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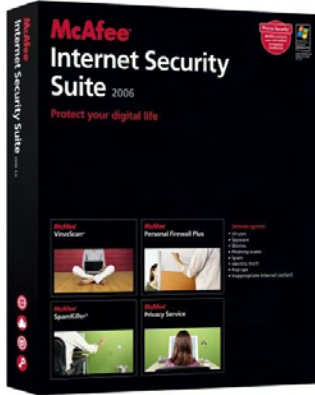
Award Winning News Magazine of the North Orange County Computer Club *

Dennis London from McAfee will be presenting their security products at the 1PM Main Meeting

NOCCC Meetings - July 9th

NOCCC Thirty years and counting

8:30 a.m.
Visual Programming I&II......................... *Science 109*
 Visual Basic and Visual Basic Script for Beginners
 Visual C++ and Visual J++ for Beginners

9:00 a.m.
Autocad.. *Science 203*
Linux for Desktop Users .... *Wilkinson 117*

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*
 Creating shadows.

10:00 a.m.
Linux for Server Adminstrators .... *Wilkinson 117*
Visual Programming III .... *Science 109*
 Intermediate and Advanced Visual Basic

11:15 a.m.
Computer Security .... *Science 203*
Linux Programming Concepts .... *Wilkinson 117*
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*
 Dennis London from McAfee talks about security issues

2:30 p.m.
Genealogy...*Science 111*
 C
Hardware Essentials .... *Science 109*
 Laptop Technology (new Microprocessors)
OS/2 News and Installation .... *Science 203*

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

Meeting Dates
Jul 9, Aug 6

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Celebrating 30 years of
"Friends Helping Friends"

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
for the following positions:
Help Line • *Maintains the volunteer list, and the software and hardware subjects for which they are willing to answer questions.*

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 M. Edgell

We now have our officers and directors for the 2006/2007 year. Our Secretary, Mary Cornett, is new to the position. Doug Steiner is our new Treasurer. We also have a new director, Bill Thornton. I hope that the coming year will be enjoyable for our new leaders and that we will get to know them better.

I want to thank George and Cathy Margolin for their years of involvement with the running of NOCCC. They have spent many hours getting speakers, entertaining speakers, lugging equipment, being president,, being SIG leaders, as contact with Chapman University, and much, much more.

Our out-going Treasurer, Alan Pearlman, has also spent a great deal of time over the past years making our club a better club. The function of Treasurer is time consuming. He also is a past-president. Recently he is the one who has been bringing the coffee and donuts (a very important and appreciated function) and at the same time he would make sure the tables were set up and the rooms opened. He also was involved with taking the table and tarp to the ACP Swap meets.

This year the Volunteer Party will be at my house in Santa Ana (near the 22 & 55 freeways and very easy to fine).. It will be on Sunday, August 20th at 2:00 P.M. It will be pot luck. The party is for any member who has done any volunteer stuff for NOCCC (helping to move a table, running an errand, etc., it does not have to be a formal position). It is also for any member who is thinking about volunteering and would like to get to know us better. Of course, you are welcome to bring a guest. This is a time to eat, drink, and talk. I have always enjoyed a chance to meet the "significant others" who do not attend our club meetings.

It is hard to realize it is almost time for the Southwest User Group Conference in San Diego, August 11, 12, and 13. This is really nice because it is the first year since I have been attending the conference that it does not conflict with our August meeting. It is always an informative and fun conference. I have attended it for several years. It is a wonderful time to meet members of other user groups (computer clubs) and learn what works for them and what does not. The conference is open to any computer club member. If you would like to find out more about it please go to www.swugconf.org. The price is reasonable and includes meals.

Summer is a good time to bring some of your white elephant computer software and hardware for the consignment table. This is a good way to let someone else use the things that you no longer want. It is even better if you donate the items to NOCCC. This is a painless way to support our club.

See you at the July meeting.

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

Prentice Hall, Addison-Wesley, and IBM Press

Become a registered member at these publishers' sites and enjoy savings on books of 30%: go to http://www.phptr.com, http://www.awprofessional.com, and http://www.ibmpressbooks.com.

AskSam – is offering SurfSaver 6, it 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 day 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 Feb 5 presentation, Corel gave us the following link for special pricing to user group members. http://www.corel.com/specialusergroups

WordPerfect Office X3 for $159, CorelDRAW Graphics Suite X3 for $179, Corel Painter for $229, Paint Shop Pro X for $59, and Paint Shop Photo Album 5 for $29.

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.

Peachpit Press Books Discount - of 30% can be obtained by joining the Peachpit Club. Go to http://www.peachpit.com to sign up as a member. User group members should note that once you've become a Peachpit Club member, you may use your user group coupon code ON TOP of the permanent savings you earn as a member of the club. Just make sure you've logged into the site before you make a purchase to ensure this permanent discount will be in effect, and then enter coupon code UE-23AA-PEUF (case-sensitive) at checkout! This coupon code is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes. The offer applies to all titles at peachpit.com including New Riders, Macromedia Press, Adobe Press, and Peachpit Press.

O'Reilly Books

Get 30% off a single book or 35% off two or more books from O'Reilly, No Starch, Paraglyph, PC Publishing, Pragmatic Bookshelf, SitePoint, or Syngress books you purchase directly from O'Reilly. Just use code DSUG when ordering online (http://www.oreilly.com/store/) or by phone (800-998-9938). Free ground shipping on orders $29.95 or more in the US. If, for any reason, you're not completely satisfied with your purchase, return it to O'Reilly and get your money back. A return

Officers' Reports Mon. Officers' List June 5, 2006, the Board Meeting was called to order at 8:00pm, Elise Edgell's home.

Attendees were: Ted Littman, Jim Sanders, Elise Edgell, Steve Carmeli, John Johnson, John Carlson, Gerry Resch, Herb Wong, Jr, Alan Pearlman, Cathy Margolin, George Margolin, Bill Thornton, Dave Keays, Dallas Hazelton, Mary Cornett & Richard Miller.

Secretary's report – Steve Carmeli – Minutes of May meeting were accepted **Secretary's report** – Steve Carmeli – Minutes of May meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's report – Alan Pearlman, 25 people renewed, $35 at consignment table.

Next Main Meeting – July 9, 2006, Next Board Meeting July 10, 7:30pm. The board meeting will be held at the home of Elise Edgell, NOCCC board President, 17782 Rainer Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92705.

General Meeting Report – well attended. Iolo spoke on System Mechanic 6. Voting was held with all offices filled. Assembly motioned and approved members for office, with no opposition. The broken elevator will be addressed for future usage. Summertime cafeteria closed. Use rest rooms near elevator, per Cathy.

Committee Reports

Publications – Jim Sanders – 4 Reviews, printed 340 copies of Bytes. Delivery was good with some arriving early and some on time.

Programs – George & Cathy: July 9-Open, Aug 6-Open, Sept. 10-Gibson.

Reviews – Ted – 2 books given out, 2 returns: 1 book, 1 software box.

Members –

Public Relations – Else not here, 1 new member, Returns on hold June 27th.

University Liaison – Hashinger Hall parking lot – currently OK, parking in lots P3 and P6 recommended. Signed contract & Ins. Store room – no access, tables requested.

Raffle - Main – Printer, MS Money Premium, 2 Books. Members – Back up for workgroups. Raffle – C++ without fear.

SIG's – Herb, Anson Chapman absent last meeting.

Consignment Table: New Idea: Write ticket w/90%.

Classified Ads – Jim Sanders – no change. **Opening of General Meetings** – will be done by Eric Saca, Projector shut down sequence should be followed allowing fan to cool it down.

Closing of General Meetings – will be done by Elise and Jim.

Old Business – Need greater attendance & need coffee person. Elise will do inventory for storage and handle misc. items.

New Business - Jim Sanders was appointed Editor and Herb Wong was appointed Webmaster. Bill Thornton ,New Membership Chairman.

It was motioned and 2nd to approve Bill as Chairman.

Other: Swap Meet at Edinger & Grand held on last Sunday of every odd numbered month.

The SWUG Conference will be held on: Aug. 11, 12, 13 in San Diego at the Town and Country Resort. Dave Keays' motion re: SIG & internet was tabled to July meeting.

Parking in small lot off south side of campus off Palm Ave is no longer allowed. Park in the P3 & P6 parking lots.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37pm. ■

JULY 9TH MEETING PREVIEW

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG - 9:30 am - Larry Klees - At the July meeting Larry will cover: •Creating believable shadows for objects you inert into your photos greatly enhances them.

COMPUTER ESSENTIALS SIG - 9:30 am - Elise Edgell, your club President, will be leading the SIG that is dedicated to helping new and inexperienced users conquer their computer challenges.

MAIN MEETING 1:00 pm, Irvine Hall - Our July Main Meeting speaker will be Dennis London from McAfee will be presenting their security products and how they can protect you on-line. (McAfee's first time at NOCCC!) Please note that Dennis is a Sales Engineer, not a marketing person, so he will demonstrate the technical benefits of the products and won't be equipped to answer your technical questions. He insists on just showing you what the products can do -- and letting you decide which brand to buy. Don't miss out!!!.

THE CLUB RAFFLE items this month are: Microsoft's Money Premium software package, Symantec Home Internet Security book, Secure Coding in C and C++ book and with any luck, McAfee may sweeten the pot. Hedge your bet, wear your current membership badge and get a free ticket for the member only raffle.

THE MEMBER-ONLY PRIZES (requires wearing badge to get a free ticket) will be, Backup for Workgroups software by Lockstep, and C++ without fear, programming book and CD +??? ■

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. Because of the new disposal laws, if you have a display or computer that doesn't sell, you must pick it up. The club has no storage room available, and can not legally put it in the trash.

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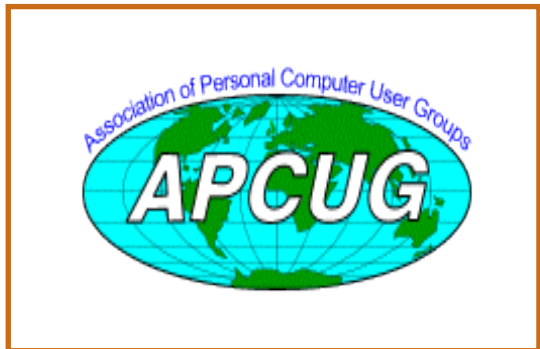
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Open
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Ted's Stuff

By Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor and Board Member

This is a new column for the Bytes that I hope will become a regular feature. In it, I will share with my fellow NOCCC members links to interesting and useful web sites as well as tips and ideas on computing that I come across. **If you would like to share your gems or make comments, please email them to me** at tedsstuff@adelphia.net for publication in this column, with appropriate attribution of course.

ShareDirect Basic Edition

This free program (that formerly sold for $40) from Laplink can be downloaded at www.laplink.com/sharedirect/. It allows PC users to quickly share files with one another through an encrypted web link. If you have ever tried to email large files back and forth, you probably have run into the file size restrictions that Service Providers usually impose. Using ShareDirect avoids this problem, but note that both senders and receivers must install the program on their PCs.

The Process Library Quick Access Bar

This free plug-in for the Windows Task Manager is made available by Uniblue Systems, the maker of the highly rated WinTasks and WinBackup programs. It can be downloaded from www.processlibrary.com/quickaccess/ and provides information on over 9000 processes that are known to run on PCs. If you are concerned about a process running on your computer that is hogging system resources or posing a security or privacy threat, you can click on it from within your Task Manager and immediately receive process definition and security/performance advice.

WinBackup 1.86

This free full and unlimited use version of a highly regarded backup program is made available from Uniblue Systems also and can be downloaded from www.backupanswers.com. The program originally sold for $50 and newer version have succeeded it.

Microsoft Photo Story 3 for Windows

This free program can be downloaded from https://www.microsoft.com/mindshare/featuredproduct.aspx. It has some photoediting capabilities and you can add special effects, soundtracks, and your own recording to your photo stories. In addition, you can share your photos via email, computer, portable device, or TV.

Get Human Phone Numbers

According to noted computerist Steve Bass, "This is an interesting and valuable little web resource for circumventing those continually annoying automated menu mazes we constantly have to navigate just to get a human on the phone." The link is http://gethuman.com/us/ and you are presented with a database listing of over 370 companies that has been complied by Paul English. The regularly updated listing provides company names, free telephone numbers, and instructions for reaching a live customer service rep quickly. The list is presented by category, from automotive to utilities, and within each category the companies are listed alphabetically. You can rearrange the table so that all companies are listed alphabetically, regardless of category. And, you can download and print the table for future reference.

Firewalls

Firewalls are an important part of a PC's virus protection system and they come in hardware as well as software options. If you don't have one and you would like to try a freebee, check out the information at Christopher Heng's web site: http://www.thefreecountry.com/security/firewalls.shtml. Here he provides links to 10 free software firewalls as well as other related information. I found this link in Fred Langer's free LangaList of 6-8-06 which you can subscribe to at http://langa.com/join_langalist.htm.

Free Faxing

I found this in Bob Rankin's free Tourbus newsletter of 5-16-06. If you don't have a fax machine or use the faxing capability built into Windows, you can find a free Internet fax service provided by FaxZero. For complete details and other free fax alternatives, go to: http://askbobrankin.com/send_a_free_fax.html. To subscribe to the weekly newsletter, go to: http://www.InternetTourbus.com.

That's it for now. Happy computing and see you next month. ∎

Windows Vista

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC

For years I have joked about the conspiracy (or at least unwritten agreement) between the software writers and the hardware makers that requires all new programs to want a minimum of 25% more hardware capability than you already own. Vista seems to be taking that to a new level. The recent great deals on laptop computers is in large part dumping existing stock that won't run Vista very well. If you look up the specifications, you will find that most sub $1000 dollar laptops use shared main memory video, OK for mundane stuff, but not for the Vista eye candy you have been shown. At a recent MS presentation: "512M of RAM will get you a Vista heartbeat, 1 Gig and it walks, 2 Gig or more and it runs." If you see the above logo in an ad, it probably has a Vista heartbeat, but you won't be happy till it says: "Designed for Windows Vista." More next month. ∎

Essential Processes, How You Can Tell

By Vinny La Bash, Member of the Sarasota PCUG, Florida www.spcug.org labash@spcug. org

Every other computer article these days seems to be about Windows Vista, a long promised operating system that won't make its appearance for almost another year. Why all the fuss about something that doesn't even exist yet? It's as far advanced over Windows XP as Windows 95 was over 3.1, that's why. That's nice, but we don't have Vista to take us to Nirvana today. We common folk have XP. That's not bad, but we don't have Vista as promised. Maybe this time next year I'll be writing about a Vista tip to make life easier while we're all anticipating the release of Vienna, the follow on to Vista. While we're waiting, here's something to make the wait easier.

If you press Ctrl+Alt+Delete to bring up the Windows Task Manager and then activate the Processes tab, you see a long list of computer services that run in the background while you're working with your system. You've undoubtedly received recommendations that you should shut down or disable the unessential processes to improve system performance. This is sound advice, but how can you tell what's essential from what could be shut down without clobbering your operation? Try the following to get a fighting start in that direction.

Restart your system and when it begins to reboot press F8 repeatedly until the Start Up menu appears. Select the Safe Mode option from the menu. If you get another screen asking you to select the operating system, choose the one which applies to you. In most cases, you will see one choice and it will be Windows XP Home Edition, Windows XP Professional Edition or Windows XP Media Center Edition. A bunch of programming gibberish may fill up your screen next and your system may appear to be 'frozen' for a minute or two. Relax, but don't touch anything, especially the keyboard or the mouse.

Eventually something like the normal Windows Welcome Screen will appear and you will be asked to sign in. If you are the only one using your system and your user profile has full Administrator privileges, you can safely log on to Windows Safe Mode. If you're not certain, use the Administrator Profile.

You will now be confronted with a formidable looking dialog box containing an ambiguous explanation of Safe Mode. Click the Yes button. When the desktop appears, don't panic. The icons may look very different, but nothing is wrong. One of the characteristics of Safe Mode is to load only the minimum number of video drivers that will support the lowest resolution your monitor can handle. This guarantees you will have a visible screen in Safe Mode. Everything will be back to normal when you restart, but you will probably have to rearrange your icons.

Press Ctrl+Alt+Delete. This time the Windows Task Manager displays a considerably shorter list in the Processes section. This list represents what's really essential to keep

Windows running. Don't shut down or disable anything in this short list when you are running in Windows normal mode. You run the risk of not only crashing your system, but you may not be able to boot up again without doing a repair reinstall of your operating system. The idea here is to improve the performance of your system, not put yourself out of business.

You can make a handwritten list of the processes that are running in Safe Mode and use that as a reference, but here is another method.

1. Click on a blank area of the Windows Task Manager to make sure it is active. Click the Processes tab.
2. Press Alt+PrtScrn to capture the image of the dialog box and store it in the clipboard area.
3. Close the Windows Task Manager Dialog box.
4. Click on the Start button.
5. From the Start Menu, open the All Programs section.
6. Open the Accessories Menu.

June Elections

Well, the elections are over. It turned out that we only needed one new Board of Directors member as Dave Keays was running as an incumbent but due to some confusion, his name was inadvertently left off the list. Dallas Hazelton volunteered to run for the remaining opening on the Board of Directors. We had one nomination for Vice President but he declined. After multiple, fruitless, requests for someone else to volunteer, Herb Wong agreed to volunteer one more time for that office. As a result, we had exactly one nominee for each post and voting was superfluous. The slate was agreed to by acclamation. The following is a list of your current club officers.

President	Elise Edgell
Vice President	Herb Wong
Treasurer	Doug Steiner
Secretary	Mary Cornett

Board 1	Dallas Hazelton	Board 5	Ted Littman
Board 2	Dave Keays	Board 6	Richard Miller
Board 3	Bill Thornton	Board 7	Else Olavsson
Board 4	John Carlson	Board 8	Gerry Resch

(The following paragraph was published last month and remains true!)

But there is a long list of other tasks that should be done so that the club can function well. As it is, some are not done at all, some are hit or miss, and most of the "must do" tasks fall on just a few shoulders. The club needs people for morning setup to make sure the rooms are open, the tables are setup, the elevator is working, to make coffee, to get the donuts, to post the schedules, to setup the projector, the loud speakers and amp, to man the help desk, and the list goes on. If you want to continue to have a club, maybe a better club, I strongly suggest you figure out a way to participate. --- your editor ■

Web 2.0 and The Evolution of the Small Office/Home Office (SOHO)

By John Abbott, member of the Bentsen Grove Resort Computer Club, Mission Texas

www.bgrcc.com   john@bgrcc.com

Will the evolution of Web 2.0 have any lasting effect on the proprietary software vendors? I believe so to a limited extent. There are a myriad of new Web 2.0 companies springing up hourly. Each offering something unique to attract users. For some, this will prove satisfactory enough that they will no longer purchase proprietary mail programs or word processors, and possibly even spread sheets.

The advent of Open Office has most certainly put a dent in the profit margins of Microsoft's Office Suite. There is a new look coming from Microsoft Office that adds a lot of eye candy to their existing Suite, but not a lot of additional function. I believe that between Open Source and the Web 2.0 companies the bottom line at Microsoft will feel their presence.

Even though Microsoft is reacting to the popular features of Mozilla's Firefox browser by copying most of them into Internet Explorer 7. IE7 still doesn't have several of the most advanced features of Firefox like ad blocking and several extensions made available for free download. And the folks at Mozilla aren't sitting around waiting for Microsoft to catch up, they are already beta testing Flock, a Web 2.0 oriented browser with blogging and social tagging built into its rich function package. However, if you don't consider yourself a true Web 2.0 Juggernaut then you may not enjoy it as much. It is designed to accommodate the blog grabbing and social bookmarking of web sites.

Google is clearly among the leaders in Web 2.0 features. They offer on line mail, on line calendar, financial portfolio tracking, the best search engine on the planet, news aggregated to your personal interests, image search, even a Linux search engine or a couple of other specialized search engines. And Google was the company that forced the email providers into offering 2 Gigabytes of storage for their mail. [http://www.google.com/intl/en/options/]

But there are other companies close on the heels of Google. My current favorite is inbox.com inbox offers personalized email, with spell checker, rich text (font control) manageable folders and the absolutely best spam system on the Internet. You can set your Spam to capture any mail not from someone in your address book. Or you can set it to challenge anyone not in your book and then hold that challenged mail in an "Unverified" folder where you can accept or permanently reject it. Along with the email, you are offered 2 Gb of storage with folders containing your various upload/download type .: music, documents, pictures or files. And if that weren't enough, inbox also offers a calendar that emails you up to 3 reminders on calendared events. [http://www.inbox.com]

Another great company is Zoho. Zoho derives its name from SOHO (small office/home office) and it has laid in virtually everything one would need. The Zoho stable contains email, spread sheets, planners, collaborative white boards etc. Their banner program is Zoho Virtual Office and it is complete with reminder calendars, email, a virtual drive (only with XP) Instant Messaging, task management, and all of it can be collaborative for up to 10 users. Not all of the features are available on the free packages, but small version is available for you to try before you buy. [http://www.zoho.com]

The only thing missing from a small office/home office would be a telephone. Ah, but you can have that on-line too. From full service phone systems like Packet8 to totally free Gizmo and Skype. The packet8 system will give you an adapter to plug your phone into, or you can buy a Uniden phone system with a base phone and up to 10 wireless handsets for $79. Or you can use your current phone connected into their free adapter and your up - both systems carry a $20 a month fee for caller ID, three way calling, and your choice of area code and depending on where you live you can keep your phone number. If you want to get exotic if you buy their VideoPhone and then the same $20 a month. [http://www.packet8.net/]

But for the true Web 2.0 user, Skype or Gizmo reign supreme. Each is totally free, and has adapters for a web camera. Of course, if you are not calling another SIP subscriber you will have to buy an outgoing AND an incoming outside line. I prefer using Gizmo because it has superior audio setup and a test point to call to check for echo suppression or the lack thereof. [http://www.gizmoproject.com] [http://www.skype.com]

And finally for setting up those conference calls you can always use the services of Gizmo which offers a free conference system. For those using Gizmo, it is entirely free. For those checking into the conference from their cell phones or land line phone they will pay the standard rate to their provider. There is a great company called Live Office that gives you much better control (mute, mute group, roll call etc) and it too is absolutely free and the quality of the connection much improved over Gizmo. And should you need to step up to a toll free call in system, Live Office offers them for a variety of rates. [http://freeconferencing.liveoffice.com/]

And now you are equipped to take your entire home office with you in a USB thumb drive. And depending on the version you use, it can all be automatically encrypted. SOHO has become portable and secure.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you. ■

Editors Note: If you are like several people who read this article, your response is; "That's interesting, but what the h... is Web 2.0?" If you go to this web site (which just happens to be one of our favorite book vendors): http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/oreilly/tim/news/2005/09/30/what-is-web-20.html you find an article that does a pretty good job of explaining it.

Internet Fraud

By Bob Schneider, Editor of the PC Keyboard, the newsletter of the Spring Hill Teaching Computer Club, Hernando County, Florida

www . s t h c c .net/
D r b o b 1 0 1 2@ h o t m a i l . c o m

Internet fraud continues to be the fastest growing crime in America (and perhaps the world). The most common technique for fraud today is "phishing." This means that some nefarious person connives you into to providing financial account information. They do it by mailing thousands of spam emails to lists of email addresses they have accumulated. Perhaps one of your friends sent a neat joke to 40 acquaintances, including you (your friend's email itself is, of course, spam). Someone out there farms email address. They love it when your friend sends out those appeals and jokes—because they know that every email address they capture (including yours) is current and good. They then send a message like the one below (actually received by the author) to those thousands of email addresses. It matters not if you have PayPal or not. Many of the emails will hit someone who does, and they only need a lot of money from a few suckers to make the effort worth while. Of course, they substitute various bank names for PayPal, too.

Dear valued PayPal® member: It has come to our attention that your PayPal® account information needs to be updated as part of our continuing commitment to protect your account and to reduce the instance of fraud on our website. If you could please take 5-10 minutes out of your online experience and update your personal records you will not run into any future problems with the online service.

However, failure to update your records will result in account suspension. Please update your records.

Once you have updated your account records, your PayPal® session will not be interrupted and will continue as normal. Go to the link below.

http://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_login-run

Thank You. PayPal® Security Center . Accounts Management. As outlined in our User Agreement, PayPal® will periodically send you information about site changes and enhancements. Visit our Privacy Policy and User Agreement if you have any questions. h t t p : / / w w w . p a y p a l . c o m / c g i - b i n / webscr?cmd=p/gen/ua/policy_privacy-outside

The first link (to "account records") does not go to PayPal, but goes to www.doctori.biz/pp, a site run by thieves, waiting for you to log in and provide your user name an password for PayPal, or your bank account or other financial service. The login page will look exactly like that of your financial institution. Once you finish "updating" account information, you will be sent to that actual financial site where you can log in and see that everything is in order. The second link (to "Privacy Policy") is a real link to your financial service. It is another part of their smoke screen. But at three o'clock the next morning, there may be some new account activity. The next day, when you log in, you will likely find that everything is no longer in order.

For your internet and financial safety, never respond to an email asking you to check your account. If you are curious, call your financial institution. Also, you can always log in to your account the usual way (not by clicking on a link you receive in an email) and check anything you wish.

A final note: tell your friends to stop broadcasting your email address to the world, to spammers, pornographers, body part enlargers and thieves. Tell them they can comply with your request if they stop forwarding jokes, requests and other such to you and their other friends. Better yet, send them a copy of this article. They deserve it.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you. ∎

Digital Divots

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC
June 8, 2006

Microsoft Corp. acknowledged that it needs to better inform Window XP users that its software tool, Genuine Advantage, for determining if a computer is running a pirated copy of Windows, quietly checks in daily with the software maker.

Apparently, this "feature" of Genuine Advantage is not disclosed in the End User License Agreement (EULA) David Lazar, who directs the Windows Genuine Advantage program claimed: "It's kind of a safety switch." He claimed that it is still a pilot program (implying that is was still Beta software) that might malfunction and need to be turned off quickly despite the fact that millions of users have been force fed the program. The Windows Genuine Advantage program is now Microsoft's primary tool to ensure that it gets money for each and every copy of XP running on any PC. A number of MS detractors worry that this is a full-fledged back door into your computer. June 20, 2006

Tom's Hardware reported on the new Intel Conroe CPU. Intel has been smarting for some time now from the market share inroads that AMD has been making with its 64 Bit
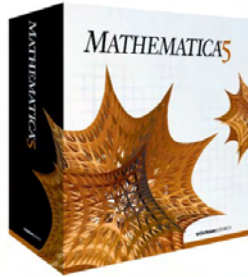
Review of Mathematica 5.2

By Skillman Hunter, NOCCC

Mathematica is very expensive software, $1880, and I was curious to see why. It turns out to be a most magical product.

The publisher is Wolfram Research, Inc., www. wolfram.com founded by Steven Wolfram in 1988, has sold about 2 million copies of Mathematica and now has several other software products.

I thought Mathematica was a tutorial for learning mathematics. It is that, but much more. Very complex math can be entered, solutions generated and results plotted. It can also generate sounds and animations. When you start up Mathematica, all that you see is a blank page. For a hint of what is in store go to following web page and scroll down:
http://mathworld.wolfram.com/news/2005-10-18/guidebooks/

Wolfram.com has several other special web sites that highlight specific capabilities much better than I can relate to you:
gallery.wolfram.com – dozens of examples of Mathematica graphics,
documents.wolfram.com,
library.wolfram.com,
integrals.wolfram.com,
mathworld.wolfram.com,
scienceworld.wolfram.com and
functions.wolfram.com

At documents.wolfram.com the entire Mathematica book can be downloaded as a PDF. If you also access the 15-day Mathematica trial version, the book is included in the Help Browser.

An alluring feature of Mathematica is its claim to have a new symbolic language that is the next step in programming technology moving beyond object oriented programming. I am an engineer and spent a large part of my career programming. So I was quite interested to see if Mathematica can get the programming out of the way to work directly on problems. The answer is a qualified yes. Math equations can be entered and solved, and the form of the equations is basically identical to or very similar to the way they are written in math classes and books. But there are still quite a few tricks one needs to learn to express a math problem in a way that Mathematica can solve it.

INSTALLATION

The Mathematica box has little information regarding the installation requirements. "Mathematica is available for Windows, Mac OS X, Linux x86/x86-64 bit/titanium, Solaris UltraSPARC/x86, HP-UX,HP Tru64 UNIX, IBM AIX and IRIX." And it does say "64-bit optimized". Beyond this there is no further information about hardware requirements. Inside the box there is some more information on what versions of OS are required. Windows NT/2000/XP or Server 2003 require administrative privileges.

NOCCC gave me the Windows version and Wolfram graciously granted me a 6 month trial Mac license so I was able to run them side-by-side. Installation is basically a point and click (Windows) or drag and drop (Mac) process. It

CLAIM'S TO ELIMINATE PROGRAMMING

is not clear what happens if there isn't enough disk space. Tech support said 500 MB of disk space should be enough. Installation required 441 MB on my Windows hard disk. and the 445 MB on the Mac. The box has a license number on it that is OS-specific and is used to connect to Wolfram's web site in order to register and obtain a password. The registration process records the machine ID of the computer on which Mathematica is being installed, so it is not possible to install on another machine. Registration can be done by e-mail or telephone. Switching machines and platforms can be done by a transfer re-registration.

START UP On starting up, a blank "Untitled-1" window opens which is a special "notebook" form into which math symbols can be entered from palettes or typed. This window will do any kind of calculator arithmetic. Just like regular math, multiplication is an implied operator and can be done either by entering a "*" or just entering a space; 2 3 results in 6. If a decimal point is used on any number, decimal results are produced 4 / 3. = 1.33333.

Nine palettes provide every math symbol I have ever seen and many I haven't. Clicking a symbol enters it into the notebook with little squares wherever the next entries would go, for example:

$$\int_{\square}^{\square} \square \, d\square$$

Some of the palettes show keyboard equivalents in an escape sequence: the above symbol can be typed by "ESCdinttESC".

The entry process is very much like automatic typesetting in taking care of superscripts and subscripts, brackets, square root symbols, etc. Mathematica understands mathematics which is probably not a surprise. My first entry was a mathematical oddity.
111111111 * 111111111, and I pressed enter.
This was auto-reformatted to show
In[1]= 111111111 * 111111111
The response was: Out[1]=12345678987654321

Which is the correct 17 digit answer.

I had expected a numeric overflow. So far so good. But to go farther I needed the Help Browser and Tutorial.

HELP BROWSER Mathematica has a terrific Help Browser built from a Mathematica Notebook. The Version 5.2 Help Browser has some typos that may be left over from an earlier version but it can be figured out. There are four index columns in a hierarchical view arrangement and below them is the help display that results from drilling left to right in the upper four columns to a particular topic. The Windows and Macintosh Help files are almost identical. It looks like this Help browser may be where Apple got the idea for the "Column" view of the Mac OS X Finder window. I had to use a "Rebuild Help Index" command to get the Mac Help version to work.

Help Browser provides several sections. The "Front End" section explains the Mathematica interface, menu commands, keyboard shortcuts, entering and editing 2D expressions, creating style sheets, options and tokens (key words that are typed into the notebook).

"The Mathematica Book" section is the entire manual for Mathematica which is also on the web.

The "Demos" section allows one to quickly see some of the more impressive features of Mathematica. A "Formula Gallery" shows the many types of formulas that can be entered. A "Graphics Gallery" displays some of the amazing 2D and 3D color graphics that can be generated in Mathematica, including animations that operate in the help file. A "Sound Gallery" displays graphs of sounds, shows the mathematic formulas then allows a double click to play the sound via the PC sound system.

There is no specific Help section labeled "Libraries". Any programming language requires libraries of standard functions to be attached in order that the functions may be used. In Mathematica libraries are called "Packages" and those are explained in the Help file.

TUTORIAL The Tutorial, like the Help, is a notebook. Notebooks can have many forms. But typically they consist of cells that can contain text, calculations, or graphics.

Cells are indicated by brackets on the right side of the notebook. Input for Mathematica to evaluate goes in input cells. To create a new input cell, you click outside an existing cell and click palette symbols or type. When you have finished you press Shift-Enter. Mathematica evaluates your input and puts the result in an output cell immediately underneath. A cell may be erased by clicking the side bracket and pressing delete.

The Tutorial leads you from simple arithmetic on to more complex math to teach you the various entry methods. In most cases everything you have to type is carefully explained. But on page 10, the last equation has a character that is not in a standard font. The right arrow between /.x and 3 has to be entered by typing "ESC->ESC".

$1+x\^2+x\^4+x\^5/.x \rightarrow 3$

Fortunately the Help Browser does recognize ->, dash-right-arrow, as a search term and will display the explanation in the Help Browser. In the above equation the term /.x->3 means x is replaced by 3 in the previous equation, but x is not assigned any value.

I have not yet fully grasped the value of this feature but have been assured by tech support that it has valid use.

Mathematica assigns names to 770 special characters and they are written in the form of \[Name]. For example, \[Pi] is the well-known π. 🙂 And there is even a \[HappySmiley] which is: The right arrow as in the above equation has the name \[Rule]. When entering the special characters you can use the "ESC->ESC" form of the character or the \[Rule] name.

When an object, such as the right arrow in the above equation, is copied via right-click, there are ten options for the Copy As operation:

1. Plain Text: \[Rule] (Special term, see below)
2. Formatted Text: →
3. Text (add whitespace): -> (dash-arrow)
4. MathML: (Math Markup Language like HTML)
5. Cell Expression: Cell[BoxData["\[Rule]"], "Input"]
6. Notebook Expression: very long listing
7. Complete Notebook: very, very long listing
8. Bitmap:

→

9. Metafile:
10. Wave: (sounds only)

Mathematica has to incorporate a fairly rigid scheme for determining the meaning of special characters and the format in which they are displayed. There are sixteen format types, some of which are:

1. `StandardForm[`*expr*`]` prints as the standard *Mathematica* two-dimensional representation of *expr*.
2. `TraditionalForm[`*expr*`]` prints as an approximation to the traditional mathematical notation for *expr*.
3. `InputForm[`*expr*`]` prints as a version of *expr* suitable for input to *Mathematica*.
4. `OutputForm[`*expr*`]` prints as a two-dimensional representation of *expr* using only keyboard characters.
5. `CForm[`*expr*`]` prints as a C language version of *expr*.
6. `FortranForm[`*expr*`]` prints as a Fortran language version of *expr*.
7. `TeXForm[`*expr*`]` prints as a TeX version of *expr*.
8. `MathMLForm[`*expr*`]` prints as a MathML form of *expr*.
9. `DisplayForm[`*expr*`]` prints with boxes inside *expr* shown in explicit two-dimensional or other form.

This is the end of the first half of the Mathematica review. See the conclusion next month. ∎

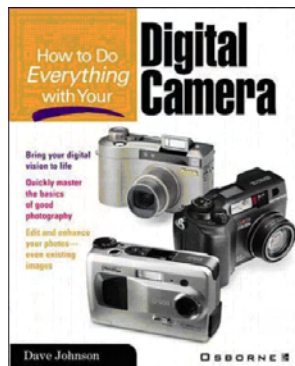# How to Do Everything with Your Digital Camera - 4th Edition

By John Donan, NOCCC

I picked this book up having been attracted by its title and noting its emphasis on photography. I then realized that I have been receiving a weekly column written by the same Dave Johnson, PC World's Digital Focus. Anyone can subscribe to this newsletter by going to the Newsletter Subscriptions page: http://www. pcworld.com/resource/newsletters. There are links there to all the columns he has written over the last five years. Johnson has written over a dozen other computer books. This book, by its first 170 of its 463 pages, gives the impression of being just a photographers book, covering there such things as composition, handling various subject matter, etc., but this is all merged with use of the digital camera.

The book covers fundamentals, which makes it suitable for a beginner but the hints and discussions cover items of greater value. In fact I was surprised in looking over the "I knew that" topics to find that I didn't. For example the book served as an introduction for me to the feature called auto-bracketing, contained in some digital cameras. Another thing which was new to me is a way to steady a camera when a tripod is not handy. It is using a bean bag. Just place it between the camera and something sturdy. The book is so written that in looking for such tid-bits I found myself reading, with great interest, subjects which I have been acquainted with for years. My conclusion is that it is so written that it is interesting to read.

The book is organized into four parts, the first seven of its sixteen chapters fall under the heading "Your Camera" which covers the use of a camera, considering it to be digital. Part II consists of three chapters, one on file formats, a brief one on "digital film" and then finding and organizing your pictures. A use of memory cards, for which I have been particularly careless, is that there is a risk in placing one in multiple devices. Here, the author warns, is the possibility of changing the formatting or header which will render it unable to store pictures. It might be possible, though, to revive it with the camera's Format command, and this format should be in Fat 32.

The four chapters of Part III are on the editing of images, covering the classical changes which can be made to digital images. The author does cover several image editors but reveals his preference, which I had previously detected from reading his column. He said, "Personally I use and recommend Paint Shop Pro from Corel (www.corel.com). This Image-editing program has about 75 percent of the features found in Photoshop, but at a fraction of the cost and with a much simpler interface." I personally use PSP very little for having mastered Photoshop it represents a learning curve backwards for me. He did reveal the PSP Gamma control which is a correction I feel I must try. The last two chapters of this part, Creating Special Effects and Creating Projects, cover what has taken me years to master. It is all there for a few hours study.

Part IV, "Using Your Images" tells you how to make all the right choices. The merits of a particular printer, resolution, and both paper and non-paper presentations are covered. After reading this part of the book, I have considered, for the first time, purchasing a laser printer. Ink jet resolution has always bothered me. This author comes in pretty close to where I have settled from all that I can find. For ink jet printing, he says, use 200--300 dpi, but still, a printer with a lousy step motor can visibly degrade a print. For enlarging, he claims that you can increase the size of a photo by several factors with little to no visible loss in print quality by using programs involving fractals. Consumer versions of this software start around $50. Finally, his advice is, the choice of paper is so important to the quality of prints that it is essentially more important than the printer itself!

The book is How to Do Everything with Your Digital Camera - Fourth Edition from the series "How to Do Everything," Publisher: McGraw-Hill/Osborne Media, Author: Johnson, Dave, ISBN: 0072261633. Publication date is March 2006, list price $24.99 USA. (http://books.mcgraw-hill.com/getbook. php?isbn=0072261633&template=), Price Range is $15 to $25 on the Internet. It is an informative book, easy to read. ∎

Google Power: Unleash the Full Potential of Google

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

I am like many people: I type a few words into the simple search box in Google, the most popular search engine on the Internet, and examine some of the results that fit what I wanted. However, if you need to use Google frequently, if you want to get better results, or if you want a reference about all the resources Google provides, you need this book.

The author, Chris Sherman, has been reporting on Google at least since 1999. He is President of Searchwise LLC, editor of SearchDaily, a daily newsletter from SearchEngineWatch.com, a Web Search University faculty member and an honorary inductee
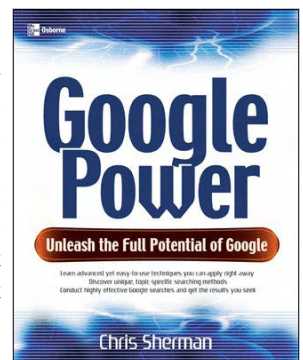
of the Internet Librarian Hall of Fame. He is certainly more than qualified to write a book about Google. We all get the advantage of his expertise by reading this book.

Without the use of complex math or flow charts, all of the different parts of Google are explained. Some of these are beyond a simple web search engine, such as a dictionary, a calculator, and mail-order catalogs. Chapter 1 is about how Google works. Chapters 2, 3 and 4 are the meat of the book, explaining how to search and how to interpret the results.

There are 17 other chapters chock full of information such as Hidden Google Tools, The Essential Google Toolbar, and Hunting for Health Information. Once you understand how to do an advanced search, the rest of Google is easy because all of the other parts of Google use similar methods.

There is a short, interesting grammar lesson in Chapter 2 concerning "nyms." This refers to classes of words such as contronyms, also called Janus words, with several meanings that contradict one another. One example used in the book is "fast" as in moving quickly or as in "firmly stuck in place." Other "nyms" are heteronyms, polyonyms, homonyms, captionyms, caconyms, and exonyms. Let us just say that I had never heard of most of these terms and neither had my dictionary or Microsoft Word, but using words correctly can improve your results when using a search engine.

I admire the author's honesty. He does not knock other search engines and even admits Google is not the right search engine for all occasions. In addition, most of the later chapters have a section called "Beyond Google" which describes other means of accomplishing that chapter's particular goal on the Web or the Internet.

This March, Google was in the news when a federal judge ruled that the company did not have to turn over customer search queries to the U.S. Justice Department. Still, they were required to supply 50,000 Web addresses from its index of Web sites. All this was requested by the government to study the effectiveness of filtering software and help support legislation designed to prevent access to online pornography among minors. This book was published before that case made the news. Again, the author is to be commended for his thoroughness: Appendix A is entitled "What Google Knows About You." It explains how Google sorts information about users and how and when it gives out information.
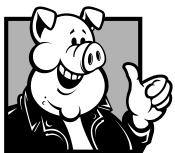
Pig SIG Open To ALL

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! CLOSED IN SUMMER ■

There was only one error and only a few minor issues I had with the book. It includes many figures; almost all are screen captures of queries or search results. Some of the figures show such simple facts, that they hardly seem necessary. Also, not all of the figures are numbered but they are referenced on the same page. Some numbered figures may be a page turn away. Chapter 7 is entitled Grokking Google Groups. While I appreciate the alliteration, for the benefit of non-English speakers or people who do not read science fiction, the book should say somewhere that "grok" is from Robert Heinlein's science fiction novel, Stranger in a Strange Land, and means to understand something very well, at an instinctual level. The error was on page 92 where the word "and" was omitted from the search box and should have been included twice - easily fixed with a fine point pen. I would have also appreciated a bit more information about what makes the Google search engine exceptional, but as the author admits, no single book about Google can be complete.

The book has a companion web site at www.google-power.net which has links to all the web sites and services mentioned in the book. It also has a short summary of each chapter and a way to contact the author. It was simple and effective to use. I highly recommend this book for anyone who wants to use Google efficiently.

Google Power: Unleash the Full Potential of Google by Chris Sherman. ©2005 The McGraw-Hill Companies. McGraw-Hill/Osborne, Emeryville, CA. (http://books.mcgraw-hill.com/landingpage.php?template=osborne). ISBN: 0-07-225787-3, MSRP=$24.99 ■ .

Adobe Photoshop Element 4.0 for Windows

By Ted Littman, NOCCC

The image editing "standard," as most folks know, is Adobe's top-of-the-line **Photoshop CS2** which is oriented for the professionals (and would be pros) among us. For just about everybody else, there is Adobe's Photoshop Elements, newly minted in version 4 and at a much lower price (www.adobe.com/products/photoshopelwin). While there are lots of competitors, with some simpler to use and most proving the basic tools, none can touch Elements for overall capability and value.
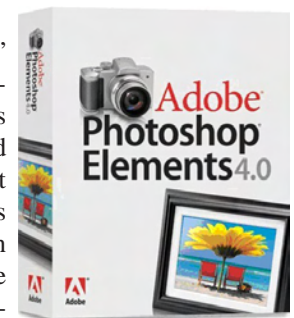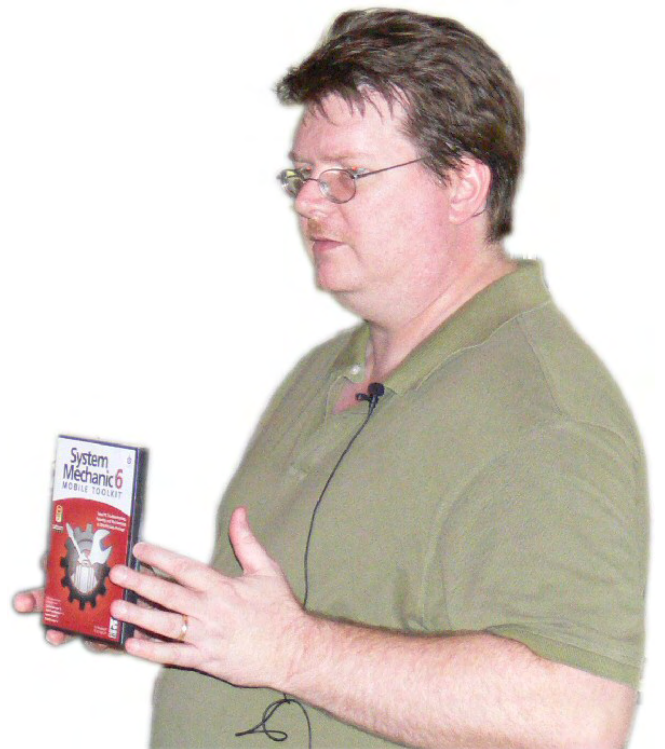
June Meeting Photos

Steve Gosset presented the **iolo,** Sytem Mechanic 6 line of software to those present at the main meeting. He did such a good job of explaining all of the benefits of the different versions that sales at the end of the presentation were brisk. That was helped of course by the generous user group discount that **iolo** offered the NOCCC members.


Elise Edgell, the club president, looks on as Mary Cornettt, (center) the new NOCCC Secretary, and Bill Thorton, a new member of the NOCCC Board of Directors, introduce themselves at the Main Meeting. Our new Treasurer, Doug Steiner, was out of town and escaped getting a mug shot.

Photograpy by Jim Sanders
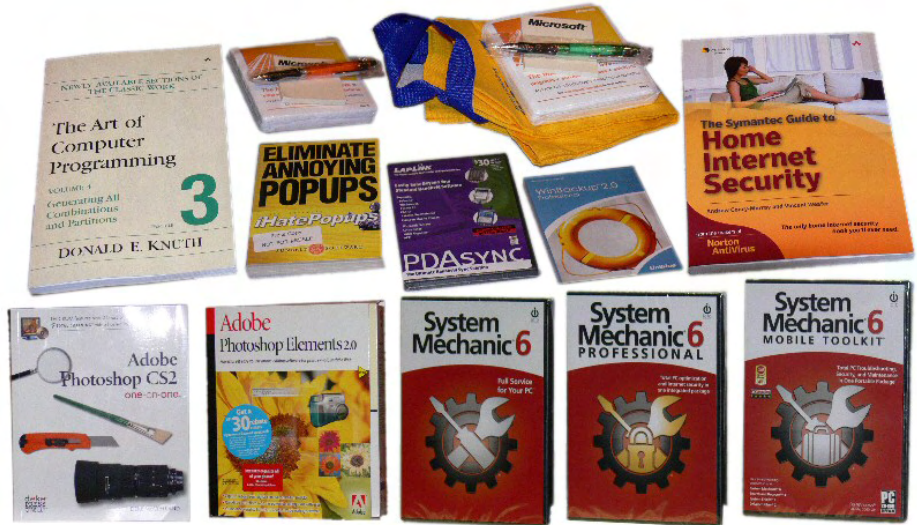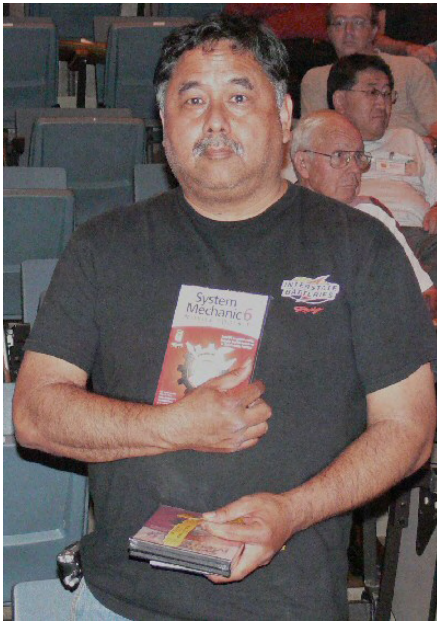
We had a great selection of prizes this month. Some people were in such a rush to go look at their goodies they didn't stick around for their photo

Product Reviews
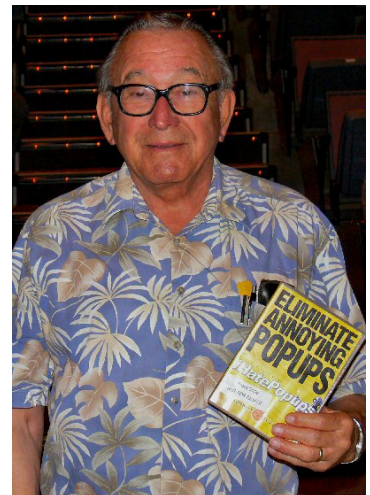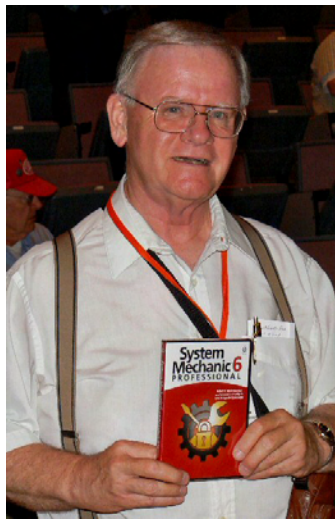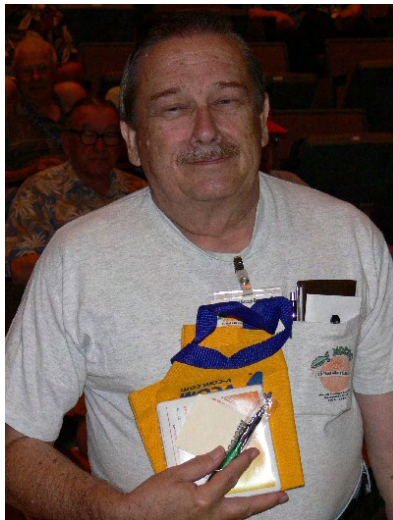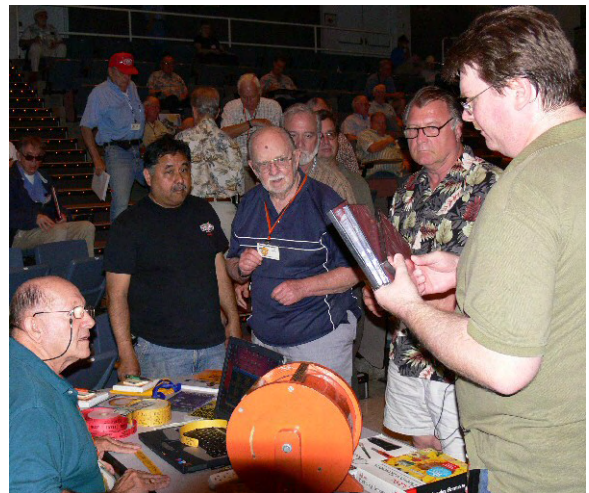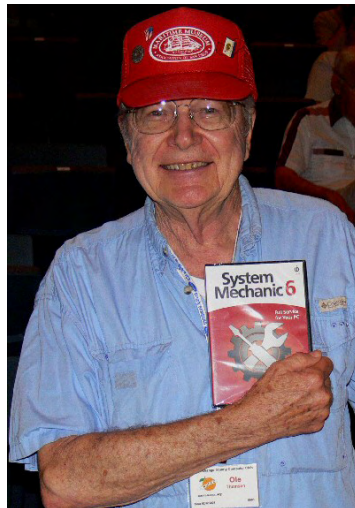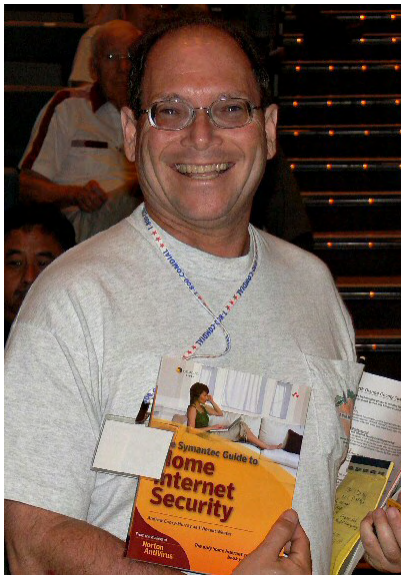
PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 4

My Assessment

The software CD comes is a nicely-designed, highly-illustrated full-color box with several attached pages displaying the main features of Elements: edit photos to remove flaws and imperfections, enhance/improve the digital images you take, and add special effects to "jazz up" your shots. In addition, Elements will help organize the photo collection on your hard drives so that you can easily find and view particular ones when you need them. If you like to share your handiwork with others, you can create dynamic slide shows with a variety of effects; send them via e-mail using thematic templates; show them on your TV, mobile phone, handheld, or in online albums; print them yourself or via online services; or copy them to CD/DVD.

Although I hadn't used Elements before, I was quite impressed with what it had to offer. I particularly liked the new features (compared to v. 3). There is a so-called "Magic" Selection Brush that allows one to select **parts** of a photo and adjust only its color, lighting, and contrast. Complementing this is a skin tone adjustment tool. I also liked the auto red-eye fix tool that can even remove these nasty devils as you download photos from your digital camera. Also new and useful for me is a straightening tool for the times when my camera wasn't level or the image in my scanner was askew.

Other notable features (for me) are the healing brushes that allow one to remove whole objects from an image, erase flaws, and brush away large imperfections (scratches, blemishes). While I haven't tried it yet, there is a tool to restore old photos (of which I have many) by restoring faded color and removing dust/scratches. There also are seemingly a zillion other tools for cropping with a variety of shapes, adding special effects and borders, changing perspective, and more. The one that I tried worked well and can really jazz up your photos. I put a hearts border around a photo of two great granddaughters that was a winner.

Although there is a large assortment of automatic "fixes" for color, contrast, lighting, etc., I haven't had much success with these tools using Adobe or other photo editing programs. So it must be me, right? Anyway, the regular fine-tuning tools work for me, but take longer to get the desired results. However, I miss the "flash tool" found in another program and hope that it is added in a later version of Elements.

In addition to its photo editing capability, Elements has an excellent image organizer that allows you to automate organizing your image collection, view and find thumbnails of your images/video clips/audio files in the Photo Browser, and add "tags" to them for ready retrieval. And there is much more.

Help Resources

Although the boxed program lists for only $99 (and offers a $20 mail-in rebate), Adobe provides a well-illustrated written User Manual of over 200 pages that even includes some color shots. The easy-to-read manual contains six tutorials covering the range of capabilities available which is particularly helpful for the novice. In addition, my package came with two free online tutorials (a gift for registering) that cover Retouching Techniques and Finishing Touches. At the Adobe web site you can find additional free tutorials – I checked out seven. Other help aids are available through the software's built-in and on-line Help tools. And, of course, you can purchase books and additional online tutorials, if you need to. If you really are serious about learning how to do photo editing, I recommend that you get a good book, like Photoshop Elements Classroom in a Book, or take an adult ed. Class.

System Requirements

Processor: Intel P3 or 4 (or equivalent) or Centrino at 800 MHz
Operating System: Windows XP (HE, Pro, or Media Center) (but a Mac Version is available)
RAM: 256 MB min.
Free Hard Disk Space: 900 MB
Video: Color monitor with 1024x768 resol. & 16-bit card
CD-ROM Drive
Internet Access

Cost

MSRP=$99 less a $20 "upgrade" rebate (good through 10-31-06) for users of Adobe or competitor software; online box prices as low as $75 with free shipping, but CD/OEM/download/student prices are even lower.

Other Reviews

By and large, Elements has received top ratings from the professional reviewers. PC Magazine awarded the program an Editors' Choice (9/05) with a rating of 4 ½ (out of 5) and said it "… is more powerful than ever and its excellent features and integration of the organizing/editing functions make it the best choice for handling your digital photo collection." However, PCM also noted that its "Magic" selection tools are underdeveloped and the automatic red-eye fix was hit-or-miss. (The red-eye fix tool worked OK for me.) PC World gave Elements 4 a 4 ½ star rating (11/05) and said it's "…still the best low-cost image editor/organizer around." And CNET Editor's rated it 8.1 (out of 10) or excellent and noted its "chic interface" and fantastic toolbox. If you would like to see a tabular features comparison of Adobe's program with its competitors, go to:
www.itreviews.co.ek/software/s334g.htm ■
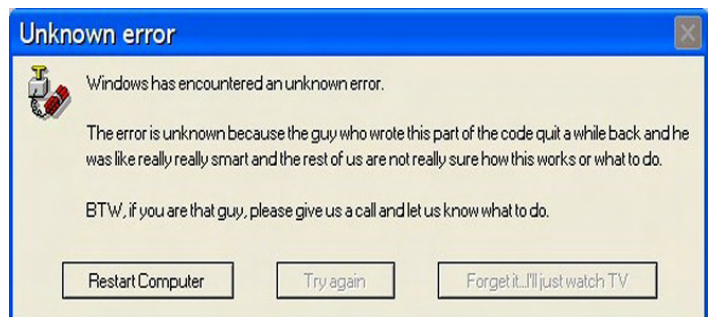
DIGITAL PHOTO SIG

white and yellow halo in the above detail.

To avoid this artifact select the foreground subject as before. (It is best to use no edge feathering.) Copy the foreground subject to a place where it will be safe because we are going to destroy the original. Since the halo is caused by the foreground subject's color be pulled across the selection boundary, you must replace the foreground colors with background colors. Then when the blur is done, the background pixels near the flower will be blurred with their own colors instead of the flower colors and no halo will be formed. While there are several ways to do this, we will use the clone tool which is included in all decent programs. Set the width of the clone tool to about twice the blur radius you have decided to use.

In the detail below the flower has been selected and an eighty pixel clone tool has been used to clone parts of the background onto the flower.

Normally the cloning would be completed all the way around the flower. In this case it was stopped part way through the pollen, for demonstration purposes.

In the next detail the selected area was inverted and the background was blurred by 40 pixels. Finally the copy of the flower was

put back into place. Note that the halo is now absent except where the cloning was stopped. There isn't room here to go into the refinements, but I think you can see that the first photo is better for the lack of a halo.

A story about camera memory. Even with a point and shoot camera there is plenty to consider if you want a good photograph. If you're not using a point and shoot camera there is a multitude of additional details to keep track of. I would have never thought, however, that keeping track of how many pictures would still fit in the camera's memory weighed much on my mind. About six weeks ago I decided it was time to get a new memory chip. I currently had a pair of 128 MBs and a 512 MB, so I decided to go upgrade to a 1 GB. When I got to the store the 100x speed was $40. For $60 I could get a 2 GB 100x. I decided on th 2 GB which in my camera will hold 273 pictures in RAW format. I still can't account for how or why not having to keep track of the number of exposures is such a big help; but trust me it is. Photographers don't have time for a checklist the way pilots do, and simply not having to keep track of exposures gives me more time for all those other details. You still

shouldn't put all of your money into a single large chip (keep one or two chips for backup) I believe you will find getting two or three of the largest chips you can will be worth every penny.

For the July meeting the topic will be: Creating shadows

Creating believable shadows for objects you inert into your photos greatly enhances them ∎ .

DIGITAL DIVOTS

CPU lines. Especially in the hotly contested server market, the dual core AMD Opteron has been winning performance and power consumption shoot-outs left and right. The new chips from Intel appear to be equal or somewhat better than the current AMD line. The article also points out that AMD has some new stuff on the way. http://www.tomshardware.com/2006/06/05/first_benchmarks_conroe_vs_fx-62/ June 8, 2006

"Making vehicles safer by making them smarter" is the title of an article in EDN (Electrical Design News) magazine. It goes into detail about a number of applications for computers, radar, sonar, vision systems and other sensors in today's cars. "Many emerging safety features begin as convenience features in high-end vehicles. Contemporary middle-class cars contain around 30 electrical/electronical systems, 50 to 100 microprocessors, and more than 100 sensors (courtesy Synopsys)." In a recent TV ad for a high end car, the commentator talks about how the radar collision avoidance system can help you know when to apply the brakes, or, if necessary, apply them for you. In another, it touts the anti-rollover system that changes steering to correct a too extreme turn . That seems pretty simple and straight forward. In case one, you drive into a fog bank and the radar detects an obstacle that you are approaching too fast and warns you to apply the brakes. In case two, the computer decides that for some reason (asleep, day dreaming, drunk, just too slow) you are not responding fast enough to avoid a collision and applies the brakes for you. In an interesting discussion of how far the computers should be allowed to go in taking over control of the car from the driver, it mentions a another scenario. In case three, the computers have determined that the car can not avoid hitting one or the other of two pedestrians in its path. The driver might choose the little old lady over the little girl but the computers are in control. What will they do? View the article at: http://www.edn.com/article/CA6339246.html June 8, 2006

Tom's Hardware reported on the "new " Linksys WRT54G V5 wireless router. In an article titled **'Yes, the Linksys WRT54G V5 Really Is a Lousy Router'** it reveals how Linksys has changed the operating system from Linux based software to the proprietary VxWorks OS. The article outlines why this has hurt the quality of the router. How the average end user will not realize that it is **not** the same router his friend recommended. http://www.tomsnetworking.com/2006/06/08/linksys_wrt54g_v5_really_is_a_lousy_router ∎ /

PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

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

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

Boxed Programs and CDs

Printshop Deluxe 21 – This is the newest version of Broderbund's great program and affords users a complete and easy way to create impressive print projects of all sorts with over 320,000 premium images, 17,500+ professionally designed projects, and 600+ fonts. MSRP=$50.

SendPhotos Gold – "If you would like to e-mail photos without hassle, Send-Photos, from Novatix, is easy and fun to use." - PC Magazine, April 22, 2003. MSRP=$20.

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

Backup MyPC 2006 Deluxe – This is Sonic's latest version of its software backup program with new features to protect your system. MSRP=$50.

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

My DVD Studio Deluxe 8 – From Sonic, the "easiest & most complete solution for DVD & CD Creation." MSRP= 150.

Easy Media Creator 8 – This suite empowers you to live your digital lifestyle to its fullest potential. With 25 products in 1, you go beyond just CD burning! Now you can organize, edit, share, and preserve your digital photos, music, video and data. .From Roxio, MSRP=80.

ConceptDraw 5.5, Pro Edition – This Windows business & technical diagramming software from Russia "with love," is intended for professional flowcharting, diagramming and illustrating. Its flexible, handy tools help quickly document a variety of complex structures, systems, and processes. Its charts can be shared as a large array of graphic files and CAD documents, presentations, and web pages. It is a Windows and Macintosh cross platform. All documents and libraries are 100% compatible. Produced by Computer Systems Odessa, the MSRP=$299.

ConceptDraw Project 2, Desktop Edition – This software also is from Computer Systems Odessa and is a unique project planning tool designed for efficient planning and tracking of multiple projects. Any business activity requires planning of several simultaneous projects with different dependencies and limited resources to be used. With You can easily share resources between projects, establish links between them and organize them in a single workspace to successfully plan projects of any size and complexity. MSRP=$249.

Concept Draw Mindmap 4 Pro - This software also is from Computer Systems Odessa and allows you to capture and present ideas as mind maps - concise radiant diagrams. Mind maps speed up understanding, decision making and learning up to 90%. Also, use it to illustrate your MS PowerPoint presentations, generate project plans, draw pro-quality flowcharts and many more. MSRP=$199.

Books

Real World Adobe Creative Suite 2 – How to manage, integrate, and synchronize all of the apps in the suite: Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Acrobat, and GoLive. Co-authors Sandee Cohen & Steve Werner show you how to use the right app at the right time so you can work better and smarter.Published by Peachpit Press/Adobe Press, MSRP=$50.

Design to Sell – Published by Microsoft Press. MSRP=$30.

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 only Word 2000, 2002, and 2003 although many of the "Hacks" will work with older versions. MSRP=$25.

Excel for Starters – The Missing Manual – Everything you need to create and use spreadsheets, this book is authored by Matthew MacDonald and published by Pogue Press/O'Reilly. MSRP=$20.

QuickBooks 2005 – The Missing

Preparing a Review Article for the Orange Bytes

by Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

The article at the following link provides suggestions for preparing a review article for the Orange Bytes and for submittal. Please read both. http://www.noccc.org/bytes/info/index.html **Important!** Please follow the below link to the NOCCC website and read the article on submittal. http://www.noccc.org/bytes/info/index.html ∎

BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY

NOCCC has a special benefit program for members – the **Club Library**. Members may check out books at the Reviews & Library Desk at the monthly meeting 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**.

The partial list of 54 available books is as follows, see website for full list:

Windows XP Hacks, 1st Edition – 100 smart, time-saving and useful tips and tricks for virtually every feature in Windows XP Home & Pro editions. From O'Reilly. MSRP=$25.

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 & 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.

Absolute Beginner's Guide to Creating Web Pages, 2nd Ed. – This book authored by Todd Stauffer from Que Publishing teaches you how to design & 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.

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

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

Linux Programming by Example – This book teaches Linux programming by showing & 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.

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 & data files necessary for this book's hundreds of example programs. From Prentice Hall. MSRP=$50.

Understanding the Linux Virtual Memory Manager – This book/CD, authored by Mel Gorman, presents both theoretical foundations & 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.

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.

The Official Sambra-3 How to & Reference Guide, 1st Ed. – This book is part of the Bruce Perens' Open Source series. Authored by Terpstra & Vernooij, it is a practical, authoritative, step-by-step guide to cutting IT costs with Sambra-3. From Prentice Hall PTR. MSRP=$50.

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.

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, & longevity. 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 Pren Hall PTR. MSRP=$25.

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

The Symantec Guide to Home Internet Security – Published by Addison-Wesley. MSRP=$20.

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

Know Your Enemy - Learning About Security Threats, 2nd Ed. – Max Kilger & 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, & Adrei Mikhailovsky, the book is published by Addison-Wesley. MSRP=$35.

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

Main Meeting

By Eric Saca, NOCCC

In June, we had the annual elections and a presentation from iolo Technologies on their new software, System Mechanic 6 -- a "full service" product for the PC, optimizing system performance, protecting against threats, repairing problems and errors, cleaning up system clutter, and much more.

President Elise Edgell ran the meeting. After some announcements, she began the election process. Some people had already volunteered to fill positions.

So far, Elise herself was nominated again as President, the Vice President spot was still open, Mary Cornett volunteered for Secretary, and Doug Steiner volunteered for Treasurer. There were also two open spots on the Board of Directors (as listed in the June Bytes, P. 6). Dave Keays and Dallas Hazelton recently volunteered to fill those.

Elise asked if there were any nominations for VP. Herb Wong was nominated. That completed the slate and provided one volunteer per position.

None of the positions was contested, so Elise asked for a vote to accept the slate as presented. Almost everyone raised their hands. Thus, the slate was accepted.

Elise announced that the next Board Meeting was at her house on Monday night, June 5, for those interested in participating. That was pizza night and she was providing free pizza for everyone attending.

George introduced the speaker from iolo Technologies -- Steve Gosset.

Steve said that System Mechanic 6 provided a dramatic change in the user interface, compared to version 5. He launched System Mechanic 6 Professional for a demonstration.

He briefly covered its features, starting with the five Power Tools. First, there was PC TotalCare, which runs all the cleanups, checks, and optimizations available by one click. Second was PC Cleanup, which erases clutter from a system, such as temp files, Internet cookies, software installation files, and other items taking up valuable disk space.

Third was PC Accelerator, which optimizes system performance with tools to boost network speed, optimize Windows startup, defragment the hard drive (ten times faster than the native Windows Defrag utility), compact the registry (by removing blank and invalid entries), and more. Fourth was the PC Security Optimizer, which protects a system from spyware, malware, adware, and other "PC parasites".

Fifth was the PC Repair Wizard, which can diagnose and fix hundreds of problems with hard drives, system components, installed software, hardware, and more.

Steve explained some additional features. System Mechanic 6 is essential for Disaster Recovery, as it can repair some hard drives after a system failure. (The DriveMedic feature can identify damaged partition tables and boot records, then repair them.) It can run automatic system maintenance at regular intervals to ensure optimum performance.

It includes the System Inspector tool, which provides detailed diagnostic reports of all hardware and software in the PC. It also includes Startup Manager, which allows you to check more than 30 places where potentially harmful programs can hide, to start automatically.

System Mechanic 6 Professional also has extra valuable features the standard version does not. This includes world-class antivirus and firewall protection. It can recover files and other data previously deleted from the system. It can rescue data from system crashes.

It includes System Shield, which blocks identity thieves from uncovering private and confidential data. It includes DriveScrubber, which securely wipes all data from a hard drive. It also includes the advanced Spython tool, which effectively eliminates spyware

infection and uses proprietary methods to "stop parasites before they start".

Steve mentioned that for both the standard and professional versions, iolo provides pattern file updates up to three times a day for virus and spyware protection.

He demonstrated System Mechanic's spyware protection feature, though his system was already clean of spyware. He simply created a folder on his desktop called "Casino". System Mechanic would flag it as potentially coming from Golden Palace, a well-known spyware agent. When he ran System Mechanic's spyware scanner, it indeed flagged that folder as a potential threat, and nothing else.

After the demonstration, Steve devoted the remaining time to answering questions, including the following:

Will System Mechanic run on Windows 98 SE? Yes, it runs on all 32-bit versions of Windows. A 64-bit version is coming soon.

In what form do you provide updates? As ISO images for burning on CDs. That way, you get a complete source CD as if you bought it from the store.

Does System Mechanic include Technical Support? Yes, free e-mail support.

Why did you switch from Panda antivirus to Kaspersky? Kaspersky proved to be more effective than Panda and it benchmarked higher than most other products, including big name brands like McAfee and Norton.

Where is iolo? We have our own 3-story building in Eagle Rock, by Pasadena.

How much are these products? System Mechanic 6 Professional retails for $69.95, but there is a special NOCCC member price of $25.00. System Mechanic 6 retails for $49.95.

Next Meeting -- Dennis London from McAfee will be presenting their security products and how they can protect you online. (McAfee's first time at NOCCC!) Please note that Dennis is a Sales Engineer, not a marketing person, so he will demonstrate the technical benefits of the products and will be equipped to answer your technical questions. He insists on just showing you what the products can do -- and letting you decide which brand to buy. Don't miss out!!! ∎

Computer Aided Investing SIG

By Bob Krishfield, NOCCC

Each meeting we look back at the past month to review what happened and look at the technical indicators to see if they were helpful in identifying the market's health and direction. In May, we focused on the Advance/Decline line, the McClellan Oscillator (McO) and Summation Index (SI) as indicators of market strength/weakness and time for a reversal. At that time, those indicators did not indicate problems ahead for May, except for NASDAQ, which was turning down and weakening. Two weeks later, the NY-MCO dropped through zero when the Dow was peaking. This signaled a market top, which was confirmed by other indicators (MACD, Stochastics, and crossing the 50d MA). By the time of the June meeting, the MCO for the NY and NASDAQ markets had turned positive which indicated that a short term bottom was in place after breaking their intermediate term up trends. The guru assessments said we were ready for a short rally, but we needed to watch the energy and commodity sectors and be concerned about interest rates and inflation that could depress the market. We dismissed further analysis of the market based on the lack of data from the indicators, not knowing which direction was next. Our straw vote had no votes for the Dow to rise by next month, and more votes for a sideways move than down.

One point made was to watch the McClellan Volume Summation Index for a signal, and we would calculate it using formulas in AmiBroker. Just in review, the McO is a momentum indicator applied to the advance/decline statistics to anticipate positive and negative changes in the AD statistics for market timing. The SI provides a longer range view of market breadth and is used to spot major market turning points. The McClellan Volume Oscillator and McClellan

Volume Summation index use the same formulas, except the daily statistics are the Advancing and Declining Volume rather than the number of issues. We began to make these changes to the formulas and noticed the formulas for the Summation Indexes did not have a summation function in them, but used an alternate computational form for the SI. This is one reason that the SI did not give us any indication that a long term correction was about to take place. Not having a correct reference formula at hand, we did not further look at the Summation Index plots. That was unfortunate.

As I write these minutes and look back using corrected formulas and plots, there was much to learn from the indicators that we missed. If we had the correct plot, we would have seen by the second week of May the Summation Indexes for both NY and NASDAQ had crossed zero and clearly indicated that the markets had peaked and turned down. This was a warning signal to sell on the next rally, which occurred on June 2nd and has since dropped. Charts are posted on my website with the details on how to compute the Summation Index. (www.bobsden.org/cainvest.html). The reference used for these computations and explanations on breadth indicators and more can be found on the StockCharts.com website under ChartSchool/Technical Indicators and Overlays. We will spend more time exploring how to use AmiBroker to build charts, screens, and systems in our next few meetings. Please e-mail me any specific topics or questions you want to see covered. ∎

MAC SIG

By C. Lemire, NOCCC

Creative Resources Inc. is a training company in Costa Mesa which has been very informative about Mac hardware and software as well as opinionated. The following is a compilation of their email tech newsletter articles I found particularly informative. ^-^

Tips and Tricks
Keychain Access - In Tiger, allows

you to speed up the login yet protect programs. APPLICATIONS to UTILITIES to KEYCHAIN ACCESS then double click the account to be set. Click ACCESS CONTROL heading and select CONFIRM before ALLOWING ACCESS. Activate ASK FOR KEYCHAIN PASSWORD which will automatically reset that account to the general logon password for your computer. Click SAVE and enter your logon password when the dialogue box appears. Choose ALWAYS ALLOW and you're done (only works on your computer though).

Safari - tabbed browsing allows several sites to stay open in the same window. SYSTEM PREFERENCES to TABS check ENABLE TABBED BROWSING box. Return to any Safari window, go to FILE select NEW TAB use now visible tabs for navigation. Autofill completes forms from your address book info. SYSTEM PREFS to AUTOFILL and check box USING INFO FROM MY ADDRESS CARD. When at an online form, press SHIFT and COMMAND and A together to insert your info.

Update on Mac Vulnerabilities
Safari Automatically Executes Shell Scripts - It is associated only with the Open-safe-files-automatically command because it is a possible vector for malicious shell scripts that mimic other files types. NEVER give administrator permission if asked by any such document since not required by any normal one. Files in Terminal using "shebang" still require a resource fork to explicitly launch in Terminal so unlikely (without permission).

Virus Protection
The package called latestpics.tgz is dubbed the Oompa-Loompa Trojan which looks for an attribute called oompa.

McAfee sends alarmist OS X warnings while CR says "nothing remotely serious has materialized". Shame on McAfee.

New Intel Macs - 5 Intel-only Ailments
1. Rosetta slowdowns - update to Universal version of application.
To detect which type is running open APPLICATIONS-UTILITES-SYSTEM PROFILER and click on list to left SOFTWARE then APPLICATIONS

which lists all programs, look in KIND column for UNIVERSAL or else is Rosetta.

2. Application Failures - even in Rosetta, some PC programs won't launch or features don't work, of course the current ones are MS Virtual PC, Alsoft Disk Warrior and Micromat Tech Tool Pro all of which need to be specific to the correct version of OS and hardware.

3. Vanishing Classic - not possible to run Classic on Intel Macs.

4. Unbootable Drives - External drives must be reformated to boot from to an Intel Mac. Reformat with Disk Utility's PARTITION tab. Click on OPTIONS button and select GUID Partition Scheme (only on Intel Mac running DiskU and selection External Volume). Must put Intel OS X version for either PPC Macs or Intel Macs onto external drive, currently available for 10.4.4 and 10.4.5.

5. Plug-In Glitches - Safari alert says need plug-in but you know you have it, go to application site and get current Universal version. If not available yet, quit Safari, open GET INFO from Desktop level (click once on App Icon for Safari and press Command-I). Choose OPEN USING ROSETTA OPTION, slows down but plug-ins will work. Should work with other Universal Apps that use plug-ins not yet Universal-based.

Boot Camp

Public Beta enables Intel Macs to run XP. Once loaded, option after restart to run OS X or XP. Will be sold with Leopard 10.5 in August, available as download currently. Quote - Boot Camp simplifies Windows installation on an Intel Mac by providing a simple step-by-step assistant application to dynamically create a second partition on the hard drive for Windows, to burn a CD with all the necessary Windows drivers, and to install Windows from a Windows XP installation CD. Requires - Intel Mac with USB keyboard and mouse or built-in keyboard and trackpad, Mac OS X version 10.4.6 or later, current firmware, at least 10 GB free space on start-up disk, a ready blank CD or DVD, and a single-disc version of Win XP Home or Pro with Service Pack 2 or later. Not supported in any way by Apple (Beta, remember!).

********************* end trans

Whew! see you all next July 9th. I mentioned in the meeting that I might be moving to Fresno but now I'm suddenly getting job offers. Oy, I'm so confused. o-O ∎

Digital Photo SIG

By Larry Klees, NOCCC

Often I like to use gaussian blur on the background of a photo to remove distractions from the main subject. Gaussian blur is a particularly good choice because most image editing programs have it and it looks so much like reduced depth of field.

In the above photo I blurred the background by forty pixels. In other photos, I have used as few as three or as many as 120 pixels. [Note: in order to be able to properly see the details, I urge you to refer to the color copy of the news letter on the website.]

The basic process is quite simple. Carefully select the main subject (the

flowers in this case), invert the selection, and use the desired amount of blur on the background. However, this method has a snag caused by a peculiarity of gaussian blur, especially when a large radius like 40 pixels is used. Although gaussian blur only blurs the selected pixels; pixels near the edges of the selection, require information from outside the section. This results in an unsightly halo around the flowers. N o t i c e   t h e   f u z z y

Security SIG

By Dave Keays, NOCCC

This month we looked at rootkits, a way to physically secure a machine, a brief look at WinPatrol, and other tools that can be used to figure-out what a program is actually doing on a computer.

After defining the term ROOTKIT for members who were not aware of that nomenclature, we went into the saga that Sony's DRM caused. We looked at Mark Russinovich's BLOG to see what he said about it. He explains how he found the infection in tremendous detail. If you want to know what goes on in Windows his web site and BLOG are excellent resources.

Someone asked how to physically turn a network connection on/off without having to detach the chord. The product that Steve Gibson recommended to us years ago was mentioned-- PATHLOCK. The version I bought had a physical button on top but other products had an inactivity timer. But it's web site is down and the only references I can find are from 2001 and 2002. So who knows what happened to the company.

The topic switched to backdoor BIOS passwords. A box can be secured by setting the BIOS so it can't be altered without a password. It is possible to turn the CD-ROM boot on and boot another Operating System so someone will have access to all your data while bypassing any security protections in place for Windows. Or a virus might hide in the BIOS if it can write to it.

The problem is that people forget their password and resetting the password is a major pain. To reset the password you have to take apart the whole computer and jump through a bunch of loops the vendor wants you to. Or you could just pull the battery off of the motherboard and wait about 30 seconds.

Another option is for the BIOS vendors to put a backdoor password in the BIOS. We looked at instructions on the Internet on how to use that backdoor to break into a machine with an ADI BIOS. A real boon to hackers.

The free version of WINPATROL has been a very nice addition to my own

computer in the last month. Not only does it give me easy access to a list of startup programs, IE helpers, and other tasks that I find needed in a Windows environment. It also has warned me of scripts that I run. So far it they were all legit scripts that I intensionally ran but I assume it would also catch scripts that are not legit. Having another layer of protection makes me a little more at ease.

While I don't like the delay between checks (when WinPatrol is on patrol), another member didn't like the resources it uses. He used the commercial version for Win98 so there might be some difference.

Web sites:

Sysinternals.com

Winpatrol.com

Pathlock.com (it doesn't seem to be working now) ∎

PC Q&A SIG

By Jim Sanders

One of the subjects we touched on this month was various DSL offerings. In my case, the very good, one year offer from SBC expired. The $29.95 a month for 3Mbps was raised to $39.95 a month. Although that is not a bad price, if you can do better why not? SBC, now AT&T, was offering a better deal. If I updated to the 6Mbps DSL service with another one year contract, I could have the faster service for the same price that the 3Mbps service had been costing. That seemed like a good deal, so I signed up.

The problem was that I was getting the same throughput as I had been getting with the slower service because of the large number of lost packets and retries. AT&T said I couldn't keep the 6Mbps service at the lower price and had to go back to the higher priced slower service. So now I am going to tell AT&T to stick it where the Sun don't shine, and order the DSLextreme 3Mbps service for $17.95 a month.

At the July meeting I will have some comments on my experience with a MS Vista BETA. ∎

PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

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.

eBay Hacks, 2nd Edition – David Karps latest edition of tips & tools for bidding, buying, & selling. Published by O'Reilly. MSRP=$25.

eBay: The Missing Manual – Another good book on eBay from O'Reilly/Pogue Press, authored by Nancy Conner and issued Aug. 2005. MSRP=$25.

BlackBerry Hacks - The versatile and flexible BlackBerry handheld computing device allows you to stay in touch and in-the-know--no matter where you are or where you go. For both corporate and consumer users, *BlackBerry Hacks* delivers tips, tools, and innovative ways to most effectively use the all-in-one phone, inbox, organizer, and browser for phone calls, instant messaging, email, organizing, web browsing, receiving RSS feeds, and much more. From O'Reilly, MSRP=$25.

Home Networking: The Missing Manual – This book, authored by Scott Lowe, from O'Reilly/Pogue Press shows you how to do everything you need to set up a home network. MSRP=$25.

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.

Windows XP for Starters: The Missing Manual – This new book by David Pogue from O'Reilly provides everything you need to know to set up Windows XP, whatever your knowledge level. The step-by-step tutorials save you time and frustration, and prevent you from making common mistakes. MSRP=$20.

Data Binding with Windows Forms 2.0 – A new book by Brian Noyes on programming smart client data applications with .Net. Published by Addison-Wesley, MSRP=$50.

Murach's ASP.NET 2.0 Upgrader's Guide VB Edition – Mike Murach has just published this VB edition of of their ASP.NET book for experienced developers. MSRP=$39.50.

iPod & iTunes Garage – Author Kirk McElhearn shows you how to get more music and way more magic from your iPod & 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 to Linux Porting – This new book is a definitive guide to porting applications from today's most widely used UNIX platforms to Linux. Published bt Prentice Hall, it has an MSRP=$65.

User Mode Linux – This new addition to the Bruce Peren's Open Source Series, this book by Jeff Dike shows you how to create virtual Linux machines within a Linux computer and use them to safely test and debug applications, network services, and kernels. Published by Prentice Hall, the MSRP=$55.

Classic Shell Scripting – The key to unlocking the real potential of Unix. A How To book by Arnold Robbins & 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.

Linux Pocket Guide – This book by Daniel Barrett covers the most useful and important parts of day-to-day Linux in a concise & 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

SIG List

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

SIG	Bldg	Room	Time	Leader	E-mail	Phone
Autocad	Wilkinson	111	9:00	Joe Mizer	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	714-879-6405
Genealogy	Science	111	2:30	John Johnson	jrosjohnson@juno.com	714-991-3314
Computer Essentials	Science	111	9:30	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	117	9:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux for Server Administrat	Wilkinson	117	10:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux Programming Concepts	Wilkinson	117	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	714-544-3589
Understanding OS's	Wilkinson	111	11:15	Charlie Moore	mooreca@adelphia.net	714-529-9071
Visual Programming I & II	Science	109	8:30	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming III	Science	109	10:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming IV	Science	109	11:15	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515

Please report SIG changes to .... Herbert Wong, Jr......... ....ocug@singularitytechnology.com
714-968-7264

Membership Benefits

shipping label is included with every direct purchase, and directions are posted online in case you've misplaced it: (http://www.oreilly.com/oreilly/cs/guarantee.

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.

Smart Computing - www.smartcomputing.com For each paid membership (subscription to either Smart Computing or Computer Power User) via personalized membership forms or by telephone, our group will receive one credit. When the group has accumulated 5 credits (subscriptions), Smart Computing will donate one subscription to the group (great to use as a raffle prize or a "thank you" to a member, etc.). Call customer service at 1-800-733-3809 and tell them you are with the North Orange County Computer Club. If you go to their website to subscribe, click on User Groups and there is a drop down menu with our group's name on it.

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. ∎

Essentials

7. Start the Paint program.

8. From the Edit menu select Paste to put the stored image in the canvas area.

9. Save the image on the Desktop, the My Documents folder or in any folder where you can retrieve it easily.

10. Close Paint.

11. Restart Windows.

12. Rearrange your icons if necessary when the desktop appears in normal mode.

13. Open Paint as you did in Safe Mode.

14. Retrieve and print the Task Manager Dialog box image.

You can copy and paste the image in your word processor or another application if you prefer. When you shut down or disable any process not on your short list, you can be confident that you won't inadvertently clobber your system while trying to improve its performance. What about all those other programs running in the background? That's a subject for another article.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you. ∎

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.
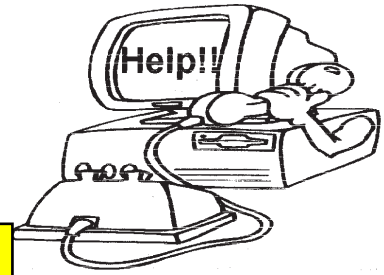
AI
Amiga
Apple
Apple II
Apple/Educator
C/C++
Computer Boards
Corel Draw
Excel(IBM)
Excel(Mac)
MacIntosh
MacIntosh
Memory/Interrupts
Modem Hardware
Modem Software
Neural Networks
OS/2
PC, Beginners
PC Hardware
Quicken 6.0
Quickbooks 5.0
Quicken 2000,2001
Quickbooks
Quicken Home & Business 2000, 2001
Powerpoint
Realtime Control
Robotics
Tcl/Tk
Unix
Windows 9X
Windows 9X
Windows 2000
Word
Word
WordPerfect
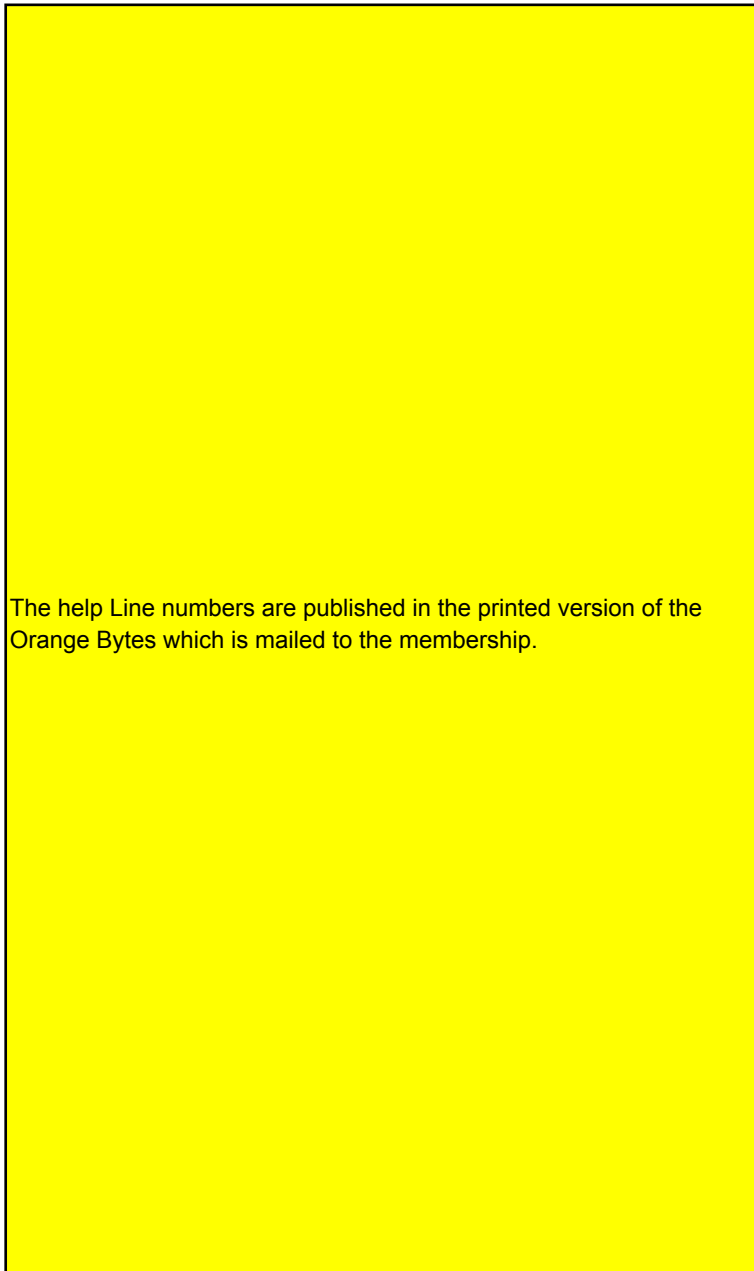
The help Line numbers are published in the printed version of the Orange Bytes which is mailed to the membership.

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

practically everything with Linux. MSRP=$30.

Self-Service Linux – This new book from Prentice Hall PTR is authored by Mark Wilding & Dan Behman and offers a definitive overview of practical hints and tips for Linux users. MSRP=$40.

Linux Debugging and Performance Tuning Tips & Techniques – This is the definitive Guide to Linux software debugging & performance optimization at both the kernel and application levels. Author Steve Best systematically introduces open source tools & best-practice techniques for delivering bug-free, well-tuned code. Published by Pren Hall PTR, the MSRP=$50.

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.

Point & Click Open Office.org! – Book + CD from Prentice Hall. MSRP=$30.

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

The Design & Implementation of the FreeBSD Operating System – This hard-cover book by Kirk McKusick & 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.

Core Web Application Development with PHP and MySQL – This book from Prentice Hall PTR by Marc Wandschneider has everything developers need to know to build robust web database applications from upfront design and planning through testing & deployment. Three start-to-finish application case studies with code are provided on CD-Rom. MSRP=$50.

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.

Apache Derby – Off to the Races – This book tells you how to master Apache Derby, the only open source, pure Java, fully transactional, small-footprint RDBMS. Authored by Paul Zikopoulos, Dan Scott, & George Baklarz, the hardcover book is published by IBM Press/Pearson plc and has an MSRP=$40.

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

How to Do Everything with Dreamweaver 8 - Covering the latest version of this Web design tool, this step-by-step guide shows beginning to intermediate users how to create and maintain striking Web sites with Dreamweaver. Readers will learn to use all the components, including the visual lay-

out tools, application development features, and code editing capabilities. The clearly defined chapters work equally well for readers who prefer to learn sequentially in a tutorial fashion, and those who need a quick reference to a specific task or feature. Published by Osborne/McGraw Hill, MSRP=$25.

Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor   (714) 779-1936 mailto:tedlit@adelphia.netreviews@noccc.org. ∎

New NOCCC Membership Fee Schedule

As part of our efforts to increase club membership and provide additional resources, your Board of Directors has created an expanded fee schedule. We are particularly desirous of attracting young people involved or having an interest in computing. In order to do that, we have created several membership levels with reduced dues as indicated in the table below.

Additionally, we have an effort ongoing to attract local computer-related businesses to place ads in the Orange Bytes with or without becoming NOCCC members. And, we are offering members the opportunity to help our club financially by making donations that should be income-tax deductible since we are chartered as a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. Membership level will be designated on the Membership Badge and Donators will be acknowledged in an issue of the Bytes. ∎

	Fee ($)	
Membership Level	**1 Year**	**3 Years**
Individual Member	**$35**	**90**
Each Additional Family Member	**15**	**45**
College Student	**20**	
High School Student	**15**	
Business Member + Ad (Business Card)	**180**	
Business Member + Ad (1/4 Page)	**465**	
Business Member + Ad (1/2 Page)	**800**	
Business Member + Ad (Full Page)	**1,475**	
Membership Donations ($)		
Contributing Member	**75**	
Supporting Member	**100**	
Advocate Member	**250**	
Patron Member	**500**	

Membership Renewal

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

Memberships may also be re-newed on our Website:

http://www.noccc.org

Are You an NOCCC Member?

Consider all that you get with membership and Join Now

- **Meetings**. Keep up with what's going on in the computer world. Hear outstanding industry representatives make presentations of the latest and greatest in computer products.
- **Special Interest Groups**. Our 20 SIGs cover a broad spectrum of user interest; they invite you, whether you rank as beginner or seasoned computerist, to the lectures and demonstrations they sponsor, and to share computer knowledge.
- **Get help with your current computer problems**. In the Random Access portions of the 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 General meetings.
- **Product Review.** Write a review for this newsletter and keep the software, hardware, book or CD. Members reviews are published in this newletter.
- **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 commitee, and more.

   Parking Information — Chapman University's main parking lot (P6) is on the north side of the campus (enter from Glassell & University Dr.) and lot P3 (N Center St. & E Sycamore Ave) 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!
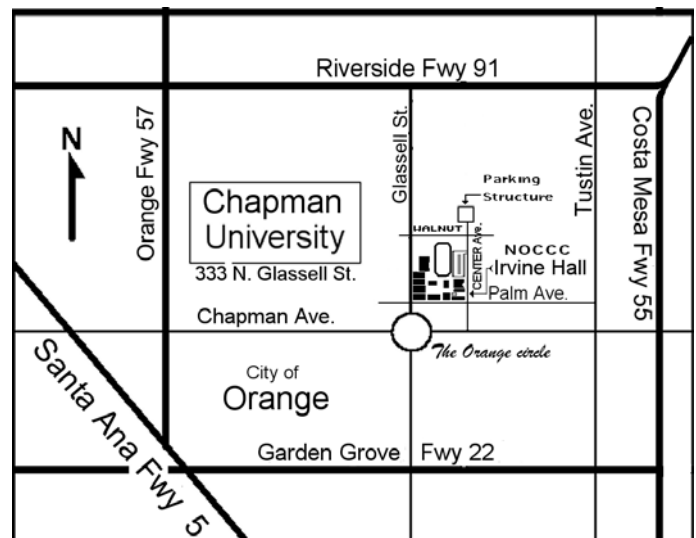
For current meeting information, please call
(714) 998-8080 for a recorded message.

North Orange County Computer Club
PO Box 3616
Orange CA 92857

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

Dated Material - Please Expedite