

Surf 'N Stuff 'N Tips

STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT

Look into the night sky and what do you see? A bunch of stars, right? Not necessarily. You may be looking at a planet, comet or meteor.

The Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (say that three times fast!) posts current sky information. It explains what celestial bodies are brightest in a given month and how to locate them.

TO VISIT THIS SITE, GO HERE:

<http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/ep/starreport.html>

FREE MONEY

OK. Maybe the money is owed to you, but it may feel like free money. **FirstGov** has a number of links to help you find unclaimed property, mortgage refunds, tax refunds and more.

Do you have money that has been damaged by water or fire? There's a link to help you trade in mutilated currency. You'll also find a link to claim government benefits--you may be eligible and not even know it!

TO VISIT THIS SITE, GO HERE:

http://www.firstgov.gov/Citizen/Topics/Money_Owed.shtml

THE MONEY RACE

Instead of calling it a presidential race, it should be called a **money race**. The amount of cash being raised by candidates today is a little frightening.

If you're curious how much your neighbors, boss or relatives are donating, go to Fundrace. Enter an address or name to find how who is donating to whom. You can also see how much each candidate spends in hotel and airline bills.

TO VISIT THIS SITE, GO HERE:

<http://www.fundrace.org>

TO FIND AN INTERNET PROVIDER

See yellow pages "**INTERNET ACCESS**"

Here are some Internet Service Providers
aol.com, yahoo.com, earthlink.net, junos.com, msn.com, hotmail.com, pacbell.net, prodigy.net, dslexreme.com, netzero.net, net-star.net, sbcglobal.net

BLOGS, BLOGGING

Web logs, or **blogs**, are a great way to share thoughts, ideas and feelings to a great number of people. Some people use **blogs** as diaries, others use them to comment on current events and still others use them to talk about a specific subject.

There are a number of free services available.

Blogger (<http://www.blogger.com/start>) allows you to post messages and upload pictures. There's a feature called AudioBlogger that allows you to call from any phone and leave a voice message. This message is immediately posted to your blog as an MP3 file.

Live Journal (<http://www.livejournal.com/>) is another free blogging service. It has a host of standard features. There are more options, such as text messaging comments, for a \$2.50/month fee.

If you'd like to see what other military personnel in Iraq have written in their blogs, you should take a look at **A Minute Longer** and **The Indepundit**:

<http://www.rooba.net/will/> <http://www.lt-smash.us/>

There are many other blogs maintained by military and civilian personnel in Iraq. You can run a search in Google if you'd like more examples.