



Award Winning News Magazine of the North Orange County Computer Club

Vol 29 • No 2

FEBRUARY 2004

# NOCCC MEETINGS - February I

9:30 AM Irvine Hall  
**NEW TECHNOLOGIES**  
 George Margolin  
**Whats NEW with DVDs**  
*See Page 4 for details*

1:00 p.m. Irvine Hall  
**MAIN MEETING**  
 Rich Blumenthal  
**Dragon Naturally Speaking**  
*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** ..... *Science 203*  
**Computer Essentials** ..... *Science 111*  
**Linux for Desktop Users** ..... *Wilkinson 111*  
**Visual Programming II** ..... *Science 109*  
 Visual C++ and Visual J++ for Beginners

## 9:30 a.m.

**NEW TECHNOLOGIES** ..... *Irvine Hall*  
 George Margolin- DVDs at the CES show in Las Vegas  
**Computer Aided Investing** ..... *Wilkinson 221*  
 Member Investment Strategies, Techniques and Software  
**Linux (intermediate)** ..... *Wilkinson 111*

## 10:00 a.m.

**Linux for Server Administrators** ..... *Wilkinson 111*  
**Visual Programming III** ..... *Science 109*  
 Intermediate and Advanced Visual Basic

## 11:15 a.m.

**Computer Security** ..... *Science 203*

**Linux Programming Concepts** ..... *Wilkinson 111*  
**Macintosh** ..... *Wilkinson 221*  
**Office Suites** ..... *To be posted*

Office suites applications

**PC Q & A - Jim Sanders** ..... *Irvine Hall*

Most Qs A'd, some problems solved, assorted demos done

**Understanding Operating Systems** ..... *Science 306*

Get Help with DOS, Windows 3.1, Windows 9x, OS/2, etc.

**Visual Programming IV** ..... *Science 109*

Office 97 VB for Applications programming.

## 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.

**Digital Photography** ..... *Irvine Hall*

All about taking, modifying, and printing digital photos

**Genealogy** ..... *Science 111*

Discover your family history with modern tools

**Hardware Essentials** ..... *Science 109*

Video Monitors

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

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

Future Meetings  
 Feb 1, Mar 7, Apr 4, May 2

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“Friends Helping Friends”



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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for the following positions:

**Circulation** — Oversees the mailing and distribution.

**Commercial Swap Meets** • Distributes Orange Bytes and NOCCC material at swap meets.

**Commercial Advertising** • Obtains ads from both national and local vendors for the Bytes; the success of this helps our club finances.

# President's Message

By Cathy Margolin

## Happy Valentines Day!

Our January meeting with Don Baker of Klassic Specialties on Inkjet printing and printers was great! He even gave us a discount on his website: [www.klassicspecialties.com](http://www.klassicspecialties.com), enter code NOCCC to get 5% discount on ink supplies. Don Baker will also donate 5% to NOCCC from your purchases. Don also sells to the Golden West College Digital Arts program and to Orange Coast College.



## Recycling

John Johnson gave us an update on how to recycle our computer parts and several members donated cell phones to be recycled. Thank you!

In February, Dragon Naturally Speaking Voice Recognition program will be our main topic at 1pm. At the 9:30 New Technologies SIG, will be on DVD – What it is Now and What is Coming Fast, by George Margolin. Herb Wong is starting up a Computer Essentials Training class from 9-12 which he will go over beginning and some intermediate topics about your computer. This is a Training class, because you asked for classes! Tell you friends about this free new class, so they will get up to speed on what to do with their computer, instead of asking you all the time.

George and I both attended the Consumer Electronics show in Las Vegas and boy is there a convergence of computers and home electronics. This was the biggest show ever and rivaled the big days of a large Comdex. There are wireless TV's, wireless DVD players, etc. which can all be served up from your computer. PC's are getting smaller, flat panel devices are getting bigger, tons of GPS's, and TV/DVD players for cars, and many devices that have multiple functions such as phones, cameras, MP3 players, etc. Blue-ray for DVD was very hot. I will have more details for next month's Bytes.

## Windows 98 Support extended

Microsoft announced a reprieve for it's older operating systems that were scheduled to no longer be supported - Windows 98, Windows 98 Second Edition (SE) and Windows Millennium Edition (ME). Users of these operating systems will be able to get paid support and critical security "hotfixes" until June 30, 2006. The key issue here was security fixes. Quite a few people in our club still run Windows 98, so this is good news.

New Years Resolutions - Free Computer Classes

Jim Sanders teaches a free Computer Repair class at Santa Ana College where you can bring your computer in and he will help you fix it's hardware and software problems. Contact him at [jsanders@ligasmicro.com](mailto:jsanders@ligasmicro.com). ROP offers free classes also on A+ certification and other computer technologies. Search on [google.com](http://google.com) for your local area ROP.

See you in February for the free Computer Essentials class, Dragon Naturally Speaking at the Main meeting, and What's New in DVD at New Technologies SIG! ■

# Membership Benefits

## Member Discounts and Benefits

As a valued member, we bring you a section of discounts and offers as part of the entire "Benefit of Belonging." (Caveat - we are unable to endorse these companies, but make these offers available as a service to our members).

## 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](http://www.noccc.org) website. Make certain you let us know any e-mail changes ([membership@noccc.org](mailto:membership@noccc.org)) so you can get the jump on all the great Reviews and Articles!

## CompuUSA Discount - Fountain Valley Only

One of our members, Joe Vezeau, Corporate Sales, has offered NOCCC members a discount. You have to call Joe and he will see if there is any discount available (some products are below cost and he cannot do anything) on the product you want. 714-965-4236 for Joe Vezeau).

**Klassic Specialties** – Don Baker offers NOCCC members a 5% discount on ink cartridges, etc on his website, [www.klassicspecialties.com](http://www.klassicspecialties.com). Just put in the code NOCCC for the discount. Also 5% will be donated to the Club from your purchase.

**Aladdin Systems**, Aladdin's best ZIP compression software, Stuffit Deluxe, 40% discount. For details go to [www.aladdinsys.com/support/usergroups/ugvalid.html](http://www.aladdinsys.com/support/usergroups/ugvalid.html)

**PowerQuest**— PartitionMagic v8 (List \$69.95) -\$39.00 — Drive Image v7 (List \$69.95)-Full System Backup Utility \$39.00. V2i Protector Desktop Ed v2 \$39. <http://www.ugr.com/order/> with group code UGFEBNOCCC. Phone 801-796-7370

**VOPT XP** – New Fast Defragmentation Program, is now out and will work with Win 95, 98, Me, 2000, and XP by Golden Bow software ([www.goldenbow.com](http://www.goldenbow.com)). Download a free 30 day trial to see how fast it will defragment your hard drive. Mention "Margolin" to get the \$30 user group discount or \$10 off the \$40 price.

## O'Reilly Books

If you order directly from O'Reilly, <http://www.oreilly.com>, [orders@oreilly.com](mailto:orders@oreilly.com), or 800-998-9938, you are entitled to a 20% discount (and possibly free shipping). User Group discount code is DSUG.

**NewRiders Books Discount** – Go to <http://www.newriders.com> and check out their Promo section for User Group member's discounts.

# January Board Meeting Minutes



**The minutes are available in the printed version of the Orange Bytes which is mailed to members.**

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## **New SIG!** February 1, 2004 **Computer Essentials** by Herbert Wong, Jr., SIG Leader

If you are reading this, this message is not for you. It is for someone you know. Orange Bytes readers already know their way around computers. However, you know somebody who doesn't. This message is for them!

The Computer Essentials SIG is the free training and instructional course that you have been looking for. The assumption is that you know nothing about computers and want to learn. We'll show you everything you need to know.

Session one on Sunday, February 1, 2004 (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Science 111) will show you how to turn on the computer and everything to do from there. You'll learn how to use a keyboard and mouse effectively. The primary focus will be simple text operations (copying, moving, deleting, etc.) and simple word processing.

See the Computer Essentials SIG report in the back of the Orange Bytes for more details.

Please e-mail [ComputerEssentialsSIG@noccc.org](mailto:ComputerEssentialsSIG@noccc.org) (or [CESIG@noccc.org](mailto:CESIG@noccc.org)) if you plan to attend. Please include a little information about yourself, such as your computer experience, what kind of computer you use, what operating system you use, and any other information that might be of interest to you. ■

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## **February 1 Meeting Preview**

**NEW TECHNOLOGIES 9:30 am Irvine Hall** - George Margolin will talk on the new DVD technologies he found at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas. He will also cover some of the other neat new toys that he found there.

### **MAIN MEETING 1:00 pm Irvine Hall**

**The Dragon NaturallySpeaking 7** family of products is the fast, easy and accurate way to turn speech into text. Users can dictate into virtually any windows-based application at speeds up to 160 words per minute and achieve higher levels of accuracy than ever before. Dragon NaturallySpeaking delivers significant benefits to all users.

**The Club Raffle** Windows XP (the \$300 full version operating system -) and DiskKeeper are the main raffle prizes this month.

# 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%.

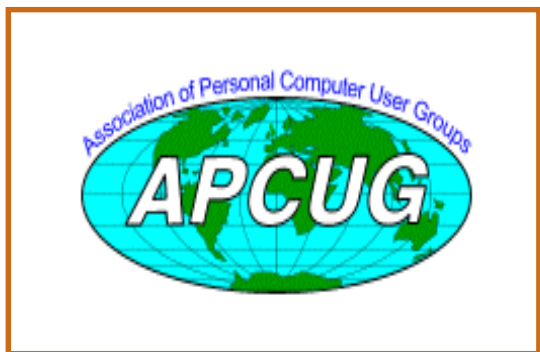
3. Fill out a tag on each item! It must contain: Seller's Name, NOCCC Membership Number, Item name, a short description and selling price.

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 be 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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## The King is dead – Long Live the King

*O. T. Stoll, NOCCC*  
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A few years ago, Fall COMDEX, in Las Vegas, was the biggest technical show world wide. Softbank, who owned it then, lost money on most of ventures and made it back on the Fall COMDEX show. They had 21 COMDEX shows all around the world. They sold the rights to the show and it started to get smaller. The new owners sold the rights and the 2003 Fall COMDEX show really got small. Down, from thousands of exhibitors and hundreds of thousands of attendees, to five hundred exhibitors and attendance probably less that thirty thousand and many of those were disappointed. The 2003 Fall COMDEX was the death rattle.

The new King is the Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show, CES). This show gets bigger every year with January 2004 having over 2500 exhibitors and 100 conferences. More than 130,000 attendees came to Las Vegas, (more than 19,000 attended from all over the world), to view and learn about digital products and technology. The hotels were oversold and the taxis and airlines were stretched to their limits, like the good old times with the COMDEX shows. Vegas probably likes this show better than COMDEX because the large majority of COMDEX attendees didn't drink and didn't gamble.

CES is getting bigger every year and COMDEX is almost extinct. This is a very SAD passing for us Geeks and geek wantables. At the CES, about all the exhibitors know about computers is that their product has one. The CES is about consumer electronic products with computers and very little about computers themselves. Of course, we want our own show. So hopefully, COMDEX will make a come-back.

The CES was a great show with Bill Gates of Microsoft the opening Spotlight speaker. Bill doesn't just give a speech. He provides a media show that rivals some of the big Las Vegas hotel shows with lights, action and celebrities. This time it was Jay Leno touting MSN. Bill also has been opening the COMDEX shows since the start of COMDEX. His first COMDEX show was not as grand with his father running the slide projector. Reporters and media folk had a field day going from one exhibitor to the next loading up on freebies, (just like it used to be at COMDEX).

In the COMDEX shows, Bill stresses what's new in computers and computer software. At the CES show, Bill discussed seamless computing with many devices working together such as DVD players and digital imaging technology interconnecting throughout the

home via the MSN Media Center. Where else could Bill get hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world to listen to him tout one of his products.

One of the most interesting products, to me, was the Windows Mobile-based Pocket PCs and the Smartphone. These items, shown below, take the cell phone to a new level.



You get the same things that you get on a cell phone and your computer desktop.

A lot of exhibitors showed prototypes and pictures of hardware to come out later this year. One was Sharp Electronics which is bringing out a battery operated, wireless TV. Faster DVD burners and new backup tape media and tape drives were also introduced. DLT Tape Media touted their tapes and drives that use laser servos that are guided by permanent optical tracks on the back of the media.

I think some products will end up vaporware. Many of the products, to be available later, had minor improvements over existing hardware and probably will not make it. You can learn more about the exhibitors on the CES web site, [www.cesweb.org](http://www.cesweb.org).

I didn't hear anyone at the CES Show say they were disappointed, including the exhibitors who are looking forward to next year. ■

## Picture and Video Files: Size Matters

*By Timothy Everingham, NOCCC*  
[teveringham@acm.org](mailto:teveringham@acm.org)

You may have gotten a bunch of spam trying to sell you something because they are telling you that size matters. However, even though they may be trying to con you, in regards to the size of pictures, graphics, and video files, size does matter! Some of it is because it is related to image size. However, when you try to compress files there reaches a point where you start to lose something.

First, you have to understand that if it is either an image or video file each little pixel or time interval is represented by bits of data. You may have heard 8, 16, 24, 32



bit color. The number of bits represents the color of each pixel. On an 800x600 image you have 480,000 pixels (800 multiplied by 600). Then you multiply the color bit depth to get the size of the image representation (800 x 600 x 24 bit equals 11,520,000 bits). Divide by 8 and you get the number of bytes (11,520,000 bits divided by 8 equals 1,440,000 bytes). It get worse with video because you have to multiply by the frames per second and by the number of seconds in the video (at a standard 30 frames per second it would be 41 Megabytes per second or 2.4 Gigabytes per minute). If you have a lot of large images or video files you are trying to transfer through a dial up connection to the Internet you have problems. If that is the case, you just figure you will save and send things using a smaller image size and blow up when it will be used. The problem is that when you go to a smaller image size you loose detail in the process. Then when you try to blow it up again it just gets blotchy. The same thing goes for video files, the smaller the file size the less detail and nuances are in the file. This really shows up when you take a small image and then try to project it using a good LCD projector. So if you want to project it, show it on a large monitor, or print it out large you need to keep the image size up. This is one reason why there is so much hype about the amount of megapixels in a digital camera.

So, how then do we get the small file size of images we do. We use compression algorithms, also known as codecs (compressor/decompressor). There are lossless and lossy compression algorithms. But how can there be lossless compression? It is because nature is filled with patterns and uniform things, which is what we take images of. So, if we record info about the pattern instead of about each pixel, a lot of file space is saved. An example would be if a person in your image is wearing a blue sweater. Instead of recording every pixel individually, you record that the area of the image, where the sweater is, is blue. The Tiff image format (.tif) uses only lossless compression techniques, so it is a good format for achieving this purpose or if there is something you may wish to edit later. Then there is lossy compression. You loose some of your detail, but a lot less than if you just shrink the image. One of the regularly used lossy compression techniques is color palette reduction. With 24 bit color you have 16 million colors available. However, there are far less than that many colors in an image. It takes less space to analyze which colors are in an image, to create a custom color table that will represent all the color in the image in less than 24 bits, write the color representation of the pixels with the custom table

code, and then include a copy of the table in the file. This can be used as a lossless technique, but usually this is taken one step farther. In the analysis of the image, it is detected how often each color is used and ranks them. As the compression rate increases, the colors that are less used are converted to colors that are close to it but are widely used in the image. This compresses the size of the color table, which decreases the bits per pixel representation of a color; and the blending to nearby colors increases the space that areas of the image that can be described as having one color (this is a situation of compression techniques complementing each other). Some formats start out using only lossless compression techniques but as the level of compression increases they start to use lossy compression. Some common formats that use a combination of lossless and lossy compression are GIF (.gif) and JPEG (.jpg). Remember once you lose image data using a lossy technique you will not have it anymore unless you still have the original or a lossless copy. The compression methods discussed so far are referred to as spatial compression because they reduce the file size by compacting the description of the visual area (space) of an image.

Video is made up of sequential images played over time. This means we can not only use spatial compression; but also use temporal compression, which compresses the file using analysis of the difference and similarities of the frames in an image. This usually exhibits itself by the first frame in a video sequence being compressed just like a still image using spacial compression, but in the following frames only the changes from the previous frame is recorded. Periodically, or when there are major changes between frames, a new initial frame, also called a keyframe, is produced followed by more just recording of differences between frames. These temporal compressions can be lossy or lostless. As with still images, you should achieve them using only lossless compression. However, using only lossless compression may be impractical because of limitation of your computer's hard drive speed or hard drive space, but keep lossy compression at a minimum. If you are creating a video DVD for achieving that uses the MPEG-2 format that uses both lossy and lostless compression techniques. It is better to achieve the file using the DV codec it was originally imported in from your video camera with and writing that file to a data DVD or CD. Be aware that some compression techniques and settings are better for some types of video than others. If you just have a

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## LIGAS Microsystems

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advertising in the Bytes, contact:*

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### Picture & Video Files: Size Matters

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talking head in your video with a static background you can compress it greatly without degrading the image much, but if there is a lot of fast action or panning of the camera the amount of compression you can successfully have and have to be more picky on what codec you should use.

File size matters because it limits what you can use the file for. If you just want a small file you can send to a friend via a dial up connection, or have friends using a dial up connection to view a website, a small file is good. However, to print large photos, or to view photos on a large computer monitor, or to project photos onto a screen, small files are not good. Use only lossless compression techniques on things you want to achieve or edit later because it keeps your options open. Keep your archival file large and make smaller copies of it for other purposes. It is fortunate that hard drive and DVD and CD blank prices have come down a lot so doing this does not cost a fortune, but not planning ahead on image size and which compression techniques to use can cost you not being able to fully use your precious digital photos and videos.

*Timothy Everingham is CEO of Timothy Everingham Consulting in Azusa, California. Further information can be found at <http://home.earthlink.net/~teveringham>*

## Essentials for That New Computer

By Ira Wilsker, Golden Triangle PC Club

According to preliminary sales figures, computers were among the most popular items purchased this holiday season. Straight out of the box they may be a joy, accompanied with confusion and some mild fears. Experience and familiarity will resolve most of the confusion, but some common essentials may help eliminate many of the fears.

Almost all new computers straight from the box were most likely manufactured prior to the release of the **latest security patches**, and will require the downloading and installation of all critical updates. Likewise, most computers recently made to order will not have the **latest operating system updates**. If operating system software was purchased separately, it also will not be up to date. It is imperative that once set up, provided Internet access is established, that the user of a Windows computer immediately go to <http://www.windowsupdate.microsoft.com>

and download and install at least the critical updates listed. Other non-critical updates listed may be downloaded and installed when desired, but the critical updates must be installed immediately.

Another absolute essential for that new (and old, too) computer is **antivirus software**. While many new computers come with a limited-time trial version of some antivirus product installed, there is no necessity to renew that particular product when it expires. There are many excellent titles available, often at spectacular prices after rebates. In the retail market, the sales leaders are Symantec's Norton AntiVirus (often bundled with other Symantec Norton titles), and Network Associates' McAfee Antivirus (also often bundled with other McAfee products). Many other excellent titles are available, either at retail from the local stores or for download. If holiday bills are a pressing problem, one of the free antivirus products may be appropriate.

One commercial bundle, including antivirus, firewall, and popup killer is Computer Associates eTrust EZ Armor Security Suite, available for a limited time as a free (for personal use) download. This full-featured commercial product (\$50) is currently being made available for free download from <http://www.my-etrust.com/microsoft> as a promotion cosponsored by Microsoft's security division. The free download includes a year of free updates. Once the year is up, the user will have the option of renewing for another year at the then current license fee. Other free (for personal use) antivirus software is Avast available from <http://www.avast.com>, and AVG downloadable from <http://www.grisoft.com>.

With today's risky cyber environment, a **firewall** has also become an essential product for new (and old) computers. A firewall isolates your computer from hacker attacks over the Internet

### FREE COMPUTER CLASS

at Santa Ana College (SAC). You can start attending this PC computer workshop class at any time. The class covers just about all aspects of personal computing, software, hardware, building new machines, and upgrading/fixing the machine you have. The class is held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 AM till noon in Hammond Hall room H201. Call the **Centennial Education Center** at 241-5700, class #64200.09

The new class started on January 20, 2004





and also provides some protection from Trojans sending out information. While often bundled with antivirus software, many times it must be installed separately. Commercial firewalls from McAfee and Norton are available locally, as are other firewalls. There are also several excellent firewalls available for free (for personal use) by download. My personal choice is Outpost, available from <http://www.agnitum.com>. The single most popular firewall in use is Zone Alarm, <http://www.zonelabs.com>.

Also essential is a good **anti-spyware program** to protect your personal privacy and security. One of the most popular and highly rated spyware detection and removal programs is Spybot Search and Destroy, available for free download from <http://www.safer-networking.org>. This program also includes an "immunize" function that will offer some protection from much of the spyware that is common on the net. The leading commercial spyware protector is PestPatrol, available for download from <http://www.pestpatrol.com>. As with antivirus and firewall software, anti-spyware software is frequently updated by the publisher, and updates must be downloaded and run frequently in order to maximize protection. One proviso—never purchase anti-spyware software from popup ads or spam mail, as they are often fraudulent or of low quality and only encourage more spamming.

Something often neglected with that new (or old) computer is **power protection**. The electricity coming into our homes is often "dirty", with electrical noise and power fluctuations, and these events may damage the sensitive electronics in our computers. At a minimum, a good surge suppressor (not a simple power strip) is a necessity to protect the computer and its peripherals from electrical damage. Surge protection is measured in "joules", and the more joule capacity, generally the better the protection. Even better is a good quality "UPS" (uninterruptible power supply), which in addition to providing clean power to the computer and its peripherals, can also safely power the computer for short periods of time in the event of a brownout or power failure, allowing for a safe and orderly shutdown without losing data or damaging equipment. If a UPS is in your future, make sure it has enough power for your system. All surge suppressors and UPS devices should also have a UL1449 rating, an indication that it meets minimal feature and safety standards.

**Internet access** has become almost universal and has switched from a geek luxury to almost



everyone's necessity. Generally avoid the "deals" that are often preinstalled or bundled with new computers, especially for some of the overpriced national services. There are several excellent local Internet Service Providers (ISPs) that typically offer service superior to many of the well known national providers, but at a lower price. If dialup service is wanted, check with such fine local companies as Eonet (<http://www.eonet.net>) or EXP Internet Services (<http://www.exp.net>). Broadband is available via satellite from EXP, DSL from SBC, or cable via Time Warner or your local cable company. One proviso—if the broadband provider is offering a "12 month special price", find out what it will cost after the trial period is over.

**Ira Wilsker is the Advisor for Region 8, the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) Representative and Bylaws Chairman for the Golden Triangle PC Club, a columnist for *The Examiner* in Beaumont, Texas, and he has two radio shows. He also graciously shares his articles with APCUG Editors. ■**



### Pig SIG Open To ALL

Meet us in the Cafeteria in Argyros Hall around 11:30 am (until about 1pm). If you're hungry, there is a buffet lunch and snack bars open.

There are several sets of tables where NOCCC people gather, eat and chat. Just look for the badges, grab a chair, and join in! This is an informal group, so many different subjects are discussed. It's a great opportunity to mix, mingle and network. See ya there!



## DVD X Copy Platinum

By Vic Awdeychuk, NOCCC

The DVD X Copy program is a good backup utility. DVD X Copy Platinum helps one to protect your treasured movie DVDs by allowing backup on a single DVD disc. A second program, DVD X Rescue is supposed to help resurrect scratched DVDs.

The DVD technology seems to have stabilized, it offers high capacity storage and great longevity in a handy format, thus many people have adopted this format. Most people like to collect things. DVD copies of photographs, family videos, music selections, and favorite movies have become familiar as the new libraries for many collectors. But as good as the DVDs are, their content is still subject to mundane problems of scratches, fingerprints, dents, and heat distortion. A user can cause more hazing when trying to wipe clean those fingerprints off the pristine, but soft, DVD surface. In a flash, an unfortunate scratch can make sections unreadable or possibly ruin the entire DVD.

With DVD movies costing \$20 to \$30 a pop, ones investment can sure add up fast. The majority of CDs and DVDs have copy protection, so I started searching for computer software that would allow a backup of my original discs before they become unreadable. The DVD X Copy program is an answer to these problems.

Installation and registration online of DVD X Copy Platinum was straightforward. A lot of the program seems to have been downloaded at the time of registration.

For copying DVD disks, the main menu window offers <Simple> or <Advanced> backup. The user has control of copying the entire disk contents, only the movie, or only selected portions of the DVD. The procedure involves reading the disk, compressing the data, and then storing it in a temp (.tmp) file. The data is then burned onto your backup DVD. The process is simple and can be automatic.

An original DVD with 8.6 GB (dual-layer) is compressed to 4.7 GB (single-layer) on the backup. It takes about 2 hours with my PC. The resulting DVD disk plays well on a large screen TV with a very good quality reproduction – it's a great substitute for the original disk.

I had considerable difficulty with the extremely small (3" x 3.5") menu screens. The menus ask questions which are almost illegible with extremely small font (4 pt. ?) sizing. Even with a 19" monitor one needs a magnifying glass to read the lettering. These fonts should be increased to more legible sizes. Also on a few occasions the data burning sequence was interrupted when the program rejected the destination disk. I have no idea what prompted the error messages. The entire procedure had to be repeated in order to successfully burn the DVD.

Considerable information on copy protection and piracy is covered in the DVD X Copy package and the 321studios web site.

The CD Rom comes with DVD X Rescue. This program loaded on my PC but never flew. After 3 weeks and five Emails to Tech Support, who seemed incapable of reading my message, I gave up trying. We could not rescue my DVD X Rescue!

No <Help> or User's Manual comes with the program, although Tech Support and a manual are available at [www.321studios.com](http://www.321studios.com) web site. Tech Support has good response time, but with questionable results.

DVD X Copy Platinum - by 321 Studios

17 Research Park Dr., St. Charles, MO 63304

List: \$ 120 (available for \$69 with rebate or sale)

Toll Free 1-800-486-6840

[www.321studios.com](http://www.321studios.com) ■

## Real World Digital Photography, 2nd Edition



By John F Donan, NOCCC

Authors: Katrin Eismann, Sean Duggan, Tim Grey

Publisher: Peachpit Press, ISBN 0321223721

Price: \$44.99 (\$31.49 at Amazon.com)

*Average customer rating at Amazon: Four and a half stars out of five. This is a reference book, for digital camera owners of all levels, written in a clear, concise, understandable style.*

The first volume of this book by Katrin Eismann, was coauthored with Deke McClelland four years earlier. So much has changed in four years to warrant this second edition. If a picture is worth a thousand words, this 700 page book has almost a million words worth of illustrations. It is a very large book, containing 521 figures, over one hundred of which have multiple images, giving us at least 720 different illustrations. The contents are divided into four parts, each could satisfy as a book by its self. They are: Part One: The Essentials of Digital Photography (five chapters) Part Two: Digital Photography Techniques (two chapters) Part Three: The Digital Darkroom (four chapters) Part Four: Output, Manage and Present (three chapters).

The intent of the book is to show how to obtain exceptional pictures and spectacular printed results by combining proper techniques with the right equipment. One learns both the techniques as well as the concepts behind them. It can provide a professional-level understanding of the digital photography process (from how

a digital camera works to advice on buying cameras and accessories), and the choosing of hardware and software, downloading and outputting images, and far more than can be discussed here. As prices continue to drop, most of us will acquire more advanced equipment. The coverage this book provides on cameras alone, will allow us to make more intelligent choices when that time comes. Information complementing this content of Part One is being placed on the book's website at <http://www.digitalphotobook.net>.

One's thinking must be adjusted when traversing from film photography to digital photography. Many basics are clarified such as, "How well do you understand how JPEG compression works?" In Part Two a sidebar, with eight illustrations shows a progression of JPEG deterioration as colors tend toward the averages of 8-by-8 blocks of pixels. In modest changes this is tolerable to the eye which is most sensitive to changes of brightness. RAW formats, ISO settings, white balance and color temperature are all well explained. All this is complemented by light exposure, film/digital comparisons, exposure and histograms.

The term darkroom is borrowed from chemical photography for darkroom processes can be accomplished at the computer and with greater ease. The basic requirement of the digital darkroom is consistency of the lighting environment at your computer. For example, how does the illumination change through the day into the night? Is your monitor calibrated? I thought mine was! I had used Photoshop's Gamma settings. The book says to calibrate every two weeks. Yes, mine was off. In Part Four this (Gamma) is considered insufficient as it depends upon the eye. The use of an instrument is recommended.

An interesting suggestion in Part Three is the use of a second monitor (if one is good, two must be better.) The claim is, "once you've worked with multiple monitors, you'll never go back to working with one again." This part also has a concise but adequate guide to graphics editing. Fifteen examples used to demonstrate darkroom techniques can be downloaded from the book's website so that the reader can experiment with them as well.

In Part Four the book explains how to print the images using inkjet to dye sublimation printers. It covers color management. Regarding inkjet printing, the book states "To produce photographic-quality output an inkjet printer needs to be able to put down 1440 droplets of ink per inch.....The image file will be set to a resolution of between 240 ppi and 360 ppi. A setting of 240 ppi is more than adequate for photographic output, ...."

A salient point in this part is the need to retain the master file. "It's the file you'll return to the next time you decide to make a change, create a print, or send someone a copy. You should save the master image file in PSD or TIFF format, with all layers, channels, and paths intact."

This book is well written, printed on quality paper, and easy to read and understand. I recommend it for anyone interested in learning about digital imaging and getting more from their digital camera.

### About the authors:

Katrin Eiamann is a photoimager, artist, educator, and internationally respected lecturer on imaging and the impact of digital technologies on the professional photographer

Sean Duggan is a photographer, digital artist, and Web developer with extensive experience in the design and production of digital graphics for print, the Web, and multimedia.

Tim Grey assists with developing curricula and workbooks for the courses at the Lepp Institute of Digital Imaging among other writings.

Their full resumes can be found on the book's website, <http://www.digitalphotobook.net>. ■

## Ulead's Studio Quartet Suite

By Joe Mizer, NOCCC

Ulead Systems, Inc. is a developer of video imaging and graphics software for computers. This software package is composed of four applications from Ulead: PhotoImpact 8, DVD Workshop, MediaStudio Pro 7, and Cool 3D Production Studio. Rather than send four CD's, the software for Studio Quartet is sent on a DVD disk. The shipment includes a printed manual for each application.

With any video project you need to get the images into the computer before you can edit them. The minimum requirement to use the Studio Quartet is Microsoft Windows 2000 or Windows XP, 800 MHz P3 with 128 megabyte of RAM, a DVD ROM and at least 2 gigabyte of free hard drive space. The computer I used for evaluation was configured as follows: For input of VHS images, I chose a video card by Hauppauge Win TV GO that can be used to watch TV, grab images, and even videoconference.

My first camera shots were initially taken with a 2 megapixel Nikon but, I later used a 3.2 megapixel Fuji with greater zoom capability. The additional resolution makes editing an image easier and gave me the capability to print at 8.5 x 11. I set up the computer, a 1.7 gigahertz CPU, with 512 Meg of RAM, a large hard drive, CD burner, DVD ROM, and DVD burner. I also had to add a sound card when the on-board audio input was giving me trouble. Most of the Video came from my Panasonic VHS recorder and then played on a Sony VHS player/recorder. I also captured still images using a Cannon flatbed scanner.

The program PhotoImpact 8 is used to enhance digital photos and images for maximum impact. The changes you can make to an image are almost unlimited. On one photo I edited, I needed to show how a machine we were building would look without an alarm and light tower. I was able to retouch the front image of a machine and remove the two components. I was surprised at how easy this was. I have been able to change the color balance, brightness, and contrast, and crop and control the printing of the images.

While experimenting with the special effects, you can add objects to the photo, and use special filters to achieve fantastic results. In the hands of a professional, a photo can be created

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



### Ulead's Quartet CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

which looks real and would be almost impossible to detect it was created on the computer rather than taken with a camera. I quickly learned when you crop an image or make it larger; you want to use the highest resolution available with your camera. PhotoImpact 8 also has the ability to work with text and create web pages. In one very neat application called mask mode, you cut out or borrow an object such as a face or flower and then blend it onto another object. Motion blur can be used to make a stationary object appear to be in motion by blurring the rest of the scenery, and with the beautify skin effect you remove blemishes from a person's face. These are only a small sampling of the effects you can use to improve your work.

The next program is Cool 3D Production Studio used to edit text, make 3D graphics and shapes from scratch or using objects provided in the program. The program can also make animations. You can make your own Lathe objects or import 3D Studio or DirectX Models. The stand-alone price is \$129.00 from Ulead. You can stretch text and objects when using this effect. By combining a skew effect with a simple position animation, you can make an object appear as if it were being sucked off the screen. After you have created your title sequence, you can add background sound to play at the same time and adjust them so they end together.

In order to create flying animations you need to learn to manipulate 3D space, and understand timelines. The individual objects added to a project can be seen by going to View/Toolbars Manager/Object Manager. This will open the Object Manager Window that is similar to the browser window in modern AutoCAD programs. From the Object Manager Window you can select, group, edit, ungroup, delete, lock/unlock, enable/disable, and rename objects you have inserted into your project. The special features added to an object will show up indented below the object they have been applied to in the Object Manager Window. Some of the special effects you can apply are fire, smoke, snow, bubble, motion blur, shadow, lightening, and glow. The effects are easy to apply; save your work often and keep trying until you get the results you want.

The next program is DVD Workshop that is for creating DVD/VCD/SVCD files. Digital Versatile Disk is the meaning of DVD, while Super Video CD (MPEG-2 technology) is the meaning of SVCD, and VCD stands for Video CD which is mpeg 1 technology. MPEG is an abbreviation for Motion Pictures Experts Group. MPEG-1 gives you VHS quality video, which can be saved on a CD and play back using a regular video CD, also known as VCD format and enables more than 70 minutes of good quality video and audio to be stored on a single CD-ROM disc. MPEG-1 used in NTSC VCD displays is 320 x 240 resolution at 29.9 frames per second. MPEG-2 used in NTSC DVD produces 720 x 480 resolution at 29.9 frames per second.

The program and computer requirements are similar to those mentioned earlier except you need a lot more hard disk space. It will require 13 GB of space for each 1 hour of DV video and 4 GB of space for video capturing and converting. File support for video input is provided for MPEG-1, MPEG-2, AVI, and

QuickTime formats. Image input files supported are BMP, GIF, JPG, PNG, TGA, and TIF. The audio input formats supported are MPEG audio (MPA), WAV, and MP3. The export of files to disc is on DVD, miniDVD, VCD, and SVCD. DVD Workshop will help you turn your raw footage into CD or DVD based videos complete with titles, effects and menus.

It is also possible to capture files in DVD Workshop if you have not previously captured and stored your material. This could be desirable if you do not have "unlimited" space on your hard drive. The process of making a video involves just five steps. The first step is to create a new project on the computer. The second is to capture the video you will use from digital and analog sources. The third step is to edit each of the video clips you have entered and connect them in the proper order. The fourth step is to create a menu which allows you to jump to different locations in the video. The fifth and final step is to burn the finished video to a disc. In reality, you will probably create film clips in advance and save these in the library to be placed in the proper order during the editing phase along with titles and menus.

The last program in Studio Quartet is Media Studio Pro 7. This program is designed for professional digital video editing and post-production work and is capable of creating professional quality results. The system requirements for this program have been increased to a Pentium 4 at 2GHz minimum with 512 MB RAM, a Windows compatible audio card, and 7200 rpm hard drive. Hardware-based video compression is recommended for the video card with a lot of on-board memory so the hard disk drive will have a chance to store the data. The data storage capacity without compression on the fly cannot be matched by currently available hard drives. The program will in real time play and output five streams of video (3 DV and 2 graphics) at the same time. Audio editing capability has been added to this product, which allows mixing and volume control in real time.

Because of the complexity of the program, four tutorials are included to help get over the initial learning curve. The first tutorial is on video capture, which includes support for DVD-VR format used by devices such as camcorders, which write directly to a DVD recordable disc. The second tutorial is on the video editor and covers basic and advanced artistic procedures. The third tutorial is on video paint and the use of filters, cloning, video matte, erase effect, background sets, retouching images and creating a laser beam effect. The fourth tutorial is for text and graphics animation. When the project is shared by more than one artist, all machines should be identical to avoid problems.

This program requires significant time to master the basic features. Ulead admits that the over 400-page book does not cover all of the features available and the companion CD has additional tutorials available.

The cost of Studio Quartet Suite is \$795 from the Ulead's Web site (<http://www.ulead.com>), but one on-line seller has it for \$510 with free shipping. The list prices for the individual programs are: PhotoImpact 8 (\$90), DVD Workshop (\$299), MediaStudio Pro 7 (\$495), and Cool 3D Production Studio (\$130).

As you can see, the Suite is quite a buy compared to the



individual programs.

I was impressed that all of the programs from Ulead can be downloaded as trial versions to “try before you buy.” This is a good policy and shows that Ulead is a company that believes in the products it sells. The web site also offers tutorials and short videos that show you what each program can do. Studio Quartet is a complete digital media suite; however if you only need one or more of the programs, they are available individually. Like any significant program, almost no one will use all of the features, and even though I did not have time to try all features of each of these programs, every thing I did try worked as described in the manuals. I was impressed and recommend this product. ■

## Family Tree Maker V. 11- Collector’s Edition

By *Ted Littman, NOCCC*

Genealogical research can be one of the most rewarding and frustrating of human endeavors. “Roots” has grown to be a global passion, spawning a plethora of free and for-pay systems, data, organizations, and web sites. The amount of information available in print, on line, and on microfilm is almost mind-boggling. A great deal of information comes from government sources. And The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS church) runs the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. The FHL has one of the most impressive collections of genealogical material in the world.

Many computer clubs, like NOCCC, have Genealogy SIGs, where member can learn and share information. If you are serious about collecting and organizing your family history, you need a good software program and there is none better than Family Tree Maker which has been the #1 seller for over ten years.

I have been interested in family history since the 1980s when my late wife and one of her cousins collaborated to develop a family history book. The cousin gathered most of the information on family members, while my computer-literate wife organized the data electronically so that books could ultimately be printed and distributed. Subsequently, the advent of Family Tree Maker allowed us to transfer her database to a more sophisticated commercial software program that was easier to update, add improvements such as family photo histories, and create histories in “tree” formats.

NOCCC members have reviewed many of the previous editions of FTM. Most recently, Elise Edgell reviewed FTM 10 Deluxe in the July 2003 issue of Orange Bytes. FTM 11, Collector’s Edition comes with 20 CDs, only one of which is required to install the program! The other 19 CDs provide a potpourri of genealogical data. Some are broadly useful, such as the FamilyFinder Index and Social Security Death Index for

1937 – 1999. Others are too narrowly focused (such as the Ireland Census Indexes of 1831 & 1841 and US Selected Counties Census Indexes for 1790 & 1850) for widespread utility. But, in addition to the CDs, a 3-month on-line subscription is provided to the Genealogy.com US Census Collection and the World Family Tree Collection (with 750 million names. You will find these collections to be excellent sources for your family research.

If you are a novice to genealogy and don’t yet have a software program, you can’t do better than buy a copy of Family Tree Maker 11. (In fact, you may even be able to get the previous version new at a ridiculous price.) Installation and startup are simple and you can begin entering family history using a Q&A format. And there are multimedia tutorials and enhanced Help files for additional guidance, although the program is pretty straight forward to use. For those of you who have been using a prior version and choose to upgrade to v.11, the installation will simply replace your older software and allow you to start taking advantage of its new features.

Family Tree Maker provides you with a large variety of formats, styles, fonts, borders, and other tools to personalize the display of your family history and photos for maximum advantage. And, with each new version, FTM has improved its photo-editing capability, although not yet on a par with most of the stand-alone photo-editors.

There are some noteworthy new features in v. 11. In keeping with the growing usage of PDF files, you now can share your “Family Book” with others, whether or not they have the FTM software. You simply export your copy in the PDF format and it can be viewed by anyone with a copy of the free Adobe PDF Reader.

Appending or merging data from one family file to another is a clearer and simpler process. Another (about time) improvement allows you to open and work with two FTM data files simultaneously. This makes it much easier and more efficient to compare and edit your data. You can even copy and paste individuals, family branches, or even whole trees from one file to another, while reducing the danger of relationship errors.

Another new feature that I like allows you to preview your family book before printing. This can sure save you time and paper; too bad that all programs don’t have this feature. And FTM provides templates to create and print “heirloom-quality” family trees and make them look very professional.

However, when all is said and done, a software program is only as good as the data you input. Digging up your family’s history can be arduous, time-consuming, and frustrating for many of us (particularly the descendents of middle- & eastern-European immigrants who came here during the mass migration waves of the late-1800s – early-1900s) where family histories were passed-down by word-of-mouth mostly and country-of-origin records don’t exist. But, I hasten to add that the “high” one can get from solving the jigsaw puzzle of even a missing piece of family genealogy makes it all worth while. If only we had the foresight to start the quest when we were young and our parents/grandparents/aunts & uncles were alive to pass on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

# January Meeting Photos

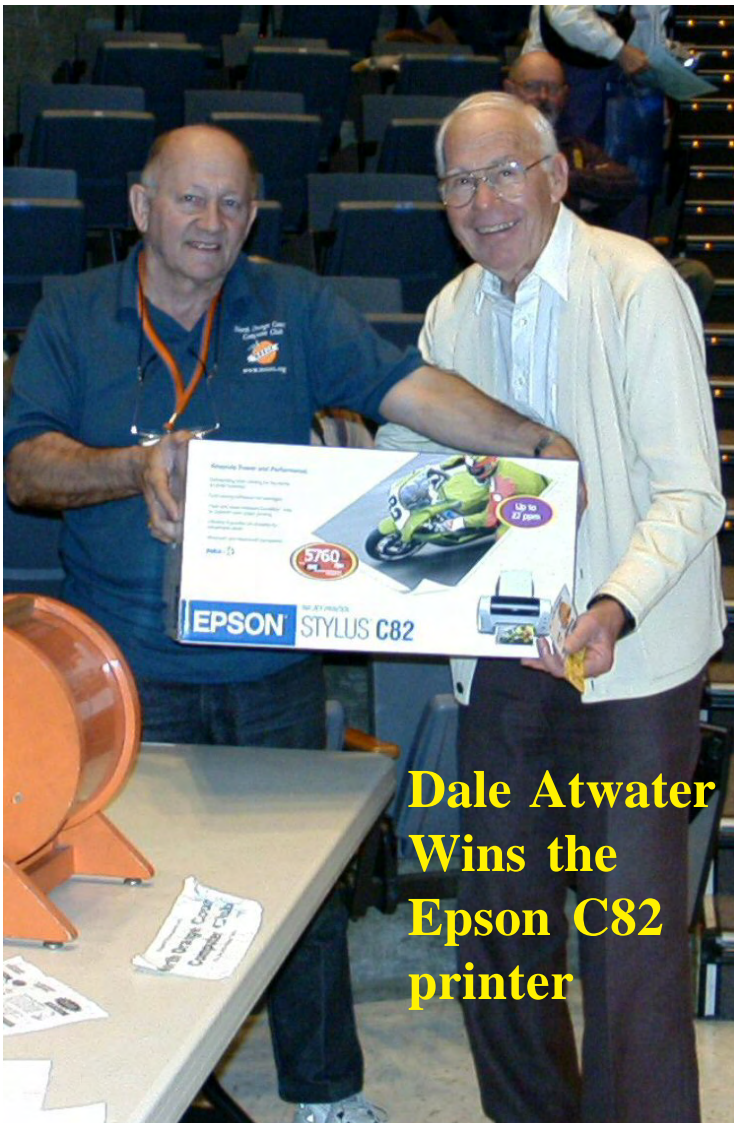


## Cost of Ownership

Printer Cartridge	Crtg Type	Prt Head (Location)	Capacity		Cart. Cost		\$/ml Blk
			Blk	Clr	Blk	Clr	
Canon BCI-3	Compatible	(Hldr sso)	25 ml	14 ml	\$4.95	\$4.95	\$0.20
Canon BCI-6	Compatible	(Hldr sso)	14 ml	14 ml	\$4.95	\$4.95	\$0.35
Epson no Chip	Compatible	(Printer)	17 ml	36ml	\$5.85	\$9.85	\$0.35
Epson w/Chip	Compatible	(Printer)	17 ml	36ml	\$10.95	\$10.95	\$0.64
HP 45a/78a	Remanufactured	(Crtg)	42 ml	38ml	\$16.95	\$24.95	\$0.40
HP 14a/14a	OEM	(Prt Heads +\$120)	23 ml	19ml	\$21.00	\$25.00	\$0.91
HP 27/28	OEM	(Cartridge)	10 ml	8 ml	\$18.00	\$21.00	\$1.80
HP 56/57	OEM	(Cartridge)	19 ml	20ml	\$20.00	\$33.00	\$1.05
Lexmark 70/80	Remanufactured	(Crtg)	23 ml	18 ml	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$0.82
Lexmark 16/26	OEM	(Cartridge)	19 ml	17 ml	\$30.00	\$32.00	\$1.58

Estimated pages/ml – Black 33 (5%), Color 8 (15%)  
 Cartridge capacity source: OEM supplier specifications, Costs based upon avg retail recommended retail price whichever lower

Don Baker, of Klassic Specialties, gave a good talk on the high price of original cartridges vs repla to Don's chart, Lexmark is the most painful pri ask after Don finished his presentation, some du



**Dale Atwater Wins the Epson C82 printer**



The construction at Chapman University is showing progress



l
Clr
\$0.35
\$0.35
\$0.27
\$0.30
\$0.65
\$1.32
\$2.40
\$1.98
\$1.00
\$1.88

price or



talk on Ink Jet printers, paper and ink. With emphasis on replacement/refilled cartridges and refill kits. According to the speaker, it's better to own. A number of members had questions concerning it.



**Herb Wong talked about digital cameras at the New Technologies SIG**



**Larry ponders a consignment table purchase**

*Photos by George Margolin and Jim Sanders*



### FAMILY TREE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

their collective memories!

FTM's recommended system requirements are relatively modest: a 30 MHz CPU, 64 MB RAM, 150 MB free hard drive space, and a Windows operating system (98, ME, or XP). Of course, you will need Internet access to use the free subscriptions and access other on-line data sources.

Family Tree Maker is a product of the Broderbund Div. of Riverdeep (<http://www.broderbund.com>; 1-800-395-0277) and is available in several versions. The basic software's MSRP=\$50. A Deluxe version lists for \$70 and the Collector's Edition has an MSRP=\$100. The primary differences are in the number of data CDs included (ranging from 4 to 19) and the free on-line subscription to Genealogy.com (<http://www.genealogy.com>). FTM is widely available at the usual retail outlets and mail-order houses and is frequently deep discounted. ■

of the lectures. When one has read the summary, one may then click on the subtopic to view and listen to Scott Mueller give a one-on-one demonstration that can be understood by all advances of users.

I give the software seminar three thumbs up. I give it one thumb for bringing a great book to life, the second thumb for making it easy to understand by all levels of users, and the third thumb for its absolute ease of use. I recommend this program to anyone. I especially recommend it to the people who ask me to install a program or hard drive to the advance users who need a way to explain what they know easier. Upgrading and Repairing PCs Training Course, A Desktop Seminar from Scott Mueller is a must have in any users library.

The MSRP for the latest product (15th anniversary edition) is \$70. At places like <http://www.amazon.com>, one can find it for \$48.99; however if one should do some looking as I did, <http://www.halfpricecomputerbooks.com> sells it for the low price of \$34.99.

While you are thinking about the Visual training Course, do not forget to pick up its paperback companion Upgrading and Repairing PCs (15th edition) for only \$41.99 at Amazon.com. To check out available publications from Scott, go to [http://www.upgradingandrepairingpcs.com/fifteenth\\_edition/index.asp](http://www.upgradingandrepairingpcs.com/fifteenth_edition/index.asp) ■

## Upgrading and Repairing PCs

By Richard T. Irwin, NOCCC

Upgrading and Repairing PCs Training Course, A Desktop Seminar by Scott Mueller from Que Publishing, is a positive step in the right direction for a person to gain knowledge of what is going on inside the computer system he/she owns. Scott Mueller, the author of the Upgrading and Repairing PCs series has brought the words of his book to life and in person for us all to see via CD and DVD.

The stated purpose of the program is to help beginning users to understand what a PC is, to help intermediate users on how and why a pc works in the fashion that it does, and to help advanced users to advance their skills and to teach them how PCs can be taught to less advanced users.

The program requires Windows 98 or greater machine, Internet Explorer 5.0, 300 MHz processor or higher, 25 MB of disk space, CD Rom, soundcard, and QuickTime 5.0, which is included. The PC I used to test out the program has Windows XP, 1.2 AMD Thunderbird, and more that 25 MB of disk space to handle the job.

The three CD's (14th edition) that I reviewed, which contain his seminar, include 11 lectures with various amounts of video sub lectures in QuickTime movie format. The various lectures contain titles such as, Hardware vs. Software, PC Architecture; Disassemble a PC, Tech Factor, and Building a PC. Each of the QuickTime movies that visually explain each sub lecture ranges from three to greater than ten minutes in length.

Each topic is taught both visually and literally. To use the program, a user first reads the summary on the disk about each

## PalmPilot The Ultimate Guide 2nd Edition

By Vance Jochim, NOCCC,  
[vjochim@webworks66.com](mailto:vjochim@webworks66.com)

PalmPilot - The Ultimate Guide - 2nd Edition is authored by David Pogue and from O'Reilly Publishing. It includes a CD with 3000 shareware Palm applications. MSRP=\$29.95. User group members can get a 20% discount at <http://www.oreilly.com>.

This is a great book if you have an older Palm Pilot (up to the Palm VII). Only Palm-brand PDA's are covered. It does not cover the later version 4.x or 5.x Palm Operating systems and related PDA's such as the M series or current Tungsten series. However, even if you have a newer Palm OS based PDA like my m515, you will learn lots of interesting information, including quite a bit on using the Palm with the Macintosh.

I found myself reading every page, and keep it in my car for when I have to kill some time before business appointments. Every chapter also contains an "Executive Tips" section at the end. This book was published before wifi, but there is quite a bit of information on using Palms with modems to use email and browse the Internet. It focuses on the Palm VII which included a wireless connection to the Internet and has special applications





to work with it. However, those capabilities were replaced with wifi and newer applications in the M and T series. If you want to use your Palm with an external modem or modem add on, you can learn about it here. And, if someone gives you a used Palm PDA without manuals, this is a great book to use.

**Section 1** covers four chapters on Palm basics, including ToDos and the other PIM applications, plus using graffiti characters to enter data, and other built-in programs including Hotsync.

**Section 2** covers step by step Hotsync, how to install Palm Programs, and how to use the Windows or Mac based Palm Desktop applications. The Desktop runs in Windows or the Mac and lets you enter and work with data that is hotsynced from the PDA via a serial line and using the HotSync application.

**Section 3** goes beyond the basics you might find in a user manual, and provided details about working with Palm ebooks, and applications to create and read them on the PDA. However, the shareware applications discussed have mostly been replaced now by the Palm Reader which comes with the Palm.

Further chapters describe working with Photos, painting (TealPaint), graphics drawing, and music on the Palm Pilot. Except for some recent Tungsten Palm models, I didn't know the earlier Palms could provide music, but the chapter discusses various shareware applications that use the Palm beeps to provide tones, a tuning fork, a metronome, etc. Thus when they say music, they don't mean playing wav or mp3 type files. Newer Palms using version 4.1 OS or later include a photo display application.

Another chapter discusses database applications like HandDbase, although the current favorites like Smartlist were not available yet at the time the book was written. But the chapter is a good tutorial on what databases can be used for. There is also a section on spreadsheets, but it does not cover the current favorite of many Palm users, DocumentsToGo which uses actual Excel or 123 files on your PC and transfers them to the Palm.

**Section 4** contains chapters on using the Palm online, including email, web browsing, faxing, printing, beaming (transferring files from your Palm to another Palm via infrared), and the Palm VII wireless features which are different from the other Palm devices.

**Section 5** has a good 26-page section on troubleshooting, and describes each model of Palm up through the VII model.

The Appendixes contain very interesting information on creating PQA's (web pages for the Palm VII which can also create a readable file from a standard HTML file), 100 favorite programs, Accessories (with pictures) and details of the contents of the included CD-ROM.

I recommend this book to anyone needing details on the older Palms, and it is also good background on application types you might want on your later Palm models. I know I will be experimenting with the PQA feature and reviewing the shareware apps to see if there is a type of application I always needed!

More details on Palms and book reviews can be located on the website for the Orange County Palm User Group at <http://www.webworks66.com>.

Vance Jochim is President of the Palm User Group of Orange County, CA. ■

## CES



The highlight of the Consumer Electronics Show for NOCCC Pres. Cathy Margolin was finding the chocolate fountain. Below is one of the tiniest full featured digital camcorders on the market today, new at CES.



If you are an NOCCC member and 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) not listed here, 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
- [TedLit@Adelphia.net](mailto:TedLit@Adelphia.net)
- [reviews@noccc.org](mailto:reviews@noccc.org)

## PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

A number of products have been obtained from vendors for review by qualified NOCCC members. If you are interested in doing a review (which will be published in Orange Bytes), please call or send an e-mail to me and provide your membership number, phone number, and e-mail address.

Remember, **YOU GET TO KEEP THE HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, OR BOOK!** Currently available are the following products:

### **Boxed Programs and CDs**

#### **Office Professional Edition 2003 –**

The latest & greatest office software suite from Microsoft includes Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Access, Publisher, & Business Contact Manager for Outlook. MSRP=\$499, upgrade=\$329).

**FrontPage 2003** – The Microsoft Web Site Creation & Management Program. MSRP=\$199, upgrade=\$109.

**RecordNow Deluxe 6** – From Sonic-Adaptec, the easiest & most complete way to burn music, photos, & videos to CD & DVD. MSRP=\$50.

**FlipAlbum 5 Suite** – An excellent photo-album-maker from E-Book Systems allows you to create & share vir-

tual photo albums on your PC, on CDs, or on the Web. MSRP=\$50.

**Phone Works Pro 2002** – The “ultimate” Windows Personal Assistant software for telephone, voice mail, fax, & e-mail. Integrates with Outlook & Outlook Express. From Ring Central. MSRP=\$120.

**Go Back 3** - Roxio's disaster-recovery program for all Windows' users.

**Second Chance 2.0** – PowerQuest's program to restore your system back to an earlier point in time after a crash for users of Windows 95/98/ME.

**Backup for Workgroups 1.0** – A new backup & disaster-recovery program from Lockstep Systems for small & mid-size businesses using a disk-based backup program with Windows for 3 clients. MSRP=\$299/3 Clients.

**QuicKeys Pro X2** – The “best, most powerful” macro utility for Mac OSX to automate your daily computing tasks with hot keys, powerful toolbars, & timers. From C.E. Software. MSRP=\$80.

**Easy Uninstall 2.0** – Aladdin System's easiest & most complete program uninstaller for Windows operating systems.

**DVD PictureShow for Mac** – Ulead's new digital image creation software to easily & quickly transform digital photos into entertaining slide shows. MSRP=\$30 to download.

**NotePager Pro 3** – Sends SMS and text messages to mobile phones, pagers, and handhelds. For Windows operating systems. Messages can be sent through a modem or the Internet.

**Zoo Tycoon Complete Edition** – A 2003 game from Microsoft. Great for the whole family. MSRP=\$30.

Programs to Download from Vendor's Web Site

**RedBox Organizer 5.0** – Award-winning Personal Information Manager for Windows from Incline Global with a comprehensive set of simple-to-use utilities. MSRP=\$40.

**Watznew 1.9.5** – Award-winning software that regularly checks your favorite web sites & mailboxes & notifies you of changes.

**Sygate's Home Network 4.2 for 6 Users** – The top-notch firewall to pro-

tect your home network.

**Red Earth Software's Policy Patrol 2.5** - Protect yourself against e-mail security threats with virus scanning, spam blocking, and other tools. MSRP=\$350 for 10 users.

**ViraLock** – The first software that prevents the spread of e-mail-borne viruses by preventing them from escaping an infected computer. It is complementary to current anti-virus programs.

**Kaspersky Labs Anti-Hacker 1.0** – A personal firewall from Russia. Designed to ensure reliable defense of home computers from Internet hackers, wherever they are.

**IconLover 1.11** - A great solution for extracting, cataloging, and managing PC computer icons.

**PicaLoader 1.1.8 for Windows** – A fully automated, multi-threaded, link-following, picture-retrieving robot that will retrieve all the pictures you want from any part of the Internet. MSRP=\$39.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

## Preparing a Review Article for the Bytes

*By Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor*

The following suggestions for preparing a review article for the Orange Bytes were extracted from an ORCOPUG article authored by Alan Jarrett and are intended as a guide only. As a reviewer, your audience wants to know your opinion (as an end user) of the product (hardware, software, book) you are reviewing. Please fully identify the product and its cost so that interested club members may be able to purchase it. After you have tested the product consider these questions:

1. What is the product's stated pur-

pose and does it meet it?

2. Within its category of software (i.e., word processor, spreadsheet, database, etc.), does it stand out?

3. What are its major features?

4. Is it easy to use, even for a novice?

5. 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:

### 1. Requirements:

1. Operating systems?

2. Windows?

3. Memory?

4. Disk space?

5. Is a Mouse supported?

### 2. Installation (do not overemphasize details):

1. Was it difficult?

2. Copy or write protected?

3. Does it allow drive and directory selection?

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

### 3. Information about your system:

1. Hardware?

2. Operating system? Version?

3. Memory?

4. Video display?

### 4. Documentation:

1. What is supplied? Manuals (paperback, electronic) Tutorial? Templates? Table of Contents? Index?

2. Was it clear, concise, helpful?

3. Is there a troubleshooting section?

### 5. Product Support:

1. How is the vendor's tech support?

2. Does it cost anything?

3. Is it a toll call?

4. Does the vendor provide Internet support?

### 6. About the product:

1. What comes with the product?

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

3. Version number? Release date?

4. How difficult is the learning curve?

5. Would you buy/use the product?

6. Do you recommend it?

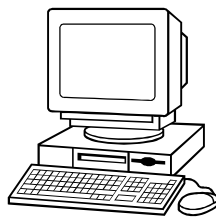
7. What don't you like about it?

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

9. Can the software be downloaded from the vendor's Web site; is there a free trial period before buying?

10. What warranty is there on hardware?

**7. What are the Name, Address, Phone number (including 800#), and WEB address (e-mail & 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 Submittal

Important! Please limit the length of your submittals. We request you limit general articles and software reviews to a maximum of 1300 words, SIG reports to 700 words, book reviews to 600 words, low cost 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. An **expensive** software package (\$300-700) deserves at least 1,300 words. An inexpensive program (\$50 or less) 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 Cathy Margolin (President), Jim Sanders (Publications Chm.), 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 (^C), open your e-mail program, and Edit Paste (^V). 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) between 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. We 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 look forward to seeing your review in print and on the Web site. ■

## Main Meeting

By Eric Saca, NOCCC

2004 started off colorfully with a presentation on Demystifying Inkjet Printing by Don Baker, a gentleman who sells printer supplies and is very experienced with the various printer technologies. His company is called Klassic Specialties.

President Cathy Margolin opened the meeting. Announcements were made and there was a short Random Access.

Herb Wong announced that he was starting a brand new Computer Essentials SIG starting with the February 1st meeting date. It will begin at 9AM and will continue until 12PM. In it, he will be covering very basic issues like navigating Windows, creating documents and spreadsheets, printing, etc. Interested parties can send an e-mail to Herb at [computeressentialssig@noccc.org](mailto:computeressentialssig@noccc.org).

Jim Sanders announced that his FREE PC computer workshop was starting up again January 20th at Santa Ana College (SAC). It covers just about all aspects of personal computing software, hardware, building new machines, upgrading, /fixing machines, and more. It is normally held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8AM-12PM. For further information or to enroll, contact Jim at (714)544-3589.

Cathy announced that at Comdex, our very own Orange Bytes won Second Prize for the best user group newsletter in the world! It was second only to an 11 thousand member user group newsletter from Melbourne, Australia. Thus, our Orange Bytes was judged the best newsletter in America! Thanks to our Editor, Jim Sanders.

She also mentioned that anyone interested in submitting a software or book review for the Bytes should e-mail Ted Littman: [reviews@noccc.org](mailto:reviews@noccc.org).

George Margolin introduced Don Baker who began his presentation by getting a show of hands to see how many in the audience had each brand of printer. Most had either HP or Epson, with HP being slightly more popular. A handful had other brands such as Lexmark and

Canon.

Next, Don explained how inkjet printing is an integrated system, with each part affecting the quality of the printed output. First, the IMAGE/SOURCE needs to be optimized on the computer system. Second, the PRINTER must effectively control the placement of media and distribution of the incredibly small ink droplets. Third, the ink must provide a cost-effective, vivid and reliable presentation. Finally, the MEDIA must be able to complement the ink's presentation of the image/source.

Don then covered the three basic inkjet technologies. Continuous Flow was the original technology, involving multiple print heads and a continuous supply of ink. Thermal (Bubble Jet) uses a print head integrated in each ink cartridge and that print head is replaced every time the cartridge is replaced. This is currently the most popular technology and is commonly used by HP, Lexmark and Canon.

Piezo-Electric is the latest technology, involving a system that provides the greatest control of ink management and placement. This is Epson's main inkjet technology. Its print head is separate from the ink cartridge and thus, cartridges are generally less expensive than for Thermal printers.

Don presented some criteria for selecting a printer. There are three main determinations to make before purchasing a printer. First, what will be its application will it be for home or business; will it be used for text, graphic output or both? Second, what will be the main paper format requirement standard 8.5x11 or will it need to print on something larger or smaller? Third, what speed and resolution quality is desired or needed?

When buying a printer, one of the primary maintenance items to consider is the ink consumption cost. To help us understand that consideration, Don provided a chart comparing the cost of ownership (recent figures) for four major printer brands HP, Epson, Lexmark and Canon. The chart included the initial printer costs, general cost per cartridge from the original printer manufacturer,

cost of compatible cartridges (only available for Epson, Xerox, Brother and some Canon printers), cartridge capacities (ounces) and the cost per ounce. The comparisons were revealing showing the true costs of ink when broken down to price per ounce.

Don clarified some terms regarding photo printers. Camera Ready doesn't necessarily mean that a printer generates high-quality photo output. The term was mainly coined to indicate that a printer has slots for reading some camera memory chips.

Differences in photographic print and color quality can be effected by the number and types of colors used in various printer models by manufacturers. A 6 Color printer generally provides better photo quality than one that has the more common 4 color variety. But, they also use more ink and will generate higher ink costs. Both types of printer use the CMYK subtractive color system which uses cyan, magenta yellow and black cartridges to create the normal gamut of colors of red, green and blue. Printers with 6 colors add separate light cyan and light magenta cartridges in order to enhance and extend color gamut.

Don discussed the various types of ink dye based, pigment-based and archival. Dye-based is the most common and least expensive, but has the shortest archival lifetime before fading. The difference between dye and pigment based ink is analogous to the difference between food coloring and house paint. Archival ink is typically rated to last for decades, but requires printers specially designed for it.

Don suggested avoiding chipped cartridges those carrying computer chips to disable the cartridge when the ink supply drops below a certain level. Typically, you can get considerably more life out of non-chipped cartridges. But that depends on the printer model you choose. Some will ONLY work with chipped cartridges.

He touched briefly on other topics, such as ink refills. He suggested that when choosing a supplier for ink refills, make sure that the supplier provides

documentation indicating their refill s performance relative to the original manufacturer s ink. Valid suppliers should always provide such documentation.

Don concluded with the URL for his website: [www.klassicspecialties.com](http://www.klassicspecialties.com). Once you purchase supplies for your printer off his website, it remembers your printer info so that you do not have to re-enter it the next time you log on.

Don offered a wonderful deal for NOCCC through his website. Members get an automatic 5% discount on purchases and when they buy from Klassic Specialties, Don will make a 5% contribution to NOCCC! For providing such a wonderful deal, Cathy mugged him by presenting him with a genuine NOCCC coffee mug!

The meeting ended with a grand raffle, in which a marvelous photo-quality Epson Stylus C82 printer was won by a lucky member.

The next meeting will be on FEB 1st. We'll have a very timely and interesting presentation by Rich Blumenthal who will demonstrate the latest advances in Voice Recognition Software from Dragon Naturally Speaking, the leader in its field. ■

## Computer Aided Investors SIG



By Bob Krishfield, NOCCC

We have changed our meeting location to Wilkinson 221. This is a "permanent" change.

**Market Review:** We started off the New Year by reviewing market performance of 2003 which was 25 to 50% up across all the major indexes, and positive for all markets for the first time in 4 years. It was the best year ever for the Russell 2000 which is a market proxy for small cap stocks that offer the individual investor very good returns.

This was a year to be invested in stocks, bonds or mutual funds and not in cash – and CAI SIG members who recognized and followed the up trend since March have done well. Charts of the indexes did not reveal any break in the up trend as we closed out 2003, so we can hope for a continuation, at least through the Santa Clause rally (through 2 days into the new year) and the January effect (the first week in January). An overbought condition exists which makes it risky to add new money in the market at this time, but there were no sell signals.

**Discussion:** So what should we expect for 2004? If we can continue an uptrend through January, the January barometer theory says we should have an up market for the entire year. Most feel the largest gains will be in the first half of the year, followed by weak performance in the second half. Most of our members voted that we are expecting an up January. We reviewed sector performance using saved web archive pages from [www.smartmoney.com/sectortracker](http://www.smartmoney.com/sectortracker).

One popular stock investing scheme is the Dogs of the Dow. On the last market day of Dec, one picks 5 stocks from the 10 lowest priced stocks from the Dow 30, having the highest dividend yields. For 2003, these stocks yielded a 27% gain. Some argue that this approach is flawed because not all Dow 30 stocks have dividends and some of the best performing stocks in 2003 would have been omitted (e.g. Intel and Home Depot). The picks for 2004 using the traditional dividend method include AT&T, SBC, GE, JP Morgan, and Exon Mobile.

**System Review:** The Heads Up and Turtle System was presented as an approach for investing in mutual funds, ETFs and low volatility stocks. This system uses the FastTrack data base and the Trade script, [heads up.ini](http://home.earthlink.net/~dex/f/), available on the web (<http://home.earthlink.net/~dex/f/>). You'll need Trade, free software developed by Ed Gilbert (<http://pages.prodigy.net/eyg/trade>) that runs script against the data base and produces several ranked listings from a list of funds input. The lists make it easy to pick which funds are "buys" or "sells." The method was developed based on 1997 work of

Don Beasley which showed small caps achieved greater returns than large caps when the NASDAQ was the dominant market. This work was extended into Beasley's market analysis that made a score from many indicators for tops/bottoms, momentum and breadth. He developed a momentum indicator, the RSI/Stochastic, which he used as the primary ranking tool for picking funds from a list, applying thresholds for buying and selling. Other indicators used in scoring the Headsup picks include price oscillator, trend above 50day MA, and a Turtle buy signal. The Turtle system was incorporated as a independent confirmation system and a buy signal occurs when an new one month high is achieved, and a sell when the price drops below the 10 day low. Applying the Heads Up system to a few different funds over 7 years resulted in 10X to 12X profits (i.e. \$125,000 from a \$10,000 initial investment). A handout was provided to the SIG and is available on the [websitehome.socal.rr.com/bobkrish](http://websitehome.socal.rr.com/bobkrish). For those who don't run FastTrack, Chas Richards provides a premium service for a \$200/yr fee on the web at [www.lowrisk.com/headsup-premium.htm](http://www.lowrisk.com/headsup-premium.htm). ■

## Macintosh SIG



By John Willner, NOCCC  
[willner@earthlink.net](mailto:willner@earthlink.net)

The question was asked what information was to be gathered at MacWorld next week that would benefit our group. The first one, of course, was, "What is the schedule for G5 operating system features and application releases that will take advantage of the expanded 64-bit word size?" We are interested in those items that will have such compelling advantages that we will want to give up on our 32-bit versions and buy them. A second question was, "What will the new ipod features consist

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## Macintosh SIG *from page 26*

of, and whether there are solutions to reported battery problems in some units.” A third question centers around what Apple and third party offerings are most viable with regard to wireless communications—especially since some products work part of the time, and misbehave at other times. Several scenarios were described in which routers worked once, but failed to respond after power was turned off and then back on again.

We had a general discussion on Safari, Internet Explorer and other internet servers. Microsoft is giving up on making further changes to Internet Explorer, the reason being that Apple has come out with a competitor in Safari. That may prove to be highly advantageous, since no further changes should enhance stability and reliability. Meanwhile, the state of flux with Java has caused some hiccups with Safari. In general it is nicer to use, but has been found to be incompatible when used to transfer data to and from certain sites. The upgrade from OS 10.2 to 10.3 raised certain issues, and it is important to stay up to date with the latest Safari and Java releases.

[Http://www.lowcostmac.com](http://www.lowcostmac.com) was mentioned as an interesting site that discusses problem areas for specific models of older machines. There is always the question of when, or if, to upgrade, especially when a new carpet has to be considered. The consensus was that no new Macintosh is recommended for purchase unless it contains at least a G4 processor. On the other hand, progress is so rapid that older perfectly good computers are very inexpensive today.

With the general reliability of Macintosh computers being as high as it is, we rarely have to buy replacement parts, with the exception of RAM and hard drives that need to be expanded. Once in a while somebody need to replace a power supply, for example. Therefore, we talked about local and out-of-state sources that have proved to be good in the past. For information the Apple Stores have proved to be outstanding. Reports were given of

certain local Apple-only stores that were impressive.

At the next meeting we will have product sheets, show stoppers and other goodies to hand out. ■

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## Office Suites

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*By John Heenan, NOCCC,  
jc\_heenana@ware.com*

### Office Suite moving

Office Suites is moving to Science Room 306 beginning February 1, 2004, at the usual time of 11:15 AM.

### The Master Document.

One of our members from last month asked a question about how he could control the size of a book and have all the chapters retain the same format. Back ten years ago, when I wrote a user guide for a General Ledger module, I used some hyperlinks to locate the chapters. At the time, I had to find a way to keep the size of the document with lots of graphics from getting so large, so, this worked out to be a good solution. That is all I could offer on the spur of the moment, because I had not worked with large documents in Word since then.

But Word has changed since the early '90s, 'cuz MS made it easier to manage large documents. Over the past month, I had to do a little research on how Word would do this. I found that the keywords to this exercise are Master and Document. A Master Document is a document that contains a set of related documents. It can be used to organize and maintain a long document by dividing it into smaller, more manageable subdocuments. For example, use a master document to organize chapters of a book. In a workgroup, store a master document on a network to share ownership of a document by dividing it into individual subdocuments that can be worked on simultaneously by different users.

To create a Master Document, open the document in Outline view. The basic commands of Outline view are Promote

and Demote, and Expand and Collapse. These command icons are found on the left of the Outline toolbar. However, the Promote and Demote commands can be exercised quite easily by dragging the icon that is left of the line either right or left. Sections of the outline can be moved up or down by selecting the section and dragging its icon up or down in the document.

The commands and toolbar icons to control a Master Document are found to the right of the Outline toolbar. Once the outline is created with the title at the first level of the outline and chapters at the second level, we return to the Page Layout view to format the first 2 levels. Notice the View icons on left end of the horizontal slide bar that make it easy to switch views.

Once in Page Layout view, notice that the text format style is not necessarily the same as the outline Style. Select the title line, and format the font type and size that is desirable for the title page. Format the paragraph style with Alignment | Centered, and Spacing | Before (After) depending on the amount of text you want to include on the title page.

Now, highlight a chapter title. Format this line in similar fashion to the book title. While formatting the paragraph style, select the Line and Page Breaks tab, and check “page break before”, because you probably want each chapter to start on a new page. With the line still highlighted, select the Heading 2 from the style box on the Formatting Toolbar. You will see a Modify Style dialog box. Check “Update the style to reflect recent changes”. The changes you made to the current line will be reflected in the other lines at this level. Thus, all chapter titles will have the same format and the formatting will be consistent for each chapter. Follow this procedure for all other significant levels in the outline. Then return to the Outline view.

Here is where we separate each chapter into separate files that can be opened individually in Word. First, double click on the plus sign of the title line to collapse the entire outline. A second double click may be necessary if

the outline was not fully expanded. Click the Plus in the tool bar to expand one level. With only the chapter headings (Level 2) displayed, click the Plus to the left of the first chapter heading. Find the Create Subdocument icon on the right side of the Outline Toolbar and click it. Notice that a box has formed around that portion of the outline, and a document icon appears in the upper left corner. Repeat for each of the chapter headings. When you click on the Collapse Subdocument icon, you will see file references to each chapter of the text. Each file can be edited on its own without need to open the entire document.

We will review this again next month  
**Variable Price Schedule**

Last month a suggestion was made to enhance the pricing of an order in our Order Entry project. The objective, during the entry of a product on an order, is to select a price of a product based upon a quantity price break and to determine if there is a current sale price for the product. This process is to be automated as the quantity for the order is entered. The table to support this would contain the Product ID, Quantity, Price, and Sales-End date.

The first step is to create a test database, so that we can test Variable Price table without affecting the working pricing logic of the existing db. In our test db, we import the Order Detail Subform, where the product Id, and quantity are entered. The form's supporting tables, the Product and Order Details tables, are also imported. Delete any records that may be contained in the Order Details table. Next, create a Variable Price table with Product ID, Quantity, Price, and Effective Date, and fill with price data.

The second step is to design a query of the Variable Price table. In order to keep the query simple, we will exclude the logic for the Sales Date Effectively for another meeting. For now, we will we will make sure that our program logic satisfies the price selection based on a quantity break. The query is designed so to contain all of the field objects in the Variable Price table. The record selection criteria of the query are: one,

the Product ID of record(s) selected must match the Product Id on the Order Details Subform, and two, the quantity of the table must be less than the quantity entered in the Order Detail Subform. At this point, there may be more than one record in the query. The remaining logic, which is to choose the record in this query with the largest quantity, is left to an event procedure change in the Order Detail Subform.

Thirdly, we made changes to the Order Details SubForm. Because the price is now dependent on both the Product ID and the quantity, the tab order of quantity and price needed to be rearranged on the detail line. Then, the original VB procedure for pricing the product from the Product table was removed. And lastly, the lookup to the maximum quantity in the Variable Price query was added as an event procedure when tabbing into the price field of the Order Details Subform. It works. More on this next month. Stay tuned.

Next Month • Science 306

Review of Master Documents  
Variable Price Schedule II ■

## Computer Essentials SIG

*By Herbert Wong, Jr., NOCCC, SIG Leader*

The new Computer Essentials SIG is the gateway to the world of computers. If the digital realm perplexes you (or someone you know), the North Orange County Computer Club now has a solution for you.

Each monthly session will introduce the essentials of using a computer. Each month you will learn essential computer operations, an essential application, and an essential hardware component.

Over the course of our meetings,

you'll learn about the correct way to use a mouse and keyboard, text editing, word processing, file management, anti-virus scanners, spreadsheets, taking care of your computer, fonts, web browsing (surfing the Internet), newsgroups (UseNet), printing, scanning, file formats, rip audio CDs to MP3s, burn CDs, downloading Internet files, installing file updates, and much more.

**Session one** on Sunday, February 1, 2004 (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Science 111) will be crucial to understanding everything that follows.

First, you will learn how to operate a computer. We will start at physical safety and properly starting and shutting down the operating system. This includes plugging it in and turning on the power, what the startup screens are, shutting down, and launching applications. A brief introduction to computer hardware components will follow.

You will learn to identify the objects and features that you see on the monitor, the correct way to use a mouse and keyboard, fundamentals of navigation, and manipulation of objects. The primary focus will be learning the basics of text editing (such as selecting, copying, deleting, inserting, etc.). Then, you will be introduced to elementary word processing fundamentals, formatting paragraphs, fonts, margins, and much more.

**Session two** on Sunday, March 7, 2004 (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Science 111) will start with a brief review of February's topics. New material will cover basic file concepts. These include file formats (executable, data, plain text, formatted text, spreadsheet, image, video, music, etc.), properties, and manipulation. You will learn essential file operations such as copying, deleting, moving, opening, etc.

The primary focus will be on the file manager application (such as Microsoft's Windows Explorer). Although there are changes to the various versions, we will examine in depth the features of Windows XP Windows Explorer.

**Session three** on Sunday, April 4, 2004 (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Science 111) will focus on Microsoft Internet Explorer

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## 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	111	9:00	Joe Mizer	jmizer@earthlink.net	909-688-9848
Computer Aided Investing	Wilkinson	211	9:30	Bob Krishfield	bobkrish@socal.rr.com	714-532-3096
Computer Security	Science	203	11:15	Dave Keays	rdksoft@sbcglobal.net	714-821-4792
Digital Photography	Irvine Hall		2:30	Jack Donan	jfdonan@sbcglobal.net	714-633-4084
Genealogy	Science	111	2:30	John Johnson	jrosjohnson@juno.com	714-991-3314
Hardware Essentials	Science	306	9:30	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
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	714-634-7520
Linux for Server Administrators	Wilkinson	210	10:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux Programming Concepts	Wilkinson	210	11:15	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Macintosh	Wilkinson	221	11:15	John Willner	Willner@earthlink.net	714-838-1434
New Technology	Irvine Hall	—	9:30	George Margolin	Inventor@pobox.com	949-645-5950
Office Suites	Science	111	11:15	John Heenan	jc_heen@csi.com	714-998-7660
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@adelphia.net	714-529-9071
Visual Programming I	Science	109	8:30	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming II	Science	109	9:00	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming III	Science	109	10:00	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming IV	Science	109	11:15	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
				Please report SIG changes to	Herbert Wong, Jr. OCUG@SingularityTechnology.com	714-968-7264

## Computer Essentials CONTINUED FROM PG 23

as a web browser for surfing the Internet. In addition, you will learn how to locate and install software updates (such as Windows updates from Microsoft's web site).

**Session four** on Sunday, May 2, 2004 (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Science 111) will focus on email applications. You will learn how to use web browser based email programs (such as hotmail.com). You will also learn about the advantages of using POP3 email applications (such as Eudora Pro, Microsoft Outlook, etc.), how to install, and how to configure them.

**Session five** in June 2004 will focus on newsgroups (UseNet) and applications (ex. Forte Inc.'s Agent). UseNet is a highly under utilized means of corresponding and researching on the Internet.

Of course, the above schedule is subject to change as we assess interest and pacing. There are no prerequisites. Access to a computer between meetings would be beneficial.

Please e-mail ComputerEssentialsSIG@noccc.org (or CESIG@noccc.org) if you plan to attend. Please include a little information about yourself, such as your computer experience, what kind of computer you use, what operating system you use, and any other information that might be of interest to you. Tell your friends, too! ■

## PC Q&A SIG

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC

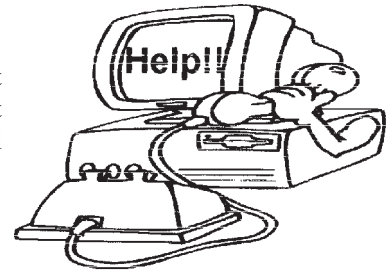
The show and tell this month was the combination of the LG electronics DVD burner, GSA-4081B, and the ADS Technology video capture product, Instant DVD 2.0. The burner is interesting in that you can search LG websites world wide and they do not admit to making the product as of 1-16-04. This is a strange way of doing business as I bought my unit two weeks ago and Google gets 127 hits on that part number. The Instant DVD 2.0 really is a USB V2.0 device, unlike the the Belkin USB Videobus II which is actually USB V1.0 and limited to 320x200 resolution.

Both units install easily and worked without problems. The burner comes with a suite of software, the ADS unit comes with a suite of software, and I already had the Pinnacle Studio 8 software. So far I have learned that it is easy to just copy a tape to DVD. Editing is next months project. ■



# 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 [editor@noccc.org](mailto:editor@noccc.org) with additions, deletions, or corrections.



AI  
Amiga  
Apple  
Apple II  
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Corel Draw  
Excel(IBM)  
[goodnewsent@compu](mailto:goodnewsent@compu)  
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Quicken Home &  
Business 2000, 2001  
[goodnewsent@compu](mailto:goodnewsent@compu)  
Powerpoint  
Realtime Control  
Robotics  
Tcl/Tk  
Unix  
Windows 9X  
Windows 9X  
Windows 2000  
Word  
Word  
WordPerfect

**The Help Line is available in the printed version of the Orange Bytes which is mailed to members.**

## FREE AD SPACE

If you are an NOCCC member, and have a computer-related, non-commercial ad that you would like to have placed on the Internet, visit the *Classified Ads* section of our website at: [www.noccc.org](http://www.noccc.org) or contact Jim Sanders at [jsanders@ligasmicro.com](mailto:jsanders@ligasmicro.com)

Club members are also welcome to post **“Wanted”** or **“For Sale”** notices on the kiosk, but please do not tape them on doors, windows, or walls.



New volunteers for the Help Line would be appreciated!  
If you have an area of expertise to share, let us know.

## Products Available For Review *from 18*

**Vicman's Photo Editor Pro 7.0** – A powerful, easy-to-use photo editor from Russia with an intuitive, skin-based interface & lots of powerful features. MSRP=\$30.

## Books Currently Available for Review:

**Faster Smarter Microsoft Office System 2003 Ed.** – A good introduction to the new office software. Authored by Katherine Murray from Microsoft Press. MSRP=\$20.

**Microsoft Office Systems 2003 Ed. Step By Step** – The smartest ay for beginners & intermediate computerists to learn the new office software. Book + CD from Microsoft Press. MSRP=\$40.

**Interprocess Communications in Linux** – The definitive guide to Linux processes and IPF for programmers and system administrators by John S. Gray from Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$50.

**Managing Linux Systems with Webmin** – System Administration & Module Development by Jamie Cameron from Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$45.

**PC Hardware in a Nutshell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.** – O'Reilly's comprehensive guide to buying, building, upgrading, and repairing PCs. A desktop quick reference. MSRP=\$40.

**Upgrading Your PC, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.** – New Riders book + DVD authored by Mark Soper. A good reference if you are planning to enhance your PC. MSRP=\$25.

**Modern Cryptography Theory & Practice** – From Prentice Hall & authored by Wenbo Mao, an indispensable book for tech pros who implement strong security in real-world apps. Hardcover. MSRP=\$55.

**Implementing CIFS, the Common Internet File System** – An authoritative guide to the inner workings of Microsoft's Internet/intranet file sharing system from Prentice Hall authored by Christopher Hertel. MSRP=\$45.

**TiVo Hacks** – Another O'Reilly Hacks book. This one is on getting the most from your TiVo personal video recorder. MSRP=\$25.

**The Art of UNIX Programming** – Authored by Eric Raymond from Addison-Wesley, this book bring together philosophy, design patterns, tools, culture, and traditions for this best & most innovative software. MSRP=\$40.

**Next Generation Application Integration** – From simple information to Web services, this book by David Linthicum from Addison-Wesley is an indispensable resource for those responsible for managing or implementing application-integration middleware. MSRP=\$40.

**Open Source Network Administration** – Author James Kretchmar from MIT presents an extraordinary collection of open source tools for streamlining and improving virtually every facet of network administration. Publisher is Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$45.

**J2EE Security for Servlets, EJBs, and Web Services** – This book by Pankaj Kumar from Prentice Hall is the definitive guide to securing server-side Java and covers every significant J2SE and J2EE security mechanism. MSRP=\$50.

**Effective XML** – Elliotte Harold's book from Addison-Wesley on 50 specific ways for developers to improve XML. MSRP=\$45.

**The Effective Incident Response Team** – An Addison-Wesley book by Julie Lucas & Brian Moeller. A complete guide for network administrators & managers on dealing with computer attacks by intruders, worms, & viruses. MSRP=\$40.

**Real 802.11 Security, Wi-Fi Protected Access & 802.11i** – An Addison-Wesley book by Jon Edney & William Arbaugh provides what you need to know on wireless LAN security. MSRP=\$45.

**.Net Security & Cryptography** – A book from Addison-Wesley by Peter Thorsteinson & G. Ganesh provides practical & comprehensive coverage on implementing cryptography and security in the Microsoft .Net platform. MSRP=\$50.

**How Secure is Your Wireless Network?** – A Prentice-Hall book by Lee Barken; a practical guide to securing any wireless LAN. MSRP=\$35.

**The Official Samba-3 How To and Reference Guide** – This book is part of Bruce Perens' "Open Source" series. Authored by John Terpstra & Jelmer Vernooij, this is the practical, authoritative, step-by-step guide to cutting IT costs with Samba-3. From Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$50.

If you would like me to try to obtain a specific product (software, hardware, or book) to review, please contact me by phone or e-mail me:

Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor  
(714) 779-1936 tedlit@adelphia.net




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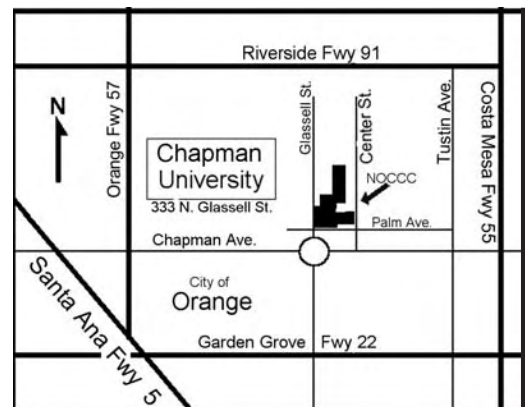
- **Meetings.** Keep up with what's going on in the computer world. Hear outstanding industry representatives make presentations of the latest and greatest in computer products.
- **Special Interest Groups.** Our 20 SIGs cover a broad spectrum of user interest; they invite you, whether you rank as beginner 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. 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, write articles for our newsletter, conducting a seminar, running a SIG, manning the help desk, showing new members around, help the membership committee, 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, Reviews Desk, Consignment Table, 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 Desk 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!



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