Orange Bytes

Award Winning Newsmagazine of the North Orange County Computer Club

NOCCC MEETINGS - October 6

9:30 a.m. *Irvine Hall*
NEW TECHNOLOGIES
Terry Currier
*Shareware software -
whats hot and very useful*

See Page 4 for details

1:00 p.m. *Irvine Hall*
MAIN MEETING
Bruce Fries

Recording from records or tapes to CDs

See Page 4 for details

8:30 a.m.
Visual Programming I .... *Science 109*
Visual Basic and Visual Basic Script for Beginners

9:00 a.m.
Autocad .... *Wilkinson 111*
Linux for Desktop Users .... *Wilkinson 210*
Desktop applications under Linux
Visual Programming II .... *Science 109*
Visual C++ and Visual J++ for Beginners
Windows .... *Science 111*
Windows Tips, Tricks, Q&A

9:30 a.m.
NEW TECHNOLOGIES .... *Irvine Hall*
See box above
Computer Aided Investing .... *Wilkinson 221*
Member Investment Strategies, Techniques and Software
Gaming PC & Mac .... *Science 203*
Mac/PC gaming SIG newly forming. Bring your friends! :-)
Hardware Essentials .... *Science 306*
Video Display (LCD, CRT, Plasma) Technology

Intermediate Linux .... *Wilkinson 210*
Linux for administrators or programmers

10:00 a.m.
Linux for Server Adminstrators .... *Wilkinson 210*
Vendors .... *Science 127*

Visual Programming III .... *Science 109*
Intermediate and Advanced Visual Basic

11:15 a.m.
Computer Security .... *Science 203*
Linux Programming Concepts .... *Wilkinson 210*
Macintosh .... *Wilkinson 221*
Office Suites! .... *Science 111*
PC Q & A .... *Irvine Hall*
Jim Sanders • Most questions answered, some problems solved, assorted demos done
Understanding Operating Systems ..... *Wilkinson 111*
Get Help with DOS, Windows 3.1, Windows 9x, OS/2, etc.
Visual Programming IV .... *Science 109*
Office program development using VB

12:00 Noon
PIG SIG .... *Argyros Hall Cafeteria*
A lunch get together and talk. See SIG Reports

1:00 p.m. Main Meeting, Irvine Hall
See box above

2:30 p.m.
Genealogy .... *Irvine Hall*
Discover your family history with modern tools
Hardware Essentials .... *Science 109*
Video Display (LCD, CRT, Plasma) Technology

OS/2 .... *Science 203*
OS/2 News and Installation

NOCCC web site:
http://www.noccc.org

Future Meetings
Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1

• Box 3616 Orange CA 92857 • Founded April 1976 •

Table of Contents

apcug
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The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups

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HELP WANTED
User Group Web Page Reporter
To check web pages of other User Groups for articles
that we should reprint in the Orange Bytes

President's Message

This month I just wanted to remind everyone to be extra careful when you open email attachments. Lately I have been getting a lot of unsolicited email with attachments. Some of the email may seem to come from somebody you know. Now, before you get angry at that person, it is probably from someone else. If you get email with an attachment from someone unexpected, the email attachment may be a virus. I have even received messages from Microsoft.com sending me patches to Windows! Now think about it for a minute. Why would Microsoft send me a patch to Windows via email? As soon as I got that email message I laughed and then deleted it. So, I just want to remind everyone to keep your antivirus software current. Keeping it current doesn't just mean updating definitions. You will need to get a version that has been manufactured this year.

We managed to finish our last fiscal year under budget! As soon as I get the final tax paperwork from the accountant, I'll publish the financial statement, as stated in our bylaws

I know our membership has been declining. Our Membership Committee is diligently working to increase membership and maintain our current membership. Please look at the mailing label on your copy of the *Orange Bytes* and renew your membership when it is due so we don't have to send out renewal notices.

Dave Keays has decided to resign as Editor, for personal reasons. Please let me know if you know of anyone interested in the position.

We are still looking for some interesting speakers for our meetings. If you have a suggestion for a speaker, please contact George Margolin at (949) 645-5950.

Alan Pearlman
NOCCC President
(714) 828-5242

Membership Benefits

As a valued member, you receive discounts and special offers as part of the entire benefit of belonging. (Caveat - we do not endorse companies or products). If you have suggestions for items for this column, e-mail them to **Cathy Grammer-Margolin** *at:* cgmargolin@pobox.com.

Free Exhibits Pass to Comdex—Register online at: www.comdex.com/register and use the priority code # UCCUSS, Coupon Code #365 to get the free exhibits pass to Comdex in Las Vegas November 16-21.

New Fast Defragmentation Program - VOPT XP—VOPT XP is now out and will work with Win 95, 98, ME, 2000, and XP by Golden Bow software (www.goldenbow.com). Download a free 30-day trial to see how fast it will defrag your hard drive. Mention "Margolin" to get the user group discount of $10 off the $40 price.

Orange Bytes on PDF earlier in the month! Members ONLY - Watch your e-mail every month for the Password to get the award-winning Orange Bytes much earlier in the month via PDF file on the www.noccc.org website. Make certain you let us know any e-mail changes (membership@noccc.org) so you can get the jump on all the great reviews and articles

PowerQuest- Partition Magic 7 & Drive Image 2002 — PowerQuest Bundle includes PartitionMagic, Drive Image, SecondChance, Lost & Found (List $279.80) $99.00
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• Drive Image 2002 —(List $69.95) Full System Backup Utility plus DataKeeper $35.00
http://www.ugr.com/order/ with group code UGJULYNOCCC. Phone 801-796-7370

Redmond Technology Press—20% discount to User Groups. To receive the discount, user group members need only to order directly from the Redmond Technology Press web site at www.redtechpress.com and identify themselves as a user group member when they give their name (for example, John Doe, CUG member).

NewRiders Book Discounts—Please visit www.newriders.com and check out our Promotions section. You can see examples there of some of the UG discounts we have set up for our partners.

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Spring Cleaning—Spring Cleaning 5.0 can be purchased at the special price of $40 (retail is $50), including sales tax. Write to them at: Aladdin Systems, 245 Westridge Dr., Watsonville, CA 95076; or at their internet site, www.aladdinsys.com/support/usergroups/ugvalid.html using the order code MUG 2002 ■

NOCCC

The contents of this article may be viewed in the printed version of the Bytes.

Upcoming Presentations
October 6th

New Technologies Meeting • 9:30 am

Terry Currier will talk about shareware software- whats hot and very useful. Terry does a shareware software library for the Winners computer users group and tests many of these downloads. He will share which are best for testing your systems, for graphics, etc.

Main Meeting • 1:00 pm

Bruce Fries is the author of "The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook"and several other related books and technical papers. Mr. Fries is a writer, technology consultant, and entrepreneur who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is an associate of the Audio Engineering Society and founder of several high_tech companies. Bruce recognized the potential of MP3 in late 1998, when it was closing in on sex as the most popular Internet search_term. There was little information available about MP3, so he decided to write a book to teach others about the benefits of this exciting new technology. The result was The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook, widely recognized as the most reader_friendly and comprehensive book on the subject and used as a textbook by several universities, including UCLA, Cal Poly and UC Berkeley.

WEB SITE http://www.MP3Handbook.com

Consignment Table

1. The consignment table is for members only. Only current members can place items for sale, but non-members are welcome to purchase items from the table. This is a great place to get some money for your surplus computer items, and help your Club at the same time.

2. The consignment table operates on a 90/10% basis — with the owner getting 90%, and the Club treasury 10%.

3. Fill out a tag on each item! It must contain: Seller's Name, NOCCC Membership Number, Item name, a short description and selling price.

4. Also, fill out the USER LIST with Name, Address, Phone Number. and a complete list of items and their selling prices.

5. All items and/or money may be picked up by the owner at any time, but MUST be picked up no later than 2 PM on day of sale.

6. Any items and/or money not picked up by 2 PM, will become the property of NOCCC and will he subject to disposal at the Club's discretion.

7. NOCCC is NOT RESPONSIBLE in any way for items bought and/or sold at the Consignment Table. Each item is placed and sold on an AS-IS BASIS.

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WINDOWS REGISTRY DEMYSTIFIED

by Dale Oliver, President,
Northwest Arkansas PC User Group

The Windows registry can be thought of as a repository of information relating to just about everythingabout your computer, including the operating system, installed software programs, user preferences and settings, file locations, drivers, hardware, etc. Virtually everything about how your system operates can be controlled through the registry. Registry settings can even cause your computer to run very slowly and inefficiently, or run very quickly and efficiently. The Windows registry first appeared in Windows 3.1. It was much simpler then, consisted of a single file named REG.DAT, and had only a limited scope compared to the modern Windows registry. Windows 9x versions of registries touch virtually every detail of how the system operates, and are comprised of two files found in the \WINDOWS directory: SYSTEM.DAT and USER.DAT. Windows NT registries are spread over a number of files (called hives).

The registry can be easily modified, and is far less mysterious than the average user is lead to believe. If you are comfortable changing preferences in programs, such as setting the default font or file locations in your word processing program, for example, then you should feel comfortable changing the settings in the Windows registry .

Always follow this procedure when making changes to the registry:

1. Backup the registry first.
2. Make the desired changes to the registry.
3. Test the changes thoroughly.
4. Restore the registry if you notice any new or unexplainable problems.
5. Delete the old backup after a period of time (a week or two) of problem-free use.

How to easily backup the registry.

1. Click Start > Run

(or press the Window key, then R).

2. Type "regedit" without the quotes and press Enter.

3. Make sure My Computer is highlighted in the upper left of the registry tree window.

4. Click Registry> Export Registry File from the main menu.

5. Name the export file and click the Save button.

To easily restore the registry:

Double-click the desired registry backup file you saved using the above procedure. This process is actually better than manually copying the registry files since the registry files are constantly open whenever Windows is running, so they must be copied from a DOS prompt after resetting their at-tributes from hidden, system or read-only prior to copying. Additionally, using Regedit allows you to select only the particular registry keys you want to export, which can be very handy if you only want to fiddle with limited parts of the registry, and not restore the entire registry contents to 'undo" any changes you've made

The items that appear as folders in the left pane of the Registry Editor window are known as "keys" and the contents of these keys are called "values." Much like the arrangement of folders that organize the files on your hard drive, registry keys can contain other keys as well as multiple values. Unlike editing a document, changes made to the registry are immediate. You don't manually save the changes. They are instituted the moment you change something in the registry. There is also no 'undo" feature in Regedit per se, so you will want to pay attention and not be sloppy if you decide to make changes to the registry. Remember, a current backup of the registry is important in case you goof something up and need to undo your changes. Windows automati-cally checks the registry and makes a backup of the existing one when you restart your computer. If the Registry Checker software notices a fairly significant problem, it automatically replaces the registry with the latest known good backup copy. Registry Checker does not, however, fix references to missing files or pro-grams. That requires aftermarket software such as Fixlt, System Mechanic, and Norton SystemWorks.

Microsoft used to offer a free utility named RegClean to do this, but they have since removed it from their download sites in an effort to "protect users from themselves." You can still find copies at various places around the Web, such as John Woram's site http:// **www.woram.com/utility.htm. BEWARE,** that RegClean does NOT work with all versions of Win-dows, namely newer versions such as XP and 2000.

Instead of rebooting your computer to run Registry Checker, you can run it manually. Go to Start> Pro-grams> Accessories> System Tools> System Informa-tion. From the System Information main menu, select Registry Checker.

The System Information software provides a power-ful set of tools for looking at many of the inner work-

☞

ings of your system. For example, from the left pane, select Software Environment> Startup Programs to see all the things that run when your computer starts. And you wonder why it takes so long to boot up! Another nice tool within the System Information program is the system configuration manager. From the main menu, select Tools> System Configuration Utility. Notice that you can do neat things here like the Diagnostic Startup to help with troubleshooting problems when your computer boots up. Also notice the different tabs, including the Startup tab. This allows you to view everything that runs when windows boots up, and also lets you decide if a particular program should automatically run or not. This can be a powerful troubleshooting aid when you're having problems with Windows booting up .

By default, registry backups created by the Registry Checker are stored in the \Windows\Sysbckup\ folder. This is a "hidden" folder. By default, Windows keeps five separate copies of your registry here, using the names RB001 .CAB through RBOO5.CAB. The oldest file indicated by the file's *time and date stamps* and not necessarily indicated by the filename's sequential number) is replaced by the latest backup. More advanced users can modify the ScanReg.INI file located in the \Windows\ folder to configure a number of specific features relating to registry backups, including the number of backup registry copies to keep. You may want to refer to the article on **CAB files at http:// pcgroup.nwark.com/vpres-aO.htm to** learn more about CAB files.

Simply browsing the contents of the registry without making changes can be a very enlightening experience, and can help you understand a lot about how your system works. However, there are also many very helpful and powerful things you can do by making simple changes to the Windows registry settings.

For a simple example of how you can make Win-dows suit your needs, one of our club members com- plained about the scrolling single-column display of available programs in the Windows 98 start menu at a previous meeting. Don't like the way it works? Change it! Go to the registry key: HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\ Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Advanced and add the following string value (right-click the Advanced folder, select New>StringValue,type in: StartMenuScrollPrograms then press Enter). Now right-click the new entry and select Modify. Type false into the Value Data field. For those of you who like to run Tweak UI, you might find it interesting to know that this software is basically nothing more than a fancy registry editor.

For a very informative article on the Windows registry, written in plain English, read the article at: **http://www.itp-journals.com/searcb/E12O9.htm**

PC Pitstop **www.pcpitstop.com** and PC 911 **www.pcnineoneone.com** are good sites to help you learn more about your computer and run tests that will suggest ways to improve system performance and reliability

Having chronic BSOD's (Blue Screen Of Death) and other unexplained errors while using Windows 98? Check **out http:// www.pcninenoneone.com/tweaks/ fixes1d.html#vxd**

WinGuides http://www.winguides.com has good information about how to tune up your PC, tweak the registry to increase system performance and reliability, etc. An amazing site for information about tweaking the registry and various other parts of Windows to maximize your computer's broadband (DSL/cable modem) connection performance can be found at **http**://**www.speedguide.net.** Happy tweaking.

Reprinted from the April 2002 issue of the North-west Arkansas PC User Group Newsletter. ∎

Adobe Presents:
The Maximum Impact Tour

Dear UG Leaders,

Thought you and your members would be interested in this free seminar being held around the US from September to November. Please distribute to your group members if appropriate.

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- Cable and Broadcast TV Producers
- Film Producers and Editors* Multimedia Producers
- Web Designers

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN
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- Add compelling motion graphics and visual effectsto make your productions truly stand out
- Output content to virtually any medium your client requests, including DVD, DV, analog tape,Flash, and streaming media formats for the WebFeatured Products
- Adobe Premiere 6.5
- NEW** Adobe After Effects 5.5
- Adobe Photoshop 7.0
- Adobe Illustrator 10* HP workstation x2100, with the Intel(R) Pentium(R) 4 Processor
- Compaq Evo workstation W4000, with the Intel(R) Pentium(R) 4 Processor
- Matrox RTX100 realtime platform

DATES AND TIMES
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

September 24 - Washington DC
September 26 - Boston
October 3 - Atlanta
October 8 - Detroit
October 15 - Miami
October 29 - Dallas
November 7 - San Jose
November 12 - Irvine, CA

If you or a colleague would like to attend this free seminar, please register at:

http://www.adobe.com/events/splash.jsp?eventID=133
or call 1-877-303-9422 ■

Universal Smart Drive
Transportable Drive Space

By Larry Grosskopf, Alamo PC
Reprinted from the August 2002 issue of PC Alamode,,
The News Magazine of the Alamo PC Organization.

Have you ever needed to take large amounts of data and information with you? People have typically carried laptop or notebook computers and floppy disks in order to maintain their data and computing ability on the go. Until now, your options were more limited than they currently are. There is a new device out that was a hit at COMDEX last November. It is called the Universal Smart Drive. This device holds as little as 16MB all the way up to 1GB of miniature hard drive storage space for your use. What is quite amazing about this device is the fact that it fits in the

palm of your hand (See Figure 1). It is about the size and shape of a disposable BIC lighter.

Its light weight (only 16 grams) and compact size are some of the amazing features of this device.

How can you use this portable hard drive? I will get to that in a moment but first let me explain more about the instrument. It is a USB device, which plugs directly into your USB port on your computer. If you're using the Windows 2000, Windows ME or Windows XP operating system, your computer will recognize the presence of the device and will auto-matically accept it as part of your systems hardware. If you are using Windows 98 or 985E (Second Edition), you will need to install the drivers necessary to recognize and utilize the Universal Smart Drive device. Once it is plugged in and correctly installed, it will show up in control panel as a removable storage device. From that point you will need to format it just like you would any new hard drive. When this is done, you have new capabilities which traditional hard drives do not possess. For example, you can simply unplug the Universal Smart Drive and take it with you wherever you go. Whether your destination is your office, a friend or relative's home, or a business trip to some foreign, exotic land, you can have all the data you need right at your fingertips. All that is required is for you to find a computer with an operating system that supports it (Windows 98,98

SE, 2000, ME, or XP, Mac 8.6 or Linux 2.4.x) and an empty USB port. Then just plug this gadget in, access your data and you are in business.

I did mention that this was the "Universal Smart Drive," did I not? In case you are wondering, it truly is universal in that it will cross platforms and works in a Mac computer environment with a Mac 0S 8.6 or higher or with Linux 2.4.x as the operating system. What I did, to test this product was copy some files to it from my Windows XP machine and then discon-nected the device and took it to my ME (Millennium Edition) computer and reconnected and downloaded those files onto that computer's local hard drive. Next, I took some other files from the Millennium Edition computer and moved them to my 98SE machine. Finally, I loaded some picture files onto the Universal Smart Drive from there and transferred them back to my XP machine. On each occasion, the process was as smooth as glass and the document, data, mp3 files and picture files all transferred perfectly. This really speaks volumes about the excellent flexibility of the Universal Smart Drive. Each computer system handled the drive flawlessly, allowing instant recognition and complete data, image and file transfer between and across these platforms. It seems to me that when computer hardware and software designers initially engineered devices to be "plug and play," this is the outcome they were aiming for.

In addition to the compact size, it goes from a minimum of 16 MB all the way(16 MB, 32MB, 64MB, 128 MB, 256 MB, and 512 MB,) on up to 1 GB of storage space. Now that's a lot of storage room com-pressed into a very tiny package. You can carry it around in your pocket or place it on the strap that comes included in the box and/or wear it around your neck. The box also included the software drivers for this device to operate in Windows 98SE. There is a short booklet that tells you how to use the Universal Smart Drive. Finally, there is a short USB extension cable that lets you connect the device to it, which then connects to the USB port on your computer. Of course, you may also plug the Universal Smart Drive directly into the USB port.

Performance was outstanding when I tested it. One excellent use for it would be to back up sensitive or highly important data or documents you might have stored on your computer in case of a hard drive crash. Documentation that accompanied the apparatus lists its data retention life as 10 years. A couple of other things to note, it transfers data rapidly, with a maximum speed of up to 12 megabits per second, with the actual speed dependent on the velocity of the particular PC it is connected to. It tells you when data is being written to or from the drive by changing it's LED color from green (resting state) to red (active state). Finally,

when you disconnect the Universal Smart Drive, the computer does not have to be turned off or shut down. However, they do suggest that you use the "Safely Remove Hardware" icon that places itself in the taskbar when the drive is connected. This is the standard disconnect procedure which helps to prevent loss of data.

I heartily recommend this item for those who want to carry necessary data or computer files with them in an effortless manner. It is made in Korea by a company called Stormblue Co., Ltd. and distributed in North America by K & C Tech. If you would like more information, check out the web site at <http:// www.universalsmartdrive.com> or call K & C Tech at this toll-free number 1-888-640-0200. At the time of this writing, I have not personally seen these devices in local retail stores, but I would be surprised if they are not in there on the retail shelf very soon. The lowest online prices that I could find for the Universal Smart Drive was at <http:www.ebestshoppers.com> and were $29.99, $49.99 and $69.99 for the Small-sized 16MB, 32 MB and 64 MB drives, respectively. Medium sized drives were more expensive with prices ranging from $119.99 for the 128 MB and $209.99 for the 256 MB option. Finally, in the Larger class ,the price was $379.99 for a 512 MB model, with the monster-sized 1 GB version of the Universal Smart Drive priced at *G$559.99*. I have been watching the prices on these removable storage devices and they have been coming down recently. It would not surprise me to see them continue to fall as production and supply increases keep up with and overtake the current demand for these items.

Larry Grosskopf is a Clinical Psychologist at the San Antonio State Hospital, with an intense desire to learn more about computers and how they work and can be used. If you have questions, contact him via e-mail at

<Lgrosskopf@satx.rr.com>

EDITORS NOTE: I have been using the same type of device since last Christmas when I was given an 8Meg Diskonkey, www.diskonkey.com. I have found it to be a very usefull device even at the relatively small 8Meg size. From what I have read, Diskonkey was the first to offer one of these devices and all though there are a lot of knockoffs available, still about the best, even if one of the most expensive. It's package does a good job of protecting it when carried in a pocket. If minimum cost for this type of device is the primary concern, then consider buying one of the cheap Compact Flash cards and a USB reader/writer. About the cheapest price I have seen is $57 dollars for the 128Meg 'Pen Drive.' ■

Logitech Cordless Mouseman Optical

Review by Herbert Wong, Jr., NOCCC

Logitech Cordless Mouseman Optical is a modern incarnation of the almost two decades old mouse. For the right user, this could be a great tool. It has both marvelous innovations and minor flaws.The selection of a mouse begins with the decision on which technologies to choose, what personal ergonomic considerations dictate, and price. The final purchase will probably be based on the reverse of that order.

Every mouse must detect horizontal movement and translate that into an electrical signal suitable for the appropriate computer port. There are quite a few sensing technologies used in mice. The mainstay technology has been a rolling ball that spins two rollers. One roller measures forward/backward movement and the second roller measures left/right movement.An electrical-mechanical mechanism or an optical-mechanical mechanism is attached to the roller. A simple analog current is the basis for the first type. A pulsed signal is the basis for the second type.A new type of optical technology is making the rounds. It is analogous to taking a series of photographs of the tabletop (or other surface) and comparing one image to the next image. Mouse movement is then determined from this information. The Logitech Cordless MouseMan Optical uses this technology. It uses an 800 dpi (dots per inch; a more accurate description would be counts per inch) sensor. The resolution is important because it in part determines the precision and displacement of a movement of the mouse. At the very least, a 200 count per inch movement will require an eight-inch movement to traverse a 1600x1200 resolution desktop. The Logitech can conceivably do this in a two-inch movement (without acceleration). This Logitech compares 1,500 images per second. A high rate is required for smooth movement and to minimize the jumpiness produced by a product has lost its way.

Logitech has implemented an interesting feature in this mouse that is not in Microsoft's mouse driver. Suppose you have two browser windows open and the window on the left side of the screen currently has the focus. Rolling the Logitech's scroll wheel (with the mouse cursor over the window) will cause that window's text to scroll. Move the mouse cursor over the window on the right side of the screen, roll the

Logitech's scroll wheel, and that window will obtain focus and that text will scroll. The big advantage is that the insertion point inside the window's text is not change (by having to click within the text area to obtain focus for the window). When using Microsoft's mouse (and driver), you would have to click on the second window's border, move the mouse to the text area, and, finally, scroll the mouse's wheel. Using Logitech's driver eliminates several extra mouse movements and clicks. Increased *functionality*, reduced complexity, and it is unobtrusive (you don't have to waste your hours trying to disable it). If only other software companies could learn from this…

I found that when the batteries were low, on a dark stained wood desktop, the Logitech Cordless MouseMan Optical behaved ungracefully. On this rather dark surface, the low batteries caused the Logitech Optical to jump around in an erratic fashion. There are two simple solutions. The first is to put a piece of light colored piece of paper on top of the desktop (the mouse then worked flawlessly for many weeks on the same batteries). The second is to put in fresh batteries. The Logitech MouseMan works flawlessly, now.

The Microsoft IntelliMouse Explorer (with cord) mice are notorious for breaking due to the wires in the cord failing at the connection to the mouse (I bought two that failed). The replacement that I purchased has not failed yet, but I stopped using it when I purchased the Microsoft Wireless IntelliMouse Explorer.

The Microsoft Wireless IntelliMouse Explorer has four buttons plus the scroll wheel. The buttons are left-click, right-click, forward-click (as in Internet Explorer or Windows Explorer), and back-click. The layout of this mouse is better in that the button placement is not a problem (for me). However, the shape, layout, and small size combine to cause me to have painful cramps. My hand curls up like when someone squeezes too hard during a handshake. This is not a problem for me with the corded Explorer. Your experience may vary.

An explorer is someone who exudes self-confidence while ignorantly heading off aimlessly, hoping to accidentally wander into something good. Is it odd how so many Microsoft products are Explorers? The Logitech Cordless MouseMan Optical felt more comfortable than the Microsoft Wireless. I have not experience the painful Explorer cramping while I have been testing it for the past month. The Cordless MouseMan Optical's third button is positioned barely above tabletop level on the left side under the right-hand thumb's position. Herein lies my biggest complaint. I accidentally

depress the third button several times each day. When I relax my thumb, it lowers to the button and depresses it as soon as I grip the mouse to slide it to the right. Microsoft places two buttons higher above Logitech's single button position.

Try before you buy.

The *Logitech MouseWare 9.41.1* (for Windows) driver provides a *WebWheel* software utility for clicks by the scroll wheel. It is suppose to enhance web browsing. It includes selections for back, search, web e-mail, shopping, sports, help, up, refresh, stop, etc. Its WebWheel's selections are customizable. I am certain that many people will love this feature. For others, the scroll-wheel-click action is very easy to change to the more common click-and-drag auto-scrolling function that is on other mice.

One significant advantage of the Logitech Cordless MouseMan Optical is its ability to be used in both USB (universal serial bus) and PS/2 mouse ports. Many newer computers transparently support USB, so USB only support is no longer a serious problem for many. The recent popularity of KVM (keyboard, video, mouse) switchers exposes the problem of lack of PS/2 mouse port support for others. Most older KVM models only provide PS/2 ports. Some newer KVMs don't provide completely reliable USB support. As a result, a cordless PS/2 (and USB) mouse like the Logitech Cordless MouseMan Optical is a highly desirable companion when using a KVM. It has worked without glitches with my *Belkin OmniView Pro 8-port*.

The setup instructions are "1.) Install the batteries. 2.) Turn off computer. Connect receiver to computer (a) via PS/2 port or USB port. Place receiver away from electrical devices (b). 3.) Turn on PC, then install software. 4.) Establish communications: press connect buttons." There are diagrams for each instruction. The reverse side of the instruction booklet contains several trouble shooting suggestions. Fortunately, PS/2 port installation was trouble free. I hope that the USB installation is as painless for the uninitiated. USB installations can sometime be problematic.

The Logitech Cordless MouseMan Optical is a "no brainer" cordless solution when only a PS/2 mouse port is available. If the thumb button is in a good position for you, you might love this mouse.

Logitech Cordless MouseMan Optical *Features:* Optical sensor with 800 dpi sensing and 1,500 images per second, battery power management, three buttons, scroll wheel, *WebWheel* software for improved Internet browsing, supports PS/2 or USB ports. *Requirements:* The mouse supports almost all versions of Microsoft Windows (with PS/2 or USB); and Apple Macintosh with Mac OS 8.6 or later (with USB port). A CD-ROM drive is required to install MouseWare software.

Logitech Cordless MouseMan Optical,
Part number 930496-0403 US $69.95

Logitech (www.logitech.com) ∎

An Internet Explorer TIP:

Type just a name into the address line of Internet Explorer, such as "logitech." Then depress the control key and hit enter. The rest of the URL will be filled in for you.

The Logitech Cordless Trackman Wheel

An Optical Trackball Pointing Device

Review by Ted Littman, NOCCC

Look ma, no umbilical cord tied to the computer, no mouse pad, and no roaming to move the cursor across the screen! Designed for "ergonomic" comfort, this Logitech pointing device has a thumb-controlled bright red ball that moves the cursor.

Nirvana? Not quite, but a big step forward for mouseware. Previously, I used a Logitech Mouseman Wheel, which kept me tethered to my computer and restricted to a mouse pad in front of it. While I liked the streamline "feel" of it, I kept running off of the pad and having to lift and reposition the mouse.

The Cordless Trackman Wheel has eliminated these problems and then some. However, it does take practice getting used to it before becoming a fixed-in-place extension of your hand. First, it is bulkier than my old Mouseman; but, that's not a big deal for a mouse you don't have to move or a user (like me) with short fingers. Second, using one's thumb to maneuver the optical trackball seems foreign at first, but, after a few days of use, it's as natural as moving the old mouse and a lot faster.

The Trackman has two programmable top buttons with a scroll wheel between them. Although there are lots of options for use of the buttons, I prefer the old standbys of single click/select for the left and context menu/alternate select for the right. The Scroll wheel doubles as a third button giving you access to Logitech's WebWheel software and on-screen options "wheel". (I have programmed it for double click.) If you like mouse-controlled shortcuts while surfing the Web, WebWheel is just for you.

The Trackman Wheel was a no-brainer to install with "Plug and Play" on my Dell Dimensions XPS T500 system using Windows XP and a USB port. Just about any PC with Windows 95 or later operating system will do. The Receiver, alternately, can be connected to a PS/2 port. If you do Macintosh, OS 8.6 or later should work. After installing the hardware, you run the software CD and follow the on-screen instructions. This will give you access to a very good User's Guide as well as WebWheel and a handy tray icon, which shows you the status of the mouse battery. Logitech also provides a respectable Starting Guide pamphlet (in four languages) and a 4-pager on Ergonomic Information. Additional help is available at Logitech's Web site.

List price is $59.95, but the hardware can be bought for less that that via Internet or regular computer stores. Logitech also makes a model designated the "Cordless Trackman FX" which has more customizable buttons and a wrist-support device. A very positive PC Magazine "After Hours" review is in the March 12, 2002 issue. Here the FX model was referred to as "the Cadillac of pointing devices" and the Trackman Wheel was only a cut below.

Oh, I almost forgot, there is a 5-year warranty on the hardware! ■

MACDRIVE 5.0 FOR WINDOWS

By Leonard Prince NOCCC and Robert Schmahl

MacDrive 5 for Windows, the flagship product of Mediafour Corp., is intended to allow PC users to oopen, edit, and savefiles from any Mac-formatted disk.

PROGRAM ANALYZED

The program analyzed is: MacDrive 5.0; CD-ROM; Kit #MD50-EOWR; and specified as:

• Designed for Windows Me/98/95/NT4/2000/XP and works with all cross-platform software,

• Requires less than 64 MB hard disk,

• Works with all disk drives supported by Windows.

• Supplied with a 31 page User Guide and a CD-ROM that auto installs on a Win XX CD drive.

• Product was located at several software stores priced from $49.95 to $69.95.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MacDrive 5 is an easy-to-install-and-use program for Windows based PCs that works seamlessly with many removable media Macintosh programs and files. It was demonstrated to recognize many types of Mac files on 1.4 floppies; to open, read, modify, and print archived files of several types of vintage software using existing PC software. A visual red apple readily distinguishes Mac floppy diskettes from normal PC diskettes. Mac SCSI hard drives must be formatted with newer than Mac OS 8.6 in order to be accessed.

The analysts recommend MacDrive 5 as a practical way to interchangeably open, read, modify, and print Mac files on a PC. They sincerely thank MediaFour for rapid and superb support via E-mail in diagnosing faulty Windows files and for providing replacement Windows files that accommodate MacDrive 5 installation.

ANALYSIS SUMMARY

Initially MacDrive 5 would not install on a 1GH AMD T-bird /WinMe analysis target, although it installed flawlessly on a PR200-6X86 /Win95 per the 4 simple installation steps in the user guide. MediaFour promptly Emailed an analysis and solution response; failure to install was traced to defective WinMe installer files which were corrected with file versions included on the MacDrive 5 CD. This provided a flawless installation.

MacDrive 5 readily installed on a 6X86 /Win95 / MSOffice 4.3 Pro (with PowerPoint 4.0) system; it opened and read Mac files from 1.4 Mac floppies for Mac MS Word 4.0 /5.0 and Mac MS Excel 2.2 /3.0 /4.0. Further, on "My Computer", a distinctive red apple is superimposed on the floppy icon when a Mac floppy diskette is inserted vs. a normal icon with PC floppies. This system was not able to read Mac PowerPoint files, (e.g., dialog box: Sorry, Macintosh PowerPoint files must be version 4.0 to be opened).

MacDrive 5 installed on an AMD /WinMe /MS Office XP Pro (with PowerPoint 2002) system opens and reads Mac files from 1.4 Mac floppies for Mac MS Word 4.0 / 5.0, Mac MS Excel 2.2 /3.0 /4.0; it also opens and reads the Mac PowerPoint files. The floppy icon shows a red apple superimposed only when a Mac floppy is inserted.

All Mac files tested were generated on Macintosh 512K, MacPlus 1M, Macintosh SE vintage (1984 - 1995), archived on Mac 400/800 K floppies and external Mac SCSI hard drives and copied to 1.4 Mac floppies. All above Mac files were opened, manipulated, and printed on the PC HP 895 DeskJet printer exactly as archived. Inability to read Mac 400/800 K diskettes is a physical/electrical parameter of PC floppy drive hardware.

MacDrive 5 also contains many format extension maps /translators for ~100+ (e.g., Adobe Acrobat, AutoCAD,

☞

ClarisDraw, ClarisWorks, Database, FastTrack, FileMaker, FreeHand, Adobe Illustrator, MS Excel, MS Word, MS Works, PageMaker, Rich Text, Stuffit, Text, and WordPerfect, etc) files. Based on the above testing, one extrapolates that MacDrive 5 will open and read these respective Mac files from removable media.

Two different supplier PC / Mac compatible fast SCSI-2 /PCI cards were sequentially added to PCI slots in both of the above systems and the accompanying drivers were installed. The SCSI adapters and external SCSI hard drives were correctly identified by the respective device managers, (DOS) F-disk, and a SCSI verify diagnostic; but no drive letters were ever acknowledged by either system and no external SCSI files were accessible even after multiple rebooting. Trouble shooting coupled with significant supplier support revealed that Mac SCSI hard drives formatted with Mac OS 8.6 and older cannot be read without changes to the hard drive formatting. ∎

Pig SIG

Open to All! From 11:30 a.m. till about 1 p.m., many of our members gather in what is called a PIG SIG – or PIG-OUT group, so to speak, at the Argyros Hall Cafeteria. There is a buffet lunch or several snack bars open, if you are hungry, or just bring yourself, grab a chair, and chat.

There are several sets of tables where NOCCC people gather, eat and chat with each other. Just look for the people with the NOCCC badges. This is an informal group, so lots of different subjects are discussed and you get to socialize with people you may not have met before. It is a great time to mix, mingle and network. Come on over! ∎

Orange Bytes Appeals to the Membership

We wish that all of the articles in the *Orange Bytes* were written by NOCCC members. Why don't you share some of your expertise by writing an article for our Computer Talk section or check out one of the software programs or books that are listed in the review corner. If you write an article, you get to keep the program or book.

The Editors

Sony's NEW DVD±RW Drive DRU500A

Per Jim Hill's comment at the September Main Meeting, (see page 16) here is one of the new DVD burners. The street price of this new drive should be close to $300.00 dollars

Sony takes the risk out of buying a DVD recorder by bringing all the popular formats into a single drive. The amazing new DRU-500A burns DVD-R/-RW, DVD+RW/+R, and even CD-R/CD-RW discs.* Internal EIDE drive includes an impressive list of industry firsts

Overview:
$349.00 SRP

Sony takes the risk out of buying a DVD recorder by bringing all the popular formats into a single drive. The amazing new DRU-500A burns DVD-R/-RW, DVD+RW/+R, and even CD-R/CD-RW discs.* Internal EIDE drive includes an impressive, industry standard software bundle and is compatible with Windows® 98SE/2000, Windows ME and Windows XP operating systems. * DVD+RW and DVD-RW discs recorded on this drive may not play back on some older or entry-level DVD systems. The write-once DVD+R or DVD-R discs are more compatible for interchange with other DVD systems. Please record responsibly. Before copying anything onto a CD-R, CD-RW, DVD+R or DVD+RW, please be sure you are not violating copyright laws.

Sony introduces World''s First DVD+RW Drive
Records on DVD+RW/+R and DVD-RW/R media and standard CD-R/RW discs so you can choose the right disc for the task at hand.
Sonics MyDVD Video/Video CD authoring software will turn your home movies into DVDs or Video CDs for easy sharing
Protect your valuable data against system failures by backing up with included backup software, Retrospect Express.
Burn custom music CDs, share photos and video, and so much more!
Internal ATAPI EIDE interface for easy installation. ∎

Reviews Editor's Corner

If you write a review for the *Orange Bytes*, you may keep the item. If you would like to review a specific product (software, hardware, or book), please let me know and I will try to obtain it. If you are interested, please contact me:

> **Ted Littman**
> **NOCCC Reviews Editor**
> • **(714) 779-1936**
> • **reviews@noccc.org**
> • **TedLit@Adelphia.net**

Products Available for Review

The following items currently were available as of mid-September for review by qualified NOCCC members. If you are interested in doing a review (which will be published in the Orange Bytes), please call or E-Mail me and provide your membership number, phone number, and E-Mail address. **Remember, you get to keep the software!** A current listing of available products can be obtained by sending an email to **items@noccc.org.** Your response will be the listing.

Art Icons Pro 3.2 for Windows - Create, edit, and manage icons.

PhotoBase 3.0 for Windows - A multimedia management/presentation-making application.

McAfee VirusScan Online - A 1-year subscription to stay virus free.

Stuffit Deluxe 7.5 for Windows - Compress files so they fly across the Internet.

Handy Backup 3.5 for Windows - Automatic backup of critical data to any storage type.

Essential Net Tools 3.1 for Windows - A suite of network tools.

Xplay – Just plug your Apple iPod into your PC and Xplay will help you load your MP3 music and other files.

BackUp MyPC - Backup and Disaster Recovery Software.

WinFaxPro 10.02 - Leading fax management software.

Java Menu Applets – Create cross-browser drop down menus, bars, and buttons for Website.

WinTask 4 Pro – A powerful Windows process viewer to help optimize performance.

Greenface: The Virtual Reality 2.01 Game – An sction puzzle/game for all ages.

Alpha Five 5 for Windows – Database with ease of FileMaker and power of Access.

Canvas 8 Professional Edition – Deneba Software's high-end graphics program seamlessly integrates photo editing, page layout, presentation and web graphics design.

If you would like me to obtain a specific product (software, hardware, or book) to review, please let me know and I will try to obtain it.

Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

Membership Drive

Tell more people about the advantages of membership in NOCCC.

Please pick up a few copies of the *Orange Bytes* at the Membership Desk and deliver them to your friends, local library, computer store, etc.

Preparing a Review Article for the Orange Bytes

by Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

The following suggestions for preparing a review article for the Orange Bytes were extracted from an OCIPUG article and are intended as a guide only. As a reviewer, your audience wants to know your opinion (as an end user) of the product you are reviewing.

Please fully identify the product and its cost so that interested club members may purchase it. After you have tested the product, consider these questions:

I. Does the product meet its stated purpose?

II. Within its category of software (i.e., spreadsheet, database), does it stand out?

III. What are its major features?

IV. Is it easy to use? Can a novice use it?

V. Can you quote or reference articles/reviews in the computer magazines?

The following list contains more specific questions that apply to either software or hardware:

I. Requirements:
    A. Operating systems?
    B. Windows?
    C. Memory?
    D. Disk space?
    E. Is a Mouse supported?

II. Installation (do not overemphasize details): Was it difficult?

    A. Copy or write protected?

    B. Does it allow drive and directory selection?

    C. Does it automatically configure system? Can you control it?

III. Information about your system hardware?:

    A. Operating system/Version?

    B. Memory?

    C. Video display?

IV. Documentation: What is supplied? Tutorial? Templates? Table of Contents? Index?

    A. Was it concise and helpful?

V. Product Support: How would you grade the vendor's tech support?

    A. Does it cost anything?

    B. Is it a toll call?

VI. About the product: What comes with the product?

    A. What is the cost? (list & street)

    B. Version number and release date?

    C. How difficult is the learning curve?

    D. Would you buy/use the product?

    E. Do you recommend it?

    F. What don't you like about it?

    G. What improvements or changes would you like to see?

VII. What are the Name, Address, Phone number (including 800 number), and WEB address (e-mail and URL) of the vendor?

After you have answered all these questions, you should have enough information to write your review. Please be precise but do not make it so technical that only a few people can understand. Please advise the Orange Bytes Editor if you need graphics, pictures, or illustrations to get your point across.

Guidelines for Submitting Articles and Reviews

Important! Please limit your submittals. We now request you limit general articles and software reviews to a maximum of 1300 words, SIG reports to 700 words, book reviews to 600 words, inexpensive CD-ROM titles to 600 words, and more sophisticated CD-ROMs to 1000 words. As far as the minimum is concerned, we'd just like to see you do justice to any general article or to any product that's reviewed. A $600 software package deserves close to 1,300 words. A $50 program or CD-ROMs title might have 500 words. Reviews must be completed within 2 months so that the Reviews Editor (Ted Littman) can, in a timely manner, send a copy to the vendor. If you change your mind about doing the review, please call him (714)779-1936 ASAP to make arrangements for returning the product for reassignment. We hope you enjoy writing your review.

You can now e-mail articles directly to the Editor through the North Orange County Computer Club's Web Site: editor@noccc.org. Or just give the file on disk and printout directly to Alan Pearlman, Jim Sanders (Publications Chm.) Jim Sanders (Editor acting), or Ted Littman on the next meeting day. If you e-mail your review, please send a copy to TedLit@Adelphia.net.

To transfer your article from your Windows word processor, click at the beginning of the article with your mouse, shift down arrow to the end of the article, then Edit Cut (ˆC), open your e-mail program, and Edit Paste (ˆV). This will convert the file to ASCII. If your article is too long to include in an e-mail, please save as ASCII file with a .TXT extension. Then zip the article and attach it to your e-mail.

All documents should have flush left margins, and double carriage returns (skip a line) inbetween paragraphs. The editors will bold your paragraph headings, etc., in order to obtain consistent formatting throughout the Bytes.

Don't use CAPS for emphasis; that's like shouting at someone! We usually have to delete and retype them, which can be a lot of work. CAPS are reserved for computer commands or file names, like AUTOEXEC.BAT or KNOW.TXT. For titles of books and software, capitalize the first letter of each word. The Editor will add the underlining in PageMaker.

Also please spell check your article, and try to follow the ordinary rules of grammar. Don't use columns, tabs, indents, justification, hyphenation or formatting codes. (If columns or tables are absolutely needed, send us a hard copy to guide us.)

We will look forward to seeing your review in print and on the Web site. ∎

September 8th General Meeting

by Eric Saca

We received an informative presentation from **Jim Hill of INC Technologies.** His company sells **CD/DVD-ROM media and materials.** Jim is an expert on CD/DVD technology and on burning CD's and DVD's. During his short hour-and-a-half presentation, Jim imparted a wealth of knowledge about CD and DVD technology.

The following lists just a few of the topics and information he covered:

CD burner speeds. When buying a new burner, it is always best to get the fastest speed available. However, the speed improvements since 24X are becoming less and less significant. For example, the time difference in burning a CD on a 52X drive vs a 24X is less than one minute - and that improvement is only realized when burning a full CD. There is no difference when burning parts of a CD at a time.

Nero, the popular CD burning software that ships with 95% of CD burners. Jim recommended it as it contains all the features one needs for burning CDs.

The chemistry that makes up various types of CD's and DVD's, is a large part of the characteristics of high quality vs low quality CDs/DVDs. The Dye chemistry that is most desirable, in order, the best being first: Pthalocyanine, Azo, Cyanine. A second item is lacquer. Lacquer coating is a clear coat and is sometimes pigmented. If the CDR is a high gloss silver it most likely does not have a lacquer coat. If a CD has printing on it, it probably has a lacquer coating. The lacquer coat is a protective coating used on high-end CDR media.

MP3 Pro, the new technology that can compress twice the amount of data as MP3 in the same-size file. This enables us to burn twice the amount of music onto one CD. *" The myth that 90-minute CDs can damage your burner, is entirely false."*

The best way to hold a CD/DVD is through the hole because that avoids getting dust, oil and other particles from your hand onto the disc. DVDs are much more susceptible to scratches and dust problems because their data is packed so much more densely than that of CDs.

The price of DVD burners is dropping considerably. Now they can be purchased for under $300. A blank DVD-R can be found as low as $1.00 per disc and DVD-RWs for $1.45 each. DVD+R is as low as $2.50 per disc and DVD+RW is $3.50 each. Jim pointed out that buffer underruns do not occur when burning DVDs. That problem does not apply to DVDs.

The differences between the two types of DVD Plus and Minus media, (+ and -.) Minus DVDs require formating and are suitable for burning movies. DVDs do not require formatting and are best for burning data. Completely different burners are required for each media type. However, Sony will soon be releasing a hybrid drive that can burn both types. Most DVD burners will also burn CDs.

CD/DVD manufacturers. Despite the fact that CDs and DVDs are sold by many big brand names - Sony, TDK, etc. - they are actually all made by a couple of companies. Ricoh is the marketing company that supplies all the rest of the DVD PLUS group.

The best ways to label CDs and DVDs. Jim recommends full-sized paper labels, printed from a labeling kit like CD Stomp or PressIT. Otherwise, he suggested writing directly on a CD/DVD with a Sharpie or other soft-tip water, or oil-based marker. Hard-tip pens and alcohol-based markers can permanently damage the media. If you use a marker with solvent base, it will eat through the lacquer and then into the dye. It is like putting paint thinner on your car's paint job. Use only a water base or oil base marker.

Business-card CDs. They do work and are effective marketing tools because customers will check them for data, simply out of curiosity to see if they really work. These CDs are only usable in tray-type CD drives. They will not work in slotted drives.

Jim demonstrated how easy it is to **burn music from an old LP record to a CD.** He brought his record player and connected it to his computer with a pre-amp. This simple device provides a lineout connection for linking such components in the absence of a full amplifier. (It retails for only $69 at Radio Shack.) Jim simply began playing the record and recorded it to CD using the Nero software.

The website for Jim's company, INC Technologies, is www.inc-tech.com. For any questions on CD/DVD technology, or to purchase media, Jim's e-mail address is hardroad@suziesbarn.com.

A note from Jim Hill. *At the time of my presentation I was under a non-disclosure. The time has now passed and I can let your members know that, in November at Comdex, they can see a DVD Recorder that will record the following formats: DVD-R, DVD-RW, DVD+R and DVD+RW. This will take out the question we get asked most often about DVD recording, "Which format should I go with, the plus or the minus?". These drives will combine the Pioneer and the HP formats into a drive that will do both. Additional information can be found at:*
www.dvdinfoworld.com.

NEXT MEETING - MP3 recordings and more! Bruce Fries (pronounced FREEZE) is the author of *"The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook."* He will give us a super good follow-up meeting to Jim Hill's September presentation ☞

which filled Hashinger Hall auditorium almost to the gills. Bruce is a specialist on all the information you'll need to produce your own audio digital MP3 files by transferring music to various digital media. Though his main topic will be **the ins and outs of MP3 recording**, there'll be much interesting information about recordings. ■

Genealogy SIG

by John Johnson

The September 8th meeting was led by Gerry Resch. Gerry was back from his family reunion in Kansas City. He found that another of his relatives had published a several hundred page book on one part of his family tree.

We were using another laptop for this meeting. Cathy and John had a problem installing Family Tree Maker, V9 on it. Cathy found a fix at the web site. It seems that the CD will not automatically load properly at times. This can be resolved by running the application TS.exe on the CD.

Version 10 is now out and possibly this has been corrected. You should check the package at the store to be sure you are getting V10 if you are shopping for a copy. Gerry has a cousin in the Kansas City area that does genealogy research for the county. He suggested that, to avoid identity theft, any tree published on the web should not have any living relatives on it. He also said there is someone in England who has created false family trees (for several hundred dollars). It is important to compare any tree you find with others to make sure they agree. We discussed the methods for numbering a family tree. There are a few styles used. It is up to you to decide how you want to number your tree. The style used in Europe is different from that used in the United States.

We tried unsuccessfully to find any of Vicki's relatives that immigrated to the U.S. in the early part of the 20th century. We did find pictures of several of the ships that they came over on by starting at Cyndi's list (cyndislist.com).

The meeting ended after 4:30 p.m. Please bring your questions to next month's meeting. ■

Computer Security SIG

By Dave Keays

When I started this SIG, I didn't know whether it would involve general computer security or network security. Everybody seemed interested in security for the Desktop, so I guess that will be the main emphasis of this meeting.

Nine people showed up for the first meeting of this group and we talked about whatever questions people had. (Most questions had to do with password selection and browser settings). In the future, I will try to structure it a little better. ■

Computer Aided Investing (CAI) SIG

Bob Krishfield

Markets Lower, Time to Buy?

What evidence is there that the market bottom has been reached? Is a lower bottom still ahead? We reviewed charts of market indexes for telltale signs. We had the use of computer and projector and live charts that could be annotated and changed to see different

views providing much more information and demonstrating how a technical analysis package could be used for market analysis.

The results continued downward movement for several weeks, lower lows still likely. Several tools available to identify bottoms, such as July 24th, these are the indicators to watch for a market turn. The S&P 500 completed a 5 year head and shoulders pattern, signifying the S&P index will continue downward. A review of small rallies in the index showed divergent trends in volume for those periods, going back to 7/2000.

These conditions indicate a longer term up-trend in the S&P won[1]t occur until confirmed by increasing volume. Until increased volume is in sync with higher prices, buying in the short term would be highly risky.

For the longer term, we looked at the Fed model, a tool for estimating future valuations of the S&P 500 over the next 12 months. This is a popular tool for market analysts, and often mentioned in the press. Based on the Fed model, the S&P 500 is significantly undervalued and should be up at levels of 1300 1375, rather than at the 900 level currently. This would be a 40% increase. Critical to this model is the forecast of S&P earnings, earnings forecasts, and what should be including in these numbers.

The SIG voted on the level of the DOW for next month, and the results were: 4 Up 100 points or more; 7 Down 100 points or more; 10 undecided.

Trading Systems

A demonstration of computerized trading systems presented several pros and cons of such an approach. The software shown was ProTA (www.BeesSoft.net) which runs on the Macintosh. ProTA includes many features of popular packages like MetaStock and TC2000, such as charting, database scanning, use of technical indicators, trading systems, and portfolio tracking. Trading systems key points:- Systems rarely have enough test results to make them statistically significant (reliable).

(CAI) SIG

• Most systems work for one or a few stocks, funds, indexes and results cannot be extrapolated to other equities without testing.

• Visual evaluation of charts can often beat the results of system-based trades.

• Use technical indicators (and fundamentals) to screen the universe down to those equities having the most potential. Then optimize using those candidates.

• Use stops to augment trade results to protect profits limits losses.

• Market trends (bull, bear, sideways trends) should be considered in selecting trading systems and parameters.

Daily data updates are available from Dial Data, or other services using common data formats. I have developed an approach using Yahoo, which is quick and requires no fees. This technique can be used for any charting software that imports text files for daily updates. Since this received some interest we will discuss it in detail next month, and more trading ideas.

A web site is being established (www.socal.rr.com/bobkrish) for Computer Aided Investors for the Yahoo free data downloads, market charts, technical articles and other CAI information. ∎

Consignment Table

by Cathy Shimozono

Hello, all you N.O.C.C.C.ers out there. What do you think of our fabulous weather? Yeah, me too. I'm sure you have been noticing that we've been selling a lot lately. Last Sunday we nearly sold everything we had! Thank you, one and all! We can NOT be a success without help from *each* and *every* one of you. We need eachother!

You never know what magnificent surprises you might find. There was a lady just last month who was looking for a copy of Print Artist 8 because she had misplaced her copy. There was a copy of Print Artist but it was impossible to ascertain the version number since it was only a CD in a paper sleeve. Well, she decided to take a chance and buy it. She paid the huge sum of $1.00 dollar for it. She figured for that price, even if it was PA2, she wouldn't lose much. Was she ever surprised and shocked to find out (when she got home and checked it out) that it was PA 12!

Remember, December is just around the corner and that will be our big Game & Gift month. Bring lots of treasures and lots of money and everyone goes home a winner. One more thing, let me know if you have any spicy ideas for our table. One thought was having grab bags for fun. Hidden treasures, you know. Tell me what you think.

One more thing, watch for me when I say, "What can I sell you - you just can't live another day without?" I will lighten your wallet *but* I will also heighten your pleasure with wonderful treasure! ∎

New Technology SIG

Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS)

By John Johnson

Amateur Radio operators developed Packet Radio in the early 1980's for faster data communications. The modem standard of X.25 was expanded for broadcasting with AX.25. This allowed radio communications of packetized data. The idea of using GPS for location came up in the early 1990's. Bob Bruninga, WA4APR of the U. S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD was one of the first to do this. He was looking for a way of knowing exactly

where the support and medical units were for the marathon and other races held at the Naval Academy.

A typical installation consists of a GPS unit, a terminal node controller or TNC (the radio modem) and a VHF amateur radio transceiver capable of packet radio operation. The transceiver must have fast switching times from receive to transmit and back so packets are not lost. This setup can also be used in a commercial application with commercial radios, GPS units and a mobile computer. Typical commercial operations are on 20MHz or 800MHz.

APRS operation also allows for descriptive icons to identify the station. These icons can identify a station as fixed (home), mobile, bicycle, or others. It is possible to track the path of a mobile station over time. Some web sites have also stored special events (such as the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay) and may be viewed now.

The following web sites have information on APRS:

www.kcaprs.org in the Kansas City area

www.nwaprs.org in the Pacific Northwest

www.aprs.rutgers.edu in New Jersey

http://web.usna.navy.mil/ ~bruninga/aprs.html at the U. S. Naval Academy
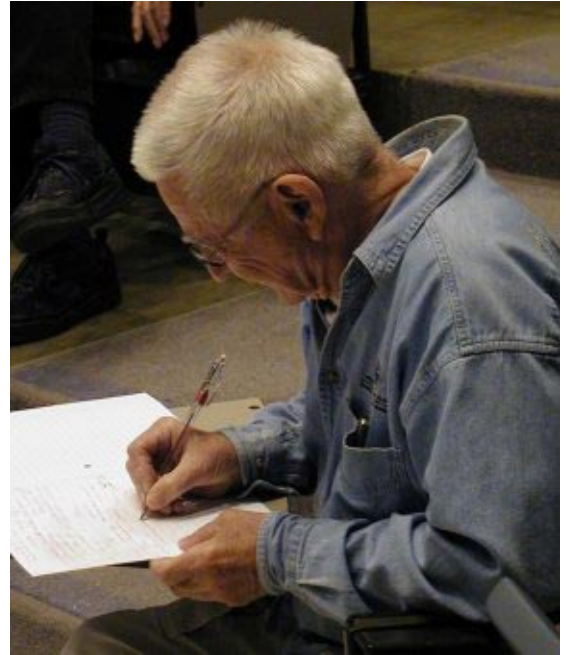
www.wa4dsy.net.aprs in Georgia

We went to several of these sites and saw the amount of activity in several areas. We also saw the path of the Olympic Torch as it traveled across the country before the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, GA. ∎

United We Stand

September 8th Main Meeting

Jim Hill, speaker at the main meeting.

This is good stuff, gotta take notes!
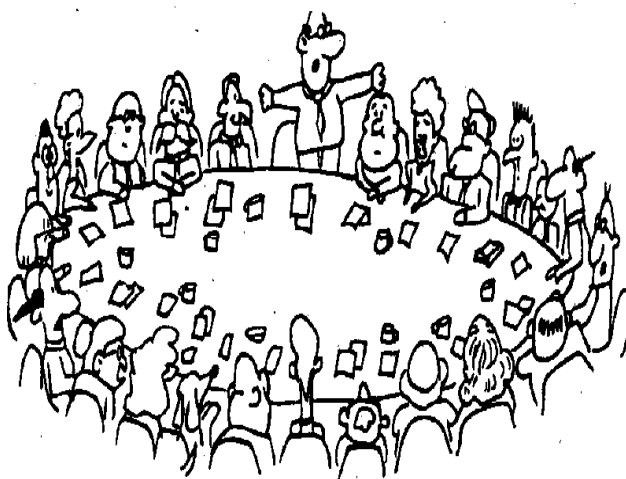
A good crowd at the September Main Meeting

Herb Wong watching Jim Hill's presentation.

Note! Three new SIGs: **Computer Security, Gaming - PC & Mac, Linux Programming Concepts**

SIG List

Those who have listed an e-mail address would prefer to be contacted by e-mail rather than by phone whenever possible

SIG	Bldg	Room	Time	Leader	E-mail	Phone
Autocad	Wilkinson	130	9:00	Joe Mizer	jmizer@earthlink.net	909-688-9848
Computer Aided Investing	Wilkinson	211	9:30	Bob Krishfield	bobkrish@socal.rr.com	xxx-xxxx
Computer Security	Science	203	11:15	Dave Keays	rdksoft@sbcglobal.net	xxx-xxxx
Gaming - PC & Mac	Wilkinson	111	9:30	Claire Lemire	clairelemire@earthlink.net	xxx-xxxx
Genealogy	Irvine Hall	—	2:30	Gerry Resch	gresch@hotmail.com	714-772-6667
Hardware Essentials	Science	306	9:30	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714968-7264
Hardware Essentials	Science	109	2:30	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Linux for Desktop Users	Wilkinson	210	9:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	xxx-xxxx
Linux for Server Administrators	Wilkinson	210	10:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	xxx-xxxx
Linux Programming Concepts	Wilkinson	210	11:15	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	xxx-xxxx
Macintosh	Wilkinson	221	11:15	John Willner	Willner@earthlink.net	714-838-1431
New Technolgy	Irvine Hall	—	9:30	George Margolin	Inventor@pobox.com	949-645-5950
Office Suites	Science	111	11:15	John Heenan	jc_heenan@csi.com	xxx-xxxx
PC Q&A	Irvine Hall	—	11:15	Jim Sanders	jsanders@ligasmicro.com	714-636-5523
Understanding OS's	Wilkinson	111	11:15	Charlie Moore	mooreca@aol.com	xxx-xxxx
Visual Programming I	Science	109	8:30	Anson Chapman	aeccrc@primenet.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming Ii	Science	109	9:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrc@primenet.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming Iii	Science	109	10:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrc@primenet.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming Iv	Science	109	11:15	Anson Chapman	aeccrc@primenet.com	909-860-9515
Windows	Science	111	9:00	James Smith	jamescsmith@bigfoot.com	714-751-2922
	Please report changes to			Linda Russell	goodnewsent@compuserve.com	909-949-4930

The good news is we are upgrading from Win3.1, the bad news is it's to WinME

NOCCC Help Line

The Help Line is in the true spirit of NOCCC, which is to help others to learn more about computers. The following is a list of Help Line Volunteers. The list is organized by the topic that each volunteer is willing to help you with. Please help us to keep this list current. Call or e-mail Ted Williams at 639-1009 or TedWilliams@alum.MIT.edu with additions, deletions, or corrections.

The contents of this helpline article may be viewed in the printed version of the Bytes.

New volunteers for the Help Line would be appreciated!
Macromedia volunteers needed.

September 8th • New Technologies Meeting

John Johnson talks about APRS

The mobile communications van

Some of the equipment used by APRS

An APRS map

Jerry Resch selling raffle tickets

Publication Information

Membership Renewal

When you turn in your Membership Renewal check, PLEASE fill out a Membership Renewal Application.

Memberships may also be re-newed on our Website noccc.org

QUICK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Date:_____   ☐ I am a new member

☐ This is a renewal, my membership number is _____
PLEASE PRINT!

Name _____

Address_____

City _____

State_____Zip _____ Phone_____

email_____

Fees: $30 per year plus $15 for each additional family member

Amount enclosed $_____

☐ MC ☐ Visa _____ Expires _____

Please make check to **North Orange County Computer Club** and mail with application to:

North Orange County Computer Club
PO Box 3616
Orange, CA 92857

Are You an NOCCC Member?

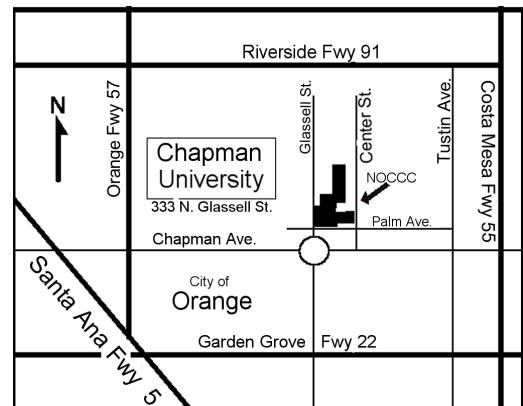**Consider all that you get with membership and Join Now**

- **Meetings**. Keep up with what's going on in the computer world. Hear outstanding industry representatives make presentations of the latest and greatest in computer products.
- **Special Interest Groups**. Our 20 SIGs cover a broad spectrum of user interest; they invite you, whether you rank as beginner or seasoned computerist, to the lectures and demonstrations they sponsor, and to share computer knowledge.
- **Get help with your current computer problems**. In the Random Access portions of the meetings you ask your question of the entire assemblage, and more than likely someone will have the answer.
- **The NOCCC HelpLine**. Some 20 NOCCC volunteers, experts in their fields, stand ready to assist with your problems, as close as your telephone.
- **The *Orange Bytes* Newsmagazine**. Our Award Winning newsmagazine mailed monthly to your address reports on current activities and gives you articles and reviews geared toward your needs.
- **Raffles**. We have distributed thousands of dollars worth of hardware and software raffle prizes at our New Technologies and General meetings.
- **Product Review.** Write a review for this newsletter and keep the software, hardware, book or CD-ROM. Members review several products a month
- **Consignment Table**. We have a thriving consignment table on our regular meeting day in which we assist members to sell or buy all kinds of computer items.
- **Volunteer Work**. You are given opportunities to help our activities with interesting assignments. An all-volunteer organization, you can join with other members in a variety of activities, writing articles for our newsletter, conducting a seminar, run a SIG, man the help desk, show new members around, help the membership commitee, and more.

Parking Information — Chapman University's main parking lot is on the north side of the campus (enter from Walnut) and is free of charge for NOCCC's meetings on Sunday. Please feel free to park in the parking lots.

Parking is also free on the **campus-side** of the surface streets. The city of Orange's parking laws prohibit parking in front of residential housing which is across the street from Chapman University. **Expensive parking tickets will be issued to violators.**

The NOCCC Information Desk, Membership Desk and most of the meeting rooms are in Irvine/Hashinger Hall and the Science Center on the east side of the campus (near Center Street).

Become an NOCCC member by signing up at the Membership Table on our general meeting day, usually the first Sunday of the month. Or simply fill out the form on the reverse side of this page and send it in!

For current meeting information, please call 714-998-8080 for a recorded message.

North Orange County Computer Club
PO Box 3616
Orange CA 92857

Address Service Requested

Members:
Your expiration month and year
appear on your mailing label.
Please renew promptly, using
the application inside.

Dated Material - Please Expedite