

# WHIPPOORWILL E-COMMENT

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## WHAT I HAVE LEARNED

**J**UST 24 hours ago, the idea for trying to create an E-journal was just a faint glimmer in the recesses of my mind. I reasoned that it could be done but didn't know what to do. So I gave some serious thought about it knowing that theoretically it was possible. Three elements are necessary — an Acrobat Reader program (free for the download from the internet), a program that converted text and graphics into a PDF file, and one of the most essential elements, Bill Venrick, who could send the new text as a PDF file to the AAPA membership that had computers. The program I found to do the conversion to PDF format was PDF995, a free download from the internet. I was, surprisingly, successful on my first attempt to put everything together. Really, a no-brainer. The conversion program will create a new "printer" file, which is listed as a printer under the Print command beneath the File command. I write this about Windows PCs, but assume that it does the same for Macintosh computers. After writing what I wanted to print — which can be done on any word processor or desktop publishing program, (I used MS Publisher), in the format that I desire, I click on File, Print, and choose PDF as the printer, and click on Print. The file is created with the filename I chose. That's all there is to it. PDF files are read by Acrobat Reader automatically, which presents what I created EXACTLY as it looked on my monitor screen. If the type appears too small to read, go to the top and find a circle with a "+" in it that looks a bit like a magnifying glass. Click on that to enlarge letters — click again if you want larger letters. I sent my journal as a PDF file to the most essential element in the scheme — Bill Venrick, and he sent it to



people on his Alert list. As you can see, there are advantages to creating an E-journal — one can insert favorite photos in them. I couldn't do this with letterpress — a full-color photo along with the text.

## READERS' RESPONSES

I have been surprised and pleased at the initial response from AAPA members. I include here some of their comments that I edited for space.

Hello, and congratulations! I loved your first WHIPPOORWILL E-COMMENT. Congratulations on two things: (1) promoting e-journals, and (2) Publishing one. Hugh Singleton

I think the idea is totally cool. We could scan and include photographs. This would make ME happy as I teach photography and English and TV broadcasting to high school juniors and seniors. I could combine all of my loves and might even be encouraged to participate more often -- job demands permitting! Kathleen DesHotel

What an honor to be a recipient of AAPA's first E-Publication. I opened the attachment sent by Bill Venrick and downloaded the PDF on a floppy disc. Then opened the PDF file and out it popped—a most beautifully rendered edition of Whippoorwill E-Comment. I printed the document out on regular sized typing paper and shall save it with your other enjoyable publications. What a great idea. I think you do know what you are doing. I hope we can look forward to further issues of "E-Comment." Dave George

An aside here — the true AAPA pioneer in sending e-mail journals to selected members is Jim Lamanna. He has done this for some years, and in fact, Fred Liddle published a number of them in one of his journals last year. Jim uses a word processor and sends regular e-mail messages, which are very effective. My newly discovered method involves sending formatted text and photos. But give Jim credit for getting on line first. I always enjoy his short, sharply-written messages.

*Parker Snapp wrote a nice note with observations and questions.*

I guess "E-Journals" are the wave of the future, and will thrive after a period of experimentation and adjustment. E-Journals are inevitable. Is Whippoorwill E-Comment the progenitor and Adobe Acrobat the format of choice -- or would a plain text attachment to an e-mail message do the job? I confess, I'm enthused but confused. -- Parker

*I believe that the information on the first page will clear up most of Parker's questions. There are other PDF reading programs out there, but this is the only one with which I am familiar.*

So far, I have used 10 point Times Roman as a font. I'll now switch to 12 point — do demonstrate how such a change looks.

My experiments in E-journals is **not** intended to replace the regular bundle, rather it is to stimulate participation in the AAPA. I am convinced that eventually everyone will be using computers — much like omnipresent telephones — and cell phones. This technique will permit friends to share new journals with members with the speed of electronics and without the expense of photocopying and paying for postage to mail them to Jack Swenson. The NAPA, our sister organization, once tried a more-than-once monthly mailing for a while, called the *Limited Circulation Bundle*, in addition to their regular bundle which did increase publishing activity. Bill Boys created that, and I felt it was worthwhile.

### OAPG MEETING

Guy Miller has described the meeting in October, 2003, of the Ohio Amateur Press Association at The Press on Scroll Road, the press of Bob Baris near Carrollton, OH. We were blown away by his beautiful print shop, and I will insert a photo of part of it here. Yes, it is always this clean and so totally organized. Bob works with two large Ostrander-Seymour flat bed Washington type presses, and is certainly the finest printer in the association. But printing enough copies of a journal for the AAPA is too time and labor consuming. He prints books for a living.



Do you have photos of your print shop? Send the files to me and I'll include them in a future W-EC. Or better still, publish them yourself. You now know essentially how to do it.

Frankly, I am excited about the potential of this new technique for sharing text and photos with my friends. I'd like to see a photo of Parker Snapp, and other AJ friends. I believe I shot the quintessential photo of Jack Scott two years ago when the OAPG met at his home in Mt. Vernon, OH.



Isn't it nice to be able to share photos of favorite friends! So this is a challenge for you — create and send your own e-journal.

*Whippoorwill E-Comment* is the work of J. Hill Hamon, who lives out in the wilds of the hills of Kentucky near Frankfort, the capital city. This is created on MS Publisher and converted into a PDF file using PDF995. Bill Venrick did the sending.

Monday, January 5, 2004