dell has identified a potential issue associated with certain batteries sold with Dell Latitude , Inspiron , XPS and Dell Precision Mobile Workstation notebook computers. In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and other regulatory agencies, Dell is voluntarily recalling certain Dell-branded batteries with cells manufactured by Sony and offering free replacements for these batteries. Under rare conditions, it is possible for these batteries to overheat, which could pose a risk of fire. There are 38 different battery models involved with this recall. To see if you battery is one of the hot ones, first get the number off the battery and then check this website:

www.dellbatteryprogram.com .

Who Bought Who

AMD & ATI

Advanced Micro Devices (better known to one and all as AMD) has just acquired ATI for $5.4 billion. ATI is one of the major players in designing and manufacturing graphic chips (GPU) and consumer electronics. They not only sell their own branded desktop video cards, but also sell their GPUs to other manufacturers, such as PNY, ASUS,

News Briefs - cont'd

Intel's New Core 2 Duo - cont'd

Sapphire, MSI and others. ATI's GPU are also used in many mobile applications.

From my own industry sources on the deal -

The key is integration. AMD needed a direct chipset maker. ATI needed a CPU maker. You will see more convergence type of mergers like this as time goes on. Unlike their rival, Intel, AMD has always been behind the curve on actual silicon chip manufacturing technology. AMD is still using the older 90nm process chips, while Intel has been shipping CPUs based on the 65nm process for several months and is working with Micron on 50nm products. The really strange thing, Nvidia GPUs and motherboard controller chips were usually favored by gamers and featured AMD CPUs.

Seagate

Hard drive manufacturer, Seagate, has completed it acquisition Maxtor for $2 billion. Since IBM sold their hard drive business to Hitachi for $2.05 billion in 2002, after the "Deathstar" debacle, retail consumers and IT managers are now left with even fewer choices. Western Digital and Seagate are the major retail players. Fujitsu, Hitachi, Samsung and a few others are still in the hard drive business, but you usually don't see much of them, especially

if you're willing to overclock the benefits don't get any clearer than that.

Editor: The new Intel Core 2 Duo CPUs have entered the market with a big splash. Our boys at *Maximumpc* used the new X6800 CPU in their latest Dream Machine that was featured in the September 2006 issue. Their benchmark tests demonstrate that Intels new CPUs are more that just your old dual cores in a new package. Intel has abandoned the old Pentium 4 processing strategy for these new CPUs and in doing so, they have managed to produce CPUs capable of running without active cooling with both cores at 100%. They have lengthened the data pipeline from 12 to 14 steps, plus added an addition execution unit on each CPU core.

My younger son is planning to build a gaming rig using the E6600 CPU and one of Intel's motherboard and 2 GB of ram.

Advanced WindowsCare v2 - cont'd

Pro and IObit SmartDefrag (upcoming). For more information about the company and its products, please visit http://www.iobit.com

AN EVALUATION COPY IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Product page link: http://www.iobit.com/ AdvancedWindowsCarePersonal/index.html
Download link: http://www.iobit.com/ BetaDownload.html 4.08 (Mb)
E-mail: support@iobit.com
Web: http://www.iobit.com

Chesapeake PC Users Group

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

**Wednesday,
September 13th, 2006
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 Presentations on
3D Animation
by
Ernie Berger

**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

FIRST CLASS

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Photos Forever
Combined Federal Campaign #3069
... and a little 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.*

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