



Computer Care

Since 1991

2007 EOY Edition

We Make House Calls!

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!

Another year has vanished into history. I know that as we get older, the years go by quicker. But this past year went by *very* quickly. But so have the last 12 or so. Ever since Jake arrived, time has been disappearing as if in a vacuum.

It's hard to believe that Jake is now 12½ years old. He is now in 7th grade and is studying for his Bar Mitzvah, is working on Boy Scout advancement (he's 1st class right now with Eagle in his sights) and even has been a licensed ham radio operator for the past year.

As he has gotten older, our family adventures have been more involved with exploring new places. Just this past summer we spent a week each in North Truro at the Cape, Bar Harbor, Maine and Freedom, NH. Plus various weekend trips. We have kayaked in many places, ridden our bikes on rail trails, carriage roads and other places. We've been on whale and moose watches and done many more things. Where will we explore in 2008? We're researching ideas right now. Email me your ideas, they are always welcome! Also, you can read about our past adventures at www.wemakehousecalls.biz and click on newsletters. Read the summer adventures as they detail our trips from the past few years.

All the above was done in our little popup camper. We love camping. We're not roughing it in a tent, but neither are we a home on wheels. It's a comfortable place in between.

CAMPING AND COMPUTERS

We have gotten to the point of taking some "can't do without" electronic items with us. Such items are a portable radio to listen to the Red Sox games at night, a small, portable DVD player to watch movies on (Jake uses this mostly) and our lap-

top computer.

At one time, I would never have thought of taking the laptop with us as it was a "vacation" and great to get away from it. But now, it always comes with us. Nearly every campground we go to has free or pay wireless internet throughout the grounds. Free is becoming *very* popular and widespread. Some campgrounds require you to sit in certain places. At others, the wifi can be picked up nearly anywhere. I even sat in our screen house, on the picnic table, one very dark night creating a newsletter for my ham radio club (www.hcra.org). I emailed it off to the members, sent a copy to the printer with directions on how many to print and a copy of the labels to print and be mailed. All this was done from Freedom, NH on Ossipee Lake. *And, there was NO cell phone coverage at the campground either.* Yet, wifi (wireless internet) was available.

So, as *you* travel, you should take your laptop too. If the campgrounds have internet access, so should most hotels. What? You don't have a laptop yet? Then we need to talk. I sell Acer brand laptops (aka notebooks). Our Acer has a 14 inch wide screen making it lighter than 15 inch ones and easier to pack with everything we bring camping. It is very handy to have, all you need in one 6 pound bag. We don't bring a printer but there are some small inkjets that are portable. But just being able to stay in touch has become a huge issue.

I have been selling Acer for more than 10 years now. They make a very sensible and well made product with just the right features. If you are thinking about a new laptop, please give us a call and we'll find the right unit for you. One that will solve today's problem AND give you room to grow as you use it more.

DURABLE NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS

Maybe you need a laptop that's more durable? I have worked on a few high school kids laptops and they are very hard on them. Torture comes more to mind. How about a durable unit to work outside with, where extremes in weather won't bother it? Think Toughbook by Panasonic. Toughbooks are used in Iraq and other inhospitable places and keep working. Toughbooks are more expensive than other laptops, but they take a beating and keep on working. Panasonic also stands by them with a standard 3 year warranty. You can't go wrong with a Toughbook!

How is your desktop computer behaving? The years go by very quickly and soon that new computer is 5 years old. Is it running slow? Are you running out of storage space or memory? Maybe your new digital cameras pictures are taking up a lot of room? Can't fit all the pictures on a CD anymore? Maybe it's time to upgrade your computer to a newer one? Dual processors, lots of ram, big hard drives, DVD burners are all very common now. It's very easy to fix that slowness problem but also give yourself room to grow for the next five years. Call us and we'll find a computer that'll do all that and more!

HOME & BUSINESS COMPUTERS

Ever since Computer Care was started, we have been building custom designed computers. We also sell Acer desktops and minitowers as well as the low profile types of computers for smaller spaces.

The best way to figure out what is best for you and what will solve your problem now as well as giving you room to grow into in the future is to call us and chat or email. Anyone can go out and buy a computer thru the mass merchants and have one sold to you by some hyper excited salesman. You also don't want to buy from someplace that won't be there next week! For example, CompUSA in the Holyoke Crossing is closing. That's closing, not relocating. Also just this past week a store in West Springfield closed too. Don't make that mistake!

But you want to get the right product for the way *you* or your family or office use the computer. You don't want to make the wrong decision and realize that you are stuck with it for the next 3 to 5 years or the life of the computer. So call us.

OF INTEREST

Have you ever noticed that your cell phone or other small objects seem to go flying off the desk or table at the slightest bump? Or slide out of your hands? I have been in constant worry that my Treo phone will go sailing away one of these days. That is, until I found egrrips.

Egrrips are a sticker of micro sized rubber bumpers that adhere to your device. I ordered them for my Treo and am amazed at the difference. Not only is it easier to hold, but it stays put when I put it down. I also ordered a sheet of dots to be used on other items like my ham radios, etc. You can learn more and order them from www.egrrips.com.

One of the neat places that we visited and had a tour of was in Conway, New Hampshire. We stopped at a local hotel that was giving tours on the suggestion of someone that we had met on a moose watch.

This hotel looked like a old west town on the front of the building. But inside, each room or suite had a different theme. *It was really neat!* You can check them out at: <http://www.adventuresuites.com/> - And, they are dog friendly as there are three cocker spaniels that live there and your dog is welcome too. We highly recommend staying here for a completely different hotel experience.

I often listen to music while working at the computer or in the office. I have the radio on until the DJ's make me crazy or I can't stand listening to what they are playing over and over again. Here's a web site that you can choose what music genre, artist, type, etc that you want to listen to. For example, I have Benny Goodman and Boston and Blue man Group channels so far. They are created just for me and it's free. Go to: www.pandora.com - the music genome project. Best of all it remembers me when I return. It's also a way to learn about other artists that are similar to the one you selected. You might find yourself liking this other group and buying a cd from them. I find myself using it more and more often these days. So turn on your speakers, go to Pandora.com and listen.

I also find myself listening to streaming audio from radio stations on-line. One of my favorites is WCRB-FM out of the Boston area. They play some

excellent classical radio. Unfortunately, I can not pick up the station until I am heading east on the Mass Pike. Now I listen in my office. You too can do this for your favorite radio station from any internet connection. Did you move across the country but want to listen to your home radio station? Find the station online and there is a good bet that they are streaming to the internet. I often hear people calling in and the DJ questions their location. The callers are across the country, which catches the DJ's off guard. The people are listening on-line. Try it.

Cell phones are commonplace these days. Many people are thinking about the day when they can turn off their house or business phone and just use a cell phone for all calls. But inside of homes and buildings, sometimes the cell signals are just not good enough to make calls.

Now you can boost that cell signal to make calls without the threat of dropped calls. The device is called a cell band extender. There are basically two types; a personal and a business. They work on all cell phone services *except Nextel*. Now you can extend the reaches of your cell phone throughout your home or workplace. It's time to get out of the Dead Zone!

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

The use of computerized video surveillance cameras has been increasing thru the years. I have been an authorized Axis and Milestone reseller for a few years now. But they are hard to set up and maintain. Recently I have become a Wilife authorized reseller. WiLife has a much more reasonably priced series of camera systems that are much easier to use.

Who needs a surveillance camera system? Do you own a store? Do you want to watch your employees or customers? Do you want to watch the yard around your store? Do you want to watch your nanny or pet sitter or kids? Do you want to watch your doors or the perimeter around your house or yard?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then you need a Wilife camera system.

We can design a solution just for you by talking with you and reviewing the locations where you want cameras to go.



The video is streamed to a computer and saved on a hard drive. With up to 6 cameras per system, you can record continuously the whole camera viewing area or define a certain area to watch for motion. It's easy to go back and review certain days and times. This is extremely important if you need to review video for the police or fire department. You can export video or take a snapshot for the authorities. In the situation of a robbery or internal theft, being able to review video and create evidence is very important. This can be easily done with a WiLife video surveillance system. If you know of a business owner that needs a camera system, please give them our information and have them contact us.

If there is high-speed internet available, you can log into any computer anywhere in the world and tune in and watch live video from any web browser. Or have it streamed to your web enabled phone. A text message can be emailed to your computer or phone if motion is detected in a certain area. There are lots of possibilities.



Home users will also have the same internet enabled streaming video available. If you care curious or interested, please contact Computer Care and we'll sit down with you and discuss what you want to do. We can even demonstrate a working camera system.

SAVE YOUR EYES

If you are still using an old monitor that looks like an old TV. Then it's time to do your eyes a HUGE favor and get a LCD thin screen monitor. Not only do these screens take up much, much less room, they use MUCH less energy and are much clearer to view. Your eyes will thank you and you'll wonder why you didn't do it sooner. There are many sizes available but 19 inches is the most common.

Even 20 to 28 inch wide screen LCD monitors can be had for less than the price for CRT (picture tube style) 19 inch monitors of just a few years ago. Cramped for space? Then 15 and 17 inch monitors are still available too.

PRINT YOUR OWN PICTURES

Why are you still bringing your CD's, floppy disks, flash drives, digital film cards to CVS, Walmart or other places to print pictures? Very often for less per picture than what they charge, you can print them at home, when you want or need them.

High quality inkjet printers have been around for years. So have portable 4x6 personal photo labs. From these you can print from your computer or from a memory card direct. Many are portable giving you the capability of printing anywhere.

Some even give you the capability to print right on CD's or DVD's (that are printable). Then no more scribbles on the top of the cd or playing with labels, which can be very tricky to stick onto a cd/dvd. It's now very easy to make your own professional cd/dvd designs!

HOW DO YOU CONTACT US?

Call the office phone at: (413) 567-3505. If I'm in the office I will pick it up. But if I'm on the road, the call is forwarded to the cell phone. Or, you can call the cell phone direct at: (413) 348-3289.

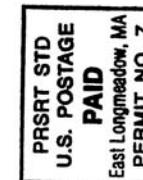
We always answer our emails. Now even while on vacation, we are in touch. Email us at:

COMPUTERCARE@COMCAST.NET

You can also watch our daily progress and see if we are in your neighborhood. While we're on vacation or taking trips with the scouts you can watch our progress. Go to: www.wemakehousecalls.biz and click on "Where's Computer Care" at the top right of the page. Then click the link in the middle of the page. You can add this to your favorites/bookmarks for future viewing. This will give you all sorts of info. I know everyone finds it interesting to watch when we are on trips.

I REALLY ENJOY KEEPING IN CONTACT WITH YOU ALL. SO IF I HAVEN'T SEEN OR SPOKEN TO YOU IN A WHILE, DROP ME A EMAIL OR GIVE ME A CALL. WE LOVE TO CHAT (A GOOD HAM RADIO TRAIT!). HAVE A QUESTION? REMEMBER THE ONLY STUPID QUESTION IS THE ONE THAT IS NOT ASKED. IF WE CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT, WE'LL SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO COME SEE YOU. THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS! HAVE A HEALTHY & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

LARRY—COMPUTER CARE



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Return Service Requested