

# Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

# README.DOC

February 2003

Newsletter

Volume 19.2

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE COSTA MESA SENIOR CENTER 695 WEST 19TH STRET  
AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF 19TH AND POMONA

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1  
Front Page
- Page 2  
Officers and Board Members  
Far Stone Program
- Page 3  
Schedules and Reports of Events
- Page 4  
IBM Unveils 20-Inch LCD  
Ole and Lena
- Page 5  
Quick: Delete the jdbgmgr.exe file
- Page 6  
Windows Tips  
Photo Tips
- Page 7  
Software Download Sources
- Page 8  
What is this Character #  
More Ole and Len
- Page 9  
The Truth About Mail-In Rebates
- Page 10  
MP3's Arent Just Music Anymore  
Portable, Pocket-sized Megabytes
- Page 11  
For Inveterate XP Tweakers Omlly
- Page 12  
Computing Factoids
- Page 13  
January Board of Directors Meeting
- Page 14  
Publication Guidelines

## March 22 Program Western Digital

The presentation will be split in two "sessions" - one before and one after break. The first session's subject area will be an introduction to the technical side of hard drives and will address general hard drive technology, IDE/ATAPI and SCSI interfaces, internal and external implementations, etc. The second session will address Western Digital, the company, and review in detail its new "Drivezilla", Special Edition, and other mainstream hard drive products, both internal and external and review in detail its full line of hard drive products, both internal and external."



*"Western Digital will be donating T-shirts, posters, a 200GB "Drivezilla" Special Edition, internal IDE hard drive, and a 200GB external IDE hard drive with FireWire interface (including the supporting PCI FireWire controller/adaptor card). These items will be raffled off at the end of the second presentation.*



**Darrin Bulik**  
Technical Marketing Manager  
Western Digital Corporation

As a technical marketing manager at Western Digital, one of the storage industry's pioneers and long-time leaders, Darrin Bulik must balance customer hard drive attribute requirements, technology advancements and budgetary demands. He is responsible for ensuring that Western Digital's products are highly competitive and possess the appropriate market attributes that ensure high-quality and high-performance hard Disk.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**General Meetings are held from 9:00AM to noon on:**

22 March 2003  
 26 April 2003  
 24 May 2003  
 26 June 2003  
 For details see inside pages of this issue, Web Page, or Information Line

**Meetings of the Executive Board will be held at 7:00PM on:**

31 March 2003  
 28 April 2003  
 26 May 2003  
 30 June 2003

All OCIPUG members are welcome.

**Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings are held monthly as follows:**

1st Saturday 9:00 AM - New User  
 1st Tuesday 7:00 PM - Internet  
 2nd Tuesday 7:00 PM - Hardware  
 3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM - Window's  
 4th Tuesday 7:00 PM - Digital Photo



Western Digital is shipping its next-generation 80 GB-per-platter technology, which yields PC hard drives that can store up to 250 GB. This new hard drive technology adds 25% capacity to Western Digital's popular WD Caviar 200 GB hard drive, which was based on 67 GB-per-platter technology.



WD Caviar 7,200 RPM 80 GB-per-platter hard drives began shipping last month. WD Caviar 80- per-platter GB hard drives are offered in single and multi-platter designs in capacities of 80, 120, 160, 200 and 250 GB. By leveraging its 80 GB-per-platter technology to 83 GB-per-platter and using three platters, Western Digital is able to achieve 250 GB capacity. Shipment of the multi-platter hard drives, including the flagship WD Caviar 250 GB, is expected next month.

WD Caviar Special Edition hard drives equipped with 80 GB-per-platter technology is anticipated to be available next month. These drives feature an 8 MB cache size, which is four times larger than the industry standard 2 MB cache size and are covered under warranty for a three-year period.

"Western Digital continues to offer the high performance and large capacity demanded by its customers by offering a quarter terabyte of storage in its successful WD Caviar product," said Dave Reinsel, research manager at market research firm IDC. "The shift to 80 GB-per-platter technology is an important transition for the hard drive industry that will have a long-lasting impact and provide end users a broad range of capacities to meet their storage needs."

"Maintaining its focused approach of providing the highest quality, performance and reliability to its customers, Western Digital is delivering 80 GB-per-platter technology now that the platform meets these important standards," said Richard E. Rutledge, vice president of marketing at Western Digital. "Eighty GB-per-platter, combined with our unique expertise in high capacity 7,200 RPM hard drives, is now the best technology to bring to market the next-generation biggest and fastest hard drives."

"Never before have enterprise storage vendors, systems builders and users been able to take advantage of the high-volume, low-cost benefits of ATA technology and the reliability and performance of an enterprise-class platform," said John Donovan, vice president of TrendFOCUS, an industry analyst firm. "TrendFOCUS estimates that currently ATA storage accounts for more than 10 percent of the enterprise market. SATA will replace a growing percentage of SCSI drives in the enterprise market. Combining SATA, 10,000 RPM and enterprise mechanics, Western Digital's WD Raptor will be a strong enterprise contender."

<b>President</b>	<b>Leonard Stein</b>	<b>714-533-4971</b>	<b>leonardstn@netscape.net</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Robert Strader</b>	<b>949-646-1475</b>	<b>rstrader@attbi.com</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Frank Mastroly</b>	<b>714-960-9472</b>	<b>fmastroly@earthlink.net</b>
<b>CFO/Treasurer</b>	<b>Kevin Moser</b>	<b>949-631-2766</b>	<b>kevinmoser@attbi.com</b>
<b>Director 2002-2003</b>	<b>Red Davidson</b>	<b>949-548-0413</b>	<b>red.d@juno.com</b>
<b>Director-2002-2003</b>	<b>Ed Leckliter</b>	<b>310-944-6453.</b>	<b>eleckliter@adelphia.net</b>
<b>Director-2002</b>	<b>Mike Conway</b>	<b>714-962-2194</b>	<b>mchbca@aol.com</b>
<b>Director-2002</b>	<b>Sandi Tierney</b>	<b>714-648-2218</b>	<b>gadgetgoddess2002@hotmail.com</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Robert Walker</b>	<b>949-642-5997</b>	<b>rwalker820@msn.com</b>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Michael Moore</b>	<b>714-535-0608</b>	<b>MichaelR_Moore@dslextreme.com</b>
<b>Readme.Doc Editor</b>	<b>Robert Walker</b>	<b>949-642-5997</b>	<b>rwalker820@msn.com</b>
<b>Newsletter Coordinator</b>	<b>Mike Conway</b>	<b>714-962-2194</b>	<b>mchbca@aol.com</b>

# SCHEDULES AND REPORTS OF EVENTS

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG)

## OCIPUG Hardware SIG

(All Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings are held at the Costa Mesa Senior Center on the southeast corner of 19th and Pomona at the times noted below.) The next SIG meeting will be:

**4 March 2003**

**Internet / Web Publishing**

1st Wednesday 7:00 PM

Michael Moore

MichaelR\_Moore@dslextreme.com

**11 March 2003**

**Hardware -**

2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Ed Leckliter eleckliter@adelphia.net

**Featured Topic: CPUs: "CPUs: 2003 Update + Overview of System Architecture"**

**18 March 2003**

**Windows**

3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM

Robert Strader 949-646-1475 rstrader@attbi.com

**25 March 2003**

**Digital Cameras / Scanning -**

4th Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Robert Strader 949-646-1475 rstrader@attbi.com

**5 April 2003**

**New User - 1st Saturday, 9:00 AM**

John Lunsford 714-995-0947

jlunsford@gentech.com

Meeting Recap Meeting Date: February 11, 2003

There were 11 attendees (including the SIG Leader, Ed Leckliter) The Featured Topic was: Your New System: Installing Your OS and Device Drivers; Functional Testing Hardware Submissions - there were 4 submissions:

1. Ralph Marcarelli (a new club member) brought in an older IBM Think Pad notebook that would not boot. Appears it was dumped on him, non-functional, as partial repayment for a debt. Ed suggested using the info on the label to search IBM's web site for the associated User's Manual. Since the problem seemed to be related to memory - three error codes popped up after memory count, Ed thought the manual might help decode those codes. Ed also suggested that, if Ralph felt up to the task, he consult the manual for instructions in removing, cleaning the edge connector (pink pearl time), and replacing it. Ed cautioned that if the memory errors were related to memory which was soldered down on the notebook's motherboard, he would need to contact IBM Tech Support to inquire about having the unit repaired. If the problem was associated with an installed SODIMM module, possibly it could be resolved by simply replacing the module. The manual should specify which module to use.

2. Michael Moore brought in two systems: a. The first system was an E-Machine that had been having problems detecting (seeing) the hard drive. As luck would have it, in attempting to demonstrate the problem, the system booted with no apparent difficulty. Ed strongly suggested that Michael promptly back up all the data that the owner wanted to keep onto removable media - followed by programs that included install files. Once the data is off the system its time to run a hard disk diagnostic like IBM's SMARTDefender utility and/or Drive Fitness Test utility (<http://www.hgst.com/hdd/support/download.htm>). b. The second system was a P3/1GHz home-built that was unable to access the floppy. Ed checked the BIOS (seen there) and operating system (not seen there) and uninstalled and reinstalled the data cable. Nothing helped. Ed suggested that Michael test with a known-good floppy drive and go from there - Ed concluding the drive was probably defective.

3. Terry Dickson brought in an older home-built system and several questions: a. He had installed an upgrade to XP and wondered how he could remove programs that auto-start on boot-up. Frank Mastroly suggested Terry use "msconfig" (supposedly accessed from the "run" prompt - Ed uses W2K and msconfig is not in W2K) and Ed suggested he download and use PC Magazine's free utility "Startup Doc" (<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,4149,2173,00.asp>). b. The system will not shut down, halts at a "OK to turn off" prompt. Since the system had shut down without any button pushing prior to the XP upgrade, it was suggested that Terry access Microsoft's online Knowledgebase for a solution. [The BIOS was already set to "Instant Off".] c. The modem in the system, possibly cobbled from another system or elsewhere, was also not working. The driver would seem to load but the modem was not recognized correctly. The conclusion was that the driver was probably the wrong one for the card. Not having any info on the make or model of modem, Terry decided to consider spending the \$15-\$25 to replace it. d. Terry wanted to identify the manufacturer and model of the motherboard. He said he'd used Belarc Advisor ([http://www.belarc.com/free\\_download.html](http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html)) without success - only the chipset was identified. Ed looked at the board and confirmed that the board had not manufacturer's name visible. There was a sticker on the board that may have listed the model "number". Bob Strader suggested that Terry do an Internet search on that "number". Random Access - some questions were posed and answers provided as the operating system was loading; topics not recorded. There were no additional questions posed at the end of the meeting.

**ACP Swap Meet  
April 6, 2003**



**ACP Computer Swap Meet  
Is held at 1319 East Edinger  
in Santa Ana hours are  
8:00 am to 2:00 pm**

# IBM Unveils 20-Inch LCD

*ThinkVision monitor debuts with new ThinkPad keyboards.*  
Peggy Watt, PCWorld.com  
Tuesday, February 25, 2003

IBM has launched the first model in its new ThinkVision line of monitors, the high-end, 20-inch, flat-panel ThinkVision L200p. The LCD monitor provides 1600-by-1200 optimum resolution and a 1.9-megapixel screen, plus some new ThinkVantage Design features. For example, it provides one-button access to frequently used functions, and the stand is designed so the display can be easily adjusted. The monitor is scheduled for release on February 28, priced at \$1349.

IBM also announced two new USB-connected keyboards that offer the feel of a ThinkPad notebook in a stand-alone keyboard for a desktop system. Both keyboards sell for \$99 and are scheduled to ship in March.

## Monitor Details

The ThinkVision L200p is designed primarily for graphic and financial applications, such as CAD/CAM, scientific imaging, desktop publishing, and complex spreadsheets.

It supports 170-degree horizontal and vertical viewing angles. Through dual input, the ThinkVision L200p can be attached to two systems simultaneously. The monitor supports both analog or digital system attachment, and both types of cables are bundled.

The cantilever stand, an IBM design, is designed for ergonomic support and can swivel 135 degrees in either direction. Controls include direct access buttons for brightness, automatic image setup, and input selection.

## Keyboard Options

The two new keyboards are the IBM USB Keyboard with UltraNav and the IBM USB Travel Keyboard with UltraNav.

Both are designed to provide the characteristics of a ThinkPad keyboard whether used on the road or with a desktop PC. UltraNav incorporates TrackPoint and touchpad pointing devices. Both keyboards have tiered key rows, matte key finish, and a wider space bar characteristic of ThinkPad keyboards.

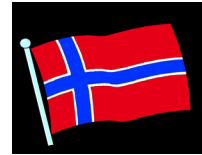
The IBM USB Keyboard can also control ThinkPad features such as speaker volume, external monitor control, brightness, and system sleep and suspend on supported ThinkPad systems. The IBM USB Travel Keyboard with UltraNav is smaller, lacking a numeric keypad, and lightweight, weighing just over a pound.

## Internet tip:

Although you use a search engine to locate information on the Internet, you may often find that you're faced with many pages of text that you must read through to locate the information that you need. Instead of plodding through all that text, just press Ctrl + F and type in the word or phrase that you need to locate. Press Enter to start the page search.

This works in Microsoft Internet Explorer 6, Netscape 6/7, and Opera 6.

## Ole and Lena



Ole and Lena went to the Olympics. While sitting on a bench a lady turned to Ole and said, "Are you a pole vaulter?" Ole said, "No, I'm Norwegian...and my name isn't Valter."

Ole bought Lena a piano for her birthday. A few weeks later, Lars inquired how she was doing with it. "Oh," said Ole, "I persuaded her to switch to a clarinet." "How come?" asked Lars. "Vell," Ole answered, "because with a clarinet, she can't sing."

\*\*\*

Ole and Lena went to a fair. Ole was fascinated by the airplanes and asked a pilot how much a ride would cost. "\$10 for 3 minutes," replied the pilot. "That's too much," said Ole. The pilot thought for a second and then said, "I'll make you a deal. If you and your wife ride for 3 minutes without uttering a sound, the ride will be free. But if you make a sound, you'll have to pay \$10." Ole and Lena agreed and went for a wild ride.

After they landed, the pilot said to Ole, "I want to congratulate you for not making a sound. You are a brave man." "Maybe so," said Ole, "but I gotta tell ya, I almost screamed when my wife fell out."

\*\*\*

Ole, Sven, and Nels came into the bar. They were high-fiving each other, shouting, and generally having a celebration of some sort. "Line 'em up," Ole shouted as the party continued. They drank and carried on for hours. Finally the bartender's curiosity got the better of him. "Just what are you celebrating?" he asked. "51 days! We did it in 51 days!" they responded. "What did you do in 51 days?" he probed. "Put the puzzle together," they replied, "51 days and the box said 3-5 years!"

\*\*\*

"Hey Sven," said Ole, "how many Norskys does it take to grease a combine?" After Sven replied, "I don't know." Ole said, "Only two, if you run them through real slow."

\*\*\*

Ole and Lars were on their very first train ride. They had brought along bananas for lunch. Just as they began to peel them, the train entered a long, dark tunnel. "Have you eaten your banana yet?" Ole asked excitedly. "No," replied Lars. "Vell don't touch it I went blind!"

\*\*\*

# Quick: Delete the jdbgmgr.exe file!!

*By Gabe Kingsley, PIBMUG's San Francisco Special Correspondent*

I've received a few of these dumb alerts over the past week. You haven't received one? It's an e-mail hoax pretending to be a virus warning that tells people to delete their Java Debugger Manager file, called jdbgmgr.exe.

What really ticks me off is the open list of recipients, often 30 to 50 of them, that become fodder for all sorts of junk through the systems of others.

So I'm on a one-man crusade to get people to use Blind Ccs for all mail, unless there is a compelling reason (such as a work group, etc.) in which they need to know who else received the message. Heck, I even send out tutorials for most e-mail programs to eliminate any excuses they may have.

Here's what I tell people whenever they forward me an ALERT!! ALERT!! About any virus:

## **Hey, Klez?**

The most recent e-mail virus you're asking about is the Klez, and it has powers not seen in earlier types.

Klez can select an e-mail address at random from a CC list in a message on your or someone else's computer and send itself to the recipients of other messages. It's not limited to those addresses in your address book. In addition, it can "spoof" the return address, so that even if you were not the sender of a message infected with the Klez virus, your name and address may appear as the originator.

This is bad stuff and we should expect a raft of "me too" versions to come along!

Another, less harmful but no less irritating offense is the warning running around the world, advising you to delete a specific file from your system because it contains a virus. This is a hoax! The file, jdbgmgr.exe, is one that Windows put there and enables certain Java scripting capabilities. You need it!

You may receive either the Klez virus or the relatively innocuous hoax warning described above because your name and address were in someone's CC list.

One of the greatest potential dangers is in the e-mails that are forwarded, forwarded and forwarded again by unwitting people. I'm sure you get them

every day, and may even pass them along. The result is list after list of available addresses the Klez virus can use to send itself to people you don't know, and for people you don't know to send it to you, possibly giving the impression it came from you.

When you forward a message, COPY ONLY THE TEXT into a new message and send it to your friends. DO NOT just forward the existing message, complete with the previous lists of recipients and their addresses. If you want to forward a message, take care to manually remove the list of previous recipients to preserve their safety. It's really easy.

## **Learn and Use Blind CC**

When sending messages to a group of people, unless it is REQUIRED that each one see the names of all others who received the message, PLEASE USE A BLIND RECIPIENT list. I am not aware of an e-mail program that does not allow you to send messages to a list of "blind" recipients, in which each person who receives the messages sees only their own address, and not the entire list of recipients.

If you have AOL, it is the easiest thing to do: Simply bracket all recipients in a pair of parentheses (address1, address2) each separated by a comma.

If you use Microsoft Outlook or Outlook Express, there is a special field for "Bcc" (Blind copies) just below the "To" and "Cc" rows. If you do not see it when you open the program, click on View and select "Bcc Field." Eudora and Netscape Navigator also have blind recipient capabilities.

Yahoo! And Hotmail users can find the "Bcc" field for entering addresses in the online address header. The Juno mail software works very just like AOL, in that you can enclose multiple addresses in parentheses to make them blind, and as with AOL, they must be separated by a comma. By doing this each recipient will see only their own address, and not anyone else's, just as with this message.

So far, because Mac's represent such a small percentage of the computers in use, the people who create the worms and viruses do not make them work with Mac computers. However, anyone using a Mac who does not hide the recipients of their e-mails makes their recipients vulnerable to the possibility of being hit with a virus from someone else on their CC list!

**Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.  
- Will Rogers**

Anyone who wants to protect their privacy and safety will appreciate your doing this. Few things about e-mail bother me more than when something I sent gets forwarded to a large list of people I don't know, and because my address is now in their message base, I am then vulnerable to receiving a virus or one of those hoax warnings from them ... or anyone to whom they forward that message.

Please try to use blind recipient lists. It will make us all safer from viruses, worms and hoaxes.

*Copyright © 2002 by Gabe Kingsley. Reproduced with permission. Article reproduction coordinated by Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group. Gabe Kingsley*

## Windows Tips

### Display File Extensions

When you look through a folder's contents, do you feel lost without extensions-the dot and three letters after each filename? Ask Windows XP to display them.

Open any folder window and select Tools, Folder Options. Click the View tab, deselect "Hide extensions for known file types," then click OK.

### Quick Folder Organizing

If you have multiple folders on your desktop, and you want to do some organizing, here is a quick way of doing it. Click and drag one folder and drop it onto another. Poof! The dropped folder is gone. What Windows has done, is automatically placed the dropped folder within the other folder. If you then go into explorer, you will see that the dropped folder is inside of the other.

### Home on the Tool Bar

You can jump directly to your Internet Explorer home page from a folder window by pressing Alt-Home. If you prefer buttons to keyboard combos, add a Home button to your toolbar.

From inside any folder window, select View, Toolbars, Customize. Under "Available Toolbar Buttons" select Home, then click the Add button. Select Home under "Current toolbar buttons," then click Close.

### System Restore:

In Windows Me, to restore your system to a previous checkpoint you created in System Restore click the 'Start' button then go to Programs, Accessories, System Tools, and System Restore.

Now, select the 'Restore My Computer to an earlier time' and select the name of the checkpoint you created. Your computer should put itself back to the way it was before. One word of caution, do not use System Restore unless you have a true emergency. I recommend using less intrusive methods to attempt to restore data or the registry before using System Restore. Use it as a last resort. Energy is eternal delight.

Some of you may question the usefulness of the System Restore. It takes up a tremendous amount of time, space and computing power in order to maintain the System Restore functionality. If you are certain that this is a function that you will not need, you can disable System Restore by going to the Control Panel, then Selecting 'System' and choosing the 'Performance' tab then going to the 'File System'. Now, click on the 'Troubleshooting' tab and checkmark the 'Disable System Restore'.

### Put a Trail On Your Mouse

Can't keep track of your mouse pointer? Add some pointer trails so that whenever you move it, lots of little pointers appear along its path.

Open the Control Panel, select the Appearance and Themes category, then select "Mouse Pointers" in the left pane (or from the classic view, double-click the Mouse item). Inside the Mouse Properties dialog box, click the Pointer Options tab and select "Display pointer trails."

Move your mouse around a bit to try it out the new setting. To make the trails longer or shorter, click the Settings button and move the lever closer to Short or Long. Click OK twice to keep the change.

## Photo Tips

### Big Suns in your Sunsets

We've all seen sunset images with deep orange skies and huge suns. The way to get them is to use long focal length lenses. The longer the lens the bigger the sun will be in your image. Since most of us can't afford an 800mm zoom, the easiest way to achieve this result is by using one or more teleconverters. Just keep in mind that in stacking teleconverters you'll probably lose your ability to autofocus and you may need to meter manually depending on your camera system

### Moir Patterns

When digital images are resized, moir, patterns often emerge. The screen like or curved patterns most often show up if there is an existing pattern in the image. When the image is resized the pattern is shifted and something else emerges.

Moire patterns are distracting and can really take away from your images. The good news is that the resize functions in most modern software will eliminate these patterns. If you get an image where they show up, try using undo and then resizing the image to a slightly different size. Sometimes even a small change is enough to break up the pattern and make it invisible

### Shooting In Summer Thunder Storms

Keep a soft towel in the car. At the end of the day take all your equipment out of the bag and wipe off any surface water. Zoom any lenses out to expose all of their surface area when you're wiping them down, otherwise you may be trapping water inside. If the inside of your bag has become wet from water soaking through or from water on your cameras, leave your gear out on the seat or on the floor of the car and dry the bag completely when you get home before putting your gear back in.

# Software Download Sources

By Ira Wilsker [ira@apcug.org](mailto:ira@apcug.org)

In some of my recent columns, I wrote about several software products that were available for free download from their authors' websites. Several loyal readers have asked for information on websites where they can view many titles, and download them from a single source. This column is in response to those requests.

## DOWNLOAD.COM –

Claiming to be one of the largest sources on the Internet for downloadable software, [download.com](http://download.com) is a subsidiary of CNet. While CNet originally started as a 30-minute cable TV show, it has now developed into an Internet powerhouse with much of its growth due to "dot.com" acquisitions. Download.com is an assimilation of several other former premier download resources into a single, easy to navigate supersite. With several hundred thousand titles available for Windows, Mac, Linux, Palm, PocketPC, cell phones, and other platforms, [download.com](http://download.com) may have earned its laurels. At the top-right of the page is a search box; a topic or title can be entered in the box, and the pull-down menu gives the choice of searching in all downloads, Windows only, all of CNet (including reviews, news, price comparisons, etc.), or searching the entire web. If a particular title is unknown to the user, a simpler and classical menu interface is available.

The major menu topics are MP3 and Audio, Internet, Games, Business, Mobile (Palm, PocketPC, cell phone), Multimedia and Design, Web Developing, Software Developing, Utilities and Drivers, and Home and Desktop. Each of the menu headings when opened reveals a comprehensive lower directory of detailed topics, with several levels often appearing below the main topic.

A little browsing practice of the menus will reveal a generous cornucopia of choices, sometime numbering in the thousands. Once a software topic is found, and multiple titles are displayed, simply clicking on the column headers "Name", "Date", "User Rating", or "Downloads" can sort alphabetically, by date, by user ranking, or by download volume, respectively. A quick review of just the top few "most popular" downloads will indicate that for some software titles, literally millions of copies of individual titles have been downloaded from [download.com](http://download.com).

For those who browse this site frequently, a click on the "New Releases" heading on the main page will show the latest additions to the site. On the date that I am typing this, 1105 new titles have been added so far today. As another example of the dependency that many place on this site, the top download of a "new program today" (the evening that I am typing this), is already over 162,000 downloads, and one file "new this week" has had almost one-half million downloads from [download.com](http://download.com) in the past seven days. As an additional online tool to help narrow the surfers' choices, many of the screens also allow the user to sort by operating systems, license terms (free to use, trial versions, commercial), file size, and category can be selected.

Other headings on [download.com](http://download.com) can also be used to narrow searches. These headings on the main page include "IS/IT"; "Software Developer" for programmers; "Web Developer" for web page authors; "Business"; "Personal Tech" which includes audio and video utilities, internet utilities, and home and desktop utilities; "Mobile" includes Palm, PocketPC, WindowsCE, Psion, EPOC, and cell phone software; and a huge "Games" section. As a source of downloads, [download.com](http://download.com) is an excellent resource.

## TUCOWS –

"The Ultimate Collection of Winsock Software" originally started as a source of Internet related utilities, but has now grown into a massive network of local websites offering an extensive collection of software for a variety of platforms. Containing over 30,000 updated titles, TUCOWS has become one of my "personal favorite" resources. With software available for Windows, Macintosh, Linux, BeOS, Windows 3.1 (still available!), PDAs, and a variety of other platforms and operating systems, TUCOWS is a geek's paradise. In order to make downloads faster, and complying with the "netiquette" that says that downloads should be done close to home, TUCOWS has hundreds of local mirror sites around the world that are frequently updated with the latest in titles. A listing of all current TUCOWS mirrors is online at [www.tucows.com](http://www.tucows.com), at the "Choose Your Mirror" link near the center of the page. In Texas alone, there are over a dozen local sites offering the TUCOWS service, with EXP offering the service locally in south-east Texas at [tucows.exp.net](http://tucows.exp.net).

Connecting to a local TUCOWS server shows a tabular heading of "Business", "Games", "Home and Education", "Internet", "Multimedia", "Systems and Utilities", and "Themes". Also on the main page is a weekly list of the top 100 downloads, indicating the popularity of specific titles. The number one downloaded title, which was the topic of a recent column here, is the excellent Irfan View software, which I personally use on a frequent basis. For those who desire to keep up with the latest in available software, TUCOWS offers a free daily email describing the newest software. By clicking on a tab at the top of the main page, another menu will appear showing sub-topics. The "Internet" tab, for example, opens a menu with an even dozen categories with easy-to-understand topics. It is here, for example, that Internet related software from spam killers to instant messaging services could be found.

There are many other fine resources available to locate and download available software. One warning is to beware of some sources, because it has been documented that some sites, as well as several of the file sharing sites, can be sources of viruses, worms, and Trojans embedded in downloaded software. While not perfect, reliable sources such as [download.com](http://download.com) and TUCOWS are generally safe places to find software.

Experimenting with and using downloaded, often free, software can be a significant enhancement to your computing experience.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using the article as long as it is kept in context, with proper credit given to the author. This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an International organization to which this user group belongs.

## Closing a Browser Window

If you use Microsoft Internet Explorer 5/6 or Netscape 6/7, you can very easily close the currently active window by pressing Ctrl + W. In fact, since Ctrl + W is a Windows command, you can also use it to close other active windows such as Windows Explorer, My Computer, etc.

To close completely an active application, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape, you can press Alt + F4.



# The Truth About Mail-in Rebates

By Roger A. Poverny, TUGNET

Mail-in rebates are a bonanza for retail computer stores: They can advertise a very low sales price (or even a free price, after mail-in rebates), and then charge buyers of these so-called bargains a higher-than-normal sales price. It brings in the customers who are looking for good deals, and who may purchase other items while they are in the store. It means higher sales figures for the retailer since these mail-in rebates are underwritten by the manufacturers, and they cost the retailers nothing. It also creates a cadre of unhappy customers. Why? Consider this: according to the Wall Street Journal, up to 95% of people forget to claim the rebate. They end up paying more for the product than they would have without a rebate. For those who make the claim, there are a variety of reasons why the claims go unpaid. Some of these reasons are detailed below.

Let's start with this premise: manufacturers don't want to rebate money to you, so they put a number of obstacles in your way. Sometimes the rebate forms are hidden in the store or you have to ask the cashier for a copy. The rebate form lists the submittal requirements in great complicated detail so that a simple non-compliance error on your part will void your claim. You must include a copy of your purchase receipt (sometimes with the purchased item circled or underlined) along with the original UPC code from the package. Be careful here, as some packages have multiple UPC codes with different numbers. Then you must mail the completed rebate form, with inclusions, to a specified address (usually a fulfillment house hired to handle the rebate). There is always a window of opportunity; i.e. an "offer expiration date" and a "post-mark before" date. Most mail-in forms tell you to expect your rebate in eight to ten weeks.

Very seldom will a rebate check arrive by the promised waiting period: you are forced to call their 800 number (although some don't have a toll-free number) to find out what the holdup is. The manufacturer is counting on you to forget that a rebate promise date has passed. If you do remember to call them, this is generally when the excuses start. Typical excuses are: "We didn't receive your UPC code or register receipt," "We never received your letter," "You didn't complete your rebate form properly," "The offer has expired ... or is no longer funded by the manufacturer." The fulfillment houses are experts at not paying, and as a matter of fact are hired by some manufacturers just because they are so tough. Many times you will get a postcard, not a letter, saying you were denied a rebate. Postcards are easy to lose or throw away in the trash, which is why many rebate checks are mailed in the form of apostcard. They don't even look like checks! Most people will stop trying once they have been rejected. The manufacturers count on this. At a FRY's the other day, a customer relations representative pointed at two 4-drawer filing cabinets and said they were full of customer complaints about rebates. That's eight drawers of unhappy customers, and they represent only that five percent (according to The Wall Street Journal) who actually sent in their rebate forms. After all is said and done, probably 2% of the customers receive a rebate check.

Manufacturers and retailers make more money from us when the items they are selling have mail-in rebates, so it doesn't seem likely that the practice will end any time soon. The number of items using rebates appears to be rising exponentially, and the customer is the loser. It is just plain unfair. How can we fight back?

## Fighting Back

There are two ways to fight back: (1) Politically, through our Legislatures, Better Business Bureaus, Federal Trade Commission, Retail Store Managers, etc. We can write letters or call and complain; (2) The second method is to make it so costly for the manufacturers to offer these rebates that they will abandon the practice. We can do this by making sure we get every one of the offered rebates. If you follow the directions outlined below, you will get every one.



1. Make sure you have the rebate form before you leave the store. Check the form to be sure you fall within the offering's dates. Also ask the cashier for a second copy of the purchase receipt.

2. As soon as you get home, remove the UPC code from the container or wrapping before you throw the packaging away. If you intend to try out the product first to make sure you want to keep it, and don't want to remove the UPC code yet in case you want to return it, see #7 below.

3. Read the form carefully so that you will comply exactly with their requirements. Read it a second time before you fill it in. Don't forget to circle or underline the item on the receipt if required to do so.

4. Make copies of everything you send, including the UPC code. This is where most people falter since they don't have copy machines. They set it aside to take to work or to a copy store and forget about it. But, most of us have scanners! Use them to make your copies. Even most fax machines will work.

5. Staple together all the pieces: receipt, UPC code, rebate form. Then they can't say they were not with your submittal, or must have fallen out of the envelope.

6. Mark the mailing date on your copy. Also mark the date when the waiting period ends, 8 to ten weeks later.

7. This next step will help you to remember. Go to: [www.memotome.com](http://www.memotome.com) (memo to me) and sign up for their free e-mail reminder service. Have them to send you an e-mail when the rebate check was promised. If you are trying out a product prior to sending in the rebate form, ask for a reminder in a couple of weeks.

8. If you haven't gotten your check after the promised time, call the telephone number listed on your copy of the rebate form. Try to talk to a live person. Tell them the waiting period has passed and insist that you be paid. Keep on insisting if you get the brush-off. Ask to speak to a supervisor. Mark the names of those you talked to, the dates and excuses on your rebate copy. If necessary, send another copy of your submittal in case they deny receipt of all submitted items.

9. If all else fails, go to the retail store where you purchased the item. Bring your paperwork and insist that they do whatever is necessary to get you the rebate check.

Roger A. Poverny is on the Board of Directors of The Users' Group Network (TUGNET) in Granada Hills, California. If you use this article, please send him an e-mail to let him know. [rogerp@socal.rr.com](mailto:rogerp@socal.rr.com) Thanks.

## MP3's Aren't Just Music Anymore

By David Navratil, Member 1960 PC Users Group, Houston, Texas

Just about everyone with a computer has probably tried their luck with downloading MP3 files. In the past two years I've put together quite a collection of songs from the 1920's through the 1970's, accumulating almost 3,000 songs during that time. I've covered the Big Band era, easy listening, holiday music, country, folk, classical - just about every genre you can imagine. During one of my many afternoons of surfing the net looking for that one elusive MP3 that would fill another CD-R, I came across a genre that was new to me but may be of interest to members of our club.

The name of these new finds is "Old Time Radio Show" or OTR's for short. What could be a better use for the MP3 format than OTR's! Most OTR's length is from 15 minutes to 1 hour. In regular "wav" format the size of one of these files could be from 60 MB to 400 MB but in MP3 format an average show is from 3 MB to 30 MB. Another advantage is that since most of these shows are from the 1920's through the 1950's the sound quality of course are not up to par with newly recorded material. This again saves you room on your hard drive because you don't have to use a bit rate of 128 kbps but can use 24 to 64 bits. (Most OTR's I've downloaded from the net are in 24 to 32 kbps.) This lower bit rate saves much space and when played back kind of gives the performance that "old time radio sound". You can easily record 60 hours of OTR's onto one CD-R, using the lower bit rates, without sacrificing sound quality.

As to the quantity of OTR's available on the net, I have found at least 560 different series and as many as 57,000 different programs. Some of the more popular and easy to find are - Amos & Andy, The Shadow, Fibber McGee & Molly, Tarzan, Sherlock Holmes, Dragnet, Inner Sanctum, I Love a Mystery and the list just goes on. Most of these shows include the original commercials that were aired at that time. The shows started becoming popular in the late 1920's and I have some from as recently as the 1980's. I have many of the "Classic Books" presented in OTR format. These are not audio books where one person just reads to you, but full productions with sound effects, music and such. Most of these last from one hour to three hours. The late Orson Wells was involved with many of "Classics". Some titles are "War of the Worlds", "A Christmas Carol", "Pride and Prejudice", "Time Machine" etc.

Finding these programs on the net is even easier than music. There are thousands of individuals who collect OTR's as a hobby. Most of them have their own websites and offer a few selections to download changing the selection each week or month. Many sites will also send you an email when new offerings are available. You can go to Google or any search engine and key in "OTR" or "Old Time Radio Shows" and you will get thousands of different sites. Also using one of the many music download sites, such as KaZaa, keying in the name of the series will bring up hundreds of results. You can join OTR clubs at any of the major websites like AOL, Yahoo, and MSN. There are OTR trade and share sites where you post a listing of the shows you have and can trade via CD-R with others for shows you need.

If you are running out of hard disk space or don't have a CD burner you can still enjoy the experience of OTR's. There are many sites on the web that broadcast the shows over the web in different formats. All you need to listen to these is one of the many free media players available on the web.

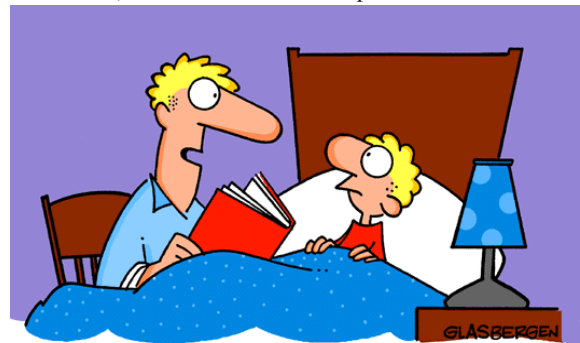


## Portable, Pocket-sized Megabytes

As small as a car key and weighing less than one ounce, the new Iomega Mini 256MB USB drive lets you take your files wherever you go. Simply plug it into any computer's USB port for instant access.

Free software makes the Iomega Mini USB drive even more flexible and easy-to-use. Download Mini Control Panel, Mini Lock password protection software and over 90 Active Disk Powered titles which conveniently run directly from your Iomega Mini USB drive

Instant access to files through your USB port - no external power source, batteries or cables required.



"This is a story about Rip Van Winkle, a man who called tech support and was put on hold for 100 years!"

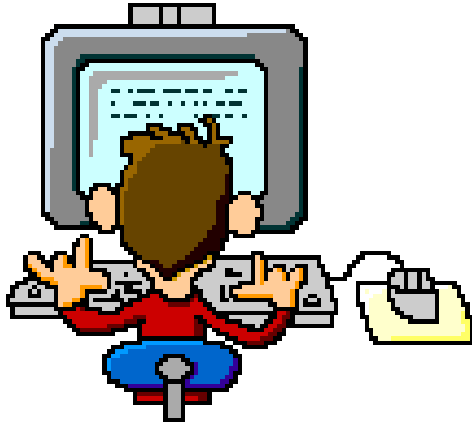
**Computer  
Technical  
Support  
Hotline**



"DEFRAGMENT YOUR HARD DRIVE, REINSTALL YOUR OPERATING SYSTEM, UPDATE YOUR DRIVERS, AND BUY MORE MEMORY. THAT WILL KEEP YOU BUSY WHILE I FIGURE OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR COMPUTER."

## For Inveterate XP Tweakers Only

By Carl Siechert, Co-Author, *Microsoft Windows XP Inside Out*



One of the fun things about Windows XP and Windows 2000 is that there is so much tweaking you can do if you want to. You don't need to do any of the things that I described at a recent Pasadena IBM User Group presentation, but if you like peeking under the hood and making a few adjustments so things run just the way you like, you can. Here's a little more information about some of the topics I discussed:

### Group Policy

Group Policy lets you make all manner of settings—everything from configuring the desktop to hiding certain drives to preventing the creation of scheduled tasks. These settings (and hundreds more) are stored in the registry, which you can edit directly.

But Group Policy is much easier to use than a registry editor. A few notes before you dive in:

\*\*To use Group Policy, you must have Windows XP Professional or Windows 2000; it's not available in Windows XP Home Edition.

\*\*To use Group Policy, you must be logged on using an account that's a member of the Administrators group.

\*\*If your computer is not a member of a Windows 2000 Server domain, any settings you make in Group Policy affect everyone who uses your computer. (There is a crude workaround that lets you set up two groups of users—those who are affected by Group Policy settings and those who are not. For details, check out pp. 1074-5 in “Microsoft Windows XP Inside Out.” [Caution: this is the first of several plugs for my books.])

### Ready, Set Go...

Start Group Policy by choosing Start, Run and typing “gpedit.msc”. (If you end up using Group Policy very much, you'll want to make a shortcut to gpedit.msc.) The next two folders and their subfolders house the most interesting policies, although you might want to check out the others as well.

Then, in the left pane, select a subfolder of Computer Configuration\Administrative Templates or User Configuration\Administrative Templates. Select a useful sounding policy in the right pane, and an explanation of the policy appears. Keep poking around until you find something that interests you. To make a setting, double-click the policy name and then choose an option in the dialog box that appears.

Pretty easy stuff, but you're exploring where few Windows users dare to tread. Unless you work hard to enable policies that, for example, prevent you from logging on, the settings under Administrative Templates are pretty safe. Nonetheless, you should read the explanation carefully before you make a policy setting.

Want more information? For a complete reference to Group Policy in Windows 2000, visit

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000/techinfo/reskit/en-us/default.asp>

Look for Windows 2000 Group Policy Reference in the contents pane. Nearly all the information in this reference applies to Windows XP Professional as well, although it doesn't include the policies that are available only in Windows XP. Another good resource is the Group Policy Object Settings spreadsheet, which you can download from

<http://www.microsoft.com/WindowsXP/pro/techinfo/productdoc/gpss.asp>

Although the spreadsheet doesn't explain the settings, it lists all Administrative Templates policies and shows which ones apply to each operating system; it also provides a convenient way to record your own settings. You'll also find more information in “Microsoft Windows XP Inside Out” (Chapter 34) and in our new book, “Microsoft Windows Security Inside Out for Windows XP and Windows 2000” (Chapter 19). The latter book, which should be in stores in August, includes a number of specific recommendations about policies you can set to better secure your system.

### It's At Your Service

I also mentioned the Services snap-in, which is included in the Computer Management console. To open Computer Management, right-click My Computer (on the Start menu or in an Explorer window) and choose Manage. In the left pane of Computer Management, select Computer Management (Local)\Services and Applications\Services. (Tip of the day: You can open the Services snap-in within its own console. You can find a shortcut to Services in the Administrative Tools folder, or you can simply choose Start, Run and type “services.msc”.)

So which services should you turn off by changing their startup type to Manual or Disable? This Web site offers some good advice: <http://www.blkviper.com/WinXP/servicecfg.htm>

And (time for another plug) “Microsoft Windows Security Inside Out for Windows XP and Windows 2000” provides a brief description of every service included with Windows XP and Windows 2000 and offers recommended settings.

## Ole and Lena

Lena called the airlines information desk and inquired, “How long does it take to fly from Minneapolis to Fargo?” “Just a minute,” said the busy clerk. “Vell, said Lena, “if it has to go dat fast, I tink I'll just take da bus.”

**There's two theories to arguin'  
with a woman. Neither one works.  
- Will Rogers**

# Computing Factoids

## Hard Drive Repair Conundrum

A PIBMUG member was struggling with a faulty hard drive. An Ontrack product manager provided an answer.

Question: I have a question about getting rid of data on a hard disk. I have read articles about reformatting and assorted software that gets rid of your data. However, I had a hard disk crash and must return the old disk to the system vendor in order to have my credit card credited for the cost of the new one they sent me (under warranty).

I do not want them or the OEM to be able to recover that data. With the disk not working, how do I get rid of the data? If I hold magnets around it, will that work? Should I drop it in a boiling pot of chicken soup? Your advice would be appreciated. Smart-ass Answer: Chicken soup may work provided you remove all the fat, chicken feet, and carrots (strangely enough, celery and onions can stay).

More realistically, I have to admit I'm stumped. Lemme call in some experts from Ontrack, the hard drive recovery company. Mark? Any ideas? —Steve

Ontrack's Response:

The magnet idea isn't going to work unless you've got some incredibly strong magnets laying around. A degaussing unit strong enough to erase the platters of a hard drive would generate a field that would damage other magnetic media within several yards. Also it would erase the servo-patterns on the drive used to control the movement of the read/write head, so it would certainly ruin the drive.

We've requested ideas from the real experts, our clean room technicians.

They had a few solutions, but nothing simple. You could see if an authorized shop (like a disk recovery shop who has authority to break a drive seal without voiding the warranty) would take on a special job (for a fee) to open the drive and degauss the platters.

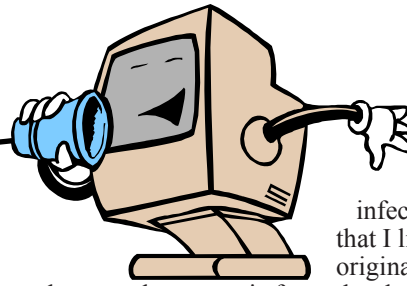
You could request to review the warranty policy from your HDD manufacturer and see if they have a policy for protecting data that may be on a warranty returned drive.

Trust the HDD manufacturer to destroy the platters as part of the end-of-life of a returned drive. —Mark

## Better Backups

After using tapes and zip drives for back ups, I finally decided to just back up to another hard drive. To simplify the process, I installed two mobile mounts and connected the IDE cables so that the upper mount or drawer is an IDE1 master and the lower drawer is an IDE2 Master. I purchased two drives of the same capacity. Both are jumpered as masters. The original is in the upper drawer, and the backup will be placed in the lower drawer.

I use "Drive Copy" which with installation generates a 3.5" floppy "Drive Copy" boot disk. The boot disk is used to start the copy process. Make certain that your 2 hard drives are labeled such that you will copy from the original to the backup, and not from the backup to the original.



Remove the backup and set it aside for that sad day when the original fails or is infected with a virus. The reason that I like this approach is that if the original drive fails, I can just power

down and remove it from the drawer and insert and boot the backup, which is already jumpered as a master drive, and you are immediately up and running. Whereas if you were using a tape you have the problem of trying to salvage the original from the tape, hoping that it works. The same is true of Zip disks.

I will usually start the backup when I go to bed and it is done in the morning. The cost of a 2nd hard drive is probably cheaper than a tape drive or Zip drive and the cost of the tapes and zip disks just add even more cost. —Clifford Ford (kb6ia@earthlink.net)

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World and runs the Pasadena IBM Users Group. He's also a founding member of APCUG. Check PCW's current edition at [www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp) and sign up for the Steve Bass online newsletter at [www.pcworld.com/bass\\_letter](http://www.pcworld.com/bass_letter). §

## OCIPUG Board of Directors Meeting, January 27, 2003



Senior Center. President Leonard Stein called the meeting to order at 7:05pm, with seven of the officers and directors present.

A draft review of the minutes of the December 2002 Executive Board of Directors Meeting had previously been e-mailed to all board members for their review. Comments were received and incorporated, with hard copies of the corrected distributed at the meeting... In a motion by Director Red Davidson, seconded by Director Ed Leckliter, and carried, the minutes of the December 2002 Executive Board of Directors Meeting were approved as corrected. As noted in the December meeting minutes, in the future Secretary Frank Mastroly will e-mail a summary of corrections to Past President Bob Walker so that the version in Readme.Doc incorporates all comments as received, either via e-mail or during the subsequent BOD meeting.

**President's Report:** — President Leonard Stein reported that he had received a communication from APCUG requesting candidates for various APCUG offices. Director Red Davidson suggested that Leonard publicize the APCUG request at the February General Meeting.

**Secretary's Report:** — Secretary Frank Mastroly reported that we had received two renewals during January and these were passed on to Treasurer/CFO Kevin Moser. We also had received letters from two paid-up members who had received renewal notices anyway. Frank also received a letter from Treasurer/CFO Kevin Moser that he (Kevin) had disposed of the surplus OCIPUG computer equipment by donating it to the Goodwill and containing a receipt. Finally, Frank reported that he had sent an e-mail to all SeniorNet team members requesting if any had accounting experience, but had received no positive response to date.

**Treasurer's Report:** — Treasurer/CFO Kevin Moser distributed a provisional (pending audit) financial report for the month of January 2003, through January 27, 2003. He reported that he had had an exchange of e-mails with Network Solutions regarding our domain name renewal. Although the check has cleared our bank, we still receive renewal notices from Network Solutions that state that our domain name will expire in the middle of January 2003. The question of having a contact e-mail address at the OCIPUG domain was covered in Old Business

In a motion by Director Ed Leckliter and seconded by Director Red Davidson, the financial report was accepted as a provisional report pending an audit.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Program Committee Report:** Director Ed Leckliter distributed a handout summarizing the programs for the next several general meetings. For the January 2003 meeting, the representative from Western Digital had to cancel due to being out of town on business and is tentatively rescheduled for April 2003. For February 2003, a representative from FarStone Technology will demonstrate a restore partition utility and a CD emulator, while in March 2003 Cleve Kingston from Microsoft is tentatively scheduled to demonstrate the Windows XP Media Center Edition and other Microsoft products. Ed is contacting Intel, AMD, Corel, JASC, Toshiba, and other companies regarding possible presentations at later meetings.

In the future, Ed Leckliter plans to e-mail a general meeting notice to Past President Bob Walker who in turn will e-mail it to all members a week or so ahead of the General meetings.

#### **SIG Reports:**

The next hardware SIG will be on Tuesday, February 11, 2003, and will be the 5th of 5 presentations on building your own computer, and will cover installation of the operating system and a full functional check of the unit. For those interested in the material presented, Ed's website is [www.edscustomcomputers.com/](http://www.edscustomcomputers.com/), and can also be accessed from the OCIPUG web site at [www.ocipug.org/Meetings.htm](http://www.ocipug.org/Meetings.htm). Webmaster Michael Moore has agreed to handle future Internet SIGs which will generally be on the 1st Tuesday of each month. However, to be consistent with the January Readme.Doc, the next Internet SIG will be on Wednesday, February 5, 2003. Bob Strader will conduct a Windows XP SIG on Wednesday, February 12, 2003, and a Windows 98 SIG on Tuesday, February 18, 2003. The subject of the February 26 Digital Photography SIG is still TBD. There may be additional changes to the SIG schedule in the coming months, such as combining the Windows 98 and Windows XP SIGs into a single SIG on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Secretary Frank Mastroly mentioned the continual problem of the SIG schedule as published in the Chronicle being out of date, and Director Red Davidson will coordinate with Karyn Canett of the Senior Center staff to see if this can be corrected.

**SeniorNet Report:** Secretary Frank Mastroly reported that the next SeniorNet team meeting will be on Friday, January 31, 2003, at 3:00pm, at which time various open items will be discussed, including the schedule for the next session of classes starting in late March 2003.

Community Service Report: No report.

**Long Range Planning:** Past President Bob Walker reminded the board of the APCUG Southwest Regional Conference (SWUG) in August. He also broached the subject of having a potluck sometime during the summer as one way of attracting new members.

**Facilities Report, Maintenance and Improvement:** In his Programs report, Director Ed Leckliter said that we needed better speakers for the club computer. In a motion by Treasurer/CFO Kevin Moser, seconded by Past President Bob Walker, and carried, Director Red Davidson was authorized to spend up to \$35 for a new set of speakers.

Operations (Policy and Procedures): No report

Publications Report: No report.

Webmaster Report: No report.

Membership Report: No report.

#### **Old Business:**

As noted in previous meeting minutes, one hurdle related to our domain name appears to be a lack of a contact e-mail address at the OCIPUG domain. Vice President Bob Strader has checked with our web host, In-Reach, and we can have e-mail addresses on our website for \$1.95 for each e-mail address, and this includes automatic forwarding. For example, the address could be [president.bod@ocipug.org](mailto:president.bod@ocipug.org) and this would automatically be re-routed to President Leonard Stein's e-mail address. Bob Strader stated that this should all be handled by our Webmaster Michael Moore, but the discussion was then tabled since Michael was not present.

**Advertisings and Public Relations Report:** No report. However, there was a general discussion on how we can maintain and expand our membership, with several good suggestions put forward for future discussion.

#### **New Business:**

**2003 Elections:** It was pointed out that per the bylaws we need to have a nominating committee for the 2003 elections in place by the March Board of Directors meeting. Treasurer/CFO Kevin Moser suggested that President Leonard Stein start contacting members to determine if any are interested in serving on the nominating committee. This also will be announced at the February and March General Meetings.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Treasurer/CFO Kevin Moser, seconded by Director Red Davidson, and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm. The next OCIPUG board meeting will be on Monday, February 24, at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Frank Mastroly, Secretary



**OCIPUG**  
**Orange Coast IBM**  
**PC User Group**  
 (OCIPUG) © 1985

Mailing Address

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

Meetings Location

Costa Mesa Senior Center  
 Southeast Corner of 19<sup>th</sup> and Pomona

OCIPUG, founded in 1985, is an independent California nonprofit (IRC 501-c-3) corporation, and is not affiliated in any way with IBM, any vendor, equipment manufacturer, or other organization.

**Publication** Copyright © 1985

A newsletter, *Readme.Doc*, is published monthly. A subscription of \$12 per year is included with all paid memberships. Address all inquiries, address changes, and material for publication to the above address marked "ATTN: Editor".

Opinions expressed by the authors are not necessarily those of this newsletter, its staff or OCIPUG. Mention of products does not constitute endorsement by OCIPUG. Omission of trademarks does not imply that the products or names are not so protected. *Readme.Doc*, its contributors, and staff assume no liability for damages arising out of the publication or non-publication of any advertisement, article, or any other item in this newsletter.

Permission is granted to other user groups to reprint herein material, not specifically copyrighted, for non-commercial use only, provided credit is given to *Readme.Doc* and to the author.

**Publication Deadline**

Material for the **March 2003** issue must be received on or before **February 21, 2003**  
 rwalker820@msn.com

**Publication Guidelines**

All material submitted will be published *exactly* as submitted, but may be subject to editing at the *Editor's* discretion. We reserve the right to refuse any material submitted for publication. Send all submissions as follows:

1. Send via Internet e-mail to: editor Robert Walker 949-645-7681  
 rwalker820@msn.com and newsletter coordinator  
 Michael Conway 714-962-2194 mchbca@aol.com
2. Mail a 3.5" disk so as to be received by the deadline by the Newsletter Coordinator at the OCIPUG mailing address above.
3. Hard copy to Editor at the OCIPUG mailing address above.

**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 meeting schedules as well as the newest software and hardware.

- \* 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 e-mail.
- \* Pleasure in helping your fellow member solve their problems.
- \* Camaraderie with those of similar interests.
- \* Discounts from vendors on software, hardware, and other items.

**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

Individual	\$30.00	\$ _____
Family	\$35.00	\$ _____

or bring to the General Meeting.

*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 : \_\_\_\_\_