

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

README.DOC

February 1999

Newsletter

Version 15.2

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OCIPUG Events

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*The January 30, 1999 am
General Meeting will feature*

Enfish Technology

— Enfish Tracker Pro

Computer Aided Investing

— VectorVest and others

*The February 27, 1999 9:00 am
General Meeting will feature
Paramax Inc
— Telephone via Internet*

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New Meeting Location :
Orange Coast College
Fine Arts Bldg.
Room 116

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

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Costa Mesa, CA 92626-3934

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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 5 February 1999 for the March 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: editor@ocipug.org, 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.
- * Free Internet e-mail access through OCIPUG's bulletin board.

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: _____

President's Message

Wayne Ali

We have accomplished much in the first quarter of the current administration to bring expenses in line with income and still provide you the benefits of OCIPUG. Much more must be done.

We reduced operating costs by moving from our unique, but costly, Resource Center; by changing the format and production method for Readme.Doc; and by changing our General Meeting room from the Science Hall to a smaller Room 116 in the Fine Arts Building at Orange Coast College. The college almost doubled our rent while attendance was rapidly declining so we had to move. We held a reasonably successful fund raising auction; have continued our monthly General Meetings; are maintaining our Hotline; and our BBS is still operating to provide communication among our members. The BBS is temporarily on 714-892-1291, but the old 714-751-3242 can still be used. Membership dues have been reduced to \$30 per year to reflect the loss of the Resource Center's special rooms.

Herb Huey has stepped forward to serve as Managing Editor of Readme.Doc. He needs articles for the monthly newsletter; members to edit such articles; layout personnel to prepare the final document; people to provide and attach mailing labels; some one to get the newsletter printed; and some one to see that it is mailed at least cost. A few dedicated souls are continuing to work for you but more are needed to lighten the load.

Would you like a free copy of that fantastic program you've heard about? *Free* — but only by writing an article about it. Herb can tell you what you need to submit an article. Have you had an interesting experience with your computer or a software application? Believe it or not, not everyone in our group is a whiz at computers. We have people that get lost and frustrated when their Word tool bar consists of black squares. Have you had that happen to you? I have. Could you write a note to a friend and tell him (or her) how you fixed it? Herb would be mighty interested in publishing your tips and tricks.

Where do we go from here? NO WHERE — unless you step forward and give some of your time, knowledge, and energy! Your Executive Board and a few dedicated individuals cannot do everything.

Do you want General Meetings with interesting speakers, or should we forget them? Programs for February and beyond may not exist unless some one is willing and able to serve as Program Chairman. Who will step into the void left by Alan Liebschutz, Jim Kirkpatrick, and Chris Lloyd? Is there no one able to coordinate the efforts of others to assure that vendors or other speakers are contacted and arrangements made for their presentations? A few members have volunteered to "help" with vendor contacts and the like. I know there are many who are able to make phone calls, send letters, or send email — but need someone to lead them. Chris Lloyd, Preston Hill, and I will help you. But someone needs to start the ball rolling. Step forward as Program Chair if we are to have a club.

Where to meet, that is the question. To share or not to share, that is *not* the question. We must become like most other computer user groups and share a facility with another organization. So, contact your neighborhood school, church, bank, senior center, or other likely place and feed any lead to Marshal Boslow (714-968-9410 mboslow698@aol.com), Chairman of the ad hoc committee to acquire a suitable meeting place, or places, for future General and SIG meetings. Marshal, Don Testa, and Preston Hill are

following a promising lead from Victor Olcott — but more are needed. We could all meet in a park, but without electricity we would reduce a presentation to a lecture with no demonstration.

Speaking of SIGs, do we need them? Whom do you call when your v.90 56k modem is plugged in but not playing? Do you know how to attach a photograph to your e-mail to send a special greeting to a friend? Do the terms Tab and Margin remind you of a soft drink and something you spread on toast? How many of you have lots of software and don't use it? We have SIG leaders out there that would like to help if you're interested. Oh, yeah, did I mention we need help to find SIG meeting space? SIG leaders cannot do it alone any more than your Executive Board or Marshal Boslow. Look around and give leads to your SIG leader and Marshal.

Members! OCIPUG is a hollow shell without members who *give* as well as *take*. Is your computer merely a commodity like your TV or VCR so you no longer need help? If all "experienced" users leave, who can support the new user? True, Windows is so intuitive and reliable that help is not needed - but maybe a new user hasn't gotten the word from Bill. Should we consider that OCIPUG has served its reason for being and should be disbanded? I for one intend to stick around, help acquire a new meeting place and help generate outstanding General Meeting and SIG programs. Will you join me? It is your decision.

Bottom Line:

No member involvement = No OCIPUG

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE Fine Arts Building, Room 116

- 1.) From I-405 Take either the Fairview Road or Harbor Blvd off ramps south from and go south past Adams Avenue to Merrimac Way. Do NOT park in the Adams or Merrimac parking lots.
- 2.) From Fairview, turn right (west) on Merrimac to the Fine Arts Parking lot.
- 3.) From Harbor boulevard, turn left (east) past the Merrimac Parking lot to the Fine Arts lot. A sign identifies the parking lot.

Drive to the north end (furthest from Merrimac) of rows D5 or D6 and park anywhere except the handicap spaces.

Walk past the sign with campus map to the left (west) side of the Fine Arts building and enter the first set of double doors. The entrance to room 116 is inside to your right.

February Program
February 27, 1999 9:00am
Fine Arts Building
Room 116

Random Access	8:30
President's Message	9:00
Paramax	9:15
Announcements	10:15
Break	10:30
TBD	10:45
Drawing	11:45
Adjournment	12 noon

Paramax, Inc is a new and rapidly growing small company based in Carson City, Nevada, with its research and development offices in Costa Mesa, California. On the cutting edge of the computer electronics industry. Paramax's several years of innovation in telephony will revolutionize the way our computers at home communicate with the outside world via the Internet. Top quality Internet telephony products like MAXPHONE, MAXPHONE software and MAXVID enable you to have telephone conversations over the Internet. Contact <http://www.paramax.net> for details.

Simply connect "MaxPhone" hardware to your parallel port. Then plug any standard phone into the "MaxPhone" and start calling. The software for "MaxPhone" combines the power and flexibility of the Internet with the simplicity of a Windows program. Just point, click and talk. It's that simple.

- *Make telephone quality conversations from your computer to any phone (in the U.S.)
- *Calls as low as 9.9 cents /Min.
- *PC to PC calls for free.
- *Call anywhere in the world at reduced rates.
- *Works with all popular telephony software.
- *Superior sound quality (no sound card / multimedia required).
- *Windows 95 or 3.11 486 or higher.
- *Uses any standard phone.
- *Upgrade to video conferencing with MaxVid.

166th General Meeting Report

Richard Black

The November 26, 1998 General meeting started with questions and answers lead by Ken Kamber. Michael Springer did not make the meeting, and we thank Ken for standing in at the last minute.

Tony Dopazo officially opened the meeting by introducing Secretary Rob Nelissen at 9:05 am.

Dave Whittle then presented MGI Software's PhotoSuite II and Video Wave. PhotoSuite, it was said, has a 44 percent market share, well ahead of its top competitor, Adobe Photo Deluxe with a 32 percent market share. The top-rated Adobe PhotoShop is in a different niche (professional digital photographers) than PhotoSuite and is not considered a direct competitor.

PhotoSuite II allows one to relatively easily edit digital photos, do touchups, transforms, and morphs. In addition, it can directly capture photos from scanners and digital cameras. Users can create their own screen savers and wallpaper. Don't have a digital camera or scanner? Most photo development places will give you both hard copy photos and photos on disk for about \$5 more than just regular photos. [If you haven't tried it, I think you will enjoy it. I have been doing it for about a year.] PhotoSuite II can be used to develop multimedia albums and slide shows.

At least 18 photo formats are supported including, among others, BMP, EPS, GEM, JPG, PCX, PIC, PNG, PSD, KQP, PCD, and SFW. (The last three are for Konica, Kodak Photo CD, and Seattle Film Works, three of the most popular formats for having pictures developed.) One comment made dealt with working with different formats. JPG is a lossy format. Each time a photo is edited more information/detail is lost. It was suggested to use a non-loss format, e.g. TIF, during editing, then convert to whatever format is desired.

System requirements include a Pentium 133 MHz processor (MMX preferred), 800 x 640 video, 16MB RAM. List price \$50. Meeting price \$40 (including PhotoGallery). [Not mentioned, or missed by this author, is that you need Internet Explorer

4.72.2106.8 or later.] If you do not have IE 4.72.2106.8 or later, the installation procedure will require that IE be installed on your C: drive - at least 50MB minimum. [The on-line e-mail report is a topic of another article - NOT positive.]

Since Touchstone did not show, Dave had the opportunity to also present VideoWave, a program that allows the capture, editing, and production of digital videos. Not happy with editing "only" individual photos? Try editing your own video. VideoWave can be used to edit MPEG, AVI, Quicktime, and streaming videos. Add sound and titles. You will need a large hard drive. Internet quality videos will require about 1 MB per second, while high quality video requires about 30 MB per second. Each video clip made with VideoWave can be up to 30 minutes long [that is 1.8 GB to 54 GB of disk space, if my math is correct.]

Like PhotoSuite II, VideoWave is optimized for MMX with a Pentium 133 and 16MB RAM as suggested minimums - although the literature says a 90 MHz system is the minimum). Windows 95 is the system of choice. List price is \$100. Meeting price is \$50. PhotoSuite II, VideoWave and PhotoGallery in combination are \$80.

Dave finished MGI's presentation at about 11 AM, at which time Tony Dopazo presented some important messages. There will be no general or board meetings in December. The next general meeting will be on Saturday, January 30 starting at 8:30am with Random Access and will be held in The FINE ARTS building Room 116.

After a few moments to purchase MGI products at special prices, the drawing was held. The winners were:

J.D. Dickerson (3236)	PhotoSuite II
Roman Kramarsic (3357)	NetOptimizer
Paul Watanabe (1992)	Checkit Pro 98
Jeanne LeVan (1954)	VirusSweep
Rex Sutton (3543)	Design Cad
Reg Roberts (1232)	Claris Pro
Robert Walker (?)	DriveCopy

Herb's Hangout

By Herb Huey

The Smaller the Computer, The More Expensive It Is

The title is a new addition to my rules of insanity. It seems that for certain electronic commodities smaller means more expensive. Check out the price of color TVs. A 9-inch set is more expensive than a 13-inch TV with the same features. At some point it becomes more costly to shrink the technology in size. This is especially true for computers; laptops usually cost more than an equally capable desktop system. The rationale is that by shrinking the parts of a computer to fit in a laptop it becomes more costly to cram the parts into a smaller box. For many evolving electronic commodities, this year's model is usually smaller and/or more feature laden than last year's model due to manufacturing improvements, but that's a separate issue.

Other industries do not seem to share this problem. The cost of doll furniture is much less than real life furniture. Everybody expects a subcompact car to cost less than a comparably equipped full size vehicle from the same company. Nowhere in any car manufacturer's lineup is the smaller model more expensive with the same options installed. If we deal strictly with weight, then we know by experience that two pounds of roast beef will cost twice as much as one pound. The rules are more complicated with diamonds since the significant factors are weight, cut, color and clarity. But even with these additional factors, a 1.5-carat diamond is significantly more valuable than a 0.75 carat diamond with the same features and much more desirable. Just ask my wife.

The same is not true with computers. Desktops are less expensive and more feature-laden than laptops. This is still true when you compare full-sized notebooks versus super-slim laptops. As the weight goes down, features are often reduced and the price goes up. A good example is the Sony VAIO Super Slim Notebook Computer Model 505FX, which caused a sensation at its introduction last summer due to its sleek magnesium case.

The VAIO 505FX houses a 266 MHz Pentium MMX processor, 4 GB hard disk and 64 MB SDRAM and a 10.4-inch active matrix screen in a 2.9 lb. package that is smaller than a 8.5 x 11 tablet and just 0.9 inch thick. The display is relatively puny by current standards with some notebook displays up to 15 inches. The floppy is an external plug-in as is the 24X CD-ROM that is available as a \$300 option. The cost is around \$2600 for the VAIO 505FX with the



CD-ROM option. The biggest selling points for the 505FX are its size and weight, which blurs the distinction between laptops and palmtops. The magnesium case is super strong compared to the flimsy plastic cases of most laptops, and the shiny metal case is always a conversation starter. This should be a favorite with many salespeople out in the field.

If you can accept a slightly heavier 5.9 LB package, you can get the Sony VAIO PCG-808 notebook with a 266 MHz Pentium II, 64 MB SDRAM, 4 GB hard disk, 24X CD-ROM with a 13.3-inch XGA active matrix screen. The dimensions are slightly larger at 11.7" x 1.75" x 9.3". The price is \$2500 for a larger, heavier, more feature-laden package. If your shoulder is not so fragile then a full-featured notebook is definitely a better deal, especially when you consider the difference in screen size. People who prefer all their peripherals in one box will prefer a full-featured notebook.

If you are willing and able to sacrifice portability there is a big difference in features and price between laptops and desktop systems. The top-of-the-line Sony VAIO PCV-E308DS has a 450 MHz Pentium II, 128 MB SDRAM, 13.6 GB hard drive, 5X DVD-ROM/24X CD-ROM drive for \$2500 with a 17-inch Sony monitor. Sony's lowest cost desktop is the PCV-E204 with a 333 MHz Pentium II, 64 MB SDRAM, 5 GB hard disk, 4X DVD-ROM/20X CD-ROM for \$1450 with a 15-inch monitor. I just bought the top-of-the-line PCV-E308DS for my wife as a Christmas present (as well as some jewelry) because she needs a computer for her business. My wife also wanted to have a system that looks good in her office and she liked the Sony's VAIO violet styl-

Signing Off

The massive 13.6 GB hard disk in my wife's Sony system turned out to be fortunate for me since I continued my video editing work during the holidays. On one videotape, I recorded a bunch of family pictures from my parents' photo albums. One valuable gem is the only known picture of my grandfather as a relatively young man of 40. I was able to capture 230 photos from this tape and now I'm using ULead Systems iPhoto Express v1.1 to fix up the captured photos. I found it to be more useful and easier to use than PhotoSuite and PhotoShop LE.

I laid out the sequence of photos in my Studio 400 video editing software at 1500 pixel resolution. The down side is I later found out that I swallowed up nearly 250MB just laying out about 16 minutes worth of video resulting from each photo, taking up just 4 seconds each along with captions. Capturing raw videos can also get interesting. A second's worth of video is equal to about 256K compressed of hard disk storage or about 1.8GB for a two-hour videotape. So far in my latest effort, I have used over 8 GB of hard disk space.

While I was browsing for info on the latest digital cameras, I found the following web site, maintained by Imaging Resource, that compares actual test photos of just about every decent digital camera out there at all available camera resolutions. The Comparometer, Imaging Resource's image comparator, allows you to compare two different images at a time. You can compare outdoor and indoor portraits, resolution charts, macro shots and other test shots. I checked out the two most highly rated digital cameras, the Nikon CoolPix 900 and the Kodak DC-260. Both produce gorgeous images but I like the warmer tones of the Kodak DC-260, especially on portrait shots.

Check it out at <http://www.imaging-resource.com/IMCOMP/COMPS01.HTM>

Optical Character Recognition (OCR)

Richard Black

Recently, when the price of flat bed scanners decreased, I decided to buy the Microtek E3 Plus. The intent was to scan pictures into my genealogy database.

Well, so far I have done very little scanning of pictures for my genealogy database. I did, though, scan and send some pictures to family and friends who are on the Internet and mailed copies to those who are not on the Internet. I decided to scan and convert some articles to text, using a program that came with my scanner.

That program is the OmniPage Limited Edition. This is a subset of Caere's OmniPage Pro OCR program. An Optical Character Recognition program takes scanned data and converts it, as best it can, to text material. Since I didn't plan to do much with this program other than converting a very few articles into text, I didn't want to upgrade to the Pro version, or to the competitive version, Xerox's TextBridge.

The first time I tried using the OCR program, I had reasonable success, but when I tried to use it on a newspaper article, the result was a complete failure. In fact, it was so bad that typing the material would have been quicker than using the OCR program. I then tried several things to improve the results, without success. However, when I mentioned the problem to another club member, he suggested that I first make a copy of the article and then use the copy in the scanner to run the OCR program. That sounded like a great suggestion, so I decided to try it.

As I got ready to go to the local stationery store to make a copy, I thought how strange since the scanner with my printer is a copy machine, perhaps I need not go anywhere. I decided then to try using the scanner printer to make a copy. I used the graphic program that came with my scanner, ULead Systems, Inc. iPhoto Express, version 1.0. As I started to make a copy, I discovered that this program had much more control over the scanning process than the OCR program. In fact, iPhoto Express even had a setting for newspapers and a setting to make a sharper copy. Using these settings, I made an excellent copy of the newspaper article without the grainy imperfections of the newspaper. From the copy, I was able to run the scanner again using OmniPage Limited Edition and obtain a perfect text of the article. No errors! So I was able, using the intermediate scanning and printing of the article, to get excellent results. On future

tries I didn't always get perfect results, but the improvement was striking. Making a print and scanning the print isn't the way to go if you are doing much work with an OCR program, but it works fine on limited applications.

From the OCR scanning I learned two things. First, that the controls for the simple OCR program that came with my scanner is very limited. I could correct for the limitation by first scanning and making a print of the article before running the printed sheet through the scanner/OCR program. Secondly, it really helps to discuss problems with other club members, because collectively we have a lot of knowledge and good ideas.

Service With A Smile

Richard Black

A few months ago Jason Ferris, of Micro 2000, presented at the General Meeting. One of the products presented was the Centurion card, designed to make the computer hardware Y2K compliant. Like most people, I was really worried that my spitfire of a 100 MHz Pentium system will last another year and a half. :-). What did interest me was the fact that the Centurion has it's own Dallas battery and the card, in essence, takes control of the real time clock.

I was having problems with the real time clock constantly losing time. After trying a half dozen new batteries in a year and being assured that the card would solve the problem, I purchased the Centurion. I was told that if the card did not solve the problem I could return it within 30 days for a full refund. Of course it was three weeks before I installed the card. But it didn't take long to find out the card did not solve the time problem (but the testing software that comes with the card did indicate that my system failed one of the two Y2K tests).

I called Micro 2000 and talked with Jason. We spent at least a half an hour trying different things. Bottom line: the card was not good. Solution: they sent a new card. I was told that if the new card solved the problem then I should

return the original card. If the new card did not solve the problem I was to return both cards for a full refund.

The new card arrived within a few days. It solved the problem! My RTC has been more accurate than my watch since the new card was installed. It is unusual in this day and age for a vendor to take the time and expense to try to correct a problem with their products; therefore, I thought it worth sharing my experience.

An Office97 Word Tip

Herb Huey

I found that some of my frequently used symbols can be automatically inserted in Office97 Word using the AutoCorrect feature. Here's how it's done:

While in a Word document click on "Insert" then select "Symbol". A table of symbols will appear. Highlight the symbol you want and click on "AutoCorrect" in the lower left side. In the "Replace" dialog box, add your key sequence and then click on "Add".

This should also work in Office95 Word but not in earlier versions without the AutoCorrect feature. I added to AutoCorrect:

I replaced:

"ohm"	with	"Ω"
"<="	with	"≤"
">="	with	"≥"
"Clubs"	with	"♣"
"TM"	with	"™"

**New Meeting Location :
Orange Coast College
Fine Arts Bldg.**

Ken's Korner

Ken Fermoyle

Mouse or Trackball Acting up? It May Not Be Broken, Just Dirty

Some months back I wrote two articles (Keep It Clean, Parts 1 & 2) about the importance of keeping your computer clean to keep it operating properly. They obviously struck a nerve because they have been among the most widely reprinted and requested Ken's Korner columns to date.

I just had an experience that underscored the cleanliness message, one that involved a vital part of any computer system: the mouse or other pointing device. Since those earlier articles didn't cover the care and cleaning of mice, I thought it would be good to share my experience with you.

(Actually, I use a Logitech TrackMan trackball, not a mouse, but the problem and cleaning procedure outlined below are similar for either type of pointing device.)

Over a period of several weeks I noticed the trackball was getting balkier, making it harder and harder to drag the cursor into position. Finally it got so bad that I had to struggle to move the cursor at all. "Oh-oh," I said to myself, "I hope it's not time to buy a new trackball."

The Logitech device was several years old and had been used a lot, so I thought it might well need replacement. Then I remembered the mantra that Dennis Orloff of the Computer Bath line of maintenance products (www.computerbath.com) chants at every opportunity: "It's not broken, it's dirty!"

Since he's right about 70% of the time, I decided to check first to see whether the trackball was just dirty. When I took it apart I was amazed at how much dirt had accumulated inside the poor critter. It wasn't just dust or loose dirt, either. There was a buildup of grime and a sort of lint, especially around the small ball contacts or rollers inside the ball cage. It was obvious that the crud was keeping the trackball marble from making proper contact with the rollers. The result, difficulty in moving the cursor, would be the same for an equally dirty mouse.

I cleaned everything thoroughly, and presto...it was like I had a brand-new trackball! Here was more proof of the need for keeping things clean as part of computer maintenance.

The procedure was simple, took just about 10 or 15 minutes, and saved me some bucks. So it's worth your while to see if cleaning will fix a balky pointing device before you toss it out and buy a new one. What you really should do, in fact, is clean your mouse or trackball periodically, and not wait for it to get as dirty and hard to use as mine was.

Here's how you do it.

First, if you have a manual for your mouse or trackball, dig it out. (Note: You should always keep manuals and documents for ALL hardware and software.) Read it. It may show a diagram or cutaway, and possibly instructions, that will make the cleaning job easier for you.



The only tool you may need is a small screwdriver, probably a Phillips-head type; you will also need a clean, lint-free cloth, Q-Tips or similar cotton swabs and a mild soap solution. Small tweezers, isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and a toothpick may be useful, too. I find it convenient for jobs like this to keep screws and other small parts in an old ashtray, which can also serve as a tool rest.

Next, clean the mouse or trackball exterior and cord with a cloth moistened in a mild soap solution; wipe dry. Then turn the device upside down and remove mouse ball retainer plate or trackball bottom cover. Usually the retainer plate can simply be rotated and lifted out. Some older mice and most trackballs have screws holding the plate or bottom cover in place. Remove the ball carefully.

Clean the ball with the moistened cloth, wipe with a dry cloth and set it aside. (Make sure it is completely dry before reassembling.) I blew loose dirt out of the ball cage with a compressed air duster, held some distance away to lessen the impact. Be careful here so that you don't damage any components. In my case, I had to use a toothpick and tweezers to dislodge some of the matted lint around the contacts in the ball cage. A cotton swab lightly moistened with alcohol may also be helpful for cleaning rollers or contacts and the inside of the ball cage.

When cleaning mice, take a close look at the rollers inside. (Most have three, some just two.) You will probably see dark lines of dirt that have built up over time. Work a cotton swab moistened just slightly with rubbing alcohol along each roller, rubbing side to side until the line of dirt is gone.

Once everything is squeaky clean, place the ball back in the ball cage and replace the retainer plate or bottom cover. That's it; you're done, and your mouse or trackball should be as good as new.

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Meeting of the Executive Board of Directors

November 30, 1998

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 Past President Preston Hill's residence, 14126 Ipswich Street, Westminster, CA 92683, at 7:20 p.m.

Officers Present

Wayne Ali, President
Larry Peace, CFO
Rob Nelissen, Secretary

Absent

Don Testa, VP

Directors Present

Jeanne LeVan
Dennis Walz
Arlene Solomon
C. Edward Wolfe
(1 vacant Director position)
Preston Hill, Past President

Absent

Sue Hayes
Leonard Robertson
Bruce Williams

Guests

Red Davidson
Morris Fier
Richard Hunter

Kevin Moser
Steve Schiffman

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meetings (October 17, 1998 and October 26, 1998) were approved as recorded and submitted with the correction of the misspelled names of C. Edward Wolfe and Jeanne LeVan.

Kevin Moser suggested that there should be an inventory taken of all OCIPUG property at Preston Hill's house. Preston Hill agreed.

Kevin Moser submitted a memorandum to the board regarding a storage space at Public Storage, Inc. 1725 Pomona Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 he rented in OCIPUG's name. The space is used to store benches and tables and other non-electronic equipment previously used at the Resource Center in Santa Ana. In the memorandum the financial details were explained. Kevin graciously donated the first month's rent and a partial amount for the upcoming month's rent to CFO Larry Peace. In addition he is letting OCIPUG use half of storage space he rents for himself to store OCIPUG's ACP Swap Meet Booth.

Thank You Kevin!

President's Report

President Ali emphasized the setting up of a phone bank to survey current members as to what they expected from OCIPUG and what those members are willing to contribute in terms of participation to reach

those expectations. Board members are urged to call out to the membership and request their help in making phone calls, e-mail other members, run errands, help with labeling and stamping etc. and in turn request their help in further making phone calls.

Board members are requested to follow up on all leads for all future SIG and General Meeting spaces. A copy of the membership list sorted by Zip Code has been sent to the various directors. He pointed out that if anybody had any questions or suggestions to please refer to the backpage of the January 1999 Readme.Doc for contacting him or any other members of the board.

President Ali suggested an awards program for members who have donated exceptional time and effort in promoting OCIPUG's interests. A reward such as donated hardware or software as well as club awareness and recognition was discussed. He noted that a new Program Chair and SYSOP were needed and for those members making phone calls to please ask for volunteers to fill those positions.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Rob Nelissen reported on correspondence and member renewals received during the month. He has been holding mail, since the Resource Center had been closed, but all important mail was delivered to the appropriate persons. He also noted that renewals have been steadily coming in every week.

Financial Report

Chief Financial Officer Larry Pearce reviewed the financial report for the month of November and liabilities due in January 1999 (i.e., rent due to Orange Coast College for the General meeting in the Fine Arts Building #116 on January 30, 1999). Because of the October auction, a steady rate of renewals and some generous contributions, bills due in September not paid due to lack of funds have now been paid. He presented a list of bills due in November. In addition, Preston Hill mentioned his approximately \$297.00 out of pocket expenses for an ad placed in the OC Register to try to sublease the Resource Center and the January printing and mailing cost of the Readme.Doc.

Larry noted that in the membership accounting report from Ken Paeth that membership was down to 366 members as compared to 497 from last year. Member Dick Cruce has volunteered a 500 sq. ft. space in one of his buildings to store OCIPUG property currently stored in the Public Storage space in Costa Mesa.

It was moved by C. Edward Wolfe and seconded by Preston Hill that, OCIPUG reduce any surplus assets existing at the Public Storage space and at Preston Hill's residence and to relocate existing furnishings stored at the Public Storage space to Dick Cruce's building space in Santa Ana, CA. Arrangements regarding time and liability agreements to be made with Dick Cruce before January 30, 1999. Motion carried.

C. Edward Wolfe moved and Rob Nelissen seconded a motion to pay the following bills due for November 1998:

General Liability Insurance (due 12/04/98), *Readme.Doc* printing (October, November printings), Costa Mesa Public Storage (December), APCUG Annual Dues renewal, Preston Hill (January *Readme.Doc* printing and mailing plus OC Register ad) upon presentation of receipts.

Preston Hill moved and C. Edward Wolfe seconded that CFO Larry Pearce is authorized to negotiate and fund a month to month rental agreement with Orange Coast College for the Fine Arts Building # 116 at \$188/mo. Building capacity of 125. The building is to be used for OCIPUG general meetings starting with the first meeting on January 30, 1999. Motion passed unanimously.

Larry stated that OCC requires OCIPUG to carry a \$1,000,000.00 Liability insurance policy for the use of their facilities and that OCIPUG carries the needed insurance.

Appointments

President Ali appointed Marshall B. Moser as chairman of an ad-hoc committee to locate space for future general meetings. The rooms to hold as many as 15 people meetings. Marshall may contact Larry at 968-8140 or at mbosew98@AOL.com.

President Ali appointed Herb Huey as managing editor for *Readme.Doc* to replace Norm Bergman; and Jeanne LeVan as coordinator for the phone bank.

Wayne again mentioned the need for a SYSOP to replace Dean Sowers and a place for the BBS computers. A space roughly 30"x60"x72" is needed. Most maintenance can be done remotely but weekly maintenance is required, approximately 3 hours/week.

A Program Chair is needed to replace Chris Lloyd. His or her responsibility will be to schedule and coordinate with vendors for the general meetings, among other duties.

Old Business

Wayne Ali to contact Mike Moore about OCIPUG website. What is the delay from transferring web hosting from West Coast to InReach?

New Business

Because of the holidays and no general meeting in December, the January *Readme.Doc* was sent out early.

Larry Pearce pointed out that because OCIPUG no longer has a resource center, yearly membership dues should be lowered. After much discussion and taking into consideration projected future income and expenses, it was determined that dues could be lowered.

Larry Pearce moved and C. Edward Wolfe seconded that starting January 1, 1999, membership dues would be as follows:

- Individual membership.....\$30.00
- Family membership.....\$35.00
- Student membership.....\$20.00

There will be no more free tickets for the drawing at the end of the general meetings. Motion carried.

Kevin Moser read from the bylaws regarding the official place of business of OCIPUG

Since the Resource Center in Santa Ana was our official place of business and is no longer available, the by-laws state that the residence of the Secretary be used as the official place of business.

Larry Pearce moved and Dennis Walz seconded that OCIPUG's place of business address be that of Rob Nelissen (Secretary)

7017 E. Country Club Lane
Anaheim Hills
County of Orange
State of California 92807-4413.

Motion carried

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 p.m. The next Executive Board meeting will be at President Wayne Ali's residence located at 1413 W. Marcella Lane, Santa Ana, CA on Monday, December 28, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. Please bring chairs! Nearest cross streets are Bristol St. and Memory Lane.

Respectfully submitted
Rob Nelissen, Secretary

Meeting of the Executive Board of Directors

December 28, 1998

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 7:20 p.m. President Ali had previously appointed Jody Ali to the board of directors to fill a vacant membership

Officers Present

Wayne Ali, President
Larry Pearce, CFO
Rob Nelissen, Secretary

Absent

Don Testa, VP

Directors Present

Dennis Walz
Arlene Solomon
Bruce Williams
Jody Ali
(1 vacant Director position)
Preston Hill, Past President

Absent

Sue Hayes
Leonard Robertson
Jeanne LeVan

Absent

Guest: Chris Lloyd

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting (November 30, 1998) were approved as recorded and submitted.

President's Report

President Ali regretfully accepted Board of Director's member C. Edward Wolfe's resignation. Mr. Wolfe has been accepted in a fulltime MBA Executive program at Pepperdine University.

On another sad note, Jeanne LeVan had surgery on December 15, 1998 and will require a lengthy recovery period. She says that she may need to resign but will stay on as a Board member until a replacement is found or her health dictates otherwise. She promises to assist the club after her recovery. Everyone on the Board misses her and wishes her a speedy recovery.

Marshall Boslow is actively looking for a place to hold board and SIG meetings. We desperately need a new program director as there are no speakers or vendors scheduled after the January 30, 1999 general meeting in the Fine Arts Building #116 at Orange Coast College.

Wayne referred to an Organizational Chart in the December board package it shows many committees in need of a chairperson.

The OCIPUG website is still down. Wayne has not been able to get in touch with Mike Moore, our Webmaster, as to what the problem is in getting the website up and running. Wayne will keep trying and hopes to have news by the next meeting.

Since Jeanne LeVan, due to health reasons, was unable to establish a phone bank, Bruce Williams will try to get the ball rolling. Rob Nelissen is to provide Bruce with a membership list sorted by Zip Code.

Herb Huey was appointed as the new *Readme.Doc* Managing Editor to replace Norm Bergman. All submissions to the newsletter are to be forwarded to him. The submission due date for March 1999 newsletter, mailed in February, is 11th of February.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Rob Nelissen reported on correspondence and membership renewals received during the month. Renewals have been slow in coming for the month of December but Rob attributes this to the holidays. Once more he has been holding the mail, due to the Resource Center being closed. However, all mail directly related to club business has been forwarded to the appropriate persons. He states that the club receives lots of "junk" mail, i.e. advertising and catalogs. He will try to contact the addressees by phone to pick up this mail, however one month after notification he will dispose of all unclaimed junk mail.

Financial Report

CFO Larry Pearce presented his report on income and expenses paid in December as of the 28th.

Motion

Rob Nelissen moved and Jody Ali seconded to pay West Coast Internet services \$25.00 due in January 1999.

Motion Passed.

Motion

Rob Nelissen moved and Jody Ali seconded that the Tim Smith Certificate of Deposit maturing on January 3, 1999 be moved to the OCIPUG savings account and for Larry Pearce to transfer \$1,000.00 to the regular OCIPUG checking account. \$500.00 of the transfer will be used to reimburse OCIPUG for the 1997 contribution, which came directly out of the OCIPUG checking account, and the other \$500.00 will be used for a future 1999 Orange Coast College contribution. In addition Larry Pearce will investigate the current rates of 90 and 180 day Certificate of Deposits. He has authority to reinvest the money as he deems appropriate.

Motion Passed.

Motion

Pearce moved and Solomon seconded that OCIPUG pay InterNIC \$35.00 for the OCIPUG.org domain name registration. This expense was budgeted for 1999 under account 5130, administration and expenses. Motion Passed.

Old Business

No phone bank news, Bruce Williams to report at next meeting on progress.

Rob Nelissen volunteered truck and himself to move equipment from Costa Mesa storage space to Dick Cruce's building space in Santa Ana. Dennis Walz to contact members that helped vacate the resource center to see if they could help move once more. Wayne Ali to contact Dick Cruce to make arrangements.

New Business

Chris Lloyd, our previous Program Chairman, offered to buy all software and hardware not sold at the October OCIPUG Auction. Wayne Ali has to review the items held by Chris and Preston Hill to make a decision. Wayne proposed disposing of the items through a silent auction at the general meetings instead. No action taken for now.

Motion

All Furnishings and Accessories Declared Surplus and For Sale

Larry Pearce moved and Jody Ali seconded that all furnishings and accessories now in the Costa Mesa storage space are declared as surplus and for sale by to all OCIPUG members by bid. All bids must be forwarded to Larry Pearce through e-mail, BBS or regular mail on or before January 15, 1999. Highest bid takes. All items must be picked up by January 16, 1999. Motion Passed. (Secretary's note: President Ali suspended action as specified dates have passed.)

Motion

Rob Nelissen moved and Larry Pearce seconded that, because of OCIPUG's new membership dues structure, dues received under the old price structure between November 1 and December 31, 1998 will be for a 15 month membership instead of 12 months.

Motion Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Rob Nelissen, Secretary

A Word from the Editor To All OCIPUG Members

We are looking for *Readme.Doc* submissions for the next issue.

My name is Herb Huey. hbuey@home. I am the new Managing Editor of *Readme.Doc*. Most of you know me from Herb's hangout.

It is true that I may have taken the job because I still need a forum for Herb's Hangout, but it is *your* newsletter as well as mine. Send in your contributions to my e-mail address anytime, but if you want to see it appear in the next issue of *Readme.Doc*, you must send it in the first week of every month.

Ross Stevens asked, "What type of articles are you looking for?" Thanks for your interest! Any computer related idea that you believe would be interesting to our OCIPUG membership is what we are looking for. A short article or review is great. Do you have any computer-related tips? Pass it on even if it is a one-liner. I believe that most of us use only 20% of an application's potential so tips and tricks will benefit many members. Have you obtained a new computer application? Tell us about your experiences with it (installation, computer requirements, features, likes and dislikes). Have you had a problem with your computer system (hardware and/or software) and solved it? Then you need to share your experience with us. Did you hear a good computer-related joke? Let us laugh too!

We still rely on regular contributors like Wayne Ali, Richard Black, Norm Bergman, and many others but contributions from all our members offering their experiences and background will make *Readme.Doc* fun to read.

I look forward to each issue of *Readme.Doc* and it's not just because Herb's Hangout is in it but I like to find out how the PC has affected the lives of OCIPUG members. It may be true that OCIPUG has lost its SIG space but that does not mean that OCIPUG is dead! Long live OCIPUG and may *Readme.Doc* continue to inform!!

How Can Ones and Zeros Do All That?

Rex Sutton

Wow! Have I been having a blast with my computer! Thanks to Karla Heider, I took a class at Irvine Valley College in Photoshop 5 which opened up a whole new world with my computer. Sure, I still use Excel for my financial work and WordPerfect for my word processing but wow.

I bought a \$600 Minolta Dimage 35 mm film scanner from Cal's Camera. My 35-mm Kodachrome slides, dating back to the early forties, are now a real treasure chest to me. When my Epson 600 printed the first 8.5 x 11 picture of my daughter taken in the early 40s lying on her bathinet, I could hardly believe it. I ran all over the neighborhood showing it off.

Photoshop 5 cost me \$300 in the academic version because I was a student. It is an amazing program. I can now do more with my pictures than I could in the old days of chemical processing — and they are now in color! I like Kodak Inkjet Photo Paper at less than 50 cents a sheet.

My grandson loves playing the Microsoft Flight Simulator 98 program flying their helicopter. So for Christmas I gave him the Combat Flight Simulator program. The complete realism of the controls, landscape, rockets firing, etc. makes you wonder how ones and zeros can do all that.

I have the MS Flight Simulator 98 set to do my fixed landing gear Cessna practice flights at John Wayne so I at least know the area to help me find the airport. But anyway when I crash I can go to the kitchen and fix a peanut butter sandwich without remorse. I doubt that I will ever be so bold as to try to fly the Lear Jet or helicopter.

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 for reassignment. 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.

Be sure to ask about the computer requirements for the software. Most of these products require a CD-ROM drive and Win95 or later, or 32bit systems.

1. McAfee	WebScanX	Protects against viruses imported via the internet or other modem application.
2. Viewpoint	LiveArt	Allows you to resize, relight, rotate, skew or draw in new styles.
3. MGI Software	VideoWave 4.0	Capture video and web images, do special effects, add narration and sound.
4. PowerQuest	PowerTools (2 available)	Thirty-day trial of PartitionMagic, DriveImage and DriveCopy.
5. Globalink	Language Assistant	Translate French, German or Italian text to/from English.
6. Mijenix	ZipMagic98	Use zipped files without unzipping them. Save disk space. Web and e-mail features.
7. Caere	PageKeeper (Standard):	Organize and find scanned and other documents in your files.
8. Animated Software	All about Pumps	Illustrated explanation of how all types of pumps work.
9. MGI	VideoWave 4.0	Capture video and images, add special effects, animate titles, add narration, music and effects.

WHAT'S COOKING?

Look for reviews from these members.

1. Chris Lloyd.	Eudora Pro Communication Center
2. Ken Kamber	PhotoRecall
3. Richard Black.	Jasc PaintShopPro 5
4. Wayne Ali.	Qualitative FreeSpeech 98
5. Pat Cohen.	Caere OmniForm 3.0
6. William Gerow.	Mijenix PowerDesk Utilities 98
7. Marilyn Fry.	Ask Sam
8. Fred Baldwin.	Symmantic Act! 4.0
9. Marshal Boslow.	PowerQuest Drive Image and Drive Copy
10. Deborah Abernathy.	Delta Point QuickSite 2.5
11. Preston Hill.	Microsoft Publisher 98

Your club needs someone to contact vendors and get more software for us to evaluate. Please see Herb Huey, Norm Bergman or Wayne Ali if you would like the opportunity to help OCIPUG.

People and numbers to know

(All may also be reached directly on the BBS or via Internet email at "(First Name - Last Name)@ocipug.org"
BBS 714-892-1291 or 714-71-3242 **information Hotline 714-662-2939**

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President	Wayne Ali	714-972-4695	wk.ali@prodigy.net
Vice President	Don Testa	714-840-5300	dtesta@pacbell.net
Secretary	Rob Nelissen	714-281-0234	tkboo@worldnet.att.net
Treasurer	Larry Pearce	714-543-5661	larry.pearce@juno.com
Director-1999	Jody Ali	714-571-4749	wk.ali@prodigy.net
Director-2000	Sue Hayes	714-373-6931	suzy724@aol.com
Director-2000	Jeanne LeVan	714-545-6140	jeanlavan@aol.com
Director-1999	Leonard Robertson	949-855-3030	ayamari@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-2000	Bruce Williams	714-744-4951	-

Committees

Advertising	Bruce Williams	714-744-4951	-
BBS	Ed Miller	949-470-9319	edmiller@ix.netcom.com
Calendar Specialist	Maurie Seymour	714-633-2914	mauries@pacbell.net
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Library	Bob Blakeley	714-549-0958	blakeley@inreach.com
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Marketing	Bruce Williams	714-744-4951	-
Membership Accounting	Ken Paeth	714-544-5158	kenpaeth@bigfoot.com
Newsletter Editor	Preston Hill	714-893-2403	prestonlh@bigfoot.com
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Newsletter Layout	Charles Schreiber	714-377-0439	cschreib@csulb.edu
Policies & Procedures	Kevin Moser	949-631-2966	-
Programs	Preston Hill	714-893-2403	prestonlh@bigfoot.com
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SIG Coordinator	Bill Splitter	714-846-5652	bsplitt@ix.netcom.com
Rules & Bylaws	Ed Miller	949-470-9319	edmiller@ix.netcom.com
SYSOP	Dean Sowers	714-531-0477	dean.sowers@juno.com
Webmaster	Michael Moore	714-535-0608	mmoore@inreach.com

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

3D Studio	John Hostick	714-731-8873	jhost@pacbell.net
dASE	Max Lockie	949-720-8170	mlockie@ix.netcom.com
dASE	Tom Toner	714-537-9175	-
Digital Photo/Scan	Rex Sutton	949-786-5862	rexss@aol.com
Genealogy	Stan Sabin	714-968-7307	stansabin@usa.net
Genealogy II	Chris Hansen	714-637-0102	cphansen@aol.com
Internet	Michael Moore	714-535-0608	mmoore@inreach.com
Internet Day	Frank Disparte	714-960-7494	fdisparte@pobox.com
Investing	Mel Mellini	714-536-8733	vvmel@gte.net
Microsoft Office	Ken Kamber	714-637-4496	kkamber@bigfoot.com
Microsoft Office	Louise McCain	714-434-0784	swpglmom@aol.com
Microsoft Office	Alan Liebschutz	949-859-5815	amliebschutz@ibm.net
Modem	Kim Kymlicka	949-495-1319	kymlicka@vmicro.com
Modem	David Yap	714-847-1517	kh6ban@ix.netcom.com
New User	John Lunsford	714-995-0947	jlunsford@gentech.com
Now What?	John Donan	714-633-6616	donan@pacbell.com
Now What?	John Goodman	714-537-6400	john@agoodman.com
OS/2	Steve Schiffman	714-531-0376	schiffman@ibm.net
OS/2	Gary Granat	714-731-0457	granat@ibm.net
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WordPerfect	George Austin	310-375-7213	jh85a@prodigy.com