

# In My Humble Opinion

By Terry Holcomb

A miracle happened this week. My good friend Eric actually sent some Email that wasn't just a bunch of jokes he was forwarding. He advised me about a web site for seniors that actually has some practical items for people like our new Leisure World PC club members (Are we still Leisure World?). The site is "Senior Net: Bringing Wisdom to the Information Age" - [www.seniornet.org](http://www.seniornet.org). There are several nice pages, but I was drawn to the Technology button on the home page (OK, so I am a 'techie geek' and have been for many years... I just love new toys). That button takes you to pages with 'What's News' and various items developed for testing and practicing on the computer. This month they have a series of simple, but well done exercises for you to practice using your mouse. Many new users drop by the PC Club to practice and ask questions about proper mouse usage. The current software lets you practice clicking the mouse, drag and dropping, as well as simple drawing with the mouse. If you are mildly (or totally) frustrated with your mouse skills... give this site a look and use the practice sets.

The site also has a fairly good number of "how to's" that range from 'hiding the task bar' to 'adjusting the time and date'. The site manager promises to add at least 20 more lessons in the next few months. If promises are kept, this should be a good and regularly updated site. The System Date and Time lesson allows you to use either a video (if you have enough power) or a slide show that allows you to control pacing (I like that feature!).

I was especially pleased with their large number of articles and "how-to's" on the current section on how to avoid scams and fraud. Besides the common list of ideas on what to do and not to do, they give you specific scams such as on hearing aids. It provides a good list of the proper procedures for being tested and for buying good hearing aids at a fair price (go to a true audiologist for your first complete tests... and consider Costco for good prices on quality aids. Senior Net even has a way for you to provide your email address so they can send you updates WITHOUT you having to go to the site as often. If you do opt for giving your email address to SN or any other site, I would make a strong suggestion that you create a second email address (West Coast/FEA will allow 3 or more) for your surfing information. This will keep your regular email box somewhat empty of spams and unwanted advertising. As stated earlier in this column, I have a regular site that I use for my own friends and regular contacts and another called [thsurfing@fea.net](mailto:thsurfing@fea.net) that I use for things like SN (at least until I feel more comfortable that they will not sell my address or provide me with more ads than I want. I only check that email box about one time per week versus the 6-9 times a week for my regular address.

It is only fair that I mention that SeniorNet is free, but solicits membership donations that allow you to get additional benefits (click on 'membership' button on top of home page).

## DYK: Did You Know

1. Money isn't made out of paper, it's made out of cotton.
2. The Declaration of Independence is written on hemp paper (OK if you don't smoke it)
3. Susan Lucci is the daughter of Phyllis Diller. (GASP)
4. 315 entries in 1996 version of Webster's were misspelled.
5. Most lipstick contains fish scales.