

*The Voice*  
of **FCUG**

**June 2005**  
**Volume 26 No. 1**

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**Meeting 7.30 pm 7<sup>th</sup> at**  
**New Canaan Historical**  
**Society**  
**13 Oenoke Ridge Road**

## **BOILERPLATE**

"The Voice of FCUG" is the monthly newsletter of the Fairfield County Computer Users Group, Inc., a registered non-profit educational organization dedicated to helping members use their PC computers. Non-commercial and non-profit users are free to copy or quote material herein; proper credit and sending a copy of the publication to the Editor would be appreciated.

Members can exchange ideas and opinions through this newsletter, at a monthly meeting held the first Tuesday of most months, at occasional SIG programs, and on a bulletin board reached from the Club Internet Web-site at **www.fcug.org**.

Meetings and SIG groups are open to the public. Membership costs \$30/Yr, prorated. For information and payment contact

**Ed Congleton, Treasurer: 203-966-4854,  
251 Weed Street, New Canaan, CT. 06840**

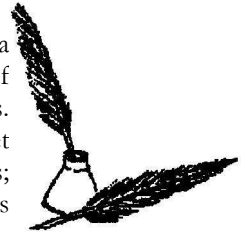
To submit articles or letters for The Voice send an e-mail message to **thevoice@fcug.org**, hopefully with article attached, or mail paper, or even a diskette in ASCII, Word, or WordPerfect format to:

**The Voice, 280 Main Street, Westport, CT 06880**

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### **From The Editor's Desk**

This is a reduced-size issue. There could be a number of reasons, I guess. It reflects the number of submissions which have come from you, the members. There is nothing new to report, since the computer market has become moribund. Computers are just commodities; we do not need to red about how to use them, as Micros\*t has made knowledge unnecessary. Take your pick. . .



Actually, it's quite simple. Normally, as 24 pages, we can just fit under the postal weight limit for the cheapest first-class mail rate, but this month the renewal envelope is included, and its paper is a little heavier than normal. So, to be absolutely certain that we can send it out at the usual cost, I just dropped four pages. Don't worry; those four pages were not empty, but they will appear next month.

**Program for 7<sup>th</sup> June 2005**

**Call to order. . . . .Fearless Leader – Charles Bryk. . . . 7:30**  
**For the last time. . .**

**Nominations and Voting . . . . . 7.35**

**From the Nominating Committee:**

<b>President</b>	-	<b>Dick Booth</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	-	<b>Lenny Bloom</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	-	<b>Bea Mull</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	-	<b>John Roy</b>

**Novice topic: . . KarenWare and Karen's Replicator . . . 7:45**

**Either Roger Giler or Ed Congleton will introduce us to these extremely useful tools and, particularly, Karen's backup utility**

**Q and A: . . . . . Moderator – Charlie Scott. . . . . 8:00**

**Epicurean Break . . .Chef du Soir – Ed Fleischli . . . . . 8:20**

**Main topic: . . . . Identity Theft . . . . . 8:30**

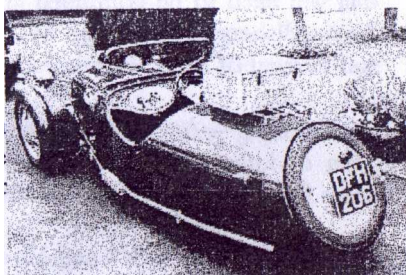
**Connecticut Consumer Credit Dept. will discuss Identity Theft, focusing on what to do if you become a victim.**

**(Possibly followed by a raffle)**

**Adjournment. . . . . 10:00**

**LOOKIN' FOR A RIDE?**

If anybody who wants to attend meetings has a transport problem, please mention it and together we will look for a solution. You can also contact Membership Chairman Dick Booth ([dick.booth@juno.com](mailto:dick.booth@juno.com) or phone 203-847-8047). He can tell you who lives near you, or might pass by on their way.



## **THE WAY WE WERE – JUNE 1985**

PRESIDENT: Robert Jackson      VICE PRESIDENT: Herman Parks  
SECRETARY: Patricia Brinson      TREASURER: Aaron Bisberg  
EDITOR: Alan Abrahamson      BULLETIN BOARD: (203) 846-\*\*\*\*

*This Newsletter printed by Sir Speedy Printing Center, Wilton CT.*

*Licking, sticking, folding & stapling by: Herman and Jeff Parks*

Minutes of March 2 1985 Meeting – Patricia Brinson.

“Aaron Bisberg happily announced that he has had great success in fixing some errors with the DIRCHECK utility of DOSPLUS. . . . John Krause, a former president, is back!! Welcome, John. . . . Sid Gross read a letter from Bob Jackson which had been sent to the expected presenters of our February meeting which had been canceled due to weather. Sid noted how much this added touch was appreciated. Alan Abrahamson was profusely praised and applauded for venturing forth . . . to greet any members who might not have known the meeting was canceled. Alan graciously refused such accolades since he had not come out after all! . . . The presentation on Boolean Logic by Sid Gross showed a number of special touches.  $X = (X+1 \text{ AND } X>10)$  will count from 1 to 10 and begin again.  $Z = X + (Y - X \text{ AND } Y > X)$  will give the larger of two numbers.  $IF (X \text{ AND NOT } (.4)) = 0$  will print leap years. . . . After the break Larry Gilberti presented his latest update on his integrated insurance adjusting system. What he is able to do with his . . . LNW machines . . . is most impressive – but then, so is Larry. . . .”

Minutes of April 2 1985 Meeting – Patricia Brinson.

“There was talk of a new IBM machine called Jazz. . . the Commodore 64 may well be on its way out . . . Roger Giler reported that he has been moving files from the Model 100 to the Model III to the IBM to the Mac. . . John Bethel and George Phillips gave us a comprehensive overview of the VISICAL functions. . . There was so much interest. . . this will need to be continued at another session. . . After the break Aaron Bisberg took us step by step through . . . his new VO2MAX and Percent of Body Fat program. . . .”

Basically Speaking – Are Your Relations True or False? -- Herman D.Parks. A discussion of internal arithmetic in the Model III and where Boolean Logic statements fit into the arithmetic hierarchy.

Two Programs: Models 1/3/4 and Model 100 – George Saladino. Two pages.

## The Voice of FCUG – Page 5

Minutes of the Board of Directors, April 9 1985 – Patricia Brinson.

HAPPYAXID/ENT – Lucien R. Greif. A Basic program whichj “should keep the kids amused for at least ten minutes.”

Sung to the tune of Michael Jackson's 'Beat It': -- I.M. Anonymous

“You're using Superscripts when your keyboard goes dead. Just garbage on the screen – you should have gone to bed. The syste, just crashed, but don't lose your head. . . Just BOOT IT, just BOOT IT.

“You'd better think fast, better do what you can. Read the manual, or call your local Tandy man. He always has a bunch of new patches on hand! So BOOT IT. . .

Get the RSCC to. . .

“BOOT IT, BOOT IT, Even though you'd rather shoot it. Don't be upset – it's only a glitch – Try not to kick the son-of-a-bitch.

“BOOT IT, BOOT IT, Backup your last copy to it. NEWDOS, or LDOS, or is it TRSDOS? It doesn't matter, the data is lost. Just BOOT IT, boot it, boot it, boot it. . .

“You gotta have your printout for the meeting at two, You think you won't have problems 'cause it's TRSDOS 6.2, Then the system locks up but you know what to do – Just BOOT IT, BOOT IT.

“You always get so worried when the system runs slow, And when it finally crashed, man you feel so low. But computers make mistakes (they're only human, you know). So BOOT IT,

“Call the Service Center and. . .

“BOOT IT, BOOT IT. Go ahead and backup to it. If you feel lucky, try the doc on the shelf. But who knows? It might fix itself!

“BOOT IT, BOOT IT. Then go find the guy who screwed it! Software like this is made to take back, Whether it's “Tandy” or “Radio Shack”!

“BOOT IT, BOOT IT. . . .”

Roger's Ramblings #4 – MS-DOS column by Roger Giler. Three pages.

GOTO X and GOSUB X – Sid Gross.

The CP/M Corner – Stephen Whitney. Three pages.

## **The Voice of FCUG – Page 6**

Selectively Disabling CONTROL-BREAK from MS-DOS Basic – Doug Coan, Kentucky Indiana IBM-PC Users' Group. Peeks and Pokes for the PC.

The President's Page – Bob Jackson.

--oOo--

## **fCUG Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2005**

It seemed likely to be a small, select, meeting a few minutes before time, but shortly after Charles Bryk called us to order (for the last time?) forty people had poured in to the Janet Lindstrom Room at the Historical Center.

Ed Congleton pointed out that this same night next week would be the club board meeting, at which it might be that the current membership rate of \$30/year would be raised. So those thinking of joining, or renewing membership, would be well served to do so at this meeting, before any possible change. A rustling of wallets and checkbooks was heard. . .

Walt Graham said the next meeting of The Other Club would hear about New Technology from a Guru at CompUSA. Check **[www.cptc.org](http://www.cptc.org)** for

details.

It was then time for the Novice presentation, this time by Marylou Wilkinson. She called her talk “Computer Housekeeping” and said this was just as, if not more, important as keeping a clean and tidy house. She covered three areas and said all the programs she would be recommending, with the exception of Norton offerings, can be obtained for free.

An antivirus program is essential these days. Norton, McAfee and AVG are three well-known ones. Choose your favorite – and update it first thing every morning. Most AV programs will update automatically if the computer is online all night.

A firewall is a must for users of DSL, or cable. ZoneAlarm is probably the best, and its free version is perfectly adequate. Sometimes, as possibly when downloading some software, it may be necessary to suspend ZA, but you should reinstate it immediately afterwards.

Spyware infects your computer and is designed to “phone home” with information about your surfing habits, or even your personal data. Get AdAware. This program runs offline and searches your storage for interlopers, which it will delete or quarantine as you desire after the search. Microsoft has a free antispy program, but it is for XP only. Search for the MS Windows Antispyware Beta.

A general source for many such programs is **www.download.com**. Look also for the “AntiSPyware Guide” on the Internet. For programs like the antivirus and antispyware ones it is worth having more than one, as no one program has yet been found to be able to clear all undesirables alone.

Q&A followed. Bill Obermuller has only one rule: One at a time, please; but it seemed at times that even this rule was forgotten. That made your reporter's job somewhat harder than necessary on more than one occasion. Apologies if your key point was missed in what follows. . .

**Q: When my DSL modem is turned on my telephone rings only once. If I don't reach it immediately it has turned off.**

**A:** Sounds as though your computer is set to answer calls on the first ring, for some reason. Then the modem has grabbed the line, and dropped it when it finds nothing it recognizes. Do you still have an old internal modem in your box? Check your settings; the modem should not answer incoming calls.

**Q: The new MS Antivirus is causing problems.**

**A:** It does; get rid of it.

**Q: Quicken 2005 has connect problems with Citibank.**

**A:** Ask Citibank tech support.

**Q:** Mozilla Firefox says “profile in use” for my preferred profile.

**A:** Some file, or some crucial bit even, has been left set by mistake. If you cannot find it, try setting up a new profile with the same attributes. You can delete the troubled one and re-name the new one when things are straight.

**Q:** On booting I get messages “MS Script error: unknown”. Each (and there are now about 60) has to be acknowledged on each boot, and each time there is one more. What's going on?

**A:** Look in the Voice for March 2005, page 22. Use MSCONFIG to check your Startup folder. It sounds as though the system is adding the error message line to a file which is being read on bootup.

**Q:** My cable modem is not recognized.

**A:** Ask Optonline tech support. You may have been infected by spyware.

**Q:** I cleaned my machine to get rid of a virus. What program do I have to run to re-install XP?

**A:** Setup.exe.

**A:** My Epson printer was declared “not repairable” by experts – then a new cartridge put everything to rights! [Ed.Note: I have noticed that some printers will refuse even to try to run when the cartridge is empty.]

**Q:** My HP printer will not print in grayscale.

**A:** Look through the settings for “print black only”. Also, graphic programs can convert pictures to grayscale. [Ed.Note: I have found that it is better to convert a picture to grayscale than to rely on the printer to print in grayscale. My printer would print grayscale using blended colors, which did not provide a truly black-and-white output.]

There was also a comment about something called MS InfoPac (?). It was reported to be useless. [Ed.Note: A Google check next day produced a reference to “msinfo.exe” on [www.bleepingcomputer.com](http://www.bleepingcomputer.com), followed by this comment: “This is a malware, or unsafe, program. This file has been identified as malware (Spyware, Virus, Trojan, Worm, etc.). You should immediately run a spyware removal program and an antivirus scanner. If that does not help, feel free to ask us for assistance in the forums.” It said also that it is added by the ALADINZM TROJAN!~ Hope this was actually a mistake and that the person with the query/comment is safe. . .]

Pete Fuller provided the hungry group with more than enough in the way of nibbles and juices and it took a measurable effort to get us to settle down again. Roger Giler mentioned that a nonprofit group he knows is looking for old laptops in working condition.

It was then time for the main event of the evening.

Aaron Bisberg, ex-president, ex-editor of this journal, ex- (I am sure he has held more jobs in this club?) came all the way from New Jersey to visit with us again and describe some of his experiences of the last few years, particularly those spent living on the water. But he started by pointing out that he realized why had had been asked tonight – and No, he was not going to volunteer to be president again!

About fifteen years ago, after his wife died, he went after an old dream and bought a 24-foot motorboat. For about two years he took trips around the Sound, as far as Cape Cod and N.Y.C. Then someone told him of this 38-foot dreamboat, and he was hooked. He sold his apartment and moved in. In the years that followed he has been to Boston, Maine, N.Y.C., Bahama, the Keys, and spent four years in Florida. He traveled about 6,000 miles, mostly alone. One good thing about doing things alone, he said: you don't have to compromise. . .

The boat, Protem III, was fitted with GPS. Even without the modern map-displaying versions, GPS, he said, makes everyone a captain. Insert the coordinates of your destination and you are given a course to set – a course which is automatically adjusted as you move, to allow for deviations. [Ed.Note: A thought came to mind: what about shoals or land in the way?]

South of Newport, RI came the first bad moments. A sunny day turned quickly into a major blow; but after half an hour of panic he realized that would get him, nowhere, relaxed, set the reading for Newport and moved slowly forward until it was reached.

Between Florida and the Bahamas the current moves north, so a South Wind gives smooth sailing, but a North Wind produces terrible seas. There is often a line of small vessels waiting just off this current for the wind to come from the South again so they can make the trip safely.

The Inland Waterway down the East Coast is not a favorite place. Once he was chased by two men with guns on their laps, until he heard one say to the other “Give it up”.

A trip to New York reveals that the City is really a water city, though land-locked visitors might never realize it. One night he dropped anchor behind Ellis Island and woke with a perfect view of the Statue of Liberty all to himself in the early sun.

He usually planned to travel from one harbor or anchorage to another,

making about 100 miles a day.

A dream he had, but never achieved, was a voyage up the Quebec River, through the Great Lakes to Chicago, down the Illinois River and the Mississippi to the Gulf and round to Florida. (It was pointed out that, if he had started as originally intended, in late August, he would have reached Chicago in the depth of ice and snow. . .)

A drawback today to this sort of hobby is that the vessel, with three diesel engines (one for the generators) burned about two gallons of fuel per mile!

Enough of the travelogue. Aaron then showed us a glimpse of the database programs he had written to help him. In particular, we saw quite a lot of a Vessel Maintenance program, written in Informs. (This name caused some trouble with the audience, who had not heard of it. Informs was offered by WordPerfect, who then sold it to Novell, who fiddled with it for a bit and dropped it. Sad, as it appears to have been very easy to use.) In boating the unit of measure is usually Time, so if the Time Now was entered, all those items requiring lubrication or other maintenance would be highlighted. There were also accounting records, showing the costs incurred with repairs, a section for Harbor Data (telephone numbers, names of officers, and such) – and a database of What is Where, as there were 86 different places for storing things on the boat. Set a search for an item and its location would be given.

Probably the most fascinating thing, though is Aaron's website – a form of blog, in modern parlance – in which he keeps an itinerary, a travelogue, a diary and a set of “musings”. Run, do not walk (electronically speaking) to [www.bizboat.org](http://www.bizboat.org), see Proteem III herself and read some of the best-written thoughts and comments. Many thanks, Aaron, for coming.

Parks Picker provided three prizes; unfortunately the noise in the room was too loud at this point for your reporter to make out what they were. This time, though, as the Picker went relentlessly through the list of those not present (as usual), it also picked on two or three of those who had left early. Clyde Hinman, Ben Briggs and Bill Hart were the lucky winners. The folding chairs were put away, the others backed to the walls, and we left the room.

## FCUG REVISITED

**Aaron Bisberg**

*Some words of wisdom from an ex-President (Aaron gave the main talk at the May meeting)*

I enjoyed my evening at FCUG because you all seemed to be enjoying my presentation. It is the audience that feeds a presenter, and I felt I was having a hearty meal. I hope your repast was as hearty as mine.

I had lunch the next day with a few of the members and, naturally, the talk was all about FCUG. I am somewhat of an outsider now so my thoughts may have been a bit different than the others who were present and yacking. At the same time I still have a fond spot for FCUG so I was not without intense interest. Though I am not sure why you should be interested in what I think, I had some thoughts that perhaps will be helpful to the club. So, if you have not turned your firewall on, listen up.

As I processed the information coming across the lunch table, I understood that at the moment the club has no-one offering to be president or program chairman, its membership annually decreases and no one contributes to The Voice. In my day, as I recall, we were able to elect a president, we generally had a program chairman, membership annually increased and we did have members contributing articles to The Voice. Are times changed, or have people changed? I imagine that is a question that has to be answered if the club is to properly face the future.

I submit that times have changed. The objective of the club remains the same: educational service to those who want and need information regarding computer operation by the free exchange of ideas. What has changed is the computer users' needs. In those earlier days we manipulated DOS and we programmed in Basic (mostly), neither of which came to us through a provider to whom we could turn for help. Our machines were not generous with space and convenience. We had to watch every morsel of space we gobbled, and we spent hours – days – weeks getting something to work. When we shouted “Eureka!” we meant it. We often needed club help which was not available from any provider, we were proud of what we did and wanted to write about it and were usually excited about our speaker since there was so much to learn. Our tools were different then and they begged to be exploited through club activity.

If today's is not similar to yesterday's club-friendly activity then does the activity we engage in today preclude any need for a club? Who should answer that question? I'm not sure it is I, but the keyboard is hot and I seem

to be on a roll, so I'll keep going.

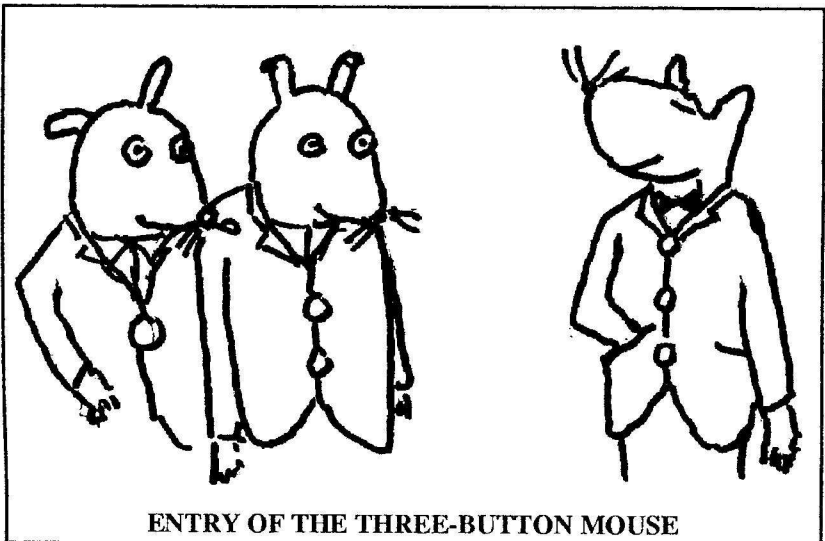
Most everything we use today comes packaged and when something doesn't work we either write a balsting e-mail or shout down the telephone. Generally we get the problem fixed. But there are place where we are, or should be, very creative – where we can put our genius and our computers to work. I am thinking within word processors, on spreadsheets, in art and design programs, presentation programs, a special way we used e-mail or the Internet, or what tricks we may have found for handling our operating system. I'm sure there are more that I have not thought of. All these activities lend themselves to presentations by club members and can make for some interesting Voice articles.

But perhaps you are not interested in all that stuff. Your interest is in writing a letter now and then and making your daily Quicken entries. If so, why join a club? You will probably not have any need for help that you cannot get from a provider, nor will you ever contribute to a club buddy's imagination.

The fact is, clubs thrive on active and involved membership doing creative things. I believe that most of us do creative things, but we tend to lay back, not sharing our ideas with other members. No club is perfect and every club has its social members, but it must have a substantial base of active and sharing members to be viable.

That's my take. What is yours? I think you all have to talk about it. Good luck.

---oOo---



## **FCUG Board Meeting**

May 10, 2005

Dick Booth, Lenny Bloom, Andy Burns, Charles Bryk, Ben Briggs, Ed Congleton, Martha Fleischer, Bill Hart and Jim Sullivan were present.

President Bryk welcomed the group to his last Board of Directors meeting, noting that this morning he had been in Kennebunkport, Maine, but had not wanted to miss this meeting. The Meeting Agenda spelled out the focus of the meeting, and discussion started.

Ben Briggs suggested joining the CPC and FCUG clubs into one. Ed pointed out that differing cultures of the clubs, and Jim concurred, noting that while FCUG members made up more than half of CPC, CPC members made up less than a quarter of FCUG. Ed suggested alternating meetings with CPC. While the prospect of only having to get 6 programs and pay for only 6 Voices for the year was interesting, most felt we would lose momentum, and one of our strengths is the knowledge that every first Tuesday there is a FCUG meeting.

Then we discussed candidates for the Board. Dick said he had contacted everyone in the room plus others and all had said “no thank you”. Most had good reasons. After a few moments of silent contemplation of options by the group, Dick announced that he would volunteer to be President. He said that he was planning to withdraw from his volunteer work for the Norwalk City government. He promised to do whatever needed to be done and to do the best he could for FCUG. He further stated that he would like to get more new and younger members and would like to have the Board expanded with three members-at-large.

After this, Lenny said that he would be willing to run for Vice President, but could not run for President because handling FCUG facilities and setup as well as two children at home took most of his available time. Then Bea said she would be willing to be Secretary. This gave us a full slate of officers.

Programs were then discussed. Charles said we had a confirmed program for Hune, and probably one for September (a joint meeting with CPC on Acronis with Gene Barlow). Jim Sullivan will check with Walt Graham as to the status of the meeting and the meeting place and let Bill Hart and John Sponza know program info. Lenny volunteered to do a meeting on a new Genealogy Program in July or October. Ed said he had initial contact

## **The Voice of FCUG – Page 18**

with Paul Farica on building a computer before your eyes for July or August. Ed will follow up on this and notify Lenny so he knows when his program will be (also Bill Hart and John Sponza). Another suggestion was a lead on Disaster Recovery – more info needed. Bea will look into a thumb drive Novice program. Ed volunteered to do a program on Karen's Replicator (Roger Giler could also do this).

Ed Congleton then gave us the financial picture. The trend is not rosy. We now have about \$2,500 a year in expenses, with the largest the Voice. Most agreed that it was worth it, and clubs that relied on e-mail had membership drops. Jim said CPC was going back to mailed newsletters. Ed told us about his research into using the new facilities being built at New Canaan's Lapham Center. They will have a new main meeting room with a computer projector, and would like to have local clubs use it in the evenings. His impression is that they would not charge. If so, it would pretty much solve our immediate financial worries. We would save \$550 a year in rent to the Historical Society and not have to save up money for a new Computer Projector. Martha will look into this possibility.

The Board decided not to increase dues at this point, but to try to encourage members to get new members so that we could put off an increase indefinitely.

Charles asked for a motion to increase the Board of Directors by three members-at-large, the members to be appointed by the President. The motion was made and seconded and affirmed without dissent.

Charles asked for another motion to accept the slate of officers. The motion was made and seconded and voted for unanimously.

Charles Bryk  
Secretary Pro Tem

## **Manufacturers' Technical Support Index**

Want to get in touch with a manufacturer for technical assistance? Roger Giler found and sent in this reference. Smart Computing has a web page with names, e-mail and postal addresses and telephone numbers. Unfortunately it is copyright, as well as being far too large to include here, so probably the simplest thing to do is to give you the web address and let you check it for yourself.

<http://www.smartcomputing.com/techsupport/Manufacturer.aspx?guid=>

(Yes, it ends with an equal sign!) Hope you find what you are looking for.

---oOo---

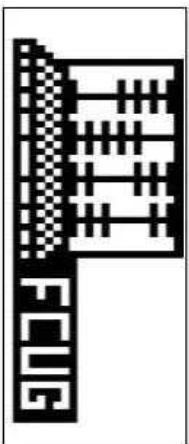
**The car on page 3 is a 1939 Morgan F model 3-wheeler. Unlike earlier Morgan 3-wheelers, it has a water-cooled inline engine. The picnic hamper could be useful, too. . .**

**THE VOICE OF FCUG**

**Journal of the Fairfield County Computer  
Users' Group**

PRESIDENT ..... Charles Bryk  
VICE PRESIDENT ..... Lenny Bloom  
SECRETARY .....  
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