

# Philadelphia Bits & Bytes

Official Newsletter of the Computer Education Society of Philadelphia

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## President's Report – January 2001

by Tom Burke

Now that the holidays are over, we can all start to relax and start playing again.

Our next meeting is January 10, 2001 at 7:30 PM. There will be no special topic of discussion just whatever comes up.

### **DSL**

Are you considering subscribing to DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) to access the Internet? Well, I must warn you to do your research before you sign with any DSL provider.

Recently I subscribed to Telocity and WOW, was that ever a mistake. Although I received the modem and the connection relatively quickly (4 weeks), that was the only good part about the entire ordeal. After receiving the modem (12-18-00), I followed the instructions to install and the process was not going as described in the manual. I called their tech support number and was on hold over one hour. Finally when I did speak to a “tech” (I use the term loosely), he told me to ignore the manual because it was wrong. He asked if I wanted to stay on the line until I finished. Good idea! I asked him what I should do next and he told me to read the manual. (I thought I remember him saying the manual was wrong!) Anyway, I floundered through it and after some adjustments on Telocity’s end I was connected. That was the best tech support that I received from Telocity. It was downhill from there.

I could go on and on but I will sum this up. The connection was very intermittent and usually very slow. There were times when it was down altogether. I had to call tech support at least a dozen times and each call was a least an hour on hold. Twice I was on hold nearly three hours before I hung up. Once I did get through to their second level tech support but they couldn’t help me because their computers were down. I sent them several emails (when their web site form worked) but I never received a response. Finally, on 1-3-01, I called to cancel and I only had to wait 30 minutes on hold this time.

There are some good DSL providers out there and when I finally settle on one I like, I will let you know. Meanwhile, do your own research by looking for reviews on DSL providers. I found that Telocity wrote the only positive reviews and one of them was dumb enough to be sign as such. My advise to you is to steer clear of Telocity.

### **Games Software**

I recently received two software packages from Microsoft to review.

The Age of Empires II, The Age of Kings  
The Age of Empires II, The Conquerors Expansion

I am currently playing The Ages of Kings and find it very entertaining and addictive. It installed very easily and I have not had any problems with the games operation. The sound and graphics are excellent and the entire scenario is always moving. The game is quick to learn. The best way to describe the game itself is by giving you the description on the box: *“In Age of Empires II – sequel to the award winning Age of Empires—you have 100 years to lead your people through the Middle Ages to greatness. Control one of the most powerful civilizations of the time. Decide whether to conquer the world through military might, rule through commerce and diplomacy, or seize power by means of intrigue and regicide. There are many paths to power but only one civilization will reign supreme.*

*Choose your path to greatness, Command one of 13 civilizations, Battle alongside heroes of the day, Conquer a worthy opponent over the MSN Gaming Zone, LAN or modem, New and bigger lands, Create your own scenarios, and Lead swifly and with ease.*

I am offering *The Conquerors Expansion* to any member who would like to review it and write a report for this newsletter. The game will be yours to keep. See me at the meeting about this.

As always, I want to thank our Internet domain sponsor, PlantagaNet for their generosity. For those of you that have asked me about an ISP, give them a call. See their ad on page 3.

Thank you also goes to the Bayerischer Volksfest Verein for allowing us to use their facilities for our meetings. If you have need of a hall for an upcoming affair, give them a call at 215-673-5646. They can cater any type of affair.

Remember this is your club, come out and support it. See you at the meeting

Tom Burke

## **Officers**

### **President**

Tom Burke  
215-728-7740  
tjburke@voicenet.com

### **Vice President**

Steve Short  
215-546-4129  
sshort@voicenet.com

### **Secretary**

(open)

### **Treasurer**

Roy Kalbs  
215-342-1212 (evenings)  
kalbs@voicenet.com

## **Committees**

### **Newsletter**

### **Donation & Equipment**

Richard Williams

### **Library**

Bill Le'Mon Jr.  
wlemon@voicenet.com

## **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**

### **C / C++**

Dave Lynch  
610-667-1492 (evenings)

### **CP/M & Z-System**

Alex Bodner  
610-932-4770 (evenings)

### **CAD**

Murray Goldstein  
610-667-3558 (evenings)

### **Educational**

Lee Le'Mon  
717-786-7934  
wlemon@voicenet.com

### **Games**

Michele O'Steen

### **Hardware**

George Deffendall  
610-376-5043

### **Windows 3.1 - 95 - 98**

Roy Kalbs  
215-342-1212 (evenings)  
kalbs@voicenet.com

### **Word Processing & DTP**

Don Fehlinger  
609-547-7201

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The Computer Education Society of Philadelphia, Inc. holds its monthly business meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at the Bayerischer Volksfest Verien in Philadelphia, Pa. The meeting is called to order at 7:30 pm. BVV is located at 9940 Haldeman Ave.

CESOP is formed exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code") (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), and particularly to: engage in the exchange of ideas, techniques and information for the broader and more effective use of computer hardware and software; promote the general pursuit of knowledge and education in computer hardware and software generally; sponsor meetings, seminars, lectures, and workshops to share knowledge, experiences, and discussion of computer topics of interest to members and the general public; publish and distribute a periodic newsletter containing computer information and news...

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*The highest quality completely digital Internet connection for Bucks County and Philadelphia*

- Full access to the internet: www, E-mail, Newsgroups, FTP, etc.
- Unlimited usage flat monthly rate\*
- All PlantagaNet incoming lines are connected to K56Flex modems
- POPs in Doylestown, Levittown and Philadelphia
- 64k (1 B channel) and 128k (2 B channels) ISDN available in all our dialup POPs.
- Tech support available from 10:00am to 9:00pm Monday through Friday, and Noon to 6pm Saturdays.
- No Busy Signal Policy. While we can't guarantee they won't happen, they don't, and it is our policy to keep it that way.
- All accounts include 10MB of space on our web server for your personal web site!
- Pricing: \$19.95 per month. Other economical plans are available.
- Setup charge is only \$10.
- We offer our own CD-ROM (Windows or Macintosh), which includes Internet Explorer, MS Internet Mail, Several other Internet Applications and Utilities.
- Onsite setup is available for \$50.
- Additional Email accounts are available for \$3.00 each per month.
- Static IP addresses are available for an additional \$5.00 per month.
- "Unlimited usage" is not the same as a dedicated account. For details, see our terms of service.

**For further information call (215) 489-2850 or visit or web site at <http://www.pil.net>**

### Submitting Articles to Philadelphia Bits & Bytes

Articles may be submitted in any of the following ways:

1. Internet e-mail sent to [tjburke@voicenet.com](mailto:tjburke@voicenet.com)
2. On 3.5" diskette mailed to Philadelphia Bits & Bytes Editor  
1312 Brighton Street Philadelphia, PA 19111

The required format is electronic, IBM compatible in either plain ASCII text or MS Word 6.0 or better. Do not use any justification or margins. Single space between lines and double space between paragraphs. Paragraphs should not be indented. Lists or table entries should be separated by indenting or tabs... do not use spaces. Drawings or artwork not in digital form should be in black ink suitable for scanning.

Please include the article name, your name and phone number, (with area code).

### Deadlines

All articles submitted for publication in Philadelphia Bits & Bytes must be in our hands by the third Wednesday of the month preceding the issue month you request. Example: articles for the June issue must be submitted by the third Wednesday in May.

### Advertising in Philadelphia Bits & Bytes

Commercial Advertising is available at the following rates:

Full Page      6" x 9"      \$40.00

Half page      3" x 9"      \$25.00      6" x 4.5"

Quarter page      3"x 2.25"      \$15.00      1.5" x 9"

Column inch      1.5: x 1"      \$2.00

All ads must be camera ready and be in black in on white paper.

Payment must be received in advance for all commercial advertising. Make checks payable to the *Computer Education Society of Philadelphia*.

### Non-commercial & Personal Advertisements

CESOP members may submit a non-commercial or personal ad to be published in Philadelphia Bits & Bytes *free of charge*.

All non-commercial or personal ads must follow the same format and submitted as outlined previously for submitting articles. Feel free to contact the editor for further information.

### Deadlines

All advertisements submitted for publication in Philadelphia Bits & Bytes must be in our hands by the second Wednesday of the month preceding the issue month you request. Example: articles for the June issue must be submitted by the second Wednesday in May.

### About Philadelphia Bits & Bytes

Philadelphia Bits & Bytes is the official newsletter of the Computer Education Society of Philadelphia, users' group open to users of all types of personal computers. This current issue was prepared using Microsoft Word 7.0.

The Computer Education Society of Philadelphia is a non-profit corporation under the guidelines of 501-C-3 of the IRS code.

The Computer Education Society of Philadelphia  
Members helping members

The next CESOP business meeting will be  
Wednesday, January 10, 2001 at 7:30 pm



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