

APRIL 2003

WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION OF FAMILY COMPUTER NEWS  
published by VONTRONICS, Naples, Florida

If you have received this newsletter by mistake or do not wish to receive it in the future, then we apologize. Please email us with details at <mailto:support@familycomputerusa.com>

#### HOW FAST IS YOUR CONNECTION?

Whether you have a modem or high-speed access, you can test your actual communication speed by clicking on either link.

<http://www.dslreports.com/stest>

<http://www.bandwidthplace.com/speedtest/>

#### HOW PRIVATE IS YOUR DRIVERS LICENSE INFORMATION?

Did you know that unless you specifically request that your information be kept private that much of the information available on your Florida Drivers License is made available to the public? To comply with new privacy laws, the Florida Department of Transportation has made it easy to check on the status of your information availability, and then request that it be kept private from the general public. It's amazing that you have to ask that this vital information not be made public, so here is the link to check on your current status. If your license is not currently private, you will be able to do request it after it displays your status.

<https://www2.hsmv.state.fl.us/dlstatus.html>

#### WHAT ABOUT A SPRING CLEANING?

Many of you are preparing to return North for the summer. Have you considered during your annual spring preparations that you need to clean your computer also? Computers accumulate dust on their internal parts that can impede the flow of cooling air and cause their failure. Dust and surface film can prevent CD drives and floppy drives from working. What about the accumulation of temporary files and nuisance programs that is slowing down your system? When's the last time you checked your computer's internal battery?

We are offering a Spring Cleaning special that will address these issues and will include a full virus scan, updating of your Windows and a full bench tune-up for just \$98.75. If you have any other service issues you want covered at the same time, just let us know so we can offer a reduced rate for you. Just call us for an appointment before you pack up for your trip North.

#### SAY GOODBYE TO THE FLOPPY DRIVE

Starting in February, Dell Computers is no longer installing floppy drives in their computers unless you select it as an option. As many in the industry believe, the few people that still use their floppy drives is a small percentage since ZIP drives and CD burners have become more popular. Even most digital cameras can produce image files too large to fit on a floppy now. So

remember when you order a new computer, if you need a floppy drive, ask for it or you may not get one.

## WAR IS HELL

No matter how sophisticated our war technology becomes there is still the horror that wars bring. The men and women of our military were deployed and proudly served our country and we are all thankful for the speed and efficiency that their efforts have brought. I have accumulated several links that may still be of use to those of us that want to show our appreciation for their hard work and sacrifices.

To read or write an open letter of thanks to all of the Army Reserve troops, click here:  
<http://www.army.mil/usar/expressedsupport2003.html>

Operation Military Pride has a lot of information about contributing to “Care Packages” which will be distributed to the troops. There are a lot of common sense items here that may be hard to come by in the middle of a desert!  
<http://operationmilitarypride.org/packages.html>

One of my favorite ideas is Operation Paperback that is collecting your donations of reading materials and sending them to the troops to help constructively occupy their downtime when they are waiting.  
<http://oppaperback.virtualave.net/>

The U.S. Department of Defense has an extensive list of links and ways to show support:  
[http://defendamerica.mil/support\\_troops.html](http://defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html)

And finally, lets reward the good guys. The law requires that when a Reservist or National Guard member is called to duty, that their domestic job be held for them for when they return. Usually, when they are in the military the amount of pay they receive is less than the domestic job they left. Here is a list of businesses and organizations that “go beyond the call” and provide their employee-military members with either a full salary while they are away on duty or at least a differential between their normal wages and their military wages. This will link you to an alphabetical list so you can thank these good guys by supporting their products and services.  
<http://www.coldfury.com/HF/index.html> - anchor

In case you were wondering why I’m so “gung ho” with the military references, my son is a National Guard member and has been called to full-time duty defending a key military site.

Thanks for reading. Now you're one of the Family!

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