Orange Bytes

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

Main Meeting, February 3rd

CES 2008

George & Cathy Margolin will tell us what they saw, heard, and liked at the recent Las Vegas Computer Electronics Show. Don't miss what promises to be an entertaining and informative presentation.

---

eWaste collection and the **NOCCC Consignment Table** will be available during the February 2008 meeting.
(More information on Page 5)

NOCCC Meeting - February 3rd

9:00 a.m.

Computer Aided Investing ..... Wilkinson 221
Methods investors use to make buying decisions.

Linux for Desktop Users .... Wilkinson 117
Visual Programming .... Science 111
Visual Basic and Visual Basic Script.
Visual C++ and Visual J++ for beginners.

10:30 a.m.

AmiBroker SIG .... Wilkinson 221
New code developments and issues.

Digital Photography .... Irvine Hall
Jack Donan will give a slide show on e-painting.

Linux for Advanced Users ..... Wilkinson 117

More meeting details on Page 3

Computer Security .... Science 203
Skimming and/or different approaches to ACLs.

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

12:00 Noon

PIG SIG. .... Argyros Cafeteria
Get together and talk during lunch. Held in the Argyros cafeteria.

12:30 p.m.

Hardware Essentials .... Science 109
Usenet discussion continued.

OS/2 News and Installation........ Science 203
PC Q & A .... Irvine Hall
The new features in NERO 8 will be discussed.

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

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

Future Meeting Dates in 2008
Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4

Table of Contents

Celebrating 31 years of "Friends Helping Friends"

Orange Bytes Staff

Publication Chairman – *Oversee publication tasks and convert newsletter to PDF for printing and web-posting. Transmit Print PDF to Printer.*
Open………………….. publications@noccc.org

Editor – *Edits and makes final selections of the articles to be included in the Bytes.*
Open………………………… editor@noccc.org

Associate Editor/Production - *Lay out and format in Word the articles received from the editor.*
Steven Breitbart • (714) 373-5249. smbreitbart@verizon.net

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

Reviews Editor - *Communicate with the vendors and the members who evaluate products and write the reviews. Make sure members meet deadlines. Send a copy of the Bytes to vendors of products we review.*
Ted Littman • (714) 779-936.
reviews@noccc.org

Copy Editor - *Does final proofing of Bytes for typos and misspellings.*
Ted Littman • (714) 779-1936.. reviews@noccc.org

Help Line - *Maintains the volunteer list, and the software and hardware subjects for which they are willing to answer questions.*
Ted Littman • (714) 779-1936 tedlit@roadrunner.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The following positions are available:
Contributing Editors – *Write articles for the newsletter.*
Open
Commercial Swap Meets - *Distributes the Orange Bytes newsletter and NOCCC material at swap meets.*
Open
Commercial Advertising - *Obtains ads from vendors for the newsletter.*
Open
Classified Advertising - *Obtain members' computer-related non-commercial ads for the newsletter.*
Open

COMPUTER AIDED INVESTING SIG (Special Interest Group) 9:00 a.m., Wilkinson 221. We will continue with Walt's presentation for the next few sessions. We'll also take a look at some methods investors use to make their buy decisions, and see what we use in common and what unique methods are followed.

AMIBROKER SIG 10:30 a.m., Wilkinson 221. We will review the codes distributed at the last meeting and take a look at some key ideas needed to understand AFL coding, such as looping, and when you need to control it and when you need to let AB control it, and using the IF and IIF functions to handle conditional assignments and execution.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG 10:30 a.m. Irvine Hall. Jack Donan will present a slide show and demonstrate his technique for creating e-paintings. Bring your camera. I think you will really like this meeting.

COMPUTER SECURITY SIG 10:30 a.m. Science 203. We'll either go over the idea of "skimming" or different approaches to ACLs.

HARDWARE ESSENTIALS SIG 12:30 p.m., Science 109. We will follow up on the January Main Meeting discussion of Usenet. Primarily, we'll take a look at some of the interesting technologies behind two applications that are used for binary file attachments: WINRAR is somewhat akin to ZIP technology and QuickPAR is a parity file recover application.

PC Q & A SIG 12:30 p.m., Irvine Hall. The new features in NERO 8 will be discussed. Plus other questions answered and problems solved.

MAIN MEETING
2:00 p.m., Irvine Hall - On February 3, 2008, George & Cathy Margolin will tell us all about the recent annual Computer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas. George took lots of photos, so it should be a great presentation. You all know what fun it is to listen to these former NOCCC presidents, **so you all come!**

MEMBER-ONLY PRIZES Wear your NOCCC Membership Badge and get a free ticket!
1) Hardware: D-Link Prem. N Notebook Wireless Card
2) Hardware: 1 GB Thumb Drive
3) Plus more!

THE CLUB RAFFLE items this month are:
1) Hardware: D-Link Cardbus Wireless Adapter
2) Software: McAfee Internet Security Suite 2006
3) *Plus more!*

SIG Leaders List

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

SIG	BLDG	RM.	TIME	LEADER	E-MAIL	PHONE
AmiBroker	Wilkinson	221	10:30	Bob Krishfield	bobkrish@socal.rr.com	(714) 532-3096
Computer Aided Investing	Wilkinson	221	9:00	Bob Krishfield	bobkrish@socal.rr.com	(714) 532-3096
Computer Security	Science	203	10:30	Dave Keays	davekeays@sbcglobal.net	(714) 348-9096
Digital Photography	Irvine Hall	—	10:30	Larry Klees	lklees@dslextreme.com	(714) 879-6405
Hardware Essentials	Science	109	12:30	Herbert Wong	president@noccc.org	(714) 968-7264
Linux for Desktop Users	Wilkinson	117	9:00	Bob Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	(714) 634-7520
Linux for Advanced Users	Wilkinson	117	10:30	Bob Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	(714) 634-7520
OS/2 News and Installation	Science	203	12:30	Steve Schiffman	schiffman@attglobal.net	
PC Q&A	Irvine Hall	—	12:30	Jim Sanders	jsanders@ligasmicro.com	(714) 544-3589
Understanding OS's	Science	111	10:30	Charlie Moore	mooreca@adelphia.net	(714) 529-9071
Visual Programming	Science	111	9:00	Anson Chapman	aeccrcss@hotmail.com	(909) 860-9515
		Please report SIG changes to Herbert Wong, Jr			president@noccc.org	(714) 968-7264

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 NOCCC website, www.noccc.org. Old issues from the past few years are also available without any access restrictions. Send any e-mail address changes to membership@noccc.org so you can get the jump on all the great reviews and articles!

User Group Offers - Software

AskSam - SurfSaver Pro 6, normally $29.95, you can get it for $19.95. AskSam 6 Standard + SurfSaver Pro 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 or the Pro version for $99.95. You can also download a 30-day trial version at www.asksam.com/usergroupspecial/.

Corel - Use the following link for special pricing for user group members: www.corel.com/specialusergroups

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

Laplink - www.laplink.com - Laplink Everywhere 4 is a great remote computer control and access program. PCmover is a program for moving all of your applications, settings, and data files from an old PC to a new PC. Get Laplink software for 30% off, use coupon code APCUG.

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

User Group Offers - Books and Magazines

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

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

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

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, the NOCCC will receive one credit. When the NOCCC has accumulated 5 credits, Smart Computing will donate one subscription to us (Great to use as a raffle prize or a "thank you" to a member, etc.) Call customer service at (800) 733-3809 and tell them you are with the North Orange County Computer Club. If you go to their website to subscribe, click on User Groups and there is a drop down menu with our group's name on it.

Consignment Table and eWaste Collection February 2008

The Consignment Table will be set up during the February 2008 meetings. eWaste will also be collected by Omni Technics, Inc.

1) Only current members can place items for sale, but non-members are welcome to purchase items from the table. This is a great place to get some money for your surplus computer items, and help 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) **You can fill out a user list and item tags at the table or on the club's web site:** www.noccc.org/membrshp/consign.html The user list and each tag must contain:
   - Seller's name
   - Seller's NOCCC membership number
   - Item name and a short description
   - Asking price

4) All items and/or money may be picked up by the seller at any time, but no later than 2 p.m. on the day of sale. Any items and/or money not picked up by 2 p.m. will become the property of NOCCC and will be subject to disposal at the Club's discretion.

5) California disposal laws have made it illegal to put monitors and computers in the regular trash. If you have a display or computer that doesn't sell, you must agree to pick these items up. The club has no storage room available for unsold items.

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

NOCCC Officers

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

President
Herb Wong.......................... 968-7264 .... president@noccc.org
Vice President
Jim Sanders .... 544-3589 .... vicepresident@noccc.org
Secretary
Open
Treasurer
John Heenan........................ 998-7660 .... treasurer@noccc.org

Directors
Steven Breitbart .... 373-5249 .... smbreitbart@verizon.net
Dallas Hazleton .... 526-1592 ...... ghazleton4@dslextreme.com
Dave Keays .... 348-9096 .... davekeays@sbcglobal.net
Ted Littman........................ 779-1936 .... tedlit@roadrunner.com
Richard Miller..................... 309-1504 .... rrrmil@yahoo.com
Joe Mizer............................ (909) 688-9848.. joescrouge@earthlink.net
Else Olovsson...................... 832-3155 .... eolovsson@msn.com
Gerry Resch .... 772-6667 .... gerry@gerryresch.com

Past President
Elise Edgell .... 544-3589 .... eliseme@aol.com
Editor
Open............................. .... editor@noccc.org
Webmaster
Herb Wong.......................... 968-7264 .... president@noccc.org

Volunteers, Committees, and Projects

Business Solicitations/Lecture Series
Open
Consignment Table
Richard Miller..................... 309-1504 .... rrrmil@yahoo.com
Classified Advertising (non-commercial, members only)
Open
Commercial Advertising
Open
Helpline
Ted Littman........................ 779-1936 .... tedlit@roadrunner.com
Membership Database
John Heenan........................ 998-7660 .... treasurer@noccc.org
Membership Chairman
Open
SIG Coordinator
Herb Wong.......................... 968-7264 .... president@noccc.org
Programs/Speakers Coordinator
Open
Public Relations
Else Olovsson...................... 832-3155 .... …….. eolovsson@msn.com
University Liaison
Herb Wong.......................... 968-7264 .... president@noccc.org

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 subjects. 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 (714) 779-1936 or e-mail Ted Littman at helpline@noccc.org with additions, deletions, or corrections. *Note that the names of our volunteers are only available in print versions of the Bytes.*

Apple II
AutoCAD
C/C++
CPU Aided Investing
Computer Boards
Computer Security
Corel Draw
Corel Draw
Desktop Publishing
Digital Photography
Excel
GPS Navigation
Linux
Lotus 1-2-3
Macintosh
Memory/Interrupts
Microsoft Office
Neural Networks
OS/2
PC Hardware
PCs for Beginners
Pinnacle Studio
Photoediting
Photoediting & shop
Photoshop
PowerPoint 2003
Programming
QuickBooks - all ver.
Qbooks 5 & Quicken
Tcl/Tk & UNIX
Vista
Windows 9X & XP
Wireless
Word 2003
WordPerfect

Ted's Stuff

By Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

In this column, I share with my fellow NOCCC members and other readers, links to interesting and useful web sites as well tips and ideas on computing that I come across. If you would like to include your gems or make comments, please e-mail them to me at tedsstuff@roadrunner.com for publication in this column, with appropriate attribution of course.

Free HP Online Classes
You can sign up for the latest HP classes on Photoshop for Photographers, Organizing Your Time, Space, and Paper, Digital Photography for Life, Tuning Up Your PC, and other subjects at: http://h30240.www3.hp.com/outgoing?mailingId=3266974&eventType=ILK&targetUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fh30240.www3.hp.com.

Microsoft
Free OnLine Games
If you need to take a break from your every-day chores, Microsoft offers 119 games that you can play online for free at http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=7987332.

Technology Tips for Improving Your Work-Life Balance
You may find some useful advice in this article by Joanna Krotz at the Microsoft web site http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/officelive/FX102434951033.aspx?xid=D12D7770-4DD7-4F0B-9D53-388C036F96CC.

Top Office Picks of 2007
Check out the most popular, most downloaded, and highest-rated templates, training courses, clip art, demos, and more at http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=7988494.

Free 2008 Calendar Templates
Here are some nifty calendars that you can download and open in Word, Excel, and Publisher for your personal use: http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=7988494.

Free Demos for Word 2003
If you use this version of Word and want to learn some useful tips and tricks, go to this web site that has links to 24 demos: http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=7988494.

Windows Secrets Newsletter
Give XP the Performance Tools of Vista
Scott Dunn suggests that you can add a Vista-like performance center to Windows XP machines for monitoring the health of your system and tweaking its performance. For step-by-step instructions, go to http://windowssecrets.com/comp/080110.

Petri IT Knowledge Base
If you have multiple operating systems in individual partitions on your PC (e.g., Vista, XP, Ubuntu), you can use a tool in Vista to change the default operating system. The illustrated steps necessary to do this can be found at http://www.petri.co.il/change-the-default-boot-partition-windows-vista.htm. I used this to make Windows XP my default after I installed Vista. When the computer boots, you will have the choice of selecting an operating system other than the default one if you choose.

Bob Rankin's Tourbus Newsletter
Advice on Buying Some "Cheap" Stuff
If you're thinking of buying an inexpensive desktop computer, a touchscreen laptop, a portable inkjet or fast laser printer, a digital camera, pocket-sized videocam, or a kid-friendly MP3 player, Bob has some great advice and product reviews for you. Check out his recommendations at http://askbobrankin.com/cheap_desktop_computers.html, http://askbobrankin.com/touchscreen_laptops.html, http://askbobrankin.com/portable_inkjet_printers.html, http://askbobrankin.com/fast_color_laser_printers.html, http://askbobrankin.com/mp3_players_for_kids.html, http://askbobrankin.com/automatic_digital_cameras.html, and http://askbobrankin.com/small_video_cameras.html.

Google's Web-Based Gmail
Bob says that he has been using this free service for over two years and is sold on it. Read all about this nifty email program at http://askbobrankin.com/gmail_beyond_the_basics.html. George Margolin put me on to it recently and he sends me large files for the Bytes that my regular provider won't transmit.

Patrick Crispen's Tourbus Newsletter
Lavasoft's free program for removing spyware & malware from your PC (Ad-Aware 2007) has been upgraded and is available for downloading at http://tinyurl.com/3y75ul. It's a useful complement to the pay software from Norton and others.

Creative News Weekly
Get Light Right for the Best Photos
Kevin Ames, a veteran photographer, shows you how to work with light creatively to get great images within and without Photoshop: www.creativepro.com/story/howto/26202.html?cprose=daily.

TypeTalk: Practical Tips You Can Use
Ilene Strizver, a contributing editor, tells you how to break long URLs, when to use em dashes and en dashes, and other good stuff in her article at http://www.creativepro.com/story/feature/26226.html?cprose=daily.

PC Magazine
Buying Guide for Starter Cameras
Here are PCM's recommendations for five simple "shooters" that are wallet-friendly: http://ct.enews.pcmag.com/rd/cts?d=184-5216-50-216-127898-663656-0-0-0-1.

That's it for now. Happy computing to you all and, hopefully, see you next month.

Visual Languages

By Anson Chapman, Visual Programming SIG Leader

One of the great challenges in computer development today is the proliferation of languages used to create applications. An even greater challenge is the confusion people have about what are "Visual Languages".

As defined in Wikipedia a visual programming language (VPL) is:

Any programming language that lets users specify programs by manipulating program elements graphically rather than by specifying them textually. A VPL allows programming with visual expressions, spatial arrangements of text and graphic symbols. Most VPLs are based on the idea of "boxes and arrows," that is, boxes or circles or bubbles, treated as screen objects, and connected by arrows, lines or arcs.

VPLs may be further classified, according to the type and extent of visual expression used, into icon-based languages, form-based languages, and diagram languages. Visual programming environments provide graphical or iconic elements which can be manipulated by users in an interactive way according to some specific spatial grammar for program construction.

A visually transformed language is a non-visual language with a superimposed visual representation. Naturally visual languages have an inherent visual expression for which there is no obvious textual equivalent.

In this series of articles, I will explain the differences between them and the reason that current developments try to integrate the visual programming approach with dataflow, data structure and object oriented languages to either have immediate access to the program state resulting in online debugging or automatic program generation and documentation (i.e. visual paradigm). Dataflow languages also allow automatic parallelization, which is likely to become one of the greatest programming challenges of the future.

Additionally I will describe current procedural languages such as Visual Basic (VB), Visual C++ (CPP), Visual C Sharp (C#) and Java as well as several other programming languages. Included in this will be scripting languages and the differences between regular programming languages.

As a first step let me define certain concepts such as dataflow, data-structured, and object-oriented programming languages as well as the difference between functional and imperative programming (these last two are not languages but styles):

A **dataflow** programming language models a program, conceptually if not physically, as a directed graph of the data flowing between operations. Dataflow programming languages share some features of functional languages, and were generally developed in order to bring some functional concepts to a language more suitable for numeric processing.

A **data-structured** programming language is a programming language in which the data structure is a main organizing principle, representation, model, for data and logic (code) alike, in which both are stored and operated upon, i.e., program data and logic are structured and operated on in the same way, by the same representation.

An **object-oriented** programming language (also called an *OO language*) is one that allows or encourages, to some degree, object-oriented programming techniques such as encapsulation, inheritance, modularity, and polymorphism. Simula (1967) is generally accepted as the first language to have the primary features of an object-oriented language. It was created for making simulation programs, in which what came to be called objects were the most important information representation. Smalltalk is arguably the canonical example, and the one with which much of the theory of object-oriented programming was developed.

Functional programming is a programming paradigm that treats computation as the evaluation of mathematical functions and avoids state and mutable data. It emphasizes the application of functions, in contrast with the **imperative programming** style that emphasizes changes in state.

As we go on I will cover each of these topics in more detail allowing us to better understand the confusion today. The next article in the series, following this introduction, will cover Visual Basic (VB).

Note: Microsoft Visual Studio and the languages it encompasses (Visual Basic, Visual C#, Visual J#, etc.) are commonly confused to be but are **not** visual programming languages. All of these languages are textual and not graphical. MS Visual Studio is a **visual programming environment**, but **not a visual programming language,** hence the confusion.

Security Tidbits

By Dave Keays, NOCCC SIG Leader

MEBOOT

A new trojan horse or virus that uses old techniques is now in the wild.

The malware is called "MEBOOT" by Semantec and its main purpose is to steal log-in information of 900 different financial institutions. All unpatched versions of the NT OS are vulnerable including XP service pack 2 and VISTA.

It installs from a web site and will download keyloggers and other malware. While those files can be detected and cleaned by your AV, the MEBOOT infection will reinstall them. So, you have to snuff the main part of the infection which can't be seen or tampered with from the OS.

Prevention:
- password protect your BIOS (not on all MOBOs today)
- don't browse with administrative rights
- use a patched OS

Detection:
- AntiRootKit program (gMer has one tuned specifically for this infection)
- bootscan from vil.nai.com

Correction:
- 'FIXMBR' or 'FDISK /MBR' at recovery console
- reflash your BIOS (can result in a computer that no longer runs)
- remove battery in BIOS

For more information, see my blog at ocsecsig.blogspot.com.

INFECTIOUS TOYS

Did you get a digital camera, an electronic picture frame, or a pair of sunglasses that play MP3s?

If you did then be careful before you hook it up to a computer.

In fact, anything that connects to your computer through the USB port can be abused: picture frames, GPS systems, "thumb drives," and external hard disks.

It seems many devices are infected with spyware and viruses, even the ones that are sealed like they are brand new. It apparently was a popular prank before Christmas to buy one of these USB gadgets, take it out of the box and fill it with spyware, return it to the store and tell the clerk you just didn't want it so they will probably re-shrink-wrap it and put it back on the shelf.

I even read some comments that indicate the problem was with Chinese imported electronic toys. It seems their Quality Assurance have more problems than lead.

The problem is that these USB devices are treated like drives on modern Operating Systems. If you have auto-play turned on in Windows, the virus will automatically run.

One version would infect a machine, get other spyware off the Internet, and infect anybody else connected to the Windows file-sharing network you are on. Then, it copies itself and the "autorun.inf" file to all hard disk partitions including other removable devices like thumb drives. Not only are they infected with the latest virus, but so is everybody else on your network, and any USB devices are infected as well.

It is probably too late this Christmas, but the way to protect yourself in the future is to turn off the auto-play feature or to remove the file "autorun.inf" from the device. The easiest way to turn auto-play off is to use the free "tweak-UI" program that Microsoft offers with its "power toys" package. Download the program, run it, choose 'my computer'->autoplay->drives. Then deselect all the drives.

If you want to disinfect a device, use a live Linux CD like Knoppix or Ubuntu. Most of them will let you get into that device and remove the file "autorun.inf."

If you want to return an infected device to the store be sure to write "do not resell - defective" all over the box.

If you think you might be infected then run any anti-spyware and anti-virus programs you have. If nothing else, download a copy of *Spybot Search and Destroy*, and *AntiVir*. Be sure to update the Anti-malware and if possible use another computer.

For more information see the SANS diary at http://isc.sans.org/diary.html. Get Spybot here: www.safer-networking.org
Get AntiVir here: www.free-av.com
Get tweakUI here:
http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/powertoys/xppowertoys.mspx
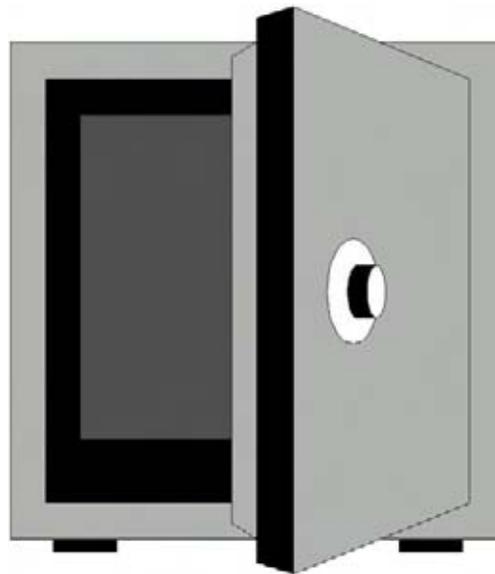
Products Available For Review

We have obtained a number of products from vendors for review by qualified NOCCC members. If you are interested in doing a review (which will be published in the Orange Bytes), please call or send an e-mail to me and provide your membership number, phone number, and e-mail address; or pick up the product at the next NOCCC meeting. If you would like me to request a specific product for you to review, let me know.

Remember, YOU GET TO KEEP THE SOFTWARE OR BOOK!

Ted Littman, (714) 779-1936, reviews@noccc.org.

Boxed Programs and CDs

Norton Internet Security 2008 – The latest version of the security suite from Symantec to protect your PC against viruses, worms, spyware, virus-infected emails and more. MSRP=$60.

Norton AntiVirus 2008 – The latest version of just plain old NAV from Symantec to protect your PC against viruses, worms, spyware, and virus-infected emails. MSRP=$40.

Easy Media Creator 10 Suite – Roxio's latest version of its digital media software works in Vista as well as Windows XP. The suite has all the tools, features, & controls to easily create, manage, and enjoy photos, music, and video. MSRP=$99.

Books

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

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

Adobe Photoshop CS3 one-on-one – Authored by Photoshop master, Deke McClelland, this new book+DVD has 12 self-paced tutorials using real-world projects with 850 full-color photos to help you master the essential & advanced capabilities of Photoshop CS3. From O'Reilly, the MSRP=$50.

Microsoft Windows Vista Configuring – Anew book from Que that gives you the complete certification solution for Exam MCTS 70-620. Written by Don Polton, it includes a CD. MSRP=$60.

Windows Vista for Starters: The Missing Manual – This new book by David Pogue from O'Reilly is a great way for beginners to learn the basics of Microsoft's new operating system. MSRP=$20.

Access 2007 for Starters: The Missing Manual – Matthew MacDonald's new book from O'Reilly is for the beginner using Microsoft's latest database. MSRP=$20.

Access 2007: The Missing Manual – Matthew MacDonald also wrote this new 730-page book that offers complete coverage of the latest version of Microsoft's database. Also from O'Reilly. MSRP=$35.

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

PowerPoint 2007 for Starters: The Missing Manual – A good book for beginners by E.A. Vander Veer from O'Reilly with step-by-step instruction and lots of illustrations to help learn the use of this new presentations software from Microsoft. MSRP=$20

The Apache Modules Book – A new book by Nick Kew from Prentice Hall begins with detailed, accessible introductions to Apache's architecture and API, then illuminates all the techniques you'll need, from request processing through code security. MSRP=$50.

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

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

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

Router Security Strategies, Securing IP Network Traffic Planes – From Cisco Press. MSRP=$65.

The Security Professional's Digest – New from A-W.

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

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

Other books recently received:

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

Cisco ASA, PIX, and FWSM Firewall Handbook, 2ⁿᵈ Ed. – From CISCO Press, MSRP=$60.

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

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

Using Microsoft Office Visio 2007 – From Que, MSRP=$45.

Microsoft Excel 2007

Review by Ted Litman, NOCCC

What is Excel?

Excel, as you probably know, is a premier spreadsheet and one of the well-integrated components of the Microsoft Office suite. Like Word 2007, it is a really big program with way more capability than most users will ever need. And, there are multiple ways to perform just about any task to suit just about every user's computing style.

According to a free tutorial from Florida Gulf Coast University

(http://www.pcsoftware4u.com/excel/): "*A spreadsheet is an electronic document that stores various types of data. There are vertical columns and horizontal rows. A cell is where the column and row intersect. A cell can contain data and can be used in calculations of data within the spreadsheet.* (Data can be in the form of numbers, dates/times, or text. Calculations can use formulas that are collections of values, cell references, operators, and functions. Cells containing formulas display the results by default.) *An Excel spreadsheet can contain workbooks and worksheets. The workbook is the holder for related worksheets.*"

Excel 2007 looks like the figure below before you type in data or text. The program can perform a huge number of different calculations from simple arithmetic to very complex equations.

A workbook starts out as a template (i.e., a file with pre-existing formatting and other settings). The default is a **Blank Workbook** with a minimum amount of preset formatting that can be changed by the user. Microsoft supplies a lot of built-in templates and many more can be downloaded (free) for a wide range of end users – all modifiable to suit one's individual needs. And, you always can start from scratch and create your own template which can be saved for future use.

What's New in Excel 2007?

The latest Microsoft spreadsheet has the following features (http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/excel/default.aspx):

- A new task-oriented user interface (the Ribbon) presents the appropriate commands based on the job you need to accomplish as shown below.
- The new XML-based file format (a standardized way to store information) makes it easier to integrate with external data sources, reduces file size (up to 75%), is less error-prone, and improves data recovery in the event of a disaster. Files are saved with the extension .xlsx instead of .xls, unless you choose to save them in Excel 2003 format. Super-sized spreadsheets can be saved in binary format (.xlsb) which is faster than XML.
- Spreadsheet row and column capacity have been increased to 1 million rows by 16,000 columns that enables you to import and work with massive amounts of data and achieve faster calculation performance with support for dual or multicore processors.
- Cell Styles and Table Styles galleries can quickly format your spreadsheet the way you want.
- Tables include AutoFilters while column headers stay in view when you scroll through the data. AutoFilters populate and expand any table automatically.
- A resizable formula bar and context-based Formula AutoComplete - so that you can write the proper formula syntax the first time, allows you to refer to named ranges and tables within formulas and functions. The AutoComplete function tells you what each function does via a pop-up line when the cursor hovers over the function name.
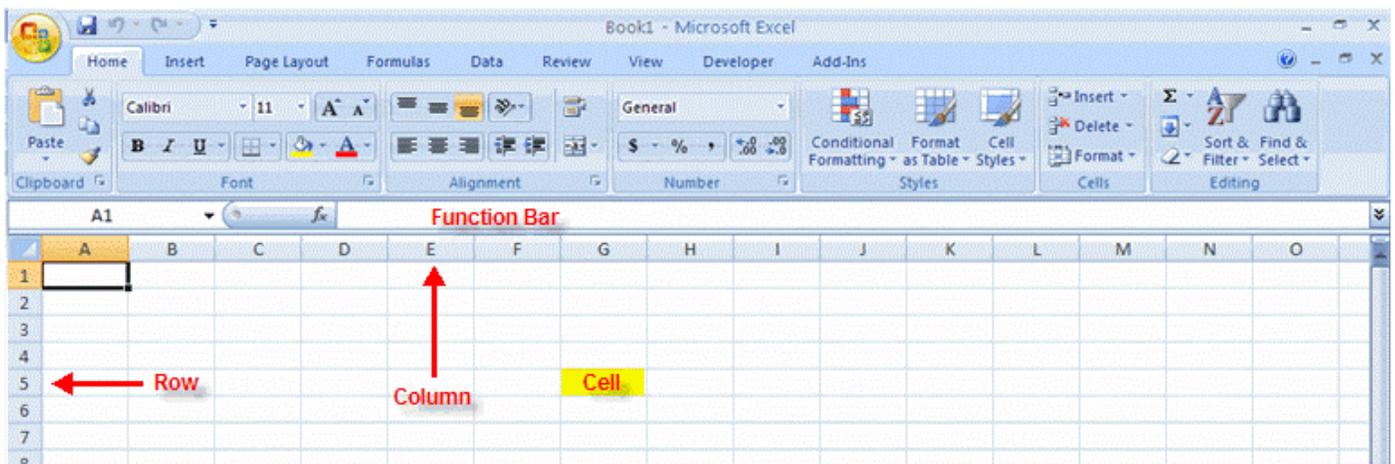
- You can use predefined Chart Layouts and Chart Styles or manually format each component, such as axes, titles, and other chart labels, with effects such as 3-D, soft shadowing, and anti-aliasing to help identify key data trends and create more compelling graphical summaries.
- You can create and interact with charts the same way, regardless of the application you are using, because the Excel charting engine is consistent in Microsoft Word 2007 and Microsoft PowerPoint 2007.
- The addition of a Page Layout View lets you see exactly how your spreadsheet will print; here you can add or edit headers and footers; and adjust page margins with direct visual feedback where the page will truncate and avoid multiple printing attempts.
- It provides new options for sorting and filtering, such as multiselect in AutoFilters, sort or filter by color, and "quick filters" for specific data types.
- You can use conditional formatting with rich data visualization schemes to discover and illustrate important trends and highlight exceptions in your data with colored gradients (heat maps), data bars, and icons.
- It has full support for Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Analysis Services.
- It allows you to share documents by converting them to PDF and XPS formats, the latter being Microsoft's version of Adobe's PDF.

Should You Buy It?

I installed Excel 2007 in early 2007 (as part of Office 2007) in a Vista Ultimate partition on my Dell 8400 desktop with 2 GB RAM. Since then, I have used it intermittently until I started this review, and then more intensively. My "mainline" spreadsheet has been Excel 2003 which is installed in a Windows XP partition of the Dell. I got Excel 2003 when it was first released (again, as part of the Office suite) and it was an upgrade to the prior Microsoft version.

Although I like the new and improved features/capabilities in 2007, it has taken me an inordinate amount of time to get used to the "Ribbon" interface and the change in location of functions that I use regularly. In fact, I resorted to adding some of these to the *Quick Access Toolbar* that resides on top of the Ribbon for easier access. And, although I am continuing the transition to 2007, when I am in a hurry, I use old standby 2003.

So, unless you are a professional or business user, upgrading from Excel 2003 to 2007 may not afford enough advantages to outweigh the upgrade cost and learning time required. (You can always resort to trying the free trial software first to see for yourself at http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/excel/FX100487621033.aspx.)

If you are a newbie to spreadsheets and don't expect to do heavy-duty calculating, you may want to check out the one of the free open-source programs available on the Web, at least initially before springing for Excel 2007 or the whole Office 2007 package. Finally, for those of you who got or are getting a new PC bundled with Vista and Office 2007, think of it as the "wave of the future," but be prepared for the learning curve required to achieve proficiency.

Excel 2007 can be purchased as a standalone program on Amazon.com for $187 ($95 if you are upgrading). The official Excel web site with a demo video is at http://www.microsoft.com/office/newday/default.mspx?nav=v1xcmenu&?WT.srch=1&WT.mc_id=383B0FF0-2927-4065-94B5-7558329EA406.

In the following reviews, I discuss several books on Excel 2007 and one on Excel 2003 that can help you to learn the ins-and-outs of these top-of –the-line spreadsheets and, probably, shorten the learning-time otherwise required. As you can imagine, there is a whole slew of books on Excel from all the major publishers, including Microsoft Press. You can find more information at http://shopping.yahoo.com/search;_ylc=X3oDMTEzb2pra2IxBF9TAzk2MDc5MjcyBGsDZXhjZWwgYm9va3MEc2VjA3RpdGxl?p=excel+books.

Microsoft Office Excel 2007 for Windows Visual QuickStart Guide

Review by Ted Littman, NOCCC

This 2007 book, published by **Peachpit Press** and authored by **Maria Langer**, is one of the best books for beginners that I have seen. Maria has authored some 70 computer books. In this one, she provides step-by-step instructions for the tasks that most of us use from worksheet basics like editing, using functions, formatting cells, and adding graphics, to more advanced topics like creating charts, working with databases, and Web publishing.

The 330 pages are divided into 15 chapters. These include The Excel Workplace, Worksheet Basics, Editing, Formatting, Formulas, Graphics, Charts, Tables, and Collaboration. Unlike some books, the author doesn't badmouth Microsoft's omission of a printed manual or imperfect electronic help aids, but rather devotes three pages up front on using the built-in help system. Most activities are well explained with text and illustrations that are easy to follow with emphasis on how to use Excel's functions and features. In fact, the book is so readable that most of us can probably go through it in a few hours on first viewing. Format wise, the book uses (mostly) double columns, one for text and the other for related illustrations - an excellent idea.
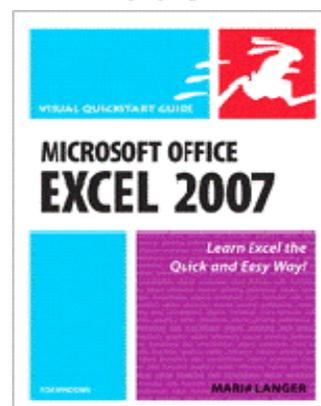
The book has an MSRP=$22, but it is available at a substantial discount from the publisher as well as other sources like amazon.com where I saw it for $17 with free shipping.

Check out Maria Langer's web site at http://www.marialanger.com/?p=957 for more on her book including some excerpts.

Excel 2007
The Missing Manual

Review by Ted Littman, NOCCC

This "big brother" of the for Starters Missing Manual was authored by Matthew MacDonald. It is over twice the size (at 825 pages) and double the cost (MSRP=$40). Organization-wise, it is divided into seven parts plus an Appendix. Each part also has numerous chapters starting with Worksheet Basics (7 ch.), Formulas and Functions (6 ch.), Organizing Worksheets (3 ch.), and then covering Charts and Graphics (3 ch.), Advanced Data Analysis (2 ch.), Sharing Data (5 ch.), and Programming (2 ch.). The Appendix tells you how to customize the Quick Access Toolbar. Unfortunately, the book all but ignores Excel's built-in help features and the significant amount of on-line information available.
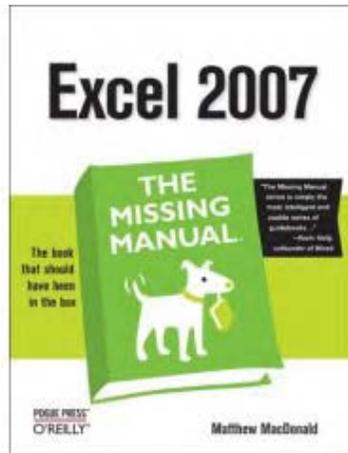
This book is way more comprehensive and gives you step-by-step instructions for using almost every Excel function and capability, not just the basics. And, it has a lot of examples covering "real-world" spreadsheet usage (like financial statements, invoices, expense reports, personal budgets, catalogs, shopping lists, itineraries, and logs); many of these can be downloaded for your use from the www.missingmanual.com web site. Style-wise, it pretty much uses the same format as other Missing Manual books, including the for Starters ones. Its illustrations are appropriately sized and it uses the "standard" font size of most other books of this type. However, too many of the screen-capture figures suffer from insufficient contrast for pleasant viewing.

If you expect to go beyond Excel's basic spreadsheet capabilities, this O'Reilly book is more appropriate than the for Starters one. It is a good text for learning much of what is available in the software and then as a reference manual that you are likely to refer to time and again. Finally, O'Reilly books are discounted to user group members who order directly from the publisher (see our Membership Benefits column on p. 4); discounts are widely available from the usual

sources like amazon.com. More book details can be found at http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/9780596527594/.

Excel 2003 for Starters
The Missing Manual

Review by Ted Littman, NOCCC

This book by Matthew MacDonald, a programmer and author of numerous books on Microsoft Excel, Access and other topics, was published in October 2005   by Pogue Press/O'Reilly. New York Times technology columnist Davis Pogue says that he created the so-called *Missing Manual* series to provide software users with information that is engaging, clearly written, and funny. Books are available ranging from **A**ccess to **W**ord plus the major operating systems and a number of other computing topics. The Excel 2007 Missing Manual books were also written by MacDonald.

Excel 2003 for Starters (it also covers the 2002 version) was written for beginners who use the spreadsheet program prior to the one released at the beginning of 2007 and is the one that I have been using since   it was first released. Although it uses the publishing "hook" that *the book should have been in the box,* to its credit, it has an appendix that tells you something about Excel's built-in and online Help resources. Surprisingly, Pogue's "big-brother" books on Excel, that are much larger and more encompassing, don't cover these aids. And, even the 2 007 for Starters book dropped the Help section in favor of a discussion on customizing the new Quick Access Toolbar! I view this as a mistake.
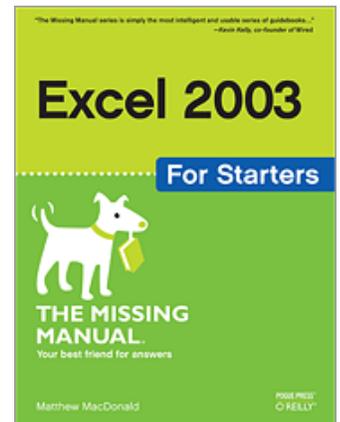
The MacDonald book has some 396 pages divided into three parts titled Worksheet Basics, Worksheet Power, and the 12-page Excel Help Appendix. The two major parts are subdivided into numerous chapters that pretty much cover everything you need to know about how the program works and how to use this spreadsheet productively for real-world activities. Some of the things I particularly liked are the large font and easy-to-read illustrations. Too many books give short-shrift to readability. This well-written book is essentially a step-by-step tutorial, is clearly written, and highlights important points using *Notes, Tips, FAQs, Power Users' Clinic, Up to Speed, Trick of the Trade, and Gem in the Rough* titles with white text on a blue background. The MSRP is $20, but discount are available from O'Reilly as well as Amazon.com and other sources. More details can be found at http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/excelfstmm/.

# January 2008 Prizes and Raffle Winners

Prizes!

More Prizes!
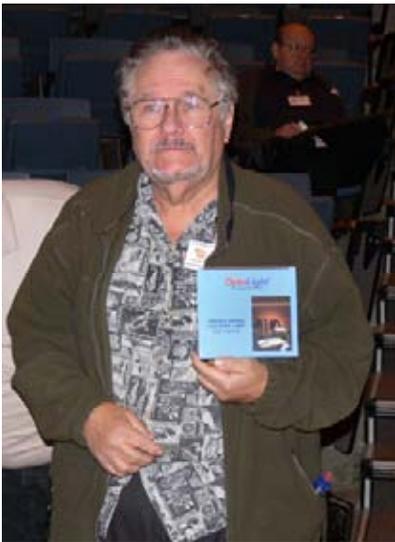
Vince Lazore
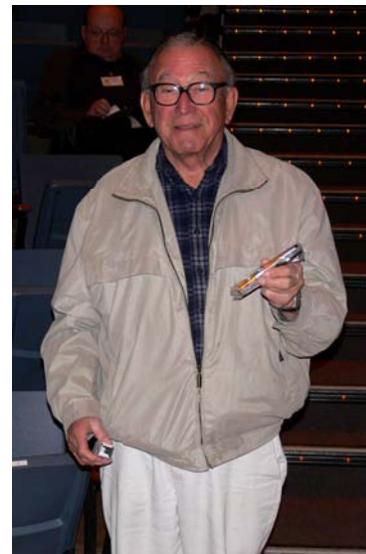
Martin LaRocque
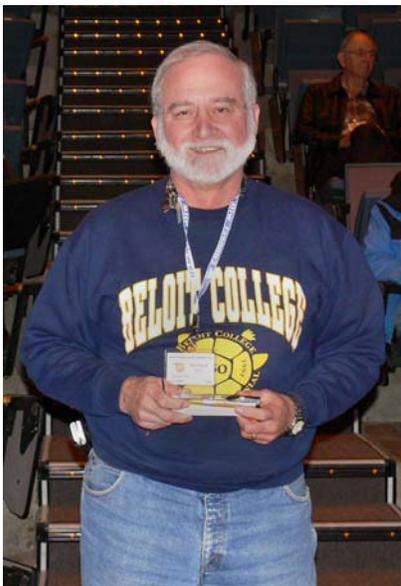

Rich Black
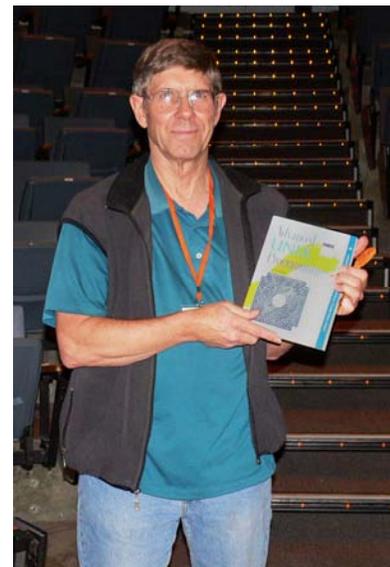
Jim Sanders
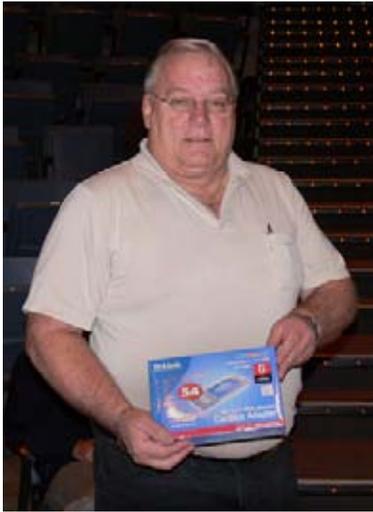
Joseph Vanderhoff
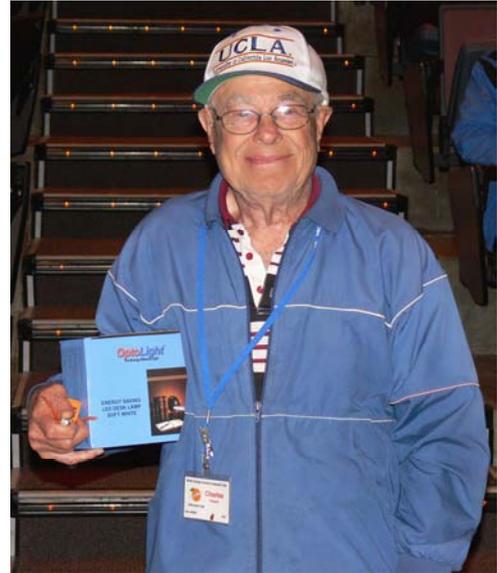
Chuck Hower

Gerry Resch
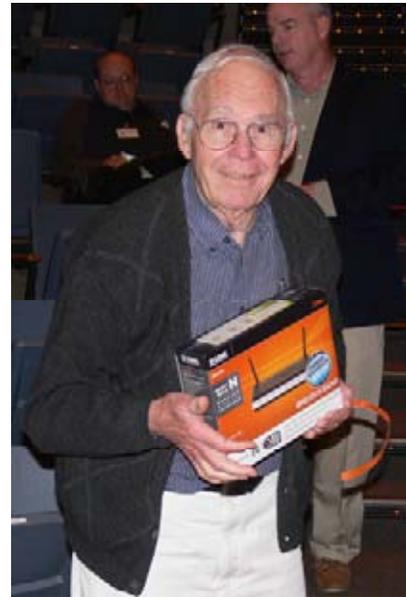
Dale Atwater
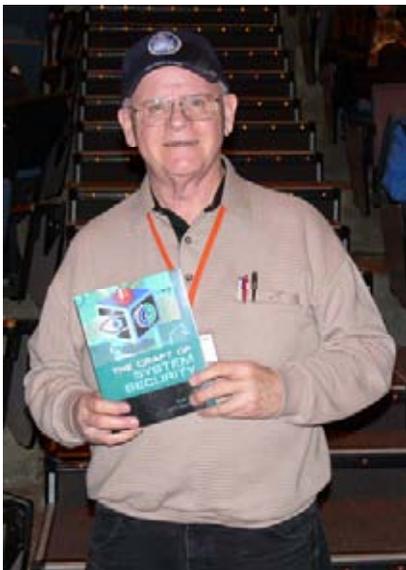
Bob Dickson

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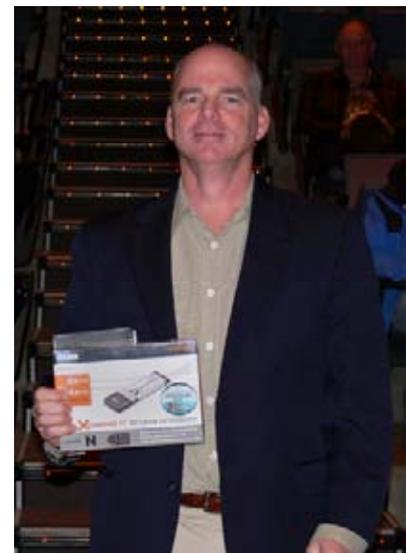
Dan Swoish

I am a strong believer in print books to learn how to use new software programs and then as a desktop reference when issues arise, especially if the electronic help isn't clear. (Perhaps the biggest criticism of the built-in help files is that they too often seem to be written by "geeks" rather than professional writers.) Although I regularly use all of these electronic assists, for me it is usually more productive to learn by reading a book than by viewing instructions on a computer screen. Probably, that goes back to my "beginnings" before personal computers and learning meant reading books, and lots of them.

So, if you are an Excel newcomer, you can't go wrong with either the O'Reilly for Starters Missing Manual or the Peachpit Visual QuickStart Guide. Both are competitively priced, easy to read, and will teach you the basics of using this spreadsheet without having to attend a class. (Of course, class work always has the advantage of having an instructor to ask questions of when you get stuck.) Of the two basic books, the O'Reilly one was a more pleasant read due to its use of larger print and figures. But, I really liked the smart layout of the Peachpit book.

I did not have the Excel 2007 for Starters Missing Manual (to compare with the Excel 2007 Visual Quick Start Guide), but 2003 for Starters seems to be similar enough in key respects to the 2007 for Starters book to make my comments valid. And you always should browse through a book at a bookstore before buying it to see if it suits your needs. For more information on the Excel 2007 for Starters book, go to http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/9780596528324/.

Excel Tips

Here are a few tips that I find useful and they may be of interest to you. They should work with Excel 2007 as well as 2003, except as noted. I came across these in reading the books that I reviewed and from using the software. There are lots more in the Excel books, on line, and Excel help file. (If you would like to contribute your tips for any the Microsoft Office programs, send them to me, Ted Littman) so that they can be shared with other NOCCC members.)

Auto Recover
Excel has a setting (in the Tools/Options menu for Excel 2003) where you can select how frequently the active spreadsheet is automatically backed up as a protection in the event of a software problem or PC crash. The default is ten minutes, but I reset it to five. You also can designate where to save the backup file – the default is in the Documents and Settings folder.

Sharing Excel Files
If you want to share your spreadsheet (or a part of it) with others who don't use Excel or a program that can "read" Excel files, there is a free downloadable Microsoft Excel Viewer. You also can convert your spreadsheet to PDF format which is readable using the free Adobe Reader.

Status Bar
The Status Bar (at the bottom of the spreadsheet) contains several information/action indicators by default. You can add others by right clicking your mouse in the bar to view additional options to perform when cells containing numbers are selected. Many more options are available in Excel 2007 (Office button/Options).

Text in a Cell
If text entered in a cell goes beyond the default column width setting, you can manually reset the width or "wrap" the text so it occupies more than one line within the cell. You also can reduce the font size of the text. One or more of these actions is necessary to view the full text when the cell to the right has numbers or text.

Data Types
Excel classifies data as ordinary text, numbers, dates/times, or True/False (Boolean) values. You can't mix different data types (e.g., 123 books) in the same cell; if you do, Excel will interpret it as text.

Automated Actions
Excel has a number of useful capabilities to make your work more productive and error free. Notably, these include **AutoComplete**, **AutoCorrect**, **AutoFill**, and **AutoFit.** The first two work automatically (unless you turn them off). AutoComplete "examines" text as you type and compares it to previously entered ones in the column. If it recognizes that you are repeating an entry, it will fill in the remainder for you. As you type words in a cell, Excel corrects common misspellings and other typos. AutoFill lets you create a whole column or row of values by extrapolating from one or two cells – a nifty feature for entering sequential numbers, months, days, or other series. AutoFit expands a column if you type numbers or a date in a cell that don't fit in the existing width.

Recently Used Files
Excel displays a changing list of recently used spreadsheets. The 2003 version allows up to nine whereas 2007 can show up to 50, at your discretion, user selectable in the Options menu. A new feature in 2007 lets you "pin" spreadsheets that you regularly work on so they remain in the list for as long as you want.

Password Protection
If you want to control who can view or modify your spreadsheet, you can select a password to protect the file from being opened by others. Again, the settings are in the Tools/Options menu of 2003. In 2007, you access this via the big Office button/Save As/Tools/General Options.

The Office Clipboard
Unlike the Clipboard built into Windows that only saves the last-copied entry, Excel and the other Office programs allows you to "save" and reuse many more items, but only for reuse within the Office family. To display the available entries in the Clipboard, press Ctrl C twice. To paste one of the entries, highlight the cell (in your Excel spreadsheet) and Paste it using Ctrl V.

Inside Solidworks, 4th Edition

Review by Joe Mizer, NOCCC SIG Leader

Solidworks is a CAD program for the design of 3-dimensional models as contrasted with making 2-dimensional drawings on a sheet of paper. Solidworks may be the most popular CAD design and drafting program in use today; however, I am sure *AutoDesk* will argue that point. If you are still with me, this book was written by David Murray to teach us how to use Solidworks to be better designers, engineers, and draftsmen.

I received David's book at just the perfect time, as I needed a refresher course and additional instruction in the fine art of using Solidworks. I will not tell you what is covered in this book except to say everything, and as far as I know, nothing I can think of has been left out either.

The Introduction indicates that the book was written for beginning-to-advanced Solidworks users, and students with no prior experience, and as a guide to current users who want more instruction in specific commands and processes; I would say that is just about everyone using or wanting to use Solidworks. The prerequisites for this book **Inside Solidworks** is experience with Windows operating systems such as 2000 professional or Windows XP, as well as Excel; experience in mechanical design and computer-aided design would be beneficial.

A useful list is presented at the very front of the book which lists all of the how-tos and exercises in the book, and could help you find information if you do not first find it in the index. Also, when you are searching for a command, which you desperately need, just refer to the end of the book and all of the toolbars are shown for your assistance. I refer to these also just as ways of learning or remembering what tools are available. Remember that the location of these tools can and will change depending on the version of the software you are using.

The text is written almost so it can be picked up to read a specific topic from any point, however it you are missing previously presented information, you might have to back up for a while, which is why it is best to read chapters one thru thirteen in order and then skip around, if you want, for the rest of the book. *Top down* verses *bottom up* assemblies are described in chapter 13. (A bottom up assembly is when you model the parts first and then bring them together as an assembly.) The top down procedure is when you have several components designed and brought together in an assembly and you create additional parts in the assembly. *Configurations* are when multiple parts or assemblies can be stored in the same file. I was not aware of how easy they are to create and use until after reading the two chapters in this book. I admit I had

avoided trying to use them because I felt they were to complex. *Sheet metal parts* do not get a lot of attention in most books; however, the presentation given in chapter 9 was able to teach me some new tricks I had not seen before. This is true in the use of all CAD programs. Unless you push yourself to be the best, we all settle in a condition where we have found a method of using the tools and can get our job done; however, unless we look we never find the fastest and most efficient techniques available, and this is where this book really shines by presenting so much information in a user friendly method. In every chapter I have been able to learn speed tricks, which even though they are very basic, I never ran across before. The section on *weldments* teaches the principles of using the join command when creating assemblies which will be inserted into larger assemblies and where information on the individual components is not required.
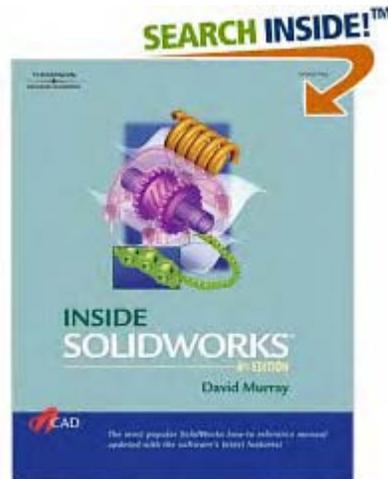
Core and *Cavity* are commands use in plastic injection molding, which is not my thing at the moment; but, if it is yours, this book gives a nice presentation, which you will not want to miss. *Equations* can be used to keep a new dimension being added to a model always related to another feature and is presented in chapter 18. Chapters 16 and 17 present additional details on assembly configurations and design tables.

I will keep this book handy and at my side as long as I am using Solidworks, unless a new edition is made available. I highly recommend this very valuable book to anyone using or wanting to use Solidworks. The ISBN number is 1-4180-2085-0 and it has a list price of 86.95, but can be purchased from Amazon.com for $52.17.

Reviews Editor's notes: The publisher's web site is http://www.delmarlearning.com/browse_quicksearch.aspx?search=Inside+SolidWorks. The opinions of some other reviewers can be found at http://www.amazon.com/review/product/1418020850/ref=dp_top_cm_cr_acr_txt/102-0193521-7629721?%5Fencoding=UTF8&showViewpoints=1.

Preparing a Review Article for the Orange Bytes

by Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor

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

All about Usenet
January 2008
Main Meeting

By Herbert Wong Jr., NOCCC President

Usenet isn't for everyone's taste. However, many people become devoted users. For these people, Usenet is as important as email and surfing the World Wide Web.

Introduction

Usenet (derived from "user network") was first developed in 1979. It is a messaging system that allows users to post messages (known as articles or posts) that can be read publicly (i.e. - by anyone) rather than privately (i.e. - by a specific recipient(s), as is the case with email.

Broad categories, called *newsgroups*, have been created to try to bring some order to the chaos. Thus, the association of Usenet with newsgroups. Specific rules, typically found in a frequently asked questions (FAQ) file, may exist for any given newsgroup. A newsgroup is supposed to have a theme, posters are supposed to stay on topic, binary groups are supposed to contain only binary attachments, etc. The result was the creation of many now familiar terms such as FAQ, spam, off-topic, etc.

Each post has a "header" that contains information that is very similar to that in email messages. Included are the subject, posting date, poster's email address, etc. An NNTP newsreader client (software analogous to email client) can sort the posts by the different fields contained in the header (ex. - by date, subject, etc.).

A poster can choose to associate a message to another existing message. If a post is a subordinate response to the previous message, it is displayed by the newsreader on an indented line below the previous message. Other posts can now be in response to the original message or another subordinate response. These associated messages are called threads.

The threads are hierarchical in nature and can appear in the newsreader just like the nested files and folders do in a file manager. Of course, all posts are simply entered chronologically and their usefulness is extracted by a newsreader.

The header does not contain the message. The header has a message body that contains the data that is most important. In order to reduce data transfer, headers are downloaded first. Then, the user marks (selects) the desired message bodies. Finally, the message bodies are requested from the newsgroup server.

Normally, the message body is plain text. However, by clever newsreader algorithms, the plain text can be used to transport a binary file attachment. In addition, by relying upon greater quality throughout the system (UUCPNET), error corrections algorithms have been adjusted (for example by using yEnc) to maximize the inherent low efficiency of Usenet's text transfers (using uuencode).

Besides text messages, entire newsgroups (ex. - alt.binaries.*) are often devoted to binary file types such as images, movies, executable files, etc. In fact, as measured by size, it is suggested that over 99 percent of Usenet traffic is binary data.

How Do I Get Started?

Where are these Usenet articles? They reside on news servers. The NNTP newsreader client requires the address of the news server (ex. - news.xyz.net) exactly like the email client requires the address of the mail server (ex. - smtp.xyz.net). You can get access from most Internet service providers (ISPs), by buying a premium news service (ex. - Supernews, Giganews, etc.), from a private news server (ex. - from a manufacturer), etc.

There are two important considerations for selecting a news server. They are completion and retention. *Completion* concerns the news server's quality of accruing all the posts that exist. You don't want missing articles or parts of multi-part posts.

Retention is the time that the posts reside on the server. Service providers can establish retention rules for individual newsgroups. For example, text groups are retained for 90 days and binary groups for 10 days with a maximum of 8 gigabytes per group.

Unlike latter-day web-based forums, Usenet was designed to be decentralized (no single or primary central server). This early strategy was taken because of the lack of dependability

of finding Usenet servers that were currently active or available. Your articles are posted on your host's Usenet server which in turn propagates the articles to other servers.

Interested Audience at Main Meeting

In other words, in the past, messages were distributed across the Internet on a limited schedule (perhaps once a day). Today, the messages are distributed between servers much more quickly.

NNTP newsreader clients include Forte Inc's (www.forteinc.com) Agent, NewsBIN Pro (www.newsbin.com), Microsoft Outlook, etc. Microsoft's Internet Explorer provides NNTP support by including Outlook Express. In the most recent versions of Mozilla (Firefox), NNTP support is provided through Thunderbird.

Don't forget that NNTP newsreader clients download posts onto your local hard disk drive. Therefore, these messages are always available, even without an Internet connection.

Web browser-based Usenet (ex. - Google Groups at www.groups.google.com) benefits from Google's search engine expertise. Usenet messages can be searched without downloading headers and bodies. Obviously, this requires the messages to be reloaded every time the page is to be read in the browser. Beware, Google Groups does not provide all newsgroups. Primarily, there is no support at all for most binary files.

There are many reasons for participating in Usenet. Some manufacturers provide technical support newsgroups for their products. There, users are able to post product improvement suggestions, new techniques, questions for other users to answer, etc. Some manufacturers even have technical support people monitor their newsgroups. In the past, it was widely known that questions in some Microsoft newsgroups could be answered by Microsoft personnel, the net result was a free support instance (worth about $500).

NOCCC members are quite familiar with one vendor that provides newsgroup support for its products. It's Gibson Research. Just point your newsreader to server news.grc.com to find the various groups about products, news, technical talk, security topics, etc.

The February 03, 2008 Hardware SIG meeting will follow up on the Jan. Main Meeting discussion of Usenet. Primarily, we'll take a look at some of the interesting technologies behind two applications that are used for binary file attachments.:WINRAR is somewhat akin to ZIP technology and QuickPAR is a parity file recover application.

Hardware SIG

By Herbert Wong, Jr., SIG Leader

The topic for the January 06, 2008 Hardware SIG was **Biometric Technology**. This is a rapidly improving area that may or may not be what we are hoping to use.

We looked at the different aspects of what the devices were measuring. Many facets of the human body are used, such as fingerprints, iris, retina, facial structure, hand geometry, walking gait, dynamic handwriting, etc.

The topic for the Hardware SIG on February 03, 2008 will be software related to my Usenet presentation. We'll look at two tools used when encoding and decoding binary attachments.

WINRAR is loosely analogous to a ZIP file tool. It can take a group of files and make an archive, split it (the archive) up into smaller files, and reconstruct the whole thing.

QuickPAR is an error correcting tool that can create and use parity blocks (contained in a *.PAR2 file) in case you need to reconstruct a damaged file. For example, a single PAR2 block can be used to reconstruct any single block (out of hundreds or thousands) in an archive. This is extremely useful when downloading attachments.

It's hard to quickly explain how exciting this is (especially at 5:02 a.m.), but there are some very impressive algorithms at work here. In addition, anyone who is using Usenet for binary attachments will need to know about these tools

We'll also try to explain anything we missed in our discussion of Usenet

Computer Aided Investing SIG

By Bob Krishfield, SIG Leader

Market Review
Looking back at last month, the markets had a poor showing for the end of the year, with a couple of short rallies that did not last and yielded lower highs, much like the performance during 2007 with some ups and downs that ended up with small if any gains. During the year we reached new highs never attained before, but adjusted for a lower dollar, these may not hold up as historical. That enthusiasm is now gone, replaced by fear of a recession and shrinking economic growth due to housing, credit or higher prices from the creeping inflation seen in higher food, oil, and commodity prices. Going into January, the markets have dropped 7 sessions in a row, causing a strong correction. The S&P 500 broke through its 80-week MA support level that it has held since 2003. The Russell 2000 has hit a new 52-week low as small cap stocks are being sold off as investors flee for safer holdings. The only market segments rising are gold, oil, and other commodities. Even the gurus are pessimistic, with some recommending selling all long positions as we prepare for transitioning to a bear market.

We talked about the *January Effect* and how it might help investors. The January Effect is a rise in the market after a December selloff caused by end-of-year tax-loss selling. This used to provide a reliable chance to jump aboard for a short market ride up, but the effect has been much less in recent years and with a less-pronounced tax-loss selling period, the rise is less and usually takes place in December - alas the *Santa Claus rally*. The other special condition is the *January Barometer* - a prediction that says: "as goes January, so goes the year." So far, this would be a bad omen since the market has been down for 7 days, but we have the rest of January to make it positive. The success rate of this adage is 88% accurate.

Discussion
Most Active Stocks - We took a look at a screen of the most active stocks to see if there was evidence of institutional buying or selling on heavy volume days. The idea is that we want to know which way the institutions are trading so we trade with them. Their trading patterns have been followed by IBD as part of the *CANSLIM* method, and as hedge funds become more dominate in the portion of stocks traded, the individual investor should become aware of these patterns. More study is needed to identify how to find the institutional activity and how to identify it before it becomes history.

Bob Krishfield

Presentation: Using Options to Hedge Stocks. Walt continued with his material on options. We discussed more about the Greeks, learning about Delta - the change in option price for a change in stock prices. Using delta, you can compute your overall risk exposure when setting up multiple option positions. Next, we began the discussion about Vega - the change in option prices for a change in volatility. Walt brought up a web site (www.888options.com) to show examples of how options were priced and how the volatility charts showed variations. We learned the importance of checking the volatility before buying, making sure you buy when it is at a low value - or avoid buying when it is at its highs.

There is a lot more material to cover, so we will continue with Walt's presentation for the next few sessions. We'll also take a look at some methods investors use to make their buy decisions, and see what we use in common and what unique methods are followed.

AmiBroker SIG

By Bob Krishfield, SIG Leader

This meeting focused on Sectors and Industry Groups and how you could set this information up in Amibroker and use it to determine what portions of the market were strong and weak. The idea behind this is to identify and localize those areas where there is strong growth so you can invest in those securities - stocks or ETFs, and rotate away from the areas of weakness. For those using *Quotes-Plus* as a data source, the Sector and Industry Groups data is provided using the interface to AmiBroker. The Sector information provides a tree to all the Industry Groups within the Sector, and the Industry Group trees down to all the stocks within the group. Quotes-Plus provides a composite of the Industry Group performance for the last 2 years that is updated weekly. Using the programs discussed we can compute Sector and Industry composites as needed, but they are slow (10-15 minutes to compute).
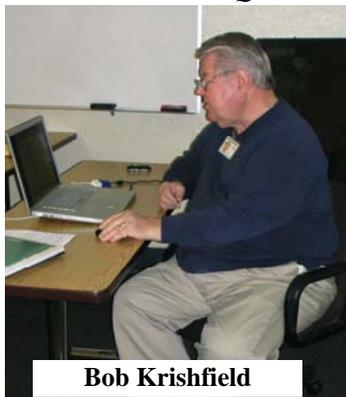
One tool developed by the *FastTrack* community and converted to AmiBroker is the *Cheese chart*. We showed how to use this chart to rank symbols in a watch list and look at the colored display to see how the top-ranking symbols changed their relative strength (measured by a Stochastic-RSI). The Cheese chart is run as an AA Explore program, displaying the last 20 days of strength or momentum. A weekly cheese chart is available that covers the last 20 weeks performance. The other method of comparison is the matrix of charts that plots a table of individual charts. This program uses AB's low-level graphics and is very effective for simultaneous display of a variety of symbols, and their moving averages and volumes. The final charts were the family-of-breadth charts: the *AD line*, the *McClellan*

Oscillator, and the *McClellan Summation Index*. These charts have been generalized to use the breadth statistics computed by a new program that computes them for sectors and industry groups.

The codes for building the composites and making the charts are being distributed to the members who attended the meeting. Some of these programs may have to be revised, since we discovered a significant variation in some sector and industry group performances from the composites provided by Quotes Plus. This will be further investigated and results reported next time. It is most likely due to the averaging formula used, whether it is equal weighted or price weighted.

In February we will review the codes distributed, and take a look at some key ideas needed to understand AFL coding, such as looping, and when you need to control it and when you need to let AB control it, and using the IF and IIF functions to handle conditional assignments and execution.

Digital Photography SIG

By Larry Klees, SIG Leader

Last Month
Last month's presentation didn't go at all according to plan, but did generate a lot of interest and questions. We had two SLR cameras with a couple of extra lenses, three pocket-sized point-and- shoot cameras, three different kinds of tripods, a focusing rail, and a variety of other camera accessories.

One topic evolved into a fairly lengthy discussion on macro photography and lenses and how (because of the close working distances) you set the magnification with the focus ring and then focus by moving the camera.

Macro Photograph of Termites
We also talked about the quality of view finders, i.e., their sharpness, brightness, and magnification. Both of the SLRs present (a Nikon D200 and an Olympus E10) have good view finders. However, it didn't occur to me until the next day that some of the people that tried them were looking at *out-of- focus* images since the view finders were each adjusted to about -2 diopters for my nearsightedness. To make matters even worse, the Olympus E10 only allows a dim view until it is turned on. We must rectify this at a future meeting.

We talked about tripods and weight versus portability & steadiness, the pros & cons of quick connects, diagonal braces, and why some tripods have a hook at the bottom of the center post. (It's to hold a weight or camera bag to stabilize the tripod.) We didn't get to the different types of leveling bubbles built into some tripods. A level can be a great help when taking pictures of buildings (if you have to straighten the photo on the computer, you waste many of your expensive pixels) and having the center post vertical is mandatory if you are serous about panoramic shots.

One thing to watch for in tripod levels, is that they respond too slowly, which can make it very difficult to level the tripod. It doesn't mater if the tripod has a circular target type level, a single unidirectional level, or a perpendicular pair of unidirectional levels if the tripod is properly designed and if you know haw to use it. Proper leveling of tripods should be a future meeting topic.

We also talked about different types of tiny tripods and beanbags. One of the members provided this month's **HELPFUL TIP**. In a pinch when you need a tripod, there is frequently a lamp near by. Take the shade off the lamp to reveal a 1/4 " x20 screw (which fits the tripod socket of all small format cameras) and use the lamp as a tripod.
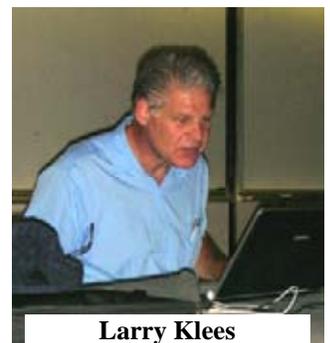
Larry Klees

A multitude of other questions concerning photo accessories were asked and answered. It was a very good meeting.

February: e-paintings by Jack Donan
Photography can be very artistic in its own right. However, there are a few valid reasons why you might want to make a photograph look like a painting. Occasionally, an out-of-focus photo or one with too low a resolution can be saved by simulating brush strokes. More importantly, you may just want a different look, or to cater to those few people who still don't view photography as an art form. If you do this judiciously and not gratuitously, it can look wonderful. There are numerous filters, plug-ins, and standalone programs to aid in converting a photograph to look like a painting. I have tried several and found them to be lacking. I have tried a few things on my own and gotten good results, but have been unable to repeat them. When it works, however, both the photograph and the e-painting can have there own merit.

For some time now Jack Donan has been sending me samples of things he has been doing and they have been getting better and better. His most recent offering blew me away. He found a photograph by Carole Ellis titled 'Frost Survivor' and applied his technique to it. The result is on the next page.

Carole Ellis took the gorgeous photo that Jack used as a starting point; and granted permission to use it. She is an artist and says she is a beginner at photography. Trust me, the world could use more beginners like her. It's inspiring to visit her website at www.caroleellis.com.

Jack will show us a slide show with some of his works and then show the actual technique used to take a photograph and make it look like a beautiful painting.

PC Q&A SIG

By Jim Sanders, SIG Leader

The plan for the January SIG was to have the standard Q&A portion and then fill in the rest of the time with a discussion of Nero 8. As it happened, I put off installing the program until a few days before the SIG and *Murphy* got to me. Some combination of problems resulted in a software crash on the Shuttle computer and I did not have an adequate amount of time to play with the program.

A whole series of questions originated from one member of the audience. It turned out that he was contemplating getting a new computer and had a number of questions about different properties that would influence his decision on the machine that he chose to purchase. One of those questions was on over clocking. My opinion of over clocking is that it is one of those things that can be fun to play with on your PC but not something that you wish to do on say the machine that you do your income tax on.

The reasoning here is that few people make all the tests that are required to assure that you actually have a stable machine. That requires that you not only push the speed of the machine but that you vary the voltage and temperature that the machine operates in over a range that gives a good indication of stability within a range of environmental and electrical variation. It probably doesn't matter much if the machine

crashes while playing a game, but you really don't want it to come up with the wrong numbers while you are trying to balance your checkbook. Some small amount of over clocking is probably tolerable on most machines, but the price of really fast computers is so cheap today, why bother.

Another question was on whether or not having a raid mirror set up on your computer was an adequate form of backup. The answer of course is no! In one sense it is certainly a backup. However, if for instance the power supply or the hard disk controller went bonkers, it could wipe out both of your copies at the same time. So even if you have a raid mirror set up, you still need the more traditional backups of your computer. You always need at least one fairly recent complete backup, that is to say an image, as well as incremental backups or supplemental backups of your My Documents folders. I like the *Acronis True Image* software.

I was asked if I had a solution for the right side of the browser page being cut off when you printed it. There are several solutions to the problem, but the easiest is to simply install Internet Explorer version seven which has a shrink to fit feature built in. Check out this URL: http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/ie7/tour/fre/interface/. If you are not a dyed-in-the-wool Microsoft fan, the Firefox browser also has this feature.

I will be prepared to explain the features of Nero 8 at the February SIG.

Security SIG

By Dave Keays, SIG Leader

This month we spent only a few minutes on the topics planned: rogue anti-spyware and Cisco IP sinks.

Instead, we spent time on an infection that I ran into recently. The details are posted on my blog now under the posting "MPACK." See it at OCSECSIG.BLOGSPOT.COM

Dave Keays

Then we talked about insecure ecommerce and IP properties.

In February we'll either go over the idea of "skimming" or different approaches to ACLs.

January 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

Location: Universal Career College, 1125 E. 17th St. Suite E211, Santa Ana, CA.
Date: 01-07-2008
Call to order: 7:49 PM

ATTENDANCE: There was a total of 8 officers in attendance: Herb Wong, Jim Sanders, John Heenan, Ted Littman, Steven Breitbart, Dallas Hazleton, Gerry Resch, and Richard Miller. President Herb Wong took the minutes.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Secretary: Last month's minutes as published in the Bytes was approved on a motion by Ted, seconded by Jim.

Treasurer (John): The following amounts were collected last month: $1210 for Dues, $19.50 from the Library book sale, $29 from Coffee/donuts, $1.50 from the Consignment Table, and $67 from the Raffle. Net income was $1299 after subtracting expenses.

Membership is 233 Regular, 7 Family, 1 Student, and 9 Newsletter for a total of 250. Three new members joined in early January.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

January Meeting: About 30 people attended the main meeting. Herb gave a presentation on Usenet. Omni Technics ran the eWaste collection and collected a lot of discarded hardware. There will be eWaste collections for at least the next six meetings according to Gerry.

Future Meetings (Herb): The following are upcoming main meeting activities:
- February 3rd – The Margolins will "show & tell" CES.
- March 2nd - Herb is working on getting a speaker.

Publications (Steven & Ted): The printed January Orange Bytes was received on time from UPS using a requested 3-day delivery. A deadline of January 14 was set for inputs for the February Orange Bytes. Jim Sanders provided photos of the Main Meeting and Raffle winners.

Reviews/Library (Ted): Seven books were taken out at the January meeting for review. Five reviews were received for the February Bytes. At the "close-out" Book Library sale during the January meeting, 13 books were sold netting an income of $19.50 to NOCCC.

Raffle & Auction (Gerry): The sale of raffle tickets at the January meeting netted $67. D-Link hardware and several other items will be available for the February raffle.

Consignment Table (Richard): NOCCC netted only $1.50 from sales in January. There will be a Consignment Table available at the February meetings in conjunction with the eWaste collection. **Members, bring your stuff if you want us to continue having this membership benefit.**

SIGs: The AutoCAD SIG has been terminated. At the suggestion of Jim Sanders, SIG leader Joe Mizer, will think about conducting a drawing SIG using less advanced tools than CAD.

Volunteers (Herb): We still need volunteers. See the President's Message in this issue of the Bytes.
Bob Dickson provided coffee and donuts in January and will continue in the coming months.

OLD BUSINESS

- Only three new members joined as a result of the reduced membership fee promotion.

NEW BUSINESS

- Gerry Resch suggested starting a new SIG for members to work on and repair computers. Jim Sanders said he would think about running it.

The next Board meeting will be at the current location on February 4th. Herb adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

NOCCC Fee Schedule

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

Membership Level	1 Year	3 Years
Individual Member	35	90
Each Additional Family Member	15	45
College Student	20	
High School Student	15	
Business Member + Ad (Business Card)	180	
Business Member + Ad (¼ Page, ½ Page)	465, 800	
Business Member + Ad (Full Page)	1,475	

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

President's Message

By Herbert Wong, Jr., NOCCC President

January 6th was a beautiful day for a meeting. The sun was out and the rain avoided us. Omni Technics held an encouraging eWaste collection that they will continue each month. They also proposed a few ideas that will give NOCCC members an opportunity to help needy organizations obtain refurbished computer equipment at very low cost. NOCCC members who are interested in helping can contact any of the officers or Omni Technics for more information.

We have a very interesting presentation for our February 3, 2008 General Meeting. The topic will be "The Latest from the Consumer Electronics Show." Since this is an election year, a few past NOCCC presidents, George Margolin, Cathy Margolin, and Terry Currier will present it. There will many photographs of exciting products. The highlight may be the Casio camera that can shoot up to 1200 frames per second! There may also be some video presentations.

There will even be a few great raffle prizes. There are two D-Link wireless cards for laptops (one in each raffle) and a Kingston 1-GB flash drive.

NOCCC, like every all-volunteer organization, gets better when all of the members become more active. There are more people to share ideas and help carry them out. When more people participate, there is no great burden placed upon a few individuals.

I have said it before, every NOCCC member must volunteer one hour per week! This is the only way to keep the organization going. There are plenty of small tasks that anyone could do that are not being done because of the lack of participation. For example, promotional materials need to be written, printed, and distributed to outside organizations, newspapers, magazines, clubs, libraries, etc.

Actually, the tiniest thing can produce the greatest impact. Let's start with something everyone can do; something that is extremely simple. Everyone must go to the General Meeting at 2:00 p.m. and bring a friend! It is that simple.

If the audience were one hundred people, most vendors would be willing to send a speaker. If there were twice that amount, any vendor would jump at the chance to make a presentation.

Let's set a few goals right now. To show that you are still interested in NOCCC, promise that you will be at February's General Meeting. Then, in March, April, and May, bring a friend with you to the General Meeting. Based upon your effort, I can tell the vendor that there will be at least one hundred people at the meeting!

It is up to you to prove this can be done. Everyone must try his or her best or it is doomed to fail. So, be there…

Pig SIG Open to All

Meet us outside Irvine Hall from about noon to 12:30 p.m. There is also a buffet lunch and snack bars open in Argyros Hall.

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

Coffee, Donuts & Hot Dogs

Thanks to President Herb Wong, who has been bringing the Hot Dogs for the last few months. Thanks to Bob Dickson, too, who has been bringing the coffee and donuts for the last few months.

Understanding Operating Systems

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

This Special Interest Group is lead by Charlie Moore and is a discussion group about Operating Systems for Computers. You all are invited to attend.

Charlie Moore

A Hollywood inventor protests the patent bill

George Margolin says a new measure would hurt innovators.

By Ann Therese Palmer, FSB correspondent
July 3 2007: 10:37 AM EDT

(FSB.com) -- In 45 years, **George Margolin*** has patented 26 inventions, including a front-screen projection system (1964) that Hollywood used for special effects in *2001:A Space Odyssey*, the James Bond films and *Superman*. He patented the folding computer keyboard in 1973 and a new type of anti-stick medical syringe in 1993. Three years ago, with a co-inventor, he patented a new method to keep computer chips from overheating. At 77, he continues to run Newport Beach, Calif. -based Margolin Development (www.margolin-development.com), which makes its money from licensing patents and consulting to companies such as such as AT&T Labs, Estee Lauder, MGM Studios and Safeguard Business Systems. *Fortune Small Business* special correspondent Ann Therese Palmer caught up with Margolin to find out why he so strongly opposes the proposed patent-reform bill, which includes a change that would favor inventors who were the "first to file" for patent protection above those who came up with ideas first. (For background on S. 1145 in the Senate and H.R. 1908 in the House, see "Will Congress slam small inventors?"

FSB: Congress is contemplating a major overhaul of the current patent law, which its sponsors say is needed to fix problems in the current system. But, you don't seem too concerned about the state of the current system.

Margolin: No. Virtually everything - except the speed at which the Patent Office processes its increasing load of patent applications - is what one would expect, considering the budgetary constraints and the difficulty in finding enough competent examiners.

FSB: Then what do you think is really going on?

Margolin: Big tech is trying to refashion our working patent system into the failed global patent systems modeled after the

19th-century German military-industrial economy dominated by cartels. The sponsors of this bill are attempting to bring our patent system from a world leader to the lowest levels of the Lowest Common Denominator, following the least inventive, least creative countries.

FSB: Which proposed changes are most troubling?

Margolin: Let's take first-to-file rule. This creates nothing more than a race to the patent office. That's what the Europeans and Japanese do because their patent systems were specifically designed to maintain the status quo. Now the supporters of this bill wish to cripple the kinds of upstarts that they once were.

FSB: What's specifically wrong with first-to-file?

Margolin: An invention requires more than just that initial epiphany. We have the opportunity, in this country, under our current patent system, to perfect our invention before we file our patent. Europeans and Japanese object to this. They want to file fast. Incomplete patents will muck up the water for better, thought-out patents. If that concept is introduced here, it will increase the patent pendency rate. The Patent Office says it takes approximately 36 months on average to get a patent, but my experience is that it can take as long as five years.

FSB: What's wrong with a longer pendency, if it results in a better patent, one that is less likely to be litigated?

Margolin: It doesn't result in better patents. Long waits don't produce better or stronger patents - just older, weaker, less useful, less timely patents. If you've got an application that involves breakthrough technology, and you've got to wait five or 10 years for your patent to issue, technology will have changed and superseded it.

FSB: What's the worst idea in the new bill?

Margolin: The proposal that pending applications be available for public review 18 months after filing. The Patent Office will automatically publish all patent applications, including all of the particulars of every invention, on the internet, so that anyone with a browser can read them. It might take five or 10 years for your patent to issue, but while your patent application is waiting for approval, everyone in the world will be able to copy and build upon it.

FSB: Aren't patent applications published now?

Margolin. Yes, in 1999, Congress legislated a change in the patent system that requires publication 18 months after you've submitted a patent application. That means they publish your application on the Internet unless the application is withdrawn before the 18-month window. Patentees can opt out, if their patent is only to be filed domestically.

FSB: So what's different?

Margolin: Proposed changes would make the 18-month publication rule mandatory for all patents filed in the U.S., while giving the inventor absolutely no protection at all. Once the Patent Office presses a button to publish your invention on the Internet, it takes less than a quarter of a second to travel from Washington, D.C. to China and everywhere else where it can be read, opposed, stolen or otherwise abused. This is the most destructive part of the changes. For inventors, it's striking at the heart of our lives. It's as if all of our private financial information were to be published on the internet. If this goes through, it will cripple American technology.

FSB: So, how are you fighting the proposed changes?

Margolin: I am vice-president of the Professional Inventors Alliance (www.piausa.org), a group representing thousands of independent, professional inventors, universities and small businesses. We are establishing a grass roots campaign. We don't have multi-million budgets for lobbying to fight this. Our big challenge is that these bills are gathering steam. I've never seen anything progress through Congress as fast as these measures are moving.

Find this article at
http://money.cnn.com/2007/07/02/magazines/fsb/patent_interview/index.htm.

*George Margolin has been a member of NOCCC for ages and served as its President and in other capacities.

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Your Board of Directors welcomes members who joined recently:

- **Jack S King 1/1/2008**
- **Don Ruddy 1/6/2008**

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

Trademarks/Copyrights — The mention of names of products in this publication without trademark or copyright symbols does not imply that they are not so protected by law. All trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Production — *Orange Bytes* was produced with

Microsoft Word ®

Type set with True Type fonts:
Arial, Bauhaus 93 and Times New Roman.

Printed by: Creative Technology

5959 Palmer Blvd.

Sarasota, FL 34232—28

800-533-1031

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

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

Send e-mail address changes to membership@noccc.org

QUICK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Date:_____   I am a new member   ☐
          This is a renewal; my membership number is   _____

PLEASE PRINT!
Name _____
Address_____
City _____
State_____ Zip _____ Phone (_____)_____-_____
email_____
Fees: see page 25 for fee schedule; $35 for single membership

Amount enclosed $_____

MC / Visa _____ Expires _____

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

North Orange County Computer Club

PO Box 3616

Orange, CA 92857

**Consider all that you get with membership and Join Now!**

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

- **Special Interest Groups**. Our SIGs cover a broad spectrum of 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 Help Line**. **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 news magazine reports on current activities and gives you articles and reviews geared toward your needs.

- **Raffles**. We have distributed thousands of dollars worth of hardware, software, and book raffle prizes at our Main Meeting.

- **Product Reviews.** Write a review for this newsletter and keep the software, hardware, book or CD. Members' reviews are published in this newsletter.

- **Consignment Table**. We have a consignment table on select monthly meeting days in which we assist members to sell or buy all kinds of computer items.

- **Volunteer Work**. You are given opportunities to help our activities with interesting assignments. *An all-volunteer organization*, you can join with other members in a variety of activities, write articles for our newsletter, conduct a seminar, run a SIG, man the help desk, show new members around, help the membership committee, and more.

Parking Information — Chapman University's main parking lot (P6) is on the north side of the campus (enter from Glassell and University Dr.) and lot P3 (N Center St. and E Sycamore Ave) is free of charge for **NOCCC**'s meetings on Sunday. Please feel free to park in the parking lots. *Note that Center St. does not run through to Chapman Ave.*

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 the 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!