

Orange Bytes

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

Vol 34 • No 10

October 2009

Main Meeting, October 4

Christy Coobatis of the Music/Performing Arts Dept., MiraCosta College will talk about using computers to create music.

(See Page 3 for more details.)

There will be a Consignment Table and E-Waste Collection during the Oct. 2009 meeting. (See Page 6)

NOCCC Handicapped Members Access (See Page 3)

Special Interest Group (SIG) & Main Meeting

9:00 a.m.

Linux for Desktop Users..... Science 131a

Topics about the Linux operating system. Beginners Q in here also.

Visual Programming.....Science 111

Visual Basic, Visual BasicScript, Visual C++ and Visual J++ for Beginners.

Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook.....Science 109

Topics about these three parts of the Microsoft Office Suite.

Microsoft Access..... Science 306

How to use Queries to retrieve a desired set of records.

Beginner's Digital Photography.....Science 127

Ed will continue his review of creating slide shows using ProShow from Photodex.

10:30 a.m.

Beginners PC Q & A Irvine Hall

Beginners' questions about PCs.

10:30 a.m.

Advanced Digital Photography..... Science 127

All about polarizing filters.

Linux Administration.....Science 131a

Topics about the Linux operating system.

Understanding Operating Systems.....Science 111

Help with DOS, Windows, OS/2, etc.

Visual Programming for Apps (VBA).....Science 306

Features in VBA that enable wonderful capabilities not available in the standard Access.

12:00 Noon

PIG SIG.....Hashinger Courtyard

Lunch and conversation.

12:30 p.m.

PC Q & A.....Irvine Hall

Q & A about PCs.

2:00 p.m.

Main Meeting..... Irvine Hall

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

Future Meeting Dates in 2009-10:
Nov. 8, Dec. 6,
Jan.10, Feb. 7, Mar.7, Apr. 11, May 2



*SWUG 1st Prize in 2004, 2005, 2006 APCUG 2nd Prize in 2003, 2004, 2005 Founded April 1976

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Orange Bytes Staff

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

Editor - Edits and makes final selections of the articles to be included in the newsletter.
Ted Littman editor@noccc.org

Associate Editor/Production - Receives articles from the editor and lays out the issue of the newsletter.
Ted Littman editor@noccc.net

Circulation - Oversees mailing and distribution of the newsletter.

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Reviews Editor - Communicates with the vendors and members who evaluate products and write reviews. Makes sure members meet deadlines. Sends a copy of the newsletter to vendors of products we review.

Ted Littman(714) 779-936, reviews@noccc.org

Copy Editor - Does final proof reading of the newsletter for typos and misspellings.

Dennis Martin.....(951) 926-3065, dennismartin@dslextre.me.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The following positions are available:

Contributing Editors - Write articles for the newsletter.

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

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

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

Contact editor@noccc.org or (714) 779-1936.

*Celebrating 33 years of
“Friends Helping Friends”*

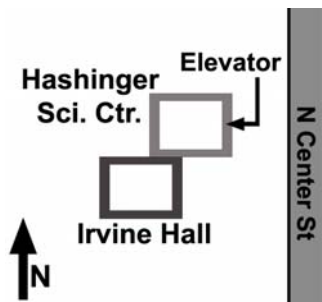
Oct. 4th Main Meeting 2 p.m. Irvine Hall

Christy Coobatis of the Music/Performing Arts Dept. at MiraCosta College will speak about using computers to create music. Topics include hardware, interfaces, software, MIDI, synthesizers, scoring to picture and music technology. His background is in setting up and operating music laboratories, recording studios, and music technology for live sound. He is a composer, educator, and musician who uses PC's and Macintosh computers in tandem for the production of music.



Handicap Access

An elevator is available at the East side of the Hashinger Science Center. It provides access to the upper floors of Hashinger and to Irvine Hall, where we hold our Main Meeting. To reach Irvine Hall, take the elevator to the basement. Turn left, then right and walk to the end of the hallway. There should be a set of double doors on your left. Go through them and through the next set of double doors to get into the auditorium of Irvine Hall.



President's Message

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC President

The September meeting was an interesting one for several reasons. The first was the meeting date itself. Initially scheduling had considered that the club would not want to meet on September 6 as it was the Labor Day weekend and had picked September 20 as the alternate date because September 13 was already taken. I was told that there were two reasons for doing this, the first being that none of the campus audio/video people would be available to assist us as it was the Labor Day weekend and second, that the City of Orange street fair was going to be on that weekend. I pointed out that the street fair could actually be a positive drawing point as club members could attend the Main meeting and then still has time to walk over and take in the fair. I explained to them that we did not need and did not use the assistance of the campus audio/video people. I explained to them that the September 20 date would just make it impossible to do all those things that needed to be done in order to get the Orange Bytes newsletter out to the membership before the October meeting. That we would rather just cancel the September meeting rather than try to go through that production nightmare. After doing some checking it was finally decided that the contract could be modified and that we would be allowed to have the meeting on September 6.

Jeff Monday, the September meeting speaker from Apple Computer, also made it interesting as that was the first presentation by Apple that our club has had in a very long time. For those of you who have not been around that long, at one time the North Orange County Computer Club's membership had a majority of Apple users. That was when the Apple II was hot, really, really, hot. When for business users owning an Apple II computer meant you could run the VisiCalc spreadsheet. At the time there was nothing comparable to the VisiCalc spreadsheet, and a whole lot of people, especially bean counters, were going ga ga over the capabilities that the program offered.

A large part of Jeff's presentation dealt with the capabilities of the iMovie program. This is the program that comes bundled free with all of Apple's computers for creating movies. Though of course it always looks easier to do with a presenter who knows how to use it, the program did seem to be far more straightforward and intuitive than a number of other programs that I have used. It may not have all of the bells and whistles that some of the other offerings provide, but it did look like most users could put together a simple straightforward movie without much pain. Like a number of other movie creation programs, iMovie allows you to add a music soundtrack in any one of a number of different ways. Jeff chose to have the computer calculate a jazz soundtrack with the instruments that he picked that sounded very good. If you weren't there you missed a very good presentation. See you next month.

NOCCC meeting attendees please note that food and beverages are not permitted in Irvine Hall per Chapman University regulations

Membership Benefits

As a valued member, we bring you a section of discounts and offers as part of the entire "Benefit of Belonging." (Caveat: we are unable to endorse these companies, but make these offers available as a service to our members.)

User Group Offers - Software and Hardware

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

- 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

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 <http://store.techsmith.com/order/bundlegov.asp>.

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

User Group Offers - Books and Magazines

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

O'Reilly Books - Get 35% off all books and PDFs from O'Reilly, No Starch, Paraglyph, PC Publishing, Pragmatic Bookshelf, SitePoint, or Syngress books you purchase directly from O'Reilly. Just use code DSUG when ordering online, www.oreilly.com/store/, 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 35% off by joining the Peachpit Club. Use the following hyperlink to sign up: http://memberservices.informit.com/my_account/login.aspx?partner=52 to sign up as a member. User group members should note that once you've become a Peachpit Club member, you may use your user group coupon code ON TOP of the permanent savings you earn as a member of the club. Just log into the site before you make a purchase to ensure this permanent discount will be in effect, and then enter coupon code **UE-23AA-PEUF** (case-sensitive) at checkout! This coupon code is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes. The offer applies to all titles at peachpit.com including New Riders, Macromedia Press, Adobe Press, and Peachpit Press.

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

Free Internet Libraries - Upon retiring from college teaching/administration, **Walter Antoniotti** began developing **Free Internet Libraries** (http://www.businessbookmall.com/Free_Internet_Libraries.htm) for students, teachers, and professionals. Of special interest to PC users are these free computer libraries:

Free Business Software
(http://www.businessbookmall.com/Free_Business_Software_Internet_Library.htm)

Free Software Tutorials
(http://www.businessbookmall.com/Software_Tutorials_Internet_Library.htm)

Excel Internet Library
(http://www.businessbookmall.com/Microsoft_Excel_Directories_For_Beginners.htm)

THE SEPTEMBER CLUB RAFFLES

GENERAL DRAWING PRIZES:

- ❖ Roxio Calendar Creator 2009 Software DVD
- ❖ Powerpoint 2007 Complete Makeover Kit Book
- ❖ The Art of 3D Computer Animation & Effects Book

MEMBERS ONLY DRAWING PRIZES:

(Wear your NOCCC Membership Badge and get a free ticket!)

- ❖ Windows Vista in a Nutshell Book
- ❖ Becoming a Digital Designer Book
- ❖ *Plus other goodies*

Consignment

The NOCCC Consignment Table **will** be available during the **October 2009** meeting. **John Heenan** will be presiding. It is open on even months, the same as the e-Waste collection, so bring items for sale. For your information:

- 1) Only current members can place items for sale, but non-members are welcome to purchase items from the table. This is a great place to get some money for your surplus computer items, and help the NOCCC at the same time.
- 2) The consignment table operates on a 90/10% basis — with the owner getting 90%, and the Club treasury 10%.
- 3) **You can fill out a Consignment Table User List and item tags at the table:**
The user list and each tag must contain:
 - a) Seller's name
 - b) Seller's NOCCC membership number
 - c) Item name and description
 - d) Item asking price
- 4) The seller may pick up all items and/or money 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. The club has no storage room available for unsold items
- 5) 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.

e-Waste Collection

California disposal laws have made it illegal to put monitors and computers in the regular trash. **Omni Technics, Inc.** will be at our regular meetings to collect e-Waste **on even months**, so hold on to your "junk" until October.

Check their web site for more information:
<http://www.ca-recycle.com/>.

NOCCC Officers

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

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Membership Chairman

[Open](#)

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Programs/Speakers Coordinator

Mary Cornett.....995-5551..... pacificblu@gmail.com

Public Relations

Mary Cornett.....995-5551.....pacificblu@roadrunner.com

University Liaison

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



NOCCC Help Line

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

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



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

SIG Leaders List

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

| SIG | BLDG | RM. | TIME | LEADER | E-MAIL | PHONE |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------|-------------|---------------|--|----------------|
| Linux for Desktop/Admin | Science | 131A | 9:00/10:30 | Bob Ray | bobrobo@dialup4less.com | (714) 634-7520 |
| Beginner's Digital Photography | Science | 127 | 9:00 | Ed Schwartz | Edwardns@cox.net | (949) 374-4845 |
| Visual Programming | Science | 111 | 9:00 | Anson Chapman | aecrcss@hotmail.com | (909) 860-9515 |
| Word, Excel and Outlook | Science | 109 | 9:00 | Tia Christian | lwilliams_00@yahoo.com | (714) 263-6105 |
| Access | Science | 306 | 9:00 | Bob Dickson | robertbdickson@socal.rr.com | (714) 539-1304 |
| Advanced Digital Photography | Science | 127 | 10:30 | Larry Klees | lklees@dslextreme.com | (714) 879-6405 |
| Understanding OS's | Science | 111 | 10:30 | Charlie Moore | mooreca@adelphia.net | (714) 529-9071 |
| Access VBA | Science | 306 | 10:30 | Bob Dickson | robertbdickson@socal.rr.com | (714) 539-1304 |
| PC Q&A | Irvine Hall | | 10:30/12:30 | Jim Sanders | jsanders@ligasmicro.com | (714) 544-3589 |

Please report SIG changes to Bob Love: wb9plg@sbcglobal.net or (714) 573-9876.

Computer Performance Considerations

Written by Gary Bentley, editor, SouthWest International Personal Computer Club (TX) Throughput, April 2009, www.swipcc.org, [bentley.gary \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:bentley.gary@gmail.com)

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

When I evaluate what might be done to maximize the performance of a computer system, whether that be a system already in use or one I might be specifying for order (i.e., specifying the hardware with a particular level of performance in mind for the intended application), I look at several key factors.

The most critical factor is how much system RAM is available (if you are ordering a new system, then you can also order faster RAM and be cognizant of addressing issues). I will state flatly that, all factors being equal, the more RAM available, the faster your computer system will operate. In the same vein, if you want to make full use of that system RAM, get an external graphics card with its own RAM so you don't force your system to share RAM with the video display. If you are specifying a new computer, get the fastest FSB (front side bus) speed you can afford with the microprocessor and then match the RAM bus speed to take advantage of that high bus speed. Don't let a computer maker fool you with a low system price while handing off old slow RAM to you when the motherboard and processor would support faster bus speed RAM. New systems will always use DDR RAM, so that should not be a consideration (and older systems will not be able to use it). Don't be confused by discussions of virtual memory and page files. If you have a large amount of RAM (1 GB or more with Windows XP—3 or 4 GB with Vista, the OS memory hog of all time), your system will rarely need to page out process memory onto the hard drive paging file. You can check that in Task Manager (hit CTRL SHIFT ESC or CTRL ALT DEL or right click the Task Bar and select Task Manager) by looking at the Performance tab and the Physical Memory Total in conjunction with the Commit Charge. The Physical Memory Total is the amount of RAM you have in your system. The Commit Charge is the total memory allocated to programs and the operating system. If the Commit Charge (Total or Peak) doesn't exceed the amount of RAM, then the hard drive pagefile is rarely if ever being used and your system should be running at full RAM speed without hard drive performance issues (except when loading the OS and starting an application, etc.). You can also use Performance Monitor (Start, Administrative Tools, Performance) and look at the Memory, Pages Output/Sec parameter. Even if the amount of committed memory exceeds available RAM, if the actual Pages Output/Sec is low or zero most of the time (quoting Microsoft) there is no significant performance problem related to available RAM. I doubt there would be any reason for the typical home user to require a 64 bit computer in order to utilize sufficient RAM.

The second most critical factor is the performance of the hard drive, i.e., the amount of utilization of your hard drive (present or anticipated for the application), the speed at which the drive platters rotate, and the speed of the interface to your hard drive. You never want to reach 50% of capacity of your hard drive. The more data you have on a hard drive the farther the disk drive read/write head has to move inward on the spinning platter to get to the data (on the average). This increases the seek time, the time required for the read/write head to position itself over the desired concentric data track on the spinning disk platter. So, use a hard drive with sufficient storage that you do not exceed 40% or so of the storage capacity (high performance server hard drives often are destoked or short stroked, i.e., limited to 40% or less so as to keep the data on the outer edge of the platters where it can be quickly reached). Once the read/write head reaches a track then the rotational speed of the platter comes into play, introducing latency, the time required for the desired sector of the track to rotate into position beneath the head. How do you reduce latency?

Get a hard drive that spins as fast as you can afford. Most desktop hard drives now spin at 7200 RPM (don't let them slip you a 5400 RPM drive on your desktop or your laptop!). If your drive has a slower RPM, you can increase performance by purchasing a 7200 RPM drive. Note that high performance server drives spin at 10,000 and 15,000 RPM, but those drives are expensive. If you are evaluating a replacement drive (or specifying the hard drive in a new system), look at the access time parameter for the drive. This will generally be around 11 milliseconds for 7200 RPM desktop PC ATA/SATA drives. The access time will include seek time and rotational latency. As for the type of interface, ATA drives (which peaked at around 133 MB/sec interface performance, setting aside internal data rate of around 60 MB/s and PCI bus rate considerations) are no longer offered, so you will see SATA (serial ATA) drives in a new computer. I wouldn't bother attempting to replace an ATA drive in an old PC with a SATA drive. You would need a SATA controller card as well as SATA drive and you might as well just purchase a new computer. The current SATA interface rate is 3 Gbps (the initial SATA interface was 1.5 Gbps), i.e., 3 gigabits per second. That translates to approximately 300 MB/sec. However, the actual rate that the read head can read the data off the spinning platter of the drive is closer to 100 MB/sec (the internal data rate). You therefore can benefit by having a drive with a large cache memory, where a large amount of data has been read internally by the hard drive before the interface is accessed, at which time the interface can burst perform at the full interface speed of 3 Gbps/300 MB/sec. I note that even the expensive server-grade SCSI and SAS drives have about that same external interface transfer rate, i.e., 300 – 320 MB/sec, so their increased performance is coming directly from the high rotational speeds (10 – 15 K) and fast seeks, giving access times of 3 – 5 ms vs. 11 ms or so for desktop SATA drives. Defragmenting your drive regularly will help keep the drive operating at peak efficiency.

A less critical factor is the speed of the microprocessor itself (FSB considerations aside as they relate to RAM access speed).

A faster microprocessor or a dual or quad core processor will allow applications, their processes and threads to execute faster (to actually run the microprocessor instructions of which a program is composed) once the instructions and data reach the microprocessor.

So, if you are processing intensive applications like video or music (studio) production and editing (or scientific number crunching), faster and more core processors will speed things up considerably, but only if you have plenty of RAM and a high performance hard drive.

Mr. Bentley studied electrical engineering at the University of Texas, began working in the electronics industry in 1978 with GTE Network Systems (Lenkurt), then software engineering with various startups in the 1980's, designing and implementing, among other things, pre-Internet email communications systems multitasking on Intel platforms and MSDOS PC's. 1984 - 1986. Gary now provides Information Technology consulting services in the El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico areas. Gary has edited and contributed articles to the award-winning Southwest International Personal Computer Club monthly magazine, "Throughput", since December, 2003.



Ted's Stuff

By Ted Littman, NOCCC Editor

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



Winows Secrets Newsletter

Security Baseline Recommendations for Your PCs

The latest findings on hardware, software, & services for individual users.

(<http://WindowsSecrets.com/comp/090827>)

Bob Rankin's Newsletter

Free Credit Reports Online

Bob tells you how to get your report and FICO score free.

(http://askbobrankin.com/free_credit_reports_online.html?awt_l=DGqD3&awt_m=1aPEjQ8Tq8P6SL)

Which Blackberry Should You Buy?

Has all the TV promotion got to you? But confused on what to buy? Read Bob's take on this nifty gadget.

(http://askbobrankin.com/which_blackberry_should_i_buy.html?awt_l=DGqD3&awt_m=1aMnF0ReS8P6SL)

Partition Managers

This is a useful writeup if you are a beginner and want to know how to create, resize, and manage partitions on your hard drives.

(http://askbobrankin.com/partition_managers.html?awt_l=DGqD3&awt_m=1Zm5G9xZS8P6SL)

Secure Your Software

Take a look at what you need for total protection (even if you have a firewall, antivirus, & malware protection).

(http://askbobrankin.com/secure_your_software.html?awt_l=DGqD3&awt_m=1Zm5G9xZS8P6SL)

Protect Yourself form ATM Scams

Don't be a victim. Bob tells you how to protect yourself.

(http://askbobrankin.com/atm_scams.html?awt_l=DGqD3&awt_m=1eOQvqcyt8P6SL)

How to Secure Your Router

Did you know that wired routers are no more secure than wireless? Bob tells you how to protect your system from the Internet bad guys.

(http://askbobrankin.com/securing_your_router.html)

Online Computer Repair

If you're like most folks and haul your PC down to the repair shop or call for a home service when things go wrong, here's an alternate to consider. Assuming, of course, that you still have an Internet connection!

(http://askbobrankin.com/online_computer_repair.html)

From the Folks at HP

Linux 101, a Beginner's Guide

Free online classes on this and related topics; take a look!

(http://h30187.www3.hp.com/?tab=atWork&mcID=em15atworktop&dimid=1062430490&dclid=null&jumpid=em_edm/us/sep09/smb/across-bg/newsletter/mrm/mcc/atworktop/rbu_category/model_desc)

Protect Your PC from Spam, Spyware, & Viruses

Another worthwhile free online class.

(http://h30187.www3.hp.com/campus/p/campusId/11264?mcID=em15PCbody&dimid=1062430490&dclid=null&jumpid=em_edm/us/sep09/smb/across-bg/newsletter/mrm/mcc/PCbody/rbu_category/model_desc)

Adobe Reader Alternatives

If you read a lot of PDF files and you're unhappy with this somewhat bloated program, there are several other free alternatives.

(http://askbobrankin.com/alternatives_to_adobe_reader.html)

Cnet Recommendations

8 Free Software Programs for Students

The "price" is right! (http://reviews.cnet.com/2710-30254_7-184.html?tag=nl.e415)

Products Available For Review

The NOCCC is regularly sent copies of books or software by the publishers for our review. **We can also request specific products for you to review.** These reviews are published in this newsletter, the Orange Bytes. **Then you get to keep the book or software.** If you are interested in doing a review,



please call or send me an e-mail and provide your membership number, phone number, and e-mail address; or pick up the product in the lobby of Irvine Hall at the next NOCCC meeting. **Ted Littman, (714) 779-1936, reviews@noccc.org.**

Note to Reviewers

- ❖ You have 2 months to submit a review. Due-cause time extensions must be requested from the Reviews Editor.
- ❖ You must leave a security deposit (check, credit card number, or cash equal to the product's list value.), returnable upon our receiving an acceptable review.
- ❖ If you decide to return the product without reviewing, there is a \$2 penalty after the first month and a \$5 penalty after the second month.
- ❖ Guidelines for preparing your review are addressed on the next page.

Boxed Programs and CDs

None.

Books

Operating Systems

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

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

Office & Home Programs

New: Ado.net 3.5, LINQ, & EF w/VB2008 – From Murach For database programmers. MSRP=\$52.

New: Office 2008 for the Mac on Demand – If you use this Microsoft suite on your Mac, this book by Steve Johnson should be of interest. From Que. MSRP=\$30.

New: FileMaker Pro 10 In Depth – Written by Jesse Feiler & published by Que, this book covers the features of this powerful database system and is aimed at the FileMaker developer community. MSRP=\$40.

Googlepedia - This book excels at taking you into the confusing fine points of using Google.. From Que. MSRP=\$30.

Internet

New: Teach Yourself Facebook in Ten Minutes – From Sams. MSRP=\$15.

Teach Yourself YouTube in Ten Minutes – From Sams. MSRP=\$15.

Teach Yourself LinkedIn in Ten Minutes – From Sams. MSRP=\$15.

All a Twitter – From Que. MSRP=\$20.

New: The Twitter Book – From O'Reilly. MSRP=\$20.

iPhone; The Missing Manual – From O'Reilly. MSRP=\$25.

New: Web Geek's Guide to Google Chrome – The browser of your dream? By Ledford & Davis from Que. MSRP=\$20.

New: Murach's Ado.net 3.5 LINQ and the Entity Framework with VB 2008 – MSRP=\$52.50.

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.

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

Microsoft Voice & Unified Communications – From Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$40.

Digital Photography & Design

New: The Shot Doctor - The Amateur's Guide to Taking Great Digital Photos. By Mark Soper from Que. MSRP=\$20.

New: Adobe InDesign Styles – Author Michael Murphy explores styles in InDesign CS4 for graphic designers, art directors, and production artists starting with the simplest concepts and building up to the most intricate and time-saving concepts. Peachpit Press. MSRP=\$45.

New: Real World InDesign CS4 – This book covers the waterfront on Adobe's new design suite. Authored by Olav Kvorn & David Blatner, it is published by Peachpit Press. MSRP=\$55.

New: Photoshop CS4 Down & Dirty Tricks – By well-known author, Scott Kelby & from New Riders. MSRP=\$45.

New: Teach Yourself Photoshop CS4 in 24 Hours – Sams. MSRP=\$35.

New: Photoshop CS4, vol. 2 Visual Quickstart Guide – For intermediate & advanced users. Authors Weinmann & Lourekas from Peachpit Press. MSRP=\$40.

New: The Adobe Illustrator WOW! Book/CD – Peachpit Press. MSRP=\$60.

Packaging Sustainability – This Wiley book covers tools, systems, & strategies for innovative package design. \$50.

The Graphic Designer's Guide to Portfolio Design – A useful book by Debbie Rose Myers for those interested in graphic design or multimedia. With sample portfolios and step-by-step instructions. From Wiley. MSRP=\$45.

Security

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

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

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

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

Cisco Networking Simplified, 2nd Ed. – A comprehensive visual explanation of networking technologies from Cisco Press/Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$40.

CCIE Professional Development Network Security

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

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

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

NOCCC members to take these items and commit to reviewing them promptly. The reward for doing a review is that you get to keep the book or software. If we do not review them, they may stop sending these items in the future.

Important! There are two articles at the following link. One provides suggestions and guidelines for preparing a review or article for the Orange Bytes. The second provides guidelines for submittal. Please read both. The link is:

www.noccc.org/bytes/info/index.html

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

No Password Needed for Latest Web Orange Bytes

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

The latest posted issue of the Orange Bytes is now available in PDF format and in color with **live** internal and external links. Go to our website, <http://www.noccc.org/bytes/index.html>. There is no requirement for a user name and password to access it. Older issues also are available.

Jim Sanders has updated all critical pages of our web site.

Nevertheless, we urgently need a volunteer for Webmaster to maintain the required updates. If you can help, contact President Jim Sanders.

Preparing a Review or Article for the NOCCC Orange Bytes

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

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

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

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

The NOCCC Reviews Editor, Ted Littman, (714) 779-1936, reviews@noccc.org is often sent copies of books or software by the publishers for review by one of our members. **We need**

A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining, but wants it back the minute it begins to rain.

Mark Twain

Honesty is the best policy - when there is money in it.

Mark Twain

I have a higher and grander standard of principle than George Washington. He could not lie; I can, but I won't.

Mark Twain

Open Office.Org 3.0 An Evolutionary Improvement

*Review written by Bill Wayson, LINUX SIG Leader, Channel Islands PCUG, California
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OpenOffice.org (OO.o) is Free and Open Source Software's (FOSS) premier alternative to the Microsoft Office productivity suite. It offers a high level of compatibility with many of the ever-changing MS Office formats, provides many of the same features as MS Office, and works similarly to MS Office. This month, we will explore the recently released OpenOffice.org 3.0, which is available for Microsoft Windows, Linux, Apple's Macintosh, Sun's Solaris, and several other operating systems. Many, if not most, users of MS Office who require the broad, deep range of features of MS Office could change to OO.o and become productive after a very shallow learning curve.



If your requirements are more for just compatibility with Microsoft's Word document formats in a word processor, you can consider more streamlined FOSS alternatives such as AbiWord.

OO.o is a full-featured office productivity suite comprised of six integrated applications: the **Writer** word processor (which also has a Web page editing mode), **Calc** spreadsheet, **Draw** graphics program, **Impress** presentations program, **Base** database program, and **Math** equation editor.

OO.o 3.0 is an evolutionary improvement on the application suite, with new features, enhancements, and user interface improvements. Users of Apple Macintosh OS X systems benefit greatly from OO.o 3.0, which will now run as a native OS X application. OS X users will also have support for Microsoft's VBA macro language and the Calc Solver component, which allows solving optimization problems where the optimum value of a particular spreadsheet cell has to be calculated based on constraints provided in other cells. Both of these features are missing in MS Office 2008 for Mac OS X.

All users of OO.o 3.0 benefit from its improvements, including the two above. Another area of significant improvement is one where OO.o is breaking out of Microsoft's mimicry mode: support for open document standards. OO.o 3.0 supports the

latest OpenDocument Format (PDF) specification. In fact, ODF is the OO.o default document format. ODF is gaining wider acceptance worldwide, being adopted by more companies and governments as the standard for documents, and becoming supported by an increasing number of applications. OO.o will also read and write many other formats, including those of various versions of MS Office and Word, plain text, and several PDA document formats.

Additionally, it will read the newest formats introduced in MS Office 2007. Exchanging documents with users of Microsoft's products should not be an issue. The Writer screen now sports a handy zoom slider control, making it quick and easy to change the zoom level of the view. Additionally, it will automatically display multiple pages of the document as the zoom level is lowered. Writer now displays notes — notations added to a document that are not necessarily meant to be printed — at the edge of the editing window to the side of the document, making it easier to read them and see their context in the document. In addition, notes from different users are displayed in different colors, together with the editing date and time, facilitating collaborative work on a document.

Calc sees some useful improvements. One is in the charts feature. Now, custom error bars can be included, and regression equations and correlation coefficients can be displayed right in the chart. Another is a new feature, spreadsheet collaboration through workbook sharing. This feature allows multiple users to work collaboratively on a spreadsheet while avoiding editing conflicts. The users share a spreadsheet, each adding their data. The spreadsheet owner can then easily integrate the new data with a few clicks. And Calc now supports 1,024 columns per worksheet.

Draw now lets you crop images the same way that most other graphics programs do, by dragging handles located at the edges and corners of an image. This same improvement appears in Impress, too. Additionally, Impress now natively supports inserting tables into presentations. Tables can be added directly into the presentation and edited within Impress as native Impress objects.

Improvements affecting the entire suite include a new set of icons, expanded feature support when exporting to XML, and a new gateway to the suite called the **Start Center**, which makes it more intuitive to get to where you want to go in the suite.

There is nothing revolutionary in OO.o 3.0. What's new are several improvements and enhancements that will keep the suite in contention with its competitors. And we have not touched at all on the features OO.o already had before 3.0. If you need a productivity suite with both a broad and deep set of features and, particularly, if you are not married to Microsoft Office, you should give OO.o a look. It costs you nothing to try; you may just like it, so it just may save you hundreds of dollars.

Foxit Reader: A Short Review

*Review by Sharon Walbran, Editor, TCPC Digital Viking, Twin Cities PC User Group, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota
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This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

A Worthy Alternative to Adobe Reader

When one of my clients was concerned about hacker threats to Adobe Reader last winter I went in search of alternative software. I found the free version of Foxit Reader at <http://www.foxitsoftware.com/pdf/reader/>

It's well worth a look! Here are just some of the advantages:

Small Size. The file is about one-sixth the size of the latest free version of Adobe Reader and takes seconds to download and install. The small footprint is great for older computers or those short on hard drive space. There is also a U3 version for flash drives.

Speed. It starts up fast and runs fast. No delays while splash screens load. Printing is also speedy.

"No surprises." Foxit Reader will remind you of Adobe Reader—same interface, menus and toolbars so the transition is painless.

Open multiple files in tabbed format. If you like the ability to open several web pages on tabs in Mozilla Firefox you'll like the tabbed format of Foxit Reader as well. View several PDF files at a time and switch between them easily by clicking the tabs.

Mark up and leave comments on PDF documents. You can insert text boxes with comments right in line with text in the PDF document or draw arrows and graphics or highlight text. This is very helpful, especially when you are collaborating on a document with others.

Take it for a test run. You will not be disappointed.

Adobe Photoshop Elements 7 Classroom in a Book

*Reviewed by Willis Irons, a member of the Tucson Computer Society, AZ; eJournal of the TCS, June 2009
www.aztcs.org; [wbiroons\(at\)earthlink.net](mailto:wbiroons(at)earthlink.net)*

This article has been obtained from APCUG with the author's permission for publication by APCUG member groups; all other

uses require the permission of the author (see e-mail address above).

This book is part of the official training series from Adobe graphics and publishing software developed by Adobe product experts. Eleven lessons in this book are made up of a series of self-paced projects that give a hands on experience using Photoshop Elements 7. An included CD contains all the image files used in this book.



The book covers the basics of learning Adobe Photoshop Elements and provides countless tips and techniques to help become more productive with the program. Each lesson has clear explanations and step-by-step instructions. The book contains approximately 370 pages allowing in-depth study of many topics.

The approach is definitely from a technical how-to-do-it. Very little mention is made about using a camera for recording a scene or composing an ideal visual photograph. Encouragement is given to starting with the best conditions possible.

I began using Elements during the earliest versions and was using version 7 prior to receiving the book, so I felt that I was reasonably proficient. However I decided that I would not skip even one step of any lesson. That was a good decision. I continually was introduced to a new or more efficient technique, a time-saving automated-workflow or working with multiple files in batches.

For example, the Organizer is much more complex than I had been aware of. The suggestion is made to work with multiple catalogs, each with a separate project to provide a more efficient workflow. Catalogs can then be combined. The search portion is much more sophisticated than I had discovered. A wonderful new option for me was to discover the method for capturing frames from digital video. Do you know that you can import whole pages or just selected images from a PDF document?

One lengthy lesson is devoted to creating projects. The slide-show editor is very adequate for most creations. Many options are available for an appealing show. While assembling a complex photo montage from a blank screen the subject of layers is introduced. The artwork library is also introduced and explained. Several methods of sharing are the discussed including Online Album. This service can also be used for backup of all photo files.

The lesson about adjusting color in images is in depth. The three Edit modes are demonstrated and explained. Each has advantages. **Guided edit**, **Quick Fix** and **Full edit** were each used with the same files for comparison. Applying multiple

Smart Paint adjustments to a drab sky was illuminating. No pun intended.

The more techniques that you are to master, the more likely that you can meet the challenge of fixing a difficult photograph. At this time, sophisticated selection methods were introduced as well as a more in-depth look at layers. The next lesson was concerned with fixing exposure problems. Adjustment layers and blending modes were explained and demonstrated. Multiple images can be automatically fixed in batches with good results. Several methods and approaches are shown.

One lesson explores working with text. Included is a section on overlaying text that provides the ability to add a copyright of various appearances. Creating a type mask is demonstrated.

Another lesson is devoted to combining multiple images easily. The lesson learned: do not believe any image that you see.

And another very good lesson is provided regarding editing RAW images.

Overall

This was a very interesting and informative book. Time-wise, I spent the best part of three days reviewing each lesson and completing suggested assignments. Now, if I can just remember and use what I have learned! Practice. Practice.

About: Adobe Photoshop Elements 7, Classroom in a Book

Publisher: Adobe Press

<http://www.adobe.com/bookstore/product.asp?isbn=0321573900>

ISBN-10: 0321573900; ISBN-13: 978-0321573902

Price: \$44.99 (list), \$29.69 @ Amazon.com

Vipre Performance

Written by Ted Wirtz, a member of the Orange County PC Users' Group, CA, www.orcopug.org, [twirtz \(at\) pacbell.net](mailto:twirtz@pacbell.net)

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

I recently purchased two copies of Sunbelt Software VIPRE malware protection. I use the term "malware" because VIPRE scans for spyware, viruses and root kits all at the same time. I installed one copy on my older Windows XP computer and one on my new Windows Vista computer.

I needed to make a change because the antivirus provided by my ISP (AT&T) on my WinXP computer was being discontinued. They offered a free upgrade to McAfee Internet protection, but I didn't want that suite. The security programs I was using were **Webroot Spy Sweeper**, Computer Associates (CA) for virus

detection, and **Kerio firewall**. CA updates were to be shortly discontinued.

On my Vista computer I had Webroot, Trend Antivirus, and COMODO firewall. I started receiving notices that it was time to renew my Trend subscription. It was time to do "something."

Since Kerio firewall has been absorbed into Sunbelt Software, I have periodically received advertisements for Sunbelt products. Recently, they have been touting their new product, VIPRE, so I decided to give it a try. According to their literature it has been designed "from the ground up" to be very fast, yet use minimal computer resources in the process.

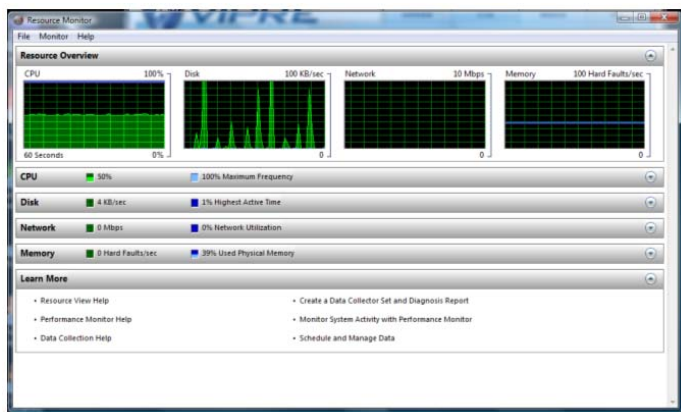
I am not sure how often signature updates are generated at Sunbelt, but there seems to be a new update applied every time I turn on the computer. I have also seen a new update applied more than once in a day. The default scheduler wants to check for updates every two hours. That's not to say a new update is created at those intervals, but instead to be sure that if an update for a critical new virus has been created, you will get and apply it in a reasonable period of time. Sunbelt also states that VIPRE is guaranteed to be compatible with Kerio or their current firewall.

Windows Vista

I removed both Trend and Webroot using the REVO Uninstaller. (I have found that REVO does a good job of cleaning up "leftovers" that often still remain after uninstalling a program using the standard Windows Add/Remove module in the Control Panel.) Then I installed VIPRE, input the Registration key and I was ready to go. I downloaded the most recent update table, and then started a "Deep" scan. VIPRE has two options: "Quick Scan" which scans running processes in memory, the registry, and the file types most likely to become infected. A "Deep Scan" scans all the above but includes every file on the computer, which obviously takes longer than a "quick" scan.

A bit of info about the Vista computer hardware: HP Pavilion Desktop with AMD dual core 5600+ processor (2.8 GHz) . 3GB dual channel DDR2 RAM. 500 GB Seagate SATA II hard drive. Nvidia based 7600 series video card. I am also running COMODO firewall. There seem to be no compatibility issues between VIPRE and COMODO.

After the scan was started, I opened up the Vista Resource Monitor to track what was happening. See Figure 1 below. As can be seen, CPU usage was consistently right at 50%. Looking at the task manager, I could see the load was being shared equally across both cores. I suspect the sharing was controlled by the Vista OS rather than the VIPRE program.



As expected, disk usage was in bursts. Short files were analyzed quickly, generating another disk request, where larger files took longer to analyze, leaving the disk idle periodically. The drive had been defragmented just two days before the tests, so fragmentation should not have been a factor in file access times.

There was no network activity since I had no other applications open at the time. VIPRE used 39% of the 3GB memory.

After scanning was complete, VIPRE reported the following in its scan summary:

Files – 154,335

Processes – 75

Registry – 28,937 entries

Cookies – 556 (15 flagged as tracking cookies)

Quarantined – 1 file, an HP uninstall.exe. Suspected as a ZLOB media codec trojan.

I believe this to be a false positive, since the file has been on the computer since its factory install, and was never flagged by the previous antivirus program. I have submitted the file to Sunbelt for further analysis.

Scan time was 86 minutes 30 seconds.

Windows XP

As mentioned previously, I also installed VIPRE on my older (about 5 years old) Windows XP computer. I first removed Webroot and the CA antivirus programs. I then ran CCleaner to remove any “telltales” left behind, and then installed VIPRE.

Windows XP computer hardware: ASUS A7N8X-E – Deluxe motherboard. AMD Athlon single core at 1.66 GHz core frequency. 1 GB of dual channel DDR2 RAM. Two Seagate 160GB SATA I hard drives in Raid 1 configuration (Mirrored drives). Mirroring on this machine is a combination of hardware and software. Disk is approximately 3 % fragmented. Nvidia based 7400 series video card. I am also running Kerio firewall.

After running a deep scan, VIPRE reported:

Files – 113,714

Processes – 41

Registry – 31,837 entries

Cookies – 327 (13 flagged as tracking cookies)

No other risks detected.

Scan time was 70 minutes 35 seconds. (As a comparison the last deep scan that I ran using CA antivirus took 2 ½ days!)

Figure 2 from the Windows XP Task Manager shows that CPU usage fluctuated around 37%.

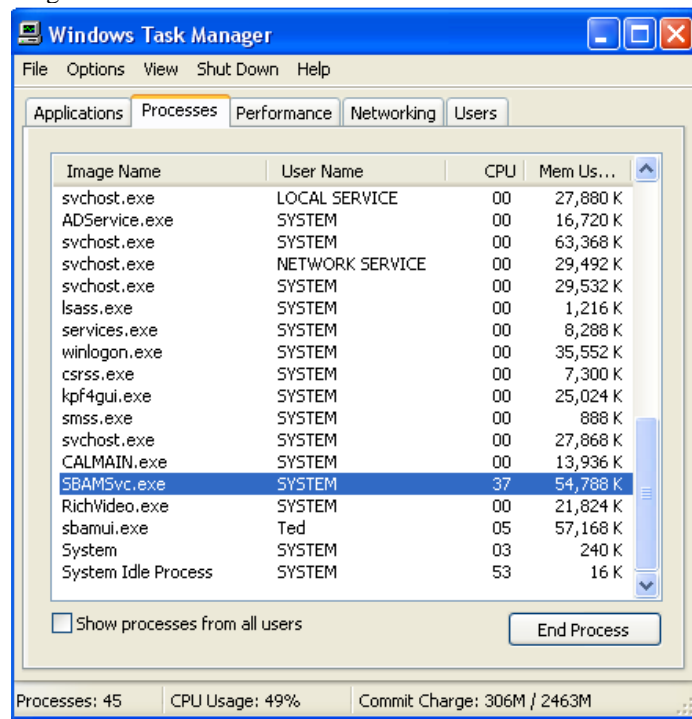
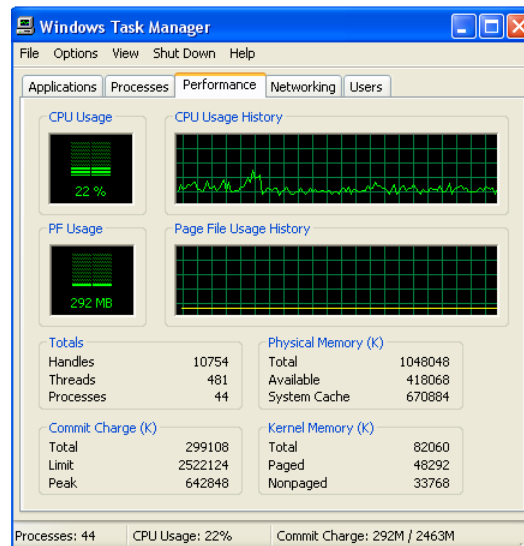


Figure 3 shows that while scanning, CPU usage had little fluctuation. It happened to be just 22 % at the moment I captured this screen, where Figure 2 happened to record 37 % at that moment.



In both systems I was able to perform normal tasks such as Web browsing while scans were running. There was a barely perceptible lag in performance. I also used my word processor on Vista to prepare this document while running a test scan. I could not detect any performance change. On the Vista computer I was able to view video clips with no stuttering or pauses. The videos were not full screen but occupied perhaps 20 to 25 % of the total screen similar to U-Tube clips. I didn't try videos on the Win XP computer. Sunbelt suggests that scanning

should be delayed if computation intensive programs are going to be run.

VIPRE has a feature that I personally have not seen in other anti-virus programs. If you put the computer in SLEEP mode, VIPRE will wake up the computer at the time saved in the scheduler, run a scan, and then optionally turn off the computer after completing the scan. There does not seem to be an option to resume sleep, but I suspect that I can make some setting changes in the screen saver to put the computer to sleep after X minutes of inactivity. I haven't tried this yet, because often a screen saver looks for mouse or keyboard activity, and seeing none kicks into the screen saver, even though the CPU and hard drive may be churning.

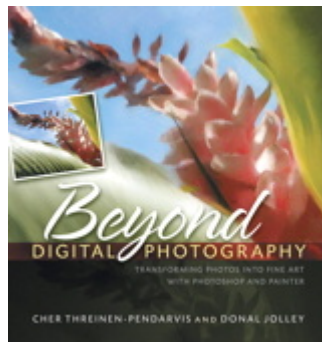
I have both computers set to scan at 1:00 AM daily. This is the default, and later I may rearrange the schedule to perhaps run only once or twice per week. I will definitely reduce the schedule for the Win XP computer since I don't use it as much as the Vista machine.

In all, I'm quite satisfied with the program, and would recommend it to anyone who is looking for a combined spyware-antivirus program. I like it much better than any of the others I have used over the years, including Norton and McAfee. It may not be a totally fair comparison, because program versions change over time, but at least that is my opinion.

Beyond Digital Photography: Transforming Photos into Fine Art with Photoshop and Painter

Reviewed by Steven M. Breitbart, NOCCC

If you are interested in creating art from Photographs, here is a book for you. Books like this are great because they show you how to use all those Photoshop and Painter tools and features you have always wondered about. The authors are eminently qualified and the book is a set of techniques to convert digital photographs into several known styles of art. Their aim is to cover "creative concepts, theory and technique." There is no question that they accomplish their goal. There are some excellent techniques included.



For the most part, the authors assume you know the basics about photography, personal computers, Painter and Photoshop. Still, Chapter 1, Getting Started, has a bit about Photoshop basics, Camera Raw, Painter basics and a Wacom Intuos4 M (medium-sized) tablet. The other chapters are:

- Chapter 2. Painterly Techniques for Non-Painters
- Chapter 3. Emphasizing the Subject
- Chapter 4. Adding Texture to Photographs
- Chapter 5. Emulating the Look of Watercolor
- Chapter 6. Achieving Acrylic and Oil-Painted Looks
- Chapter 7. Creating Abstract Art from Photographs
- Chapter 8. Composition and Collaging

October 2009

Chapter 2 doesn't require the use of a tablet, just filters in Photoshop and Painter. Also, it seems like Photoshop CS has many of the filters and brushes needed for these projects. Indeed, learning how to select and use brushes in Photoshop is a pleasant by-product of reading this book. You can list the brushes instead of looking at the whole pallet of brushes at once. Scrolling through a list and selecting a brush is not difficult at all.

The techniques for turning photographs into art are provided step by step. Some steps, usually the last, are not precisely described. The authors want the user to be able to make their decisions, to make their own art, not paint by numbers. They also encourage you to use your own photos, so the settings for their example photo won't necessarily be the best for your photo. Most of the projects require both applications, but some can be done with Photoshop alone.

Screen shots are taken from a Macintosh computer, but this is not a problem at all. Fortunately, they include commands for both Mac and IBM type computers. Many, many screen shots are included of almost every step. The book is printed on good quality paper, so you can usually see what you need to do, or how it should look.

The authors state that the projects in the book can be done with Photoshop version CS2 or later and Painter versions 9 to 11. They also recommend a "great-quality pressure-sensitive tablet." What they mean is a tablet that responds to how much pressure you put on the tip of the pen and the pen tilt as well.

I should state that these tools for creating art in this way are a bit pricey. Everyone knows Photoshop is the top of the heap and it's still around \$600 for the latest version, CS4. The latest version of Corel Painter is version 11 and is \$400 (NOCCC members can get an earlier version for less, see the Member Benefits section of the latest issue of the Orange Bytes). The Intuos4 M costs about \$350. Corel's web site sells Corel Painter and the tablet together as a bundle.

This book, on the other hand, is a good value for the list price of \$44.99, but is available at a discount at the usual places. NOCCC members can also get a discount by purchasing the book directly from the publisher. For more information, see the Member Benefits section of the latest issue of the Orange Bytes.

I have Photoshop CS, no version of Painter and a small Intuos Graphire tablet, so I didn't try to follow most of the examples. In addition, most of the techniques start with editing the Camera Raw file and I don't own a digital camera that produces one. But, I have been taking photographs and using computers for many years and using Photoshop for about nine years.

(continued on page 23)

September 2009 Main Meeting Report

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

The meeting started with President Jim Sanders mentioning that the NOCCC web site, www.noccc.org, had been updated. There is a page that is part of the site that has links to a wide variety of subjects, www.noccc.org/links/index.html. That page has not been updated and Jim asked for a volunteer to check out all or part of those links.

Our speaker was **Jeff Monday from Apple Computer**, who talked to us about the iLife Suite. He is an Account Executive with Apple, but he said that his job is selling Apple Computer to Colleges. One of the reasons he came to talk to us, besides being asked by NOCCC Director Mary Cornett, was that now that Macintosh computers use Intel chips, they can run Windows applications using a Windows emulator. People who never considered getting a Mac are now showing an interest.



According to Apple's Steve Jobs, "A computer is like a bicycle for your mind." Jeff, however, compared the computer to a paintbrush that allows the everyday person to create amazing pieces of work. He proceeded to demonstrate exactly that. All of the applications he used are part of the iLife Suite, and are included when you buy a Mac. The applications are iMovie, iPhoto, iWeb and Garage Band. More information is available at <http://www.apple.com/ilife/>.

The fictitious example project Jeff demonstrated was to create a web site that would give his mother directions so she could attend his presentation to the NOCCC at Chapman University's Irvine Lecture Hall auditorium. Believe it or not, the whole thing was done in less than an hour. It would have been quicker but he was explaining what he was doing.

First, he showed us a Sanyo Xacti video camera. It is waterproof to five feet deep and also functions as an 8-MP still camera. More information is available at http://sanyo.com/xacti/english/products/vpc_wh1/index.html. Before coming into Irvine Lecture Hall, Jeff took several short movies and still photographs around Chapman University, all of which were used in his presentation. Movies are edited using iMovie and are input into a library. From there they are copied into a Project, which can accept other input and where editing and annotation can be done.

Jeff launched applications by clicking on icons in The Dock, which is a bar of icons that was at the bottom of his screen. He also used a feature called Spotlight, which, once activated, launches an application when he typed the first few letters of the application name. For example, he could start iMovie by typing "iMo." Spotlight can also be used to search for documents, songs, pictures, calendar dates, and address book entries.

All of the applications within the suite can communicate with each other. The still photographs are imported into iPhoto and then easily imported into the project in iMovie. Jeff then recorded his voice for a voice-over using the microphone built into his computer. He used the webcam to take a few still photographs of himself as well.

One of the movies was of Mary Cornett, but she didn't start speaking for a few seconds. In order to cut out those few frames, he dragged the mouse cursor along the series of frames in the project window and when sound is present, you could hear it, albeit speeded up. That made it easy to tell where the sound started, and then cut out the part without sound.

Jeff then created title and credit pages for his movie. Many styles were available and the font characteristics and background color can be changed. He also created original background music using an application called Garage Band (the only one that doesn't start with "i," which is giving my spell checker a headache.)

The finished movie was uploaded to YouTube. Then using iWeb, Jeff copied and edited a previous web site which included two still photographs of him at his laptop, the movie from YouTube, a map from Google maps and a time counter which was counting down the minutes until his speech started. The web host for this new web page was part of MobileMe. MobileMe is Apple's online suite that includes email, online syncing for calendar and address book, and web hosting for iWeb projects.

Jeff stayed a while and answered several questions from the audience, but most of us were just blown away. Thank you, Jeff. Thanks again for providing clarification via an email after the meeting. Jeff's web site, where he has real information about real communication issues, is www.jeffmonday.com.



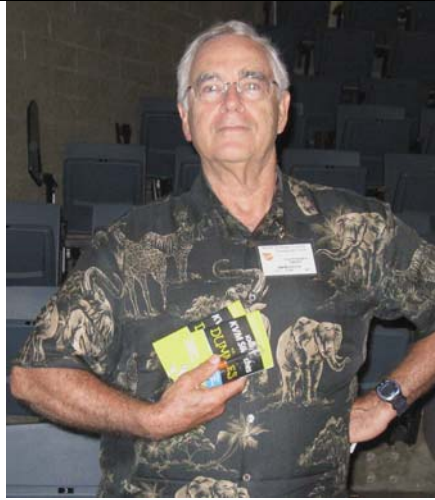
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September 2009 Raffle Winners

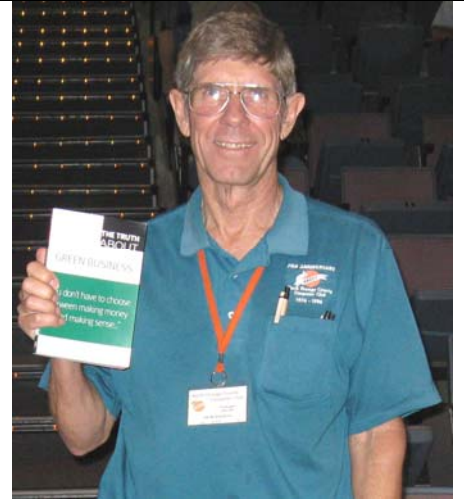
Photos by Jim Sanders, NOCCC



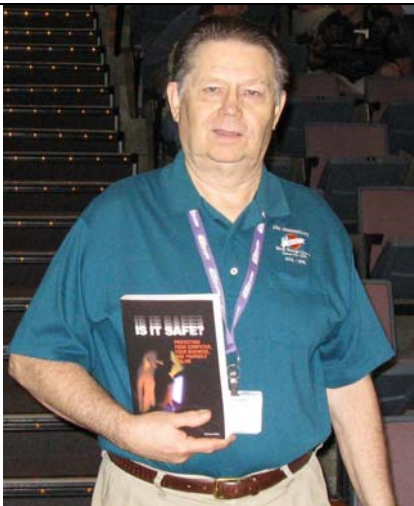
Bob Dickson



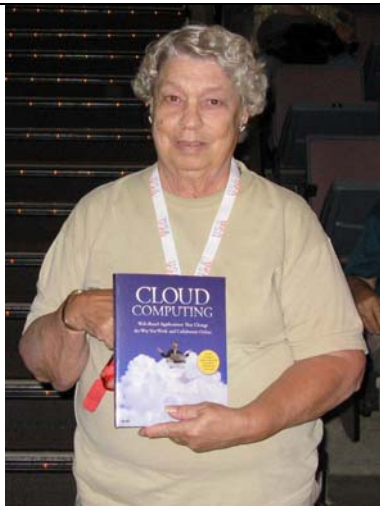
Jim Morrison



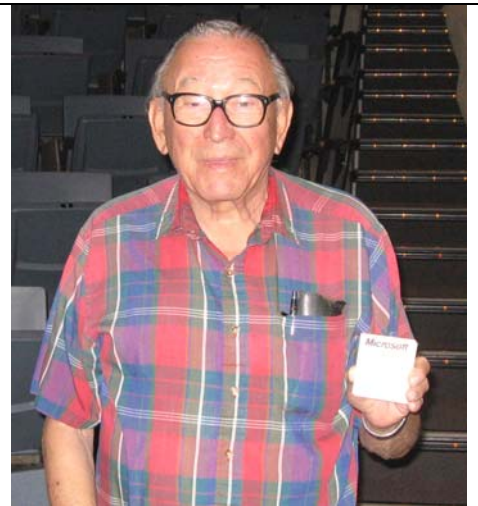
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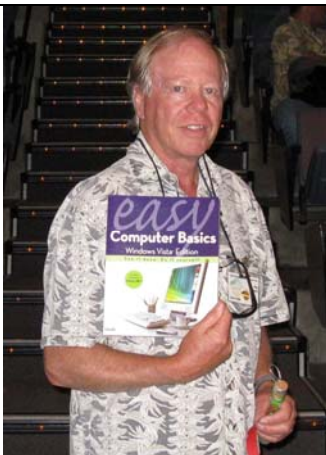
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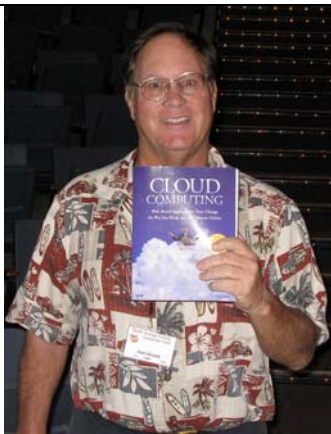
Helen Phillips



Martin LaRocque



Ray Howard



Terry Dickson



Steven Breitbart

SIG Meeting Reports

Beginner's Digital Photography

Ed Schwartz, SIG Leader

Report by Jim Morrison and Steven Breitbart

Since Ed Schwartz, who conducts a truly informative and well-presented SIG, was not available this month, Steven Breitbart, Jim Morrison, and John Donan were the substitute presenters.



Steven's PowerPoint reminded viewers about some basic, vital techniques, especially the advisability of using a tripod when using a long-focus lens. Just as an aside, a rule of thumb not mentioned is that the slowest shutter speed for a hand held shot is the reciprocal of the focal length of the lens, e.g., for a 120 mm lens, the exposure time should be no slower than 1/120, and for a 200 mm lens, the exposure time should be no slower than 1/200, etc.

The self-timer can be used in conjunction with the auto-bracketing feature, if available, to take several photographs of a scene at once without having to manually press the shutter button, which can cause camera movement. Steven also mentioned that while digital zoom might not be the best criteria to use when purchasing a digital camera, once you own it, use the feature if you need it. Steve's very enlarged comparisons between images which compared digital zoom with optical zoom showed that for almost all general purposes, there was little significant difference. Some, yes, but much, no.

As many folks at NOCCC were previously forewarned, the "Beginner" appellation in the SIG title was a little misleading for this session. To stimulate interest in several advanced procedures in photo editing, demonstrations were shown on creating selections, correcting color disparities, establishing white balance, enlarging and reducing add-in images in correct proportion and/or with suitable distortion, and adding/deleting layers. Admittedly, the pricey Photoshop was the operating program, but early versions can be obtained at much, much lower cost than the later editions. Several free editing programs which will do all basic operations include Picnik, piZap, Photoscape, Fotoflexer, LunaPic and Picasa 3.

Unfortunately, this writer (Jim Morrison) was so engrossed in the "Joys of Editing" that he absolutely forgot to stop in time to allow John Donan's extensive and well-prepared contribution to the SIG. Apology proffered.

Anyway, folks, you will be well served to access the Bytes online at www.noccc.org so the following freebie websites will all be "clickable." (How come Word didn't object to clickable?)

Picnik, www.picnik.com/

piZap, www.pizap.com/

Photoscape, www.photoscape.org/ps/main/index.php

Fotoflexer, fotoflexer.com/

LunaPic, www.lunapic.com/editor/

Picasa 3, picasa.google.com/

Finally, believe it or not, there are several other free options. To find them, Google these words with a space between each one: [photo editing free](#)

Next month Ed will continue his review of creating slide shows using ProShow from Photodex.

This SIG meets in Science 127 at 9:00 a.m.

Advanced Digital Photography

By Larry Klees, SIG Leader

Last Month

Last month was about shooting pictures through glass. We started the meeting with slide shows of some of the pictures taken in August of the sea shells in the display cabinets of Irvine lecture hall. These shots were all made through glass that can cause a variety of problems.



These include ambient reflections off the glass, camera flash reflections off the glass, and dirt on the glass. Numerous SIG members offered a variety of ways to avoid these problems.

One method suggested to avoid reflections is to get the camera lens right next to the glass. This results in less room for ambient reflections to get in the way. The lens hood, a hand, or a scrap of cardboard can be used to keep out the few remaining ambient reflections. Note: *A plastic lens hood won't scratch glass, but any metal object (like the ring on a UV filter) might scratch the glass. If you are shooting through plastic, even the lens hood might scratch it.*

In low light conditions a hand holding the lens to the glass can help to steady the camera.

This starfish found in Irvine Lecture Hall was shot with the lens hood touching the glass. The texture was enhanced by light from an off-camera flash held, high above the camera, in

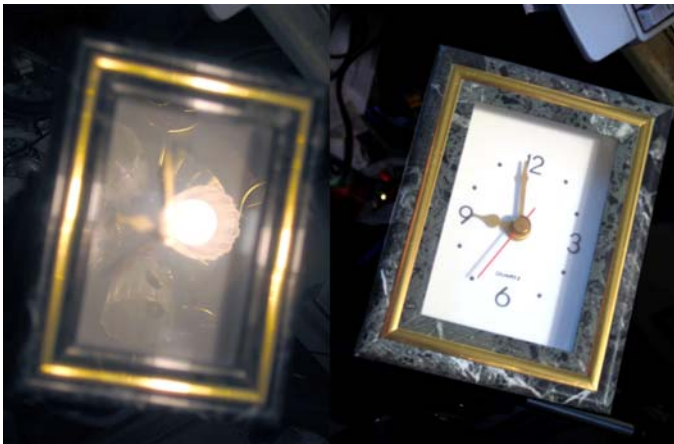


Orange Bytes

the left hand.

Another method suggested was to use the camera's flash to overpower the ambient reflections. This can work very well except if the angle is wrong, the camera flash is worse than the ambient reflections. The flash reflections can be avoided by altering the angle, but this may cause perspective problems. However any decent editing program can easily correct the perspective.

Altering the camera angle can also move ambient reflections out of the way. These pictures of the clock were staged, but the only difference between the two was to move the camera a small amount so that the glass reflected plain ceiling instead two light bulbs. In the left shot the point and shoot auto focus actually tried to focus on the light bulbs.



There was not enough time to cover the topic of dirt. The first of the two pictures below was shot through a patch of window glass. The second is a shot of the same patch of glass. The shots were taken some time apart, but for a window that only gets cleaned every five years or so the amount of dirt has not change significantly. In the first shot, the subject was about nine inches from the window and the depth of field was very shallow with the camera lens touching the glass.



In the second shot, the depth of field was also shallow, but the camera was focused on the glass. Also, the morning sun was shining directly on the glass lighting up the dirt. In the first shot, the glass was shaded from the sun and light was added to the subject with an off-camera flash. In the first shot, the focus has been softened by all that dirt, but none of the dirt is visible.

A much smaller amount of dirt is outside the depth of field in this shot as well. In this case, only available light was used, but a hand on the glass steadied the camera enough for a decent shot in addition to masking reflections. One of many side topics that popped up during the meeting was that if you use ammonia-based cleaners on these crystal sculptures, the glue will dissolve.



At the October Meeting

We will complete the discussion of polarizing filters that wasn't finished at the last meeting. Polarizing filters can help reduce (or increase if you like) reflections from glass, plastic, or water. Also they greatly enhance many photos containing sky, clouds, or bodies of water. We will learn how to use & adjust them and examine the uses and differences between linear, circular, and software polarizers.



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

Microsoft Access

By Bob Dickson, SIG Leader

I got all enthusiastic and bought a small projector to use in the SIG meetings as I couldn't get my laptop to work with the school's projector unit. It's proof of the adage "You get what you pay for -- if you're lucky!" It was inexpensive and way under-powered. The display could barely be seen so we gave up and reverted to forming a half-circle around my laptop. The school projector system hasn't worked with my laptops and in addition, they have now locked the cabinet so we'll just do the semi-circle format around the screen. Since there weren't too many attending all could see the 17" screen.



We had a really good discussion about making reports in Access. This was an important issue with one of the guys. He has a BIG file and needs to be able to create reports for selected fields and subsets of records. He used the wizard but the result created a report that was several pages wide so it wasn't usable. He was very pleased when I demonstrated how to use the wizard to select only the desired fields out of each record and how to rearrange them so the display on the line is a sequence that presents the data in a format that really is useful for the reader. Then we walked through the series of operations in the wizard that enabled setting up groups and sorting subsets of records, selecting a format and creating a title. The resulting report was much better for his needs. But, it needed some adjustments. OK, I then demonstrated clicking on the view icon to have the report display in design mode. WOW. Every control on the page could be altered. I walked through the toolkit and the properties, making changes that resulted in a report that was much closer to his needs. He was definitely going to work on the reports and get more practice with the features that had been demonstrated. A take-home challenge for me for the next meeting was how to sum up values in a column and print totals on the report. Good grief! I used to do that all the time but it's been many years since I used that feature. I knew it until I was asked to do it. Oh, getting old is not fun. I'll work on that item and display it at the next meeting. One does get rusty if one doesn't use all the features for a while. It was a fun and useful gathering. Join us in Science 306 at 9 A.M. and bring a full cup of coffee and a donut (only a \$1.00!) and let's work on your Access questions.

This SIG meets in Science 306 at 9:00 a.m.

Visual Basic for Applications (Access VBA)

By Bob Dickson, SIG Leader

Following the Access SIG (see above) we switched gears and starting looking into VBA in Access at 10:30 AM. A couple of

other guys joined us, one of whom I wrote about last month regarding the wonderful system he's building using VBA in Access. We got into a good (i.e. 'slightly heated') discussion about the sequence of his code. He and one of the guys and I went over a printout of his code. It's the kind of 'code crawling' that really 'raises the hood' on writing code. After several minutes of back-and-forth we finally came to agreement that he should include an 'end if' to properly terminate a routine. Hey, that's what these SIG sessions are for: to help a friend iron out the rough spots. This does not take anything away from the program he's building. It really is a work of art and he's right to be very proud of his 'baby': and it's only going to get better as he continues to work on it.



Another guy had a really interesting (i.e. mind-twisting) question about using VBA in Excel. We're mainly discussing VBA in Access but VBA in any MS Office program works very similar so we dug into his question. We used both the program and the white board. He's got a real interesting challenge: how to change the properties in a row and have the altered value be retained when (1) moving the row, and (2) when the program terminates and is restarted. In Access, one usually stores the values in a file and retrieves the values and loads them when needed. He's got a very interesting problem in his program that doesn't make the use of a file for storing the altered values very useful. We ended the session with a challenge to continue trying various attempts at a solution before the next meeting. Can we find a solution? Come on up to the VBA session at 10:30 A.M. in Science 306 and find out! See 'ya there.

We'll follow the Access SIG in Science 306 with the VBA SIG at 10:30 a.m.

PC Q&A

By Jim Sanders, SIG Leader



Why do I need a router and which one should I buy. This is another one of those frequently asked questions. And it is one that has a number of different answers. One of the first overall answers is that it is cheap insurance. In order for you to understand what cheap insurance means in terms of the router, you have to have a basic understanding of what a router is and how it works. To begin with, the router box contains a

microprocessor system. It is a dedicated system with several related features. One of the more important features is that the router becomes your face to the big bad world of the Internet. It assumes the IP address that you must have in order to communicate with servers that are on the Internet. It also means that when one of the bad guys out there does a sequential ping of a series of IP addresses and gets a reply from the IP address that is assigned to you, and then decides to attack that IP address, it actually is attacking the microprocessor in the router instead of your computer.

As most of you who are running Windows XP know, Microsoft has had to issue a number of patches and updates to the operating system because of security holes. Service pack one and service pack two and service pack three have all been released. At last count there were 51 updates above and beyond service pack three. The last time I looked at the overall count of updates and patches it was around the 500 mark. So when the bad guy tries to attack your IP address and find one of those security breaches in the XP operating system, he is actually attacking the router CPU which doesn't have any of those security holes. What happens after you install the router, a feature called network address translation, NAT for short, becomes available. So when your Windows XP computer gets turned on and makes a request for an IP address, it is actually making the request to the router. The router is programmed to issue what is referred to as a local area network address. The local area network address is typically something like 192.168.1.100. This network address translation function provides a pretty effective firewall feature. When your computer wants to contact an Internet site it sends out a request to that particular address thinking that it is talking to the Internet. What actually happens is that the router intercepts the request makes note of it and then forwards the request to the actual Internet. If a response is received from the Internet, and the router deems the response to be a legitimate one, it will then forward that response on your computer. The same thing then occurs for each of the subsequent requests that your computer sends out to converse with that website.

Most routers have five RJ-45 ports on the box. Four of them are the local area network ports, or LAN, and fifth port is usually labeled WAN which stands for wide area network and is another way of referring to the Internet and is connected to a broadband modem via a short CAT 5 Ethernet cable. That means that without expansion you can plug four separate computers into the router and it will supply a unique LAN address for each one. Most routers that are sold today also incorporate WiFi, or the radio frequency transmitter and receiver that allow the router to communicate wirelessly with laptops in particular and any other computer that has a WiFi adaptor. In theory, the router could have over 200 different computers attached to it and provide each one of them access to the Internet. The router could do so through the WiFi function without any additional hardware, but the throughput would quickly become a joke. In order to do that with the hard-wired approach it would require that several additional Ethernet switches be attached to the router to provide that number of physical connections. Even with the hardwired approach, you would have to have an exceptionally fast Internet connection to maintain any kind of reasonable throughput. A number of standards have been established to allow routers from

different companies that have the WiFi feature to communicate with units that are made by other companies. 802.11A, 802.11b, and 802.11G are all officially released standards that should allow interoperability between different brands. 802.11N is still in the pre-release category and no final official definition of its function exists as of this moment. Most of the manufacturers claim that they can make minor tweaks to the firmware that will allow their offerings to work in whatever fashion the final definition of 802.11N turns out to be, but you will be hard-pressed to find a manufacturer who puts his money where his mouth is and offers a guarantee that this is true. In addition, several manufacturers have offered turbocharged proprietary modifications to the standard specifications that only work with their equipment.

It is true that even the pre-release version of 802.11N can provide greater throughput than the G. version, but most people will find the speed of the G. version adequate unless they have a large number of machines. For home use it probably won't make much difference which of the top five brands you purchase. Linksys, Netgear, D-Link, Belkin, and Hawking are probably the top five in that category.

Bring your questions to the next PC Q&A SIG in October and I will try and answer them. See you then.

Jim's two SIGs meet in the Irvine Hall at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., respectively. The first is the Beginner's PC Q & A and the second is for everything and everyone else.

Linux Desktop

By Bob Ray, SIG Leader

You all come if you want to learn about Linux or share your experiences with other users. It is sure to be interesting and useful whether you are a beginner or more advanced user of Linux.

The Linux Desktop is what you see when you look at a Linux System that has a Graphical User Interface (GUI) up and running. There are many components that make up this Desktop. Actually, there are complete books in print to describe the many features and usage of the Desktop. Each month in our Linux Desktop SIG we review many aspects of the Desktop. We, as a group, try to address the issues and answer questions from members. Also, we attempt to provide as much HOWTO information as we can and experiment with some of these procedures. Most of the problems and questions are related specifically to laptop computers where proprietary drivers can be hard to locate and difficult to implement. If you have problems or questions regarding Linux, make a list of those questions and bring your list to the SIG meeting.



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

Linux for Advanced Users (Aka Linux Administrator)

By Bob Ray, SIG Leader

A THUMB DRIVE FOR EVERY CHILD! So what's that got to do with Linux? Possibly everything! First, let's look back to recent history. Common talk was being pushed around about "a laptop for every child." This comment was dropped into our Linux SIG on several occasions. Shock waves vibrated throughout the room. Everyone had a comment to make and an opinion that they wanted heard. Competition pursued as members jockeyed for who could talk the loudest and fastest...A verbal contest of king-of-the-hill followed. Most everyone got their 2 cents in, and more! Then pandemonium broke out when someone turned this open debate into "why Johnny can't read." The tempo reached a new height, just below a riot; I considered running for the door, but decided rather to hang-in-there. We, with some difficulty, got back to the subject of Linux, software, and Laptop computers.



Recently, a year-or-so ago, a "Big Computer and Software" company suggested "giving" laptops to kids in school free, so every kid could have one and therefore benefit from the use of the computer and the Internet. The issues that followed were who's going to provide all of these computers to the schools and to the kids? Who's going to provide the operating systems? Who's going to provide the application software? Who's going to provide the hardware maintenance? Who's going to provide the software maintenance and upgrades? Who's going to provide the Internet connections and the general support that would be required and needed? And, finally, comes the big question of pie-in-the-sky - who is going to Pay for all of this!?! The general conclusion in our group seemed to be that this whole thing was problematic and basically unworkable.

Now, after all of that, we get back to Linux the operating system and to the GNU Linux applications that are open to the world in almost 100 languages, and, offer individual freedom of use. First, back to the term used as Thumb Drive. Why a thumb drive is called a thumb drive? If you guessed, because it looks like a persons thumb, you were correct. Although anything that can be hot plugged into your computer as read/write non-volatile flash memory could be used. These memory sticks have come way down in price, 10, 20, or 30 bucks for gigabyte capacity of the same. I keep hearing of Thumb Drives being given away as door prizes and consolation prizes at various computer events. The current "thing" is trying to get a bootable operating system, with applications along with user files on the thumb drive. Linux users would refer to user files as the /home directory. Once this is achieved in common practice, a fast bootable thumb drive (TD) could be carried around on your key chain from home to

office and back, or from home to school and back. Of course there needs to be something to plug into at each destination. The particular point here is that a student would not necessarily need to lug-around a computer, nor a stack of books.

I see the best chance for all of this to work using GNU/Linux as the foundation to implement this concept. At the cost of a TD down to almost nothing and the other related costs to accomplish all of this down low, we can now see how workable this all could be. However; there is one Snag...one Brick Wall that stands between all of this working smoothly and freely and that is the open communications links or maybe the not-so-open communications links on the public air waves. Big corporations that control the wire and the air waves, and big-brother government, bureaucracies, tax regulation, and the control and rationing out of the use of the communication links and services! This could possibly be a big problem for kids, students and all of us?

The final consideration is how to install, update or do a total upgrade of the GNU/Linux system. Using the current version of Fedora 11 Linux Distribution, this is both fast and easy, assuming that you have a fast Internet connection. Most current laptops come with built in WiFi and with that there are numerous places like restaurants, coffee shops, libraries, and many other places with free WiFi access. The following example would do a current update to the Linux system: key in #yum update at the command line as root user. The system would perform a standard update. To upgrade to the complete newer release key in #yum upgrade at the command line using the option without a function parameter, the computer would do a complete upgrade to the next release level keeping your personal files intact. There are a few more issues concerning the complete implementation of this concept, but they are minor. The plan for the near future is to demonstrate this in practice within our Linux Advanced User Group session. That of course, would be in addition to 100 plus other worthy features and issues.

This discussion about the possibilities for GNU/Linux and Thumb Drives (TD's) is not meant in any way or manner to be a treatment of Big Government, Big Corporations, the National Education System, or Economics. But, simply about computers. Although it is difficult to stay within a politically correct "Bubble" and ignore the real world!

This SIG meets in Science 131A starting at 10:30 a.m.

LINUX – Bits and Pieces by Bob Ray

Nokia to roll out phone based on Linux Software [1] --- Nokia, a company based in Finland and the worlds largest supplier of cell phones with currently about 45 percent of the market, said it would start selling smart phones based on the Linux Operating System for around \$700 starting this fall. The new phone will have a more PC style, look and feel. The new phone is expected to compete head on with the Blackberry phone.

Firefox now over 1 billion in use [2] the download counter for Firefox rolled over 1,000,000,000 recently. Firefox is the default browser for most Linux based distribution systems. In addition, this browser is very popular with Microsoft system users as well as others. Firefox is based on the original Mozilla browser and has been built with open source software that is freely available. More than 1,000 people have contributed to the Firefox development.

Group of Microsoft Rivals to buy patents. [3] The group called Open Invention Network; mainly IBM, Red Hat, and Sony are preparing to buy patents to help protect current open source projects. Microsoft has stated that they have about 200 patents that may be in violation by Linux developers and Distributors. Microsoft stated that they have and hold over 50,000 patents for their products.

[1] Wall Street Journal, Aug 28, 2009, B4

[2] Los Angeles Times, Aug 1, 2009, B1

[3] Wall Street Journal, Sept 8, 2009, B1

Microsoft Office SIG

Tia Christian, SIG Leader

These sessions are an open forum for problems incurred using Microsoft **Word**, **Excel**, and **Outlook** and their resolutions. During these SIG sessions, topics have been discussed on creating Labels in Word and exporting to Excel and printing them. Primary session topics have been the upgrade from Microsoft Office 2003 to Microsoft Office 2007, in addition to the requirements for installation of Microsoft Office 2007 from Microsoft Office 2003; using add -In; e-mail compatibility issues from Microsoft Office 2003 to Microsoft Office 2007 Word, Excel, and Outlook; and PowerPoint products; installation requirements for installing Microsoft Office 2007 on Windows XP as well as Vista 2007; PowerPoint compatibility issues on PowerPoint 2003 slide presentation consisting of an AVI; file viewing.



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

Visual Programming

Anson Chapman, SIG Leader

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



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

Understanding Operating Systems

Charlie Moore, SIG Leader



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

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

(Beyond Digital Photography.....continued from page 15)

It is difficult to appreciate some aspects of the book if you have no experience at art. Some steps are subtle; they can be done, but it is difficult to understand why they are desirable or to see the effect in the sample photographs they provide. You need a bit of an artists eye to appreciate them and in this instance, I trust the authors. (In college, I took Contemporary Civilization instead of Music and Art Humanities.) Each chapter starts with an introduction that mentions well-known artists in that field, so you can do some research and hopefully get inspired.

A few items are out of order. That is, they use a term, and then explain its meaning later on, but the explanation is close enough to be useful. The book is a bit repetitive if you read it from cover to cover. The chapters stand on their own, as a reference. For example, if I want to convert a photograph into a watercolor, I would go to Chapter 5. Other chapters will give you similar information about first opening and modifying the photograph in Camera Raw. There is no conclusion and, after describing all these techniques, a last bit of wisdom or encouragement from the authors would be most welcome.

The companion web site, www.beyonddigitalbook.com, has 78 MB of zip files, most of which are images used in the book. There are also brushes for use with Photoshop CS4. Other web sites mentioned are those of the authors, www.pendarvis-studios.com and www.donaljolley.com. There is also adventuresinphotoshop.com by Jack Davis, who wrote the Forward.

Beyond Digital Photography: Transforming Photos into Fine Art with Photoshop and Painter, by Cher Threinen-Pendarvis and Donal Jolley. ©2009 Peachpit Press, Berkeley, California ISBN-10: 0-321-41021-1, ISBN-13: 978-0-321-41021-4 <http://www.peachpit.com/store/product.aspx?isbn=0321410211>

Transportation Information

Meeting Information

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

Parking Information

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

Bus

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

Railroad

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

On Sundays, Inland Empire-Orange County Line trains 857 and 859 leave San Bernardino destined for Orange County at 7:30 am and 8:55 am. For the return trip, trains 858 and 860 leave nearby Orange Metrolink at 2:50 pm and 4:30 pm. The Metrolink station is four-and-a-half blocks from Chapman University. For specifics regarding your trip, check the web site: <http://www.metrolinktrains.com> or call 1-800-371-5465.

September 7, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes

The NOCCC Board Meeting was held at NOCCC President Jim Sanders' residence on Monday, September 7, 2009 following a "pizza party" there, as is our annual tradition for the new BOD. Jim called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. Also in attendance were Jim Morrison, John Heenan, Ted Littman, Steven Breitbart, Mary Cornett, Dallas Hazleton, Robert Love, and Gerry Resch. Board members Bob Dickson, Richard Miller, and Tia Christian were not in attendance.

Secretary's Report (by Ted Littman): It was motioned to approve the Secretary's Report as printed in the September Bytes; this was seconded and approved by all in attendance.

Treasurer's Report (by John Heenan): Net income for Coffee & Donuts was \$6.70. Income from raffle tickets was \$32. Total net income was \$38.70. Post office and newsletter printing charges are not included.

Membership: Regular = 228, Regular (3-yr. renewal) = 9, Family = 6, Newsletter = 12; **Total of 255 Members**, down 3 from last month. The Board accepted the Treasurer's report.

Main Meeting: The speaker was Jeff Monday of Apple. (See Main Meeting report elsewhere.) There were about 35 attendees. Board members who attended gave high praise for the presentation.

Opening & Closing: Bob Dickson set up the Coffee & Donuts table in the lobby of Irvine Hall and all went well. A few issues were reported including closed cafeteria, locked bathrooms, & projector problems.

Next Scheduled Meetings: **The next Main Meeting is Sunday, October 4th, followed by the BOD meeting on October 5th at the President's residence.** Subsequent monthly meeting dates obtained from Chapman U. through May 2010 are listed on the front page of the Bytes.

Committee Reports

Programs: Mary Cornett, Steven Breitbart, and Jim Morrison are working on getting speakers for October & subsequent meetings this year. We do not have a committed speaker for October yet. Several possibilities were discussed. Steven will contact the Orange County Sheriff's office for one.

Public Relations: Mary Cornett described her continuing efforts to have club information published in the Orange County Register newspaper. A meeting notice was published on Sept. 1. Mary posted copies of a flyer on Chapman U. bulletin boards. Mary & Jim Morrison will expand this effort to other local schools to aid our drive to recruit new college-level members. Mary reported a change in her email address.

Publications & Reviews: Ted Littman reported that the schedule for preparing the October Orange Bytes was emailed to



Board members and SIG Leaders. Ted requested all contributors to provide their write-ups before the deadline of September 14th. Ted also noted that three book reviews by NOCCC members were in the Sept. OB and two are pending for the October newsletter. Two books were taken out for review on Sept. 6th. He also has reviews and articles from other user groups provided by APCUG. Jim Sanders took photos at the main meeting and Steven will provide a list of the raffle winners for publication in the next Bytes. Steven took notes at the main meeting for publication in the next Bytes. Jim Sanders will receive the October print newsletters to deliver to the Post Office in the unavailability of Richard Miller. Gerry Resch gave a report on a proposal by a local printer to do our newsletter, and showed us a copy run of the Sept. OB. Several questions were raised including cost and photo quality. Gerry will follow up with the printer and report at the next meeting.

Raffles: Ten items were given out at the raffles on the 6th. (Photos are published elsewhere in this newsletter.) Ted provided four books and one software CD for the October meeting raffles. Jim Sanders provided two Quickbooks Starter Ed. software programs for subsequent raffles.

SIGs: Robert Love contacted most of the SIG leaders before the Sept. 6th meeting to discuss attendance at their SIG meeting, providing reports for the newsletter, and other issues. He also visited the various SIGs on the 6th to check attendance, problems, etc. Anson Chapman volunteered to provide a Main Meeting presentation. Tia Christian came for her SIG, but it seems that her prior attendees were at other SIG meetings due to the uncertainty of her availability.

Old Business: Jim Morrison reported on the NOCCC's Liability Insurance policy with The Hartford Company. He emailed information required to update the policy and is awaiting receipt of a revised policy as well as premium information for monthly vs. annual payments.

Long-time member John Szary has offered his collection of back issues of the Orange Bytes dating from 1982. Jim Sanders agreed to store them at his house.

New Business: In the absence of Richard Miller, John Heenan will handle the Consignment Table at the October meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

This report was prepared by NOCCC Secretary Ted Littman.

NOCCC Bylaws

You may view the club's Bylaws at our website:
<http://www.noccc.org/bylaws/>.

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.
October 2009

Donors will be acknowledged in the Orange Bytes and the Membership level will be shown on the Member's Badge. **Your regular dues are tax deductible!**

| 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 |

SIG Leaders Wanted

We would like to expand our Special Interest Group topics to include:

- Computer Aided Investing
- Home Automation
- PC Hardware Essentials
- Internet and the World Wide Web
- Computer Security
- Genealogy 101

If you have knowledge of and an interest in any of these areas, please consider leading a SIG Contact Jim Sanders, the President of the NOCCC, with your SIG ideas.

Thanks to Our Members Who Renewed in August 2009

- ❖ Belinda de la Libertad
- ❖ Robert J. Demid
- ❖ Harry Dice
- ❖ Ray Howard
- ❖ Kenneth Kamber
- ❖ Stephen Kilmer
- ❖ Ted Littman
- ❖ James A. McAuliffe
- ❖ Harold Nerhus
- ❖ Dino Panicacci
- ❖ Ben C. Turpin

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

Upcoming Computer Shows

By Steven Breitbart, NOCCC

Here is a list of all the computer related shows I found for September to December 2009. If you know of any other shows, send me information about it.

West Coast Expos Computer Fair (lacomputerfair.com)

Fairplex in Pomona

October 24 & 25

November 14 & 15

Shrine Auditorium & Exposition Center in Los Angeles

September 19 & 20

October 17 & 18

November 21 & 22

Bagnall's Camera Expo (www.cameraexpo.com)

Brookhurst Community Center in Anaheim

October 18

December 13

Hyperactive-ACP Computer Show

(<http://www.swapmeetbyhyperactive.com/>)

Hyperactive Computers Parking Lot, Santa Ana,

September 27

November 29

The W6TRW Amateur Radio Association

(<http://www.w6trw.com/>)

Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems parking lot,

Redondo Beach. Last Saturday of the month, 7am to

11:30am

Pig SIG Open to All

Meet us outside Irvine Hall from about noon to 12:30 p.m. 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!



If you need to buy lunch, Jazzman's Cafe in Beckman Hall is open until 1:00 p.m. Brunch is available at the new Sandhu Conference Center until 1:30 p.m., all you can eat for \$10.99 (\$8.99 with a Chapman ID).



Free coffee at October meeting!



Donuts \$1.00/each.

FREE AD SPACE

If you are a NOCCC member, and have a computer related, **non-commercial** or **"talent Available"** ad that you would like to have placed in this newsletter or on the NOCCC web site, send an e-mail with a copy of your business card or ad to the NOCCC Editor at editor@noccc.org.

If you have had an ad previously, you must request that we continue to run it for the remainder of this calendar year.

Your business card would look good here!!

For information about advertising in the Orange Bytes, contact editor@noccc.org.

Classified ads by NOCCC members cost \$5 for 1-25 words and \$10 for 26-50 words.

(Main Meeting Report...continued from page 16)



Following Jeff's talk, we had out monthly Raffles. If you have some current software still in the box that you are not planning to use, consider donating it to the NOCCC for the raffles.

Great meeting. See you next month.

There is nothing like being at the meeting!

Publication Information

Orange Bytes is published monthly by:
North Orange County Computer Club
P.O. Box 3616, Orange, CA 92857

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Production — *Orange Bytes* was produced with **Microsoft Word**® using the True Type fonts Arial, Bauhaus 93 and Times New Roman.

Printed by: Creative Technology

5959 Palmer Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34232—28
800-533-1031

*Commercial display advertisements
are welcome, contact
editor@noccc.org.*

RATES

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

Deadline: Tenth of the month

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

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

Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in getting up every time we do.
Confucius



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

Since the North Orange County Computer Club is incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) organization, checks are 100% tax deductible when made payable to North Orange County Computer Club.

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

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

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

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

Dated Material - Please deliver by October 3, 2009

Are You an NOCCC Member?

Consider all that you get with membership and Join Now!

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

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

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

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

Free street parking is available on the campus-side of the streets only. **Parking in front of any residential housing will result in an expensive parking ticket.** A City of Orange public parking lot, located on the southwest corner of E. Maple and N. Orange, is also free and only 2 blocks from the meeting. See page 23 for more information about parking and transportation.

