

# Orange Coast IBM PC User Group



October 1999

Newsletter

Volume 15.10

The October 30, 1999 9:00 am  
General Meeting will feature  
Question and Answer Session,  
Auction of Surplus Club Items  
Orange Coast College  
Chemistry Building  
Room 207

The Monday October 25, 1999  
7:00 pm  
Board of Directors Meeting will be  
at  
President Stein's Home

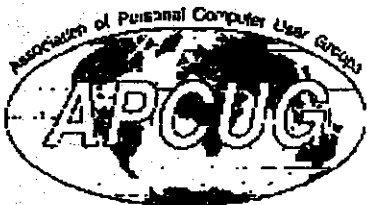
President Leonard Stein	714-533-4971	len1124@vinet.com
Vice President Red Davidson	949-548-0413	red.d@juno.com
Secretary Shirley Wozniak	714-556-8878	shirleywoz@iname.com
CFO/Treasurer Larry Pearce	714-543-5661	larry.pearce@juno.com
Director-2000 Michael Moore	714-535-0608	mmoore@inreach.com
Director-2000 Dennis Walz	714-545-1762	dawalz@worldnet.att.net
Director-2000 Sam Wozniak	714-556-8878	samwoz@pacbell.net
Director-2000		
Director-2001 Jess Bequette	714-549-1347	jnbequette@worldnet.att.net
Director-2001 Leonard Robertson	949-855-3030	ayamari@pacbell.net
Director-2001 Robert Walker	949-642-7681	rwalker820@email.msn.com
Director-2001 Frank Yaeger	714-971-0475	yaeger@ix.netcom.com
Past President Wayne Ali (h)	714-972-4695	wk.ali@prodigy.net
Editor Preston Hill (temp)	714-893-2403	prestonlh@bigfoot.com
Membership Kenneth Paeth	714-544-5158	kenpaeth@bigfoot.com
Programs Richard Black	714-960-2626	r.black@worldnet.att.net
SIG Coordinator Richard Hunter	714-968-6362	rthunter@bigfoot.com
Webmaster Michael Moore	714-535-0608	mmoore@inreach.com

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

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## President's Message

*Leonard Stein*

## OCIPUG General Meeting

September 25, 1999

*Richard Black*

I would like to address those members who were not at the last meeting. I hope to see you at the next meeting and get to know you. This is a club that really requires input from all of you to function. Since I am all out of clairvoyance at this time and cannot read your minds, why don't you come down and give me a piece of it. I can take it — I eat Wheaties for breakfast.

Now a sad note for those that didn't attend or know that we lost our program coordinator Reg Roberts to a heart attack. Several of us attended his services. Although I didn't get to know him very well I found out what a wonderful person he was. He was a doer with a great sense of duty and good humor. He will be missed.

The books, Secret Guide to Computers, have come in and I will hand them out to those that paid. I ordered a couple extra if anyone else wants one. In addition, we have been given Visual Basic Control in a Nutshell. First come first served.

That's all this time. See you all at the next meeting.

The September 25, 1999 General Meeting was called to order by President Leonard Stein at 9:05 AM. He announced the recent sudden death of Reg Roberts, a long-time member of OCIPUG and recent Program Committee chair. President Stein coaxed Shirley Wozniak to become OCIPUG's secretary and Jess Bequette to replace Board member Joe Zebrowski who cannot fulfill the commitment.

Richard Black then introduced Gene Barlow, who is the user group representative from PowerQuest and Caldera.

After discussing hard drive partitioning in general, and making some suggestions as to organizing partitions (and recommending the use of two hard drives), Gene first presented PowerQuest's Partition Magic. Partition Magic allows users to relatively easily create, format, resize, move and copy partitions without destroying data. It also comes with utilities that allow one to move applications from one partition/drive to another while it updates registry entries. Drive letters can also be reassigned.

He gave us a preview of the upcoming version 5. Version 5 allows the merging of partitions and includes new file system conversions, including NT5/Windows 2000. It has automatic error fixing to help overcome the fact that some hard drive manufacturers are building drives with overlapping partitions. New color-coded partition outlines and colors showing data and free space make working with Partition Magic even easier than before. There are Wizards to help create partitions and redistribute free space.

Gene recently also started representing Caldera, the makers of OpenLinux. His new installation of version 2.3, which was recently released, did not have drivers that allowed the use of the projector. That didn't stop members from taking advantage of the special User Group pricing of \$25 (vs. \$49.95 list).

Gene then discussed other PowerQuest products. Second Chance which is basically a system undo program that can

be really handy if one installs a new application that conflicts with other applications, or other changes are made to the system that the user decides are not wanted. Simply "undo" the changes and return the system to the way it was before changes were made (\$69.95 list, \$30 for user groups).

About half the audience admitted experiencing hard drive failures (the rest of us will one day). PowerQuest has two different types of back-up programs. Data Keeper backs up files and allows all backed-up or selected back-up files to be restored (\$49.95 list, \$25 for user groups). Drive Image backs up entire partitions and drives. The latter is more of a system backup than a file-by-file backup program. It allows the restoration of entire partitions and drives. The saved image can be uncompressed or compressed at 40% or 50%. (\$69.95 list, \$30 user groups).

After the break President Stein announced that at least two people were needed to help with *Readme.Doc*. One and one-half volunteered. President Stein then enlisted Richard Black and Len Leonard to help get speakers for future meetings. Vice President Red Davidson announced that the Executive Board will meet at his house on Monday evening, September 27.

It was also announced that the dates of John Lunsford's SIGs printed in *Readme.Doc* were in error. The SIG meets the first *Saturday* of each month from one to four PM.

The club is disposing of old books and software, which were available to members after the meeting and before lunch at Souplantation.

The meeting closed at 11:20 AM.

## Free Office Suite

*Richard Hunter*

Would you like a free office suite that is similar to and able to share files with Microsoft's Office? **StarOffice**® is Microsoft office inter-operable seamless and transparent migration and exchange of word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation files. **StarOffice**® is free for both personal and commercial use, except for services and support.

**StarOffice**® version 5.1 includes:

*StarOffice Writer* for word processing.

*StarOffice Calc* for creating spreadsheets.

*StarOffice Impress* for creating presentations.

*StarOffice Draw* and *StarOffice Image* for creating graphics.

*StarOffice Schedule* for managing calendars and to-do lists.

*StarOffice Mail* for handling e-mail.

*StarOffice Base* for access to databases.

*StarOffice Discussion* for reading Internet News.

*StarOffice Math* for devising complex formulas.

This free software is available for Windows, Linux, OS/2, and Solaris Sparc/Intel platforms. So those of you that are dedicated users of an OS other than Windows, now have great free software.

There is still one small problem. The software is 64 MBs in size. That compares to 300 MBs for Microsoft Office. While the 64 MBs may be downloaded for free, without a cable modem or similar fast Internet connection, it could take from three to six hours to download. The alternate is to order the CD version for \$9.95 plus shipping and handling, and taxes. My order came to \$16.72 with delivery scheduled for 3 - 5 days via U.S. Postal Service.

To download or order the CD, go to <http://www.sun.com/dot-com/staroffice.html>.

## WARNING: Re Prodigy Internet CD-ROM

*Audrey Wolden*

Like me, you probably receive a zillion CD-ROMs in the mail that will put you on the Internet, offering you many hours free trial. Usually I ignore them. But when I received a CD-ROM from Prodigy for Internet Version 5 offering 250 free hours in the first month plus a free phone card, I decided to try it. I did not realize when I popped the disk in my CD-ROM drive and pressed "Enter" what I was getting myself into.

The reason I decided to try this program was that it was for Microsoft Windows 3.1 users (also for Mac users, but that's beside the point here). Furthermore, the CD offers free Y2K compliant software, free technical support 24 hours a day every day; free 6MB of space to create your own Personal Web site, a MailLink to let you check e-mail from any Web-connected PC, Cyber Patrol to control your children's Internet access, plus a top-rated, high-speed 56K digital network for faster connections and downloads. This is the list on the jacket cover of all the pertinent information offered before you start to run the CD-ROM.

After installing the CD, you find your entire hard drive has been corrupted by Microsoft Explorer (which I did not suspect was the program); you can no longer use your programs or your hard drive in the way you originally intended, if at all. You have a new keyboard, your CONFIG.SYS has been corrupted, and who knows what else. If you are a WordPerfect DOS user, your keyboard has been changed to a Windows keyboard with symbols substituted for periods and commas to permit access to the Web using hypertext, or so I gather. WHEN YOU TYPE UP A DOCUMENT (BY THE WAY I TYPED THIS IN LOWER CASE!) the cap key does whatever it wants> (See what I mean!) Notice the substitute for a period after the word "wants".

At one point I couldn't get into WordPerfect at all because they had decreased the number of files. More important, if you have only 8MGs of RAM, you were not supposed to install Prodigy's program in the first place; you need 12MGs. Why did they not tell you that before you pressed the "Enter" key?

If you are using Windows 3.11 for Workgroups you are out of luck. Your Windows program has been corrupted. Your mouse doesn't work. Its action is altogether different from, in my case, a Logitech mouse; it stalls and you may have to reboot. Neither DOS nor your WINDOWS is viable. Nor can you return to using your original Net provider. Worst of all, they have blocked the Uninstall program that comes with MS Internet Explorer 5.0 so you are mired in your dilemma. After that, I don't know what you can do other than reformat your hard drive and begin all over again... Any ideas anyone?

PS: And don't believe that offer of free technical support 24 hours a day every day either. When I tried it about 11PM on a weekday, I was told to call back when the office is open.

## Internet Explorer Challenge

*Richard Hunter*

Internet Explorer (IE) is one of two well known and widely used Web browsers. However, I have found it lacks some features. One is that there is no print preview. While not having a print preview isn't a big deal, I find that too often I print a second page with nothing but a worthless line at the top.

The second irritation is that it is hard to find the encryption level. So here is your challenge: find where Microsoft put the information on the encryption level. Remember, under government regulations, only the 40 bit version was or is allowed to be exported. The 128 bit version was classified as munitions and thus could not be exported.

To find the encryption level using Netscape Communicator 4.61, click on "Security" from the tool bar. When the window pops up, click on Navigator and then on "configure SSL v2." There you will be able to see the level of encryption that is available.

The answer to the encryption level for IE will be posted as a message on the OCIPUG Web page message board shortly after this article appears in Readme.Doc.

## Computer System Analysis

*Richard Hunter*

Would you like to know more about your computer system? If you would like to know a whole lot more about your computer system, Sandra is for you. Sandra is an acronym for System Analyzer, Diagnostic and Reporting Assistant. That is, Sandra is an information and diagnostic utility. Best of all, it is free for noncommercial use by an individual.

Sandra comes in two versions — the standard version, which is free, and a professional version which requires a \$29 registration fee. The standard version tests 49 kinds of information, benchmarks, listings, and test (diagnostic) modules. Thus Sandra is similar to other commercial programs, like Norton, but of course the price is right. The professional version tests 68 kinds of information, benchmarks, listings, and test (diagnostic) modules.

To download Sandra, go to: <http://www.sisoft.demon.co.uk/sandra>

Some of the test features are: System Summary, Mainboard Information, CPU & BIOS, PCI & AGP, Drive Information, and many more tests. Many of the test summaries also offer suggestions on how to improve your system.

CPU Benchmark not only shows the results of my system, but also makes a comparison with other systems. For example, my AMD K6-2/400 is benchmarked with a CPU Dhystone of 1028 and an FPU Whetstone of 475. The test also shows, for comparison, the Intel Pentium III 500 MHZ, an AMD K6-3/500, an Intel P266, and the IDT WinChip2 - 266. Needless to say, both 500 MHZ units were faster than my system. The software includes a Crash Fix Utility, FAQs, a manual, and release notes. So you may be interested in this free software.

## Windows 98 MS Fax

*Richard Hunter*

For those of you with new computers that came with the OEM version of Windows 98, you may notice that the fax that came with Windows 95 is no longer there. If you upgraded from Windows 95, most likely you still have the fax program. So, how do you get the fax for the OEM version of Windows 98?

You can install MS Fax by using the Windows 98 CD. Put the CD in and it will start automatically. Then select Browse, Tools, Oldwin95, Message, and US. Read the WMS-FAX.TXT. Afterward, you can double click on the files to install WMS.EXE and AWFAX.EXE. That will give you the same fax that came with Windows 95.

A word of caution though. When I installed Second Edition and the modem sharing feature, it corrupted the fax program and nothing I did would get the fax back. When I removed Second Edition, I got the fax back with no problems. I cannot say that all will have the same experience with Second Edition.

While the fax program isn't a great program, it is quite suitable for an occasional fax. Believe it or not but there are some people out there that don't use a computer or e-mail. For those people the fax is a big help. They don't have to understand computers. Just load the paper into the fax machine, put in a phone number, and away it goes.

## ASK THE DOCTOR

In the last issue of Readme.Doc you may have enjoyed the article by Dr. John Goodman about the DeLorme map programs and GPS device. Dr. Goodman is a past president of OCIPUG and an award-winning computer book author. He also served for many years as our DOS Special Interest Group (SIG) guru and last year was the primary speaker at the "Now What Do I Do?" SIG.

He is now considering writing an occasional column for Readme.Doc in which he would answer readers' questions about their PCS. Any questions are fair game. As quickly as his time permits, he will answer them directly to the questioner by e-mail, and then select the most interesting topics for a more extended discussion later on in one of the columns.

If this interests you, please send your questions to him at [john@agoodman.com](mailto:john@agoodman.com). Or, if you don't have a question at this time but wish to indicate interest in reading whatever columns may come out of this, you may send him a brief note indicating that as well.

## New Users SIG

*Audrey Wolden*

I call attention to John Lunsford's New Users SIG, designed primarily for new users but useful for all. Over the past twelve years or so, he has been presenting this series of four lectures, one each month in succession, on what might be called "all you ever wanted to know about computers" — and much more, I might add. Although I am not exactly a new user, I have always found these lectures highly informative as well as entertaining.

A new feature has been added: What's happening currently in the computer world. John plans to address this subject after each session. The first session in the series of four is: How to Avoid Bad Experiences; the second is on Hardware; the third covers the Operating System; and the fourth is on Application Software.

Inasmuch as this series is repetitive, I shall not attempt to recap the copious notes I took at the last session. Suffice it to repeat his comments concerning current events. For one thing, he suggests you not wait until next year to buy your next or new computer. Do so in the coming month or two for there are rumors among makers of virus protection products, Symantec and McAfee, that by the first of the year hackers will be releasing a lot of viruses into the air. He suggests you start updating your registry by phone with either of these companies, who will then download you updates of their programs.

## Ken's Korner Turns Two: Looking back...and ahead

*Ken Fermoye*

It doesn't seem possible that two years have flown by since I clicked on "Send" to launch the first Ken's Korner column into cyberspace. Yet, when I stop to think, it's equally incredible that so much has happened in just 24 months.

In September, 1997, that first article (Pre-historic DTP, or Publishing in the Stone Age) went out to just 11 editors, all of whom had signed up at the Southwest Regional User Group Conference in San Diego a month earlier. Now 225 editors and webmasters subscribe. In addition, the list of computer pros who have asked to receive the column has swollen to more than 60 since I started adding individuals some 10 months ago.

Several Ezines (electronic magazines) feature Ken's Korner regularly, as do such differing Websites as the North Carolina Dept. of Education, Australia Seniors Online and the Mac-oriented User Group Network. (I think I'm UGN's token PC person.)

Practically all of the early subscribers were from California and Arizona. Now almost every state is represented, including Alaska and Hawaii, plus Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Great Britain, Greece, Japan, New Zealand and Panama.

What makes this growth surprising is how it happened. Most subscribers have come aboard as a result of word of mouth, or seeing the column in other group newsletters or Websites. APCUG Reports, official publication of the Association of PC User Groups, has run several articles about Ken's Korner and its availability. Fred Showker at UGN has been another booster. I have written to acquaint some groups with the column after learning about their publications while surfing the Net. Of course, the fact that articles are free doesn't hurt! But still, a 25-fold increase in 24 months is impressive.

The growth also indicates that my two main premises in starting the column were on the mark. First, having been "volunteer" editor of many newsletters over the years, I

knew that many editors have to scratch for good material. Second, I felt the mainstream computer press was so focused on corporate computing and "enterprise solutions" that it often failed to provide information for grassroots computers, the area on which I concentrate.

### New projects are born

Ken's Korner gave birth to a major new offshoot early this year: the User Group Media Workshop project. It resulted from reading hundreds of group newsletters and journals over the past two years. (Most editors comply with my request that they send me a copy of any publication in which one of my articles appears.)

From two to six newsletters arrive every day, either via snail mail or e-mail (usually in PDF format). I don't claim to read every word of every one but I do go through them all, and I do read many of the articles. A lot of editors can testify to that because they've received e-mail from me commenting on their newsletters and/or specific articles. (Many a cyberspace friendship has developed as a result.)

I started with one "UG Column" folder in Eudora Plus, added one for "First Contacts" as requests for the column began coming in. Then I opened mailboxes in the UG Column folder for individual editors and groups after I had corresponded with each one several times. Now I have about 110 mailboxes in the UG Column folder.)

I also visit group Websites regularly, checking out their design and just generally trying to keep up with what's happening in various groups.

I do this reading and surfing to keep in touch with grassroots computing, to get ideas for future columns and quite simply to learn from many of the great articles I find.

Quality of the newsletters and Websites is surprisingly good, given that most editors and webmasters are volunteers (or draftees!) with little or no publishing background. My correspondence revealed that these volunteers, particularly the least experienced ones, are eager to improve and welcome any help they can get.

This, and some discussions with Rick Altman, founder and host of CoreWorld, led to planning of what was to have been the first User Group Media Workshop, during October in Orlando, FL. Another conversation soon after that with Judy Tylour, one of the Southwest Regional organizers, resulted in the first Media Workshop being presented in August. (You can find more details on Workshop history at my new Website: [www.zyworld.com/wordsmithken](http://www.zyworld.com/wordsmithken).)

The Website is the latest project from Ken's Korner. Started in late August, it is still very much a "work-in-progress." I do invite you to visit it, and will appreciate your feedback. Be forewarned: don't expect music, animated GIFs, abundant graphics or other gimmicks. And you definitely won't find blue type on a black background! My goals are to provide easy readability and navigation, plus reasonably fast downloading.

### Plans for the future

I hope to do more Workshops and to keep updating and improving the Website. Beyond that, I am researching several subjects for future columns, and could use your help in that respect.

I'll list the subjects I have in the works below. If you have any experiences, suggestions or comments you care to contribute, I'd love to hear them. Reader letters and input have often been a big help in the past, and I hope that continues in the future.

**AOL censorship** - The Irish language, American Civil Liberties Union and various other groups have been the target of Steve Case and company in recent months. In addition, serious security breaches allegedly have occurred on AOL. I will welcome any experiences, pro or con, you have had with the service.

**Net conferencing** - We've been working on this for some time, but new developments keep appearing. If you use this technology, I want to hear from you.

**Digital web cameras** - We have two units installed now in Ken's Korner: Kodak's DVC323 and Vista Imaging's VICAM. Each has excellent features, which we will be reviewing soon.

## TidBytes from Ken's Korner

*Compiled & edited by Ken Fermoye*

### Web Pages Lost? Check History In Your PC or Mac Browser:

Your Web browser's history keeps a record of Web pages you've visited recently. If you forgot to bookmark a page you liked, your history can often help you find it again.

To open your history in Microsoft Internet Explorer, click the History button in the toolbar (Windows) or click the Go menu and choose Open History (Mac). In Netscape Communicator, type Ctrl-H (Windows) or Command-H (Mac).

Once the history window appears, double-click a page to view it in your browser. For more Web browser tips, Click here. - A Ken's Korner TidByte

### Seattle FilmWorks Adds Sound To Photos Delivered via Email

Seattle FilmWorks, a long-time discount photofinisher now largely Internet-based, has joined forces with VStream, a leader in Web-based communications, to bring audio commentary to email-delivered photos. The new service allows FilmWorks customers to add a personal narrative to their photos, using of VStream's Internet-based messaging service, Beep.

"This is a marriage of two convenient services with high customer appeal," said Paul Berberian, VStream president. "We're blending Internet-enhanced communications with multimedia and the result is a visual and audio service that is fun and personal."

Using VStream's voice-to-email technology, Seattle FilmWorks customers can add narration to a photo with a simple phone call to VStream's automated messaging center. The audio file, produced through VStream, accompanies the photo whenever a customer emails photo links to friends, family, and business associates.

"We know our nearly two million customers enjoy sharing their visual memories with family and friends over the Internet, and now using VStream's technology, they can enhance those memories with audio descriptions," said Gary Christophersen, president and CEO, Seattle FilmWorks.

A Seattle FilmWorks customer, while viewing an online image of a photos, can now

add a personal message at the click of a button. After selecting "Send a voice message" option, you receive an identification code and phone number. You then dial the number, enter the ID code and record your private messages and captions for specified photos. The audio file accompanies the photo, so anyone who views the photo via email has the option of also hearing the audio caption.

For more information, visit Seattle FilmWorks or VStream - TidByte from Ken's Korner

### Net2Phone Announces Agreement with Compaq

Net2Phone will offer its award-winning Internet telephony services to new Compaq Presario customers in Canada, Latin America, Japan and Asia-Pacific.

Under the agreement, a button located on the Presario keyboard will connect online users to a co-branded telephony services web site. Called the Community Center button, it initially connects Presario customers to a Compaq and Net2Phone joint Website which features free downloadable PC-to-phone software, download instructions, and details about Net2Phone's low calling rates.

After downloading the software and setting up an account, the user can launch the application and connect via the Web to a phone anywhere in the world. - TidByte from Ken's Korner

### Apple Files Suit Over iMac Look-Alike

Apple Computer has filed a lawsuit against eMachines, charging that the \$799 eOne PC copies the iMac. This is Apple's latest attempt to prevent rivals from cashing in on its innovative iMac design. Apple filed similar lawsuits on July 1 against Daewoo Telecom of Korea and Future Power, Daewoo's joint venture that sells PCs in the United States.

The complaint accuses eMachines of "illegally copying" the iMac's industrial design. It asks the court to prevent eMachines from shipping its look-alike computer, and seeks unspecified actual and punitive damages. - TidByte from Ken's Korner

### US Leads in Web Users, Sales, But Other Areas Growing Fast

North America, and particularly the US, currently dominate e-commerce activity, but

users are coming online in huge numbers globally, according to research firm NUA ([www.nua.com](http://www.nua.com)). Europe now has nearly half as many online users as North America, and the Asia/Pacific Rim countries have nearly a third. Latin America, late to start, has a growing Internet presence, especially in Brazil.

As online access grows in these area, electronic commerce (e-commerce) will expand, along with revenues and export activity.

Currently 74.73% of revenue from English-language Internet sites comes from the US. The UK accounts for 5.14%; Canada, 4.95%; Germany, 2.15%. France, Ireland, Netherlands, Italy and Scandinavia each account for less than 1% of revenues and 2.19% come from all other European Union countries combined.

Elsewhere, Australia and New Zealand account for 3.19%, Japan for 1.01%, the rest of Asia, 1.829%. The Mid-East and Africa each have less than 1%.

"As anticipated, the US continues to dominate e-commerce activity, although its share is declining slightly" reports Active Media Research's VP of Market research Harry Wolhandler. "This is going to shift over the next few years as online consumer populations and local businesses expand worldwide. Once non-U.S. consumers become accustomed to shopping online, you can expect a surge in e-commerce activity, but this time, from foreign websites recapturing local audiences from U.S. online merchants." - A Ken's Korner TidByte

### Intel Plans New Chip Debuts

Intel promises a busy late summer and early fall. At this writing, the chip maker plans to officially announce the launch date and pricing details for its eight-way Xeon processor for servers on Aug. 23; mobile Celeron processors on Sept. 15; and a new chipset for Pentium III, which will support 133-MHz frontside bus speeds and higher speed memory on Sept. 27. Intel previously announced (On Aug. 2) 600-MHz version of the Pentium III and a 500-MHz version of its desktop Celeron chip.

This will be of more interest to corporate power users than most grassroots users, due to high initial prices. Typically, however, debut of new Intel chips means price reductions on "older" CPUs. Maybe now I'll upgrade our 200- and 300-MHz computers

to 400MHz, complete with new motherboard and chipsets. TidByte from Ken's Korner

### **Corel Offers Some Toll-Free Support**

Corel recently introduced a toll-free number for its Fax on Demand and IVAN (Interactive Voice Answering Network) services. Previously, customers all North America customers had to call Ottawa to access these services, and each service had its own telephone number. This meant high toll bills, causing many users to be unhappy campers.

Now, both services can be reached toll-free at 1-877-42-COREL. Fax on Demand allows customers to call the toll-free line and request a document to assist in answering their technical questions. Customers can review an index of available documents and choose, by number, the document they wish to receive by fax. IVAN allows customers to select the product they want and hear information on topics such as Common Issues and Tips & Tricks.

"We wanted to make this type of information as accessible to our customers as possible," said Jeffery Bennett, director of technical services at Corel. "Customers can also access free support from the Support section of the Corel Website." Customer can go to [www.corel.com/support/index.htm](http://www.corel.com/support/index.htm), for online access to technical documents and post free messages in one of the Corel Newsgroups, to get technical responses, when possible, from Corel's C\_Tech volunteers. C\_Tech volunteers are knowledgeable Corel software users who volunteer their time to provide free on-line technical support to other Corel users.

Okay, it's not like being able to talk, toll-free, with a real live techie, but it's a step in the right direction. And I can testify personally that the Website support can be tremendously helpful. Some of these C-Tech volunteers are as knowledgeable as many salaried techies. - TidByte from Ken's Korner

### **Patterns Changing in Removable Media Drives**

The removable-media disk drive picture is changing. This category includes CD-ROM and DVD-ROM drives, CD/DVD writable drives, other read/write optical disk drive

formats, rigid disk cartridge drives, card format rigid disk drives, high capacity floppy drives and low capacity standard floppy drives.

New types and technologies that enable users to remove data from systems for safe storage or sharing with others are supplanting older ones. A Disk/Trends, Inc. Report covering 61 manufacturers notes that 1999 worldwide sales revenues of such drives will top \$10 billion

The sales outlook for the nine disk drive product groups included in the report is a mixed bag. DVD-ROM drives are projected to pass up CD-ROM drives in shipments within two years, excellent growth is forecast for writable CD/DVD drive formats, miniaturized hard disk drive cards will develop entirely new markets, shipments of standard 1.44 megabyte floppy drives will peak within two years, and high capacity floppy drives will continue a strong growth pattern.

Rapidly declining prices and performance improvements for DVD-ROM drives will make drive customers the big winners in this product transition, as DVD-ROM drives go through the same rapid product cycles of speed improvements and price declines that have characterized the CD-ROM market in recent years.

Falling prices and improved availability of CD-RW drives have made this format the leading growth product among all types of writable optical disk drives, at least for a few years. However, by 2002 significant growth in drive shipments is also expected for DVD rewritable formats and for new high capacity rewritable drives using new technologies.

Don't count out the lowly 1.44-megabyte floppy drive just yet. It is adequate for typical word processing applications and prices are low. Shipments should peak in 2001, then start a slow decline. - TidByte from Ken's Korner

### **DSL Growing as Broadband Alternative**

Covad Communications, a leading broadband access provider, recently reported its 20,000th DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) installation, and Earthlink began a pilot DSL project that it reportedly will expand nationwide.

Covad now claims to have the more installed lines than any other national provider. The 20,000th milestone represents a growth rate of 133 percent over the end of March 1999 and 413 percent growth from the end of 1998

DSL offers high-speed, always-connected, simultaneous multi-user access to the Internet over existing copper telephone lines, which proponents say will make it a major player in the broadband arena. Myself, I can hardly wait for a DSL installation in Ken's Korner, coming soon as part of the Earthlink pilot project. The cost: Only \$6 to \$9 more per month more than our current ISP/phone bill because we can get rid of our second phone line, which has been a dedicated dial-up modem line. Stay tuned for updates. - TidByte from Ken's Korner

### **Science, Space Fans Get Online Community**

If you are a science and space enthusiast, you now have an online community to call your own Cosmiverse, (<http://www.cosmiverse.com>), the Internet portal devoted to science, space, is a one-stop location on the Web where visitors can find a variety of services. Membership is free and entitles users to the following free services: e-mail address; search engine; auction house; daily planner/calendar; address book; stock quotes; news and local weather; web hosting space; file and data storage; chat rooms, and message boards. It also includes a game room with chess, backgammon, and science fiction games where players can play against other people on the web

A link from the Cosmiverse site connects members to one of the most interesting and innovative space projects on the Web. At Cosmic Voyage 2000, ([www.cosmicvoyage2000.com](http://www.cosmicvoyage2000.com)), visitors can read about and even participate in the first-ever private space-exploration mission. The Near Earth Asteroid Project (NEAP), a mission organized by SpaceDev Inc., of San Diego, is intended to be the first in a long series of profitable commercial deep space missions to be conducted by SpaceDev Inc. NEAP is currently scheduled to launch at the turn of the new millennium.

Does all this light your jets? If so, prepare for liftoff! - TidByte from Ken's Korner

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## Conquering Fear

Several OCIPUG members at the General Meeting asked me whether I use Linux since it was being offered by PowerQuest. I explained that I had used UNIX many years ago and my mind was resistant to learning another operating system (OS). Afterward, I asked myself "Why did I say that?"

I have resisted many of Microsoft's offerings but at the end I seem to always bite the bullet and get a Microsoft OS. One reason is the multitude of applications for Windows 95/98/NT. Another reason is that there is still at least an air of similarity among Microsoft products. However, the real reason why I resist learning a new OS is fear!

I am sure that most beginners live in fear of that computer. "If I press the wrong key I might incinerate my major investment. Or even worse, if I click on the wrong thing I may upset the proper order of things in the universe." Fear is what stops many people from learning how to use the computer.

We should not be so afraid of learning something new. After all, we have learned many things while growing up. But Herb, I am much older than you are! That may be true but all of us face new challenges everyday. If you need to drive to a new location, you face the challenge of finding out the address, its location, directions from your house as well as doing the actual driving (driving alone should instill fear in your heart). If you cook your favorite recipe you may be daring and try something different. When it turns out well it gives you a big rush of satisfaction. Why should a computer be any more intimidating? Learning how to use a computer should give a huge wave of satisfaction.

The computer is a must for many working people today. For those who have decided to take a vacation from work, the computer can be a hobby or a way to make money. The Internet is full of information that can be easily accessed by anybody with a computer and a Web browser. I hear stories of the many uses that OCIPUG members have found for their expensive little toy. Sometimes I feel inferior to those who have learned to creatively use the computer as their tool.

## Herb's Hangout

*Herb Huey*



Why is this? I know how to program but I am not a great programmer. People have learned to take advantage of the Internet in ways that I could never begin to do. I have not learned to write as well as John Goodman and make a living by staying home. (By the way, the goodies that he showed off at his last presentation were fantastic.) Somewhere along the way this old computer hacker has become an applications user. I don't have time to dive under the cover of the computer like before. I have always worried that I will really smoke my computer (I actually smoked it several times already). Today, I want my computer system fully functional and 100% reliable.

Apple has always made their computers more user friendly by shielding the user from many internal events. That is one reason why Apple can still sell iMacs. They are so easy to connect that even a PC user can do it. I have used Macs in the past and the cute little bomb icon representing a system crash has mollified many a Mac user, but it is the same as a PC system crash and receiving the dreaded UAE window. I found that many early Mac users were happy to only see that bomb three or four times a day. A PC user would be up in arms!

FDR said "We have nothing to fear but fear itself!" That is good advice. The computer is a great learning tool, a fascinating hobby or even an indispensable tool. Computers

do not bite (they byte, not bite). As a new tool, we should view the computer as an aid in making our lives better. If you manage to conquer the computer monster, you can do anything your mind can think of — and many people have done just that. By the way if you read the beginning of this column, you may have noted that I said I resist learning a new OS and not that I am afraid of it. I use Windows 95/98/NT at home so obviously I can conquer having to learn another OS. I take that back, Windows 2000 is coming out soon.

### Signing Off

My wife made some contacts from her recent visit to Vietnam. We sent out some e-mails but we were advised that though Vietnamese people who have e-mail accounts do speak English they would prefer to do business in Vietnamese. I took her to VNI to buy VNI Tan Ky, a software extension that allows the user to type in Vietnamese and 40 other languages. The software adds 40 True Type fonts that can be used in most major office productivity applications like MS Office, WordPerfect, and CorelDRAW.

The Vietnamese alphabet uses five accent marks to add stress to certain sounds, much like in French. These accents can be easily entered via keyboard. The deluxe version allows you to read and write e-mail and browse through all the Vietnamese Web sites. We got the software on-line (the instructions were in Vietnamese but I got it loaded without help) but now I have to teach my wife how to type so she will not take all day to compose an e-mail. Just imagine cruising the Web in Vietnamese. I never envisioned this for my computer. The next step is to network our computers together. But that is for another day and maybe a future column.

# OCIPUG SUPPORT

The members listed below have generously offered to serve as resources for other members in need of assistance with specific hardware or software problems. They are there for you, but please bear a few things in mind:

The times listed are when these volunteers are available to assist you. Please respect their times by limiting your calls to the hours indicated.

Your questions should be specific and reasonably brief. Consult your manual, tech support, etc., first, so as not to take up their time needlessly.

All of our volunteers have expertise in the areas shown, but nobody knows everything, so be understanding by not expecting them to know everything.

This service is free, available to our members only. Our volunteers are not doing this for personal gain, but as a service to benefit their fellow PC users, thereby making OCIPUG a stronger organization.

## **Abraxas**

Kevin Post – anytime.....969-9495

## **AccPac Simple Accounting**

Ron Collins – 6-10 p.m. M-F

Wkends after 9 a.m.....493-6520

Christian Malm – 9 a.m.-9 p.m. M-F

Anytime Wkends.....966-5339

## **Ami Professional**

Richard Sinor – 6 p.m.-10 p.m..951-1892

## **Approach**

Maurie Seymour – 9a.m.-9p.m....633-2914

## **BBS ( Bulletin Board Service)**

Preston Hill – 9 a.m.-9 p.m.....893-2403

Dean Sowers – 10 a.m.-9 p.m. ....531-0477

## **BASIC**

Herb Huey – 6 p.m.-10 p.m.....525-1608

## **Borland Delphi**

Maurie Seymour – 9a.m.-9p.m.. 633-2914

## **Champion Business Systems**

Kevin Post – Anytime.....969-9495

## **Clipper**

Bob Wendorf – Anytime.....892-1031

## **Corel's Ventura**

John Goodman – 2p.m.-12mid....537-6400

(Preferred):john@agoodman.com

## **dBase IV**

Preston Hill – 9 a.m.-9 p.m.....893-2403

## **Digital Photography and Scanning**

Ken Martin – 8 a.m.-1p.m.exceptSunday

.....637-5577

Rex Sutton – 9 a.m.-10 p.m....949-786-5862

## **dBase Programming**

Tom Toner – 10 a.m.-8 p.m.....537-9175

## **Disk & Memory Management**

John Goodman – 2p.m.-12mid...537-6400

(Preferred):...john@agoodman.com

Bill Krehbiel – 24hrs daily.....645-8561

## **DOS**

Herb Huey – 6:00p.m.-10p.m.....525-1608

John Goodman – 2p.m.-12mid....537-6400

(Preferred):...john@agoodman.com

Bill Krehbiel – 24hrs daily.....645-8561

## **Excel**

Herb Huey – 6:30 p.m.-10 p.m..525-1608

## **Fortran**

Herb Huey – 6 p.m.-10 p.m.....525-1608

## **FoxPro**

Stan Hetrick – 6 p.m.-10 p.m. M-F

Anytime Wkends.....774-3115

## **Genealogy**

Preston Hill – 9 a.m.-9 p.m.....893-2403

## **Hardware**

John Goodman – 2p.m.-12mid...537-6400

(Preferred):...john@agoodman.com

Bill Krehbiel – 24hrs daily.....645-8561

## **Internet**

Richard Armenteros – 6pm.-11pm

.....378-9311

## **MAS 90**

Christian Malm – 9 a.m.-9 p.m. M-F

Anytime Wkends.....966-5339

## **Microsoft Word**

John Goodman – 2 p.m.-12mid...537-6400

(Preferred):...john@agoodman.com

## **Microsoft Works**

Bill Krehbiel – 24hrs daily.....645-8561

## **PC Tools**

Preston Hill – 9 a.m.-9 p.m.....893-2403

## **PageMaker**

Preston Hill – 9 a.m.-9 p.m.....893-2403

## **Paradox DOS/Windows**

Jim Samuelson – 6p.m.-10p.m..472-9822

## **PerForm**

Richard Sinor – 6p.m.-10p.m.M-F....951-1892

## **QModem/ProComm**

Bill Krehbiel – 24hrs daily.....645-8561

## **Quattro Pro**

Preston Hill – 9 a.m.-9 p.m.....893-2403

## **QuickBooks for Windows**

Cathy Hall – Anytime .....434-7307

Max Lockie – 6 p.m.-9 p.m. ....720-8170

## **Quicken**

Preston Hill – 9 a.m.-9 p.m.....893-2403

Ron Ross – 6 p.m.-10 p.m. M-F

Anytime Wkends...964-5137

## **Quickpay**

Ron Ross – 6 p.m.-10 p.m. M-F

Anytime Wkends....964-5137

## **Stacker**

John Goodman – 2p.m.-12mid....537-6400

(Preferred):...john@agoodman.com

Bill Krehbiel – 24hrs daily.....645-8561

## **Visual dBASE**

Max Lockie – 6 p.m.-9 p.m.....720-8170

## **Windows 3.x and 95**

Richard Hunter – 9a.m.-9p.m.M-Sa.

....968-6362

Bill Krehbiel – 24hrs daily.....645-8561

Bill Phillips – 9 a.m.-9 p.m.....281-8171

## **WordPerfect**

Preston Hill – 9 a.m.-9 p.m.....893-2403

Richard Baznik – 9 a.m.-6p.m.....669-8974

**Note:** If you would like to be listed here as a volunteer to help with any PC-related subject, please call Preston Hill (714) 893-2403 or leave a message on the BBS. We need volunteers in many more software and hardware areas. The success of this program depends on your help.

# ORANGE COAST IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) ©

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

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Bruce Williams 714-744-4951  
Preston Hill 714-893-2403      preston.hill@ocipug.org

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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 Nov 1999** for the Nov 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

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

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

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

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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: \_\_\_\_\_