

# Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

# README.DOC

August 1999

Newsletter

Volume 15.8

**The August 28, 1999 9:00 am  
General Meeting will feature**

**Gene Barlow - Powerquest  
Otex Corp. - Networking**

**The September 25, 1999 9:00 am  
General Meeting will feature**

**Matt McCann - Quicken**  
( Additional speakers to be determined -  
check BBS or Information Hot Line )

## Orange Coast College Chemistry Building

(Between Adams Parking and Science Hall)  
Room 207

### Installation of New Officers and Directors

At the August 28 General Meeting, the results of the annual election will be announced, and the new Officers and Directors will be installed

### Special Interest Group Meetings

Costa Mesa Senior Center

SE Corner, 19th St. and Pomona Ave, Costa Mesa

( See map )

#### August Schedule

4 August	Wed.	Internet SIG	7pm
11 August	Wed.	Genealogy SIG	7pm
18 August	Wed.	Windows SIG	7pm
25 August	Wed.	Digital Photography and Scanning SIG	7pm

#### September Schedule

1 September	Wed.	Internet SIG	7pm
8 September	Wed.	Genealogy SIG	7pm
15 September	Wed.	Windows SIG	7pm
22 September	Wed.	Digital Photography and Scanning SIG	7pm

The Executive Board will meet on Monday, August 30, 1999, at 7:00pm at the home of President Wayne Ali:  
1413 West Marcella Lane, Santa Ana, California ( South of Garden Grove Blvd/Memory Lane - West of Bristol Ave )

Please note your  
membership expiration  
date on the address label

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
DATED MATERIAL — DELIVER BEFORE August 24, 1999



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For information, details and rates on all advertising sales and scheduling, please contact:

Preston Hill    714-893-2403    prestonlh@bigfoot.com

**Publication Guidelines**

All items 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 of **Sept. 3** for the **September** issue as follows:

1. Upload to Editor in the *10-Newsletter Message* conference of the electronic bulletin board system (BBS) at 714-892-1291, or
2. Upload to the *25-Readme.Doc* files area of BBS, or
3. Send via Internet e-mail to: prestonlh@bigfoot.com or
4. 3.5" disk mailed to the Editor to be received by the deadline.

**Membership**

Benefits of OCIPUG Membership include, but by no means are limited to:

- Subscription to OCIPUG's monthly newsletter, *Readme.Doc*, with up-to-date information on the newest software and hardware, meeting schedules.
- Free monthly General Meetings with speakers from industry and academia describing advances in technology.
- Free Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings/seminars to exchange tips and tricks and to solve problems.
- Free technical support from knowledgeable fellow members via telephone and/or OCIPUG's electronic bulletin board system (BBS).
- Pleasure in helping your fellow member solve their problems.
- Camaraderie with those of similar interests.
- Discounts from vendors on software, hardware, and other items.
- Internet Web site message center and chat room at <http://www.ocipug.org>

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

Membership status:  New  Renewal - Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Membership type:  Individual  Family

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

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Profession/Trade: \_\_\_\_\_  Retired  Current Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member(s) Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Dues:**

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

Individual	\$30.00	\$ _____
Family	\$35.00	\$ _____
* Full-time student	\$20.00	\$ _____
Donation		\$ _____

I consider my skill level to be:

Beginner  Novice  Intermediate  Advanced

Total Amount Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* (U-grad 12 units; grad 6 units)

I learned about OCIPUG from: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Board Meeting Minutes July 26, 1999

Pursuant to a determination that a quorum was present, a regular meeting of the Executive Board of OCIPUG was called to order by President Wayne Ali at his residence, 1413 W. Marcella Lane, Santa Ana, CA 92706, at 7:11 p.m.

**Officers Present:** Wayne Ali, President  
Larry Pearce, CFO  
Rob Nelissen, Secretary  
Preston Hill (Past President)

**Absent:** Don Testa, V.P.

**Directors Present:** Leonard Robertson  
Sam Wozniak  
Jody Ali  
(one vacant director position)

**Absent:** Sue Hayes  
Arlene Solomon

**Guest:** Bob Schmidt

### Minutes:

Preston Hill moved and Jody Ali seconded to approve the June 28, 1999 minutes with the following corrections: Leonard Robertson's name was inadvertently left off the 1999/2000 list of board members. Mike Conway, instead of Ken Paeth, mailed the ballots on July 7. The correct name, used in several places, is Sam rather than Steve Wozniak.

### President's Report:

President Ali swore in Sam Wozniak to replace Board member Bruce Williams (deceased). Michael Moore is to be sworn in at the next Board meeting to replace Jeanne LeVan who resigned because of illness.

Michael Moore is now able to forward to a member's Internet e-mail address messages that were addressed to the member at "ocipug.org".

Leonard Robertson and Sam Wozniak have completed a draft survey form asking for club members' interests and suggestions as they pertain to the welfare of OCIPUG. The final survey form will be published in the August Readme.Doc.

The issue of non-dues paying members conducting SIGs under the auspices of OCIPUG has been resolved. All SIG leaders will pay dues in order to satisfy liability issues.

John Lunsford, one of our most popular

SIG leaders, will once again conduct New User SIGs, starting September 11 from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Costa Mesa Senior Center.

Wayne also commented on the last minute relocation to the Fine Arts Building at the last General Meeting. Karen Latham from Orange Coast College and Wayne have now synchronized the meeting dates and location of the General Meetings. All General Meetings until the end of the year will be in the Chemistry Building, Room 207.

Henry Guttentag declined the nomination for President and would not consider accepting the Vice-President spot except in dire emergency. Morris Fier was recommended as a candidate for President. Rob Nelissen has declined to accept the nomination for Secretary. Richard Black's name was suggested as candidate for Secretary.

Reg Roberts concluded that the projector at Orange Coast College is not compatible with most of today's laptop computers. This problem needs to be resolved. Quicken and Power Quest have expressed interest in doing a presentation at a future General Meeting.

### Secretary's Report:

Rob Nelissen reported on mail received. Once again membership dues are coming in steadily. He mentioned receipt of a video tape from Microsoft with Bill Gates' speech to a user group convention. On the tape Mr. Gates envisioned his view of future computing. The Board suggested that the tape be shown at a future SIG. Thanks to Preston Hill's efforts we have received some software for review and possibly a future presentation from Go Back Software.

### CFO/Treasurer's Report:

Larry Pearce reviewed the financial report and reported that our checking account balance is healthy due to fairly good membership renewals, the reduction of Orange Coast College meeting room rent, and other cost cutting moves.

### Old Business:

The ballots need to be updated with

names of new and additional names of candidates. Mike Conway will send them out by August 6.

### New Business:

Preston Hill received a survey request from APCUG. He asked the Board members to help answer some of the questions. The Board agreed and Preston will return the survey results to APCUG.

All newly elected officers and directors will be sworn in at the August Board meeting. Outgoing President Ali will adjourn the current Board and turn the meeting over to the new Board so as to give them a jump start. The new Board's term officially starts on September 1, 1999.

Wayne Ali is to talk to Costa Mesa Senior Center officials about moving Board meetings to the Center, starting in September.

Leonard Robertson will e-mail results of the OCIPUG member survey to all members.

Sam Wozniak volunteered to be in charge of putting a new member package together and personally calling to welcome and answer any questions new members may have. He has also volunteered to call and write all inactive members to gain their interest in rejoining.

Ken Paeth is to reformat mailing labels to add "Expires: (date)" in order to identify membership expiration date.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m. The next Executive Board Meeting will again be at Wayne Ali's house on Monday, August 30, 1999 at 7:00 p.m., 1413 W. Marcella Lane, Santa Ana, CA 92706.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob Nelissen, Secretary

# General Meeting Report

July 31, 1999

By Richard Black

The July 1999 General Meeting was held at OCIPUG's new home at Orange Coast College, Room 207 of the Chemistry Building. It was called to order at 9:13 AM by President Wayne Ali, who noted that the room has more equipment available than the prior room and is less expensive.

Webmaster Michael Moore announced that he is trying to forward e-mail sent to OCIPUG.ORG, but he can do so only for those people for whom he knows another address. He also noted that some mail arrives without a specific person identified so he has to guess to whom to forward the messages.

President Ali announced that Rob Nelisson will be unable to accept the position of Secretary if elected. Due to schedule conflicts he can help but cannot accept the official position. There are others also willing to help, but we do need to have a secretary to take notes at the business meetings, etc.

It was announced that candidates would be available for a personal meeting at the Souplantation after the General Meeting. About 17 of the approximately 51 attendees indicated they would be there.

At 9:20 Program Chair Reg Roberts introduced the first speaker, *Dr. John Goodman*. John, author of seven books, spent the next hour and twenty minutes discussing how writing, contracting for and publishing computer books differ from other publishing areas. He also discussed ways things can go wrong and about what to expect in upcoming hardware.

Some of the things that can occur in the publishing industry are things the author did not intend—the writer's errors that the editor doesn't catch and alterations forced upon authors without the author's knowledge or consent. He pointed out that just because something is written in a book does not mean it is accurate. If your computer is telling you one thing but the book says another, trust your computer.

Among other things, John discussed USB, Firewire, digital photography, audio, flat panel displays, and CPUs from different manufacturers.

After the break, Richard Hunter announced that four SIGs are up and running: Internet, Genealogy, Windows, and Scanning/Digital Photography. These SIGs are being held at the Costa Mesa Senior Citizens Center.

The second presenter was *Keith Rentry of Belkin Components*. He was the product manager for their USB products and is now an evangelist for USB. In addition to discussing about ten of Belkin's USB products, he compared USB with Firewire technology. Although Firewire is much faster than USB, it can support fewer devices and at shorter distances. He noted that manufacturers are tending toward building machines with USB and Firewire technology, causing serial and parallel ports to become obsolete. Attaching up to 127 devices to one USB port and one IRQ can reduce a lot of hassles and increase the speed of data transfer.

Belkin has one product that bypasses the requirement that the computer BIOS recognize USB, the USB Bus Port. This means that not so up-to-date computers can use USB.

An interesting discussion ensued elaborating on John Goodman's talk.

The meeting was closed at 11:35 AM.

*(Ed.'s Note: Richard Black requested that it be noted this report has been edited.)*

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## People and numbers to know

(All may also be reached directly on the BBS at "(First Name).(Last Name)")

Web Page at <http://www.ocipug.org>

BBS 714-892-1291 or 714-751-3242

Information Hotline 714-662-2939

### Executive Board

President	Wayne Ali	714-972-4695	wk.ali@prodigy.net
Vice President	Don Testa	714-840-5300	dtesta@pol.net
Secretary	Rob Nelissen	714-281-0234	tkboo@worldnet.att.net
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Director-1999	Jody Ali	714-571-4749	wk.ali@prodigy.net
Director-2000	Sue Hayes	714-373-6931	suzy724@aol.com
Director-1999	Leonard Robertson	949-855-3030	ayamani@pacbell.net
Director-1999	Arlene Solomon	714-891-3889	lowtax@worldnet.att.com
Director-2000	Dennis Walz	714-545-1762	dawalz@worldnet.att.net
Director-1999			
Director-2000	Michael Moore	714-535-0608	mmoore@inreach.com
Director-2000	Sam Wozniak	714-556-8878	samwoz@pacbell.net
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Webmaster	Michael Moore	714-535-0608	mmoore@onreach.com

# Herb's Hangout

By Herb Huey

## The Ultimate Upgrade

One of my co-workers asked me about my old computer. "I have a Pentium Pro," I replied. "A Pentium Pro? Isn't that obsolete?" my friend asked. "My Pentium Pro will be four years old in September. It's starting to wheeze a little," I said. "What do you need to change to get it up to state-of-the-art?" he asked. "Let's see, I will need a new motherboard, CPU, video card, faster CD-ROM or DVD, more memory and hard disk space, faster modem. It may be cheaper to buy a new system."

I explained to my friend that most of the components are obsolete and any computer has limited upgrade capability. The ultimate upgrade for an old system is a brand new system. Since my friend comes from the "Show Me" state I opened the May 1999 copy of MicroTimes. NexGen puts out a multipage ad with bundled systems followed by component prices. It makes for an easy comparison.

First we started with a system vs. parts comparison on a low cost system, the NexCom UltraMedia Celeron 366. The system price is \$699 complete with 15" monitor.

1) Intel Celeron 366 CPU	\$90
2) 32MB SDRAM	\$40
3) 4.3 GB Hard Disk	\$110
4) Motherboard	\$80
5) Floppy	\$25
6) Diamond Speedstar 8MB AGP 3-D Video Card	\$50
7) 15" Monitor	\$140
8) 40X CD-ROM	\$40
9) Yamaha 3-D Wave Sound Card	\$20
10) 56K V90 Fax Modem	\$70
11) Mouse	\$10
12) 60 Watt Speakers	\$16
13) Medium Tower Case	\$46
14) 104-Key Win95 Keyboard	\$20
15) Windows 98 Upgrade	\$90

Parts Total \$847

There are few major name brand components in this low cost system but the parts total of \$847 is \$148 more than the complete system. My friend then commented that a high-end system with many name brand components would have a different result. We checked out the NexCom ThunderMedia Pentium III 550 system. It has a large hard disk and a 19" monitor. At \$2549 this is a very hot system.



1) Intel Pentium III 550 CPU	\$800
2) 128MB SDRAM	\$130
3) 20.1 GB Ultra ATA Hard Disk	\$300
4) Via Apollo Motherboard	\$70
5) Floppy	\$25
6) ATI Rage Fury AGP 3-D Video Card	\$170
7) MAG XJ-810 19" Monitor	\$440
8) 3X DVD-ROM	\$120
9) Sound Blaster Live 3-D Wave Sound Card	\$60
10) US Robotics 56K V90 Fax Modem	\$190
11) Mouse	\$10
12) Super Woofer/ Satellite Spkrs	\$60
13) Full Tower Case	\$56
14) 104-Key Win95 Keyboard	\$20
15) 100 MB Internal Zip Drive	\$70
16) Windows NT Workstation Upg	\$135
Parts Total	\$2656

The gap has closed in this case; the parts total is only \$107 more than the system price. My friend was flabbergasted. "How can this be?" he asked. I explained that System Integrators make volume buys on all components. They assemble and test computer systems at very attractive prices. It is guaranteed to work out of the box and there is usually a one year warranty. Many dealers also bundle an impressive array of software though some of it may be of little value. All assembled systems have Windows 98 or NT already loaded. I like the feeling of power when I can bring a computer back and yell, "Fix It!" Alas, the days when the vendor will quickly diagnose the problem and fix it on the spot is rapidly disappearing.

Even if you still feel like doing the upgrades yourself, there are strong downsides to upgrading your own System. First of all nobody is surprised that it does require some technical ability. You do need the confidence (and luck!) to open the case and monkey around inside. Look at the decisions that you have to make. You must pick and choose your own parts. You alone are responsible for parts compatibility. If you choose the wrong part, you will need to exchange it or live with your mistake. There is no system warranty though there are warranties on the individual parts. You must get your own software, especially the operating system, and load it in. Finally, you must test and repair your own system.

Technology advances often make system upgrades difficult. This is built-in system obsolescence. There are a few internal parts that I can move to the new system such as the keyboard, mouse, monitor, sound card and speaker system. Every major component has gone through an evolutionary trail. Some instances are:

- **Memory:** We went through Dual In-Line (DIP) chips to 30-pin SIMM, 72-pin SIMM, and 168-pin SIMM packages. Memory architectures went from the simple dynamic RAM (DRAM) to Extended Data Out (EDO), PC100 bus synchronous DRAM (SDRAM) and Rambus DRAM (RDRAM) for video applications.
- **Motherboards** have changed from the following bus architectures, ISA, EISA, PCI, AGP, and bus speeds have increased from 66MHz to 100 MHz.
- **Serial Interfaces** have improved from good old RS-232 to USB and the new FireWire (IEEE-394)
- **Hard Disks** have gone from MFM, IDE, EIDE or Ultra ATA, SCSI to SCSI-3 Ultra Wide Plus architectures in the effort for faster access and larger hard disk sizes. A few years ago it would have been unimaginable that we can get 20 GB hard disks for less than \$400.

(Continued on next page)

## Herb's Hangout

*Continued*

John Goodman showed us some neat new technology; many made possible with the Universal Serial Bus (USB) interface. I can use the Belkin USB add-on to get USB capability but I will need to go to Windows 98. There we go again with more upgrade decisions.

Here is my basic upgrade advice for major upgrades. If your system is more than three years old, get a new computer because it is actually cheaper. Remember the service life of a computer is only three years though the IRS may differ. If you want the latest technology, get a new computer. Getting a partial upgrade will still leave you behind the technology curve. If you still want to do your own upgrades, don't forget to check on system compatibility with your new upgrade parts before installing.

### SIGNING OFF

I finally ordered the HP 6250Cxi scanner from Buy.COM. It has an optical resolution of 600 x 1200 dpi and makes the most beautiful scans of photos I've ever seen. It is so sharp that dust may show up on the scan. It comes with PhotoDeluxe Business Edition. I compared it with Ulead's PhotoExpress, Corel PhotoHouse, and MGI's PhotoSuite. Overall, I find that PhotoDeluxe's tools are superior. The cloning tool is the best one I've ever used. I'm not happy with the image resizing tool. PhotoDeluxe has a default ratio of 1:1.33, which is not good when you want to change that ratio. PhotoDeluxe suggests that you deliberately distort the image which I find is objectionable. Corel's PhotoHouse has the best tool for that application.

My in-laws came up with a small cache of photos that they managed to rescue from Vietnam. These few photos are all they have to show of the family in Vietnam. The photos looked more like some type of half-toning process with tiny dots visible. I received a photo that was in such bad condition it would be a challenge for any image restorer. I worked on the scanned image for two hours and the results are amazing. Now I have to round up some photo quality paper so I can print multiple copies.

## An Easy Y2K Fix

*By Tony Dopazo*

Small problem and (an Easy) fix for a Y2K glitch. For those of you running MS/Windows95, 98 & NT, this is a fix for a small Y2K problem *almost* everyone should do...

After making this quick little check, much to my surprise, I learned that all our computers would have gone "off-date" at 00:00:00:01 hrs on 01/01/2000 because Microsoft "set us up" for a "clock glitch". Fortunately, a quick fix is provided, should your computer fail the check.

**The Check** — for those using Win95, 98 & NT:

Double click on "My Computer".

Double click on "Control Panel".

Double click on "Regional settings" icon.

Click on the "Date" tab at the top of the page.

Where it says, "Short Date Sample", look and see if it shows a "two digit" year. Unless you've previously changed it — it does. That's because Microsoft made the two digits the default setting for Windows 95, Windows 98 and NT.

This date RIGHT HERE is the date that feeds ALL application software and will not roll over into the year 2000. It will roll over to the year 00.

Click on the button across from "Short Date Style" and select the option that shows, "mm/dd/yyyy" or "m/d/yyyy". (Be sure your selection has four y's showing, not just two).

Then click on "Apply".

Then click on "OK" at the bottom.

Easy enough to fix. However, every "as distributed" installation of Windows worldwide is defaulted to fail Y2K rollover... Did the M/SofrHeads do it on purpose??

Via my class listserv this info comes from a recently retired Lotus Corp. top VP who knows his software. I checked it out and sure enough my Short Date Style was set for mm/dd/yy so I selected mm/dd/yyyy.

## Costa Mesa Senior Center

*Victor Olcott*

*714-557-8009*

Members of OCIPUG (and others) are continuing in their active support of the Costa Mesa Senior Center in its newly assumed role as a SeniorNet Learning Center. (See the SeniorNet web page at <http://www.seniornet.org> for more information on SeniorNet's mission and scope.)

Five computer classes are underway currently: Two cover "Introduction to Computers," two address the "Internet and E-Mail," and one deals with word processing ("Works"). Each is staffed with one instructor and at least two coaches to help the seniors who have signed up (approximately 12 students per class) master the basic skills and knowledge associated with each topic.

Follow-up classes are scheduled to start in September. If any of you out there are interested in participating in this program designed to help seniors become computer-literate, please call Victor Olcott at (714) 557-8009 — or e-mail him at: [zlunicorn@aol.com](mailto:zlunicorn@aol.com). Teachers, classroom coaches, lab coaches, and those willing to help in the maintenance of the computers (software and hardware) would be welcome.

The Costa Mesa Senior Center is hosting OCIPUG SIGs, too. At present, we have a SIG space in the 'Sunroom' downstairs and another one in Classroom #2 upstairs. The latter contains the three beam projector. (Call Richard Hunter for details concerning the four SIGs that are regularly scheduled now on Wednesday evenings.) Our thanks, again, to Red Davidson who got the projector installed and to Kim Kymlicka who aligned and focused it.

The building can accommodate at least two more SIG spaces. Are there any (erst-while) SIG leaders who would be willing to step forward and pick up the traces again?? If so get in touch with Richard Hunter ([rthunter@bigfoot.com](mailto:rthunter@bigfoot.com)).

## Chipset Limitations

*The following article is from the  
Dealsguy,  
by Bob Click,  
Greater Orlando Computer User  
Group:*

By the time this column appears some motherboards being sold will have Intel's 810 chipset (a chipset being the surrounding chips that support the CPU). One caveat though, there is a problem in that Intel's 810 chipset will not support the Pentium III. It supports the Slot 1 design and the Pentium II, but fails to support the Pentium III.

If you plan a new motherboard or computer purchase, it wouldn't hurt to see if your motherboard has the updated "810e" chipset (expected late in the fourth quarter or early first quarter of next year). If you don't plan a later upgrade to the Pentium III, or to use the Pentium III in the first place, it won't matter. The fix will also be incorporated into the 820 and 840 chipsets and all three will then support the Pentium III.

The thinking was that there would be little worry about this problem since those chipsets are targeted for entry level motherboards using the Celeron or Pentium II. Still, many resellers are concerned that if an owner wanted to upgrade, they would have to be told to upgrade only to the Pentium II, sort of a limited option. Just thought I'd mention that so you would check into it if you were buying a new motherboard or computer. Actually, many consultants feel the Pentium III isn't that much of an improvement anyway.

### What A Great Show

InfoCom was a great show, especially visiting the "shoot-out" room. Of all the shows I have attended, I think that in terms of dollar value for equipment displayed, InfoCom has to be about the richest of any trade show, even over the famed "Comdex" or "Consumer Electronics Show." I have no handle on a dollar value for the entire show, but the shoot-out room alone contained about \$38 million in equipment.

What an impressive array of projection systems—all side by side, displaying the very same thing on each screen. The rotation of displays ran from still shots, some with the right picture chosen to check gray

scales, to movies, to crosshatch and other things to make good comparisons in picture quality. A voice on the PA system instructed you what was showing and what to look for.

There were 79 lower-end projection systems, from the \$4000 CTX and Sony to a BARCO for \$25,500, resolutions varied. A projector from "Plus" Corp. was ultra thin at 2.28 inches. Then there were 12 mid-level projection systems from the \$15,000 Sanyo/Fisher to the \$170,000 Electrohome, with resolutions ranging from 1024 x 768 to 1280 x 1024.

Most impressive were the nine theater-type projection systems ranging from the \$10,000 Toshiba to the \$150,000 Electrohome (I mean only \$149,995). Resolutions were 1280 x 1024.

Also in the shoot-out room were some very large monitors. Some were "hang-on-the-wall" type. I think Panasonic had the thinnest one, which was a 42" (\$10,000), but only 3-1/2" thick. Large monitors ranged from about \$4,000 to a mere \$34,995 with a resolution of 1365 x 768. HDTV (High Definition TV) has a 16 x 9 aspect ratio (16 units wide by 9 units high). All could be either a monitor or HDTV.

As an aside, we're used to the 4 x 3 aspect ratio, but you will see 16 x 9 more and more with the advancement of HDTV. By FCC mandate, all commercial TV stations must transmit DTV (Digital TV) service by May 1, 2002. Many will do it by the end of this year. DTV is not compatible with analog TV, so both systems will be transmitted for a while, but either a new HDTV or a converter will be needed eventually for proper reception.

Back to the Shoot-out - "Extron" provided the complete distribution system, valued at about a million dollars, to provide signals for the entire shoot-out room. "Stewart" furnished the screens, except for a few by "Da Lite." Each item had an illuminated sign with the manufacturer name, model, resolution and price. "Crestron" provided touch screen displays to see specs for the various manufacturers' equipment. Nineteen other companies contributed support for the shoot-out.

In the shoot-out room, adjustments and repairs could only be made during an hour before the show opened, and the projectors should work right the rest of the day. It was certainly easy to form an opinion about what

would be your favorite brand while browsing the shoot-out room. I thought a couple of brands were consistently good in the different categories. However, I did wish I could adjust some a bit. There was a distinct difference in the displays.

I visited several booths in the show containing a couple million dollars in equipment, not including the booth cost. One small exhibitor paid \$8,000 for a 15' booth and \$18,000 for the display, not to mention the equipment shown, shipping, setup and dismantling costs. Many booths were elaborate with all types of unique projections.

One day Sony featured an all-electronic robot dog, and what a neat dog! It walks, it talks, it chases a ball and even cocks its leg to...well...you know, but no water, fire hydrant or not. It was only shown one day and they sold 3,000 units in about 15 minutes at \$2,200 a pop. Another buyer has an order pending for 3,000. I'm told it's on the Sony web site <sony.com> but haven't found it yet.

Video walls abounded. One with about 15 cubes was priced at \$300,000 including the digital processing equipment. I was surprised to find that, like many projectors, it used Texas Instrument's DLP (digital light processing) technology. Video walls with one or two rows of cubes were also offered as electronic signs by a couple of booths. Prices started at about \$10,000.

The new 16 x 9 monitors were abundant in the show, as I have noticed in most shows with computers these days. As you can imagine, thin flat monitors abounded, and expect to see more of the plasma displays as this new technology gathers momentum. The show floor was filled with attendees from all over the world. Enough trivia for this month.

### Here is what I have in special offers, (not much):

The Data Depot items will still be good this month. Visit their web site at <<http://www.datadepo.com>>, or call Data Depot at 1-800-767-3424 (# also good in Canada) or 1-813-445-3402.

### Another Way To Buy a Projector

Many user groups long for a better projector, as do some businesses, and prices are coming down. I just saw an InFocus LP 400 featuring 700 ANSI lumens and not a bad resolution in the CDW catalog for \$2994.88. (1-800-599-4239)

*(Continued next page)*

(Continued)

On the other hand, if you want to check the web, I read that you can do better. In fact, a manufacturer's rep at InfoCom also told me about that. <Projectorcentral.com> is a place to check out specs for different models and manufacturers. Here are web sites from the article to check further:

- <www.ccsprez.com>
- <www.onsale.com>  
offers "at cost" and "at auction"  
sections for new and used equip.
- <www.buy.com>
- <www.presentingsolutions.com>  
(couldn't find this one)
- <www.123present.com>
- <www.projector.com>
- <www.shopper.com>

The article I read in "Presenting Communications" warns to be careful of extra handling charges, etc. They noted that some sites' ethics leave something to be desired. They sell at cost, but make money via extra charges. In other words, "buyer beware." Making a deal with a local salesperson, even if paying a bit more, may be better. But a good deal on a web site might be leverage to get that better deal.

#### **Just In From Linda Barlow At Power Quest User Group Relations**

They have put together a "Summer User Group Price Special" on behalf of Power Quest, and it has been sent to all user groups in their database. Check with your user group's special offers person for the order form. Here is what they sent:

- Partition Magic V4 - \$30.00
- Drive Image V2 - \$30.00
- DataKeeper V3 - \$25.00
- Lost & Found - \$30.00
- Four product bundle  
(list \$259.80) \$99.00

Special offers are only good for user group members and expire August 30, 1999. Full refund within 30 days of purchase if you're not satisfied. To order on the web, visit <www.ugr.com/order/> or the mailing address is on the order form.

That's it for the August column. Sorry to take up so much room with my dribble, but deals were in short supply this month, with many calls not returned from vendors in spite of preliminary discussions. Meet me here again next month to discuss "deals." This column is written to make user group members aware of special pricing, and my comments should not be construed to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of products.

Bob (*The Cheapskate*) Click.  
<dealsguy@mindspring.com>

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## **Creating A Boot Disk**

by Brian Powell,  
*Tri-County Computer Club*

Boot disks. They're the salvation of many computer users.

However, many users don't have them. In this article we will show you how to create a boot disk on a PC running DOS or Windows 95 or Windows 98. The boot disk must be made in the A: drive.

### **MS-DOS/Windows 3.x Computers**

First off, if your computer is running Windows 3.x, you need to exit by choosing File - Exit and go to the MS-DOS prompt.

You need one blank diskette. Any data left on the diskette should be erased. If the diskette is not blank, delete all the files by entering the command `DEL A:\*.*`. The system files tend to take up a large amount of space, so it helps to have as much space available as possible.

Then, enter the command `SYS A:`. This will transfer all the system files to the diskette. If you want to format the diskette, the command `FORMAT A:/S` will also transfer the system files.

Be sure to use your boot disk and test to be sure that it works and if applicable, your CD-ROM drive works. You can do this by following the instructions in the next column.

Once you've tested everything, move the tab on the diskette (or add the sticker) so that the diskette is read only.

### **Windows 95/98 Computers**

You will need one blank diskette. Insert it in your A: drive. Any data on the diskette should be deleted to be sure you have plenty of space for all of the system files.

If you want to delete all of your diskette's files, start by going to Windows Explorer (Start - Programs - Windows Explorer), click on the A: drive in the left pane, highlight all the files and press the Delete key. Close Windows Explorer. Next, or if your diskette is blank, go to Control Panel (Start - Settings - Control Panel) and click on Add/Remove Programs.

Pick the Startup Disk tab. Click on the button there, and follow the prompts. You may need your Windows CD or your diskettes.

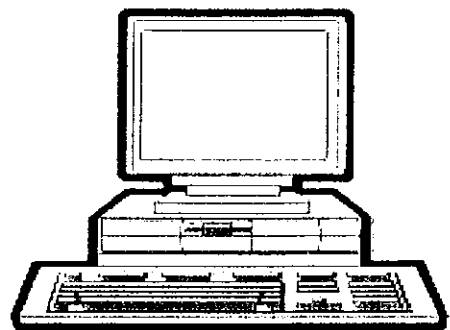
If you are running Windows 98, the diskette may already have the drivers for your CD-ROM drive. If you test the diskette by booting with it and it doesn't find your CD-ROM, or if you are running Windows 95, you will have to follow the directions shown below.

After you have settled any CD-ROM issues, add the sticker or slide the tab to make your diskette read-only.

### **CD-ROM Drives**

If you need specific CD-ROM drivers, you will need to copy and paste CD-ROM references from the AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files in your C: drive's root directory. Delete references to drives and directories

(ex. `C:\DOS\MSCDEX` becomes `MSCDEX`). You will need to locate the drivers on your hard disk and copy them to the boot disk. Be sure to test the boot disk once you're done!



# Paint Shop Pro 5.01

By Richard Black

**Publisher: Jasc Software, Inc.**

**Street Price: \$75 - \$80**

Minimum hardware: 486, Win 95/98/NT4, 12MB RAM, 10 MB hard disk space. 256 color monitor. Suggested hardware: the most RAM (at least 16 MB), the fastest processor, and the largest, fastest hard drive you can afford. Full installation, including Animation Shop requires about 32 MB of disk space.

Evaluation done on a Pentium 100 running Windows 95 with 40MB RAM (before Windows and utilities are loaded).

## Summary

Paint Shop Pro 5.01 is a fun, relatively easy-to-use image editor that is full of features and tools usually found in more expensive programs. Working with up to 64 layers allows building a more complex image or editing part of an image without affecting the original. The Smart Selection tool helps make working with parts of images easier when the selected area contrasts with the surrounding area. Brush sizes can be controlled for a mouse or pressure tablet. The clone brush allows copying parts of images. CMYK separations are not a problem. A browser, similar to Windows Explorer, shows thumbnails of images. The list can go on and on. Documentation includes a 248-page book plus a 52-page tutorial. The major downside of the package is the documentation, which appears to have been written for experienced image editors. But something is better than nothing. Also, I experienced many crashes with Paint Shop Pro. But whether those were due to the program in general or to the program on my machine has not been determined. Paint Shop Pro 5.01 is justifiably one of the highest rated image editors.

Included with Paint Shop Pro is another program, Animation Shop, which allows one to animate GIF images. This review is about Paint Shop Pro, not Animation Shop, which can be handy for Web sites, for presentations or just for playing. Two programs for the price of one.

## Documentation

Jasc is one of the few software publishers that provides a significant amount of hardcopy documentation with their programs. The Paint Shop Pro book consists of 248 pages discussing the program plus a 52-page tutorial on using the program. The first thing I did after opening the box was to read the book. It can be helpful. That is the good news.

Although the book is easy to read and full of useful information, it appears to be written for people who are already familiar with photo editing and its terminology. Although I have played with a couple of other, lower end photo editors, I am a newbie. Therefore, I found the book frustrating upon the first reading. Sometimes terms are never defined, and sometimes they are given a reasonable definition in a discussion near the end of the book. After playing with the program for a while and then re-reading the book, I got a lot more out of the book. But I still have a problem with terminology. Luckily, one can accomplish quite a bit by just playing with the program.

The tutorial concept is nice, but again not fulfilling. The tutorial takes you through a number of procedures: click here, do this, do that. But it doesn't explain why the procedure is being done or what it is supposed to accomplish. It is helpful to go through the steps and simply watch the results to get an idea of what the program can do. I guess it is another something is better than nothing situation. Lesson two, for example, is about *Using Arithmetic* to combine two images. The tutorial has the user change a function to Average and then set the channels to All channels and make sure that the divisor is set to one and Bias is set to zero. Don't understand? O.K. let's look up Image Arithmetic in the index. Not there (as are not many items I would expect to be). Nothing found sounds familiar. Ah, but trudge through the Table of Contents and find that Image Arithmetic is discussed on pages 219 B 221. After reading the pages I still do not know for sure when to use arithmetic. The book certainly doesn't suggest when one would use add as opposed to subtract, multiply or divide. Oh, well. It appears to be a handy feature. Someday I'll try it.

One of the features available is a histogram of the colors or brightnesses in an image. This is one of the few areas where the book explains not only how to use the tool and what it does, but it also explains why and when one would want to use it. Without that discussion, I certainly would not have seen its usefulness. Yet it can be very useful. If only the other areas of the book covered the whys and whens of the different tools.

## Using PSP

One of the nice things about using Paint Shop Pro is that much of it is fairly easy to use, especially if one is already familiar with image editing. Simply try doing something and see the effects. If you don't like the results, use my favorite command B Undo. Undo is one of the features that you have control over. The number of undos per image can be set from one to 99 steps, using from five to 999 megabytes of disk space.

Paint Shop Pro 5.01 is a fairly full-featured product and often is ranked *the best* image editor for nonprofessionals. There are things that one can do with PhotoShop 5, the standard of image editors for professionals, that cannot be done with Paint Shop Pro, or at least not as easily. But I was impressed with how much can be done with Paint Shop Pro for about 1/10th the price. If you are not a professional image editor or do not have a professional's budget, Paint Shop Pro is a good program to use.

It can read and/or write 46 different file formats (32 raster and 12 meta and vector). It can handle from one to 32 bits per pixel images resulting in two to over 16 million colors per image. The native file format, PSP, is a lossless format that gives a choice of no compression or using RLE (about 25% compression) or LZ77 (about 75% compression).

Brush sizes can be controlled for both a mouse and pressure-sensitive tablets, there is support for PhotoShop files and plug-ins, monitor gamma can be corrected, selections and masks can be saved in alpha channels within the file, and there is a Save Copy As feature which lets you save the file in a different format but continue working in the original format. Oh, yes, there is more.

(Continued)

## PaintShop Pro 5.0.1 (Continued)

PSP supports up to 64 layers per image. That means you can play to your heart's content without directly affecting the original image. This gives lots of flexibility while designing images. Use the drawing tools on one layer, add text to another layer, put part of another image on another layer and they all look like one image. Colors, etc, can be edited on one layer without affecting the other layers. Information from the layers you are not working on may be hidden or viewed. This is fun stuff.

Images or selections can be pasted in as new layers, new selections, as transparent selections, or into the original image. Your choice.

Speaking of selections, there are the usual rectangle/square and oval/circle and free-hand selectors to allow working with just one part of the image. The main reason I wanted to work with Paint Shop Pro 5 is its new Smart Edge selector.

The Smart Edge selector lets you more easily select part of the image to work with. For example, there may be part of an image you want to select to incorporate into another image or to modify without affecting the rest of the image. Clicking every couple of pixels can be tedious. But if one can click around parts of the area to select, whee! That is enticing.

How well this new feature works depends directly on contrast. It works well if the edges of what is to be selected contrast greatly with the surrounding area. If they don't, we are close to square one. This new feature is helpful, but it would be much more helpful if it had Bezier curves so that individual segments can be added to, subtracted from, or moved within the selection. Currently one can add or subtract from the entire selection only. This is a feature that offers a lot of potential. The ability to more tightly control a selection would be a great improvement.

Many of the tools require that the image be either gray scale or 24 bit color. If the image currently being worked on does not qualify, it is easy to set the image to the required color depth, make the changes, and then reset the color depth. A nice feature if you want to do something that normally is not supported.

There are deformation and filter tools to change the way the image appears. Flip or rotate, add drop shadows or a chisel effect. Deform in a variety of ways. Blur, sharpen, add noise, emboss, and more. If the built-in filters do not meet your exact needs, you can define your own. A very handy feature, if you know what you are doing.

Another useful feature is the *clone brush* (rubber stamp in PhotoShop terminology). This tool allows you to copy one area of an image (or parts of from another image) to different parts of the image. Although not emphasized in the documentation, the area cloned may move, that is, encompass more than one point, or it may be static, that is, include just selected pixels. A great way to touch up or to duplicate parts of an image.

Want to work with color separation for your professional printer? CMYK separations are no problem.

Paint Shop Pro is TWAIN compliant. You can import images from scanners and digital cameras, and other peripherals that are TWAIN compliant. For instance, I had no serious problems importing images from a scanner. There are also drivers to import directly from three different Kodak digital cameras. If it is TWAIN compliant it should work with Paint Shop. Another very handy feature.

There is a lot more. Paint Shop Pro is a really great program, if one knows what (s)he is doing. The key is that to get the full benefit of the program, one needs to have a foundation in the concepts of image editing. If you don't, Paint Shop Pro is a great program. Just don't expect a quick learning curve. Then again, this is the type of program that calls for playing. I just wish that the documentation were more educational or that it outright stated that the program is not for novices.

On the down side, and this may be a function of my system, the program crashed a lot. I still haven't figured out why. The swap file is more than big enough to handle whatever I have done and PSP seems to release memory appropriately. Yet I had a lot more hang-ups and freezes than I have with any other program. PSP's problem or mine? Do not know yet but I would guess the latter.

Bottom line: this is a great program. It is full of features that the professional standard includes. It is a program that can be easily played with. However, it may not be a program for the *newbie* who doesn't want to take the time to learn by doing. But then few programs are.

I did not have sufficient time to fully review Animation Shop. But from the documentation and taking a quick look at the demos included, it appears to be another easy to use program, if one wants to animate GIF images. The documentation is over 100 pages long and looks very much like what was included with Paint Shop Pro. Many of the tools are the same and PSP can be used to edit images. It looks as though they took layers from Paint Shop Pro and put them in series as frames rather than one on top of another, and then added transition effects between the layers/frames.

## Installation of New Officers and Directors

At the August 28 General Meeting, the results of the annual election will be announced and the new Officers and Directors will be installed.

## DR. SEUSS EXPLAINS COMPUTERS

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,  
and the bus is interrupted as a very last resort,  
and the address of the memory makes your floppy disk abort,  
then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash,  
and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash,  
and your data is corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash,  
then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house,  
says the network is connected to the button on your mouse,  
but your packets want to tunnel on another protocol,  
that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall,  
and your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss,  
so your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse,  
then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang,  
'cause as sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy on the disk,  
and the macrocode instructions cause unnecessary risk,  
then you have to flash your memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM.  
Quickly turn off the computer and be sure to tell your mom.

## Special Interest Group Meetings

at Costa Mesa Senior Center

SE Corner, 19th and Pomona Ave.

### Internet

Aug. 4

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 7pm

Leader

Michael Moore

The Internet SIG is dedicated to topics related to the Internet, from finding an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to establishing your own web page. Generally the sessions start with discussions of problems or observations of members or visitors, and those in attendance may be able to offer suggestions or guidance toward solving whatever problem is presented. The SIG leader may have some special topic or technique to discuss or present to the group.

### Computerized Genealogy

Aug. 11

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 7pm

Leader

Preston Hill

This SIG deals with the computer and computer applications used to assist individuals in collecting, storing, and organizing genealogical records. There are a number of database genealogical programs available, so different programs may be considered, as well as some other programs to help individuals manage their records. This SIG isn't committed to any one program, although the SIG will deal with the most common genealogical database programs. This SIG doesn't deal with genealogical research. There are other organizations, such as OCCGS, dedicated to genealogical research.

### Windows

Aug. 18

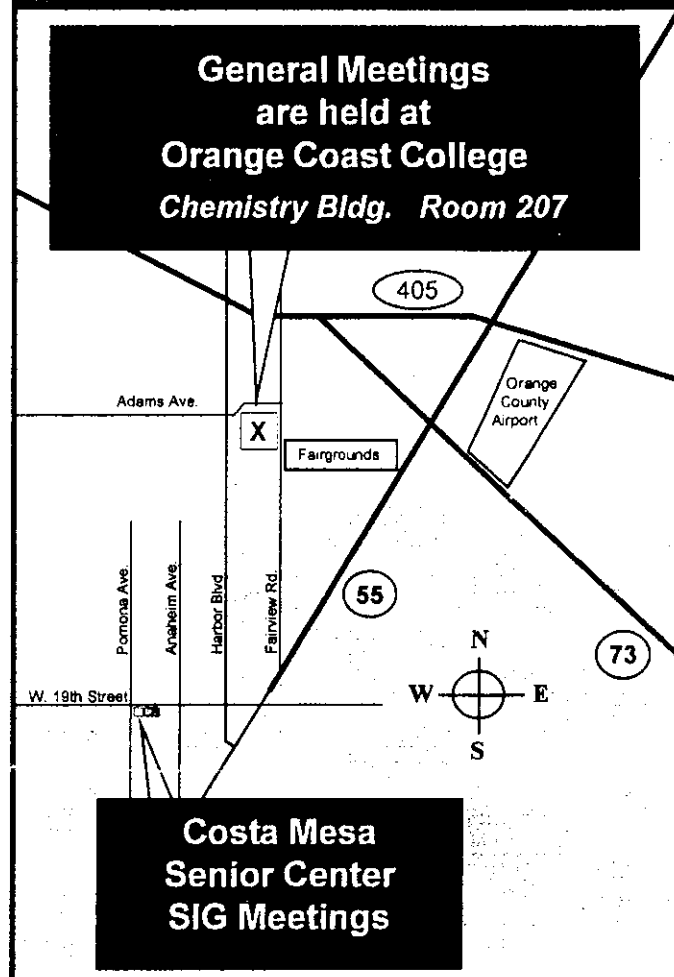
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 7pm

Leader

Richard Hunter

The Windows SIG deals with helping individuals use the Windows operating system and Windows applications, as related to the Windows system. The SIG leader may present some feature or program that he/she considers helpful to the users. Questions, answers and discussion are generally helpful to all in attendance to understand the features of Windows operating systems. Most of the time will be dedicated to Windows 95 and 98, but questions regarding Windows 3.X are welcome.

## How to find us



### Scanning and Digital Photography

Aug. 25

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 7pm

Leader

Rex Sutton

Leader

Ken Martin

With the technological advances and price reductions in scanning and digital photographic equipment, this SIG has become one of interest to our members. The SIG deals, obviously, with scanning and digital photography and applications related to this area. Scanning and digital photography have their own programs and techniques that need to be understood to make the best use of this equipment and achieve the best results. Sharing knowledge may make a big difference in your enjoyment and results from use of your equipment.