

# Orange Bytes

Award-Winning Newsletter of the North Orange County Computer Club\*

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DECEMBER 2008

## Main Meeting, December 7th Speaker Announcement to be E-mailed

A firm commitment for a speaker has not yet been obtained as of publication of this newsletter. Several options are being pursued. Members will be notified via the regular monthly email prior to the meeting. But remember, we will still be auctioning off a refurbished computer with an Intel Celeron 2.80 GHz CPU. See page 3 for more information

The **NOCCC Consignment Table** will be set up during the December 2008 meeting.  
**E-Waste** will also be collected by Omni Technics, Inc. (See Page 5)

## NOCCC Meeting - November 2nd

### 9:00 a.m.

**Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook..... Science 109**  
Topics about these three parts of the Microsoft Office Suite

**Linux for Desktop Users ..... Science 131a**  
Topics about the Linux operating system  
Beginners Q in here

**Visual Programming ..... Science 111**  
Visual Basic, Visual Basic Script, Visual C++ and Visual J++ for beginners

### 10:30 a.m.

**Microsoft Access ..... Science 109**  
Queries

**Beginners PC Q & A (New SIG!)..... Irvine Hall**  
Beginners questions about PCs

**Digital Photography ..... Science 127**  
Features of new digital cameras

**Linux for Advanced Users ..... Science 131a**  
Topics about the Linux operating system

**Internet Today ..... Science 306**  
Check the posted schedule to see if this SIG will be meeting

**Understanding Operating Systems ..... Science 111**  
Help with DOS, Windows, OS/2, etc

### 12:00 Noon

**PIG SIG..... Argyros Cafeteria**  
Lunch and conversation

### 12:30 p.m.

**PC Q & A..... Irvine Hall**  
Q & A about PCs

**2:00 p.m. Main Meeting, Irvine Hall**

NOCCC website:  
<http://www.noccc.org>

Meeting Dates in 2009  
Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar 1, Apr. 5 and May 3



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## Orange Bytes Staff

**Publication Chairman** - Oversees publication tasks and converts the Orange Bytes newsletter to PDF for printing and web posting; transmits PDF to Printer.  
Ted Littman ..... (714) 779-1936, tedlit@roadrunner.com

**Editor** - Edits and makes final selections of the articles to be included in the newsletter.  
Steven Breitbart ..... (714) 373-5249, editor@noccc.org

**Associate Editor/Production** - Receives articles from the editor and lays out the issue of the newsletter.  
Steven Breitbart ..... (714) 373-5249, editor@noccc.net

**Circulation** - Oversees mailing and distribution of the newsletter.  
Richard Miller..... (714) 309-1504, rrrmil@yahoo.com

**Reviews Editor** - Communicates with the vendors and members who evaluate products and write reviews. Makes sure members meet deadlines. Sends a copy of the newsletter to vendors of products we review.  
Ted Littman ..... (714) 779-936, reviews@noccc.org

**Copy Editor** - Does final proof reading of the newsletter for typos and misspellings.  
Ted Littman ..... (714) 779-1936, reviews@noccc.org

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The following positions are available:

**Contributing Editors** - Write articles for the newsletter. **Open**

**Commercial Swap Meets** - Distributes the newsletter and NOCCC flyers at swap meets. **Open**

**Commercial Advertising** - Obtains ads from vendors for the newsletter. **Open**

**Classified Advertising** - Obtains computer-related, non-commercial ads for the newsletter **free** to NOCCC members. **Open**

***Celebrating 32 years of  
“Friends Helping Friends”***

## December 7th Main Meeting

2 p.m. Irvine Hall

A firm commitment has not yet been obtained on a speaker for the December meeting. Several options are being pursued. Members will be notified via the regular monthly email prior to the meeting. If you have any suggestions, please notify Jim Sanders.

## PC Up for Auction

A refurbished Hewlett Packard a410n will be auctioned at the Main Meeting on December 7th, 2008. It includes the PC, keyboard, monitor and mouse. The specifications are:

- Intel Celeron 2.80 GHz CPU, 400 MHz bus speed
- 512 MB DDR SDRAM
- 80 GB Ultra ATA hard drive
- CD-RW; DVD-ROM and floppy drives
- 56 kbps modem and 10-/100 Mbps Base-T Ethernet
- Microsoft Windows XP Pro and Microsoft Office XP Basic
- 17" LCD Display



It is estimated that the value of this computer system exceeds \$200. The opening bid will be \$50 and bids will increment in amounts of \$5.

## NOCCC Bylaws Revision Vote

**The Rules Committee has met and prepared a proposed revision to the Club Bylaws, last modified Sept. 7, 1997. A 2 p.m. vote by attending members will be held at the Jan. 4, 2009 Main Meeting in Irvine Hall. A copy of the proposed revision will be emailed to all members whose email addresses we have. The revision also can be viewed at:**

[http://www.noccc.org/bylaws/proposed\\_revised\\_noccc\\_9-97\\_bylaws.pdf](http://www.noccc.org/bylaws/proposed_revised_noccc_9-97_bylaws.pdf)

**We urge all members to review the Bylaws, attend the January meeting, and VOTE!**

## President's Message

*By Jim Sanders, NOCCC President*

Those of us who attended the November meeting now know quite a bit more about eBay and the United States Postal Service. Sandy Frankel started our education with an introduction to the eBay song - a funny little ditty that you can find online if you missed it. I had kind of wondered why the United States Postal Service was putting on a presentation about eBay, however, after seeing some of the figures, such as the fact that the **United States Postal Service processes over 900,000 eBay packages a day**, it's not hard to see and understand the enlightened self interest. The tips about how to use the free services that they offer to make even more profit from your sales on eBay were very interesting. As Sandy is both a seller and a buyer, her enthusiasm for the process was quite evident.



Next month, December, will be our Christmas meeting month. Your Board of Directors thought it would be an appropriate month for someone to pick up a new, well, used, computer. Gordon Eng, President of Omni Technics Inc. is providing the P4 CPU based system. You can find the details elsewhere in this publication. This computer will be auctioned at the December meeting. The opening bid will be \$50.00 and the bid increments will be \$5.00. It is estimated that the value of this computer system exceeds \$200.00. So if you or someone you know is in need of a computer, this is a good opportunity to get that Christmas present.

November marked the beginning of an effort by the club to reintroduce Special Interest Groups that are oriented towards the beginning and novice computer user. The [Beginner Q&A SIG](#) is the first in what is hoped to be several SIGs in this category. The attendance at this first effort was gratifying, and the participants seem to get value out of attending. It is hoped that long-term members of the club will help in establishing at least a couple more Beginners SIGs, or other SIGs that have subjects that are of interest to members in general.

The board of directors has been involved in updating and modifying the bylaws of the North Orange County Computer Club. After discussing a number of needed changes to the bylaws, the Rules Committee and Board of Directors have settled on several changes. Those changes will be presented to the general membership in November and December. You may view the proposed changes via the link to our web site provided elsewhere on this page. A vote on those changes will be held at the January 2009 meeting.

**I would like to acknowledge what may be a first for NOCCC. Jean G. Soltys, a club member since 1986, and recently deceased, has included NOCCC in his will. I can think of no higher compliment for the work that the club tries to do. Although I knew Jean, who most knew as Gene, I didn't know him well enough to do even a short eulogy. If you did, please contact me.**

# Membership 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.)

## User Group Offers - Software and Hardware

**Corel** - Use the following link for special pricing for user group members: [www.corel.com/specialusergroups](http://www.corel.com/specialusergroups)

- WordPerfect Office X3 for \$159
- CorelDRAW Graphics Suite X3 for \$179
- Corel Painter IX.5 for \$229
- Paint Shop Pro Photo XI for \$59
- Snap Fire Plus for \$29

**Laplink** - [www.laplink.com](http://www.laplink.com) - Laplink’s Everywhere 4 is a great remote computer control and access program. PCmover is a program for moving all of your applications, settings, and data files from an old PC to a new PC. Members of an APCUG affiliated user group can get discount of 30% by using coupon code APCUG.

**Techsmith** - You can get SnagIt, a screen capture program, and Camtasia Studio, to quickly record, edit and publish multimedia demos and presentations, bundle for \$269, a \$50 savings. Go to: [www.techsmith.com/store/order/bundle.asp](http://www.techsmith.com/store/order/bundle.asp) and use promotion code **PRESBN05**.

**Kingston Memory Products** - Many different types of memory products are available at a discount to members of APCUG affiliated clubs. Go to [www.shop.kingston.com/swug](http://www.shop.kingston.com/swug) and use the password “computeroutlook”

**ZoomWare** - Ai Squared is pleased to introduce ZoomWare, revolutionary new software that magnifies and enhances everything on your computer screen. It’s perfect for those who squint at the computer screen and lean in to read the fine print. Members of APCUG clubs (NOCCC is one of them) can get a 20% discount! Normally ,the download version is \$149, but with the discount it is just \$119. A CD version is also available for \$140, which is a \$35 savings and ships within 3 to 5 business days. To take advantage of your special APCUG member discount, simply purchase ZoomWare online at [www.GetZoomWare.com](http://www.GetZoomWare.com) and enter the following code at checkout: APCUG08. Learn more or get a free trial version at [www.GetZoomWare.com](http://www.GetZoomWare.com).

## User Group Offers - Books and Magazines

**Pearson Education Products including Prentice Hall Professional, Addison-Wesley Professional, IBM Press, Exam Cram, Que Publishing, and Cisco Press.** Get 35% off list price by purchasing directly from the publisher combo site: [www.informit.com/join](http://www.informit.com/join). Sign in or create an account. Enter the membership code “USERGROUP” (all caps). Select your items and check out. You are required to register and apply the code once, but you must be logged in to receive the special pricing.

**O’Reilly Books** - Get 35% off all books and PDFs from O’Reilly, No Starch, Paraglyph, PC Publishing, Pragmatic Bookshelf, SitePoint, or Syngress books you purchase directly from O’Reilly. Just use code **DSUG** when ordering online, [www.oreilly.com/store/](http://www.oreilly.com/store/), or by phone, (800) 998-9938. Free ground shipping on orders \$29.95 or more in the US. If for any reason you are not completely satisfied with your purchase, return it to O’Reilly and get your money back ([www.oreilly.com/oreilly/cs/guarantee](http://www.oreilly.com/oreilly/cs/guarantee)). A return shipping label is included with every direct purchase and directions are posted online in case you misplace it.

**Peachpit Press Books Discount** - Get 35% off by joining the Peachpit Club. Go to [www.peachpit.com](http://www.peachpit.com) to sign up as a member. User group members should note that once you’ve become a Peachpit Club member, you may use your user group coupon code ON TOP of the permanent savings you earn as a member of the club. Just log into the site before you make a purchase to ensure this permanent discount will be in effect, and then enter coupon code **UE-23AA-PEUF** (case-sensitive) at checkout! This coupon code is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes. The offer applies to all titles at peachpit.com including New Riders, Macromedia Press, Adobe Press, and Peachpit Press.

**Smart Computing** - [www.smartcomputing.com](http://www.smartcomputing.com) For each paid membership (subscription to either Smart Computing or Computer Power User) via personalized membership forms or by telephone, the NOCCC will receive one credit. When the NOCCC has accumulated 5 credits, Smart Computing will donate one subscription to us (Great to use as an opportunity drawing prize or a “thank you” to a member, etc.) Call customer service at (800) 733-3809 and tell them you are with the North Orange County Computer Club. If you go to their website to subscribe, click on User Groups and there is a drop down menu with our group’s name on it.

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## THE CLUB OPPORTUNITY DRAWINGS

### *SPECIAL AUCTION OF A REFURBISHED PC*

*See page 3 for more information*

### **GENERAL DRAWING PRIZES:**

- 1) Easy Computer Basics book
- 2) Create Your Own Website
- 3) Keyboard or Paragon software

**MEMBERS ONLY DRAWING PRIZES:** (Wear your NOCCC Membership Badge and get a free ticket!)

- 1) The Truth About ID Theft book
- 2) The Truth About Email Marketing book
- 3) Keyboard or Paragon software



## Consignment Table and e-Waste Collection

The NOCCC Consignment Table will be set up during the December 2008 meeting. E-Waste will also be collected by Omni Technics, Inc.

- 1) 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 the NOCCC 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) **You can fill out a Consignment Table User List and item tags at the table:**  
The user list and each tag must contain:
  - a) Seller's name
  - b) Seller's NOCCC membership number
  - c) Item name and description
  - d) Item asking price
- 4) All items and/or money may be picked up by the seller at any time, but no later than 2 p.m. on the day of sale. Any items and/or money not picked up by 2 p.m. will become the property of NOCCC and will be subject to disposal at the Club's discretion.
- 5) California disposal laws have made it illegal to put monitors and computers in the regular trash. If you have a display or computer that doesn't sell, you must agree to pick these items up. The club has no storage room available for unsold items.
- 6) 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.

## NOCCC Officers

The area code for the following phone numbers is 714 unless noted.

### President

Jim Sanders ..... 544-3589 ..... president@noccc.org

### Vice President

Steven Breitbart ..... 373-5249 ..... smbreibart@verizon.net

### Secretary

Mary Cornett ..... 995-5551 ..... ladyluck0077@sbcglobal.net

### Treasurer

John Heenan ..... 998-7660 ..... treasurer@noccc.org

### Directors

Tom Feeley ..... 730-9333 ..... tomfeeley@sbcglobal.net

Dallas Hazleton ..... 526-1592 ..... ghazleton4@dslextre.com

Chuck Hower ..... 637-7884 ..... wolfcollar@aol.com

Ted Littman ..... 779-1936 ..... tedlit@roadrunner.com

Bob Love ..... 573-9876 ..... wb9plg@sbcglobal.net

Richard Miller ..... 309-1504 ..... rrrmil@yahoo.com

Len Prince ..... 526-7881 ..... lenprince@sbcglobal.net

Gerry Resch ..... 772-6667 ..... gerry@gerryresch.com

### Editor

Steven Breitbart ..... 373-5249 ..... editor@noccc.org

### Webmaster

Open

### Volunteers, Committees, and Projects

#### Consignment Table

Richard Miller ..... 309-1504 ..... rrrmil@yahoo.com

#### Helpline

Ted Littman ..... 779-1936 ..... tedlit@roadrunner.com

#### Membership Database

John Heenan ..... 998-7660 ..... treasurer@noccc.org

#### Membership Chairman

Open

#### SIG Coordinator

Open

#### Programs/Speakers Coordinator

Open

#### Public Relations

Open

#### University Liaison

Jim Sanders ..... 544-3589 ..... president@noccc.org



## NOCCC Help line

The Help Line is in the true spirit of the NOCCC, which is to help others to learn more about computers. The following is a list of Help Line subjects that a NOCCC volunteer is able to help you with. Call (714) 779-1936 or e-mail Ted Littman at [helpline@noccc.org](mailto:helpline@noccc.org) with additions, deletions, or corrections.

Apple II  
 AutoCAD  
 CPU Aided Investing  
 Computer Boards  
 Computer Security  
 Corel Draw  
 Corel Draw  
 Desktop Publishing  
 Digital Photography  
 Excel  
 GPS Navigation  
 Linux  
 Lotus 1-2-3  
 Memory/Interrupts  
 Microsoft Office  
 Pinnacle Studio  
 Photoediting  
 Photoediting & Pshop  
 Photoshop  
 QuickBooks - all ver.  
 QBooks 5 & Quicken  
 Tcl/Tk & UNIX  
 Vista  
 Windows 9X & XP  
 Wireless



*The names of our volunteers are only available in the printed version of the Orange Bytes.*

## SIG leaders list

Contact the SIG leaders by e-mail, preferably, rather than by telephone.

SIG	BLDG	RM.	TIME	LEADER	E-MAIL	PHONE
Linux for Desktop/Advanced	Science.....	131A	9:00/10:30	Bob Ray.....	<a href="mailto:bobrobo@dialup4less.com">bobrobo@dialup4less.com</a>	(714) 634-7520
Visual Programming	Science.....	111	9:00	Anson Chapman.....	<a href="mailto:aeccrcss@hotmail.com">aeccrcss@hotmail.com</a>	(909) 860-9515
Word, Excel and Outlook	Science.....	109	9:00	Tia Williams .....	<a href="mailto:llwilliams_00@yahoo.com">llwilliams_00@yahoo.com</a>	(714) 263-6105
Access	Science.....	109	10:30	Bob Dickson .....	<a href="mailto:robertbdickson@socal.rr.com">robertbdickson@socal.rr.com</a>	(714) 539-1304
Internet Today	Science.....	203	10:30	Dave Keays .....	<a href="mailto:dave@rdksoftware.com">dave@rdksoftware.com</a>	(714) 348-9096
Digital Photography	Irvine Hall.....	---	10:30	Larry Klees .....	<a href="mailto:lklee@dslextreme.com">lklee@dslextreme.com</a>	(714) 879-6405
Understanding OS's	Science.....	111	10:30	Charlie Moore.....	<a href="mailto:mooreca@adelphia.net">mooreca@adelphia.net</a>	(714) 529-9071
PC Q&A	Irvine Hall.....	---	12:30	Jim Sanders .....	<a href="mailto:jsanders@ligasmicro.com">jsanders@ligasmicro.com</a>	(714) 544-3589
	Please report SIG changes to Jim Sanders .....				<a href="mailto:president@noccc.org">president@noccc.org</a>	(714) 544-3589

## Ted's Stuff

By Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

In this column, I share with my fellow NOCCC members and other readers, those links that I have found to interesting and useful web sites as well tips and ideas on computing that I come across and suggestions from NOCCC members.



### PC Magazine Buying Guide

August 21, 2008 Newsletter

Everything you need to know about printers:

- **Roadworthy Printers**  
(<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2328007,00.asp>)
- **All About Inkjets**  
(<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2321489,00.asp>)
- **Expert View: Why Your Printer Just Died**  
(<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2327092,00.asp>)
- **Bargain Hunt: Color Laser Printers**  
(<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2328474,00.asp>)

### Steve Bass Newsletter

Steve, along with a bunch of other folks, has been fired from PC World magazine, but his email newsletters will continue.

#### 9-23-08 Issue

##### Magazines Online

Steve points us to a site called **MyMagazines** (<http://www.mymagazines.com/>) that reproduces copies of PC Today, Smart Computing, Scientific American, and lots more.

### Windows Secrets Newsletter

9-18-08 (<http://windowssecrets.com/comp/080918>)

##### Password Managers

<http://windowssecrets.com/2008/09/18/04>Password-managers-keep-your-login-data-handly>

Scott Dunn rates a bunch of free and low-cost programs to help you store and organize your passwords in a single, secure location. His top-rated one is Siber Systems' **RoboForm** which has a free limited-use version; the \$30 program, which I use, is unrestricted and works great.

### Bob Rankin's Newsletters

#### 9-23-08 Issue

**Scribd** (<http://www.scribd.com/>) - This is a type of a social networking website that allows you to publish all kinds of documents and images to the web. It's great for people who have something to share with the world but don't have a website, technical skills or the patience to publish things in the traditional way. With Scribd, you can publish anything in any format

directly from your word processor, PDF, or image files. You even can specify who has access to you postings.

[http://askbobrankin.com/what\\_is\\_scribd.html](http://askbobrankin.com/what_is_scribd.html)

**Malware Scanners** - Bob gives us his recommendations on software to protect your PC from online threats.

[http://askbobrankin.com/malware\\_scanners.html](http://askbobrankin.com/malware_scanners.html)

#### 9-9-08 Issue

**Ask the SkyGuy!** (<http://skyguy.com/>)

"Tom Vilot from Boulder Colorado has created a very cool site that present answers to astronomy questions in high-quality, entertaining short videos. So if you've been wondering...Why are galaxies shaped like a swirl? What is a solstice? Or how many stars are out there?"

#### Gmail - New Features

"Google has recently updated Gmail, its popular free email service) to include some new features, which include whitelisting, colored labels, new emoticons, chat improvements, virus scanning and the ability to access email from other email accounts."

[http://askbobrankin.com/gmail\\_new\\_features.html](http://askbobrankin.com/gmail_new_features.html)

### Microsoft

#### Get More from Your Notes

(<http://www.microsoft.com/atwork/manageinfo/notes.mspx>)

If "sticky notes" are getting out of hand, take a look at this article.

#### Firewalls FAQs

(<http://www.microsoft.com/protect/computer/firewall/faq.mspx>)

If you have questions, Microsoft has answers.

#### Top Ways to Reduce Spam

(<http://www.microsoft.com/protect/videos/spam.mspx>)

This short video might be useful to you.

### HP

#### Online Classes

Classes are now offered in an "always on" format. No more end dates and more classes to choose from: [http://h30187.www3.hp.com/?mcID=em1\\_events&jumpid=em\\_di\\_406616\\_US\\_US\\_0\\_000&diaid=di\\_hpc\\_us\\_675539\\_US&dimid=101096108&dicid=taw\\_Sep08&mrm=1-4BVUP](http://h30187.www3.hp.com/?mcID=em1_events&jumpid=em_di_406616_US_US_0_000&diaid=di_hpc_us_675539_US&dimid=101096108&dicid=taw_Sep08&mrm=1-4BVUP) . If you want to learn more about networking, sign up for the new **Networking 101**. Also of note is Beyond basics: fundamental photography techniques.

### CNET

"....the leading technology media site in the world, now makes it easier to find the trusted news, product reviews, downloads, and videos that you care about." Check their web site: <http://www.cnet.com/?tag=nl.e435>.

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# Purchasing Computer Memory

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By Sandy Berger, *Compukiss.com*



<http://www.compukiss.com/hardware/purchasing-computer-memory.html>

*(Reprinted with Sandy Berger's permission.)*

If you are not contemplating a memory upgrade for your computer, perhaps you should be. Memory prices are at their all-time low. If your computer has less than 512 MB of memory, adding more memory is probably the most cost-effective way to increase speed.



The easiest way to add more memory to your computer is to hire a computer professional. If, however, you want to add the memory yourself, you may be surprised to find that it is a task that can be handled by the average computer user, given the time, patience, and proper instructions

## Assessing What You Have

The first step is to assess what you already have. Don't know how much memory your computer has? Hold down the ALT key while clicking or double-clicking on My Computer and you will see the System Properties screen which tells you exactly how much memory you have installed. Before adding more memory to a really old system, you must assess whether you want to invest any money into the system or would be better off to just purchase a new computer. Most newer computers, however, are sure to benefit from some additional memory. If you are thinking of upgrading to Windows Vista, unless you have a particularly memory-rich computer, additional memory is almost always required.

## Choosing the Right Memory Chips

Actually, choosing the new memory is the hardest part. Not because of the cost, but because of the many different types and configurations of memory that are available. For your computer to perform most efficiently, you need to match new memory with the memory that is already installed in your computer. Once you start looking at memory modules, you will find lingo like SDRAM, DDR, EDO DRAM, and Rambus DRAM thrown around quite flippantly. The easiest way to find the type of memory that you need is to look at the documentation that came with your computer. Your receipt will tell you the amount already installed. The computer documentation should state the type of memory used and the number of slots that the computer has available for additional memory. If you don't have the documentation or it doesn't give you the information that you need, a quick call to the manufacturer with your serial number

in hand will usually get you the answer. You can also visit the Web site of a company like Crucial who sells memory. The **Crucial Memory Advisor Tool** takes the guesswork out of upgrading. It will allow you to enter the brand, model, and type of computer and will tell you exactly the type of memory needed.

([http://www.crucial.com/promo/index.aspx?prog=uslp\\_clickscan&pid=2051699](http://www.crucial.com/promo/index.aspx?prog=uslp_clickscan&pid=2051699))

Don't be cheap when it comes to memory. Erratic computer behavior caused by poor or mismatched memory modules can be the most difficult problems to troubleshoot. Head off any potential problems by purchasing memory from your computer manufacturer or a reputable source like **Crucial.com** (<http://www.crucial.com/index.aspx?&pid=2051699>).

While investigating the memory to purchase, be sure to note any additional requirements. Some older SIMMs must be installed in pairs. Some memory slots will accept only a certain capacity memory module. If you use Crucial's Memory Advisor, it will take care of all the details for you.

Don't Be Memory Poor If your computer constantly reminds you that resources are low and performance itself is sluggish, you might be memory poor. Adding more memory is one of the easiest ways to improve your computer's performance. I hope that the instructions in this How To will be the motivation you need to boost your computing power by beefing up your memory. And installing that new memory is also a fairly easy task. See my How to Install Memory tutorial for details.

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# Password Protection

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By Sandy Berger, *Compukiss.com*

[www.compukiss.com](http://www.compukiss.com); sandy (at) compukiss.com

*This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).*

When technology is good, it is very, very good, but when it is bad it can be truly atrocious. So it is with the hacking of Sarah Palin's Yahoo email account. The bad guys are out there using technology for their own advantage. Whether they are serious hackers who want information for devious purposes or young students who just want to show their technological prowess, this theft shows that everyone is vulnerable.

The recent hijacking of Sarah Palin's email account is also a great example of how a hacker can gain access to an email account and how email accounts need to be better protected against such penetration.

We currently rely on passwords to protect most of our online activity. Professional hackers often use "password crackers" to guess passwords. Anyone can easily find these hacker tools on the Internet. They can even be purchased on CD. There are wordlists for common passwords and dictionary combinations of possible passwords in a variety of different languages. These



tools are all aimed at giving a person all the technical tools that they need to guess passwords.

In Sarah Palin's case, however, the perpetrator didn't even have to use tools like this. A hacker identifying himself as "Rubico" claims to have been able to change the password on Sarah Palin's Yahoo Mail account quite easily. All he had to do was use her email name to log into the Yahoo Mail's interface and select the option to reset the password. Yahoo then asked him to provide her birth date and zip code, which have become public knowledge. He then had to answer her self-chosen security question which was where she met her husband. After several television interviews of Sarah and her husband, the answer to that question also became public knowledge.

Sarah Palin was thrown into the public arena quite quickly, but even those of us who are not public figures may find that their passwords and answers to security questions can be easily guessed. Do you use the name of your spouse, children, pet, favorite sport, birthday, or wedding date as your password? Have you entered security questions like place of birth or favorite color that are easy to guess?

Privacy as we knew it before the Internet is now a thing of the past. With the Internet, more of our lives are online than most of us realize. Many people use blogging as a past [sic] time and post information on MySpace, Facebook, and other social networking websites. Once posted, all of that information is publicly known. And, the Internet is archived; so even when you remove current information, previously posted information can still be found in Internet archives. That information can be used to guess passwords and access personal information.

So here are a few ground rules that may help keep your private information a little safer online:

1. Use passwords that are not easy to guess and cannot be easily cracked. (Look for more on how to choose good passwords in next week's column.)
2. Choose a security question that others will not be able to guess the answer to. Or answer the security question with an answer that you create which is not necessarily the true answer.
3. Use unique passwords, especially for important services and websites like banking sites and email.
4. Keep your passwords private. Don't leave them on a sticky note on your computer screen or keep them in an unencrypted file on your computer.
5. Change your passwords often.
6. Do not change your password by clicking on a link in an email from someone claiming to be a system administrator, bank representative, or other seemingly reputable party. They may not be who they say they are. When you want to change your password, always type in the address yourself so you know you are at the real website rather than a bogus one.
7. Use one credit card for all online purchases. This will limit your financial exposure.
8. Keep your operating system up-to-date.
9. Use a good anti-virus and anti-spyware programs.
10. Consider using an encrypted password manager program.

Check the Compu-KISS website at [www.compukiss.com](http://www.compukiss.com) for more information on choosing good passwords.

**December 2008**

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## Significant Bits November 2008

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*By Sean N. Henderson, Vice President, Danbury Area  
Computer Society, Connecticut*

[www.dacs.org](http://www.dacs.org); shenderson (at) dacs.org

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### **COLDFUSION IS HOT**

Many DACS members reading this probably have some experience programming with PHP. Maybe this is a time to remind developers and those making application choices about ColdFusion.



When Allaire first released Cold Fusion (two words then) in 1995, it made some headlines purely because of its name. It was a number of years later when I met a person at my wife's college reunion who was a ColdFusion developer, and she raved about how easy it was to create database-enabled Web pages.

As fate would have it, I too, have become a ColdFusion (CF) developer and have to say CF makes Dynamic HTML (DHTML) and database-enabled sites really easy. Much richer than old-school CGI (Perl or otherwise) and even still more feature rich than PHP.

The neat thing about CF's version of HTML, called CFML, is that if you can write HTML, then it's just a couple of tags and commands more to be writing dynamic websites with CFML. Some hosting providers provide a version called ColdFusion 4.5 Express. The current "standard" appears to be based on 6.1 MX. The current version is 8 (no MX) and is published by Adobe, and includes support for AJAX.

### **HYPE ABOUT SKYPE**

Skype is a VoIP (Voice-over-IP) telephone service. For PC-to-PC users, there is no charge. Charges incur when wanting to have voicemail, call a landline number, call a mobile number, or have a landline number or cell phone reach a Skype account.

PC Magazine recently listed their survey for various technologies, and Skype was down from last year.

My purpose in trying Skype was to see if it was a viable low-cost replacement for a mobile phone. How would that work? There are various scenarios, none of them simple. The barrier is roaming across Wi-Fi networks. (Actually, this obstacle was addressed in a recent Sybase iAnywhere Mobile presentation at DACS.) My target device is my Palm TX running PalmOS. A recent test of Skype to my brother out west has us talking for over an hour over a very clear connect. I was using a USB LCD phone connected to my laptop, connected to the home router by way of Wi-Fi. My brother similarly connected, except just

speaking open air using his laptop mic and/or speakers. The sound quality was clearer than any cell phone call I've had.

## ANOTHER USB GIZMO

There's an inexpensive USB LCD handset phone available for use with Skype. The UP-730 seems to work as expected and sounds better than expected. The unit was purchased for under \$10 on-line. It allows scrolling through the USB contacts through the handset. Is it really necessary? No. But, it has a longer cord than most headsets and it made using Skype feel more like regular phone service, especially on longer calls.



## This and That

*By Elizabeth B. Wright, Member, Computer Club of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

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### LOST AND GONE FOREVER..... OR NOT.

Well, it finally happened. A picture which had taken far too much of my time was finally ready for printing. I sent it online to my favorite photo store. Expecting to see a picture good enough to share with family, it was a great disappointment when I picked up the print to see that parts of it were not up to that standard. A renewed frenzy of "fiddling" with it resulted in losing track of the names used for the changes. When I thought I had everything in order, I chose to eliminate the extra files. And did I do a good job. Not only did I choose the unwanted files, but also included the one version which was half way good. No recycle bin, no delete, but the ultimate "destroy." In other words, probably only the CIA would be able to recover the file from my hard disk.

Starting from scratch with the original image, I tried to retrace my steps to reach the same quality as the lost file. I had the hard copy print, so I knew what I wanted it to look like. But for some reason nothing worked and my renewed efforts to enhance the picture did not give me the results I had previously attained. But there was real improvement in one area that was so lacking in the lost image.

The newest image was then uploaded to the photo store and while doing so I noticed that the original picture was still online. And as in all things Ethernet, the image could be reloaded to my computer via a download. It was a little difficult, but the end result was I got my picture back. Then the problem areas of the picture were corrected and the end result was a very acceptable print. So while a lot of time was spent on a rather insignificant picture, the knowledge obtained as a result made it well worth the effort.

After a recent study group meeting my friend Dorothy asked me if I learned anything. My answer was the same as always. I never attend any kind of meeting that I DON'T learn something. Now maybe it isn't something that will change my life forever,

but more often than not it is something that enriches my life, if even in a small way. In addition to that, whenever someone asks me for help, usually we both learn something. The most recent request for help reminded me, once again, when helping someone over the phone with a computer problem, it is important to have them start at the very top of their computer screen and describe exactly what they see all the way down. With that information it is often possible to pinpoint a possible area of trouble and generate ideas for solutions. Many times the description of the problem, while usually understandable, does not contain that one little piece of information that will lead to the answer. So, by following the procedure of top to bottom on the screen, we solved the problem and I took away at least as much from the experience as did the recipient of my help.

As humans age, time seems to fly ever more swiftly by. But, I don't think that is what has been happening in real time when it comes to technology. It looks to me like many things are moving so rapidly that we almost miss them.

Not all that long ago, it was hard to imagine a small 8 Gig USB drive that could fit on your keychain. So portable, so useful. Of course they came on the market and were being sold at prices often over the \$100 mark. Now they are practically throwaways, good for birthday presents, stocking stuffers for Christmas, Hanukkah and other celebrations as well as any other gift-giving occasion. Should this be troubling? Perhaps it signals the end of one technology era and the beginning of another. My crystal ball is a bit cloudy on this one, so I will leave it to the more savvy writers to tell you the answer. All I know is that for now those handy little USB drives are so useful that it's hard to imagine how we did without them. At the present time we are seeing 16 Gig USB drives with prices over \$100. How long before they will be things of the past?

Who uses USB drives? There probably isn't anyone out there who travels with a computer who doesn't keep some information on them. They are somewhat safer than storing everything on the hard drive of a laptop. Thieves target laptops in airports, hotel rooms and any other place people might be careless enough to leave one unattended. If all the information a person needs to do his/her job is on the machine, and if it gets stolen or damaged then the consequences could be disastrous. Even a one or two Gig USB drive will hold a lot of information and can be so much more easily protected. In an emergency situation, a new laptop with enough software already installed on it to do business can be purchased, sometimes even in large airports, and keeping essential files on the USB drive will get a person back up and working almost without missing a stride.

Of course there are other uses for them. My favorite use for the little devices is to transport image files whenever it is necessary. Those occasions usually are to share pictures with family or to use digital images in study groups or classes and also occasionally to get prints from a kiosk in the stores which offer that service. Mostly I do that when I just have a few prints that I need. For large orders I still upload my image files online.

Maybe Santa Claus will put a 16G drive in my stocking this year.

## Products Available For Review

The NOCCC is often sent copies of books or software by the publishers for our review. We can also request specific products for you to review. These reviews are published in this newsletter, the Orange Bytes. Then you get to keep the book or software. If you are interested in doing a review, please call or send me an e-mail and provide your membership number, phone number, and e-mail address; or pick up the product in the lobby of Irvine Hall at the next NOCCC meeting.



Ted Littman, (714) 779-1936, [reviews@noccc.org](mailto:reviews@noccc.org).

## Boxed Programs and CDs

**Roxio Creator 2009** – This latest edition from Roxio/Sonic on a DVD provides even more capability to the well-known DVD-CD “burner.” The previous edition, Easy Media Creator 10 Suite, was reviewed in the October issue of the Orange Bytes. The new program makes it easy for family members of every age and experience level to create awesome photo and video stories to share with family and friends—safely online and on DVD or Blu-ray Disc. MSRP=\$100.

## Books

### PC Hardware

**Build It. Fix It. Own It. A beginner's Guide to Building and Upgrading a PC** – Que; Paul McFedries. MSRP=\$30.

**Easy Computer Basics, Windows Vista Ed.** – Que; Michael Miller. MSRP=\$22.

### Operating Systems

**Microsoft Windows Vista on Demand, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition** – This highly graphical, in color book by Steve Johnson, Perspection, Inc., includes MCAS Exam Objectives, was revised for SP1, and is one of the easiest to learn Vista. From Que, MSRP=\$35.

**Easy Microsoft Windows Vista** – Another highly graphical book in color for beginners to learn the fundamentals of using Vista. From Que, by Shelley O'Hara, MSRP=\$20.

**Networking with Microsoft Windows Vista** – A complete beginner's guide to creating, configuring, administering, & using a small network of computers with the Vista operating system. From Que; MSRP=\$40.

**Microsoft Windows Vista Unleashed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.** – This 800-page book from Sams by Paul McFedries was written for intermediate-advanced users, contains lots of helpful information, and is updated for Vista SP1. MSRP=\$50.

**Easy Microsoft Windows Vista, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.** – Que; Shelley O'Hara. MSRP=\$22.

**Creating Vista Gadgets** – Sams; Rajesh Lal. MSRP=\$35.

### Office Programs

**Power Excel 2007 with Mr Excel Live Lessons** – Que; Bill Jelen. MSRP=\$40. DVD + Lesson Booklet.

**Microsoft Office Access 2007 VBA** – A recent book from Que by Scott Diamond teaches the skills needed to automate your database quickly. MSRP=\$40.

**Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2007 Complete Makeover Kit** – From Que, includes a CD, MSRP=\$30.

**Using Microsoft Office Visio 2007 Special Ed.** – This book by Steven Holzner from Que is a comprehensive reference manual for the premier drawing program. MSRP=\$45.

**Using FileMaker 9 Special Ed.** – From Que, MSRP=\$45.

### Internet

**Create Your Own Website** – 6 easy projects by Scott Mitchell in full color from Que. Includes a CD. MSRP=\$25.

**Cloud Computing** – Web-based applications that change the way you work and collaborate online. What it is, how it works, and who should use it. Authored by Michael Miller from Que. MSRP=\$25.

**Understanding AJAX** – If you are already an experienced Web developer, this book by Joshua Eichorn, senior architect for Uversa, will show you exactly how to create rich, useable, Internet applications using AJAX. MSRP=\$40.

**Microsoft Expression Blend Unleashed** – Sams; Brennon Williams. MSRP=\$50. For developers of interactive Web & desktop applications; take graphical assets & blend them with functional .net code through the power of XAML and the WPF platform.

**Absolute Beginner's Guide to eBay, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.** – This latest update from Que by Michael Miller is a useful guide for beginners interested in buying and selling on eBay. MSRP=22.

**The Truth About Email Marketing** – Everything you need to know to utilize this approach in your corporation or small business by Sims Jenkins from FT Press/Pearson. MSRP=\$19.

**The Truth About Profiting from Social Networking** – FT Press/Pearson; Patrice-Anne Rutledge. MSRP=\$19.

### Digital Photography

**The Digital Photography Companion** – This 200-page book by Derrick Story, a professional photographer, from O'Reilly tells you how to take photos that reflect your creative spirit and is full of color photos. MSRP=\$25.

**Teach Yourself Photoshop Elements 6 in 24 Hours** – Sams; Kate Binder. MSRP=\$25.

**Becoming a Digital Designer** – A book from Wiley. MSRP=\$35.

### Project & Program Management

**Wiley Guide to the Management of Projects** – This series of 4 books provides timely, accessible, and relevant procedures and strategies to deliver projects on time and on budget. Each book lists for \$50.

- Project, Program, and Portfolio Management
- Project Control
- Project Org. & Project Mgmt. Competencies
- Proj. Technol., Supply Chain, & Proc. Mgmt.



## Security

**The New School of Internet Security** – Security experts Adam Shostack & Andrew Stewart address the biggest, toughest problems and how to solve them. From Addison-Wesley, MSRP=\$30.

**Virtual Honeypots** – Security experts Niels Provos and Thorsten Holz cover a large breath of cutting-edge topics from low-interaction Honeypots to Botnets and malware in this new book from Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$50.

**Software Security** – This book/CD, authored by Gary McGraw, a leading authority in the field, teaches you how to put software security into practice. MSRP=\$50.

**dotCrime Manifesto – How to Stop Internet Crime** – How to build a better, safer Internet by Phillip Hallam-Baker is from Addison Wesley, MSRP=\$30.

**Router Security Strategies, Securing IP Network Traffic Planes** – From Cisco Press, this book by Gregg Schudel & David Smith, this book tells you how to segment and protect traffic in the data, control, management, and services planes. MSRP=\$65.

**Cisco Networking Simplified, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.** – A complete up-to-date visual explanation of today's networking technologies in full color. From Cisco Press/Prentice-Hall, authored by Jim Doherty, Neil Anderson, & Paul Maggiora, MSRP=\$40.

**The Craft of System Security** – From Addison-Wesley, MSRP=\$60.

**Network Security Fundamentals** – An introduction to the key tools and technologies used to secure network access. From Cisco Press/Prentice-Hall; MSRP=\$55.

**CCIE Professional Development Network Security Technologies and Solutions** – A comprehensive, all-in-one reference for Cisco network security – Authored by Yusuf Bhajji, from Cisco Press, this 790-page hardcover book has an MSRP=\$80.

**The New School of Information Security** – Addison-Wesley; Adam Shostack & Andrew Stewart. MSRP=\$30. Why critical problems exist & how to solve them.

**Is it Safe? Protecting Your Computer, Your Business, and Yourself Online** – Que; Michael Miller. MSRP=\$25. Identity theft, data theft, Internet fraud, online surveillance, & Email scams.

**Blown to Bits: Your Life, Liberty, and Happiness after the Digital Explosion** – Addison-Wesley; Hal Albelson, Ken Ledeen, & Harry Lewis. MSRP=\$26.

**Cisco ASA, PIX, and FWSM Firewall Handbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.** – From CISCO Press, MSRP=\$60.

**The Truth About Identity Theft** – Everything you must know to protect yourself and your business by Jim Stickley from FT Press/Pearson. MSRP=\$19.



# Preparing a Review or Article for the NOCCC Orange Bytes

By Steven Breitbart

There are two sections in the NOCCC newsletter, the Orange Bytes, where our members can contribute reviews and articles. They are the **Computer Talk** section and the **Product Reviews** section.

Articles in the **Computer Talk** section can be about almost any computer or technology related experience that you have had. For example, getting a new ISP, getting an ISP to change your connection speed, converting a PC to Linux, using a MacIntosh PC for the first time - the list is endless.

The **Product Reviews** section can be a review of almost any type of computer hardware, software, or book about a computer-related topic. The item can be something you have bought or obtained from the NOCCC. Once you agree to do a review, you will generally have 2 months to complete it. These reviews are published in this newsletter, the Orange Bytes

The NOCCC Reviews Editor, Ted Littman, (714) 779-1936, [reviews@noccc.org](mailto:reviews@noccc.org) is often sent copies of books or software by the publishers for review by one of our members. **We need NOCCC members to take these items and commit to reviewing them promptly. The reward for doing a review is that you get to keep the book or software.** If we do not review them, they may stop sending these items in the future.

**Important!** There are two articles at the following link. One provides suggestions and guidelines for preparing a review or article for the Orange Bytes. The second provides guidelines for submittal. Please read both. The link is: [www.noccc.org/bytes/info/index.html](http://www.noccc.org/bytes/info/index.html)

The NOCCC reserves the right to refuse to publish any review at the discretion of the editors of the Orange Bytes newsletter or officers of the club. Reasons may include, but are not limited to, length and quality of the review or offensive nature of the product or of the review.



Orange Bytes



# SnagIt - A Product Review

By John Roy, President, The Personal Computer Users Group of Connecticut

<http://tpcug-ct.org/>; johnroy1 (at) comcast.net

*This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).*

So what is SnagIt? It is a screen capture program (like base-level PrintScreen). Every computer user needs the ability to capture information off of the screen. Your basic operating system has always provided rudimentary capability to print or capture a full screen but it is woefully inadequate in today's environment. How many times do you need a screen region or maybe an area that scrolls off the display as many web pages do? How about having the ability to extract only the text or capture screen actions? All of these functions and many more are easily addressed with SnagIt.



SnagIt has been around since 1990. I remember my first exposure to this great utility back in those early years when computer expositions were held at the Javitz Convention Center in New York City. While today's functionality greatly supersedes those early days the neat scroll capture was the cool feature of the times and is still a main-stay tool.

For a screen capture program to be useful, it needs flexibility beyond Microsoft's dismal screen and window capture. SnagIt provides every imaginable capture you could ever want with Image Capture, Text Capture, Video Capture, Web Capture, and Printer Capture. Each of these modes has additional control options such as delayed capture, capture the mouse cursor, set a timer, or capture multiple areas, to name a few. Video capture provides a very useful tool for creating instructional clips. You can play back the video or even save individual frames. The ability to capture editable text from dialog boxes and other screens where it ordinarily can't be copied is extremely useful.

To make life easier you have the ability to set up profiles to reflect the way you like to work. Profiles coupled with a defined hot key can grab and process a clip all the way to the intended application. You can configure input, output, effects

and options. Add-ons are automatically and/or optionally installed into several applications such as Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Power Point, and Internet Explorer) and other popular products. Wizards and tool-bars are available to simplify setting up profiles.

Having many capture options is only the front end of this versatile utility; there is also an overabundance of tools to annotate, mark up, organize, convert, edit, and share captured content. The processing tools suite includes a very powerful editor that will bring your clips to life. No longer are you stuck with a blasé clip. With very little effort you can spruce up your clips by adding effects, borders, stamps, and hotspots to name a few. You can operate on one or many images at the same time. A batch conversion utility allows the user to modify and output a collection of clips into a wide selection of formats. This utility allows you to set up your output to selections such as File, FTP, Email, Printer, etc. The output properties are fully customizable.

Since SnagIt stores every capture you make, a first reaction would be —"how does one find the clip of interest?" Well, search capability is automatically built into the software and can be further enhanced by the use of tags. Every capture you make saves the time, date, and URL information that will allow you to quickly return to the site of the capture.

To fully appreciate the value of this great program, download the 30-day free trial and/or view some of the extremely informative and clearly illustrated tutorials available on TechSmith's website: <http://www.techsmith.com/>. SnagIt lists for \$49.95 and runs on all newer Windows operating systems including 64-bit Vista. A minimum of 1 GHz processor and 512 MB of Ram is required but double that for smoother operation. TechSmith has developed and improved on SnagIt over the years and has a product that belongs in every computer user's tool box.

**MORE REVIEWS ON PAGE 17, 18**

## Orange Bytes in Color!

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

**NOCCC Members only:** Watch your e-mail every month for the user name and password to access the latest issue of the award winning *Orange Bytes* newsletter on our web site and **in color!** The latest issue, in Adobe Acrobat format (PDF) is posted at [www.noccc.org/bytes/index.html](http://www.noccc.org/bytes/index.html), and you can view it earlier in the month than the black-and-white printed issue reaches your mailbox. Previous newsletter issues are also available there without any access restrictions.

If you are not receiving the monthly e-mail notice, check to see if your membership is current and send any e-mail address changes to [membership@noccc.org](mailto:membership@noccc.org).

## Main Meeting Report

# United States Postal Service on eBay at Nov. 2008 Main Meeting

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

Jim Sanders mentioned that the Rules Committee has recommended changes to the Bylaws and that we will be voting on them in January. He repeated the announcement that new SIG leaders are needed. Steven Breitbart mentioned that we still need members to take out books and software for review, to be published in the Orange Bytes



### Sandy Frankel of the USPS Business Development Team

Sandy Frankel of the United States Postal Service (USPS) Business Development Team was our speaker and the topic was The basics of selling on eBay. eBay is known as The World's Online Marketplace® and home to the community of individuals selling goods worldwide. What we saw was an abbreviated version of what she does for an "Ebay day."

The statistics on how much eBay is selling is staggering:

- There are 83 million active users worldwide.
- There are 1.3 million sellers
- There are 6 million new listings daily
- The USPS delivers to over 144 million households six days a week
- **Over 80% of Ebay shipments are done by the USPS, which amounts to processing over 900,000 eBay packages per day!**

Initially, Sandy played a comical song about things purchased on ebay. Then, we found out that about 5 years ago, the USPS partnered with eBay to be their preferred shipper. This does not mean they are the only shipper you can use, but if you do, you can get free shipping boxes and a 3-5% discount for setting up the shipping online. There is a direct link from the eBay web site to the USPS web site. You print a shipping label with the postage included and then just dropping it into the package bin at the Post Office. Other pickup arrangements are also possible.



### How to Sell on eBay

Statistically, we all have about \$2,000 worth of unused clutter that can be sold on eBay. Sandy gave us tips on selling items on eBay. Her own experience at buying a stove on eBay was very informative. She recommended that the first item you try to

sell should be small, simple and easy. Check the completed listings for similar items to determine the price you want for your item. You can also look at other people's selling rules to determine who pays for shipping, your return policy and payment methods that you will accept. Use keywords as the title for the item; be specific, simple and factual. Since they close more sales on Sunday night than on any other, choose a 10-day auction period, so that it includes two weekends. Once listed, she gets the item ready to ship, but leaves the box open so a copy of the invoice can be inserted when sold. She also lists the invoice number on the side of the box.

You can sell the item as simply as possible with no minimum bid or photographs. To improve upon this bare bones approach, you can add a photograph for 15¢. There are fees for setting a reserve price, which is a minimum price below which you will not sell the item and for setting a starting price. But more people will be attracted to your items if you have a low starting price. The fees should be between 6% and 8% of the selling price, and are paid by the seller. The buyer just pays for the item and shipping.

Other suggestions are to include Canada as part of the selling area and mostly, remember that feedback is your reputation on eBay, so deal honestly. While listed, do not sell the item outside eBay; if eBay finds out, they may close your account. Part of the way you can protect yourself is by using PayPal, which is the preferred method of selling and buying items on eBay. Within certain guidelines, PayPal insures up to \$2,000, but

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 17*



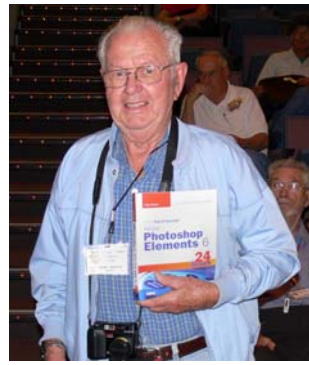
# November 2008 Opportunity Drawing Winners



Larry Klees



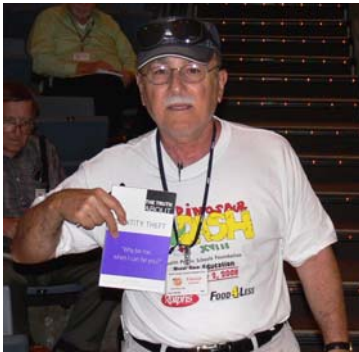
Else Olovsson



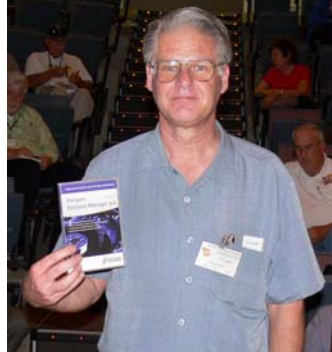
Dallas Hazelton



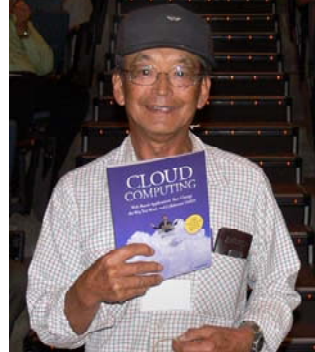
Frank Emanuel



Frank Emanuel



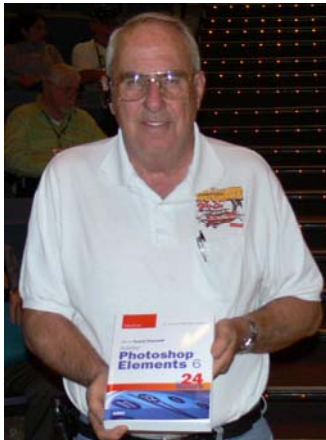
Larry Klees



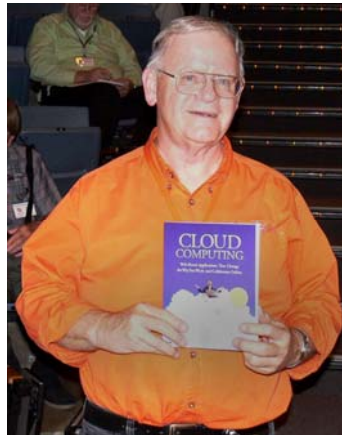
Kaz Adachi



Steven Breitbart



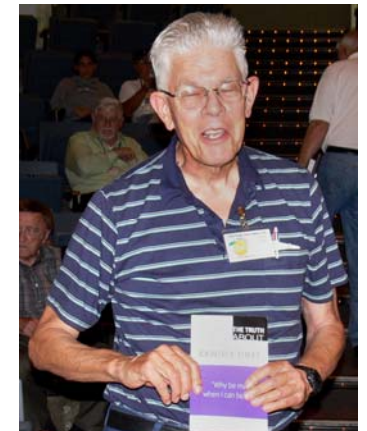
Bob Van Horn



Bob Dickson



Ed Koran



James Cotten



Chuck Hower

*Your photo could be here - but only if you buy some raffle tickets!*

*Wearing your Membership Badge can win you prizes too!*

*Photos by Jim Sanders, NOCCC*

# QuickMonth Calendar

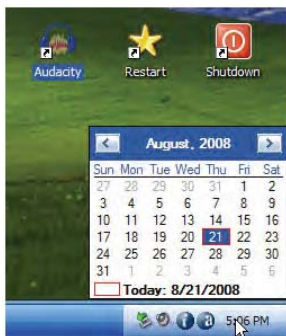
By Ken Peters, Product Review, Hilton Head Island Computer Club, South Carolina

<http://hhicc.org>; product.review (at) hhicc.org

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If you're tired of double clicking the clock to get the calendar up, then this program is for you: <http://www.codedawn.com/qmc/quickmonth-calendar-download/>

QuickMonth Calendar is a freeware program which displays a small popup calendar on your Windows desktop whenever your mouse hovers over the clock in the system tray. The calendar display may also be toggled on and off by using the Windows+Q keyboard shortcut. The program works with XP and Windows 2000. Click the clock once to make it appear. Vista already has a popup calendar.



Vista already has a popup calendar.



You can get QuickMonth Calendar by visiting the download page. QuickMonth Calendar is free and does not include any adware or spyware.

NOTE: Some antivirus programs have incorrectly detected QuickMonth Calendar as a Trojan horse. Do not be alarmed — this type of erroneous detection is called a false positive. If you receive a virus warning message regarding QuickMonth Calendar (qmc.exe), please report the false positive to your antivirus software manufacturer so they can update their definitions. Here are a few of QuickMonth Calendar's features:

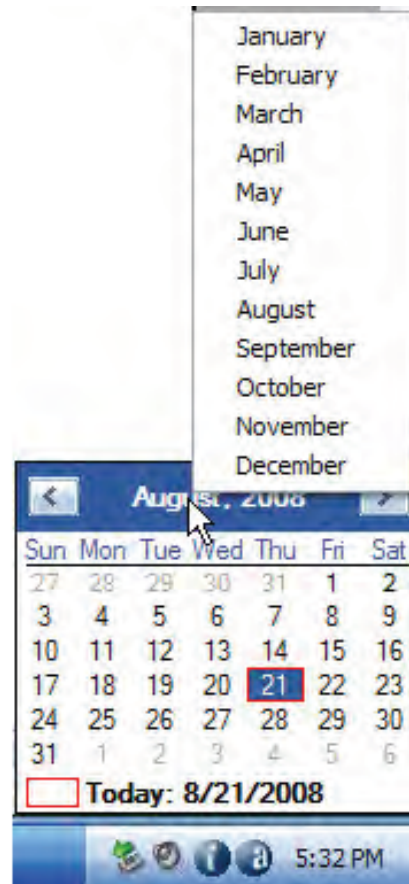
To quickly jump to today's date, right-click on the calendar or left-click the bottom of the calendar where it says "Today." Use the buttons at the top of the calendar to change the month. You can also left-click on the name of the month to see a popup menu of all the months (see Example 1).

Left-click on the year to quickly change the year (see Example 2).

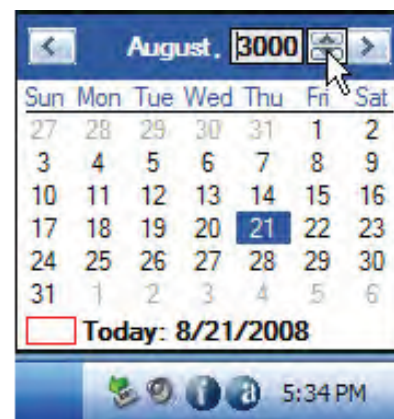
The calendar automatically detects the location of your Windows taskbar, so if you move the taskbar to the top, left, or right side of the screen, the calendar will still display next to

your system tray clock (you may have to restart Windows once for the change to take effect).

The look of the calendar changes according to what your system colors are (as determined by your current Windows theme or visual style). The calendar will appear in any program when you put the pointer over the clock. I have found this program very handy when trying to find a date when writing an email or other document. When I need to look up a date, it's very nice to have the calendar pop up just by hovering the pointer over the clock. It's also helpful when on the telephone and trying to settle on a date.



Example 1: Month popup menu



Example 2: Quickly change the year



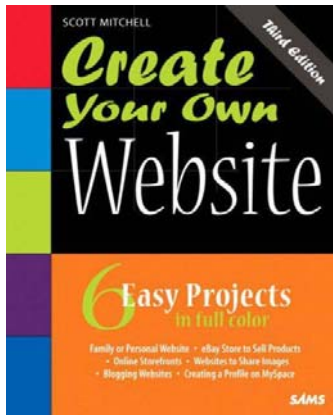
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# Create Your Own Website

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Review by Jim Sanders, NOCCC

Author Scott Mitchell, in collaboration with publisher Sams, has created a nice little book for the beginner Web Page Designer wannabe in this third edition of the book. It is nicely color coded which splits up the sections and makes navigating the book easier. It has a lot of screen shots to clarify what the text is talking about. Interspersed with the text are useful black background Tip blocks, blue background Note blocks, blue background New Term blocks and half page Idea Gallery sections.



The book is divided up into nine chapters. The first chapter starts off by explaining a number of the concepts of what a web page is and how it is accessed. It explains the interaction between your computer and its web browser and the web server that is located out on the Internet. It then segues into using web page authoring software to start you off with a simple page for a new web site. Life gets a little complicated at this point. The book includes a CD that has an older version of the Mozilla composer software that needs and installs an older version of the web browser as part of the installation process. The problem with this is that as soon as it is installed, it checks into the Mozilla.org web site and finds that you are using an older version and strongly recommends that you upgrade to a newer version of the browser as a safety measure. However, the newer version of the browser does not support the older version of the composer software. The new equivalent product is called Seamonkey.

The second chapter does a fairly good job of walking the user through all the steps necessary to actually end up with a web site. It talks about picking a web site name, about the steps necessary to register the name, and picking a web hosting company to actually place your web page on the Internet. It explains the difference between a domain name and the actual numeric address. The File Transfer Protocol (FTP) that is used to upload your Web page content to the server is discussed.

From chapter three on, the book gets into somewhat more complex areas followed by some fun stuff. The main topic of chapter three is how to use a web page template as a basis for your website. It explains how it is much easier to take and modify existing template that it is to create something from scratch on your own. This includes the modification, insertion, addition, and positioning of photographs on a family web page template.

The next template that the book uses deals with how to set up a basic online store so that you can sell things directly. It talks about the necessity of getting hooked up with PayPal and how PayPal works. The book then shows how to set up your own

eBay store, create a Blog, share photos on Snapfish, and make friends on MySpace. It ends with a few interesting tidbits.

This book is interesting in that it mostly tells you how to use other people's tools to deal with different aspects of the Internet. It does not go into great depth with any of them, but does provide good starting points. As an introduction to all of these topics, the book is worth reading. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition is now out and adds two more projects.

[www.sampublishing.com](http://www.sampublishing.com), ISBN-13 978-0-672-32926-5, \$24.99 list. See our Membership Benefits page for ordering the book at a substantial discount.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

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## Main Meeting Report

outside sources of insurance are also available. One suggestion for buying was to search for the item you want with the name misspelled.

Sandy had many good things to say about eBay, but she also mentioned the pitfalls of buying and selling on eBay and how to protect yourself against them. Besides, using PayPal, she recommended using a separate credit card and separate checking account for your eBay purchases and selling. Also, eBay will never contact you via normal email; only within the eBay system. Scams target both buyers and sellers, as noted in a recent article in The Los Angeles Times, (see <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-consumer26-2008oct26,0,2025856.story>).

Each person in attendance was able to pick up several handouts:

- A list of Top 10 Tips for selling on eBay hints
- A coupon for 3 free listing fees that also had more tips on selling and shipping
- A tip sheet on setting up online shipping and mailing for businesses (see [usps.com/business](http://usps.com/business))
- A CD-ROM, "Selling on eBay Made Easy"
- Shipping boxes
- A copy of her PowerPoint presentation

Again, a most informative and thorough meeting!



# Microsoft Releases Photosynth Panoramic Image Creator

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Advisor; Columnist, The Examiner,  
Beaumont TX; radio and TV show host

<http://photosynth.net>, lwilsker (at) apcug.net

*This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).*

Many of us take a lot of digital photographs. I have hundreds of digital photos from two recent weddings; others may have vacation photos, family photos, scenic images, or other content. Would it not be interesting if a collection of photos with some degree of commonality could be seamlessly "stitched" together creating a 3-D panoramic view of the subject? For example, if I took the wedding pictures of my daughter's recent wedding, the images could automatically be merged into a single three dimensional, easily navigable image of the entire wedding ceremony and reception. The panoramic image can be manipulated, rotated, zoomed, and viewed from any direction. If I can do this with wedding pictures, imagine what you can do with landscapes, theme parks, or other images. This new service from Microsoft, known as Photosynth ([photosynth.net](http://photosynth.net)) is currently free, but does have several provisos, one of which is that all images created will be considered as "public," and can be viewed by anyone on the Photosynth website.

Photosynth is graphics intensive, and may not run on older computers lacking adequate video power and capabilities. It will run on Windows XP (SP 2 or SP3), and on Vista. Mac users can use Photosynth if running Boot Camp. Images are displayed on a browser, and Internet Explorer 7 as well as Firefox 2 and 3 are supported. 256mb of memory is the absolute minimum to run Photosynth, and 1 GB is recommended. In order to function, Photosynth installs two programs to the computer. One is a web browser plug-in (both IE and Firefox compatible), and an application aptly named "Photosynth" which is used to create panoramic images. Installation of both programs is fast and easy, and is accomplished with a single download. Since the actual processing is done by Microsoft, the images (or parts of them) are uploaded to Microsoft by the Photosynth software, which requires a broadband connection. Microsoft has posted a warning, "All synths are public. Your photos will be visible to everyone on the Internet. In order to create images, it is necessary to sign up online; users who have a Windows Live ID can use it for Photosynth access."

Photosynth performs two material functions; it reconstructs the scene or

object from several two-dimensional digital photographs, and then examines the images for similarities, and mathematically use that information to estimate the real shape of the object, and the vantage point the photos were taken from. Using the digital data, the three dimensional space is created, and the merged photos can be easily navigated as if they were a single photograph. Microsoft's new "Seadragon" technology delivers only the required pixels to the browser, making the loading of images that may have included hundreds of individual photos a fast and pleasing experience.

On the main page for Photosynth ([photosynth.net](http://photosynth.net)) are dozens of samples of the output than can be created. Some of the examples are the Sphinx, composed of 239 photos taken by National Geographic; a walk around Eton College, 427 photos; The Taj Mahal, 179 National Geographic photos; the Space Shuttle, 246 photos; and many others. It is important to note that this computing power and service is available for free to all of us who are willing to make our images public. The "Recently Synthed" link shows the most recently created scenes (many dated today, as I type this), which include street scenes, still life, sunsets, Hawaiian scenery, Nathan's Hotdog Eating Championship – 2008, backyards, portraits, kittens (cute), athletic events, and other topics. It is a lot of fun just browsing these synths and seeing what others are doing and what the system can do for digital images.

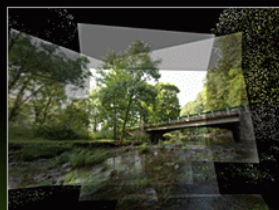
The potential applications for Photosynth are almost endless. It could be used by real estate agents to easily create an interactive three dimensional view of a house or an apartment; industries could use it for training purposes; products can be promoted via 3D images that allow the viewer to explore the details of a product; likewise car dealers and manufacturers could easily create interactive views of any cars in inventory. Criminalists (as in CSI) could easily create 3D crime scene images; the potential uses are unimaginable.

If you are willing to release your image to the public (in the current iteration), and would like to create interactive 3D panoramic photos from your digital photos, then Photosynth would be a great place to experiment. At present the service is free, only requiring a Windows Live ID registration. If you have any interesting photos of the same subject, try synthing them

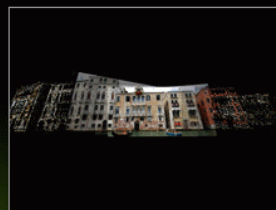
## Synth1

### What is Photosynth?

Imagine being able to share the places and things you love using the cinematic quality of a movie, the control of a video game, and the mind-blowing detail of the real world. With nothing more than a bunch of photos, Photosynth creates an amazing new experience.



Whether it's a quiet creek in the woods of Pennsylvania, or the grandeur of the interior of St Paul's cathedral, Photosynth puts you there like nothing else can.



It can capture the sweeping scale of a mile of the Grand Canal in Venice, and focus in on the exquisite rot at the waterline of a beautifully decaying palazzo doorway.



Synth3

**Ready to Make Your Own Synth?**



This first version of Photosynth has some limitations that you need to be aware of:

1. All synths are uploaded. They're big, so you need to use a broadband Internet connection.
2. **All synths are public.** Your photos will be visible to everyone on the Internet.
3. Like the viewing experience, the "synther" only runs on PCs (XP and Vista).
4. You'll need to [Sign Up](#) for a Photosynth account. It uses Windows Live ID.

For tips on how to get the best results when making your own synth, [check out our guide](#) or just watch the [How to Synth video](#).

[Create a synth](#)

Synth4

**Photosynth™** Home • Create • Explore

**National Geographic: Taj Mahal - Front**  
 National Geographic 8/19/2008  
 179 Photos - 100% Synth 85117 Views

Built in the early 1630s by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahar as a tribute to his second wife, Mumtaz Mahal, the Taj Mahal stands as one of India's most iconic beauties. Its precise symmetry and impeccable detail—it's decorated with calligraphy from the Koran and with carvings of flowers inlaid with precious stones—make this white marble structure one of the world's most breathtaking pieces of architecture. Located by the Yamuna River, the Taj took 22 years and 20,000 workers to complete. It contains a tomb (for Mumtaz) and a mosque, as well as gardens, gateways, and fountains. The main structure is surrounded by four minarets, which were built to lean out slightly so that an earthquake wouldn't cause them to fall or the palace.

agra "becky hale" india mausoleum mosque  
 "national geographic" ngs wife

© National Geographic Society 2008



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# 15 Vista Tips

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*Tips & Hints by Dick Carricato, member of the Tri County Computer User Group, Florida*

[www.tccug.net](http://www.tccug.net); d\_carricato (at) bellsouth.net

*This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).*

1. If you hate the look of Aero, click Start/Control Panel/Themes and you can choose a non-Aero theme, such as Windows Classic.
2. Windows Vista's installer can detect serial-ATA (SATA) drives without the need to provide a driver diskette. Don't bother creating a diskette for your SATA drives before you install Vista.
3. If, for some reason, the Vista installation gets interrupted due to an unintentional shutdown or reboot, start the computer without booting the Vista DVD. Windows Vista's installer should pick up where it left off. If it does-n't, then restart the installation over from scratch.
4. When you perform a search with Vista's new, instant search feature, you can save the search in a special folder. This powerful feature allows you to create a virtual folder which, by default, is saved in your \\Searches\ folder. Every time you open such a folder, the search results are updated.
5. In Windows Vista, you can add additional clocks to the system tray. Click the clock, and then click Date and Time Settings. Click the Additional Clocks tab. You can add one or two additional clocks to the tray and select their time zones.
6. You can save your progress in most of the games included with Windows Vista—even the carry-overs from earlier versions of Windows.
7. You can create XML documents, which are more secure than regular text files or even word processor docs. Just create a document in a word processor, print it via the options menu, and select the XPS printer.
8. If you upgrade your graphics card in preparation for Windows Vista, be sure to get a new card with as much local memory as possible. Since Windows Vista renders everything—even the desktop and windows them-selves—as 3D surfaces, local 3D memory greatly improves performance...sometimes even more than a more powerful GPU.
9. Windows Vista games deposit their saves into a special directory, called Saved Games, in your personal folder. In theory, that will make upgrading to a new system much easier for gamers, who like to migrate their game saves.
10. When using the Help system, it's usually advantageous to include Microsoft's online database in your search. The online/offline status of your search is located on the bottom right of the Help window. You can click it to toggle.

11. The Games folder is a powerful repository of all things gaming. From within, you launch games, update games with the latest patches, enable parental controls to protect younger users from harmful content, and more. Invoke it by clicking Start/Games.

12. Several applications are available to help you tweak Windows Vista for maximum performance. They include TweakVI ([www.totalidea.com](http://www.totalidea.com)), TweakVista ([www.tweakvista.com/tweakvistautility](http://www.tweakvista.com/tweakvistautility)), and VistaBootPRO ([www.vistabootpro.org](http://www.vistabootpro.org)). And don't forget about Windows ReadyBoost, which lets you use a removable flash memory drive to boost system memory.

13. Do you use the icon in the upper left corner of system and application windows? A quick double-click closes the window (instead of a single click on the X at the upper right). Though Microsoft left the icon out in Vista, the function remains.—Sarah Pike

14. In Microsoft Windows Explorer, you can use column headers (Name, Size, and so on) to sort files. Savvy users may right-click on a column head to remove items or add some—say, Dimensions for images. There are around 45 such columns available in Windows XP. Windows Vista has well over 250, covering a multitude of metadata.—Sarah Pike

15. If you've become used to surfing your Program Menu to get to applications, you'll be in for a shock when you first use Microsoft Windows Vista. The new Program Menu shows you only recently used applications and requires extra clicks to navigate to submenus. This can be very frustrating but, thankfully, the Search box Microsoft has added to the Start menu is a great replacement—as long as you're an accurate typist. As quickly as you can type, it returns intelligent results in apps, files, even e-mail messages.—Dave Cardinal, freelance writer

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## Upcoming Computer Shows

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*By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC*

Here is a list of all the computer related shows I found for December 2008 and January 2009.

**West Coast Expos Computer Fair** ([lacomputerfair.com](http://lacomputerfair.com))

Fairplex in Pomona  
December 13-14, 2008  
January 17-18, 2009  
Orange County Fairgrounds  
December 20-21, 2008

**Giant ACP Computer Show**

([www.swapmeetbyhyperactive.com](http://www.swapmeetbyhyperactive.com))  
Hyperactive Computers Parking Lot, Santa Ana,  
January 27th, 2009

**Bagnall's Camera Expo** ([www.cameraexpo.com](http://www.cameraexpo.com))

Carson Center, December 14

**New! Consumer Technology Show** ([www.CTStimes.com](http://www.CTStimes.com))

Orange County Fair Grounds, December 20-21



## Digital Photography SIG

By Larry Klees, SIG Leader

### Last Month

We switched from the topic of Wide Angle photography to how to simulate an ultra-wide-angle photograph with a typical zoom lens. Many people either don't have a camera with interchangeable lenses or even if they do; they may not have an ultra-wide-angle lens. Yet, almost everybody has a camera with a 3-to-1 or a 4-to-1 zoom lens. We began learning how to use this typical zoom lens to take photographs that look just like they



were taken with an ultra wide angle lens.



To simplify this report, all focal lengths will be shown as their equivalent counterparts on a 35mm film camera. A normal lens is in the 50mm-to-60mm range. A 35mm lens is moderately

wide, while a 28mm lens is wide angle. Lenses in the 12 to 24mm range are considered ultra wide and can take photos without that circular fisheye like distortion.

This photo was taken with a lens having a focal length of approximately 18mm mounted on a high-end SLR camera.



As a rule, cameras with normal three-to-one zoom lens's can't take a picture like the one above. However in some cases you can create a really good fake as shown below. As you can see, the photo below is fairly similar to the photo above.

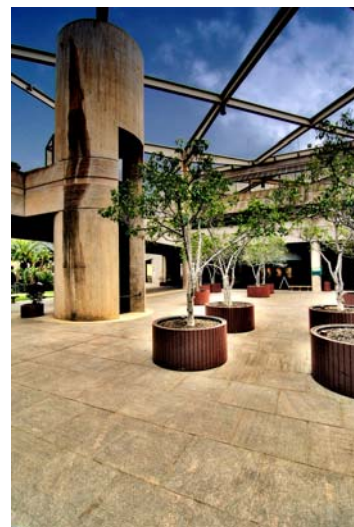
Yet, it was taken with a pocket-sized point & shoot camera. Both pictures were taken from the same location. (By the way, there is very little distortion in either of these photos. The building is curved around a bending road and has a swooping roof. The brick wall near the corner of the building is curved in the vertical direction.)



This trick was accomplished with what I like to call a mini panorama. You can see other mini panoramic photos in the October and November issues of the Bytes. Each has a different photo of airplanes. I consider a mini panoramic to be made of two to four photos stitched together to simulate a wider angle than the lens available. Both of the airplanes had to be shot at close distances. The building in this article was shot from across the street, but the building is wide. It required three shots with the point & shoot zoom set to its widest angle as seen below.



Sometimes you could get by with two landscape shots, but I usually prefer to shoot in portrait mode, even though it takes more shots and more work to stitch them together. Portrait mode gathers more pixels which allow larger blow-ups and it also allows more tolerance during the stitching process. (There are a variety of programs that do the stitching automatically, but I prefer to do it myself because I can get slightly better quality.)



This building begs for an ultra-wide-angle shot and was specifically chosen for this demonstration. It turned out to be a difficult choice because of its height. Not only was landscape not an option, but the requirement to leave some sky above the spire and tree tops required tilting the camera up slightly. This upward tilt causes a perspective distortion that is a considerable bother during the stitching process. Workload and deadlines prevent going into the details of the stitching process here.

Of course you can use three landscape shots to create a simulated portrait ultra-wide-angle shot.

### At the December meeting

We will start with discussing features on new models of cameras (Christmas is coming). Then we will finish the topic of using mini panoramas to simulate ultra-wide-angle lenses.

*This SIG meets in room 127 at 10:30 a.m*

## Pig SIG Open to All

Meet us outside Irvine Hall from about noon to 12:30 p.m. There is also a buffet lunch and snack bars open in Argyros Hall. There are several benches where NOCCC people gather, eat and chat. Just look for the member 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!



## Transportation Information

### Meeting Information

The NOCCC meeting is held at Chapman University, in the Hashinger Science Center and Irvine Hall, near the northwest corner of Center Street and Palm Avenue.

### Parking Information

Most of this information is on the back cover. For more information, see [www.chapman.edu/map/parking.asp](http://www.chapman.edu/map/parking.asp). A map of the Chapman University campus is also available at [www.chapman.edu/map/map.pdf](http://www.chapman.edu/map/map.pdf).

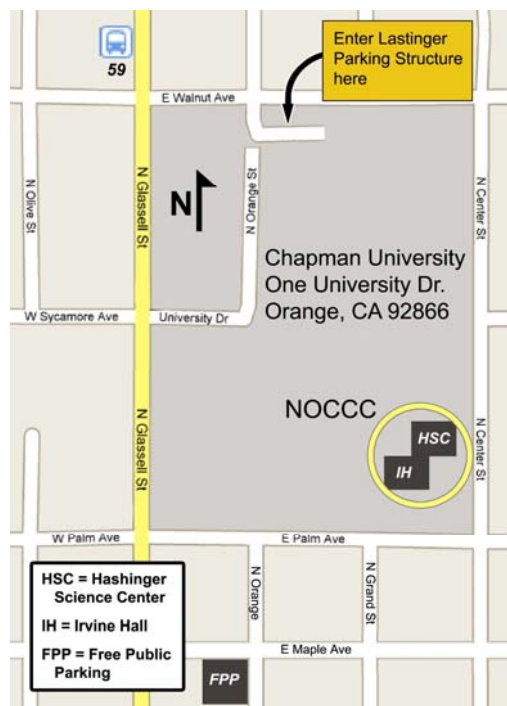
### Bus

Chapman University is serviced by several Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) buses. Route 54 runs East and West on Chapman Ave. The 59 runs North and South on Glassell Avenue, but doesn't start early enough for the 9:00 a.m. SIGs. Get the most current information or use a trip planner at [www.octa.net](http://www.octa.net). OCTA also has a Consumer Information Center at (714) 636-7433 (RIDE).

### Railroad

Two Metrolink trains can get you to the NOCCC meeting from the Inland Empire. There are stops in the cities of Riverside, Corona, and Anaheim Hills. Parking your vehicle is free at the train station.

On Sundays, Trains 857 and 859 leave San Bernardino destined for Orange County at 8:30 am and 8:55 am. For the return trip, trains 858 and 860 leave nearby Orange Metrolink at 3:55pm and 5:35. The Metrolink station is four-and-a-half blocks from Chapman University. For specifics regarding your trip, check the web site: [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com) or call 1-800-371-5465



# Beginners PC Q&A SIG

By Jim Sanders, SIG Leader



The inaugural meeting of this new Beginners SIG (10:30 a.m. in Irvine Hall) went well considering all of the confusion that shuffling meeting locations and misstating starting times created. One of the first questions concerned how to avoid having the printout from your e-mail program cut off the right hand side of the page or printing it on a second page. I know that this was a fairly common thing with Internet Explorer version six. And that it was close to being fixed in Internet Explorer version seven, which I believe is true. Firefox version two claimed to have fixed the problem before Microsoft introduced Internet Explorer version seven. There are other factors that can affect the problem but without actually seeing the machine in order to get a feel for what was going on, it is rather difficult to guess at the probable cause.

One other question concerned the battery recall for certain laptop computers. The question was multipart, how do you know if your computer is one of those that is on the recall list, what actually happens when the battery fails, and if I have to worry about the safety of my computer if it is part of the recall. Considering the small number of batteries that failed catastrophically, the odds are certainly in your favor that yours will not. In the case of the latest recall, 110,000 batteries are involved. Of that number, there have been 19 reports of the batteries overheating, including 17 reports of flames/fire (10 resulting in minor property damage). Two consumers experienced minor burns. That information was obtained from The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. I was easily able to find that information by asking the Oracle, aka Google. I used the following search string, "who to call about laptop battery recalls" at the Google home page. The second hit in the list was the one I looked at.

Another question involved a failing CD burner. The questioner wanted to upgrade his computer's ability to include burning a DVD and wanted to know if he would have to replace both the CD burner and buy the DVD burner. The answer to that question is no! New DVD burners are backwards compatible with all of the major features of the units that have preceded them. It is actually rather amazing, considering the price that they are selling for, that the DVD's have an extremely long list of things that they are required to do. Reading and writing CDs, CD-Rs, and CD-RWs are all on the list along with many different formats. The same thing is true in the world of DVD media. They must know how to deal with the -R, the +R, the -RW, and most, but not all, are capable of dealing with the DVD-RAM format.

December 2008

# PC Q&A SIG

By Jim Sanders, SIG Leader

One of the first questions had to do with shortcuts in desktop icons and keyboard shortcuts. Almost everyone is familiar with the control key plus C. and the control key plus V for the cut and paste functions. A few others, like Ctrl+X for delete, are pretty much universal in almost all Windows applications. Some applications, such as Microsoft Word, have over 200 keyboard shortcuts that the program knows how to execute. There are some other shortcuts that not too many people know about. For instance, if you right click on a desktop icon, you can bring up the properties window. Under the Shortcut Tab of that window there is a line that is labeled Target. The content of the target line tells the operating system which program you wish to open and additionally, can include what are called switches. For instance, the windows explorer shortcut icon on the desktop can have switches added to the initial line that will cause it to open up a specific folder on a specific drive. In addition, it gives you the ability to create a keyboard shortcut to activate the icon instead of double-clicking on it.

In the Windows annoyances category, we discussed the Windows XP file/open window. That is the one that pops up when you click on File and Open or do the Ctrl+O keyboard shortcut. The annoyance with the standard window is that it always opens in the list mode. If you have a lot of files, and want to be able to see the ones that have the latest date, you must stop, click on the view icon and switch to the detail view in order to see that. There is a program called **File-Ex** that can fix that problem. When it is installed, it changes things. The file/open window is made larger, you can set the default view to the detail view, it adds a number of easy to use control buttons, and some favorites directory's selection sub-windows. It provides the same features to the save window. It does have a 30 day free trial; however, if you want to keep using it, there is a \$19.95 charge.

Another topic was bad broadband cable service, or at least cable service that intermittently was failing for no obvious reason. One attendee said that he had tried fixing the problem by switching to a replacement router and to a replacement modem without success. Inside the house, that does still leave the cat-five cable between the modem and the router as at least a possibility. Another possibility is the path somewhere between the cable connection to the modem and the connection on the utility pole that provides the signal in the first place. Depending upon the installation there are several points at which a loose connection is possible and something as simple as a light breeze could make and break the connection causing intermittent failure. Once you have reached that point, about the only thing left to do is to insist that the cable company help you find out what the problem is. I will try and have something interesting as a standby for next month.

*This SIG meets in the Irvine Hall at 12:30 p.m. It is preceded by the Beginners SIG which start at 10:30 a.m.*



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## Microsoft Access

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*Bob Dickson, SIG Leader*

It's great to have lots of data in an Access database, but how do you find anything? Well, that's what Queries are for -- getting information out of your database. At the December SIG session we'll take a look at using queries to retrieve info. Especially useful will be selecting records using partial words rather than having to specify exact names of items, for example a partial city name as "Ana" which will retrieve 'Anaheim', 'City of Anaheim', 'Anaheim, City of'; etc. This is particularly useful with partially spelled words or even incorrectly spelled words (which can happen a lot with people's names). Participation is welcomed and hoped for.

*This SIG usually meets in Science 109 at 10:30 a.m.*



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## Linux SIGs

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*Bob Ray, SIG Leader*

Bob is working up something for the December meeting on Linux Administrator and Linux Programming. You all come – it is sure to be an interesting and useful, whether you are a beginner or more advanced Linux user



*This SIG meets in Science 131A at 9:00 a.m.*

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## Understanding Operating Systems

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*Charlie Moore, SIG Leader*



This SIG is lead by Charlie Moore and is a continuing discussion group about Operating Systems for Computers.

*This SIG meets in Science 111 at 10:30 a.m.*

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## Microsoft Office SIG

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*Tia Williams, SIG Leader*

This SIG is lead by Tia Williams, and it covers three parts of the **Microsoft Office Suite: Word, Excel and Outlook.**

*This SIG meets in Science 109 at 9:00 a.m.*



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## Internet Today

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*By Dave Keays, SIG Leader*

Dave was unable to attend the November meeting due to personal business. If he is not available in December, he will see you at the January 2009 meeting.

*This SIG meets in Science 306 at 9:00 a.m. Check the posted schedule the day of the meeting.*



**Dave Keays**

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## Visual Programming

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*Anson Chapman, SIG Leader*

This SIG is lead by Anson Chapman and is a continuing discussion group about computer programming using Visual Basic, Visual Basic Script, Visual C, Visual C++ and Visual J++ for Beginners.

*This SIG meets in Science 111 at 9:00 a.m.*



## November 3, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

The NOCCC Board Meeting was held at Jim Sanders residence. The meeting was called to order at 7:38pm on Monday November 3, 2008 by Jim Sanders, NOCCC President. Also in attendance were: John Heenan, Ted Littman, Leonard Prince, Tom Feeley, Steven Breitbart, Gerry Resch, and Mary Cornett. Not present were: Dallas Hazleton, Richard Miller, Chuck Hower, and Robert Love.

**Secretary's Report:** by Mary Cornett: Ted Littman made a Motion to: "Accept the October minutes as printed in the Bytes" and it was approved by all Board Members in attendance.

**Treasurer's Report:** by John Heenan:

- Dues: New 4, Renewal 1, (Will send all new/renewal names to Ted - approx. 14). = \$352.66 Total
- Coffee table \$22.34, Raffle tickets \$72.00.
- Membership Report: 236 Regular, 6 Family, 12 Newsletters, = Total 254 Members.

Board Members discussed our options for better interest rates with John. Ted motioned to, "Accept the Treasurer's Report as printed in the Bytes" it was approved by all Board members present.

### **Main Meeting:**

Next Scheduled Meeting is Sunday, December 7, 2008. Next Board Meeting is Monday, December 8, 2008. (By Jim Sanders)

**Opening & Closing:** The coffee and donuts went ok, with free coffee and paid donuts/cookies. Setup also went ok. Several persons helped with the close of the meeting.

**Report on General Meeting** November 2, 2008: The presentation was done by Sandy Frankel of the United States Postal Service regarding the "Basics of Selling on eBay". Sandy answered several questions by the audience and supplied detailed information. Jim Sanders and our Board felt the presentation went well. Attendance approx. 40 persons.

**SIG Room Change:** Larry Klees used Science #127 for his Digital Photography SIG. Attendance was approximately 8.

**Beginners PC Q&A SIG:** Went well, 10-13 persons attended, per Jim Sanders.

**PC Q&A SIG:** Question & Answer presentation by Jim Sanders went very well with some new members in attendance. Count was approximately 22 persons.

**Parking:** It was announced, the fee of \$2.00 for all-day parking was approved for members in the underground lot.

### **Committee Reports**

**Programs:** Jim Sanders is checking for new programs. Steven said the consignment store will put things on eBay. Steven also said he will check out APCUG articles.

**Publications and Reviews:** by Ted Littman. Ted and Steven discussed Bytes articles and Jim had some suggestions. Also discussed was photo arrangement. Three items were taken out for review.

**Raffle:** Gerry Resch took in \$72. Ted contributed 4 books: For the regular raffle: 1. Easy Computer Basics, 2. Create Your Own Website. For the Members Only Raffle: 1. The Truth About ID Theft, and 2. The Truth About Email Marketing. Also, Jim has 1 keyboard and Paragon software for the raffles.

**Auction:** The computer donated by eWaste will be auctioned at the December Main Meeting.

**eWaste:** by Gerry Resch. Collections still doing well. Steven mentioned that possibly the Navy has used computers; he will check.

**Public Relations:** Jim will check on Paragon Program. Steven discussed new ideas for speakers at future meetings.

**SIGS:** Jim Sanders said they went well. Bob Dickson said he would do both sessions of MS Word & Excel if necessary. Larry used Science #127.

### **Old Business:**

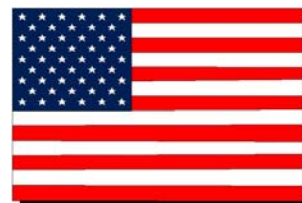
**Audit of club finances:** Gerry mentioned, most CPA's suggest audits. It was discussed but it will be looked in to.

**Bylaws:** Jim & Ted discussed the 8 pages of the proposed revision to the Bylaws that had been approved by the Rules Committee. The proposed revision will be posted on the NOCCC web site and noted in the December 2008 and January 2009 issues of the Orange Bytes with the hyperlink to our web site so that members may view the Bylaws. We plan to vote on the revision at the January 2009 Main Meeting. Ted also will post it on Dave's new club web site.

**New Business:** Cell phones: Jim stated, we need a Cell Phone List consisting of Board Members and SIG leaders. The new Cell Phone List will be only for the use of those stated and not published in the Bytes. Mary Cornett will be collecting the information and creating the new list to be emailed.

Note: Bob Dickson opens the doors at our meetings, and can call campus security if necessary. Their phone number is 714 997-6763.

Ted motioned to adjourn the meeting, and all members present agreed. The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.



# NOCCC Fee Schedule

The fee schedule has been set up to increase club membership, attract people with an interest in computing, and attract local computer-related businesses to place ads in the Orange Bytes with or without becoming NOCCC members. We are also offering members the opportunity to help our club financially by making donations that should be income-tax deductible since we are chartered as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Donors will be acknowledged in the Orange Bytes and the Membership level will be shown on the Member's Badge.

Membership Level (\$)	1 Year	3 Years
Individual Member .....	35	90
Each Additional Family Member .....	15	45
College Student .....	20	
High School Student .....	15	

Business Member + Ad (Business Card) ..... 180  
 Business Member + Ad (¼ Page, ½ Page) ... 465, 800  
 Business Member + Ad (Full Page) ..... 1,475

Membership Donations (\$)	
Contributing Member .....	75
Supporting Member .....	100
Advocate Member .....	250
Patron Member .....	500

## Christmas Gifts

Parent and Grandparent Members: Now is the season to think about gift giving. How about an inexpensive club membership for the high school and college students in your family? Or even the youngsters of your good friends?

Use the application in this newsletter, on our web site or see our Treasurer, John Heenan, at the December meeting.



## Welcome to Our Members Who Joined in October/November 2008

Your Board of Directors welcomes our members who recently joined:

- ✚ Jim Atkinson
- ✚ Mark De Bono
- ✚ Robert L. Gocłowski
- ✚ Gary Reeves
- ✚ Prentiss Robinson Family
- ✚ Larry Sears
- ✚ Gordon Stickland
- ✚ Bernard WC Wong
- ✚ Carl Zeller

We invite you to take an active roll in running NOCCC and planning its activities. Please contact President Jim Sanders one of our other officers at a monthly meeting or by e-mail.

## Thanks to Our Members Who Renewed in November 2008

- ❖ Barth N. Bybee
- ❖ Karl Harder
- ❖ Charles G. Hower
- ❖ Sid Liptz
- ❖ John E. Lundgren
- ❖ Audrey & Carl Rau
- ❖ Ronald Rose
- ❖ Stephen Saukerson
- ❖ Charles Tapia

## New SIG Leaders Needed

The following SIGS need new leaders:

- Computer Aided Investing
- Amibroker
- Hardware Essentials

If you have knowledge and an interest in any of these areas, please consider leading SIG. If this list of topics is not your area of expertise, feel free to suggest a topic. Contact Jim Sanders, the President of the NOCCC with your SIG ideas.





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*Commercial display advertisements  
are welcome, contact  
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**RATES**

One Page Vertical .....	7.0" x 9.5" .....	\$150
Half-page Horizontal .....	7.0" x 5.0" .....	\$80
Half-page Vertical .....	3.5" x 9.5" .....	\$80
Quarter-page .....	3.5" x 5.0" .....	\$45
Business Card .....	3.5" x 2.0" .....	\$ 15
Center Spread.....	14.0" x 9.5" .....	\$300

**Deadline: Tenth of the month**

Discounts: 3months=10%, 6=15%, 12=20%  
If you are interested in advertising in the publications of multiple User Groups throughout the region or nationally, you can learn more by contacting [www.apcug.org](http://www.apcug.org)

Readers, please tell our advertisers that you saw their ad in the ***Orange Bytes***



**Membership Renewal**

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

Memberships may also be renewed on our Website:  
<http://www.noccc.org>

Send e-mail address changes to [membership@noccc.org](mailto:membership@noccc.org)

**QUICK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ I am a new member   
This is a renewal; my membership number is \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

**Fees: see page 25 for fee schedule; \$35 for single membership**

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MC / Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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Orange, CA 92857

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Address Service Requested

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

**Dated Material** - Please deliver by December 5th.

## Are You an NOCCC Member?

Consider all that you get with membership and Join Now!

- **Meetings.** Keep up with what's going on in the computer world. Hear outstanding industry representatives make presentations of the latest and greatest in computer products.
- **Special Interest Groups.** Our SIGs cover a broad spectrum of computer issues. Whether you are a beginner or a power user, attend the lectures and demonstrations, and share your knowledge about computers.
- **Opportunity Drawings.** We have distributed thousands of dollars worth of hardware, software, and books as prizes at our Main Meeting.
- **Consignment Table.** We have a consignment table during select monthly meetings, in which members can sell or buy all kinds of computer items.
- **Get help with your current computer problems.** In the Random Access portion of the Main Meeting, you may ask your question of the entire assemblage. More than likely someone will have the answer.
- **NOCCC Help Line.** NOCCC volunteers, experts in their fields, are ready to assist you with your computer problems. They can be contacted by email or by telephone.
- **The Orange Bytes Newsletter.** Our [award-winning](#) newsletter reports on club activities and provides articles about current computer issues and reviews of software and books.
- **Product Reviews.** Write a review for the *Orange Bytes* and keep the software, hardware, book or CD!
- **Volunteer Work.** We have several interesting assignments available. As an all-volunteer organization, you can join with other members in a variety of activities: write articles for our newsletter, conduct a seminar, run a SIG, show new members around, join a committee, assist in setting up the meeting or participate in computer-related community volunteer work.

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

**Meeting Information** — The NOCCC meeting is held at Chapman University, in the Hashinger Science Center and Irvine Hall, near the northwest corner of N. Center St. and E. Palm Ave.

**Parking Information** — Chapman University's main parking lot is the underground Lastinger Parking Structure under Wilson field on the north side of the campus. Enter from Walnut Avenue, just east of Glassell Street. Buy a permit but note that the **permit machine only takes \$1 bills and coins.** Do not park in any other lot, in a reserved space or back into a space.

Free street parking is available on the campus-side of the streets only. **Parking in front of any residential housing will result in an expensive parking ticket.** A City of Orange public parking lot, located on the southwest corner of E. Maple and N. Orange, is also free and only 2 blocks from the meeting. See page 22 for more information about parking and transportation.

