# *PC USER GROUP* Meeting

| WEDNESDAY | June 8 | 7:15 PM |
|---|---|---|

## Elks Lodge, 4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
Hosted by: SPAUG (Stanford Palo Alto User Group for PC)

*Topic:* **Some of the Big Movers, Entertainment Equipment, and Specialty Items available at Micro Center's Santa Clara store**

*Speaker:* **Red Calub,** General Manager, Micro Center, Santa Clara

Red has been a law enforcement officer wearing a bullet-proof vest, worked in a laptop facility, and been the GM of Micro Center for a number of years.

Red Calub has helped SPAUG and its members on many occasions. The helpful tone to customers at Micro Center is a result of his management philosophy.

You are invited to join us for an optional no-host dinner
before our meeting, at **5:45 pm**, at
**Hobee's,** 4224 El Camino Real (across from Elks), Palo Alto

Upcoming meetings (2011): **6/8,** 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, 10/12, 11/9
(2012): 1/11, 2/8, 3/14, 4/11, 5/9

# STANFORD PALO ALTO USER GROUP FOR PC
# (SPAUG)

MEMBERSHIP FORM

To become a member of SPAUG—

1. Provide the information requested on this form.
2. Send this form and a check for **$30.00,** payable
   to **SPAUG**, to the address on the right:

**SPAUG**
**PO BOX 20161**
**Stanford, CA 94309-0161**

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Your Name _____
<p style="text-align:center">Last, First</p>

Your mailing address: _____
<p style="text-align:center">Number and Street, PO Box, etc.</p>

_____
<p style="text-align:center">City, State, ZIP</p>

e-mail: _____

Phone: _____     Fax: _____
<p>(Area Code) Number                                    (Area Code) Number</p>

Areas of expertise you would be willing to share with SPAUG:

_____

_____

_____

Areas of special interest:

_____

_____

_____

What are you hoping to find in SPAUG?

_____

_____

How did you learn about SPAUG? _____

Your Occupation: _____

# SPAUG

## *PrintScreen*

Newsletter of the **Stanford/Palo Alto Users Group for PC**
A Non-Profit / Educational Organization • **http://www.pa-spaug.org**
**Post Office Box 20161, Stanford, CA  94309-0161**

## Notes from the Prez
### by Jim Dinkey

**One function of SPAUG is to provide you the opportunity to improve your computer use and maintenance capabilities.**

Toward that end we provide:

- A newsletter, which can provide insights into how to maintain your computer:
- A tutorial meeting at which you are provided with the knowledge of how to use some tools
- Speakers giving breadth to many technical discussions.
- The Clinic to help fill in with the correction of the computer to a normal standard.

### *If you are using Microsoft Windows 7…*

. . . you have the opportunity of a lifetime to decide which backup program you want/need to use —whether it will be Acronis or the built-in Backup offered by Microsoft. Both are effective and

both work. Microsoft's is included in your purchase price.

The choice is not as simple as you might think— that the free one is the proper choice by default, as free is always better. Possibly so.

### *The Microsoft Way for Windows 7*

**Microsoft Windows 7 SYSTEM IMAGING APPLETT makes a full backup of the system** portion of your computer. It makes only one, under the philosophy that the Computer System Files change very slowly.

**Then there is the User Data Backup** (a full backup) followed by a series of incremental backups of the data to a particular limit. These sets continue until 6 months have passed, at which time the oldest sets are deleted.

By separating the backups into SYSTEM backup and DATA backup, the total amount of backup file space is minimized while retaining full integrity.

## Note: Pre-meeting dinner is at Hobee's

**General Meeting @ Elks Lodge - Wed. June 8 @ 7:15 PM**
**4249 El Camino Real - Palo Alto (directions on page 3)**

**Optional Dinner at Hobee's—Look for us in the back room**
**4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, across from Elks, 5:45 pm (see page 3)**

If you choose to go this way, you <u>must</u> create your own Win 7 bootable System Recovery Disk to allow you to recover your data in case of hard drive failure or data corruption.

**Before you start any backup using  the procedure above, be sure to have available some detailed instructions covering the entire project in the prompts.** If you don't want the hassle of the initial setup, have the SPAUG Clinic help you with the project. **Works only for Microsoft Windows 7.**

### *The Acronis Way for Windows 7*

For $25 per computer, you can have Acronis True Image Home 2011 [aka here as "Acronis"] from Gene Barlow's ugr.com, which has a different approach to identifying exactly what you need as a total solution. **Works for all Windows versions.**

Essentially, Acronis makes a full backup (system and data), and then (about) 6 incremental backups, and then starts all over again with another full backup. When the repeating cycle gets to a predetermined space limit, the oldest set of backups is deleted, especially if over 6 months old.

### *Comparison*

Both backup techniques (Microsoft's and Acronis) work, but Acronis gives you a little more control over the process. It is, however, critically dependent on Gene Barlow's Starter Guide from his UGR.COM website, via http://tinyurl.com/3hmaxnb.

One problem using Acronis is that the instructions on how to set up the above scheme are not very clear in the Acronis documentation. To handle this problem of poor documentation, Gene Barlow [owner of User Group Relations, <ugr.com> ] has created a

pdf document [ http://tinyurl.com/3hmaxnb ] that clearly describes how to easily set up and use the repeating sequence of full and incremental backups. Gene's document suggests six incrementals to one base. I tend to change that figure to 10.

Using Acronis version 10 on my own computer, there is a scheduler, so I am doing the identical type of backup automatically with Acronis' built-in scheduler, except I let it run for 20 incrementals. When the target disk begins to get full, I manually delete 2 or 3 of the strings (sets of backups) to assure I'll have enough space on my 250 GB target drive, which is mounted inside my desktop computer. The 250 GB drive holds about 3 months of backups, representing six independent backup sets. Overkill, but I am happy with it. I have had to restore portions of the backed up material twice in six years.

### *Comparison of MS' and Acronis' philosophies*

Microsoft Backup is <u>not</u> turned on by Microsoft's default, because Microsoft has no idea where you want to put your data. Once the Backup program is fed the information where the backup is to go, the process is totally automatic.

The same philosophy can be said for Acronis, except that Acronis makes a repeating series of full backups followed by a variable number of incremental backups for each full backup.

One common requirement is that you have to choose <u>where</u> the backup files are to be stored. One place NOT to store the files is in a partition on the physical same drive that is being backed up because when the physical drive fails, your backups go too!

# Meeting Day: Wednesday, June 8

## General Meeting

**Palo Alto Elks Lodge,**
**4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto**

## Meeting time is 7:15 pm

### Red Calub

Speaking about:

**Things to look for at
Micro Center's
Santa Clara store**

The Elks Lodge is a light-colored two-story bldg on the North (bay) side of El Camino Real (ECR), just east (toward Los Altos) from the Charleston-Arastradero-ECR intersection. It's diagonally across ECR from the Crowne Plaza Cabaña hotel.

Park your car in the parking lot that wraps around the lodge, and proceed to the front door (on the West side of the bldg.). This is a keycarded door so we will have someone at the door to let you in. Proceed to the Lodge Room—upstairs, elevator available past stairway.

If you cannot get in the front door because you are late, press the wireless doorbell that will be in place for each SPAUG meeting, and someone will come to let you in.

### Typical Meeting Agenda

7:15   "Boot up"

7:30   Announcements.

7:35   Guests introduction.

7:40   Random Access (Crosstalk)

7:50   Break

8:00   SPEAKER

9:15   SIG Reports

9:20   Raffle

9:30   Adjourn

## Optional pre-meeting dinner

Join us for dinner before our General Meeting at —

## *Hobee's Restaurant*

Note the **location** for this month's dinner.

This Hobee's is at 4224 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, diagonally across the street from the Elk's Lodge—an easy stroll if you're willing to jaywalk across El Camino.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Map & Directions:** | http://www.hobees.com/paloalto.html |
| **Menu:** | http://www.hobees.com/menu.html |
| **Review:** | http://www.yelp.com/biz/hobees-restaurant-palo-alto-2 |

## Dinner time is 5:45 pm

My preferred solution is to install a second hard drive into a desktop computer—not only to avoid the inevitable physical abuse and jarring of an external drive, but it also allows the processes to run at three times the speed of an external USB 2.0 drive. The new, faster 3.0 USB interface will run at only the speed of the 2.0 USB interface that will continue until you buy a 3.0 equipped replacement computer.

If you are using a laptop, you don't have much choice: either a USB external or an internal net-oriented backup solution. If your situation includes some combination of desktop and laptop computers, installing a backup drive into a desktop can permit laptops to do their backup over an internal house-oriented network.

### *Defragmenting*

Windows 7 has turned on, by default, the defragmenter.

Until now, Microsoft Windows products, starting with Windows 95, defragmenting was not automatic. I always thought this was a marketing error requiring users to have to either run the manual one included with the operating system or go out and buy a defragmenter such a **Perfect Disk** < http://tinyurl.com/2vzpq5 >, which has a scheduler built into it. Since most users don't know how to spell defragmenter much less use it, making the defragmenter available by default is a masterstroke. I have to wonder why Microsoft chose 1 a.m. on Sunday morning as default. Changing the time of defragmenting to a daytime hour and running the defragmenter daily is almost a necessity, as many computers are not running at the default hour of 1 a.m.

### *Microsoft Updates, Windows XP and Windows 7*

One of the most insidious and common errors XP users make when monthly updating their computers is to assume that turning on AUTOMATIC means that the computer is updated totally. What they often miss is that in XP and Windows 7, there is an update option called CUSTOM. CUSTOM must be checked monthly and downloads made under human control in both XP and Windows 7.



### *The story about capacitor problems, aka "Capacitor Plague"*

Yeah, I know – you are not into electronics. But you need to be aware of this much. The story as I know it:

About ten years ago a Japanese firm was making capacitors that worked well. They were the envy of the industry. Their capacitors went into every thing electronic, including computers. All of its competitors envied the Japanese firm.

So some Taiwanese guys who were working at the Japanese firm stole the two components of the dielectric solution that went into each

◄ *(Continued from page 4)*

capacitor to stop the capacitors from expanding, bulging, growing fat and leaking after five years.

The only problem was they didn't steal enough! There was a third agent, an anti-foaming ingredient that has never been divulged. The thieves didn't know it existed!

So now, throughout the world, there are tons of capacitors that are going to fail in five years and the Taiwanese don't care because their warranty is 90 days and you are on your own after that. This means that a 15-cent part can fail 5 years later and someone has to remove the motherboard, unsolder the offending part, solder in a new part and then return the computer to the owner.

About the only suggestion I have is to buy Japanese motherboards!

These capacitors are in everything—not just computers. Clocks, TVs, autos, everything. And the position of the capacitor manufacturers is still "90-days"!

This explains the rationale of the U. S. procurement agencies that the materials all are made under their control to assure quality. Servicing satellites is an expensive proposition. The military has the same attitude of producing critical parts domestically, where they can be inspected for compliance.

*[Follow-up:*
● *http://tinyurl.com/85mjt*
● *http://tinyurl.com/44ptfer]*

### The SPAUG laptop

The SPAUG laptop, purchased 3 years ago, was received with Vista on it, as that was "the future" at that time. The club laptop has just been upgraded to Windows 7.

The laptop was doing fine. The Microsoft upgrade diagnostic was run, and the result was that Windows 7 could likely run on it. So the SPAUG laptop is now running Windows 7 without any problems.

### When did you last use a given program?

Belarc Advisor < http://www.snapfiles.com/get/belarc.html > can tell you the last time you ran a particular program (see screen capture on page 6). A program that has not been run in a year is a likely candidate for removal in order to reduce the amount of memory, space, resources and overhead from the computer. Remember, everything slows down with overhead!

### Transferring large files?
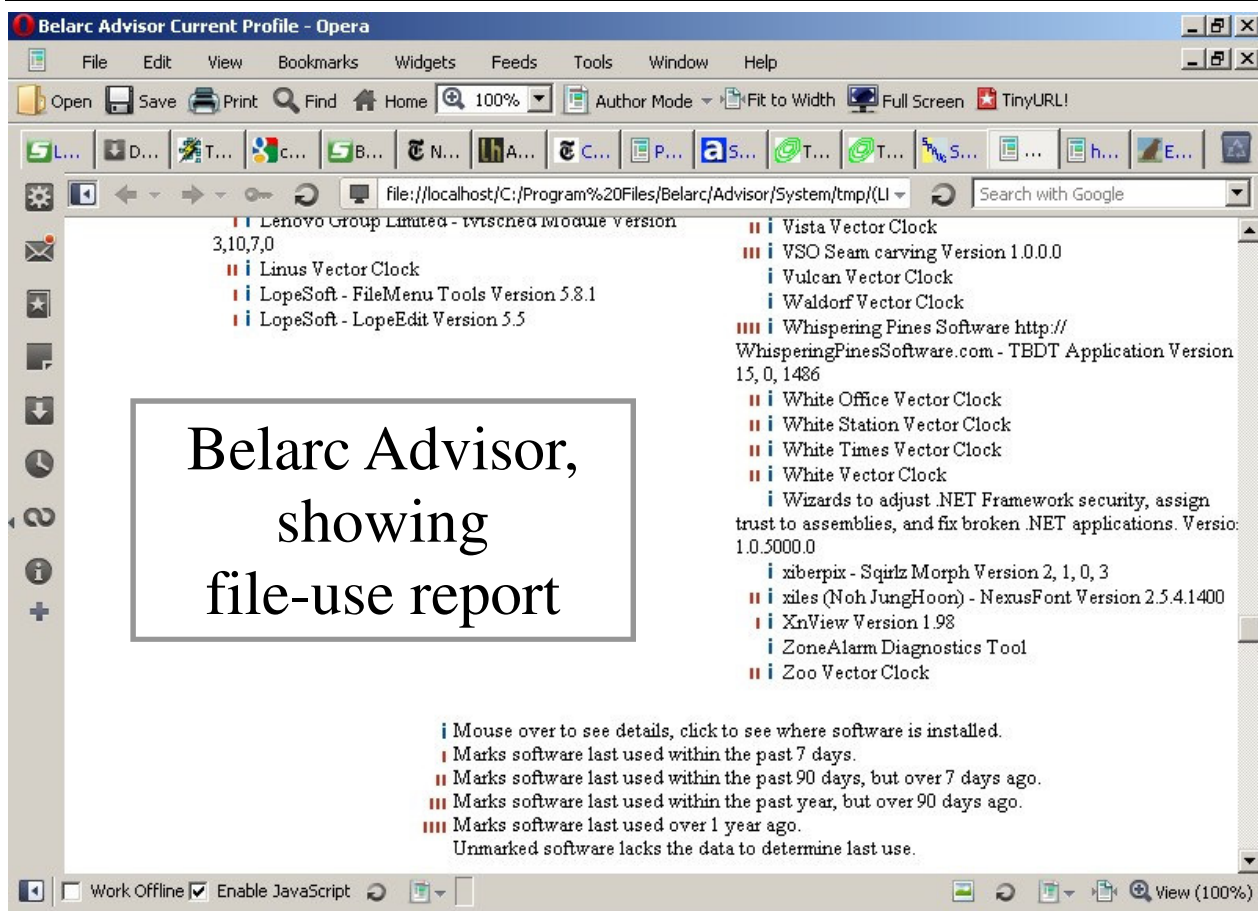
**Dropbox** < http://www.snapfiles.com/get/dropbox.html > is a means of transferring large files to someone when the file is too large to be an email attachment. The technique is to go to the Dropbox site and create a free account (there is a 2 GB free limit) and then tell someone else where the files is and they can then transfer the file to their computer.

### Windows 7 almost five times more secure than XP

*Looking at the number of reported infections per 1,000 computers, Microsoft found that Windows 7 64-bit had the lowest number at 2.5, while the 32-bit version had 3.8.*

*Windows 64-bit offers a feature called Kernel Patch Protection, which protects*

Belarc Advisor,
showing
file-use report

*the Windows kernel from unauthorized changes.*

*Security holes in applications versus those in operating systems or Web browsers accounted for most of the vulnerabilities last year, according to Microsoft. However, the total number of holes found in applications fell 22.2 percent from 2009. But exploits that take advantage of Java vulnerabilities rose dramatically in last year's third quarter, surpassing every other category, the report noted.*

*http://tinyurl.com/3wcpd4d*

This means that, in any one year, fewer than 4% (1 in 25) of computers will pick up a vi-

rus. This is not to mitigate the havoc that some viruses will initiate, but it is not a number that says you should panic. Mostly the solution is to dump the program that let the virus in (as it is missing the pattern) and install a replacement until the problem is solved. With scans running an hour or so, this is a time intensive task.

### *Learn from your fellow SPAUG members*

Over this summer we will have two panels of our own SPAUG members discussing and responding to whatever you to ask them. Please gather your questions together and we will try to answer them. The questions will be presented in related groups after collecting and sorting to minimize duplication. The

◀ *(Continued from page 6)*

panel will be composed of about 5 members who are ready to respond to your questions.

### *Jim Dinkey Recommends . . .*

Owing to what I do around the house, I use only Panasonic model KX-TGA652 cordless telephones because they are the only ones that have a headset jack; permitting me be to wander hands-free all over the house while researching the caller's needs. Check it out via  http://tinyurl.com/3tp23h7

# Planning Meeting 18 May 2011
### by Stan Hutchings
### Edited for use here

**At Bev's home**

**Attending:** John Buck, John Sleeman;
          Bev Altman; Robert Mitchell;
          Stan Hutchings; Jim Dinkey,
          Nat Landes.

### *General Meetings*

**Review of April 11 meeting:** Angela Hey drew 53 members.

**It was good to have a break** between "Crosstalk" and Angela's presentation. The break provided an opportunity for networking.

**Meeting Room Lighting:** We discussed a glasses-wearing member's complaint of overhead light causing reflection problems.

We have little control over the lighting in the room. It is what it is. If lighting causes a problem, select a different seat.

**Upcoming speakers:**

June—Red Calub

July—Andy Marken

August, September, October—Larry Magid at one of these, SPAUG panel at the other two.

November—Hank Skawinski.

December—no meeting

**Speaker suggestions:** If there's someone you've read about, someone you know, maybe even yourself, who you think would be a good and interesting speaker at a SPAUG general meeting, please let Jim Dinkey know. Even better, do some of the contact work yourself, and work with Jim to determine an available date, communicate equipment needs, etc.

### *Membership:*

Total 127 members, 49 members and 4 guests attended. no new member, 12 renewals

### *Update of Club history document:*

Finished with data, finalizing format.

### *Do we want a stamp device for the newsletters?*

Stamps.com could rent us a device; or the post office could provide one. There would be a charge, so is it worthwhile? We send 4 pages plus envelope for a single first class stamp. JS and RFM are sending envelopes through their printer, but there are problems with jamming. Thinner envelopes would be better. It would be good if we could put a stamp on at the same time. Check USPS at https://sss-web.usps.com/cns/landing.do

## Door Prize Tickets
### by John Buck

**Free**
You get one ticket for free when
you sign in at a general meeting.

**Buy a Ticket**
$1 each

**Buy More Tickets**
Quantity discount: Six tickets for $5.



## SPAUG Speaker Videos—$5 each

Please send email to rfmitch66@gmail.com for Pre-Order of video's.

The following videos will be available at June 8, 2011 Meeting

Angela Hay ......... **New Technologies** ...................... May 11, 2011 ........................(4 Copies)
Gene Barlow ...... **User Group Relations** ............... April, 13, 2011 ......................(3 Copies)
Richard Rands ..... **Genealogy** .................................. March 9, 2011 ......................(3 Copies)

Purchase videos during check-in, at break, or after the meeting. Please Pay Beverly.
For Pre-orders, send Email to Robert Mitchell – rfmitch66@gmail.com

Here is a list of older video's that are only available upon request

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Windows 7** | Kevin Lynn | 11.11.2009 |
| **Current State of Markert** | Hank Skawinski | 11/10/2010 |
| | 6.9.2010 - Camera : Robert Only | |
| | 6.9.2010 - Camera : Robert / Maurice | |
| **MS Office 2010 Demo** | Don Heinsen & Kevin Lynn | 5/12/2010 |
| **Google Fiber** | Bob Harrington | 7/14/2010 |
| **Can One Device Do it All** | Angela Hey | 10/10/2010 |
| **Lynda.com** | Laurie Burruss | 2/9/2011 |

*Thank you—Robert Mitchell, John Sleeman and Stan Hutchings*

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **SPAUG CALENDAR**<br>**Always subject to change; verify event with host or Jim Dinkey** | | | |
| **Sun** | **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat** |
| *Father's Day* | **30** | | **1** | | | **4**—Clinic, by appointment only |
| | **6**<br>**7–9 pm** BIYSIG<br>        Micro Center | | **8**<br>**5:45 pm** Dinner (Optional),<br>        Hobee's, Palo Alto<br>**7:30 pm** General Meeting<br>    Elks Lodge, 4249 El Camino, PA<br>**Speaker:** Red Calub | | | **11**—Clinic, by appointment only |
| | **13**<br>**7–9 pm** WinSIG<br>        Micro Center | | **15**<br>**7:15 pm** Planning Meeting,<br>                Bev Altman's | | | **18**—Clinic, by appointment only |
| **19** ★ | **20**<br>**7–9 pm** DISIG<br>        Micro Center | | **22** | | | **25**—Clinic, by appointment only |
| | **27**<br>**7–9 pm** WebIG<br>        Micro Center | | **29** | | | **2**—Clinic, by appointment only |

**Saturday Clinic**  Clinics usually are held when needed. **Call Jim Dinkey** to make a reservation. The clinics are to help you unscrew your Windows XP and Windows 7.
Email: jimdinkey at jimdinkey.com or call 650-493-9307 for an appointment.

**Planning Meeting**  Planning meetings are usually held on the **third Wednesday** of each month at Beverly Altman's home at 7:15 pm. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. **Please phone Jim Dinkey or Bev Altman to confirm venue.**
**Next meeting:**  Wednesday, **June 15**, 2011 at **7:15 pm,** at **Bev Altman's home**.

**SIGS**  <u>*NOTE: SPAUG-member participation in any of these SIGS requires membership in SVCS, currently $12/yr. SVCS is not a part of SPAUG.*</u>
- **Build It Yourself SIG**—**1st Monday** each month, at Micro Center, Santa Clara
- **WinSIG**—**2nd Monday** of the month, at Micro Center in Santa Clara
- **DISIG**—**3rd Monday** of the month, at Micro Center in Santa Clara
- **WebSIG**—**4th Monday** of each month, 7–9 pm, at Micro Center in Santa Clara
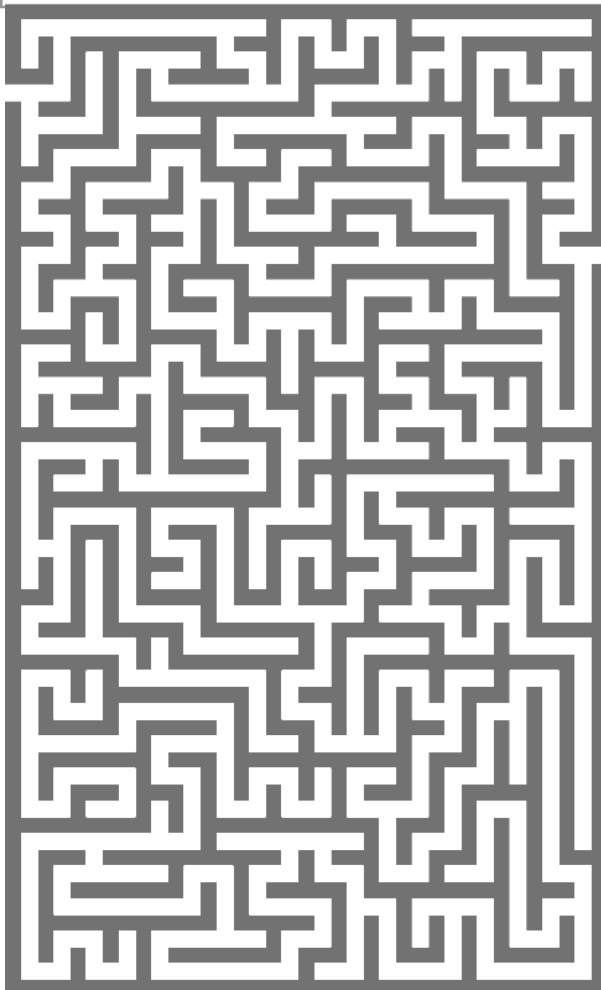**For more info about these SIGs, go to svuga.org**

**Listserver**    **spaug-list at svpal.org**

Any member on the spaug-list can send messages to all other members on the list automatically by sending e-mail to this address. This list is intended for announcements of interest to all SPAUG members. Please avoid excessive or trivial announcements, since some members are paying for connect time. Additions or corrections can be sent to:

**info at pa-spaug.org**

**The SPAUG Web Page is available at http://www.pa-spaug.org**

**hosted by**



# Without-Whoms

*SPAUG is an all-volunteer operation. Listed below is contact information for those who work to keep it happening.*

*You are invited to help.*

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**Computer Clinic:** *Jim Dinkey (see above)*

►►►*Positions Open:*
● Program Chair
● Publicity