

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

README.DOC

May 1998

Newsletter

Version 14.05

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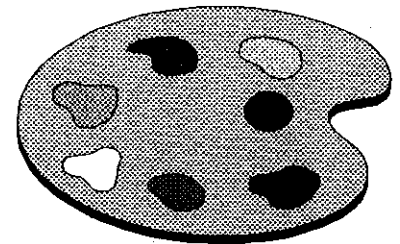
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**The April 25, 1998, 9:00 a.m.
General Meeting will feature:**

Micrografx
—Webtricity
PowerQuest
—Guardian Angel



**The May 30, 1998, 9:00a.m.
General Meeting will feature:**

Quarterdeck
—REALHELP
Touchstone Software
—NetOptimizer



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Readme.Doc is published monthly by the Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG), an independent California nonprofit organization. The intended purpose of OCIPUG is to provide a forum for exchange of information and assistance, thereby helping our members obtain maximum benefit and enjoyment from the use of their computers.

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All items submitted for publication are subject to editing. We reserve the right to refuse any material submitted for publication.

Send all submissions to the Editor, on or before the deadline.

The *Readme.Doc* copy deadline for the June issue is May 8.

1. Upload to the 25-*Readme.Doc* files area of the OCIPUG Bulletin Board.
2. Upload as an attachment to Editor in the 10-Newsletter Message conference of the BBS.
3. 3.5" disk mailed to the Editor in time to meet the deadline:

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Preston Hill

Good news! Our BBS e-mail is back in business. Paul Quaranto and his people at FEA/West Coast Internet worked hard to assure free e-mail — for which we thank them. However, Paul recently advised me that he is reluctantly forced to charge for the e-mail service inasmuch as too few OCIPUG members became new subscribers to FEA/West Coast for him to continue to donate the e-mail service. Therefore, our BBS committee is seeking a new host for e-mail.

As for the BBS, few members use it regularly. Should we abandon it altogether and rely just on the Internet? If so, I need your guidance as to the best way to send a common message so all OCIPUG members can read and reply. Must I create a mailing list of all 500 plus members so as to send a common message to each one individually? How can I assure that a reply would be able to be read by everyone? Must I forward such a reply to all 500 members on my list? Using the BBS, I can send a message to "ALL" and everyone can read it and reply. Furthermore, the reply can be read by everyone as well. Please advise me!

I have received several inquiries from non-members about our Web page and expressing an interest in joining OCIPUG. We should stir interest and recruit new members with a lively Web page. Rich Black and Mike Moore are evaluating many potential Web hosts, but all charge a monthly fee for a connection to the Net. OCIPUG needs every dollar — and then some — just to pay our rent. However, while negotiations for a Web host continue, Webmaster Mike Moore is creating (or re-creating) our Web page so we can be off and running as soon as we have a suitable Web host. Please call Mike (714-535-0608) or Rich (714-536-036) to help.

We need a rapid infusion of funds and major cost reductions to support our Brookhollow facility. We have had our own facility for over ten years. I know of no other user group with their own facility. When we started in 1994 to consider a move to Brookhollow, our membership was over 1000. Today it is about 500. We need about 800 to support our Resource Center and other activities with dues alone.

Costs are being reduced by cancelling two telephone lines, obtaining cheaper liability insurance, and reducing the distribution of *Readme.Doc*. We recently negotiated a minimum rent with Orange Coast College for General Meetings. Reduction in lease costs are not possible. Consideration is being given to reducing the size of *Readme.Doc* and publishing only every other month. Other cost reduction suggestions are welcome.

Funds come primarily from dues. Other sources include advertising, donations of cash or essential equipment, and sharing facility costs with other groups.

What can your leaders — and each of you yourselves — do to retain more members and get new members? How can we recruit new members from colleges, high and elementary schools, computer training schools, and other groups? For example, Micro Center's training group expressed great interest and pleasure in knowing about OCIPUG. It gives them someone to whom their students can turn after they finish the training program. Can we arrange with other training schools, colleges, and other schools to supplement their course activities and get new members? Please let me know which groups might appreciate our services.

Advertising is another source of funds. Some user groups turn away advertisers, others have few or none like OCIPUG. Let's emulate the winners! New advertising rate sheets and associated forms are in the rack in Room A at the Resource Center. John Gallie (714-972-1367) is Chairman of the Marketing Committee and acting as Advertising Chairman. Jim Brock (714-966-1163) has volunteered to serve on the Advertising Committee so contact either one or me if you have leads as to potential advertisers.

SCOUG (Southern California OS/2 User Group) is sharing our SIG rooms the third Monday of each month. Please let me know of other groups that might want to share the cost of using our facilities.

Donations have been forthcoming over the past years for many special items. We thank previous and recent donors. We still need

funds to print the trifolds prepared by Richard Hunter and Tony Dopazo; to pay to service the Minolta copier; for routine maintenance and improvement of computer equipment; and to purchase paper and toner so SIG presenters can print handouts. Would you donate a buck or two each time you attend a SIG?

Take advantage of our Library. Bob Blakeley snoops around the Internet to find goodies that are not easy to locate. Of course, you may enjoy snooping yourself and know all the hard-to-find sources. And, you may enjoy spending lots of time down loading. If not, see Bob for a bargain and support OCIPUG at the same time.

We are a recognized charitable organization so donations are tax deductible. A donation/suggestion box is now at the entrance to our Resource Center and another will be available at the membership table at the entrance to the General Meetings. Small envelopes are available in which to place your donation. Please write your member number and legibly print your name and the purpose for the donation. If you want a receipt, Donor forms are also available.

The Nominating Committee, with Al Hart and Morris Fier as Chairmen, will be contacting all members. If you yourself are not willing or able to run for office, can you recommend someone who you would like to represent you next year? Please contact Al (714-847-6481) or Morris (714-646-8292) if you can serve or you can recommend someone.

The Election Committee is getting ready for the balloting operations. They are reviewing the current procedures and, if necessary, will recommend changes in the Bylaws that must be submitted shortly to the general membership for approval in order to take effect for this year's election.

We wish Red Davidson a full and speedy recovery from recent surgery. He has continued working for us while recovering - true dedication! We also wish Sharley Davidson, Red's wife, the best for her coming surgery. Best wishes to Fred Strauch who has had to go into a nursing home. We offer our sympathies to the John Maness family. John suffered a fatal heart attack while on a vacation trip last year.

Membership Information

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marion Cathers Richard Cathers Harry Role Chuck Scott Judy Scott L. Lee Humphries

We hope your association with us proves very rewarding. OCIPUG is based upon *sharing*. You will have many opportunities to learn from, and to share your knowledge with, other members. Don't be timid about asking advice. The only stupid question is the one not asked! No one of us knows everything.

OCIPUG is unique among user groups in that we have our own facility with specialized rooms to fit our special needs such as Special Interest Group (SIG) seminars. So come join us at one or more of the SIGs described in the SIG Guide insert to Readme.Doc.

You get out of *your* club what *you* put into it. Volunteers make our club successful, effective, and *fun!* Your participation on a committee is encouraged and most welcome. So please contact any official to offer your services in whatever capacity you can.

Your membership badge will be available at the membership desk at the next General Meeting. A New Member kit is also available. This kit summarizes the various activities and resources of your club. A diskette contains several useful shareware programs. You are introduced to the use of the OCIPUG electronic bulletin board system (BBS) at (714) 751-3242.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDERS

If your name is on the list, won't you consider renewing your membership and use the features and advantages of OCIPUG. If you see the name of a friend on the list, won't you encourage your friend to renew. **If you have renewed recently, we thank you.**

Please renew early to save your club the expense of mailing a renewal notice.

APRIL

Ralph Adcock
Richard Armenteros
Larry Bailey
Tom Bailey
Arlene Brock
Jim Brock
Victor Camfield
Tony Chicas
Linda Craig
Jim Dickerson
John F. Donan
Robert Duke
Gerald Ellington
Fred Fajardo
Richard Garcia
David Haag
Lauren Haag
Louise Haag
Steven Haag
Karla Heider
Richard Howard
Harold Howarth
David Kodama
Trudy Mulder
Robert Nelissen
Don Peltz
Kent Rasmussen
Andrew Refalo
Cliff Riddlebarger
John Robertson
Jim Rogers
David Salahi
Kurt Schweickhard
Don Smith
Ed Snyder

Dennis Walz
Robert Weikart
Herbert Wolfson
John Woolston
Donald Yenche
MAY
Deb Abernathy
Arthur Boughy
David Conway
Cecil R. "Red" Davidson
Terry De Witt
Morris Fier
William Fleischman
John Gallie
Billy Hall
Katherine Ann Hall
Sue Hayes
John Hostick
Gregory Kishel
Ben Kraut
Gregg Leonard
Joan Leonard
Len Leonard
Paul Lindemuth
David E. Lorenzini
John Mccrickerd
Richard Meyers
Kevin Moser
Herbert A. Moss
Louisa Norton
Fred Pellicciotti
Ronald N. Perkins
Leslie Potts
Bill Salmi
Robert Shourt
John Squirrel

June Squirrel
Chrisanne Starbird
Jack Starbird
Lynda Starbird
Brian Sullivan
Patricia Van Pelt
Vincent Van Pelt
Denise Werner
Audrey Wolden
Mary Wormald
Jack Wright
JUNE

Dennis ANDERSON
Allen Ashley
Vance Avis
Philip Beilin
Chet Brisco
Donald Burns
Stephen Chao
Bruce Cleeremans
Roy Cone
Dick Cruce
Phyllis Daugherty
Christina "Chris" Davidson
John Devin
Dan Dickinson
Bob Dingwall
Linda Fox
Jack Fullerton
Katie Fullerton
Mary Fullerton
Scott Fullerton
Todd Fullerton
Bob Gauger
Joe Giuliano
John Grady

Mary Halderman
Reinald Heise
Preston Hill
Dan Holloway
Lee Holloway
Robert Horn
Paul T Ikuta
Steve Kilmer
Linda King
Roman Kramarsic
Kim Kymlicka
Oscar S. "Ed" Leckliter
Joseph Nagy
E. Larry Noon
Kenneth Paeth
Bob Peringer
Gianna Pierce
Kent Pierce
James Powers
John Qualls
Gary Rawlings
Holly Rice
Roger W. Richesson
Leonard Robertson
Linda Santilli
Arlene Solomon
Robert Strader
Rex Sutton
Herbert Swanigan
Mitchell Thomas
Lee Tussing
Vernon Wade
Bill Warren
Hugh Wilkoff
George Williams
Ronald R. Wilson
Gary Wong

May Program

May 30, 1998 9:00 AM at the Orange Coast Science Hall

Jim Kirkpatrick

Random Access	8:30 - 9:00
President's Address	9:00 - 9:15
Quarterdeck	9:15-10:15
Announcements	10:15-10:30
Break	10:30-10:45
Touchstone Software	10:45-11:45
Drawing	11:45-12:00

Quarterdeck

(qdeck.com)

REALHELP Extra Strength provides superior crash protection and diagnosis, fixes Windows 95 problems, clears your system of viruses and bad or corrupt installations and updates your system with the latest software patches and drivers from the Internet.

TouchstoneSoftware

(touchstonesoftware.com)

TouchStone Software Corporation is a leading developer of innovative software including CheckIt, PC-cillin Anti-Virus, FastMove! and e.Support, designed to help people use complex technologies. TouchStone's corporate headquarters are located at 2124 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA, 92648.

Recognizing that speed is one of the most important variables to today's Internet user, TouchStone Software will be showing their newest program CheckIt NetOptimizer. This new utility optimizes Internet performance, solves modem problems and monitors dial-up connections. Web surfers who go on-line for even a few hours each week will benefit from NetOptimizer's Internet speed enhancements.

Unlike Web caching technology which simply stores static Web pages for later retrieval, NetOptimizer speeds up Internet surfing, downloading, searching, gaming and chatting. By optimizing modem, port and Windows settings for maximum efficiency and speed, NetOptimizer increases throughput and download speeds on all analog modems.

After running the Internet Tune-Up, NetOptimizer automatically benchmarks

the user's connection and shows the change in performance. How can you tell if your speed has increased? Simple, NetOptimizer's Internet Benchmarking allows users to measure their Internet performance at different times of the day, to compare Internet Service Providers. Additionally, tracking throughput rates over time provides useful information about the best conditions to secure the fastest connection possible.

Pinpointing modem problems is easy with NetOptimizer, which uses the powerful modem diagnostic engine available in CheckIt v5. First, the CheckIt Modem Test will perform a comprehensive battery of tests and then determine what is working, what is not, and why. NetOptimizer walks novice users through solutions with easily understood instructions and automatically fixes problems.

NetOptimizer combines information that is scattered throughout Windows 95 such as dial-up configurations, TCP/IP, modem, port and other crucial Internet information. This crucial data is stored in one place for easy reference. Additionally, Windows' documentation of modem operation is incomplete, and only NetOptimizer provides all the information needed to effectively solve modem problems and understand how communications work.

With Dial-Up Recovery, users can use one button to backup and restore dial-up connection settings lost after a Windows crash or by installing a new browser. Without Dial-Up Recovery, users need to search through Windows' directories or contact their ISP to obtain the right information. This feature makes it simple for mobile users to copy settings from one machine to another.

The CheckIt Internet Monitor automatically monitors download and connection speeds, and notifies users when connecting at below-average rates. Auto-Redial is available to continually redial your ISP until a connection is established at average or above-average speed. NetOptimizer also has a dis-

connect feature to help keep on-line bills in check. By setting the dialer to automatically disconnect after completing a download, users can avoid hefty bills caused by forgetting to disconnect. CheckIt Internet Monitor even tracks total on-line time by day or month.

NetOptimizer comes with an Internet ScratchPad to help surfers create Internet to-do lists. Opening the ScratchPad provides a place to jot down URLs, FTPs, files for download, key words, searches and web pages to visit later. The ScratchPad can be configured to load automatically with your browser.

NetOptimizer includes Active Update allowing users to receive free program updates and enhancements to keep their optimization and troubleshooting capabilities on the cutting edge.

NetOptimizer requires a system running Windows 95/98 with 10Mb of free hard drive space. An Internet connection. A standard serial modem, 9600 to 56K (v.90) speeds or analog ISDN is strongly recommended.

158th General Meeting Report

Norm Bergman

Michael Springer and John Goodman answered many questions during the "Random Access" from 8:30 to 9:00am. There were questions about scanners, IRQs, faxing and much more. This time is worth the price of admission. Probably Harv Haight would have been able to capture all of it for you but it was a busy time for me and I was not able to take complete notes.

President Hill announced a new SIG may be forming: Digital Photography and Scanners. Rex Sutton will head it with Stan Sabin and Chris Hansen as gurus. Check the BBS and SIG Guide for details. Our e-mail provider dropped out but service has been restored. Our cash outflow is greater

Articles

than our cash intake. The Board is trying to find a remedy. We are committed to two more years on our lease of the Resource Center: \$1200/mo. MicroCenter will be mentioning us to customers with questions. We should talk up the club and try to increase membership. There are trifold brochures available at the Resource Center: Why not take some to give to interested parties? It has been our policy to fund the Center from dues and other usual sources of income rather than charging users per session, for example. John Goodman objected to using Saturday morning for this discussion and it was tabled. John Gallie and Dick Baznik will train volunteers to sell ad space in the newsletter. One reason our Web page is down is lack of funds. We are looking for a way to get back on. Mike Moore is working on it. He needs helpers to re-create the page for when we can produce it again. Red Davidson and Kevin Moser need help with facilities maintenance. Our copier needs cleaning and an infusion of money also. The club sent a sympathy card to the family of John Maness who died recently. Look at the desk in the lobby for interesting material gathered from the Internet by Bob Blakely for our library.

Jim Kirkpatrick introduced Mike Bruzzone who presented the new WinChip from Centaur and IDT. Mike is a very dynamic speaker with a wealth of technical information about his product. He gave away tee shirts to those answering his questions. I will not try to report here all he had to say; please look at Jim's introduction last month in the Readme.Doc and look for reviews by several members who took boards and chips home to try out and to report on. Mike made his chips available to us at nine dollars below distributor's cost. Order forms were made available and a questionnaire was distributed. Mike is a 60 hour/week man. He has a degree in advertising from CSU-San Jose, lots of experience with several chip/board/microprocessor companies. The manufacturer, IDT, has two plants, make their own chips. They have a very short turn-around time in producing the chips. The chips themselves use smaller discs, much reduced instruction sets, straight line circuitry layout, generate less heat and use less power than the competition. They are designed to work with Windows products and are aimed at the desk-

top rather than the mainframe environment so are less complex and can be produced at a lower cost to the consumer. The IDT WinChip C6 uses x86 architecture, is MS Platinum approved, fits in socket 7 AXT2.01 powered boards. They have versions running up to 240Mh and some using 75Kh plus bus speeds. You can check the website for compatibility and specs. Mike fielded many questions and was well received by the audience.

Dr. Aubrey Pilgrim next spoke about upgrading. He talked about his medical specialties and his career in airspace electronics as well as answering many questions about motherboards, batteries, drives, legacy compatibility etc. His main point was you should not be afraid to open up the case and upgrade your computer. He said many components can be retained resulting in a less expensive replacement than a whole new unit. His e-mail address is apilgrm@aol.com.

Two boards with cpus were in the drawing as well as Dr. Pilgrim's books, Two boards were also donated to the club to upgrade our Resource Center computers.

Tech Tips



This is the time of year when small grandkids visit, especially when home grounds are deep in snow. No way could I let mine invade my computer room; too much detailed work in process. But they needed to learn how to start using a keyboard and mouse for scheduled kindergarten hands-on. The answer was games, on a computer that could withstand fairly rough treatment.

I housed a high-quality 386 motherboard with peripherals in an old 286 case, dug up small-fry games from all sources, combined them with a Direct Access V 5.1 menu to

use with MSDOS 6.20, and with Windows 3.11 accessed as a menu item.

Two grandsons, two years old and four years old, love it, as does a three-year old great-granddaughter. An old character taking a CROP class with me liked it too. His high-quality Pentium is fitted with a ZIP drive, but has little space left on the hard drive. Plus which, he handles complex theory well, but is very apprehensive about changes to his hardware. This is how I supplied him with a way to ease his fears about damage from small fry.

IOMEGA ZIP drive software 3.02 (for DOS and Windows 3.X) includes the GUEST.EXE command that assigns a drive letter to an on-line ZIP disk. I used XCOPY to make a copy of hard drive C: on the ZIP D: drive (from the root directory, type `C:\XCOPY C:.* D:/S/E`). Basic MSDOS 6.20 commands required for the drive root directory's CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT, and for other essential purposes were included on the root directory, to simplify paths and menu entries.

To utilize this disk on my friend's equipment, he would have to set up the ZIP disk as drive D: and then carefully change references to C: drive in the DA51 menu and in Windows 3.11 over to D: ... an annoyingly detailed task that still would let his present Win-95 C: drive open to innocent fumbles.

What I instructed him to do was to indicate temporarily in his CMOS that he had no hard drives. I copied the V3.02 software over to a floppy set to self-boot to MSDOS 6.20, and added the DOS commands of the original root directory. For the CONFIG.SYS of the floppy, I duplicated the sequences of the ZIP drive root, using the path A:\ instead of the path C:\. For the AUTOEXEC.BAT of the floppy, I duplicated all entries of the AUTOEXEC.BAT of the ZIP drive root, except for adding, after line 1 = @echo off, and line 2 = cls, for line 3 <A:GUEST> and for line 4 <C:>.

The ZIP drive becomes drive C: and duplicates hard drive performance. Windows 3.11 must be adjusted to show no temporary or permanent SWAP file. The technique works with no hard drive, if the CMOS setting are for NONE.

Irked by IRQs

"Come see my new 333 MHz Pentium II Gateway computer" my friend bragged on the phone. "I'm going to stick in an Ethernet card and a SCSI adapter card when you get here" he added. I figured why not so I went to see the latest and greatest. When I got there, my friend had the cover off already to show me the goodies including the extra drive bays and the card slots for expandability. There were two extra PCI slots and one remaining ISA slot. The two new cards will take up two of the PCI slots.

In went the cards and my friend rebooted his computer. To our surprise, Windows 95 couldn't find either one of the cards! "It's plug and pray time again" I muttered. So we quickly ran Win95's IRQ checker which you can access with Settings|Control Panel|System|Device Manager|Properties and to our amazement all the IRQs were in use. The first thing I noticed was that his Sound Blaster AWE 64 sound card takes two IRQs, the Matrox Rainbow Runner video system with the TV tuner also takes two IRQs and the proprietary card for the scanner takes another IRQ in addition to the IRQs already allocated to the serial ports, parallel port and floppy drive. "What am I going to do?" my friend asked. "Well, you can take out the TV tuner and your scanner card" I suggested "but you will still be out of IRQs."

Imagine a brand new PC without any extra IRQs. The savvy computer buyer tends to check under the cover for expandability in the form of memory slots, motherboard card slots and available drive bays. My friend's computer didn't have a problem in these areas. It turns out that we, as consumers are part of the problem. We tend to drool over the latest DVD-ROMs, video cards with TV tuners, scanners, video capture boards, SCSI cards and network cards without even thinking for a moment about the drain on the PC's limited resources. When the IRQs dry up, we can't have those high performance drives, fancy video cards, scanners or any other extras that we want in the computer.

IRQ is short for Interrupt Request lines, which is the means for the PC CPU to communicate internally with its expansion bus.

Herb's Hangout

Herb Huey



The early IBM XT used an 80259 interrupt-controller chip to service eight interrupts. The idea was to allow a limited number of devices that the user connected to the computer to be granted service by the computer. Unfortunately, there are some devices that every computer needs that are automatically assigned to an IRQ. The time-of-day clock is assigned IRQ0, the keyboard is IRQ1, network adapters are usually IRQ2, Serial Port #2 is assigned IRQ3, Serial Port #1 is IRQ4, the floppy drive port is IRQ6 and the parallel printer port is usually IRQ7. Since many people did not use network cards with their XTs, there were still two IRQs available but that disappeared with hard disk drives, video cards and later sound cards.

Starting with the IBM AT 80286 in 1984, the number of IRQs was increased to 16 but six of them are usually reserved. We are still using the same IRQ standard 14 years later, which is an eternity in computer evolution. In the last few years, we have been used to seeing three to five available IRQs in new PCs but now we run the danger of obtaining new PCs without any IRQs!

I asked a few customer service people about the number of IRQs in their latest computers. All I got is a lot of eyes rolling and a lot of ahems. This is really bad news since this is not the kind of question the not-so-

expert computer buyer is likely to ask. What is worse is when a consumer is smart enough to ask this question all he will get is a shrug of the shoulders. It seems like nobody is aware of the seriousness of the problem.

There are some ways to alleviate the "not enough IRQs" problem. A SCSI (small computer system interface) card can connect up to six devices such as hard disks, scanners and back-up units with just a single slot and IRQ. Newer SCSI-II and Ultra SCSI cards double that number. I checked my Ultra SCSI-III based system and found three remaining interrupts even with two SCSI cards that connect two hard disk drives, a floppy drive, a Jaz and Zip removable drives, and two CD-ROMs. I also have a network card for my cable modem, a regular modem, a Sound Blaster AWE 32 card and a printer.

Unfortunately, there are a lot of devices that will not work with SCSI. On newer systems, the USB (Universal Serial Bus) is a vastly improved serial bus that will allow connections up to 128 devices. There are at present only a few devices that support this connection but you can expect more later this year. The higher performance IEEE 1394 FireWire port is expected to appear later this year but is intended for external devices such as digital video devices with high transmission rates. At work, I use the IEEE 1394 interface with cameras that transmit 640 x 480 pixel frames at 30 Hz.

Help is on the way but vendors need to practice better system integration until then. Consumers are warned again, "Buyer Beware" when shopping for a new computer system by checking to see if that new PC is expandable in all ways including IRQs as well as motherboard card slots and drive bays.

SIGNING OFF

By the time you read this, I will have returned from a big family reunion in Florida. I am practicing video capture from my camcorder with my Snappy system and using the MGI PhotoSuite and VideoWave software that I purchased at our General Meeting. I considered getting a digital camera but the good ones are still expensive.

Articles

The Sony Mavica FD-7 is exciting because of its 10X zoom lens and the fact that the images are saved on inexpensive floppies, instead of expensive flash memory cards, but the VGA resolution of 640 x 480 is adequate only for small photo sizes. The going price is \$699 and is the lowest priced digital camera that has most of the features that I want. The salesman told me to expect Sony to come out with a higher resolution camera this fall. For now, I will use my camcorder at the reunion.

The Deals Guy

Bob Click

Greater Orlando Computer User Group

Trying to get cooperation from vendors is often very trying. I only succeed part of the time. For example, this month I gave up on a couple of vendors I called twice without getting a human voice and had to leave a message. Two days later, still no return call. No use my printing the item if you folks can't talk to them. Two others wanted me to send samples of my work along with recommendations. If I have to beg to do them a favor I give up there too. So much for marketing. Let's get on to what's new.

1.) Protection for your power outage. PK Electronics, Inc. and I have been working on this all day and it is a first for the deals column—a rebate available only through the "Deals Guy" column. You have heard me criticize rebates, but when the product is an important one for computers and the company is unable to give us a deal any other way, I do what I have to do for you.

The "BlackoutBuster" is the smallest 500 VA uninterruptible power source according to PK Electronics. This beauty measures only 3.75 x 8.5 x 8.9 inches and weighs only 8.6 lbs. 500 VA is plenty to give you a comfortable time to shut down your computer if necessary.

For example, an IBM Aptiva Pentium 200 would run approximately 16 minutes after a power outage. Don't include a laser printer.

The "BlackoutBuster" has six, count 'em, six outlets and get this—one outlet is actu-

ally placed well above the rest so you can plug a transformer block into it without covering other outlets. There are jacks for modem protection and a data port is provided if you want unattended shutdown capabilities. All this besides the battery backup.

On top of all that, it provides surge protection to keep the voltage constant with no spikes to damage your equipment. I especially liked the size, since I could put it on my desktop. My old one has to sit on the floor where lint from the carpet could collect around it.

I have not physically examined and tried the product but the spec sheet looks good. They do not sell direct. If you'd like to know more and what stores carry it, call PK Electronics at 1-888-GO PK UPS (888-467-58877) to ask for the \$20 rebate form and any info you need. Since this offer is just for the Deals Guy column you must get the \$20 rebate form from PK. To qualify for the rebate your purchase must be made between March 1, 1998 & April 30, 1998.

The PK Electronics "Blackout Buster" UPS special rebate (only from this column) is still good. I saw it at a local computer chain store with a rebate. My rebate would be over and above the store one, so that makes it a better deal yet. They say your rebate will take from 4 to 6 weeks. If you buy the PK UPS item, call PK Electronics at 1-888-GO PK UPS (888-467-5877) to ask for the \$20 rebate form referred to in my column.

2.) Remember the voice-powered browser and "Power Point package" - well, here is another product from Voice Systems. How about moving your mouse around by voice commands. "Verbal Mouse" is the first virtual mouse system completely controlled by voice commands. Simply speak any mouse commands and the on-screen cursor will respond just as if a manual mouse was moving. In fact, it can even be used in conjunction with your manual mouse.

Ever been able to move the mouse manually but unable to click the mouse buttons effectively? With "Verbal Mouse" the user may move the cursor to the desired location manually and simply say "click left" or "double click left" to finish the task. If

you have Carpal Tunnel Syndrome or other ailments, "Verbal Mouse" will be a blessing, not to mention helping the prevention of those ailments. Commands include: up, down, left, right, stop, faster, slower, click left, click right, double click left, double click right, press left (for dragging), press right, etc. It does everything your manual mouse can, but by voice commands. The "Verbal Mouse" including the "Launch Pad" (launch any program by voice), is just \$17.95 + S&H for the Deals Column. They also have a full-featured voice power package that includes the browser, mouse and launching pad that comes with a free "Kurzweil's Voice Pad Starter Edition" voice dictation package. It's reduced to just \$49.95 and can be ordered from their website (www.voisys.com) or call them at 1-800-425-8118. (Alternate phone 1-410-226-5310)

3.) Thanks to the newsletters I receive, I found out about this offer, but I have seen it in so few that I'll reprint it here. Western Digital has a trade-in program going whereby you can send them an old drive of any brand (working or not) and you can buy a new one direct from Western Digital at special prices.

Get a 4 gig drive for \$200 or a 5.1 gig for \$235 or a 6.4 gig for \$255 plus your old drive sent to them. However, considering my half-hour hold time to talk to somebody and the shipping, you might be as well off to watch the chain stores for a deal. Anyway, call 1-714-932-4952 to talk to Western Digital. No deadline is announced and offer is good until canceled.

4.) Are you burned up about your CPU cooling fan? Or is "it" burned up about you not cleaning it? This cute little fan is something most people never see. In fact many probably don't even know it's there inside your computer's case (come out, come out, wherever you are).

It's mounted on your CPU to keep it cool. Should that little fan stall, your CPU will just get hotter and hotter until it fails, ultimately ruining itself.

For your information, dirt and dust can accumulate in those little fan blades enough to stall it or the fan itself might even fail.

Probably at first your computer just starts playing tricks until you turn it off and let it cool. That's one clue about the fan.

I read in a user group newsletter recently that a member's computer failed to boot, and after efforts by other members to troubleshoot it, someone finally noticed all the dirt in the fan. On removing the fan, and then the CPU chip, they saw that it had been so hot it literally melted the socket. It was goodbye motherboard.

I found a CPU cooling fan at Condex that sounds an alarm if it stops. Sticking my finger in the blades of the fan stalled it and an alarm sounded. I liked this fan and they were willing to give us a deal. That would save your day. I tried stuffing some lint from the drier into the sample they sent me and it took quite a bit, but when it stopped, I heard about it.

The price for one of these fans is \$14.95 + \$5.00 S&H. I saw at least 23 fan models in their catalogue, so know what chip you have when you order, and specify you want the one with the alarm.

Changing one of those fans is minor, but if you're inexperienced, have your favorite technician do it. The Company includes a packet of thermal grease to coat the chip surface when you install the newfan, but ask to make sure since you need that.

To order, call Alpha & Omega Computer Corp. at 1-800-838-5868 or 1-714-632-0388 and mention this column when you order. This offer is good through April 30, 1998.

5.) Manage your fonts better. How long does it take for your windows to start? If you have very much software installed it may be because it is loading so many fonts, among other things. Here is the answer to that. Bitstream is offering User group members "Font Navigator 3" for a limited time at just \$29.95.

This was first sent to us through User Group Connection and Bitstream has let me receive it for March and April in case you didn't see it. "Font Manager" is an easy-to-use powerful font management tool. Simply drag and drop fonts between the

main windows to install and de-install TrueType or PostScript Type 1 fonts.

You can search for fonts; view or print font samples; sort fonts by format, feature, or foundry; and group fonts into useful or creative collections. You can group fonts by their own criteria (appearance, application, etc.) to quickly install and de-install them..

You even get 17 fonts with it. There is more hype, but you can acquire it either of two ways. You can download it from <http://www.bitstream.com/fontnav/> and try it for 30 days. Then, if you like it, you can call them and use your plastic to buy an unlock code for \$29.95.

The other way is to call them at 1-800-522-FONT in the US or Canada and simply order the product for \$29.95 + \$5.00 shipping. Looks like it's just for Windows 95 and NT 4x. Don't forget to mention this column when you order.

That's it for this month. My apologies to editors for the length but one important item came together at the last minute. You can reach my fax at 1-407-382-2781 or e-mail me at dealsguy@mindspring.com or dealsguy@aol.com. Meet me here again next month. Bob (the Cheap skate) Click.

Netscape and the Internet

Richard Hunter

Are you still using Netscape Navigator 3.0, and if so, why? Netscape has now released Netscape Communicator 4.04, and it's free. This is a great program and of course, the price is right. You can download the program from: <http://home.netscape.com/download/client/download.html?communicator4.04>

Let me give you a word of warning, however. This program is over 10 megabytes in size, and thus it will take over one hour to download using a 28.8 K modem. Also be aware also that there are two versions. One version uses forty bit encryption, while the other uses a 128 bit encryption. The 128-bit version is what is know as "strong encryption" and it has some restrictions. It

may only be downloaded by a U.S. or Canadian citizen and the program may not be exported. You will have to agree to these conditions to download the program. Personally, I have only found one site which insisted on the 128-bit version; it was a mutual fund site. The mutual fund would not let me into my account with the forty-bit version, so you may want to check the Netscape site carefully to be sure which version you want. For the 128 bit encryption, look for "Download strong US/Canada-only encryption" and check the box.

As for Communicator 4.04, it has many desirable features. The e-mail program comes with a built in spell checker. Your e-mail may even allow for a return receipt, if you service provider can handle it. Your e-mail doesn't have to be simple text anymore. With this program you can send HTML e-mail without ever writing any HTML code, or know anything about HTML. Not all e-mail accounts will be able to read HTML e-mail. I know that Navigator 3 can handle HTML e-mail, while Juno cannot.

The Communicator Composer allows you to formulate your own web page, again without writing any HTML code. But then, you would miss all the fun of learning and fighting the problems of HTML. This one feature is well worth the money, even if they charged for it.

The Navigator is improved, with easier handling of preferences for applications such as "Specify helper application for different file types." The "open" command box has been dropped, but most people didn't use it anyway. The security is a big advancement.

The one disadvantage is that Communicator 4.04 has so many new features that it is best to buy a book. I purchased and am now reading *Using Netscape Communicator 4* published by Que and written by Mark Brown. While this isn't the only book, I have found it easy to read and understand.

Since Communicator is free, don't expect Netscape to provide technical support, but as usual, you can call upon an OCIPUG member for support.

Tips on Type: how to use it, what terms mean

Ken Fermoye

Most people don't pay much attention to typefaces, but type has been the basis for all printed communication since Gutenberg invented movable type. As computer users, we use type in everything we do: spreadsheets, data bases, e-mail messages, and of course, word processing and desktop publishing in print or online.

We should know more about it and than most of us do.

For example, the terms "typeface" and "font" are often used interchangeably in today's world of scalable, computer-generated type, but they differ significantly.

A typeface is a family of letters, numbers and symbols that share the same design characteristics and parameters, regardless of size, weight or style or whether implemented in wood, metal or digital form. Examples are Times Roman, Helvetica, etc. The advent of digital type, especially scalable fonts, has blurred the distinction between typeface and font. To understand the difference, remember that a typeface is designed first, then a font is created from that design.

A font traditionally is a collection of alphanumeric and symbols of the same typeface in one particular size, weight and style. For example, 9-point Helvetica regular is one font, 10 point bold is another font, and 9-point Helvetica italic is still another. Digitized scalable fonts we use with our computers can be scaled to any size.

"Typography" is the term used to cover the art and technique of using type to compose printed material, or the arrangement and appearance of printed matter.

Some typography terms carried over from traditional printing are still used today but may not be understood by many computer users.

Kerning, for example, is the adjusting the amount of space between certain combinations of letters in proportionally-spaced

typefaces to eliminate awkward letter spacing. Each letter in a typeface is designed with a set space to its right, but certain combinations (Ta, Wo, etc.) look awkward when you see them with standard spacing.

Kerned pairs are combinations of letters that have the spaces between them adjusted to make them easier to read and more pleasing to the eye. The space is usually reduced (in the Ta and Wo examples above, the a would snuggled closer under the top crossbar of the T and the o would be moved closer to the base of the W), but in some cases may be increased. Type experts often use the number of kerned pairs available in a given font as one measure of its quality.

Leading is simply the spacing between lines, so called because in the days of handset type thin strips of lead alloy were inserted to provide such space. Letter spacing and word spacing, as the names imply, are the distances between letters or words. All three types of spacing can be controlled in many computer applications, often very precisely.

Typefaces are divided in several ways. First, there are monospaced and proportionally-spaced faces. Courier is the best example of the former; each of its characters occupy the same width whether it is a fat "m" or a skinny "i." Times Roman is a typical proportionally-spaced face; as the name suggests, width occupied by each character is proportional to its actual size. Typewriter type was monospaced (with a very few exceptions) and generally came in two sizes. One was Pica, called that because its characters were 10 to an inch, or one pica wide. Elite type was smaller, 12 characters to the inch.

Fully justified columns, flush at both right and left, were almost impossible to achieve on a typewriter because it was difficult to get the subtle, precise letter and word spacing that made justification possible with handset type or that produced, a line at a time, on linotype machines (which were pretty much state of the art when I got my first newspaper job).

Typefaces are also divided into two categories in another way. They are either have finishing strokes, called serifs, like Times Roman, or plain like Arial and Helvetica.

Not surprisingly the former are called "serif" faces, and the latter "sans-serif" faces. Serifs are not just embellishments in type. They play major roles in the readability, appearance and style of a face.

Another type division is between "uppercase" and "lowercase" letters, more carryover terms from earlier days when type was set by hand. Metal letters were arranged in cases on a sloping work bank, sort of an open-faced cabinet lying almost on its back. The more frequently used small letters occupied the lower, handier cases. Less frequently used capital and small capital letters, figures and punctuation marks were in the higher, or upper cases.

Type involves a lot of artistry, not just in the design of typefaces, but in the way they are used. A skilled art director or layout artist can achieve all sorts of effects, evoke differing moods, just through careful selection and placement of type.

Conversely, ill-advised use of type can literally destroy the effectiveness of printed matter. In the early days of laser printers and desktop publishing (circa 1986-89) we saw a great deal of this. What we called the "ransom note school of publishing" developed. Novices suddenly given 19 typefaces to play with used 12 of them on the first page! The result was so busy and distracting it was hard to focus on any one item on a page. We're seeing some of this on the Web, as new site creation tools make it easy to build Web pages.

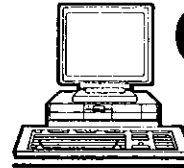
An added factor here is overuse of animation, banners and other elements that often contribute little, distract much, in terms of getting across a message.

My biggest gripe is use of type in various colors on totally inappropriate background colors, dark blue on black, for example, that makes for difficult reading.

Artists and designers recommend using no more than two typefaces in any document a serif face for body text, and perhaps a sans serif face for headlines, subheads and captions. "This won't allow me enough variations," you complain? Not true! You can achieve more than enough variety by using regular, bold, italic and small capital styles in different weights (light, medium, heavy) and sizes.

Special Interest Group

Guide



OCIPUG

Orange Coast IBM
PC User Group

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

MAY 1998

MEMBERSHIP • MEETING INFO

Voice Hotline 662-2939
BBS 751-3242

RESOURCE CENTER

1520 Brookhollow Drive Suite #38
Santa Ana, California

OUR MAILING ADDRESS

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group
2973 Harbor Blvd. Box 621
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-3934

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
MAY	26	27 <i>Executive Board Meeting</i> A 7	28 <i>BBS Committee</i> B 6 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 7 <i>Pers. Finance</i> A 7	29	30	1	2 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 9 New User/ New Mem. A 9 DOS and Utilities A 1
	3	4 WordPerfect A 7	5 Windows NT Workstation B 7	6 <i>Publications Committee</i> B 7 Genealogy A 7	7 Internet & Web Page Design A 9:30am DeskTop Publishing A 7	8 Deadline for JUNE Readme.doc	9 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 9 Programming A 9
	10 Computerized Sewing 1 pm A	11 Windows 95 A 7	12 <i>BBS Committee</i> B 6 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 7 Modem A 7	13 Investing A 7	14 Microsoft Office A 7	15 Internet A 7	16 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 9 3D Studio A 10
	17	18 SCOUG A&B 7	19 OS/2 A 7	20 Windows 3.1 A 7	21 Genealogy II A 1 Now, What Do I Do? A 7	22	23 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 9 New User/ New Mem. A 9 DOS and Utilities A 1
	24	25 <i>Executive Board Meeting</i> A 7	26 <i>BBS Committee</i> B 6 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 7 <i>Pers. Finance</i> A 7	27 dBase A 7 Network B 7	28 Hardware A 7	29 OS/2 Warp Connect A 7	30 General Meeting OCC - 9 am Science Hall Program Comm. OCC -1.5 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 1
	31 A C P Swapmeet	1 WordPerfect A 7	2 Windows NT Workstation A 7	3 Genealogy A 7	4 Internet & Web Page Design A 9:30am DeskTop Publishing A 7	5 Deadline for JULY Readme.doc	6 New User/ New Mem. A 9 DOS and Utilities A 1 <i>BBS Workshop</i> E 9

For DAYTIME SIGs being considered, call Preston Hill at 893-2403
For latest meeting dates and topics check the following:

Hotline 662-2939
BBS Bulletin #5 751-3242

To donate funds and/or equipment for our Resource Center, call:
Facilities Improvement and Maintenance Committee Chairman Red Davidson, at 548-0413

Visitors are always welcome, please join us!

CALENDAR SYMBOLS

A SIG Room A
B SIG Room B
E Equipment Room
8, 9, 10 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m.
1, 2, 7 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 7 p.m.
6.5, 7.5 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

Special Interest Group Meetings at the OCIPUG RESOURCE CENTER

3D Studio **3rd Sat May 16**
 10:00AM Room A

Leader: John Hostick 731-8873

We discuss Windows NT based 3D Studio Max and review its capabilities. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.

Computerized Sewing **2nd Sun May 10**
 1:00pm Room A

Leader: Bev Blakeley 549-0958
 Leader: Donna Springer 848-0304

We demonstrate creating complex embroidery and fancy stitch work from your own or imported paper-based designs, photographs, artwork from the Internet, or commercial design patterns to drive computerized sewing machines. Actual sewing is demonstrated. Call SIG leader for details.

dBASE **4th Wed May 27**
 7:00pm Room A

Leader: Max Lockie 720-8170
 Guru: Tom Toner 537-9175

Relational features and applications of dBASE database for DOS and Windows are discussed. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.

Desktop Publishing **1st Thu May 7**
 7:00pm Room A

Leader: Charles Schreiber 377-0439

We review various programs from basic word processors to sophisticated Desktop Publishing programs used to publish newsletters and similar documents. Share your problems and expertise. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details. A new leader is needed.

DOS and Utilities **1st Sa May 2**
 1:00pm Room A

Leader: Ed Miller 470-9319
 Leader: Richard Black 536-0036
 Guru: John Goodman 537-6400

Reviewed are fundamental and advanced features of various DOS-type operating systems as well as many commercial and shareware add-on utilities. Come share your problems and expertise. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.

Genealogy **1st Wed May 6**
 7:00pm Room A

Leader: Stan Sabin 968-7307

We will demonstrate the newest version 4.4 of Family Tree Maker for Windows and also discuss some special offers available for additional software CD's which work with FTM. We will also answer questions about PAF versions 2.31 and 3.0 as well as Ancestral Quest and some more Windows 95 Tips and Tricks.

Genealogy II **3rd Thu May 15**
 1:00pm Room A

Leader: Chris Hansen 637-0102
 Leader: Preston Hill 893-2403

We will demonstrate Family Tree Maker 4.4 new release with spell checker and other features of interest.

Hardware **4th Thu May 22**
 7:00pm Room A

Leader: Leader needed
 Leader: David Yap 847-1517

New computer hardware and peripherals are discussed. Bring your hardware related problems for possible solution. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.

Internet **2nd Fri May 8**
 7:00pm Room A

Leader: Michael Moore 535-0608
 Leader: Preston Hill 893-2403

This SIG demonstrates connecting to the Internet and using various tools to locate sites and handle data. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.

Internet & Web Design **1st Thu May 7**
 9:30AM Room A

Leader: Frank Disparte 960-7494
 Leader: Preston Hill 893-2403

This DAYTIME SIG introduces the Internet and demonstrates its many features such as e-mail, file transfers (ftp), using "telnet" and newsgroups, and browsing the WEB. You create HTML documents and your Web page. A special project is to help design and maintain the OCIPUG Web Page. Call SIG leader for specific topics and details.

Investing **2nd Wed May 13**
 7:00pm Room A

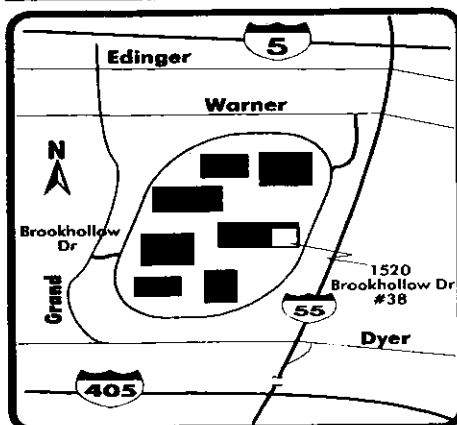
Leader: Tony (Mel) Mellini 536-8733

We discuss various computer programs for analyzing investment information with emphasis on Vector Vest. We learn how to obtain investment information from the Internet. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.

Microsoft Office **2nd Thu May 14**
 7:00pm Room A

Leader: Ken Kamber 637-4496
 Leader: Louise McCain 434-0784
 Leader: Alan Liebschutz 859-5815

Various features of the Microsoft Office suite of Windows applications are discussed. Call SIG Leader for specific topics and details.



Resource Center

Most evening SIGs are held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at our SIG space:
 1520 Brookhollow Drive, Suite #38
 Santa Ana, California

The Brookhollow Office Park is easily accessible via the northbound and southbound Dyer Road exits from the 55 Freeway. Abundant, well-lit parking is available a few feet from the ground level entrance.

For late-changing information:

OCIPUG Hotline: 662-2939
 OCIPUG BBS: 751-3242

Visitors are *always* welcome — please join us!

OCIPUG Membership Information

Orange Coast IBM-PC User Group (OCIPUG), a non-profit all-volunteer organization, was formed in 1985 and has grown to become one of the most respected user groups in the country. Our purpose is to provide computer enthusiasts with an opportunity to gain related knowledge and to offer assistance when needed.

An individual, family or student (verified 12 undergraduate units or 6 graduate units) membership includes:

- a subscription to *Readme.Doc*, OCIPUG's monthly newsletter
- discounts on public domain, shareware and commercial software
- access to OCIPUG's online services, a local bulletin board
- Internet e-mail access through OCIPUG's bulletin board.
- eligibility for the drawing at the monthly General Meeting
- a Support Group Hotline

To become an OCIPUG member, complete the application below and mail it along with your check or money order to:

OCIPUG
2973 Harbor Blvd. #621
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-3934

To request more information, call: 662-2939

Benefits of OCIPUG Membership

OCIPUG is a valuable resource for computer users. Help is readily available to assist with software or hardware problems. You will get answers to your questions, learn more about computers or a particular program, attend Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings and exchange ideas and information on related issues.

OCIPUG monthly general meetings are a great place to see new product demonstrations and the latest releases of established products, often prior to initial shipment. At these meetings we often host the industry's top-of-the-line manufacturers such as Microsoft, Novell, Lotus, IBM and others who send their representatives to demonstrate their latest products. Some of our guest speakers provide significant insight into current hardware and software issues that affect the industry as a whole.

OCIPUG's online services include a BBS, 751-3242, which runs at speeds up to 28.8K bps, which contains useful information about the group and its educational resources. We also carry a full line of public domain and shareware software available on disk at our general meetings and as downloads from our BBS.

OCIPUG publishes an award-winning newsletter, *Readme.Doc*, which contains insightful and informative articles and product reviews by OCIPUG members and interesting reprints from other user group newsletters from around the country.

OCIPUG has more than twenty-five SIGs that meet at various times during the month. These SIGs focus on specific areas of computing and often host speakers with expertise in that field. It would be difficult to find such an abundance of knowledge anywhere that is so readily available to all our members.

OCIPUG has it all! Why not join today?

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

2973 Harbor Blvd #621
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-3934

Today's Date: _____

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Prof. Hon. (Circle one)

Membership: New Renewal (Circle one)

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

Occupation: _____ Company: _____

Individual Membership? Family Membership? Family Member(s) Names: _____

E-mail address: _____

Annual Dues:
Make check payable to OCIPUG
and mail to the above address
or bring to the General Meeting.

Individual	\$45.00	\$ _____
Family	\$60.00	\$ _____
Full-time student (U-grad 12 units; grad 6 units)	\$25.00	\$ _____
Donation		\$ _____

Have you been a member of OCIPUG before? _____
If so, what was your membership number? _____

Total Amount Paid: \$ _____

I heard about OCIPUG from: _____

I consider my skill level to be:
Beginner Intermediate Advanced (Circle one)

Don't try to cram too much on a page. Type is much more readable with adequate leading (e.g. 10 point type with 2 points of leading, or 10 on 12 as we used to instruct typesetters, meaning "set 10-point type on a 12-point slug"). Decent-sized margins and gutters between columns also improve readability.

Use "lift" or "pull" paragraphs and subheads to break up large blocks of type. A lift paragraph is one that summarizes or makes a significant point about the subject and is pulled from the body text. It is set into the body text in a distinctive type style (bold, italic or both, often in a larger size than body type) and may be set apart by rules above and below.

I hope these few comments and tips will help you understand and use type better in the future.

SIG COMPUTER UPGRADE

Kevin Moser

At the March General Meeting Centaur Technology's Mike Bruzzone made a presentation on the IDT C6 WinChip Micro-processor. Those attending learned of the development and manufacture of this Pentium MMX class processor which was expressly optimized to operate under Windows 95. It is reported to be compatible with Win-98.

In what is an exceptional bonanza, Centaur Technology donated six mother boards complete with 200 MHz C6 CPUs to OCIPUG. Two of these boards were identified for upgrading the SIG Space computers.

It was decided to upgrade the B-Space computer first. This 486-66MHz machine receives lesser use, and was heavily taxed when running Windows NT (Beta version 5.0) with 32Mb of RAM. Any peculiarities encountered in the upgrade could be identified at no risk to shutting down the heavily used A-Space machine for an uncertain length of time.

The upgrade proceeded without complications. The "VA-502 Mainboard" is a 66MHz Socket-7 motherboard with VIA chipset, 512K Level-II surface mounted

cache and a socketed Award BIOS. This board has 4 PCI slots and 3 16 bit ISA slots. It has a capacity of 512Mb RAM in 2 72 pin SIMM banks, or 128MB in 2 DIMM banks. It has pinouts for 2 IDE connectors, 1 Floppy Drive connector, 1 Printer port, 2 Serial ports, 2 Universal Serial Bus ports, PS2 mouse, Infrared Connector, and CPU cooling fan. Port setup is BIOS controlled. There are few jumpers on the board, and those who have come to love the "J" and "JP" jumper identification scheme, should have no trouble getting used to designations such as "CPW" (Clear Password), "CLK1" (BUS Clock frequency) or "FREQ3" (CPU to BUSratio). Gone are the square solder patches on the underside of the board. Every critical Pin 1 is clearly identified on the top of the board. Printed messages on the board are small but legible and located near the pertinent connectors. The VA-502 is a very well laid out board. It is made in China.

To realize the best performance from the 200MHz CPU it was decided to employ SDRAM. Two donated 32MB DIMMs were installed. An inexpensive Trident VGA adapter was located in a PCI Slot.

Since video performance is limited to 640 x 480 by the TV Scan Converter, this board is adequate. ISA slots were populated with existing Adaptec 1522A SCSI Controller, SoundBlaster-16 Card and Ethernet Card. There was no available slot for the formerly used internal modem. Will some public spirited OCIPUG member pony-up an external modem to complete this machine? 14.4 would be fine. 28.8 would be better. But a really generous donor might find it in his heart to give a 33.6 modem.

Documentation for the VA-502 Mainboard was well written, adequately illustrated, and very easy to follow. One anomaly was noted in the instructions for setting passwords. With that exception, the section on Award BIOS Setup was especially complete and easy to read. It made setting up this board a snap.

This BIOS was checked and found to be year 2000 compliant.

editor's addendum: It is hoped that Mr. Moser will report later on the progress and functionality of the computer as newly set up.

Shareware 4 'U'

Bob Blakely

Thanks to all that stooped by the Library table at the last general meeting and took a look at what was there. All the files were not older than 45 days. We're working hard to keep the members happy.

To all that asked YES all files are checked for virus. TWICE.

So what's for the next meeting? Many asked about Slot Machine /Card games. Sure we can do that, so look for many great files.

(Yes there will be an ample supply of other files to keep you busy.)

Here a few that you might find at the next meeting.

3D Hot Slots
 3D Wild Diamonds
 8 Ball Slot 16 bit
 8 Ball Slot 32 bit
 Absolute Slots 16 bit
 Animated Keno 32 bit
 Animated Slots
 Bonus Wheel Slots
 Boxcar Casino
 Casino Verite Blackjack
 Cherry Delight 95
 Deluxe Roulette
 Deuces Wild
 Dominoes Deluxe
 Home Stretch
 Jack or Better
 Jackpot Slots Win 95
 Let it Ride
 Lucky Sevens
 Lucky Stars Video Slots
 Mystery Slots 16 bit
 Mystery Slots 32 bit
 Paradise Slots Win 95
 Poker-it Poker Gold
 Pot O' Gold Slot
 Power Play Slots 16 bit
 Power Play Slots 32 bit
 Royal Flush 10,000 Poker
 Video Keno
 Wild Wizard Slots 16 bit
 Wild Wizard Slots 32 bit
 Had enough ??

Products for Review

PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

Norm Bergman

The following materials have been received by OCIPUG for evaluation. Qualified members may try them out and upon submitting a satisfactory review to the editor will be given the registration materials and the product will become the member's personal property. The reviewer shall agree to observe the club's rules on not sharing software with others. One should keep in mind the wide range of interests of club members and if, upon inspection, the product does not coincide with one's own interests, it should be returned to be reassigned. The reviewer should keep in touch with the editor if he/she runs into difficulties or delays. The reviewer shall agree to return the product if, in the editor's judgment, the review is not submitted in a timely manner. A balanced evaluation should point out the product's good points as well as its shortcomings. The review becomes the property of OCIPUG and may be edited and reproduced by the product donor and other user groups. The reviewer's name will be used as author of the article. In accepting the product the reviewer agrees to these stipulations. The writer will be given a copy of *Guidelines for Product Reviews* to assist in preparing the report.

COMPANY	Note	PRODUCT	RECEIVED	ASSIGNED	DUE	REVIEWER
Connectix		Agent 95	11/96	2/98	5/98	Rusty Hupy
Coriolus Gp Books	* 1	Graphics Programming	10/97	new item	available	
CyberMedia		Oil Change	3/97	3/98	6/98	Al Hart
Deltapoint		QuickSite 2.5	7/97	10/97	1/98	@ Deb. Abernathy
G & A Imaging	* 2	PhotoRecall	12/97	4/98	7/98	Len Leonard
GreenSoft		GreenForm	9/96	4/98	7/98	John Donan
GreenSoft		GreenDesk	9/96	4/98	7/98	John Donan
Microsoft		FrontPage	11/96	4/98	7/98	Karla Heider
Lotus	* 3	ScreenCam 2	1/96	available		
MGI	* 4	VideoWave	4/97	new item	available	
Murach		Crash Course Excel 97	1/98	3/98	6/98	Len Leonard
Murach		Crash Course Word 97	1/98	3/98	6/98	Tony Dopazo
PowerQuest	* 5	Drive Image	12/97	new item	available	
PowerQuest	* 6	Power Tools	3/98	new item	available	
Single Track	* 7	Fine Print	5/97	available		

@=asked to submit article or return product

- * 1 1342 page book with CD. All of Michael Abrash's writings on graphics and performance coding for Windows. Advanced level.
- * 2 Image management system that creates "virtual" photo albums and catalogs images. CD 32 bit
- * 3 Adds captions and voice to presentations. Record movies of screen activity.
- * 4 Capture video and images, do special effects, add narration, sound effects. CD
- * 5 Copies the contents of one harddrive or partition safely onto other harddrives or partitions. CD
- * 6 30 day trial of PartitonMagic, Drive Image, DriveCopy. CD (two copies available)
- * Print in smaller type the contents of several pages or files. Upgrade available

Returned product will become available for review as soon as it has been returned. Contact the Editor if you want to obtain any of these materials for your own. Let him know if there is a product that you think we should review and he will try to get it for you. ed

GOLDMINE 4.0

Marshal Boslow

Where do you want to go today? Goldmine 4.0 answers that question right away by telling you backward is out and forward is in. You see, there is no backward compatibility with any prior version of Goldmine. They do suggest you back up your data prior to upgrade—good idea. Goldmine has all the basic contact management tools such as day/time planning, mail/FAX merge, document management and reporting, but it also offers opportunity management, sales forecasting and analysis, telemarketing scripts, workflow automation, internet Web lead capture and e-mail messaging. It is this Sales Configuration System with sales forecasting, opportunity management and Automated Processes that separates Goldmine from other contact managers. Goldmine 4.0 is available as a stand-alone version for individuals or multi-users sharing common information in small to mid-sized networks.

Installation went well without any glitches. The install screen requires you to place something in the Company Name field or you can't proceed. If you're a company of one it's a bit of an annoyance, but not insurmountable. My equipment is an AMD K6 233 with 32 MB of RAM and a 4.3 HD, so things move right along. System requirements are a 486SX or higher, IBM compatible PC/VGA Monitor, 16MB RAM and 25MB free hard drive space, Microsoft Windows 95, or DOS 3.1 file and, if used, record-locking compatible networks.

With the 4.0 version there are 2 guidebooks that have been rewritten using darker type than the 3.2 version manuals, making it easier to read and with more clarity than the prior version. This new version gets one into actually inputting data and using the information more readily than in version 3.2. In the prior version several chapters are spent on the mechanics of using the program, whereas the 4.0 version gets you going right away creating contacts and contacting them via e-mail setup and FAX. Version 4.0 then goes right into Managing Sales by forecasting management opportunities, analyzing what you have done, assigning quotas and analyzing performance.

Automated Processes get a scant few pages in 3.2 but 4.0 devotes a whole chapter to

the subject—a major enhancement to the new version. You set up predefined actions to be performed on all contacts or groups of contacts in the database. Each new record entered in the contact database can be assigned to automatically receive a letter that introduces the contact to your company, and informs the contact that a salesperson will be calling shortly. After printing the letter, the automated process can schedule follow-up activity, such as, a call back, in the calendar of a specified Goldmine user.

Another feature given amplification is the Re-Hosting to SQL Databases via Native Drivers by using standard dBaseIV format to a wide variety of SQL databases including Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle Sybase, Informix and Interbase. Written in C++, 4.0 can be re-hosted to any data source that is 32 bit ODBC compliant. Improved synchronization comes from field level updates for each field in each record and ensures that all contact record and calendar changes are shared between users as well as system changes in data structures, lookup tables and screen customizations.

A new temporary Alignment Wizard allows the administrative user to re-align contacts within the database, but also to transfer scheduled work and pending calendar items as needed. The E-mail Center offers true Internet POP 3 messaging as well as native support of Microsoft Exchange 5.0 by using a folder driven E-mail Center to manage all of a user's Internet e-mail communications. This includes drag-and-drop support for quick and easy e-mail retrieval, storage, and organization. Goldmine links with handheld devices, such as, US Robotics Palm Pilot and Microsoft Windows CE devices via Puma Technology's Intellisync.

The Information Center allows quick search capability, read and update security access, and the ability to attach multimedia, graphic, or text-based files. Many wizards are retained, such as Merge/Purge, Import and Export, and Global Replace while adding wizards for Territorial Realignment, Synchronization and Database Re-hosting.

Numerous report versions allow users to customize detailed contact reports, activity reports, and calendar reports. There are customizable address and calendar reports

with daily, weekly, and monthly options available with a single key click.

With this version the apparent ease of use came to the fore as I viewed the comprehensive new manuals and wizards. There are industry specific templates complete with merge letter, lookup fields, automated processes, and branching scripts. Also retained is the tab-based contact screen to include Web sites and e-mail addresses. Workgroups are aided with scheduling features, recurring holidays and to-do activities that are checked off when completed. The Activity List provides a tabbed view of open to-dos, calls, appointments, e-mails, and forecasted sales. For folks on the road the Synchronization Wizard walks you through other sites and remote users via LAN, WAN, Internet e-mail, Modem, and, new for 4.0, IP to IP.

The Standard Edition street price is \$170 for single users (or \$70 after a \$100 upgrade rebate), \$295 for first-time users and \$695 for the 5-user network upgrade, \$895 for first time network users. You may contact Goldmine at (800) 654-3526, or online at www.goldminesw.com.

ACP swap meet

Richard Hunter

Many thanks to those that helped with the ACP Swap Meet on March 29, 1998. Among those that I know helped were: Richard Herman, Ken Paeth, Al Hart, Morris Fier, Red Davidson, Alan Foodym, Bob Anderson, and Tony Dopazo. There were others that stopped by and helped in one way or another. We had a good time and good weather; at least it didn't rain. I don't know yet if we will have any new members as a result of the swap meet, but I hope so since we certainly need more members. Again, a big thank you to all that helped.

Desktop Publishing

April 2, 1998

Charles Schreiber

The SIG examined Ventura 7, a publishing program from Corel which will be auctioned off soon. Two CD's contain the WordPerfect 7 wordprocessor, 406 MB of clipart, 4160 fonts, 40.6MB of Photos, Baistra software for creating Java applets, ATM 4.0, Photo-Paint, Corel VERSIONS, CorelDepth, CorelWEB.DESIGNER, Corel DataBase Publisher, Corel Filter Manager, Corel CAPTURE 6.0, Corel SCRIPT, CD Creator, Envoy 7 Portable Document Driver.

This version of Ventura gives you the ability to publish "paperless" documents using either HTML publishing or Corel Barista, or using one of the following: Novell Envoy, Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Distiller.

The CD Creator program allows copying of audio and video files as well as Ventura documents and CR-ROMs.

PHOTO-PAINT is a program for retouching photographs as well as for editing bitmapped images and animation files.

CorelDEPTH creates full-color 3D text and graphics

Corel CAPTURE 6.0 allows you to capture images from any item on your computer screen.

John Donan brought in the Hallmark Greetings program and discussed using it to make a greeting card showing how simple is the interface. There are many design elements such as messages, borders, clipart as well as your text.

WINDOWS 3.1

March 18, 1998

Richard Hunter

One of the audience did not want Windows to start automatically when he booted his machine. Richard demonstrated the use of SYSEDIT under Windows to remove the command in AUTOEXEC.BAT of WIN.

A question was asked about VIDEO drivers. One of the audience was missing a driver. Richard explained the method by which the user could obtain foreign drivers.

Richard displayed SETUP at the DOS prompt. It can be used in the DOS environment to do repair work to the various components of Windows.

The presenter discussed PIF files. These files serve as an information file to allow the successful execution of DOS files in the Windows environment. He then discussed the PIF editor. Richard covered the APPS.INF file. This file is supplied with Windows and lists all programs that Windows has default PIF files. Richard then discussed the DEFAULT.PIF. It can be used as a template to create a specific PIF for a DOS program. Such a PIF should be placed in the same directory as the executable program and should have the name executable.PIF.

The EMM386 command and its various switches was discussed. Typing HELP under DOS was used to display the information pertaining to the various switch settings.

Richard discussed Windows execution in enhanced mode versus standard mode. Windows can be forced to execute in standard mode by use of the /S switch as part of the command. Standard mode forces Windows into running only one program at a time, and will not run DOS applications in the background. In the Standard mode, DOS applications must be run as a full window.

Richard commented that the DOS environment used the DOS PATH for its search for executables, but that Windows used the information in the application's properties.

SCANDISK was briefly discussed.

Microsoft's TECHNET was discussed and a demonstration of it was presented. He pointed out one problem with TECHNET; when the article desired was found, TECHNET does not have the capability of doing a search within the article being read.

WINDOWS 95

March 9, 1998

Audrey Wolden

Rudy Wolf dealt first with the question of how to protect your hard drive. "B" is the most recent version of Win95; he cautions not to install it over an older one. At one time you could get the program for \$65 at the ACP Swap Meet; now it's about \$75-85 for the CD, which comes with a boot floppy. Without that, you cannot access the CD-ROM.

You need MSCDEX and drivers to run the CD from your STARTUP disk. Your AUTOEXEC.DOS and CONFIG.DOS should contain the drivers you need on your startup disk. He suggests that if you are using one of the new larger GIG computers you might copy WIN95 directly off the CD-ROM and put it on your old 400-800 MB drive computer, thus making the smaller computer a slave to the larger one. Put a subdirectory on it, i.e. WIN95, and copy from the CD-ROM; you could put it on your D drive if you wish. The idea is to make it easy to find. Also make one or more subdirectories to your WIN95 directory and call them SVC PK, POWTOYS and/or any other upgrades you might have. Also include a text file: KEY.TXT, for instance. You would then write 28927-oem, or one of the other keys; there are six in all. You can use someone else's key number if you wish, but be sure it contains the same number of digits.

Your startup disk should have:

@echo off

MSCDEX.EXE /D T0SCD001/L:D/m:10

d:

cd\win95

oemsetup /k a:\drvcopy.inf

Caution: Uninstall programs do not empty everything out of your registry. It was noted that one member reinstalls his WIN95 every month or so. Registry will get cluttered since not everything gets deleted. If you click on a .reg directory it becomes a part of the registry so it would be wise to rename registry files.

Should you have a DOS directory in WIN95? someone asked. The AUTOEXEC.BAT file in DOS becomes AUTOEXEC.DOS in WIN95.

The only two products Rudy knows of that create a floppy and restore are Cheyenne B/U2 and Seagate Backup Exec. Otherwise, you will have to reinstall your hard drive files.

The second subject under discussion concerned what happens if you have a file but remove it and then reinstall the program.

This segued into a discussion about Scanner. Rudy passed around Wayne Fulton's collection, neatly bound, which you can obtain from the internet (www.cyberramp.net/~fulton/scans.html) for \$25, including tax. John Donan also passed around samples he has made. All very impressive. Rex volunteered to host a SIG on scanners, and Rudy noted that Wayne Fulton has offered a discount price for a large number of orders to be sent to one address (OCIPUG in this case). Let Rudy know if you wish to be on the list. He can be reached at: rudywolf@pobox.com. A time for the new SIG has not yet been scheduled; Preston Hill will make the announcement as soon as possible.

Rudy suggests you get a CD writer. He copies them from the hard drive because his ID isn't fast enough to copy them direct from CD to CD. Alt.Comp.Prerfs.Scanner is one scanner he recommends. Another is the same name minus the Alt. He researched scanners via the internet to come up with these choices. Read the instructions first because you may be sorry, he advises. He wanted a writer that was reliable at a good price. Another good one was RICO, at \$500. He bought NECX on the internet and watched it being delivered by FedEx starting from its being loaded onto the truck in Fullerton to its arrival at his address.

As to recording over a disk, this will cost you quite a few megabytes so he doesn't recommend it, at least not more than perhaps three times. Five would be too many.

Printer problems were the next subject. One person has had to reset his EPSON every couple of weeks and wanted to know how to set it up so as to avoid having to reset. In

other words, how to avoid undesired switches in printers. One answer is to hit the "refresh" command to make a SCSI setup and avoid having to reboot. The idea is to save your bulb by turning it off when not in use.

Richard Hunter advised using the command: `debug d 40:0` to get rid of the second LPT printer one person gets when he has only one laser printer. For example: `C:WIN95> debug -d 40:0`

After debugging, use Control+ P to print it out.

The next topic dealt with problems involving a lot of printers set up in schools which get "mucked" up and how to protect them when so many people have access to them. Richard Hunter suggested protecting the BIOS, which works with Award's BIOS (and perhaps others), or you can back up and reformat. Thirdly, you can reinstall WIN95, etc.

Someone asked if there is a file manager in WIN95 and Rudy demonstrated the program, locating WINFILE, which answers the question.

The last question concerned downloading e-mail files or messages. Rudy has a text file, which he keeps elsewhere. He opens it up with a text editor then gets rid of messages he doesn't wish to keep. It was pointed out by one member that there are multiple copies of messages in his e-mail box and he wondered what to do about it. You can download the mail, let it stay in your server (which might create a problem for your provider, who might prefer that you not do so) or you can leave it there and get a copy. If you do not remove it you will keep getting the same message(s). There is a button you can click to delete them from the server when you download. You have to find the place where they keep your mail, which may differ from one browser to another.

It's under "preferences" or "options" depending on which browser you use. Either copy or move messages from your browser.

Suggestion: Put data in a separate partition or directory because it's easier to back up that way. You can then copy it to your ZIP drive or wherever else you wish.

WordPerfect

March 2, 1998

Jeff Sinn

The March, 1998 WordPerfect SIG began with "Stump the SIG Leader" — in this case it was easy to do. The question had to do with how to increase the size of the scroll bars so that they are a little easier to use. I could not remember how to do this, but of course I figured it out as soon as I got home. This trick is that scroll bars are a WINDOWS function and have nothing whatever to do with WordPerfect. In Windows 95, to change the scroll bar size, open Display in Control Panel and go to the Appearance tab. One of the selections under Item is Scroll bar — just change the size to anything you want.

George Austin then began the program by showing off a Sony digital camera that stores the images on standard 3 1/2" diskettes. The format is *.jpg which can be easily manipulated in WordPerfect — rotate, brightness, etc. The camera can store images in regular or fine resolutions and produces amazingly high quality photos with the right kind of printer and paper.

George then showed us some more of his calendar macro from last month. You might recall that this places an entire year on a single sheet, with places for appointments and notes. He has now modified it so that you can select up to three years and can even have it highlight recurring appointments or special events.

With special thanks to Red Davidson, Kevin Moser, and Steve Schiffman, we had a sound card and speakers for the SIG space computer. George was able to show us an excellent Corel WordPerfect Suite Tutorial from JIT-Corel Learning Series. This took us through a simulated school project and demonstrated how to produce flow charts, presentations and documents with the programs included in the Suite.

Minutes and Announcements

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

March 30, 1998

A quorum being present, the meeting of the Executive Board of OCIPUG was called to order by President Preston Hill at the Resource Center, 1520 Brookhollow Drive, Suite #38, Santa Ana, California, at 7:05 p.m.

Officers present

Preston Hill Tony Dopazo

Wayne Ali Larry Pearce

Directors present

Richard Black Chris Lloyd

John Gallie Dean Sowers

Richard Hunter Ed Wolfe

Absent: Chet Brisco, Arlene Solomon

Guests: Jim Brock, Red Davidson, Morris Fier, Al Hart, Jim Kirkpatrick, Ed Miller, Kevin Moser, Reg Roberts, Tom Tersigni,

(Note that the Director's Review and Action Package and Supplemental discussed at the Board meeting includes details of the summaries reported in, and supplements, the official minutes. A copy is posted on the Resource Center room A bulletin board.)

Approval of Minutes

Tony Dopazo moved, seconded by John Gallie, the minutes of the January 26, 1998, executive Board meeting be approved. Motion carried

Tony Dopazo moved, seconded by Ed Wolfe, the minutes of the February 23, 1998, Executive Board meeting be approved. Motion carried.

President's Report

Cost reduction and income enhancement are essential to assure Orange Coast IBM PC User Group's survival. The previously published agenda for this meeting is deferred in favor of consideration of business addressing only cost reduction or income enhancement. Topics to be considered are: 1) Reduce telephone costs; 2) Newsletter costs;

3) Donations at SIGs; 4) Soliciting advertising; 5) Enhance membership; 6) Enhance auction income; 7) Recruit members via web page and use of tri-folds; 8) Place OCIPUG information in publications such as "Microtimes," Computer Currents;" 9) Encourage shared use of the Resource Center by other groups.

West Coast Internet (formerly F.I.A.) will submit information sufficient to update our domain name of "ocipug.org." We have received notice our Internet e-mail will be charged \$25/month starting May 1.

We will be soliciting advertising using the current rate sheet version 15.

Mike Bruzzone, Centaur/IDT presenter at our March 28, general meeting, was so impressed with OCIPUG he has donated additional motherboards and WinChip C6 CPUs for auctions.

Chet Brisco has tendered his resignation as a Director. We will miss his contributions to the Board.

Appointments

Jim Brock is appointed to the advertising committee. Mr. Brock brings experience in journalism and advertising with him to assist our Group. We appreciate Mr. Brock for stepping forward and volunteering to help.

The 1998 Nominating Committee is appointed as follows:

Morris Fier Jim Samuelson

Alvin Hart Bill Splitter

Robert Lynch Rex Sutton

Robert Nelissen Neil Swan

Messrs. Fier and Hart will co-chair.

The 1998 Election Committee is appointed as follows:

Chris Davidson Ken Paeth

Frank Disparte Steve Schiffman

Donald Franklin Jeff Sinn

Louise McCain Patricia Thomas

A chairperson will be announced at a later date.

MOTION - Acceptance of the President's Appointments.

Mr. Gallie moved, seconded by Mr. Black, that the President's appointments be accepted as stated. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Ali reported on correspondence received.

Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer's Report

CFO Pearce reported on our income and expenses to date. Money has been transferred from savings as expenses for February exceeded income. Second quarter analysis of the budget shows we have made about 40% of projected income. About 48% of projected expenses have been incurred. An analysis of the phone line expenses was presented.

President Hill mentioned we will share our Resource Center with the Southern California OS/2 User Group for their SIGs. Mr. Pearce will be working with a committee to memorialize the agreement between the 2 groups.

President Hill suggested consideration of the \$50/year safety deposit box the Group rents.

MOTION - Non-renewal of safety deposit box

Mr. Lloyd moved, seconded by Mr. Wolfe, that we do not renew our large safe deposit box at an additional charge. Mr. Pearce reported a smaller, useable box was free from the bank as an alternative. Motion carried.

MOTION - Reduction of phone lines.

Mr. Wolfe moved, seconded by Mr. Hunter, that we have the BBS and Facilities Maintenance and Improvement committees investigate removal of unnecessary phone lines. Messrs. Miller and Sowers pointed out use of the BBS service would not suffer from removal of 1 line. Mr. Davidson noted that we could arrange the sharing of a phone line between the executive office and SIG Rooms A & B. Mr. Wolfe amended his

motion and was seconded by Mr. Hunter, the phone lines (714) 662-1438 (executive office) and (714) 662-2637 (BBS line) should be disconnected. Motion carried.

President Hill asked Director Sowers to meet with the Publications Committee to discuss ways of reducing our expenses in their area. Mr. Sowers will report back by April 15. Some areas to consider are: the reduction of non-OCIPUG authored articles; possible reduction in the number of pages in "Readme.Doc."; consideration of publishing bi-monthly; culling the number of vendors receiving complimentary copies; culling the list of groups with whom we exchange newsletters.

President Hill asked Mr. Davidson to install a donation box at the rear of SIG room A in the Resource Center.

MOTION - Distribution of additional drawing tickets for a donation.

Mr. Gallie moved, seconded by Mr. Lloyd, that the Board approve the distribution of additional tickets at \$1.00 each to persons attending the monthly General Meeting as donations to the club for purposes of the drawing. Discussion concerned the change in the attitude of the membership towards the drawing. While the additional funds are needed, would the members approve of the increased chances for those who made a donation. A hand vote was held: 2 Abstain, 2 Against, 7 For, the motion carried.

Liason/committee Reports

Advertising Committee - Mr. Gallie recapped the insertion order drafts and the current version, #15, of the rate sheet. Jim Brock outlined some strategies to pursue advertising. President Hill recapped how the advertising rates are calculated. Mr. Gallie will pursue placement of OCIPUG information in "Microtimes" and "Computer Currents." Mr. Wolfe volunteered to assist Mr. Gallie.

President Hill thanked Richard Baznik, Jim Brock, John Gallie, and Tom Tersigni for meeting with him after the March 28, general meeting to discuss advertising. President Hill also thanked Tom Tersigni for his work in surveying advertising rates used by other groups to formulate our rates.

Facilities Maintenance and Improvement Committee - Mr. Davidson reported on the motherboards donated by Centaur/IDT. They will be examining requirements to utilize and implement the boards.

BBS Committee - Mr. Miller reported on the charge to be made by our provider for Internet e-mail, an alternative needs to be found. Mr. Sowers suggested we might obtain a sponsorship of a BBS phone line to support e-mail.

Internetworking Committee - Mr. Black reported the loss of F.I.A. e-mail reduces some of our options. Webmaster Mike Moore is working on website information and presentation.

New Business

MOTION - New SIG - Digital Photography and Scanning

President Hill asked approval for establishing a new SIG on Digital Photography and Scanning. Rex Sutton will be SIG leader. Mr. Gallie moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to establish the SIG. Motion carried.

Mr. Wolfe commented on feedback he received the general meeting presentation by Centaur/IDT was too technical. A brief discussion was had that this presentation was about hardware and had an appeal to some of the membership. Members are encouraged to provide feedback on the presentations so the Program Committee will be able to meet the members needs.

Mr. Miller complemented the Secretary on the excellent job he is doing :-)

Adjournment

John Gallie moved, seconded by Tony Dopazo and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Next Meeting The next meeting of the Executive Board will be April 27, 1998, 7:00 p.m., at the Resource Center. Please note the May 29, 1998, meeting will be on the FRIDAY before the General Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Ali, Secretary

Help

Richard Hunter

Your club needs your help. As noted in Preston Hill's column last month, Chris Hansen will be giving up the chairmanship of Membership Accounting, so your club needs a member to take care of this responsibility. Also there is a need for others to help him with keeping the member and vendor databases up to date, preparing a monthly report for the board of directors, and preparing labels for mailings and for the drawing at the general meeting. Additionally, there is the acceptance of renewals and new members applications at the general meeting. With enough members supporting this function, it should not be a burden on any one individual.

There are several advantages of being the chairman or working for the Membership Accounting. You would gain experience with using your database program, you would learn more about how your club works and is organized, you would get to meet many members, and you would have a feeling of accomplishment in helping your club. Don't delay, give me a call (714) 968-6362 or email me rthunter@pacbell.net.

Articles

Norm Bergman

Most of the articles you read in *Readme.Doc* have been submitted to the editor on our bulletin board (BBS) or via the Internet. Many members we have talked to have yet to take advantage of the valuable resource offered free to all members of OCIPUG. The editor urges you to check the SIG Guide in the middle of this newsletter and find out how to get connected. Check out the Modern and Internet SIGs and the What Do I Do Now SIG for starters.

COMDEX FALL 1998

Tony Dopazo (APCUG Rep.)

Before providing you information on COMDEX FALL 1998 be aware of events preceding: APCUG/PC Expo Spring Event, our very own regional event in San Diego, and lastly the blowout in Las Vegas.

Spring PC Expo

In the order of occurrence, this June will find APCUG in New York City. Normally each year, APCUG does two national events, one in conjunction with Spring Comdex, the other at Fall Comdex. This year rather than doing an event at Spring Comdex, which in 1998 is in Chicago, APCUG opted for the Spring PC Expo in New York. PC Expo will be held at the Javits Convention Center in New York City, and will run from Tuesday, June 16 through Thursday, June 18. This is a first ever event, in conjunction with PC Expo, rather than Comdex. This APCUG event follows a major regional computer meeting, NYPC User Group's InterGalactic 11. The one day InterGalactic event is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, then two days (June 14 and 15) with APCUG RoundTable discussions. Followed by three days of PC Expo (June 16-18), with APCUG Vendor Events in the morning and evening. The scheduling of APCUG events in the morning and evening allows ample time to attend PC Expo during the day.

Southwest US Region 7

Closer to home we have our annual Southwest US Region 7, APCUG event. Region 7 is composed of member user groups from Arizona, New Mexico, and Southern California. The schedule for this 5th Annual Southwest Regional User Group Conference is August 21, 22 and 23. The Hilton Mission Valley hotel is the site of the APCUG meeting rooms. A new trolley stop right behind the hotel allows for easy access to the Convention Center. This regional event follows the pattern of other

A Plea for the BBS

This message was sent to DAVE KENNEDY by JACK BENTLEY on the OCIPUG BBS

If most members are like I am, they have set up an ISP, and while browsing on the Internet, tend to use the convenient e-mail services provided there for much of their private communication, including that with other OCIPUG members. I've been a little like a kid in the candy store who becomes blind to much else going on around me. The only danger here is in overlooking our own BBS. It is the one opportunity we have to reach all our members with a single message—that is, if our members are using it. In the past, our BBS has provided much of the glue that has sustained our membership—the neat thing about it being that it has presented a forum where one can post a problem and/or a fix he or she has encountered, and know it will be read by many fellow members. It's where we've all helped one another a great deal. I know I certainly have received a whopping amount of benefit, and I feel other members have also. But only if we take advantage of it—such non-private messages have become fewer during the past year, while we all have been enjoying the candy store. This plea is simply that we not overlook our BBS while we are experiencing our newfound freedom on the Net. It is that we leave a few moments to check in at least every few days to find out what's going on, or to post a problem of our own. And just because we may not get an answer right away doesn't mean a lack of interest—probably just "lack of usage." Let us all give it time and stick with it, and hopefully more members will return to it. There should be a rewarding place in our computing time for both the Net AND the BBS. Let us continue to browse both!

Regards to all, Jack B.

Very well said, Jack. I've been remiss, and will make it a point to be more supportive, and more responsive to messages on our BBS. Thanks for the reminder.

Dave Kennedy

From Gregg Hill:

Bravo! I am one of those who uses the net for e-mail and has little time for the BBS. I unfortunately have missed the camaraderie of the folks on the BBS who have always been willing to help with problems of almost any level. Beginners and advanced users alike can benefit from keeping up the community atmosphere that OCIPUG represents.

I hope we all don't become netizens and not citizens anymore.

Keep up the good work, and a rousing "Hello!" to all my fellow members whom I have missed.

Gregg

Several members including Stan Sabin used the BBS to wish a happy 80th birthday to our President, Preston Hill, who celebrated at his home on the 4th of April. Congratulations again Dr. Hill !!!

More Problems on the Internet

Rusty Hupy

Subj: 3:19am Date: 98-04-01 06:29:34 EST From: goldrust@gte.net (Rusty) Reply-to: goldrust@gte.net

To: nberg10299@aol.com

Hi Norm, My new ISP is having a problem with spammers. Its so bad in fact, AOL won't accept any mail coming from my server. They (my ISP) are trying to catch the spammers but evidently don't have the where-with-all to catch them.

Their problem has become my problem because I can't send e-mail to my friends who use AOL. Tomorrow, or today, I'm contacting my Congressman to launch an investigation, complaint or whatever against AOL. I feel AOL is violating my rights for not allowing me to send e-mail to my friends. Obviously it is a complicated issue which may require a good fight, and I love a good fight.

This fight will give me ammunition for another article in the newsletter.

Regards, Rusty

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(Subject to change)

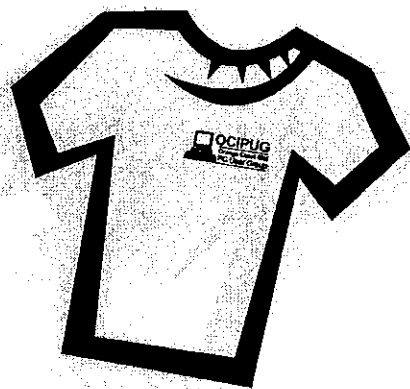
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