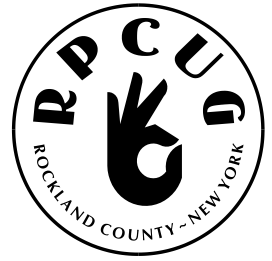




# The Computer Connection



Published by The ROCKLAND PC USERS GROUP, March 2009

## GENERAL MEETING

### Computer Spring Cleaning

**L**earn how to clean up your computer and get rid of all the clutter that has accumulated over the past year. Learn what programs can be used (free ones included) to clean up your computers, so they run more smoothly, have fewer problems and stay protected. You will learn how to better organize your files and desktop. Organizing your files will definitely make using your computer easier and more enjoyable.

GENERAL MEETING will be held on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM in the Raso Room on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Palisades Mall in West Nyack. Earlier in the day there is a free workshop at the West Nyack Library at 3:30 on "e-mail". Call the library to register.

Email to the membership chairman for more information at: [membership@rpcug.org](mailto:membership@rpcug.org)

**JOIN the FUN!**

**MEETINGS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** *with newcomers especially welcome.*

*For directions and up-to-date meeting information, visit RPCUG's Website at [www.rpcug.org](http://www.rpcug.org)*



## Trenton Computer Festival

**T**he world's original Personal Computer Show will once again take place at The College of New Jersey. The Trenton Computer Festival (TCF), now in its 34th year, will be held from Friday, April 24 through Sunday, April 26, 2009. This year's festival will include a Keynote Speaker Address, and flea market, indoor exhibit and sales area, and general speaker/tutorial session. Created in 1976 by Sol Libes of the Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey and Allen Katz, professor of electrical/computer engineering at TCNJ, the current festival has stayed true to its origins as an annual educational event. The public and personal computing fans can be sure to find plenty of bargains on new and used hardware and software, numerous talks, forums, tutorials, user group sessions, national exhibitors demonstrating their newest products, and much more...

<http://www.tcf-nj.org/web/>

## Web sites EDITOR'S PICKS:

**INFAMOUS VENDOR of  
"AntiVirus XP" malware sued:**

<http://blogs.zdnet.com/security/?p=1980&tag=nl.rSINGLE>

**ONLINE USER REVIEWS:**

Can They Be Trusted?

[www.pcworld.com/article/152380/article.html?tk=nl\\_coxnws](http://www.pcworld.com/article/152380/article.html?tk=nl_coxnws)

**HOW TO Add a Second Monitor:**

Increase your PC's screen spread in five easy steps:

<http://computershopper.com/lcd-monitors/howto/how-to-add-a-second-monitor>

**WHO CALLED US?**

Please help me figure out who is calling and what they want:

<http://whocalled.us/lookup/6179476563>

**Welcome to TECH SUPPORT GUY!**

If you're looking for free technical support, you've found it!

<http://www.techguy.org/>

**GOT A FAVORITE?**

Email the editor! [ed@rpcug.org](mailto:ed@rpcug.org)



## THE ROCKLAND PC USERS GROUP

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### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Marian Baade / [ed@rpcug.org](mailto:ed@rpcug.org)

### OUR MISSION:

To exchange computer-related ideas and information among its members; to engage in computer-related activities for the benefit of the membership and the community at large; to increase understanding and utilization of the personal computer; to provide an opportunity for the formation of special interest groups (SIGs), to provide a medium for the exchange and propagation of public domain software, freeware, and shareware.

—(From the RPCUG Constitution & Bylaws)

## MEETING SCHEDULE

### GENERAL MEETING

7:15 PM

### MULTIMEDIA WORKSHOP

6:00 PM

Tuesday, MARCH 10th, 2009

The Palisades Center Community Room  
Palisades Center Mall, West Nyack, NY

**Multi-Media Workshop** meets on the second Tuesday of the month, prior to the general meeting at 6:00 PM in the Raso Room in the Palisades Mall, West Nyack

The **Executive Board** meets last Thursday of the month  
West Nyack Library, 7:00 PM

The Rockland PC Users Group, a tax-exempt educational organization, meets monthly, usually on the second Tuesday. Meetings begin at 7:15 PM. The latest information about meeting programs and dates is available on the Internet at <http://www.rpcug.org>

## Past Expiry by Johnny Ancich 842



www.PastExpiry.com

# Message from the President

Spring is on the way and so is computer spring cleaning.

Come out to the March meeting and learn how to clean-up your computer and get rid of all the clutter that has accumulated over the past year. Learn about which software can be used to clean-up your computers so they run smoothly, have fewer problems and are protected.

You will learn how to better organize your files and desktop. Organizing your files will definitely make using your computer easier and more enjoyable.

This year hasn't been a very good year for the economy, but RPCUG has been doing its part to help those in the community that are in need. After eight years, PCRenew is still moving along at a phenomenal pace. They are approaching 2700 refurbished computers that have been given back to the community. When you stop and think about it...that is a tremendous accomplishment!

We have been giving presentations in the local libraries on topics such as: how to use search engines, the internet, email, digital photography, MS Word, MS Excel and digital photo editing. This is done as a community service and a way to interest people in joining the group. As this year unfolds, we will be participating with even more libraries and,



hopefully, we will be able to offer them more topics in the future.

For those of you who remember Popular Mechanics, take a look at Make Magazine. <http://makezine.com/>

It seems that there is a revival of interest in building things out of electronic junk. All you need is a soldering iron, a bunch of parts and an idea! One of our newest members, Mike Donovan, is willing to start a workshop to promote this new phenomenon taking place in the tech world. If you are interested, talk to Mike at one of our General Meetings. Thanks Mike...We look forward to working with you.

What would a message from the president be without a plea for help? We need to get some of you involved in the running of the group. We are in need of a few good men or a good woman. (We all know that a woman can multitask better than a man, we just won't admit it.) All kidding aside, there are many things that can be accomplished with your help. If you have an hour or two a month that you can give to the group, send me an email and let's see how you can help.

—Ken



## A QUICK WAY TO REDUCE IMAGE SIZES FOR EMAIL

Image files, especially digital photos, can be quite large. There are many ways to reduce the file size - some methods more exotic or cumbersome than others. If you're looking for a quick way to reduce the file size and send your digital photos on their way, here goes:

In Windows XP, open the folder where the photos are stored. You may have stored them in "My Pictures" folder, or sub-folders thereof.

Select the photo(s) you want to e-mail. (Reminder: to select more than one, press the CTRL key while you click multiple photos.)

Then, you can either A) right-click the selected file(s) and choose Send To, Mail Recipient; or B) choose E-mail this file (or E-mail this folder's files or E-mail the selected items if you chose more than one file) from the File and Folder Tasks pane.

A dialog box named Send Pictures Via E-mail appears, with the Make all my pictures smaller option selected. You can click Show more options so you can be more choosy about just how small the pictures will be. Make your choices - Small, Medium, or Large.

Click OK. Windows XP now switches to your default e-mail application. A new message is created, and smaller sized image file(s) are attached.



# CrossLoop

—reviewed by Hank Feinberg

If you have ever called tech support at one of the major computer manufacturers or software companies and allowed the tech on the other side (of the world) to take over your computer - that is what **Cross Loop** does. It helps you get “Friendly and Affordable computer” support from someone else signed on as a “helper.”

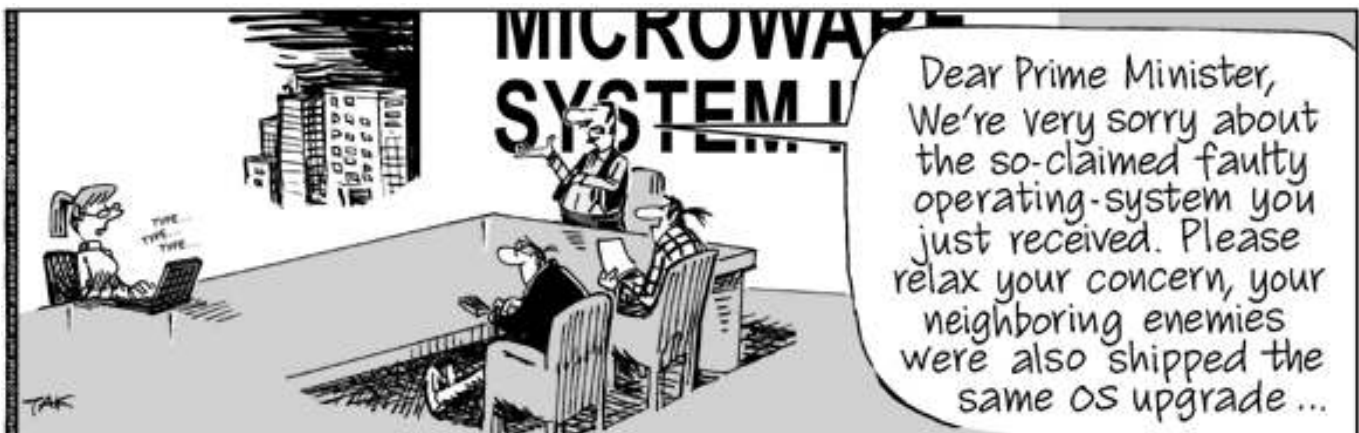
There is a community of “Helpers,” some of which will charge for their services, available on **Cross Loop**. I do recommend that you know something about the other person for security purposes as you are allowing them access into your computer. You can monitor everything they are doing on your screen so you can end the connection at anytime. You also never lose control of your mouse, which I liked.

I used it today for the first time with Marian Baade, who edits our newsletter. I had a project in Corel Photo Paint where I had to lay a graphic down on top of a photograph of a wooden box that was on an angle tilting toward the front. I know how to rotate and resize a graphic but the trick here was to also change the perspective so it tilted down and was wider in the front.

I downloaded and installed the program, which is FREE, in about two minutes. A screen came up with two tabs, Access and Share, an access code (that changes each session,) and a button to connect. I gave Marian the access code to make the link. The next screen authorized me to allow her to take over my screen and mouse. Once I accepted that, she was able to move around my software and system, change settings and have free access to my files. We spoke on the phone as we both watched my screen, and she was able to show me how to accomplish my task.

You can disconnect the connection at anytime, and it is a onetime event - so once you end the use of **Cross Loop** the other party does not have access again. The price is right and it is a useful tool if you need help and want to watch to learn or want to help someone yourself.

Check it out at: <http://www.crossloop.com/>



# PC Re-News - TRIP TO TEXAS

by Hank Feinberg

**"A**ll my X's are in Texas; that's why I live in Arkansas." That was one of the many tunes I heard on the almost-eight hour drive from Houston to San Antonio and back with Jim Hauck. In January I was flown down to Texas by the National Cristina Foundation to run several days of meetings and talks with the American Legion, Operation Homefront, the Coalition of Disabled Veterans, Techs and Trainers and several other groups. People came from as far as Dallas, at their own expense, to participate in a three-hour lunch discussion in San Antonio

I have been moderating conference calls since last December to get veterans to work together and understand what it takes to establish and run a refurbishing operation like **PC ReNew** on a grass roots level.

**PC ReNew** is recognized as one of the best models of a community run non profit refurbisher and I have developed close ties to several national organizations who we are in constant contact with. The need nationally for a PC ReNew in every community has never been greater. Almost 250 million computers will be disposed of in the next few years. These are machines that can be refurbished and recycled - returned to the community. Millions of dollars can be saved just by some sweat equity expended by volunteers.

It was a whirlwind tour, run almost like a precisely timed military operation. The idea was to get organizations in this area of Texas to share resources in getting computers to veterans of all ages to empower them to better their lives.

We met with refurbishers' van pool volunteers, community representatives from municipal government, the district leadership of the American Legion, a quadriplegic founder of a new veterans group and concerned veteran volunteers.

We traded ideas on how these groups can help each other, and we identified a common goal of working together to enact a program to help other veterans in their local communities.

People came from as far as Dallas, at their own expense, to participate in a three-hour lunch discussion in San Antonio.

They all left with the answers to their questions and a feeling of being part of a bigger effort that is moving forward for the common good.

From acorns spring trees. I have learned that Jim Hauck, the project coordinator in Texas I have been working with, has been asked to enlarge this program to all of Texas. That is a mighty big job for even a Texan.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said "A man's mind stretched by a new idea can never return to it's original dimensions". Each of us has the ability to work together and offer what we have learned in a way that betters the life of our fellow man. It is the collective collaboration of volunteers with a common purpose that best serves the community and empowers people to enrich and better their lives. We all bring something needed to the table.



We'd like to produce this newsletter on a regular basis, but HELP is needed.

**THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER.** Do a software review, send a cartoon or an article you've read, or write one yourself. Don't worry about grammar or spelling - that's what editors are for. Let us know what you can contribute! We are also going to accept ads from those of our members who own small businesses or supply consulting services. Please email your information to the editor: [ed@rpcug.org](mailto:ed@rpcug.org). We hope to hear from you!

# The Myth of Width: When wide screens don't work

by Rafe Needleman, *cnet news*

**T**he displays of the world are getting wider. For those of us who work, this is not progress. Sure, wide-screen computer screens look cool, but in the real world of working on laptops, a wide-screen display is an ergonomic step backwards.

Before I slam the move to wide-screen computers, I will gladly admit that for entertainment content, wide-screen works. Our eyes are side-by-side, after all, and having a story unfold in a way that more closely respects how we see gives a more engrossing, absorbing experience. Wide-screen plasma and LCD television sets make sense, as do CinemaScope movie theaters.

But when we have work to do, the fact that our eyes are set up to spot a herd of jackals approaching us over the plain becomes irrelevant. For most people, the world of work is in portrait mode, and wide-screen displays offer scant benefits.

Like reading a page of text or a book, most Web sites are set up with strong vertical orientation. That works for text-based material, since wide lines of text, longer than about 60 characters, become hard to read (the reader has a hard time finding the beginning of the next line).

What happens with modern "stretchy" sites or apps that let the user read text in a wide-screen format where line lengths get long? Pages get tiring or hard to read.

What happens with modern "stretchy" sites or apps that let the user read text in a wide-screen format where line lengths get long? Pages get tiring or hard to read.

One argument given for wide-screen monitors is that they allow users to put two pages or applications side-by-side, for easier comparison. This is true, but in many cases it comes at the expense of usability for single apps. Most popular sizes of wide-screen displays show fewer vertical pixels than the more-square sizes they directly replaced, reducing the amount of text that can be comfortably shown on one screen without scrolling.

People who work with spreadsheets may take exception to this, as do those who use very large monitors that have sufficient vertical resolution. But for most people, more square, or even portrait-mode monitors would actually be easier to read.

You won't see monitors go portrait-mode for the mainstream market, though, for two reasons: people work and play on the same displays, and since keyboards are horizontal, laptop screens have to close over them.

One area where I believe we should (but probably won't) see continued releases of consumer portrait-mode displays, though: personal navigation devices. Recently the PND companies have started to offer wide-screen navigation units. How does this make sense? When we use a computer-generated map that's always rotating to show us where we're going at the top of the screen, why do we care what's out the side windows? It's what's coming up that matters. Serious navigation products for back-country hikers are portrait mode. The wider you make a map display the more you sacrifice useful information for distraction—although, again, it makes the devices look cool.

This column came about because my new MacBook has a wide-screen display (as do almost all new laptops). It's gorgeous and great for watching videos, but it does not help my productivity one whit. I have to scroll more when I'm reading and writing, which slows me down.

So maybe it's just me, but I miss boring old squarish computer screens. Because I use my computers for boring old square work more than for play.



[http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938\\_105-10150269-1.html?tag=nl.e404](http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938_105-10150269-1.html?tag=nl.e404)



# B i t s & B y t e s

## WINDOWS XP: The Long Goodbye



**A**fter the successful launch and establishment of Windows Vista, Microsoft officially discontinued the sale of Windows XP on June 30, 2008. To continue to meet the needs of the huge number of users currently relying on Windows XP, Microsoft will be providing support for the operating system until 2014. To help ease the transition from Windows XP to Windows Vista, Microsoft posted **Windows XP: The Facts about the Future**, answering common questions, providing links to XP resources, and helping users compare features in Windows XP and Windows Vista.

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windows-xp/future.aspx>

### CORELDRAW GRAPHICS SUITE X4

**YOUR EDITOR** has been a fan of Corel software for twenty years. Here is an excellent review of the newest version of the Corel Graphics Suite X4. The review begins on page 13.

<http://reports.apcug.org/2009q1/2009q1.pdf>

If this software interests you I invite you to look over the CorelDraw Users Group list on Yahoo:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cdug/>

You can email me directly if you have questions - I'm the ListMom.

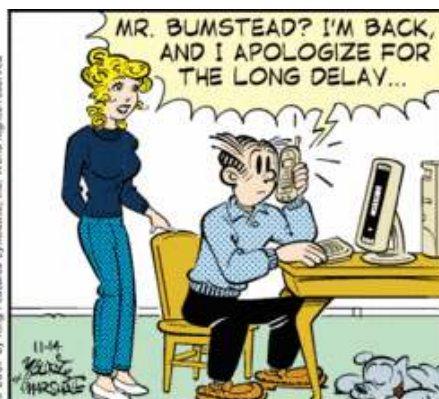
Marian Baade: [mcbaade@aol.com](mailto:mcbaade@aol.com)



## PC Radio Show

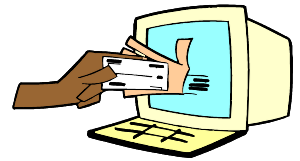
Bringing you computer industry news, hardware and software reviews, guest interviews and news of User Group meetings for over 20 years, the Personal Computer Show is a three-time winner of the prestigious national Computer Press Awards.

[www.pcradioshow.org/](http://www.pcradioshow.org/)



# HOW TO FORWARD E-MAIL APPROPRIATELY

A friend who is a computer expert received the following directly from a system administrator for a corporate system. It is an excellent message that ABSOLUTELY applies to ALL of us who send e-mails. Please read the short letter below, even if you're sure you already follow proper procedures..



Do you really know how to forward e-mails? 50% of us do; 50% DO NOT. Do you wonder why you get viruses or junk mail? Do you hate it?

Every time you forward an e-mail there is information left over from the people who got the message before you, namely their e-mail addresses & names. As the messages get forwarded along, the list of addresses builds, and builds, and builds, and all it takes is for some poor sap to get a virus, and his or her computer can send that virus to every e-mail address that has come across his computer. Or, someone can take all of those addresses and sell them or send junk mail to them in the hopes that you will go to the site and he will make five cents for each hit. That's right, all of that inconvenience over a nickel! How do you stop it? Well, there are several easy steps:

(1) When you forward an e-mail, DELETE all of the other addresses that appear in the body of the message (at the top). That's right, DELETE them. Highlight them and delete them, backspace them, cut them, whatever it is you know how to do. It only takes a second. You MUST click the "Forward" button first and then you will have full editing capabilities against the body and headers of the message. If you don't click on "Forward" first, you won't be able to edit the message at all.

(2) Whenever you send an e-mail to more than one person, do NOT use the To: or CC: fields for adding e-mail addresses. Always use the BCC: (blind carbon copy) field for listing the e-mail addresses. This is the way the person you send to will only see his/her own e-mail address. If you don't see your BCC: option click on where it says To: and your address list will appear. Highlight the address and choose BCC: and that's it, it's that easy. When you send to BCC: your message will automatically say "Undisclosed email

Recipients" in the "TO:" field of the people who receive it.

(3) Remove any "FW :" in the subject line. You can re-name the subject if you wish or even fix spelling.

(4) ALWAYS hit your Forward button from the actual e-mail you are reading. Ever get those e-mails that you have to open 10 pages to read the one page with the information on it? By Forwarding from the actual page you wish someone to view, you stop them from having to open many e-mails just to see what you sent.

(5) Have you ever gotten an email that is a petition? It states a position and asks you to add your name and address and to forward it to 10 or 15 people or your entire address book. The email can be forwarded on and on and can collect thousands of names and email addresses. A FACT: The completed petition is actually worth a couple of bucks to a professional spammer because of the wealth of valid names and email addresses contained therein. If you want to support the petition, send it as your own personal letter to the intended recipient. Your position may carry more weight as a personal letter than a laundry list of names and email address on a petition. (Actually, if you think about it, who's supposed to send the petition in to whatever cause it supports? And don't believe the ones that say that the email is being traced, it just aint so!)

(6) One of the main ones I hate is the ones that say that something like, "Send this email to 10 people and you'll see something great run across your screen." Or, sometimes they'll just tease you by saying something really cute will happen IT AINT GONNA HAPPEN!!!! (Trust me, I'm still seeing some of the same ones that I

...continued on next page



## EMAIL (continued)

waited on 10 years ago!) I don't let the bad luck ones scare me either, they get trashed. (Could be why I haven't won the lottery??)

(7) Before you forward an Amber Alert, or a Virus Alert, or some of the other ones floating around nowadays, check them out before you forward them. Most of them are junk mail that's been circling the net for YEARS! Just about everything you receive in an email that is in question can be checked out at Snopes. Just go to <http://www.snopes.com/>

It's really easy to find out if it's real or not. If it's not, please don't pass it on.

So please, in the future, let's stop the junk mail and the viruses. This is something that SHOULD be forwarded.

## The IGive SHOPPING WINDOW

Hank has signed up with IGive To help raise funds for PCReNew.

It's very simple. When you shop online at any of the member stores, a percentage of your purchase is donated to PCReNew. Once you have installed the IOGive Shopping Toolbar, it will open up whenever you visit a participating site - you do NOT have to keep track of who they are yourself. The donation is automatic.

[www.igive.com/welcome/](http://www.igive.com/welcome/)



## When to Turn Off Personal Computers

Danbury Area Computer Society, <http://www.dacs.org>

If you're wondering when you should turn off your personal computer for energy savings, here are some general guidelines to help you make that decision.

Though there is a small surge in energy when a computer starts up, this small amount of energy is still less than the energy used when a computer is running for long periods of time. For energy savings and convenience, consider turning off:

- the monitor if you aren't going to use your PC for more than 20 minutes
- both the CPU and monitor if you're not going to use your PC for more than 2 hours.

Make sure your monitors, printers, and other accessories are on a power strip/surge protector. When this equipment is not in use for extended periods, turn off the switch on the power strip to prevent them from drawing power even when shut off. If you don't use a power strip, unplug extra equipment when it's not in use.

Read the entire article:

[http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your\\_home/appliances/index.cfm/mytopic=10070](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/appliances/index.cfm/mytopic=10070)



# SOFTWARE available for REVIEW

Email Roberta at [Reviews@rpcug.org](mailto:Reviews@rpcug.org) or Ken at [President@rpcug.org](mailto:President@rpcug.org)

## Products Available for Members:

- ✓ **Flashpaste Professional** by *Softvoile* is a clever little utility that lets you make a boilerplate text you would normally type manually, save it to a mini-database and paste it automatically into any document.

<http://softvoile.com/>

- ✓ **Axialis IconWorkshopTM 6.10** by *Axialis Software* is the newest version of its award-winning tool for authoring icons for Windows and Macintosh platforms.

<http://www.axialis.com/>

- ✓ **Easy Photo Recovery 1.5** by *ObjectRescue* the latest version of a highly acclaimed software tool for restoring lost data from various multimedia devices.

<http://www.easyphotorecovery.com/>

- ✓ **ForexTester 1.11** by *Forex Tester Software* An easy-to-use application lets you prepare yourself for Forex market conditions by playing various market scenarios, either in real time or at a modified speed level, giving you a chance to practice an unlimited number of "buy & sell" strategies and view their results.

[www.forextester.com](http://www.forextester.com)

- ✓ **ClipMate 7.2** by *Thornsoft* is a Windows productivity tool that turns the under-powered Windows clipboard into a graphics and text powerhouse. Users can organize, view, manage, search and edit their clips using a familiar interface that is similar to Windows Explorer. And now they can take **ClipMate** with them, on any removable drive equipped with the U3 Smart Lanchpad or the PortableApps.com menu.

<http://www.thornsoft.com>

- ✓ **Titan Backup v. 1.2** by *Neobyte Solutions* a powerful Windows application that makes it easy for businesses to create backups of their critical files and folders. Unlike backup programs that are too complicated or too cumbersome to use, Titan Backup's Wizard makes it easy to create and schedule backups of important data.

<http://www.titanbackup.com/>

## Freeware:

- ✓ **Wise Registry Cleaner 2.8** by *Wise Cleaner*. This is a freeware tool that enables users to clean Windows Registry safely and quickly.

[www.wisecleaner.com/soft/WRCSetup.exe](http://www.wisecleaner.com/soft/WRCSetup.exe)

## WANT TO JOIN THE GROUP? HERE'S HOW!

Bring your completed application and a check payable to RPCUG to a meeting or mail your application and check to:  
RPCUG at PO Box 802, New City, NY 10956. (PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION)

Name

E-mail Address

Address

Spouse's Name (if joint membership)

Day Phone:

Spouse's E-mail address

Evening Phone:

Children's Names (for Family Membership)

