

Technology Corner
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Rebates on cruises

Those of you who like to cruise should know that rebates are available to shareholders of the cruise line. The requirement is usually 100 shares. Web sites for Carnival Cruise Line and Royal Caribbean Cruise Line are:

Carnival: <http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=140690&p=irol-sharebenefit>

Royal Caribbean:

http://media.corporate-ir.net/media_files/irol/10/103045/ShareholderBenefitLetter.pdf

Saving money and energy

We all like to save money as well as save energy and reduce global warming. A good way is to install compact fluorescent lights (CFL), especially where you have lights turned on for several hours per day. They now are small enough to fit standard fixtures, are quite affordable at Walmart and elsewhere, and quickly pay for themselves in saved energy as well as lasting much longer than incandescent bulbs.

Really Small Laptop for Travel

A couple of issues ago I predicted that soon laptops would use internal flash memory in place of hard disks to reduce weight, speed boot time, and increase battery life. This has now happened. One product that is very good for the traveler is the Asus Eee PC 2G. It does not run windows, but has a good web browser and text editor, which is about all you need for reading your e-mail and browsing the Internet. It also has a wireless Internet connection, 3 USB ports, and 40 popular applications. There is a slot for an external SD memory chip that can be used to augment the PC memory and upload pictures from a digital camera. The battery lasts 3 hours, the size is slightly larger than a hardcover book, and the weight is 2 lbs. It is priced at \$300 from Amazon.