



Puget Sound Computer Learning Center

Where skilled volunteer seniors teach seniors to use, enjoy computers

July, 2007 Vol. 8; Issue # 7 Mail: PMB 705, 15600 NE 8th, Suite B-1, Bellevue, WA 98008-3958
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In-Person Registration

**New Hope Ministries Church
15760 NE 4th Street, Bellevue**

Tuesday July 17, 2007

***9:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

*8:00 AM

To eliminate the need for standing outside in long lines, early birds may drive up in their cars and receive:

- An instruction sheet to be read before entering for Registration process
- A Registration number and
- Approximate time to return to start the Registration process

NOTE: Because of limited parking, we ask that you please leave the grounds and return five minutes before your scheduled time; you will not lose your place in line for registering.

Registration doors will not open until 9:10 AM

The catalog for the Fall 2007 session was mailed out June 20, 2007; it also is available on this website www.seniornetps.org

REGISTRATION REPLACES JULY MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THE NEXT MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday August 21, 2007

**New Hope Ministries Church
15760 NE 4th Street Bellevue**

Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.

Join us for lunch at Crossroads Mall after the meeting

Next Free Computer Help Lab - August 28, 2007

BROWN BAG EVENT
THURSDAY AUGUST 23, 2007
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

The twelfth annual Brown Bag Social will be held on August 23rd. Once again it will be at Phantom Lake Elementary School in the covered area to the south of the school. Next month's newsletter will cover the details of this year's event with descriptions of the workshops that will be offered. For those of you not familiar with this event, the following is an edited version of the history of the Brown Bag as written by Helen Hesketh for last year's program.

The first Brown Bag was held at Phantom Lake Elementary School in August, 1996. The purpose of this picnic was to provide a simple, social event for our members. Students and interested non-members in SNPS were also invited. The event provided workshops on computer topics and an opportunity for the students to meet their Fall session instructors. A few, simple door prizes were donated by the members. Attendees brought their own brown bag lunch and drinks were provided. The dessert table was supplied by all the attendees.

The format has remained essentially the same over the years but, Marge Langley Introduced a fund raiser by designing greeting cards, magnets, and calendars for attendees to purchase and she also single-handedly collected small items for sale. These were stuffed in a simple brown bag. Marge would sell these "Grab Bags" and the proceeds went to the Phantom Lake Elementary School lunch fund. Marge did not want any child to go hungry because of lack of money. In 2004 this project was named the Marge Langley Memorial Lunch Fund in memory of her. In 2005 this was renamed the Marge Langley Memorial Fund that provides not only food money but also items such as school supplies or personal things for the children that are needy. Today we are carrying on Marge's vision in a much bigger way than she ever dreamed would happen. In 2006 the Brown Bag sale was replaced by a raffle and drawing for worthy prizes and is known as the Marge Langley Memorial School Fund Brown Bag Drawing.

Easy "DOUGH" for Phantom Lake!

COBS bakery at Crossroads will annually return 5% of all purchases made at COBS Bakery directly to the school. All you have to do is indicate that you are a part of the Phantom Lake community before your purchase is finalized. It's that simple. Give it a try!

Putting Energy Hogs in the Home on a Strict Low-Power Diet

By LARRY MAGID

[Compiled by Bill Bumpus]

The original article appeared in the New York Times on June 14, 2007. The full article can be found at:

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/14/technology/14basics.html?_r=2&oref=slogin&oref=slogin#

I thought I was pretty good about energy conservation, but it turns out that I've been a bit of a hypocrite. I drive a reasonably fuel-efficient car, I work at home so I don't use fuel to commute and I am replacing incandescent bulbs in my home with energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs.

I started checking how much electricity my electronics were consuming when I wasn't using them. My PC was continuously drawing 134 watts all night. The more devices I checked, the worse it got. My TiVo digital video recorder was sucking down about 30 watts when it was not playing or recording a show. A Comcast digital cable set-top box made by Motorola that I tested was drawing about 40 watts. My DVD player was drawing 26 watts while idle, and my audio system — which I rarely turned off — was using 47 watts. This was in addition to the numerous power adapters and chargers, each drawing 1 or 2 watts, not to mention several other devices sipping energy to keep clocks running or to be ready to turn on at the push of a button.

The Department of Energy estimates that in the average home 40 percent of all electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off. Add that all up, and it equals the annual output of 17 power plants, the government says.

Products that idle in what the industry calls low-power mode, or 'lopomo', consumed about 10 percent of total electricity in California homes, according to a 2002 study prepared for the California Energy Commission by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. A few of those devices, even those with Energy Star ratings that signal that they are less wasteful, still use a lot of power. "Some of the larger big-screen TVs consume as much energy each year as a new refrigerator," according to Noah Horowitz, a scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

If you don't turn off your PC when it is not in use, make sure it goes into a low-power sleep, suspend or hibernate mode. That doesn't always happen automatically. Windows XP has both 'a-suspend' and hibernate option, but it isn't always turned on by default. Computers running the Windows XP operating system can be configured by clicking on Power Options in the Control Panel to set the number of minutes before Windows will turn off the monitor and hard disks or put the system into standby or hibernate mode. (Hibernation uses the least amount of energy). If it is a notebook PC, there are separate settings for when it runs on the battery and when it is plugged in.

Microsoft says that it has overhauled energy management in its Vista operating system so that machines, by default, should go into a low-power state after 60 minutes of inactivity. The PC sips only a few watts until the user touches the mouse or keyboard. To configure a machine with Vista, type "Power Options" in the search box at the bottom of the Start menu and click on "Change when the computer sleeps."

Whatever machine you're using, consider having it go into sleep, standby or hibernate after about a half-hour of inactivity. The shorter the period, the more energy you save. Graphic-intense screen savers can actually waste power.

Unplug unused external power supplies because they can draw energy even when they're not connected to a device.

If you're shopping for a new PC, be sure that it meets Energy Star requirements, ideally the ones that go into effect July 20. The new standards require that 80 percent of the power consumed is actually used by the PC.

Use an L.C.D. screen instead of an old-fashioned cathode ray tube monitor. L.C.D.'s are as much as 66 percent more efficient than C.R.T.'s, according to the Energy Department.

Consider buying a notebook PC, rather than a less-efficient desktop. Because notebooks are designed to run on batteries, they're equipped with chips and drives that draw less power. Seagate's 160GB 2.5-inch drive uses one-fourth the energy of the equivalent 3.5-inch drive, according to a Seagate product manager, Joni Clark.

And because the screen is integrated on notebooks, there is only one power supply. I tested several notebooks, and all consumed under 30 watts except when charging the battery.

Consider a machine with a low-voltage processor like the Intel Core 2 Duo or one with A.M.D.'s "Cool and Quiet" technology. Trim desktop models also tend to use less energy. The new Hewlett-Packard Slimline models use about 45 watts, which is considerably lower than many larger PCs.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE www.seniornetps.org

Constructed by Hal Mozer, Jay Schlechter and maintained by Hal, Jay, Chuck Goldstein and Bill Bumpas

Get information on our all-volunteer SeniorNet Computer Learning Center of Puget Sound.
Find information on our COURSES and SCHEDULES; see photos of our classroom and instructors.

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- If you have changed your address, phone number or email address, please notify us of these changes. Please call the voice mail 206-232-5892 or email Senior@seniornetps.org and bring us up to date.
 - If you wish to contribute articles, news items or comments, please contact Nancy Harsh at nbharsh@msn.com.
 - To receive this free monthly newsletter, update your email address or unsubscribe, please send your full name, phone and email address to pugetsnet6@qwest.net.
 - If you have friends who are online and who may be interested in taking classes to expand their skills, please forward this newsletter to them. To do so: click **Forward** when the email message with the newsletter is displayed; enter the email address of the person to whom you are sending it in the **To** box and click **Send**.
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