

Technology Corner
By: George Champine

More on Spyware

Last issue I talked about the problem of “spyware”. We recently had an instance where one of our Quailrunners got infected. Some “free” software was downloaded into the computer, and along with it was some spyware that reset the web browser to a commercial web page. Fortunately we were able to correct the situation without trouble. To avoid spyware I suggest that you not download “free” software except from very reputable sites such as <http://find.pcworld.com> (and click on downloads) or <http://www.google.com/downloads>.

Refurbished computer to give away

I have a refurbished computer that I would be glad to donate to someone who needs it, either in Quailrun or someone else. Give me a call at 978-567-5982 if you are interested or know of someone who is. I also accept old computers that I repair and refurbish and give away.

Course on Computer Usage

I am going to teach the intermediate computer usage class at the Hudson Senior Center again starting March 1 at 10:00 and continuing for five weeks. The topics are:

- Week 1 – Internet access (vendors, firewalls, antivirus, e-mail, anti-spyware, etc)
- Week 2 – Digital photography
- Week 3 – Document preparation with Microsoft Word
- Week 4 – Spreadsheets with Microsoft Excel
- Week 5 – Valuable information on the Internet, and computers and genealogy

Give the Center a call if you want to sign up. We have a lot of fun and it is very informal. We have had two Quailrunners so far (both survived the course) and we would like to have more.

A good photo editor

The above notwithstanding, there is a very good free photo editor called Picasa. You can download it from <http://www.google.com/downloads>. (If you have a dialup line I can give you a copy on a CD.) I have tried it and it is very good. With it you can:

- Retouch photos including elimination of red eye
- Print pictures in multiple formats
- Organize pictures with keywords
- Add captions to pictures
- Create electronic photo albums
- Web posting of pictures to share with others
- Create slide shows

A photo editor such as this can add to the enjoyment of digital photography by improving the quality of pictures and making them much more accessible. If you do not have a digital camera, you can still enjoy the benefits of digital photography at low cost by

requesting your pictures on a CD the next time you have your film developed, even from a single use camera.