



The Beacon's New Office -On the left is one work area, where a volunteer can use a Mac or a PC or park their own laptop. On the right is Charlie's PC work area. That's it! You've now seen every square inch of the Beacon's new office. (Notice that the right-hand monitor in the left photo also appears on the left side of the right photo.) To visit our new office, go to the back door of 207 Main Street (Steele's Ts).

Photos: Charlie Darling

New Office Means Beacon Needs More Volunteers

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

The Andover Beacon's office is up and running now. You won't always catch someone there, but as we get more volunteers involved that situation will improve.

To find our office, go around to the back door of Steele's Ts at 207 Main Street (the old Blackwater Ski Shop). Just inside the back door you'll find the door to our office on the right. If no one's there and you want to drop off something, there's a mailbox outside (to the right of the back door) in which you can leave papers, envelopes, CDs, etc.

Volunteers Needed!

The whole point of creating an office for the *Beacon* is to make it easier and more enjoyable for people to volunteer their services to keep the *Beacon* running. The paper has doubled in size over the past four years, and we desper-

ately need to double the number of volunteers who help make it happen each month. So expect to hear a lot about this topic every month from now on.

This month I'd like to give you an overview of the many different kinds of volunteers we're looking for. And every month from now on I hope to give you an in-depth look at one particular volunteer position. As soon as you see something that you think you might enjoy, don't hesitate – contact me at 735-6099 or Charlie@AndoverBeacon.com and we can talk about the possibilities.

Keep in mind, we're very flexible! Other than a few mission-critical volunteer assignments, most of our volunteers work on the *Beacon* when and where it suits them best.

And don't let "I don't have any special skills" be a barrier! There's something for everyone to do, no matter how much or how little you know. If you'd

like to learn a new skill, we'd love to teach you, whether you're just starting out in life; hoping to improve or update your workplace skills; or looking to keep active and engaged in retirement. Our goal is to create a volunteer position on the *Beacon* that suits you perfectly, no matter what your situation.

Here are some of the needs the *Beacon* has for volunteers:

Volunteer Coordinators – Finding, training, and scheduling our wonderful

volunteers is a never-ending challenge, and absolutely vital to the *Beacon*'s long-term success.

Fundraising Coordinators – There's so much more we could be doing to make donating to the *Beacon* enjoyable and convenient!

News Coordinators – Help keep the *Beacon* "in the loop" in a specific topic area (town government; clubs; people; schools; etc.) and ensure that See *Beacon* on page 6

Beacon Needs A Technology Volunteer – Now!

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

I've spent the past couple of months trying to get our new *Beacon* office set up and working efficiently. Now I'm to the point where I need to network our three donated computers – a Mac and two PCs – and I'm running beyond the edge of my personal expertise in this area.

That makes the need for at least one Technology Volunteer particularly urgent, as until the network is working well, I really can't ask other volunteers to jump in and start using the *Beacon*'s computers. So in the short term (i.e. the next week or two), I'd like someone to:

- help me plan the network based on the *Beacon*'s data sharing needs
- configure the three computers and our router properly to carry out the plan
- add wireless access to the plan
- configure the printer server func-

tion of our router

- evaluate our data security arrangements and improve them where necessary

Technology Needs

Once the network is making us all smile, we'll still have long-term needs for Technology Volunteers to:

- keep the network and its security running smoothly
- investigate the VPN feature of our router
- work on our Web site (AndoverBeacon.com)
- help us find ways to be more efficient and productive in our use of technology

If you have talents in any or all of these areas, or would like to learn, then the *Beacon* would love to have a couple of hours a month of your time! Please contact me at Charlie@AndoverBeacon.com or 735-6099 and let's talk.

Why A Buyer's Agent?

Many prospective house and property buyers scour the Internet, read ads in the paper and jot down phone numbers on for sale signs in front of houses. Then they call the listing agent and ask to see a property.

Other buyers will engage an agent and ask for his (or her) help to find a house, make an offer, negotiate a price and lead them to closing.

When you enter into a buyer/agent relationship, the agent is going to work for your best interests, even ahead of his own. He is like a knight (a white knight) pledging his loyalty, confidentiality and obedience to the buyer. He brings with him his experience, knowledge and training and will use them to provide you with advice and to make your negotiations successful. With a buyer agent you have a professional working for you, at your side.

When you don't have a buyer's agent, chances are you will be dealing with the seller's agent. His experience, knowledge and training will be applied on the seller's behalf, not yours. The seller is relying on a skilled real estate professional – why wouldn't you?

Lake Farm Realty is ready to help. Come in and talk to us.

Art Uriel

Ed Becker



www.Lakefarm.com