

Orange Bytes



The Award Winning Newsmagazine of the North Orange County Computer Club

Vol 27 No 7

August 11, 2002

\$4.00

8:30 a.m.

Visual Programming I Science 109
Visual Basic and Visual Basic Script for beginners

9:00 a.m.

Auto cad Wilkinson 111
BeginningLinux Wilkinson 210
desktop applications under Linux
Visual Programming II Science 109
Visual C++ and Visual J++ for beginners
Windows Science 111
Windows ME & Windows 9x related questions

9:30 a.m. Irvine Hall
NEW TECHNOLOGIES
Herb Wong,
Video Apapters

9:30 a.m.

Computer Aided Investing . Wilkinson 221
recognizing when to sell
Hardware Essentials Irvine Hall
Video Adaptors
Intermediate Linux Wilkinson 210
Linux for administrators or programmers
Java Science 203

10:00 a.m.

Visual Programming III Science 109
intermediate and advanced Visual Basic

11:15 a.m.

Macintosh Wilkinson 210
exploring OS X with CDs and movie clips
Office Suites!, Etc. Science 111
queries
PC Q&A. Irvine Hall
general questions and answers
Quicken Science 203
Quicken and Quickbooks: Tracking investments
Understanding O.S.s Wilkinson 111
get help with DOS, Windows 3.1/9x/ME, OS/2,...
Visual Programming IV Science 109
Office program development using VB

12:00 noon

PIG SIG Argyros Hall Cafeteria

1:00 p.m. Irvine Hall
GENERAL MEETING
James Smith
migrating to Windows XP

1:00 noon

general meeting Irvine Hall

2:30 p.m.

Geneology Irvine Hall
discover your family history with modern tools
Hardware Essentials Science 109
video adaptors
OS/2 Science 203
OS/2 news and installation

future meetings
September 11

<http://www.noccc.org>

news magazine staff

Publication Chairman

Dave Keays 821-4792 editor@noccc.org

Editor — selects and edits the articles in the Bytes.

Dave Keays 821-4792 editor@noccc.org

Associate Editor/Production — lays out, formats, and submits the Bytes to the printer.

Dave Keays 821-4792 editor@noccc.org

Editor/Reviews — communicates with the vendors and the members who review products.

Ted Littman 779-1936 tedlit@adelphia.net

Web Reporters — searches user groups websites for articles .

Ted Williams 669-1009 TedWilliams@alum.mit.edu

Copy Editor— proofs Bytes for mistakes.

Dave Keays 821-4792 editor@noccc.org

Circulation— Picks up Bytes for the printer and oversees the mailing and distribution.

Alan Pearlman 828-5242 president@noccc.org

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

O.T.Stoll 521-6915 ot@stollcomputers.com

Commercial Advertising— Gets ads.

DJ Jennings dj97@hal-pc.org

Classified Advertising— Obtains members' computer- related non-commercial ads.

Jim Sanders 636-5523 jsanders@wdc.net

Help Line— Keeps a list of volunteers and the subjects they will answer questions about.

Ted Williams 669-1009 TedWilliams@alum.mit.edu

Contributing Editor

Timothy Everingham teveringham@earthlink.net



Change of Address?

Don't miss a single issue. Also, if we have your e-mail address, we can notify you of meetings and special events. Send address or e-mail changes to Alan Pearlman at membership@noccc.org or Box 3616, Orange, CA 92857

President's Message

Many of the vendors have cut back their budgets, so it is getting harder to get speakers for our meetings. We need your help. If you discover someone who you think could present a topic of interest to our members, please let me know.

Another item of note is to keep those virus checking programs current. I won't recommend any specific program as it is just a matter of preference.



This month many of our board members are going to be at a conference in San Diego to meet with other user groups. Remember, the meeting is on the second Sunday due to the university scheduling. We have the complete meeting schedule for the year and it is published in this issue.

There has been a change in the organization of the Reviews Desk. There are now two divisions

Ted Littman will be handling software reviews,

Lloyd and Joe Mizer will be handling book reviews.

August 2002

NOCCC Officers

The area code is 714 unless noted otherwise.

President

Alan Pearlman PearlmanA@aol.com

Vice President

James C. Smith Jamescsmith@bigfoot.com

Secretary

John Johnson Jrosjohnson@juno.com

Treasurer

Elise Edgell eliseme@aol.com

Directors

Cathy Grammer-Margolin

..... inventor00@pobox.com

Dave Keays rdksoft@sbcglobal.net

George Margolin inventor@pobox.com

Gerry Resch gresch@hotmail.com

Jim Sanders jsanders@ligasmicro.com

Herb Wong
..... Ocug@singularitytechnology.com

Else Olovsson eolovsson@msn.com

Ted Littman tedlit@adelphia.net

Past President

Terry Warren twarren@alumni.caltech.edu

Webmaster

Jim Peugh Webmaster@citivu.com

Business solicitations/ lecture series

George Margolin inventor@pobox.com

Consignment Table

Cathy Shimozono shimca@charter.net

Classified Advertising

D.J. Jennings dj97@hal-pc.org

Helpline

Ted Williams tedwilliams@alum.mit.edu

Membership Database

Alan Pearlman PearlmanA@aol.com

Programs

George Margolin inventor@pobox.com

SIG coordinator

Linda Russell goodnewsent@compuserve.com

University Liaison

PC Q&A SIG

by Jim Sanders

The primary topic for this month's SIG was the PCChips M812LMR motherboard. It almost didn't happen as on the way to Irvine Hall my cart hit a rut. The cart stopped, but the mini tower case that the motherboard was mounted in did not. The system landed almost perfectly flat on the top of the case. I opened it up to make sure no major pieces were rattling around loose inside the case and luckily, other than a few minor dings and scratches on the case top, everything was OK.

I have a good reason to think that this motherboard should be of interest to a fair number of people. It is the only motherboard that I have been able to find that is built on the Baby AT form factor that uses the AMD Athlon/Duron processors up to a 1.2 Giga Hertz clock. So if you have a nice Baby AT case system that just is not fast enough with the current motherboard, this is a fairly cheap way to speed it up. Just about all compatibility questions are irrelevant, as just about all I/O you will want is built into the motherboard.

The following is copied from their website description at: <http://www.pcchips.com>.

“

Supports AMD Duron/Athlon 500M~1.2GHz CPUs with frequency at 200MHz in Socket A for Baby AT Form Factor.

Provides 2 DIMMs for PC133 SDRAM modules, and memory size is expand up to 1GB.

Highest Performance, 128-bit 3D AGP Graphics Accelerator with 64MB(MAX.) frame buffer embedded in North bridge, up to 1920x1200 16M resolution; AGP Rev. 2.0 Spec. Compliant.

Provides an AMR slot; DirectSound AC97 Codec on board, for Audio and Modem applications.

10/100Mbps Fast Ethernet LAN on board, supports IEEE 802.3 and 802.3u standards, and fully compliant ANSI X3.263 TP-PMD physical sub-layer.

Bundled an AMR 56K V.90 Fax/Modem card for internet communication.

2MB Flash ROM on board, provides complete Advance Configuration Power Interface (ACPI) and Legacy PMU; Ultra DMA 66/100 ; fully compliant with PC'97 and PC98 Spec.

Provides ATX power connector supports various functions of ATX Power such as Suspend, Shutdown, Wake on LAN, Wake on Modem, Wake on Alarm, Interrupt Wake-Up from Keyboard/Mouse, and Keyboard Power On/Off.

Built-in Hardware Monitor circuit supports Thermal, Power and Fan Speed monitor.

Supports PC99 Color Connector for easy identification of peripheral devices.

Optional external USB card for extra USB ports connection.

Bundled 3Deep, to deliver the precise imagery and display accurate color in your monitor.

Bundled Super Voice for Fax/Modem and Voice applications; MediaRing Talk for Internet Phone communication.

”

On the down side, if it matters, there are only two PCI expansion slots on the motherboard, period. But the only items most people would want to add to the above list are SCSI, USB 2.0, or Firewire 1394. I ran into three installation problems and one acquisition problem. I found the board at: <http://www.newtechnologycomputers.com> after doing a Google search. The problem arose because the above description says, "Bundled an AMR 56K....."and I figured that meant that daughter card was included. Maybe it is supposed to be, but from this outfit you have to order the M812LMR mobo for \$57, the optional "AMR Modem" for \$5, and the optional "ATX Form Card" for \$5, (you want both), plus \$15 S&H. They are located in Arizona so no sales tax is added to the \$82 total. Since I ordered mine, several other vendors have shown up on Google.

The first installation problem had to do with the original 200W Baby AT supply. It just didn't have enough power to run the 1.0 Ghz Duron that I installed, so I replaced it with a 300W ATX supply. Unless you have a 300W Baby AT supply, this is probably the better choice.

The second problem was a layout problem. On the motherboard, the Baby AT PS connector gets in the way of the sound connector when you try and install it in what I considered the logical location. I solved the problem by changing the bracket to one off an old sound card where the sound and game port connectors were reversed.

The third problem was created by switching to the ATX style power supply. The ATX style supply wants a momentary contact push button switch on the front panel to turn power on. The only switch of that type was the reset switch which was needed for that function. The temporary, long term, solution was to use the now useless, alternate action "Turbo" switch. Press it once to make the contact, press it again to release the switch contact and you have the equivalent switch. Hey, I know, M I C K E Y....., but it works. The original motherboard was a 486DX-2/66, so just to fake out a visitor, I left the two digit digital display on the front of the case set to 66. In street rod terms, I have a sleeper.

I am going to the South West Regional Users Group meeting next month so the SIG will have a substitute presenter.

Office Suites

By John Heenan (jc_heenana@ware.com)

Due to the make up of the group and initial questions, we reviewed the following from previous Access sessions:

The difference between a flat file and a relational database

The best way to explain this difference is to use a picture of an invoice to show that relationships exist between the 4 files necessary to create an invoice. These files, called Tables, include customer information, the invoice heading and summary data, the line item detail, and product /service data.

Creating order entry application using the wizard

The objective is to show the contents of the four major tables used to create an invoice and the links to each of the tables. During the Wizard process, a user has the ability to choose files and respective fields to be included in the design of the application. Once it has been created by the wizard, it may be displayed graphically by first opening the database window and then choosing Tools | Relationships from the menu. In the graphical display, the four previously named tables are identified along with several other extraneous tables, such as Shipping Methods. It is also easy to see from the arrows between the tables, what fields are used as links between the them.

SQL scripts that define the graphical display of a query

One of the members was more familiar with text based database manager than with the use of graphical tools and objects to create an application. From a query, it is easy to show the SQL text view, as well as the design view and the data sheet view.

Event commands that are created in the wizard

Although the wizard creates event commands using Visual Basic, two other tools can be used as the application is enhanced to fit the user's needs. These are the Expression Builder and the Macro Builder. In design view, if we right click on properties and then choose the Event tab. An Event Procedure is shown to the right of the appropriate Event. Highlight the Event Procedure and press the button with the 3 dots. Up pops the Visual Basic text that controls the Event.



**Gene Barlow from PowerQuest
speaking at the July meeting**

Organize and Protect your Hard Drive

by Gene Barlow , www.ugr.com

Your hard drive is the only part of your computer system that you can customize to your personal needs. Using PartitionMagic, you can organize your hard drive in many of the following ways. First, install a second hard drive on your system to improve performance and better protect your files.

You can organize your system with only one hard drive, but a second drive will give you many more options. Second, convert all of your FAT partitions to FAT32 to maximize the use of your drive space. Third, keep your FAT32 partitions less than 8GB in size to avoid wasting disk space. Fourth, setup multiple partitions on each hard drive, keeping all primary partitions at the beginning of the first drive. Fifth, use primary partitions for operating systems and move all other files out of your primary C: partition, except the operating system's files. Sixth, setup a separate APPS logical partition to contain your application programs. Seventh, keep all of your important data files in a special DATA logical partition to better protect them from loss. Organizing in this manner will greatly improve your system over having all of your files in one C: partition.

Run Multiple Operating Systems

Running more than one Operating System on your computer will give you many of the following advantages. Again, PartitionMagic and BootMagic will let you do this easily and safely. First, setup a second operating system to try out some of the exciting new systems, such as Linux or Windows 2000. Second, use multiple operating systems to migrate to a new version of your operating system safely. Don't risk losing your current stable operating system in order to move to a new release. Instead, setup a second primary partition and copy your current operating system into this new partition. Then install

the new release on top of the copy and not on your original system. Once you have tested out the new version, you can easily delete the old operating system. Third, setup a new primary partition on your hard drive and install a fresh clean version of the operating system in it. Then install your most used applications in a separate APPS partition under this clean operating system. Download and install all of the patches for your operating system and applications. This clean system will run much more reliably than your old system with everything in it. Switch to the old system only for seldom-used applications or to test out new applications.

Protect Your Hard Drive

Hard drives are mechanical devices that are constantly in use on your system. As such, they eventually will fail and you'll lose your files. The best you can do is to frequently backup your files so that you can recreate your hard drive when it does fail. The following steps will let you better protect your hard drive from such failures. First, setup a backup partition on each of your hard drives. Hard drives are the best backup media to backup today's very large drives. Second, cross backup your entire hard drives each month using Drive Image, a full system backup utility. You'll create a condensed (50%) image of each of your partitions with all of their content, settings, and hidden files. This image can quickly be restored to recreate your partitions and their content. Once a quarter, copy these backup images to a CD-R/RW and store these in a remote location to protect against fire or theft. Third, your data files need to be backed up on a daily basis. Setting up multiple partitions on your hard drive and protecting them with current backups using Drive Image will let you recover your system in minutes instead of days or weeks of effort.

Windows XP: As Good as it Gets

Bass discovers few crashes, great performance, and a minimum of headaches with XP Pro

By Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

Kvetching about an operating system is therapeutic. Believe me, I've done lots, saving regular visits to my shrink. But my complaining has almost bottomed out since I made the full-time switch to Windows XP Pro.

You caught that, right? I said almost. The reason is that even though I'm wildly pleased with XP, there are still a few features—and loose ends—I don't like. I'll describe a few of them in this and subsequent columns, and show you how XP has built-in ways to make the changes. (Of course, that's one of my primary kvetches — finding the spots to modify XP isn't obvious and requires digging.)

To play fair, I have to warn you that I'll also do some proselytizing. I'm going to do my best to win you over, so to speak, for your own good. That's because once you get over the hassle of Product Activation, and Microsoft's annoying single license policy, I really think your computing experience will increase substantially.

I need another soapbox minute or two. Many of the PC World letters I receive complain, sometime bitterly, of a Microsoft conspiracy to force you into upgrading your system. Readers go on to say that in order to use XP, they'll need to replace some of their devices (printers seem to be the first one not to work), or stop using old, 16-bit programs written for Win 95.

I'll concede and agree with many of the readers that Microsoft should have done a better job with previous Windows versions, then we wouldn't be stuck in the corner having to upgrade.

But the reality is that if you want a slick operating system, one that's likely to make your computing day smoother and your workday more productive, you'll have to upgrade. [Set Soapbox to Off].

No More Stinkin' Crashes

You probably know that XP is a pretty interface hung on Windows 2000's architecture, so it resists crashes extraordinarily well. That's true for XP but not necessarily for programs that still plow headfirst into the bit bucket. For instance, Eudora, my e-mail program, locks up when I try embedding what it considers a too large image into a message. And Internet Explorer also has a way of choking and freezing on some sites, doing its best to imitate a deer in headlights.

With Win 9x, the Eudora and IE crash could bring the system down; even if it didn't, I'd reboot to clear out any leftover holes in memory. Win XP contains the crash and stops it from contaminating the rest of the system. Using Control - Alt - Delete, the three-finger, soft-boot salute, calls up Task manager, one of XP's shining lights. Click on the toasted app and it's history.

Crash Reports? No, Thanks

Of course, with Microsoft at the helm, nothing as cool as Task Manager's handling of a crash can be left alone. Microsoft insists on meddling by sending itself the details of the crash. No doubt, the crash report does provide clues, often vital ones that you can review, to explain why a program crashes.

But once I've looked at a report — say, Eudora's paige32.dll bug that Qualcomm won't fix — I'm no

longer interested in seeing it pop up. So I've turned parts of the feature off. (From Start, Control Panel, Advanced tab, Error Reporting.) This dialog gives me choices, and they're good ones. I can get the report but not send it, opt to hear only about programs or XP's errors, or even add specific programs to watch.

Zap, You're Restored

GoBack was the first successful utility to save snapshots of a PC's hard drive and let you restore the drive to a time when things were running well. It shouldn't surprise you to see a similar feature in Windows XP. (Roxio's GoBack, \$40, download at www.roxio.com.)

Quick aside: Many of Microsoft's niftier features are from the brain trusts of third-party companies. Woody, creator of dozens of Office, and specifically Word add-ons, said that to me in a private e-mail recently. More in another column.

XP's System Restore does just about everything does, just not as well. Nonetheless, it's an improvement over the way it worked in Windows ME, and a handy tool. I create a Restore point just before installing a new application. If the installation goes kablooey, I use System Restore to jump five minutes into the past and get my system going again.

I use it so often, I pinned it onto my Start Menu for easy access. Try it: Find System Restore in All Programs, Accessories, System Tools and right mouse click on the icon and choose Pin on Start menu. Easy, no?

System Restore's Problems

The problem? System Restore isn't perfect. While I haven't had a problem in the 25 times I've used it, some reports on the Internet talk about DLLs that should be gone after a System Restore, are still on the system.

One thing Microsoft doesn't tell you is that each Restore Point (and system checkpoints, those restore points XP does

automatically) takes up disk space.

You can dump all but the last system point by using XP's Disk Cleanup tool. Open Disk Cleanup, by clicking Start, choose All Programs, Accessories, System Tools, select Disk Cleanup, and choose the More Options tab. (Shortcut: From Start, Run, type cleanmgr.)

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

ARTICLES WANTED!

(written by NOCCC members)

**TIPS, REVIEWS, OR
ANY COMPUTER TOPIC
YOU'RE INTERESTED IN!**

Email: EDITOR@NOCCC.ORG

(note: temporarily use rdksoft@sbcglobal.net)

Dave Keays, ORANGE BYTES editor

Incredimail a FREE e-mail Program

[Http://www.incredimail.com](http://www.incredimail.com)

Part 2 - Finding your own Stationary

by Sigrid Foreman, APCUG

Part 1 - My Favorite E-Mail Program and can be found in our February 2002 issue on page 2 of the Newslink located on our website at <http://www.tyler.net/tcc>

I use Incredimail for my e-mail program, and one of the nice things about it is that I can find so many different stationeries to use. The Incredimail home gallery offers a wide variety as well as animations, sounds and e-cards. All these can also be found on many sites all over the Internet.

Going to www.yahoo.com and typing "incredimail stationary" in the search window and will result in multiple listings that feature downloadable stationary. A popular site listing that you will see is Bomis, where you find many popular stationary sites with a short description of each. On most you simply have to click on a download button or the stationary itself and it will automatically add itself to your style box. On others it's a little more involved but instructions are usually available under help. Also listed there are some incredimail groups. A extensive list of 161 incredimail groups with description can be found at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/search?query=incredimail>.

To participate in most of the groups you would have to join...its FREE... and be a part of that group. Some groups require that you be on "individual mail" to be a member and some do not. By being on individual mail, you will receive and be able to "snag" all the stationary that goes thru the group. Some of these groups, in order to cut down on unnecessary mail traffic have replies going directly back to the sender instead of passing back thru the group for all to see, this helps eliminate a lot of unwanted mail for those on dialup.

To help me manage my group mail (I'm currently in 7 groups) I establish a second identity in Incredimail. Basically what you have then are 2 separate accounts in the same e-mail program. My group mail is then kept separate and does not get mixed up with my regular mail. Another thing that I did was to have each groups mail go into its own subfolder by using the message rules found under Tools. A subfolder needs to be added prior to using the Rules, and usually given a group name.

This second account can be set up thru your ISP as a second address or you can get another e-mail address from the many free or pay hosts that are available. Each server/host usually has instructions on how to setup your new e-mail address to enable you to download your mail via your POP account. You should find a host who will give you as much storage as possible. If you do not have enough storage then your group mail will be bounced back to the sender and Yahoo may think you are on vacation and suspend your account until you reactivate it. Be aware some hosts do not allow you to do this since it is in violation of their terms... services such as Juno and I believe AOL do not, while Yahoo and Hotmail do. I will list some free e-mail sites with their storage amounts at the end of this article.

Why join these groups? Oh... to "snag" the stationary and "beg" for "tags" of course!! Each message will have a different stationary, or "stat" as they are called, but some will be personalized with the senders name and they usually include a "tag" which is what is known as a digital signature and consists of a smaller image of the stationary graphic with the senders name embedded...although it does not have to be the same image as that of the stationary itself.

Snagging - When you see a stat that you like, simply click on the yellow star in the upper right hand corner of the e-mail message. It will then automatically add itself to your style box, where all your stationary is stored. Each will usually add itself to its own category and you will then have to organize it at a later date or you will have hundreds of categories. Your style box is accessed whenever you write an email by clicking on the red tab on the left side of your stationary. As you click on each category you will see a list of stat names, select each one to view the stationary. To organize stats, simply select the one you wish to move, drag and drop it into the category into which you want it to belong.

Begging for Tags – Tags are used in the same manner as a written signature. To receive a personalized tag, we “beg” for it. It is named begging in fun, not fact. All you do is request it from the person who wrote the letter and if that person made it they will usually make you one. If not, they will generally tell you who did and direct you to them...if they can remember. Tags are sent to you as attachments with an e-mail, simply click on the paper clip, and save into a folder that you have established for it.

Incredimails Signatures - are separate from and can be used in place of or in conjunction with a tag. There you can “write” your own name in the graph and it will transfer it to the signature box. Tags may also be added to the signature box. I use a time\weather bar below my written signature. The time\weather bar can be found at www.wunderground.com, type your town and state into the fast search window. When your forecast arrives, scroll down until you see “add this sticker...” in the left column and click on it. There you have a choice of several formats, select the one you like, highlight the bar and copy. Open a new message, go to Tools, Edit Signature and click in the box below the graph, paste in the bar by doing a “CTRL V”. If you would like this with every message that you send, you would check the box “insert to outgoing messages” and “insert to reply\forward” under Tools\Options\Compose. This has to be done for each identity or it will only work for one.

Ok, I think I have covered getting yourself some tags and stats and what to do with them once you’ve found them, but if you have any questions, feel free to email me “sigrid@tyler.net” and I will do my best to help you with any further questions.

As promised, here are some of the free e-mail sites. These sites were compiled by Charles Misner of Catskill Herbs ‘n Spice <http://www.csng.net/>, an IM group owner/moderator.

50 mgs <http://www.totalise.net> Good one

20 mgs <http://www.graffiti.net>

50 mgs <http://www.smartvia.de> in German

10 mgs <http://www.ailandnews.com>

20 mgs <http://www.macnews.de> in German

no limit? <http://www.onemarq.com>

10 mgs <http://www.telebot.com>

10 mgs <http://www.subdimension.com>

15 mgs <http://www.visto.com>

20 mgs <http://www.mail.uk2.net>

50 mgs <http://www.Xlarge.de> in German

100 mgs <http://www.freeseve.com>

no limit <http://www.madasafish.com>

40 mgs <http://www.eudoramail.com>

10 mgs <http://www.gmx.com>

no limit <http://www.freeuk.com>

unknown <http://www.atozasia.com>

Ten Years Ago

A look back at a column that deals with the transition to Windows in 1992. The title: “The Ongoing Windows Dilemma”

By Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

If you're like many computer users, you're gradually making the switch to Windows. You've abandoned some of your DOS applications and forced others to work in Windows and maybe even found some neat replacements that are designed for Windows.

If you play around with a few Windows applications, the advantages are easy to see. To begin with, Windows applications all adhere to the same basic interface. That means once you've grown accustomed to clicking the mouse on the File portion of the menu in one application — for example, to Save, Open, or Print a file — you'll discover it's in the same place on all Windows applications. That reduces the learning curve on new applications and, well, just makes each product easier to use.

From Here to There

You'll also find out how easy it is to transfer data from one Windows application to another. That's because all Windows products — as opposed to DOS programs — are generally made to work in the same way thereby allowing them to share data. And because Windows is a graphical environment, it means you can easily see things on the screen just as they'll look when you print them out.

Some adjustments, however, are harder to make. Because I come from a DOS environment, I rarely used the mouse. Unfortunately, Windows word processing programs are notorious in their attempt to make me use the rodent. When I write — as opposed to working in a spreadsheet — I like to keep my fingers on the keyboard. So along with learning to use the mouse, I've searched out keyboard alternatives to mouse clicks.

It's not that difficult, but, as you may have discovered, not always a slick solution. Especially if you're used to a series of DOS keystrokes.

To get around the problem, I've taken advantage of the macro function of most Windows programs. A macro gives me the ability to assign numerous keystrokes to one or two key combinations, easily duplicating keystrokes from my old DOS programs. Now I know you're going to laugh but the first Word for Windows macro I created was CTRL-T.

1-2-3...Quattro

Borland's Quattro Pro for Windows, the star of Windows spreadsheet programs, took a bold — but obvious step — in making the mouse more useful. If you've highlighted a spreadsheet cell and click on the right mouse button, for example, you'll get a dialogue box allowing you to modify the properties within that cell. Pretty bright. Not only that, as you scroll across QP/WIN's Speedbar, a brief description telling you what each icon does appears on the bottom of the screen. Boy, does that help in learning.

Overall, I think the most daunting part of switching to Windows is first facing — and then choosing from — the staggering number of Windows applications on the market.

The problem is they're all solid contenders. (We should always have such problems.) In the last month, for example, I've tried to decide on a word processor. Because of my work with PC World (I have to test every user group tip so I've tried lots of software), I've played with Lotus' Ami Pro and Microsoft's Word for Windows. Both products are winners and each has half a dozen features I like.

For example, Ami Pro's Smart Icons — shortcut buttons that help me get to many other features — are a great help with navigating through the program. I can move the icons to just about any location, handy if I'm fiddling with some design at the bottom of the page. Ami Pro's Icons are colorful, something I didn't think was important until I compared it to Word for Windows' monochrome Toolbar.

But wait, Microsoft has some neat things too. Word for Windows' Create Envelope feature lets me address and print an envelope in less time than it takes to lick a stamp. The outlining feature, something I've ignored in stand-alone programs because it was so hard to get to, was addicting. The Page Preview functions in Word for Windows are glorious.

Too bad I can't combine the best features of both and call it BassWord WinPro.

Need a Database?

The one program that I'm still up in the air about is a Windows database.

The two software giants are slugging it out, each vying for my attention, trying to get me to buy their database. And if you played your cards right, you cashed in on the ridiculously low prices. I mean, Microsoft's Access for \$99 bucks. Hell, it's almost like buying shareware.

Then Borland, with its stock wallowing in the low twenties, (it looked like it dropped a point for every day Paradox was delayed), tempting you with user group specials. Paradox for Windows for \$125 and, for another \$55, Quattro for Windows. At the Borland meeting, one guy bought five copies and said he was a commodities broker. Sure, I'll take a hundred pork bellies, a bushel of soy beans and a handful of PDX/WIN's.

Look, the prices are low because there's a lot at stake for both companies. Generally, the product you start with is the one you'll stay with because you've spent so much time learning the keystrokes. So if they

can get the product into your hands before the other guy, well, you get the picture.

And we're in the catbird seat because they look at user groups members as Influential End Users. They figure that if you buy one and like it — and with any luck use it — you'll likely tell ten other users. Then if you like it and you're MIS, well, they've really hit the jackpot.

But I Digress...

Hey, did I get off the subject?

Both Access and Paradox for Windows are great products. Microsoft's tempts you with Wizards and Templates while Paradox for Windows mesmerizes you with power, speed and, the best of all, familiarity. You already know Paradox, why learn something new?

So which one are you going to choose? It's the perennial battle, the one you face with every program you see at Egghead. §

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

NOTE:

You need a password to get a copy of the **current PDF version of ORANGE BYTES.**

VoptXP

By Cathy Grammer-Margolin

VoptXP by Golden Bow Systems is a major upgrade to an old friend! It defragments your hard drive and you do not have to do it overnight! Boy is it fast! I always call this the program Microsoft forgot.

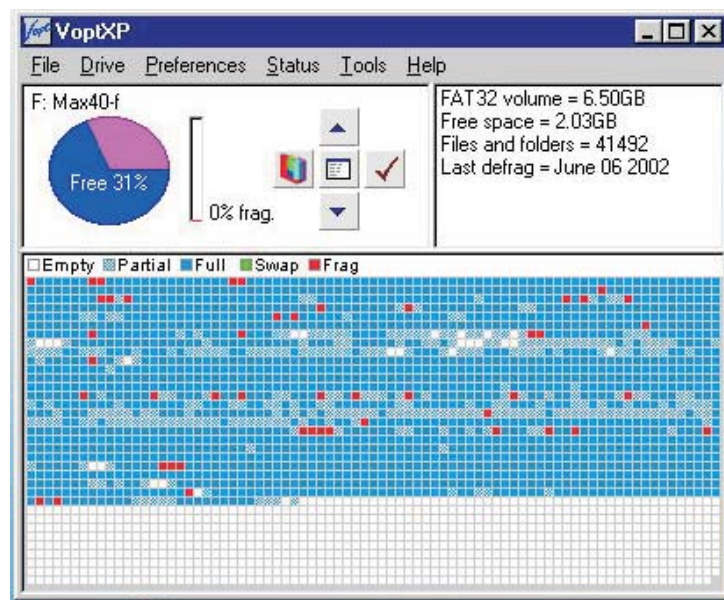
Fragmentation of your hard drive is explained as: Over time as you write files to your hard drive, they tend to lose fragments of files. It also takes longer to find files as bits and pieces of files tend to be scattered all over your hard drive. Defragmenting moves all files together in contiguous spaces, which is good for your files and also speeds up your hard drive.

The new version of VoptXP runs on Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows ME, Windows 2000 and Windows XP. Windows XP itself does include a new defragmentation program but it is still very slooowww. This is why I was so happy to get the new version of VoptXP, since it zooms right along. Using VoptXP, I defragmented a 6 gig hard drive in under 3 minutes.

In addition to fast defragmenting, it also includes new tools such as batch defragmenting, scheduling, drive test, memory usage, performance tests, error checking, and file search. Not only can you see and set your virtual memory settings, there are privacy and cleanup tools such as cookie removal, internet history and temp file cleanup. There is also a new tune up of display, internet, and system.

VoptXP is used on the well-known PCPITSTOP.com site to test hard drives. PCPITSTOP.com is a site where you can test your system without doing any damage and it will help you figure out what is wrong with your system.

For more information on VoptXP, or a free 30 day trial, visit www.goldenbow.com or call 800-284-3269. When you order this \$40 program, if you mention Cathy or George Margolin, you can get \$10 off on the download price (\$30 special for NOCCC members!!). Happy De-fragmenting with VoptXP!



**voptXP defragmenting a 6 gig hard drive
(it took less than three minutes)**

Bicycle Rummy, a Computer Card Game

Reviewed by Ted Littman, NOCCC

If you enjoy playing card games like Rummy (supposedly the best known card game in the U.S.), but don't have one or more live partners available, there are other options. You can play against the computer or try to find opponent(s) online (including at the Microsoft Gaming Zone at www.zone.com).

Bicycle Rummy comes on one CD without written instructions (except for installation). However, the program Help file is adequate even for a novice card player. Installation is simple. On most Windows operating systems, you insert the CD in the appropriate drive and autorun guides you through installation and setup. Once installed, the CD is not required to run the program, which occupies about 24 MB of hard disk space.

The CD also includes a catalogue of other available computer card games. 24-hour automated product support is supposed to be available at www.expertsoftware.com, but I could not access the site. Help also may be available via an 800 fax number and a toll call to Florida, but I did not check these.

There are nine variations of Rummy available, including Gin and 500. For some games, you may select the number of animated computer characters to play against (up to three); for others, the number of players is fixed by the rules of the game. There are three levels of difficulty to choose from, depending on how much brainpower you want to exercise. Several scoring and playing options also are selectable. Games can be saved for later review, continuation, or replay (if the computer keeps beating you).

If you get bored with one card deck, you can select another - both front and back card faces are variable. Background music can be selected too as well as "speech" you can hear during the game using the "Tutorial" mode. Hints are provided and you are nudged to play if you take too long to make a move. Except for beginners, the speech option is likely to be more of an annoyance than a help.

In summary, if you are bored with Solitaire and other computer games, give Rummy a try. The price is right and the game is fun as well as challenging. Even if you aren't familiar with Rummy, it is easy to learn and there are enough variations to keep your interest. If you know the card game, using the computer is an anytime option to playing against live opponents.

The game can be used on any 9x version of Windows. I used XP. Minimum system requirements are a 486 DX/100 MHz computer with 8 MB RAM, a 2X CD-ROM drive, 16-bit sound card, 30 MB free hard drive space, and a mouse.

Bicycle Rummy was developed in 1998 by Gunnar Games/Expert Software, Inc. of Coral Gables, FL. The MSRP is \$14.95 and it is available online at a cost between \$5 and \$15, plus S & H. It likely can be purchased at your favorite computer retail store as well.

DEADLINE

All articles and reports for the BYTES must be sent by Sunday after the meeting to
EDITOR@NOCCC.ORG.

(note: temporarily use
rdksoft@sbcglobal.net)

Dave Keays, ORANGE BYTES editor

The Linux Cookbook

Tips and Techniques for Everyday Use

a review by Ted Shapin, NOCCC

Suppose you have a new Linux system. How can you use it to perform everyday tasks? Author Michael Stutz has written “The Linux Cookbook” to give you recipes someone new to Linux is likely to need to know.

Unlike Linux manuals, which give you a whole list of commands and parameters (usually in alphabetical order), this book has seven major parts: Working with Linux, Files, Text, Images, Sound, Productivity, and Networking. Each part has many sections; for example the text sections have recipes for viewing text, text editing, grammar and reference, analyzing text, formatting text, searching text, typesetting and word processing, and fonts.

Here is an example of a recipe:

8.6.2 Listing the contents of an archive

*To list the contents of a tar archive without extracting them, use tar with the ‘-t’ option. * To list the contents of an archive called ‘project.tar’ type: \$ tar -tvf project.tar [ret]*

This command lists the contents of the ‘project.tar’ archive. Using the ‘-v’ option along with the ‘-t’ option causes tar to output the permissions and modification time of each file, along with its file name — the same format used by the ls command with the ‘-l’ option.

This is a very useful book and the author has used the tools he describes to produce it. Not only that, but he has made the source available online at <http://dsl.org/cookbook>. This site also provides a method for purchasing the book at a discount.

I highly recommend this book to all who use or want to use Linux.

Published by the Linux Journal Press, 395 pages, \$29.95 list price.

CONSIGNMENT TABLE

1. The consignment table is for members-only. Only current members can place items for sale, but non-members are welcome to purchase items from the table.
2. The consignment table operates on a 90%/10% basis - with the owner getting 90%.
3. Fill out a tag on each item! It must contain Name, NOCCC#, item name, short description and asking price.
4. Also fill out this USER LIST with Name, Address, Phone#, and a complete list of items and their asking prices.
5. All items and/or money may be picked up by owner at any time — but MUST be picked up no later than 2 PM on day of sale.
6. Any items and/or money not picked up by above stated time will become property of NOCCC and will be subject to disposal at the club’s discretion.
7. NOCCC assumes NO RESPONSIBILITY for ANY items bought or sold. Each item is placed and sold on an AS-IS BASIS.

Software for Review

During May 2002, a large number of software products were obtained from vendors for review by qualified NOCCC members. If you are interested in doing a review (which will be published in Orange Bytes), please call or E-Mail me and provide your membership number, phone number, and E-Mail address. Remember, you get to keep the software!

Currently available are the following:

- Art Icons Pro 3.2 for Windows - Create, edit, and manage icons
- PhotoBase 3.0 for Windows A multimedia management/presentation-making app
- McAfee VirusScan OnLine A 1-year subscription to stay virus free
- Sygate Personal Firewall Pro 5.0 Editors Choice per PC Magazine
- Stuffit DeLuxe 7.5 for Windows Compress files so they fly across the Internet
- Handy Backup 3.5 for Windows Automatic backup of critical data to any storage type
- Essential Net Tools 3.1 for Windows 7A suite of network tools

In addition, the following items were received and assigned to members at the July meeting:

- Zone Alarm Pro 3.0
- Snagit 6.1
- Camtasia for the Mac
- PrintShop Deluxe 12
- Spring Cleaning 5.0 for the Mac
- Drive Image 2002
- MacDrive 5 for Windows

Ted Littman, NOCCC product review editor

TedLit@Adelphia.net

Book Reviews Desk

The club has lost access to the storage room in the lecture hall and this leaves us without a storage cabinet to house our books and other items. This means we will have to carry in each month the items we display. We made a large donation of books to the Chapman library in the name of the North Orange County Computer Club. We will publish each month the list of items available. If you want one of these items to do a review contact us at the above address and we will arrange to get it to you at the next meeting or sooner.

If you want to request a specific book send us an e-mail with as much information about it as possible and we will try to get it for you. Once we get the book we will send you an e-mail.

The following Books are Available

- Unix Made Easy, Osborne McGraw Hill
- Web3D, Prentice Hall
- Wireless Web, Addison Wesley
- TCP/IP Network Admin, OREILLY
- Managing the Data Warehouse, Wiley
- Data Replication, Wiley
- Visual Basic.NET in 24 hrs., Sams
- Creating Active Dir. Infrastructures, P. H.
- Designing & Implementing workgroups
- C++ FAQs, Addison Wesley
- XML and SQL, Daniel Appelquist, A.W.
- Debugging Perl, Martin Brown, McGraw Hill
- Exploring E-commerce, Prentice Hall
- Electronic Commerce Relationships, P. H.
- Understanding Web Development, P. H.
- Designing Components with C++ STL, A.W.
- Designing Applications with MSMQ, A. W.
- Enterprise Knowledge Management, Kaufmann
- Info Visualization in Data Mining ..., Kaufmann

Joe Mizer & Lloyd Mizer, *book review editors*

Lloyd Mizer can be contacted at lmizer@juno.com

Joe Mizer can be contacted at jmizer@earthlink.net.

Current SIGS

SIG	Time	Building	Leader	E-mail
Autocad	9:00	Wilkinson 130	Joe Mizer	Jmmizer@Juno.com
Hardware Essentials	9:30	Science 306	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com
Hardware Essentials	2:30	Science 109	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com
Internet	2:30	Irvine Hall	James C. Smith	Jamescsmith@bigfoot.com
Java	9:30	Science 203	Terry Warren	Twarren@Alumni.caltech.edu
Beginning Linux	9:00	Wilkinson 210	Bob Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net
Intermediate Linux	9:30	Wilkinson 210	Bob Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net
Macintosh	11:15	Wilkinson 210	John Willner	willner@earthlink.net
New Technologies	9:30	Irvine Hall	George Margolin	Inventor@Pobox.com
Office Suites	11:15	Science 111	John Heenan	Jc_Heenan@Csi.com
Os/2	2:30	Science 203	Terry Warren	Twarren@Alumni.caltech.edu
PC Q&A	11:15	Irvine Hall	Jim Sanders	jSanders@ligasmicro.com
QuickBooks	11:15	Science 203	Linda Russell	goodnewsent@compuserve.com
CAI	9:30	Wilkinson 221	Bob Krishfield	bobkrish@socal.rr.com
Visual Programming I	8:30	Science 109	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@Hotmail.com
Visual Programming II	9:00	Science 109	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@Hotmail.com
Visual Programming III	10:00	Science 109	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@Hotmail.com
Visual Programming IV	11:15	Science 109	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@Hotmail.com
Windows	9:00	Science 111	James C. Smith	Jamescsmith@bigfoot.com
Understanding O.S.s	11:15	Wilkinson 111	Charlie Moore	Mooreca@aol.com
Geneology	2:30	Irvine Hall	Gerry Resch	gresch@hotmail.com



Gerry Resh and July's raffle prizes

Publication information

Orange Bytes is published monthly by:
North Orange County Computer Club,
PO Box 3616, Orange, CA 92857.
Phone 714-998-8080

Commercial Display Advertisements
Are Welcome

Contact - Editor@noccc.org

RATES

One page vertical	7"x9.5"	\$200
Half-page horizontal	7"x5 1/8	\$110
Half-page vertical	3.5"x9.5"	\$110
Quarter-page	3.5"x5 1/8"	\$60
Business card size	3.5"x2 1/8"	\$20
Center spread		\$400

Deadline: Tenth of the month

If you are interested in advertising in the publications of multiple User Groups Throughout the region or nationally. You can learn more by contacting the User Group National Ad Program Hal-PC Advertising- dj97@hal-pc.org Please tell our advertisers that you saw their ad in the *Orange Bytes*

Printed by:
Windsor Printing
PO box 731
Garden Grove, CA 92842
(714) 539-4373 • fax 539-2170
PrintingLady@aol.com

All opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors only and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the NOCCC, its officers, Board of Directors, the Orange Bytes newsletter or its editors. The NOCCC does not guarantee the accuracy or the correctness of advertising or articles in the *Orange Bytes*, nor does the NOCCC intend to endorse, rate, or otherwise officially comment on products available. Therefore, the readers are cautioned to rely on opinions presented exclusively at their own risk.

Trademarks/Copyrights The mention of names of products in this publication without trademark or copyright symbols does not imply that they are not so protected by law.

Guidelines for Submittal

You can now e-mail articles directly to the Editor through the North Orange County Computer Club's Web Site: editor@noccc.org, or just give the file on disk and printout directly to Dave Keays at the next meeting.

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

All documents should have flush left margins, and only one carriage return between paragraphs. The editors will bold your paragraph headings, etc., in order to obtain consistent formatting throughout the Bytes.

Don't use CAPS for emphasis; that's like shouting at someone! Use CAPS for computer commands or file names, like AUTOEXEC.BAT or KNOW.TXT. For titles of books and software, capitalize the first letter of each word.

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

Help line

The Help Line is in the true spirit of NOCCC, which is to help others to learn more about computers. The following is a list of Help Line volunteers. The list is organized by the topic that each volunteer is willing to help you with. The area code for the following phone numbers is 714 unless noted otherwise. Please help us keep this list current. Call or e-mail Ted Williams at [Ted Williams@alum.MIT.edu](mailto:TedWilliams@alum.MIT.edu) with additions, deletions, or corrections.

AI. Ron Osborn
Amiga Ron Osborn
Apple. Ron Osborn
Apple/Educator Gerry Resch
Apple II. James C. Smith Jamescsmith@bigfoot.com
C/C++. James C. Smith Jamescsmith@bigfoot.com
Computer Boards. Martin LaRocque
Corel Draw. Roy Boorman rboorman@earthlink.net
Excel(IBM) Linda Russell goodnewsent@compuserve.com
Excel(Mac) Bob Krishfield
Lotus Notes. Vance Jochim vjochim@Webworks66.com
MacIntosh Bob Krishfield
MacIntosh Ron Osborn
Memory/Interrupts Martin LaRocque
Modem-Hardware Bill Hinds
Modem-Software. Bill Hinds
Neural Networks Ron Osborn
OS/2 Rollin White
Pagemaker 6/6.5. Dale Blank
PC Beginners. Ron Osborn
PC Hardware Ron Osborn
Quicken 6.0. Hoyt Crider
Quicken 6.0 Jay Chaisson
Quicken 2000, 2001 Linda Russell goodnewsent@compuserve.com
QuickBooks Linda Russell goodnewsent@compuserve.com
Quicken Home & Business 2000, 2001. . . .
. Linda Russell goodnewsent@compuserve.com
Quick Books 5.0 Jay Chaisson
PowerPoint. Vivian Carroll vcvc@aol.com
Tel/Tk Bob DeWolf bobS5@aol.com
Unix Bob DeWolf bobS5@aol.com
Windows 9x. O.T. Stoll ot@stollcomputers.net
Windows 9x John Heenan
Windows 2000 Ted Williams tedWilliams@alum.mit.edu
Word. John Heenan
Word Vivian Carroll vcvc@aol.com
WordPerfect Ron Osborn
WordPerfect Hoyt Crider

NOCCC Membership

If you haven't joined, you're missing a lot!

Meetings - Keep up with what's going on in the computer world. Hear outstanding industry representatives make presentations of the latest and greatest in computer products.

Special Interest Groups - Our 20 SIGs cover a broad spectrum of user interest; they invite you, whether you rank as beginner or seasoned computerist, to take in the lectures and demonstrations they sponsor, and to share computer knowledge.

Get Help with your current Computer Problems - In the Random Access portions of the meetings you ask your question of the entire assemblage, and more than likely someone will have the answer.

The NOCCC HelpLine - NOCCC's HelpLine volunteers are experts in their fields, and stand ready to assist with your problems, as close as your telephone.

The Orange Bytes Newsmagazine - Our award winning newsmagazine mailed monthly to your address reports on current activities and gives you articles and reviews geared toward your needs.

Raffles - NOCCC has distributed thousands of dollars worth of hardware and software raffle prizes at our general and SIG meetings.

Product Review - Write a review for the newsmagazine and keep the software, hardware, book, or Cd-ROM. Members review several products every month.

Consignment Table - We have a thriving consignment table on our regular meeting day, in which we assist members to sell or buy all kinds of computer items. Use our handy on-line form to prepare your paperwork in advance.

Volunteer Work - You are given opportunities to help our activities with interesting assignments. An all-volunteer organization, you can join with other members in a variety of activities like writing articles for our newsmagazine to conducting a seminar, and more

You may attend a meeting without joining NOCCC. Dues are \$30.00/year. Members are entitled to the many benefits listed above. OK, Sign me up!

QUICK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT!

Date: _____ I am a new member _____

This is a renewal, my membership number is _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____

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

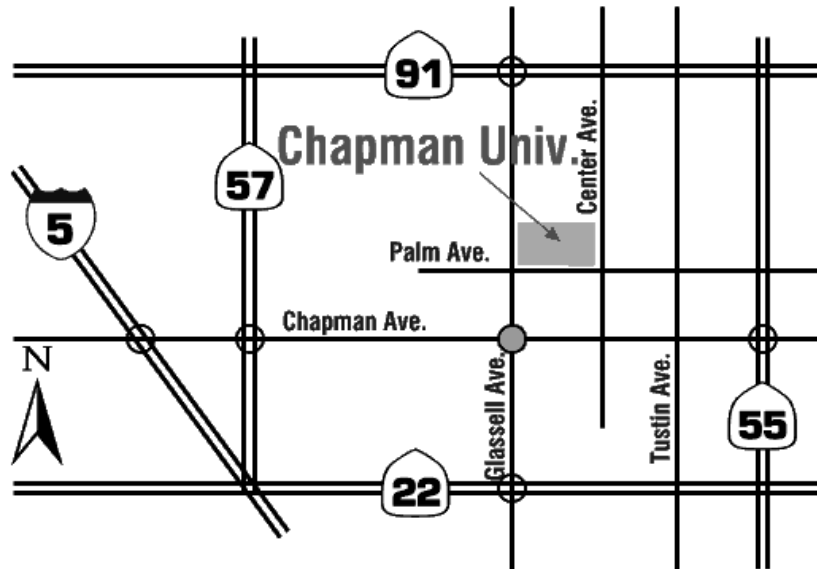
Amount enclosed \$ _____

MC ___ or VISA ___

Credit Card Number _____ Expires _____

Please make check payable to **North Orange County Computer Club**

And mail with application to: North Orange County Computer Club, Box 3616, Orange CA 92857



parking information

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

Parking is also free on the campus-side of the surface streets. The city of Orange's parking laws prohibits parking in front of residential housing. Expensive parking tickets will be issued to violators.

North Orange County Computer Club

**PO Box 3616
Orange CA 92857**

Members:

**Your expiration month and year
Appear on your mailing label.
Please renew promptly.**

NON-PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE PAID SANTA ANA CA PERMIT NO 1588

Address Service Requested