



Orange Bytes

Award Winning News Magazine of the North Orange County Computer Club *

Vol 30 • No 10

OCTOBER 2005

Kraig Lane of Symantec on Internet Security and Viruses at the Main Meeting

October meeting details on page 4

NOCCC Meetings - October 2nd

8:30 a.m.

Visual Programming I *Science 109*
Visual Basic and Visual Basic Script for Beginners

9:00 a.m.

Autocad *Science 203*
Linux for Desktop Users *Wilkinson 111*
Visual Programming II *Science 109*
Visual C++ and Visual J++ for Beginners

9:30 a.m.

Computer Aided Investing *Wilkinson 221*
Member Investment Strategies, Techniques and Software
Computer Essentials *Science 111*
Computer basics for new and inexperienced users
Digital Photography *Irvine Hall*
Camera features: What the sales person won't tell you.
Linux (Intermediate) *Wilkinson 111*

10:00 a.m.

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

11:15 a.m.

Computer Security *Science 203*
Linux Programming Concepts *Wilkinson 111*
Macintosh *Wilkinson 221*
PC Q & A - Jim Sanders *Irvine Hall*
Most Q's A'd, some problems solved, assorted demos done
Understanding Operating Systems *Science 306*
Get Help with DOS, Windows 3.1, Windows 9x, OS/2, etc.
Visual Programming IV *Science 109*
Office 97 VB for Applications programming.

12:00 Noon

PIG SIG *Argyros Hall Cafeteria*
A lunch get together and talk.

1:00 p.m. Main Meeting, Irvine Hall

Symantec's Kraig Lane on Internet Security

2:30 p.m.

Assistive Technology *Irvine Hall*
Learn how your computer can help you live better
Genealogy *Science 111*
Discover your family history with modern tools
Hardware Essentials *Science 109*
2D, 3D, Video Display Adapters

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

Meeting Dates
Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4

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“Friends Helping Friends”



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for the following positions:

Circulation — Oversees the mailing and distribution.

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

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

President's Message

By Elise Edgell

October 2005

I cannot believe that it is October already and time to start thinking about Christmas. I am hoping that the stores will be liquidating all their Christmas merchandise soon, since it has already been on sale since August and surely it is time to make room for the Valentine's stuff. Now that the school year has started and football season is here it is time to get back to being serious about taking care of our computers.

Is your computer as secure as it should be? Computer security is a subject that everyone needs to know about. We are very fortunate to have a speaker from Symantec (NORTON ANTIVIRUS) at our October General Meeting. Please come and get the latest information about protecting your computers.

There is another reason that you need to be at our October meeting: Would you like a FREE 3-month subscription to Smart Computing Magazine? This is a no-strings-attached offer. You will not only get the printed version of Smart Computing Magazine, but will also have access to their sister publications, including PC Today, Computer Power User, and Reference Series on their website. Further, you get FREE Tech Support on their web site during your subscription period. If you decide to subscribe, the price is reasonable. They also promise not to release personal information about any of their subscribers. They have been supporting user groups (computer clubs) for years. It would be foolish not to take advantage of this offer.

Come to the next General meeting, fill out a FREE subscription request form, and be sure that you are a CURRENT member of NOCCC.

Are you bothered by the high gas prices? It is time to rely more on your computer for shopping and finding out information than doing unnecessary driving. Every time you can save a trip to the mall or the library, you are keeping money in your wallet. If you have some unique ways of using your computer to save actual trips in your vehicle, please share it with us. E-mail me at president@noccc.com.

Just a note about a couple of SIG changes

Assistive Technology SIG leader, Chuck Fete, will be the sole leader of the Assistive Technology SIG. He will be rotating the subject matter so stay tuned to the SIG reports to find out what the next meeting will cover.

I am the new SIG leader for the Computer Essentials SIG in the 9:30 am time slot. This will be the place to come if you (or your guest) are not quite sure what to do once you turn on the computer. This is not a SIG for computer geeks. Questions will be answered in basic English (I actually took a class in college named "Basic English," which is not "basic English." Ask me about it). I will also cover receiving and sending e-mail, finding a file on your computer, and other very basic and essential information that you need to know to be happy with your computer. Hope to see you at the Computer Essentials SIG. ■

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).

Orange Bytes on PDF earlier in the month!

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

User Group Offers

Answers.com is a new answers based search engine. It presents information from over 100 encyclopedic sources, and gives the answer on a single page. If you download their 1-Click Answers software, you can click on any word or phrase on your screen to get information about it.

AskSam – is offering their SurfSaver 6 places information from your browser into a searchable filing cabinet. Normally \$29.95, you can get it for \$19.95. AskSam 6 + SurfSaver 6 is a flexible and powerful way to organize information and create searchable databases from Web pages, Email, PDF files, texts, and Word documents. Normally \$149.95 but you can get it for \$69.95. You can also download 30 trial versions.

Blue Squirrel - www.bluesquirrel.com/ 50% off all products - call 800.403.0925 to order and mention user group special pricing.

Corel - at the Southwest User Group Conference, Corel gave us the following link for special pricing to user group members. http://www.corel.com/promotions/cug_usd.html

WordPerfect Office 12 for \$149, CorelDRAW Graphics Suite 12 for \$179, Corel Painter for \$229, Paint Shop Pro 9 for \$59, Paint Shop Studio for \$39, and Paint Shop Photo Album 5 for \$29.

Iolo technologies - www.iolo.com Offers up to 50% discount on all products through 12/31/05. Call Iolo at 1-877-239-4656 to order. To order online, use the coupon code SWUG. You can download 30 day trial versions, with the offer good till December 31, 2005. System Mechanic \$25, System Mechanic Professional \$35, Macro Magic \$20, Search and Recover \$20.

Laplink – www.laplink.com - Laplink Everywhere 4 is a great remote computer control and access program. An annual 3 PC license normally sells for \$129.95. Use coupon code LLE4THRTY at checkout and get it for \$30. Their PCmover program, for moving all of your applications, settings, and data files from your old PC to your new PC while keeping all the new software intact, is normally \$39.95. Use coupon code PCMVRTEN and get it for \$10.

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September Board Meeting Minutes



The NOCCC Board Meeting Minutes are published in the printed version of the Orange Bytes which is mailed to members

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

OCTOBER 2ND MEETING PREVIEW

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG - 9:30 am - Learn about camera features not covered, or poorly covered, by the sales person and the manual. Camera Feature Q&A will help YOU to better use your camera. Attend the SIG and help pick future program topics.

COMPUTER ESSENTIALS SIG - 9:30 am - Elise Edgell is taking over the SIG that is dedicated to helping new and inexperienced users conquer their computer challenges.

MAIN MEETING 1:00 pm, Irvine Hall - Our October Main Meeting speaker will be Symantec's Kraig Lane, Group Product Manager of Consumer Internet Security. He will talk to us about Internet Security and Viruses. He will tell us what is happening in the Virus world and how to protect ourselves, with a few war stories thrown in, of course. He will also talk about the 64 bit Antivirus programs.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SIG - 2:30 pm - This new SIG, with Leader Chuck Fete, will be exploring the various ways that computer and related technology can assist people with the difficulties of everyday life.

THE CLUB RAFFLE this month will be a flatbed scanner donated by John Johnson, and a Studioline Photo2 software package for the main prizes. Rumor has it that Symantec may make a software donation to one or both raffles. Hedge your bet, wear your current membership badge and get a free ticket.

THE MEMBER-ONLY PRIZE (requires wearing badge to get a free ticket) will be Linksys 802.11b Wireless Router with four wired ports. This is highly recommended protection if you are using a broadband Internet connection.

Consignment Table

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

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

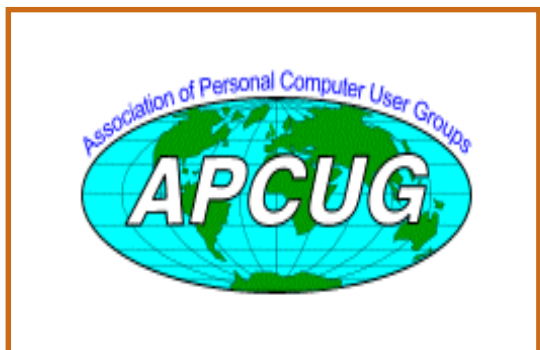
3. Fill out a tag on each item! It must contain: Seller's Name, NOCCC Membership Number, Item name, a short description and selling price.

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

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

6. Any items and/or money not picked up by 2 PM, will become the property of NOCCC and will be subject to disposal at the Club's discretion. As it is now illegal to put monitors or computers in the regular trash, you must agree to pick these items up if they don't sell.

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



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Don't be a Loser at the Rebate Games

Part 3

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC

Last month I told the story about the year long, single rebate number, that was offered through several retailers with differing offer dates. The differing offer dates give the impression that it is a new rebate at a different store. In reality it was the same rebate offer and if you bought a second DRU800A DVD burner from any of those retailers during that one year period, your rebate submission was denied. I am trying to find out if the corporate headquarters of a couple of those stores was aware of the (insert your own words here that describes the SONY offer) that SONY was running.

In last month's Part2, I said that I had listed all the ways that I could think of that "they" use to make it difficult to get your rebate in Part1, and the SONY gotcha was a new one. This month I ran into a new and arrogant twist on an old gotcha. The Fry's Electronics Friday 9/16/05 ad included an offer for an Ultra X-Connect 500 watt power supply for \$24.99 after a \$40 and a \$10 rebate. I did a quick Google search and found some positive reviews, good pictures of the outside, the inside, the modular cable connection system, and the UV active modular cables. The street price was quoted as being anywhere from \$100 to \$130. The one significant negative listed was the lack of a 2x12, 24 pin main power connector that a number of the latest high performance motherboards require. One site said the company was addressing that issue by offering a special 2x12, 24 pin cable by mail order.

As is common with rebate offers, this seemed like a great deal on a nice power supply. As my travels were going to take me by the store anyway, I decided it was too good of a deal to pass up even if I did have to hassle doing two rebates. So I get to the store and pass the first test, they still have it in stock. It is a large, shrink wrapped, sealed box with nice full color printing and pictures of the contents on the outside and surprisingly heavy, all positive signs. A quick perusal of the box finds the expected 'Made in China' notice and the price tag that states the regular price on the unit is \$89.99. So the unit is on sale for \$74.99 plus tax of \$5.81, minus \$50 in rebates, for a total of \$30.80, plus the \$0.37 stamp and the hassle of doing the paper work, still, it should be worth it. Famous last words!

All the new technologies, high bandwidth satellites, very high bandwidth fiber-optics, VoIP and data compression, computer redirection, etc., have made the cost of long distance communication very affordable. This is especially true for large companies that can buy time in bulk. There has been considerable comment about how a

lot of companies like AOL, have been using this new technology to out-source their support functions to companies in India. So when you call for help and the phone is answered with "Hi, This is Dorothy, how can I help you?" and the accent is a little strange, it is because Dorothy isn't in Kansas. In fact you may be talking to Asvika Patel in Bombay or some other city in India that happens to like Dorothy as her phone name because she saw "The Wizard of Oz."

I get the impression that Fry's has reversed that procedure. Instead of out-sourcing, it is doing 'in-sourcing' from India for their cashiers.

I knew I was in trouble when I went to Mr. Patel's register and a co-worker (and apparent fellow countryman) is whispering in his ear to explain what to do next. The bar code reader made totaling my purchases fairly easy, but verifying and entering the check information was a challenge. Some mis-stroke on the keyboard resulted in a termination of the session without printing a receipt. This required calling supervisor Ms. Perez. She talked for a minute and did something to cause the system to print out a receipt. She said something that I didn't catch and took off with the receipt. I thought she was going after the rebate forms. After a couple of minutes, Mr. Patel indicated I was supposed to have followed Ms. Perez to the front door. Seems what she printed was a 'REPRINT' receipt that wouldn't get me past the guard at the door without her being there to authenticate that everything was cool. I informed Mr. Patel that I wasn't going anywhere without my rebate forms. The co-worker helps press the right keys and the receipt printer spews out a couple of rebate forms. One of 27 inches and the other of 29 inches in length.

Knowing that Ms. Perez is waiting for me to show up at the exit, and at the same time, knowing I need to check the fine print, I start reading the five feet of forms as I push my cart to the exit. After only a few minor collisions, just as I get to Ms. Perez, I notice both forms say; "You must include the original UPC CODE that came with the package." I point this out to Ms. Perez and she says; "Well, maybe they have two UPC codes on the box." Wrong! So I say; "This needs to be resolved before I leave!" At this point she takes me back to talk to rebate person Ms. E. Lloyd, whose comment is that obviously one of them has to be a copy. I point out the sentences that say; "The materials and information listed below are required prior to rebate payment. Failure to submit any of the following items will delay or prevent rebate payment." One of those items, of course, is the original UPC CODE from the box. So she blows me off with; "Just send in the copy. If you have any trouble, come back and see us." Except for the fact that all this makes good fodder for the article, it is probably a very good thing that she couldn't hear what I thought of her advice. I will let you know what happens. ■



BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY

By *Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor*

NOCCC has initiated a new benefit program for members – the **Club Library**. Members may check out books at the Reviews Desk for a period of one or two months for a nominal fee of \$2 for one month or \$3 for two months. A security deposit (equal to the list price of the book) must be posted. When the book is returned in good condition, the deposit is refunded. **No review is required**; however, if the member decides to submit one for publication in the Orange Bytes, the fee will be returned.

The list of available books is as follows:

Hardware Hacking Projects for Geeks – This O'Reilly book is authored by Scott Fullam who has been “hacking” hardware since he was ten years old. It contains 15 amazing projects that range from the truly useful to the legendary and wacky. MSRP=\$30.

Building the Perfect PC – This book by Robert Bruce and Barbara Thompson delivers end-to-end instructions, simple enough for even the most inexperienced computerist, for creating your ideal machine. Five different classes of machines are covered with full descriptions of all items and options. From O'Reilly. MSRP=\$30.

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

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

Advanced UNIX Programming, 2nd Ed. – The classic guide to UNIX programming is authored by Marc Rochkind and published by Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$45.

A Practical Guide to Red Hat Linux, 2nd Ed. – This 1100-page book (plus CDs) is authored by Mark Sobell, published by Prentice Hall walks you through everything that matters for the advanced operating systems. MSRP=\$50.

Linux Programming by Example – This book teaches Linux programming by showing and explaining well-written programs drawing from both V7 UNIX and GNU source codes. Authored by Arnold Robbins (who wrote UNIX in a Nutshell), the book is from Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$40.

Building Applications with the Linux Standard Base – An initiative of the Free Standing Group, the LSB is a set of standards designed to increase compatibility among Linux distributions and enable applications to run on any LSB-compliant system. This book (plus CD) shows developers how to create, test, and certify software for LSB-2 compliance. MSRP=\$45.

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

Open Source Network Administration – Author James

Kretchmar from MIT presents an extraordinary collection of open source tools for streamlining and improving virtually every facet of network administration. Publisher is Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$45.

Biometrics for Network Security – Authored by expert Paul Reid, this book covers options ranging from fingerprint identification to voice verification to hand, face, and eye scanning from a practitioner's viewpoint. From Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$45.

Know Your Enemy - Learning About Security Threats, 2nd Ed. – Max Kilger and Rob Lee provide an unrivaled “intelligence report” on those who use the Internet for destructive purposes plus an in-depth guide to honeynets—high-interaction honeypots designed to capture extensive information on exactly how your enemies operate so you can protect your systems from them. Book + CD from Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$50.

Essential Check Point FireWall-1 NG – An installation, configuration, and troubleshooting Guide authored by Dameon Welch-Abernathy (aka “PhoneBoy”) from Addison-Wesley/Pearson Education. MSRP=\$55.

WI-FOO The Secrets of Wireless Hacking – This hands-on, practical guide covers everything you need to attack or protect any wireless network. Authored by Andrew Vladimirov, Konstantin Gavrilenko, and Adrei Mikhailovsky, the book is published by Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$35.

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

We the media – This hard-cover book is authored by nationally known columnist and blogger Dan Gillmor of the San Jose Mercury Press. It discusses how modern communications technology and the Internet are transforming journalism. Published by O'Reilly. MSRP=\$25.

Succeeding with Open Source – This book, authored by Bernard Golden and published by Addison-Wesley, is the first how-to book on the subject based on a product's characteristics such as quality, support, and longevity. MSRP=\$40.

Open Source Licensing – Software Freedom & Intellectual Property Law – This is a complete guide to the law of open source for developers, managers, and lawyers; authored by attorney Lawrence Rosen, the book is published by Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$40.

Absolute Beginner's Guide to Creating Web Pages, 2nd Ed. – This book authored by Todd Stauffer from Que Publishing teaches you how to design and build your own Web sites by showing you the fundamentals first and then building on that foundation with a hands-on tutorial approach. MSRP=\$19.

Outsource: Competing in the Global Productivity Race – This hardcover book by Edward Yourdon presents a balanced view of why outsourcing is occurring, how it is likely to impact people's lives, and how best to prepare career-wise for the new realities it introduces. From Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$28.

Project 2003 Personal Trainer – You can become the Project Superhero in your office with this easy-to-follow training manual with an interactive simulation CD. Published by O'Reilly. MSRP=\$30. ■

Dragon Naturally Speaking Pro Version 8.

By Ted Littman, NOCCC

Dragon NaturallySpeaking is a ScanSoft software program that lets you “talk” to your computer for the purposes of dictating text/numbers and invoking virtually any command for which you might otherwise use the mouse and/or keyboard. Version 8 has made significant strides over the past issues.

If you are a Star Trek fan, I must tell you that “Dragon” does not yet have the “hands-off” computer capabilities of Engineer Scotty’s Enterprise. But then, that system is hundreds of years in the future, so there is lots of time for computer and software evolution!

So, What Can the Dragon Program Do Today?

I have been using Dragon off and on for several months on my Dell Dimension 8400 PC (Pentium 4, 3.2 GHz processor, 1 GB RAM) with Windows XP Home Edition and now have a pretty good sense of its capabilities and limitations. In theory, Dragon should provide you with the ability to put your feet up on the desk and just talk to your computer after you turn it on. In practice, for most users, there is an optimal combination of voice, mouse, and keyboard that is most efficient each person. And dictating text works much better than verbally invoking PC commands.

Who Can Benefit From Using Dragon?

First, anyone who spends a lot of time inputting the computer, but can’t touch type or is concerned about the problems of Repetitive Stress Injuries (RSI), especially Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. Second, anyone who prefers to dictate (versus type) or normally dictates to a recording “device” (person or machine). Third, PC users with physical disabilities limiting their use of the mouse and keyboard.

What is Required for Successful Use of Dragon?

In order to minimize errors while dictating or speaking commands, it is most important that you **speak clearly and deliberately**, but with your natural inflection, using a good microphone properly placed to the side of your mouth. The Pro package comes with an Andrea NC-61

noise-canceling PC headset, which works fine. Primarily, it takes lots of patience and user effort. You must “teach” Dragon to recognize your voice style and pronunciation. ScanSoft’s manual says you only need to “read” their practice text for about five minutes. In my experience, it takes a lot more effort; but then, I am not a professional speaker, nor am I used to dictating lengthy texts. However, after dictating most of Dragon’s practice speeches, the program’s accuracy increased significantly.

You also must “train” Dragon to understand your writing style and preferences. To help achieve this, you can have the program scan your text documents (like e-mails, letters, and other documents that you created). And the program can import all the names in your address box which helps as well.

What’s in the Box?

ScanSoft’s software comes in an attractive box that prominently features a red Dragon and a man wearing the headset in the proper position for dictating. Along with the program CD, there is a well written manual of over 200 pages and 15 chapters. It is well illustrated, informative, and easy to follow. I consider reading the manual a must task, since it covers everything from installation to training to customizing the software. A useful 4-page Quick Reference Card contains a list of common voice commands that you will use in dictating plus highlights for installing and activating the program and training it for your individual use. Surprisingly, it doesn’t cover voice commands for tasks like opening programs and performing other PC functions. However, the written manual is fine in this regard.

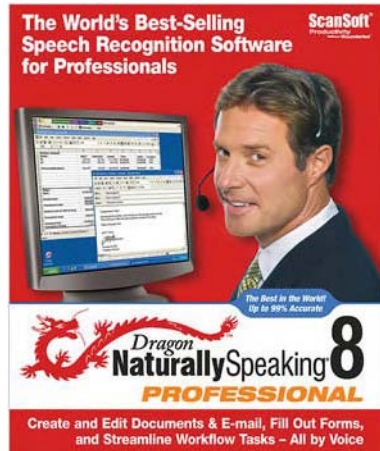
System Requirements.

The minimum PC requirements are a Pentium 3 with 500 MHz processor, 512 MB of RAM, and 300 — 500 MB free hard disk space for basic installation (but, up to 2.5 GHz for specialized usage, like medical or legal). You will need a Windows XP or 2000 operating system for the Pro Version of Dragon, but the Standard and Preferred versions can be run on Windows ME according to ScanSoft. In addition, Dragon requires a 16-Bit Creative Labs Sound Blaster (or equivalent) card, a ScanSoft-approved noise-canceling Headset Microphone (or equivalent), a CD-ROM Drive, an Internet Connection, and Internet Explorer 5.

Installation.

Insert the CD and follow the on-screen directions — very straightforward. And, you can select the drive location to install the program. Like other major companies, ScanSoft requires the software to be “activated” online (within the first five programs start ups), or the program stops working. I know that some computerists object to this requirement, but I think that it is a small annoyance considering the problem of pirating and other unauthorized usage.

Since users are licensed on a “per individual” basis,



you can install the program on more than one of your computer as long as Dragon is run on only one PC at a time. You also can create multiple “voice profiles” as long as each profile is for the licensed user. Additional information on purchasing and licensing can be found at the vendor’s web site (www.ScanSoft.com).

Running Dragon NaturallySpeaking.

If you enable the “Quick Start” option (during installation or afterwards), Dragon automatically launches at PC startup. Otherwise, you can’t start the program or turn on the microphone by using a voice command. The first time that you open the program you should “do” the Tutorial located in the help menu. When the program is opened, you will see a user-positionable “Dragon bar” which gives you access to most program functions and features using voice commands or mouse clicks. In the Preferred and Pro editions, an extra tool bar is available with additional functions.

Using voice commands to navigate on the PC Desktop (or the Internet) can be an interesting experience. If you have lots of Desktop program and folder icons (as I do), you should be able to open all of them by voice commands. Some work well, while others seem to ignore your voice commands. Sometimes, the fault is simple like saying: “*Open Word*,” when the icon’s proper name is “Microsoft Office Word 2003.” (Of course, you can rename the icon to just Word!) At other times, it may take some ingenuity to figure out the right combination of command and icon name. Also, you can open any of the items that are listed in your Start Menu by saying “*Start Menu*” (or “*Click Start Menu*”) followed by saying the item’s name (like “*My Documents*”). But again, some may not work the first time you try or you may need to try an alternate command.

In addition to the use of Global Commands for all applications, Dragon provides built-in commands for quite a few widely-used programs, notably the Microsoft Office Suite, Corel’s WordPerfect, AOL, Internet Explorer, and Lotus Notes. This capability facilitates dictating and improves accuracy when using these programs.

Program Versions

Dragon comes in three levels of capabilities: Standard (MSRP = \$99), Preferred (\$199), and Professional (\$795). Upgrades cost less and discounts are widely available at the usual sources online. In addition, there are two specialized programs, Medical and Legal (\$1095) with preconfigured vocabularies to meet their users’ specialized needs. Corporate, government, and professional users will find the Pro version most to their liking, especially if you have to license a lot of users. You can find a comparison of the features of the various versions at www.ScanSoft.com/NaturallySpeaking/matrix.

Other Assessments of Dragon

I found quite a few noteworthy reports on the Internet, some of which are highlighted here. “*The Case for Speech Recognition*” by Matt Revis (Senior Product Marketing Manager for Dictation Products at ScanSoft) addresses speech recognition use in the healthcare profession. His article emphasizes the potential savings in time and cost to organizations as well as the protection of computer typists from

“repetitive stress injuries.” (www.fortherecordmag.com/archives/ptr_042505p20.shtml)

In a positive PC World article: “*Voice Recognition: Ready for Prime Time*” by Contributing Editor Steven Manes, he states that the Pro version has a distinct corporate focus. But, for most people, the standard or preferred versions will work fine. (www.pcworld.com/howto/article/0,aid,120800,00.asp)

In another PC World article: “*First Look: Voice Recognition Gets Better*,” Liane Cassavoy states that Dragon works well as a dictation tool, but its PC controls are still limited. (I concur in this assessment.) (www.pcworld.com/news/article/0,aid,118700,00.asp)

In a lengthy article: “*Can You Hear Me Now?*” Paul Ferrill, a writer on computer and software subjects, reviewed both Dragon NaturallySpeaking 8, and IBM’s ViaVoice

ProUSB 10. Transcription use in the medical and legal fields continues to be one of the most frequent applications of voice recognition technology. Running a close second is enabling accessibility for users with disabilities. Furthermore, he cautions us not to expect “Star Trek”-level speech recognition any time soon, with user perception and lack of motivation ranking as the two biggest challenges to widespread adoption. (www.fcw.com/article89508-07-11-05-Print)

Some Final Thoughts.

“*Practice Practice Practice*” is the gospel for successful use of Dragon in its current incarnation. And, you must memorize a lot of commands for efficient dictation. Numerous actions can be invoked by more than one alternate. For example, you can say “*Scratch That*” or “*Undo That*” to delete the last spoken text or command. Likewise, you can say “*New Line*” or “*Press Enter*” or “*Type Enter*” to move the cursor down one line.

Each user will develop his/her own set of preferred voice commands. I will continue to use and benefit from Dragon since I don’t keyboard touch type, and I think the learning effort is worth the benefit of “voice typing” to compose reviews, articles, and e-mail messages, with which I am continually involved. I will still use the mouse and keyboard for invoking some program and desktop demands. However, I hope that with more practice and experience, I can use Dragon for most of these actions as well. The idea of using speech recognition software for dictation and PC navigation is both appealing and productive in my view. ■

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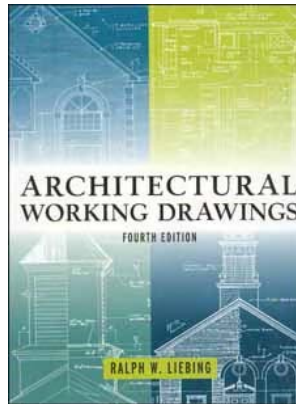
NOCCC member 0019, Jim Sanders



Architectural Working Drawings

By Joe Mizer, NOCCC

Written by Ralph W. Liebing, this is considered one of the classic architectural text books; it was first published in October of 1976 and has become the standard by which similar books are measured. It was written by a professional architect, instructor and code administrator for professionals and advanced students. This book should be read by all students and professionals involved with any phase of preparing working (construction) documentation for buildings. Liebing is a Senior Architect / Group Leader with Lockwood Greene, Engineers in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is a registered architect and Certified Professional Code Administrator. He has taught architecture at the University of Cincinnati School of Architecture and Architectural technology at ITT Technical Institute as well as serving as building commissioner for Ohio's Hamilton County in the Cincinnati area.



The book does not make any attempt or claim to teach the design of structures, or construction technology knowledge. In fact, a great amount of time is spent in the first chapter making clear that the student should know drafting and common construction technology before starting. This book will then cover how to make the drawings, schedules, details, sections, and how the specifications must be organized to communicate that information to the contractors. The drawings are made so the desires of the architect and the owner of the building can be communicated to and carried out by the contractor without confusion. The book has 38 chapters and 10 very useful appendixes.

The chapter titles are: Introduction, The Roll of Working Drawings, A Perspective on Working Drawings, General Overview of Working Drawings, The Production of Working Drawings, Coordination of Working Drawings and Specifications, Drafting tools, Lettering, Geometry and Scaling, Lines and Drafting Expression, Symbols and Conventions, Dimensions Notes and Titles, Building Codes and Standards, Working Drawings, Other Constructions Drawings, Site Improvement Plans, Lawns and Planting Plans, Framing Plans, Roof Plans, Exterior Elevations, Interior Elevations, Cross Referencing, Wall Sections, Building Sections and Section Elevations, Schedules, The Matter of Detailing, Door and Window Details, Freehand Detailing, Composite Drafting, Stairs and Fireplaces, Environmental Control Systems, Production Formats, Case Studies in Cad Detailing, Reproduction Systems,

and Summary.

This book has over 500 drawings and illustrations to help the student to understand what is required and to provide a sample for reference. Throughout the book quotations from others are used to emphasize a point. After completing the book, the two quotations I appreciated the most are from the fourth and last chapters. "The act of architecture is not finished when the design is done, but when the building is built. However, most students see and are taught that a design is the end product. Gerald Weisbach" and the last statement in the book: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act: it is a habit. Aristotle."

The section on CAD does not give a preference to one system over another and acknowledges system capabilities will improve greatly each year. The advice given is still completely viable even though it was written a number of years ago. Adequate suggestions are made to help select a system based on the size of the office, type of design work being done and the experience of the staff. The book is slanted a little to the design of commercial structures and larger projects rather than residential, but the book is all about making sure drawings are properly presented and adequate details are provided to guide the construction crew regardless of whether the primary construction materials are steel, wood, concrete or even a new material which is not even available at this time.

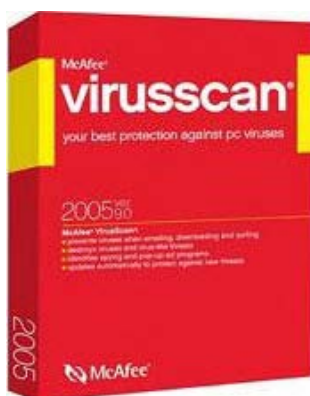
I found material in each chapter presented in more depth than the other books I have read. The material is presented in such a way to stress being creative and to match the drawings you produce to the project you are working on. It was stressed many times that part of the art is doing only the details which are necessary, additional details which detail the minutest detail (over detailing) will add cost to the project at both the design phase and during the construction phase, which must be paid for by someone. Another technique suggested was to combine a partial section with an elevation drawing and eliminate one view. This is shown inside and on the cover of the book with the combined elevation and section of a steeple on the top of a roof.

I recommend this book as a worthy addition both for what you learn as you read it and for the reference material you will refer back to time and again. When the next edition is prepared, the only two suggestions I can make is to provide the drawings on a CD or DVD in a format which can be viewed from a web browser. The book has some really good drawings which could be appreciated much more if the smaller details could be seen and zoomed into. Also, at several places, a drawing was shown asking to identify the drawing errors; please tell me what the errors are because I was not sure whether it was the line work, composition, or a technical error with a CMU detail and what exactly was incorrect. The publication data are "Architectural Working Drawings, 4th Edition" written by Ralph W. Liebing, ISBN: 0-471-34876-7, Hardcover 704 pages, August 1999, US \$95.00. Published by John Wiley & Sons. It can be purchased from the Wiley website (<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0471348767.html>) or on Amazon. ■

VirusScan Professional 2005 Version 9.0

By Joe Mizer, NOCCC

This software is produced by McAfee Inc. Santa Clara CA. It provides protection for your computer against viruses, pop-up ad programs, and inappropriate email. VirusScan Professional offers the freedom to save, share, and send data over the Internet. Antivirus software prevents the latest strains of viruses that infect and can destroy computer hard drives. The operation is automatic and virtually effortless. McAfee also provides QuickClean which can add valuable disk space to your computer by removing the clutter that accumulates while using the Internet, including cached web page files, browser cookies, and ActiveX controls. The minimum system requirements are Microsoft Windows (XP, 2000, ME or 98) with a CD ROM drive, 32 MB of RAM, 55 MB hard drive space, Pentium 133, and Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher plus Internet access for updating.



Free product trials are available for downloading of McAfee products such as VirusScan, Personal Firewall Plus, Spam Killer and QuickClean from www.mcafee.com/mtrials. This is a good way to test a product before spending your money. I have been using this product for 60 days and have absolutely no problems at all. An installation guide on two sides of a 3 x 5 provides step by step procedure to help you get it right the first time while suggesting a few of the optional settings and registration benefits such as online technical support which is available at <http://www.mcafeehelp.com/>.

The automatic updates which keep the protection on my computer always current is one of the major features providing me with ease of mind. I am not one to want to have to remember to update for new versions once a week or month. I really like when this is done for me and I can do my own thing.

VirusScan Professional prevents viruses when emailing and downloading from the internet. Automatic scanning of email attachments and downloads. VirusScan Professional destroys viruses and threats automatically. Spamkiller uses an advanced filter technology to fight back against spammers and keep inboxes spam free. The program works to block unwanted messages, foreign language and image based spam and helps to identify and control phishing scams.

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Spring into Technical Writing for Scientists and Engineers

By Steven M. Breitbart, NOCCC

Books such as Spring into Technical Writing for Scientists and Engineers are necessary because personal computers and word processing have fundamentally changed the way we write. Tables, lists, outlines, and graphics are now easily available and expected. Time is precious and people do not have the time or desire to read lengthy, inflated technical reports.

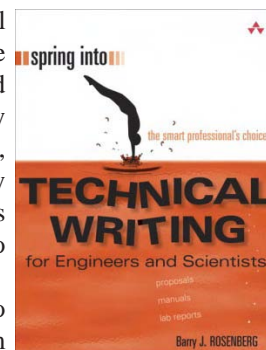
This book is a great practical guide to technical writing and it does not overwhelm the reader with grammatical jargon. It can be read from cover to cover or you can just read the sections you need. The Spring Into series of books uses an unorthodox format where each topic is covered in a one- or two-page unit called a "chunk." The chunks build on previous chunks within a chapter. The publisher's web site (www.awprofessional.com/springinto/) lists other books in this series.

Chapters include lists, tables, graphics, and word selection which includes a small section on commonly confused words. The chapter on sentences includes a section on active versus passive voice. When I include a photograph in one of my lab reports, usually taken through some sort of microscope, it is worth many times a thousand words, so I appreciated the chapter on graphics. Associated skills, such as PowerPoint presentations, font selection, and editing are also covered. The books uses sidebars extensively, and states that they have taken over the role of footnotes for parenthetical information.

Spring into Technical Writing for Scientists and Engineers is not just about technical writing. Valuable information that applies to all types of business writing is included. The most important lesson is that we need to break from the wordy style taught in high school and college. Nor should we try to write linearly, starting with the first sentence on page 1. We might be writing for a global audience, and the author advises us to avoid the use of slang or graphics that may not be understood or which may offend. Indeed, not only should we consider who our audience will be, but also their educational background, experience, motivation and mood when they will be reading the document we are writing.

In a section on color blindness the author recommends, as I have, using different types of shading and hatch marks to distinguish different groups of data in graphs. Besides color blindness, another reason is that while color printing is easier and cheaper than ever before, color presentations may still be printed in black and white and your data needs to be easily readable.

The author manages to interject humor in several places. In the



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September Meeting Photos

EasyRecovery DataRecovery

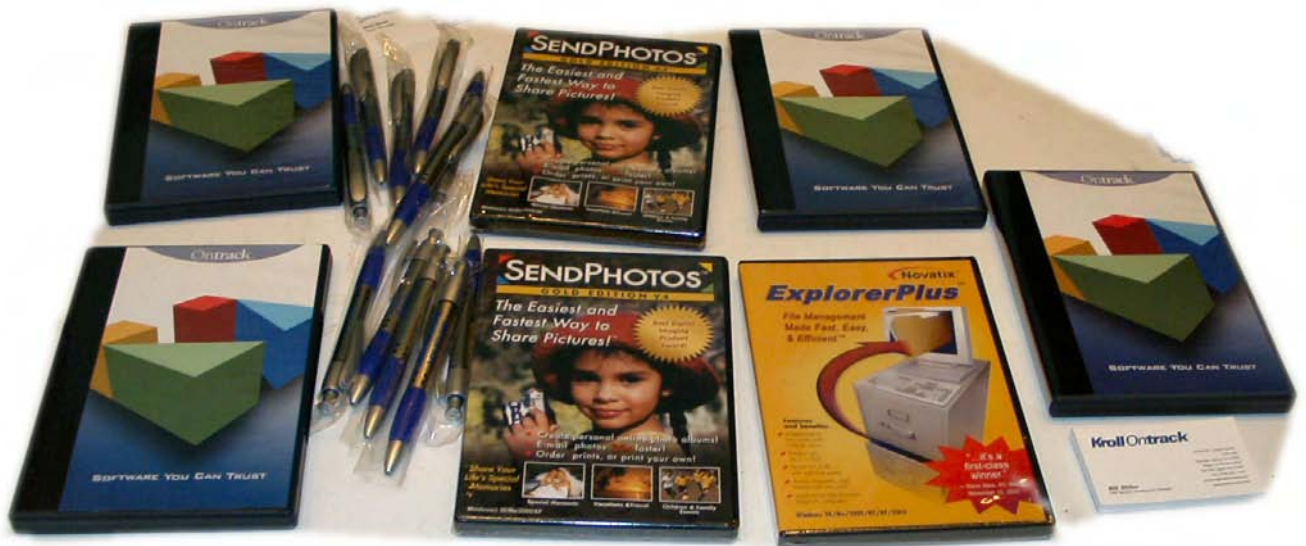
What features and tools

- **Data Recovery:**
StandardRecovery
RawRecovery
- **File Repair:**
WordRepair
ZipRepair
- **Software Updates:**
ProductNews
EasyUpdate
- **Crisis Center:**
CrisisInformation
RemoteDataRecovery
In-LabDataRecovery
ExclusiveOffers

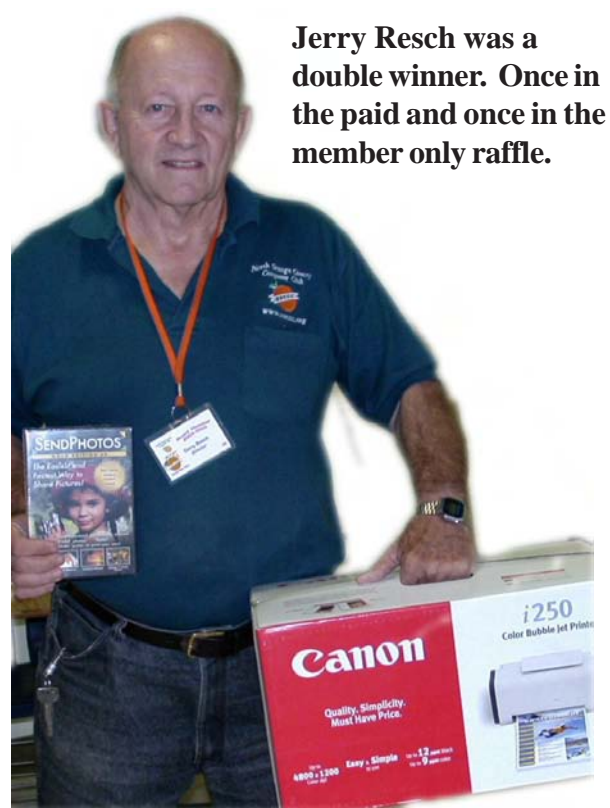
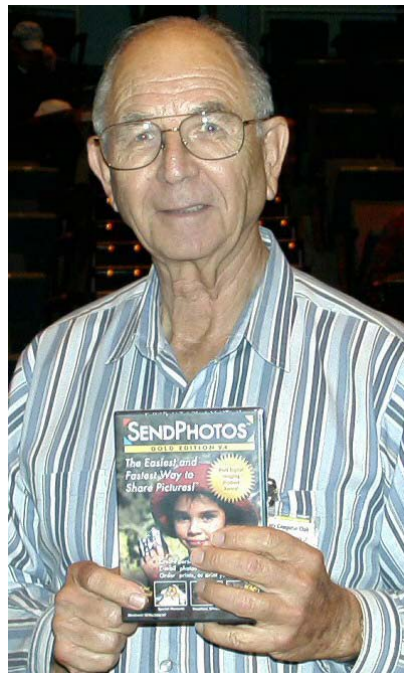
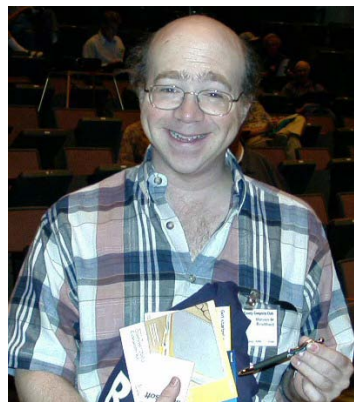
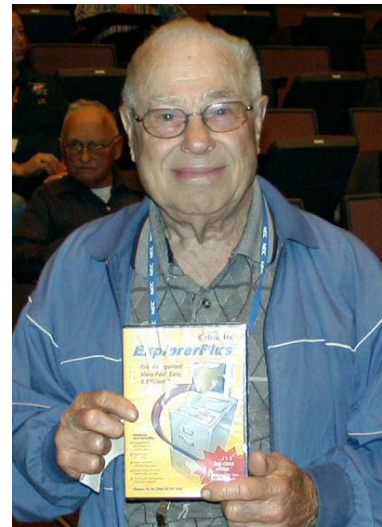
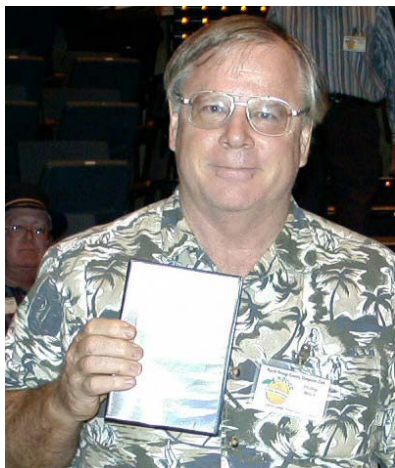
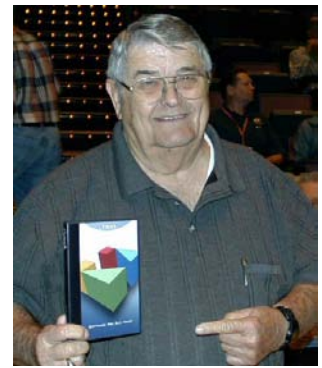
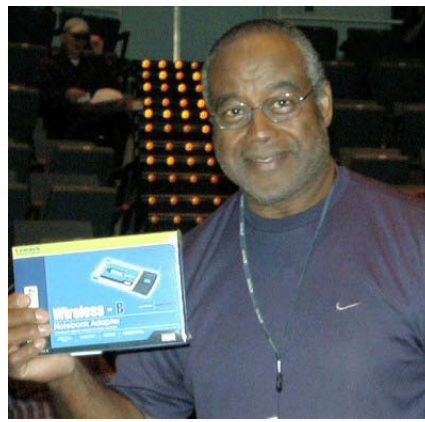
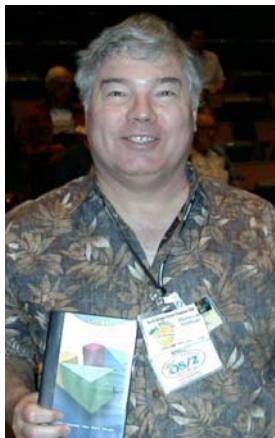
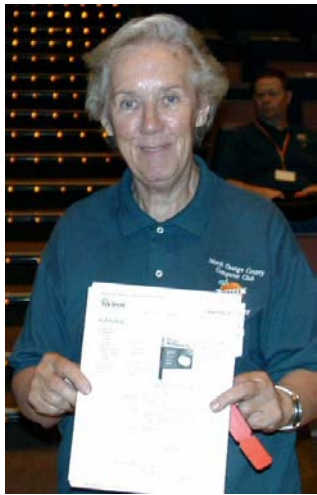
DataRecovery

Bill Hersey (L) and Bill Miller (R)

KrollOntrack representatives Bill Hersey (L) and Bill Miller (R) talked about the many different data recovery services KrollOntrack offers and the software titles they offer for data recovery.



Photography by Jim Sanders and George Margolin



Jerry Resch was a double winner. Once in the paid and once in the member only raffle.

KrollOntrack donated several software packages to the members only raffle. Sometimes it really pays to wear your badge and get your free members only ticket.



PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

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

Boxed Programs and CDs

Money Premium 2005 – Considered the top financial planning program this year with all the bells and whistles. From Microsoft. MSRP \$80.

Digital Image Pro 10 – Complete photo editing made easy from Microsoft. Edit, create, and share your digital photos. Toolsets contain fast Auto Fix and powerful correctional tools in one location. Requires a multimedia PC with 700 MHz processor. MSRP \$90.

My DVD Studio Deluxe v.6 – This new version from Sonic includes all the tools you need to edit video, create menus and buttons, put together a slide show, rip and burn CDs, and make exact copies of your CDs and DVDs. It requires at least a 1 GHz Pentium III and Windows XP. MSRP \$100.

SendPhotos Gold – “If you would like to e-mail photos without hassle, SendPhotos, from Novatix, is easy and

fun to use.” - PC Magazine, April 22, 2003. MSRP \$20.

Norton SystemWorks 2005 Premier – This current issue from Symantec gives you powerful tools to solve PC problems and protect data. This easy-to-use suite helps you eliminate viruses, back up your files, and prevent computer problems. A new recovery disk allows you to recover data even when Windows® won't start up. MSRP \$100.

V2i Protector 2.0 – From PowerQuest/Symantec, this program provides desktop backup and disaster recovery by capturing and protecting real-time working states of systems and data partitions. MSRP \$39.

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

Stuffit Deluxe 8.5 – The only complete compression solution with wizards for archiving, compressing, emailing, opening archives, etc. You can schedule backups, automate everyday tasks, search and browse, and more. MSRP \$40.

Undelete 5 Pro – Worry-free data protection with instant recovery—faster than going to backup. From Executive Software. MSRP \$40.

PC Mover – A quick and easy way to move all of your applications, settings, and data files from your old PC to your new PC while keeping all the new software intact. From LapLink. MSRP \$50.

NotePager Pro 3 – Sends SMS and text messages to mobile phones, pagers, and handhelds. For Windows operating systems. Messages can be sent through a modem or the Internet. MSRP \$30.

Books

eBay Hacks, 2nd Edition – David Karp's latest edition of tips and tools for bidding, buying, and selling. Published by O'Reilly. MSRP \$25.

QuickBooks 2005 – The Missing Manual – This thorough guide by

Bonnie Biafore, examines the many features of the popular QuickBooks accounting software. Through dozens of insightful tips and tricks and a friendly writing style, it enables financial managers to quickly understand how to use the program's tools to implement and maintain critical accounting processes. Ideal for QuickBooks users of all levels. Published by O'Reilly. MSRP \$30.

PC Hacks – 100 Industrial-Strength Tips & Tools by Jim Aspinwall from O'Reilly shows you how to get the most out of your hardware and software. MSRP \$25.

PC Annoyances, 2nd Edition – Steve Bass' expanded book with fixes for all the common annoyances. From O'Reilly. MSRP \$20.

Windows XP Annoyances for Geeks, 2nd Edition – This new update from O'Reilly is authored by David Karp and is written for intermediate and advanced users who want to turn Windows XP into the most efficient, reliable, customizable system that it can be. MSRP \$35.

Word Hacks – This new book from O'Reilly, authored by Andrew Savikas, offers tips and tools for customizing, programming, and automating Microsoft Word. This book explicitly covers Word 2000, 2002, and 2003 although many of the “Hacks” will work with older versions. MSRP \$25.

Murach's ASP.NET 2.0 Upgrader's Guide C# Edition - It's written for the experienced ASP.NET developer who

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

Preparing a Review Article for the Orange Bytes

by Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

The following suggestions for preparing a review article for the Orange Bytes are intended as a guide only. As a reviewer, your audience wants to know your opinion (as an end user) of the product (hardware, software, book) you are reviewing. Please fully identify the product, its vendor, and its cost (list,

vendor discounts, & street) so that interested club members may be able to purchase it. Be objective, but balanced in your review in so far as plaudits and criticisms are concerned. Remember, you are reviewing for your colleagues and not for the vendor.

After you have tested the product or read the book, consider these questions:

- I. What is the product's stated purpose and does it meet it?
- II. Does it stand out compared to similar products?
- III. What are its major features?
- IV. Is it easy to use? Can a novice use it?
- V. Is it worth the money? Do you recommend it?
- VI. Can you quote or reference articles/reviews in the computer magazines?

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

I. Requirements:

- a. Operating systems?
 - b. Processor/speed?
 - c. Memory, Disk space, Video & Audio?
- II. Installation (do not overemphasize details):
- a. Was it difficult?
 - b. Copy or write protected?
 - c. Does it allow drive and directory selection?
 - d. Does it automatically configure system? Can you control it?

III. Information about your system:

- a. Hardware?
- b. Operating system? Version?
- c. Memory?, Video display?

IV. Documentation:

- a. What is supplied? Manuals (paperback, electronic) Tutorial? Templates? Table of Contents? Index?
- b. Was it clear, concise and helpful?
- c. Is there a troubleshooting section?

V. Product Support:

- a. How is the vendor's tech support?
- b. Does it cost anything?
- c. Is it a toll call?
- d. Does the vendor provide free Internet support?

VI. About the product:

- a. What comes with the product?
- b. What is the cost (list & street)? Any special deals for user group members?
- c. Version number and release date?
- d. How difficult is the learning curve?
- e. Would you buy/use the product?
- f. Do you recommend it?
- g. What don't you like about it?

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

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

j. What warranty is there on hardware?

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

The following list of questions applies to books:

- a. What is the subject matter?
- b. Does the book meet its stated purpose?
- c. Is it timely? If it is a revised edition, what is new in the current edition?
- d. Is the title an accurate reflection of the content?

e. What level of reader capability is required? Who will find it useful?

f. Is it easy to read and technically accurate?

g. Is it well illustrated and are the illustrations easy to view?

h. Are there any major omissions and why are they important?

i. How are the key points highlighted?

j. Does the book have to be read in chronological order?

k. Are there any accompanying extras (like CDs)?

l. What do you like and dislike about the book?

m. Is the author well known in this field? Does he/she have a web site for errata/updates?

n. Finally, do you recommend it?

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

Guidelines for Submittal

Important! Please limit the length of your submittals, **but length should be secondary to content sufficiency.** However, we request you limit general articles and software reviews to 1300 words, SIG reports to 700 words, book reviews to 600 words, low cost CD-ROM titles to 600 words, and more

sophisticated CD-ROMs to 1000 words. As far as the minimum is concerned, we'd just like to see you do justice to any general article or to any product that's reviewed. An expensive software package (\$300-700) deserves at least 1,300 words. An inexpensive program (\$50 or less) might have 500 words.

Reviews must be completed within 2 months so that the Reviews Editor (Ted Littman) can, in a timely manner, send a copy to the vendor. If you change your mind about doing the review, please call him (714)779-1936 ASAP to make arrangements for returning the product for reassignment. We hope you enjoy writing your review.

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

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

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

Don't use CAPS for emphasis; that's like shouting at someone! Also please spell check your article, and try to follow the ordinary rules of grammar. Don't use columns, tabs, indents, justification, hyphenation or formatting codes. (If columns or tables are absolutely needed, send us a hard copy to guide us.)

We look forward to seeing your review in print and on the NOCCC Web site. ■

Main Meeting

By Cathy Margolin



Disaster Recovery on a Day of Remembrance

Kroll Ontrack's marvelously knowledgeable Bill Hersey, Western Regional Engineering Manager and Bill Miller, OEM Business Development Manager, walked us through their disaster recovery for Hard drives. It was very appropriate after just experiencing Hurricane Katrina in the Southern US and reminded us to backup our data and not just offsite but way, way offsite.

Bill Hersey walked us through some of the history of the company. Ontrack was started in 1985 starting with Disk Manager® software, a hard disk installation utility, and then also added data recovery to their product line. They were purchased in 2002 by Kroll, a leading risk consulting company which was then purchased by Marsh & McLennan, which does insurance, financial consulting and business products. They are based in Minnesota with a local lab in Fountain Valley.

The fastest growing areas are Data Recovery and Legal technologies such as electronic evidence, computer forensics, and paper discovery services. They have a crew already down in Louisiana to help recovery data after the Hurricane.

In data recovery, they have a saying, "Deleted does not mean it is gone". They have many types of recovery- in lab data recovery, remote data recovery, onsite recovery services, mailbox recovery and Easy Recovery Software. Most of the software that comes with your hard drive such as MaxBlast for Maxtor, etc. is designed by Ontrack and

Bill Miller's group. This software helps you set up your hard drive.

In 2004, Ontrack processed over 1.7 petabytes of data (1.7 x 10 to the 16th power, for those inquiring minds). That is a ton of data to recover!

What happens if your hard drive dies? If you take it in, they can generate a Verifile report which shows you what files they can get back, and in what shape those files will be in- full, good or partial. A hard drive recovery can cost from \$400 to \$2,000 depending on the damage. They have clean rooms where they can use their own spare parts to temporarily repair up to 99% of hard drives.

EasyRecovery is their software where you can recover your own data. The Lite version will allow you to recover 25 files at a time (cost \$89) and will work on 5 hard drives. There is a free trial of this that will find 25 files but not recover them (this would help to see if you want to buy the software or not, or if there is anything to recover). There are other flavors of this product depending on your needs. There is also an EasyRecover Email Repair that will recover Outlook and Outlook Express files, which are becoming a common recovery scenario. There is a FileRepair version also for those Word, Excel and Access files that get corrupted. Visit the list at : <http://buyonline.ontrack.com/ecom/catalog.asp>

Getting rid of that Old Hard Drive?

You might want to erase it before you donate it. I just noticed on the news that they found the UC Berkley stolen laptop that had sensitive University student record data on it. It was formatted but they were able to see the previous data on it.

Ontrack has a solution for that in their Data Eraser software. The individual version is only \$29.95 and will secure clean a hard drive.

Next Month

At our October 2nd Main meeting, Symantec's Craig Lane, Group Product Manager of Consumer Internet Security, will talk to us about Internet Security and Viruses. He will tell us what is happening in the Virus world and how to protect

ourselves, with a few war stories thrown in of course. He will talk about the 64 bit Antivirus programs also. ■

Computer Aided Investing SIG



By Bob Krishfield, NOCCC

Market Review:

The first week of September the market began a turnaround, coincidentally the same time that Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast Region. This regained most of the losses that took place during August, keeping the upward trend in tact that began in April this year. Last month we couldn't tell much about what the direction of the market would be – the indicators were mixed. We reviewed the charts from AmiBroker and current indicators from OTM, and saw they are very bullish due to the strong price and volume action over the past 10 days. While the market appears to have momentum and strength, it may be short lived as we hit the resistance levels of the August highs and deal with the uncertainties of the Fed's actions and oil price fluctuations. The market expects the next rate increase will be delayed – if that doesn't happen, watch for a big drop. . The strength is in energy, oil, and the blue chips, with small caps taking a rest for now. The Oil & Gas Sectors have topped the charts since the first of the year, with 30% – 66% growth. This puts them in a precarious overbought position. Influence from long-term cycles is downward, with a 9-month cycle bottom due in Jan 06. Intermediate cycles are due to bottom in a few weeks, also putting a negative bias on the market. So the warning flags are up, even though many signals are flashing buy because of the strong rally. If you must buy, pick your stocks carefully and don't ride the indexes.

Discussion:

We discussed developing customized Yahoo charts that are retrieved from Yahoo Finance to show intraday prices (20 min delay) as a way of getting current information between end-of-day charts on AmiBroker, TC2000, etc. These charts are helpful to look at stocks and ETFs when I want to quickly check changes to their price patterns and see if it is the time for action. If a stock has hit my sell criteria on the end-of-day system, the intraday charts (1 day 5 min or 5 day 15 min) show whether or not the price is bouncing off the sell point and I should wait, or not. To improve on these charts, I developed html code to retrieve various charts from BigCharts.com. These charts have many more charting options available, including Bollinger Bands, volume, MACD, etc.

The instructions for coding these charts will be put on my website. For a sample, take a look at: home.socal.rr.com/bobkrish/bchart_etfs.html. By saving the source code and using it as a template, you can change the page to contain your favorites.

Demonstration:

Using AmiBroker as the preferred tool, the subject was how could I use this tool to make some money. In this market it is more of a question of how can I keep the profits I've made and protect myself from losses. For end-of-day systems, this requires getting updated prices in the evening, running reports to look at changes in prices, profits and losses, and then reviewing charts of each security in my portfolio. This can be demanding on time, so the process needs to be kept simple and complete. It's not too bad for small portfolios of 5-10 securities, but my portfolios contain up to 50 securities, and I don't want this to take all night. The key to simplification was to get information about the portfolio displayed while I viewing each chart. I setup an automated slideshow and layout that permits viewing the charts with chart notes – a small text window with the portfolio data on that stock. The notes are created using a script that runs against my portfolio spreadsheet, the main source of portfolio data. Next to be

added are alerts to buy or sell. We discussed various schemes for setting stops to protect profits and stop losses. Use of trend lines or support lines looks to be a simple method to set stop loss levels and let AmiBroker detect crossing the lines. Vic suggested looking into Point & Figure methods, which have clear-cut, sell patterns. Selling to take profits requires use of some fundamentals to set target prices as triggers. Use of trailing stop methods should provide a means of protecting profits. Not so simple, but it will become better as more of these ideas are incorporated into automated tools to make daily monitoring easier. ■

Digital Photography

By Larry Klees

Removing a document or photograph from its frame, taking it to a studio, and using a professional copy stand that costs as much as a good camera is the preferred way to make a copy and avoid the reflections from the glass. However that is usually not an option. At the last meeting we discussed the other eight ways to avoid or eliminate reflections that are available. These techniques also generally work with objects in display cases or behind windows.



BEFORE: Note reflection of doorway.



AFTER: The picture and door were not touched. The camera was moved, the flash was fired, and the perspective was adjusted.

Also at the last meeting John Donan showed us a good technique for arranging multiple pictures into a display using photo editing programs. Thanks John. John's presentation was in response to the following invitation.

Workshop & Viewing invitation. Bring your CD's, DVD's, Thumb Drives, or Camera Memory containing your photos. There should be time to share the latest trick you learned or show off your favorite creation or to make improvements or fix problems.

The name of the SIG has been changed from Digital Imaging back to Digital Photography.

Bring your camera to the October meeting. We will talk about camera features that the sales person isn't likely to tell you about. Things like how the rotating front lens element will mess with your polarizing filter (briefly mentioned last month) or the ISO number (what does it mean, what does it do, and how do you choose the proper setting). A few of the topics will be technical, most will be quite basic. Ample time will be allowed for Q&A.

In addition to audience presentations (see Workshop & Viewing invitation) we will also discuss a list of future presentation topics. Please come with your topic ideas. P.S. The BYTES editor has noticed that this SIG report and the last contain before and after photos concerning common

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Meeting Reports

Digital Photo FROM PAGE 17

problems and their solutions. The description of what was done is very cursory. This is followed by a teaser of coming attractions. — An ulterior motive lurks behind this format. It is to make people want to come to the SIG and get the full details! A lot of people are working hard to make it worth your while; so come see what you've been missing. ■



Assistive Technology SIG

By Elise Edgell, NOCCC

Chuck Fete demonstrated Zoom Text, a program for low vision computer users. During the installation, the instructions are read to you. This is really helpful if you are unable to read the display on the monitor. Zoom Text is a widely used program for computer users with low or no vision. It enables blind users to use their computers without assistance.

It is a flexible program. The text displayed on the screen can be increased in size to the point where the user can read it. Of course, when the text is displayed in a zoomed format there is not room enough on the screen to display everything that is visible in the standard viewing mode. Zoom Text lets the user select how this is handled from several different options.

One option is to show the text located under the cursor in the enlarged format and a window of screen surrounding the cursor in the same size format. As the

cursor is moved, the portion of screen viewed is also moved.

Another option is a lens method where the area surrounding the cursor is enlarged but the rest of the screen is still in the normal format.

The program also lets the user select the color combination that is the easiest for that user to see.

Another part of the program, which is an extra cost item, will read the screen text in an easily understandable voice. You have the option to tailor the voice to suit you and you can even tweak hard to pronounce words. There is another setting which determines how much of the screen information is read out loud.

A trial version of Zoom Text can be downloaded from AI Squared at www.aisquared.com.

Elise Edgell is no longer the co-leader. Starting in October she will be the leader of the Computer Essentials SIG. ■

PC Q&A SIG

By Jim Sanders

After the hectic weekend at the SouthWestern User Group Conference in San Diego last month, it was a pleasure to get back to the mild chaos of a meeting weekend. It was personally satisfying, as editor of your Orange Bytes newsletter, to win First Place in the Newsletter Contest for publications over 12 pages for the second year in a row. Satisfaction notwithstanding, doing the Bytes as a one man show is getting old. I need some other club members to share load. Ted Littman and I deserve some assistance from the rest of you club members. I would like to remind you that you joined a club, you didn't subscribe to a service. Club: a group of people organized for a common purpose, especially a group that meets regularly, to join or combine for a common purpose; form a club.

One of the topics of discussion was once again the economics of DSL at \$14.95 a month versus the cost of dial-up. My opinion, if it is available, you're nuts to not take advantage of the SBC

offer even if it is only for a year. It was mentioned that Verizon was now offering DSL for the same \$14.95, so we went to the Verizon web site to check it out. After clicking on the third link and waiting for five minutes for the page to load, I gave it up as a bad job. One interesting thing we did learn, Although they are offering DSL for the same price as SBC it is for one half the speed. So they might as well be charging twice as much.

The balance of the SIG time was spent showing the use of the layers feature in Paint Shop Pro 9. This is the feature that I outlined in the September issue of the Orange Bytes. Using this feature you can place a copy of all of the rebate documents on a single piece of paper. ■

Consignment Table

Richard Miller, our newest board member, has volunteered to help out on the consignment table. Let's give him something to do. Bring lots of computer stuff to put on the consignment table.

Your clutter may be someone else's treasure. Please be sure that things you bring are in good working order. Most items are welcome: Programs, books, games, PDAs, hubs, routers, etc. If you bring a monitor or computer (items which can't just be put in the trash) you MUST agree to pick it up if it doesn't sell. Be sure to price items so they are attractive to buyers.

Please review the Consignment table rules on page 5.

Tax time will be here soon. Make a tax deductible (check with your accountant) donation to NOCCC by simply donating your items* to the club. When it sells, the NOCCC keeps the money. Easy for you, good for NOCCC.

*Computers and monitors cannot be donated until the sale is complete. This means that if your computer or monitor doesn't sell, it is still yours and must be picked up. We do not have any way to store items and have no way to dispose of hazardous waste items. ■

A Gift

It was at the end of the school year, and a kindergarten teacher was receiving gifts from her pupils. The florist's son handed her a gift. She shook it, held it overhead, and said, "I bet I know what it is. Some flowers." "That's right," the boy said, "but how did you know?" "Oh, just a wild guess," she said.

The next pupil was the sweet shop owner's daughter. The teacher held her gift overhead, shook it, and said, "I bet I can guess what it is. A box of sweets." "That's right, but how did you know?" asked the girl. "Oh, just a wild guess," said the teacher.

The next gift was from the son of the liquor store owner. The teacher held the package overhead, but it was leaking. She touched a drop of the leakage with her finger and touched it to her tongue. "Is it wine?" she asked. "No" the boy replied. The teacher repeated the process, taking a larger drop of the leakage to her tongue. "Is it champagne?" she asked. "No" the boy replied.

The teacher took one more taste before declaring, "I give up, what is it?" The boy replied, "A puppy!" ■

VirusScan

FROM PAGE 11

McAfee VirusScan Professional is available everywhere. The price, which is always competitive, depends on the exact package you select and the special offers and rebates available at any given time. You should try to take advantage of the specials available and the price is very reasonable after getting from \$35.00 to \$52.00 discount which is available at times. McAfee Inc. is located in Santa Clara, Ca. at 3965 freedom Circle, 95054. Packaging is available for single, 2-user and 3-user versions, but go to the McAfee website to find the latest products and special deals. Also available on the McAfee website is free scanning of your system, including wireless networks and a free security status evaluation. I am not in a position to accurately evaluate how much this protection costs in the way of system speed, but, in general, I feel the system runs faster than when I was using a competitive product on the same computer. I recommend this product based on my experience during the last 2 months, which has been event free, and the ease of installing the product. ■

PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

FROM PAGE 14

uses C#. Instead of teaching ASP.NET 2.0 development from scratch, this book builds on the developer's prior experience to focus exclusively on "what's new and how to use it" and fulfill inside the cover. An invaluable companion for the developer upgrading from ASP.NET 1.x to Microsoft's new ASP.NET 2.0. MSRP \$40.

iPod & iTunes Garage – Author Kirk McElhearn shows you how to get more music and way more magic from your iPod and iTunes. From Prentice Hall PTR. MSRP \$25.

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

UNIX Shells by Example, 4th Ed. – Author Ellie Quigley has thoroughly updated her classic book and delivers the information today's shell programmers need most – including comprehensive coverage of Linux shell programming with bash! The accompanying CD has a comprehensive shell programming code library with all source code and data files necessary for this book's hundreds of example programs. From Prentice Hall. MSRP \$50.

Classic Shell Scripting – The key to unlocking the real potential of Unix. A How To book by Arnold Robbins and Nelson Beebe from O'Reilly. MSRP \$35.

Guide to Linux – This new book by Peter van der Linden from Prentice Hall takes the mystery out of learning Linux. It comes with the Linspire 5.0 CD. MSRP \$40.

Moving to Linux, 2nd ed. – Marcel Gagne's new book is dedicated to the Linux desktop experience for the average user. It comes with a bootable, customized Linux Knoppix CD. From Addison-Wesley. MSRP \$40.

Spring into Linux – One of a fast-paced new series of tutorials from Addison-Wesley designed to bring you up to speed quickly. MSRP \$30.

Linux Pocket Guide – This book by Daniel Barrett covers the most useful and important parts of day-to-day Linux in a concise and friendly style for beginners as well as experience users. From O'Reilly. MSRP \$10.

Linux Desktop Garage – This book/CD by Susan Matteson from Prentice Hall PTR is full of tools and info to do practically everything with Linux. MSRP \$30.

Understanding the Linux Virtual Memory Manager – This book/CD, authored by Mel Gorman, presents both theoretical foundations and a line-by-line commentary in unprecedented detail. It covers everything from physical memory description to out-of-memory management. Published by Prentice Hall, MSRP \$60.

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

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

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

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

Secure Architectures with OpenBSD Written by Brandon Palmer and Jose Nazario, this book is the insider's guide to building secure systems using OpenBSD. It is a how-to for system and network administrators who need to move to a more secure operating system as well as a reference for those users who want to fully exploit every feature of the system. From Addison-Wesley. MSRP \$35.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

SIG List

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

SIG	Bldg	Room	Time	Leader	E-mail	Phone
Assistive Technology	Irvine Hall	---	2:30	Chuck Fete	cjfete@cox.net	
Autocad	Wilkinson	111	9:00	Joe Mizer	joem@pvateplaamerica.com	909-688-9848
Computer Aided Investing	Wilkinson	211	9:30	Bob Krishfield	bobkrish@socal.rr.com	714-532-3096
Computer Security	Science	203	11:15	Dave Keays	rdksoft@sbcglobal.net	714-821-4792
Digital Photography	Irvine Hall		9:30	Larry Klees	lklees@dslextreme.com	714-546-6677
Genealogy	Science	111	2:30	John Johnson	jrosjohnson@juno.com	714-991-3314
Computer Essentials	Science	111	9:00	Elise Edgell	EliseEdgell@aol.com	714-544-3589
Hardware Essentials	Science	109	2:30	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Linux for Desktop Users	Wilkinson	111	9:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux for Server Administrat	Wilkinson	111	10:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux Programming Concepts	Wilkinson	111	11:15	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Macintosh	Wilkinson	221	11:15	Claire Lemire	clemire@ucdavis-alumni.com	714-292-9772
PC Q&A	Irvine Hall	---	11:15	Jim Sanders	jsanders@ligasmicro.com	714-636-5523
Understanding OS's	Wilkinson	111	11:15	Charlie Moore	mooreca@adelphia.net	714-529-9071
Visual Programming I	Science	109	8:30	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming II	Science	109	9:00	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming III	Science	109	10:00	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming IV	Science	109	11:15	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Please report SIG changes to Herbert Wong, Jr.....						ocug@singularitytechnology.com 714-968-7264

Benefits of NOCCC Membership

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

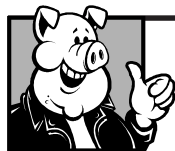
NFTI created WebBuild Express, an easy to use web editor. For information, go to www.webbuild.net. You can download a 30 day trial version. The program costs \$29.95 but through 9/8/05 you can get \$7.50 reduction in cost. Use the coupon number CPN1502566405. To order it go to <http://store.esellerate.net/nfti/store>.

RoboForm is a Password Manager and web form filler for storing your online passwords and automates entering passwords. You can download a complimentary version at www.roboform.com/corts. If you want to upgrade to the PRO version before September 30, 2005 use the coupon code CORTS and get 10% off.

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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.

Techsmith www.techsmith.com/store/order/bundle.asp using promotion code **PRESBN05** you can get SnagIt (screen capture program) and Camtasia Studio (quickly record, edit and publish multimedia demos and presentations). Bundle for \$269, a \$50 savings.



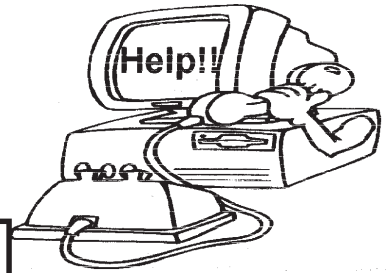
Pig SIG Open To ALL

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

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

NOCCC Help Line

The Help Line is in the true spirit of NOCCC, which is to help others to learn more about computers. The following is a list of Help Line Volunteers. The list is organized by the topic that each volunteer is willing to help you with. Please help us to keep this list current. Call or e-mail editor@noccc.org with additions, deletions, or corrections.



AI
Amiga
Apple
Apple II
Apple/Educator
C/C++
Computer Boards
Corel Draw
Excel(IBM)
Excel(Mac)
MacIntosh
MacIntosh
Memory/Interrupts
Modem Hardware
Modem Software
Neural Networks
OS/2
PC, Beginners
PC Hardware
Quicken 6.0
Quickbooks 5.0
Quicken 2000,2001
Quickbooks
Quicken Home &
Business 2000, 2001
Powerpoint
Realtime Control
Robotics
Tcl/Tk
Unix
Windows 9X
Windows 9X
Windows 2000
Word
Word
WordPerfect

The NOCCC Help line is published in the printed version of the Orange Bytes which is mailed to members

FREE AD SPACE

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

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



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

Products for Review

FROM PAGE 19

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

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

The Design and Implementation of the FreeBSD Operating System – This hard-cover book by Kirk McKusick and George Neville-Neil from Addison-Wesley is the most comprehensive, up-to-date, and authoritative technical information on the internal structure of this open source operating system. MSRP \$60.

PHP 5 Power Programming – In this book from Prentice Hall, PHP 5’s co-creator and two leading PHP developers show you how to make the most of its industrial-strength enhancements in any project. MSRP \$40.

PHP-Nuke Garage – This book shows you how to master the most powerful open source Web content system ever created, then use it to build whatever your heart desires, hands on, step-by-step. Authored by Don Jones from publisher Prentice Hall PTR. MSRP \$25.

Web Design Garage – This book has everything you need to help design your web site. From author Marc Campbell and publisher Prentice Hall PTR. MSRP \$30.

Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor (714) 779-1936
reviews@noccc.org. *If you would like me to try to obtain a specific product (software, hardware, or book) to review, please contact me by phone or e-mail*

Board Meeting Minutes

FROM PAGE 4

Technical Writing

FROM PAGE 11

Preface, he states that “‘Barry Rosenberg’ is just a composite author formed by the publishing company.” One paragraph later, he declares that he is real and teaches at MIT. When contrasting wordy sentences to short ones we are presented with “Liquid precipitation on the western Iberian peninsula is primarily deposited on flat, non-mountainous regions.” versus “The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain.”

There are only a few complaints I have with this book. It uses “specs” instead of the word “specifications” which may confuse people unfamiliar with English. The chapter on punctuation does not cover the use and misuse of the apostrophe. It does not address writing a report within a formal multi-level outline format or the affect of placing the conclusion section near the beginning of the document. Finally, the section on presentation skills briefly discusses the use of humor. Based on my own experience, the use of humor depends heavily on the corporate culture where you work and needs to be addressed more thoroughly. Though humor can make any subject easier to discuss, in my opinion it is sometimes inappropriate. If many people are presenting results at a long technical meeting and every one opens with a joke, it adds to the length of the meeting and, after a while, people may resent it. After the meeting, they may remember the joke instead of the presentation.

In my job I write mostly lab reports and an occasional procedure. This book validated some of my own techniques of writing but I still learned a lot. I normally write the introduction and conclusion for non-technical people and the body of the report for technical people. If I had to write a technical manual, proposal, or other type of technical document, this book would be a good place to start. Copyright 2005, Pearson Education, Inc., Authored by Barry J. Rosenberg; Published by Addison-Wesley, New Jersey; 318 pages; \$29.99 List Price; ISBN 013149863-0.

Web Sites listed are www.awprofessional.com/springinto/, www.awprofessional.com/springintosurvey/, www.awprofessional.com/register/ (Yes, you can register that you own the book) and also, there’s some advertising for InformIT Online Books; www.informit.com/onlinebooks.com. The author’s email address is barry-rosenberg@awl.com ■

Orange Bytes is published monthly by:
 North Orange County Computer Club
 P.O. Box 3616, Orange, CA 92857
 (714) 998-8080

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Production—Camera-ready copy of this issue of *Orange Bytes* was produced with Adobe PageMaker 7.0

Type set with True Type: Times New Roman, Bauhaus 93, Arial and Humanist 521BT fonts

Printed by

**Windsor Enterprises
 PO Box 731**

Garden Grove, CA 92842

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QUICK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Date: _____ I am a new member
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 Orange, CA 92857

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Consider all that you get with membership and Join Now

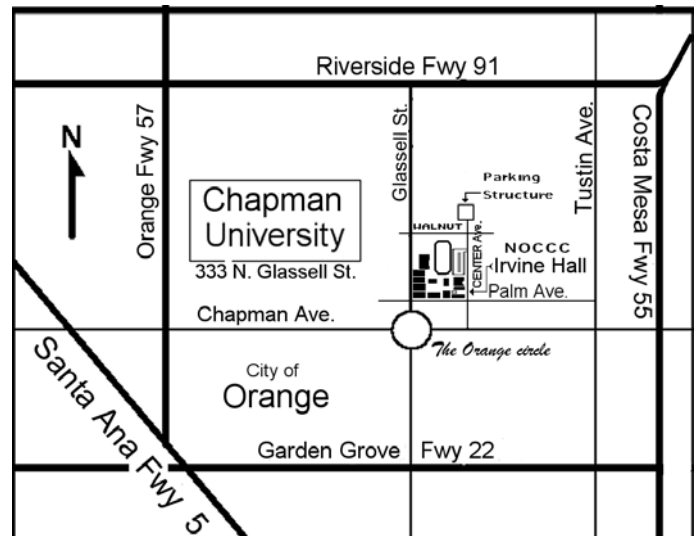
- **Meetings.** Keep up with what's going on in the computer world. Hear outstanding industry representatives make presentations of the latest and greatest in computer products.
- **Special Interest Groups.** Our 20 SIGs cover a broad spectrum of user interest; they invite you, whether you rank as beginner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

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

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

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

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



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

North Orange County Computer Club
PO Box 3616
Orange CA 92857

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