

January 14, 2003

By *Sandy Kandl*

Our first meeting of the New Year brought out 97 members, including 3 new attendees. President, Ed Freeman once again reminded the current members and informed the new members of the shareware table, the back table having sign-up sheets for classes, business cards, library material for check-out and free items (including lemons) for all.

Art True reported that there are new Q-cards for XP as well as older cards that have been replenished for those wanting them. Lon Whistler reported on a new disk called Digi-Book, which organizes digital pictures in album form. He also reported that Adaware is no longer updating its product so it's probably a good idea to uninstall it.

Joannie Lenz reported that she is giving lessons in Basic Microsoft Windows, Basic Microsoft Word, Intermediate Word, PowerPoint, Basic Microsoft Excel and Intermediate Excel. These classes will be at the Ceniceros Center in the evenings. The cost will be \$55, which includes a class manual. If you are interested or know someone who would be interested, please call Joannie at 301-6226 for more information, or visit www.ByJoannie.com for outlines and schedules. You might want to check out our website, www.ccmv.net, which Joannie maintains to see our newsletter *in color!*

Ed discussed security and identity theft while computing. Here are 10 Safe Computing Recommendations:

- 1- Use protection software. Anti-virus programs should be updated weekly or more often.
- 2- Don't open email from unknown senders. Be cautious about messages from known senders with strange or unexpected subjects. Most viruses and worms hijack address books and send themselves.
- 3- Use hard to guess passwords (combination of letters and numbers)
- 4- Protect your computer from Internet intruders. Install a Firewall. Dial-up connections are a vulnerable as broadband.
- 5- Don't share access to your computer with strangers, including children and grandchildren.
- 6- Disconnect from Internet when not in use. Especially true of broadband-turn off modem.
- 7- Back up computer data on regular basis.
- 8- Regularly download security update patches.
- 9- Check your security on a regular basis. Monthly is a good idea. Sites that run checks include www.pandasoftware.com, Gibson Research at www.grc.com, and www.symantec.com/securitycheck/.
- 10- Make sure your family and/or employees know what to do if a computer gets infected with a virus.

Our member from Hemet, Norm Spiere, told us about a web site that will test your anti-virus program and/or firewall by sending a synthetic virus. If you're well protected, it will

not get through. You can find it at either www.eicar.org or www.eicar.com. Either one will get you to the proper site.

Our computer classes began January 13, 2003 and will run for six weeks. Art True reported that Joannie Lenz will talk on eBay at our next meeting on January 28th, and we will have a demo by Minoos from Serene Screen on February 11th. Carl Buster will talk about printer care and maintenance on February 25th.

Once again, we had door prize drawings, and lucky members claimed many wonderful prizes.

After the break, smaller groups met including newbies, digital camera buffs and techies. For the techies, Chet Hartley reported that they had a general discussion on remote access to your email from libraries, cruise ships, etc. They also discussed new technologies for DVD and CD copy protection and "one-way rentals". They further talked about a single CD drive and the best ways to copy a CD using a hard drive for interim storage. One member was having problems with system slowdown after installing Norton System Works. Advice was to remove Works, install only the antivirus and run the other utilities from the CD when needed. Also suggested was checking MSCONFIG startup list and unchecking those programs not needed.

January 28, 2003

By *Sandy Kandi*

Today's meeting brought out 107 members, including nine new attendees. President Ed Freeman showed us the new and portable screen the Club purchased so we all may view the presentations more easily. Since we do not have any dues, the money collected from the Shareware table, the Q-Card table, raffles, and the classes pay for the purchases made by the Club for the benefit of the Club. He reminded us to visit the various tables and to up-date our email addresses with Dee. Ed also reminded us to visit our web site at www.ccmv.net.

Vice-president Art True told us of future speakers, which include Mino Saboori, of Serene Screens, Carl Brester on Printers in February and a speaker on ID theft on March 25th. He also told us that there is a replacement card #105 for anyone who purchased the new XP Q-Cards. One of the steps was inadvertently omitted, so see him or Shirley for the new card.

Larry Nelson warned of a telephone scam of which we should all be aware. Someone calls saying he is a technician from one of the phone companies (i.e. Verizon, AT&T, MCI, PacBell, etc.) and requests that you press 90# and hang up. **HANG UP. DO NOT PRESS ANY NUMBERS.** This would allow the caller to place long distance calls and have you pay for them. It has been reported that this scam has been originating from many local jails and prisons.

For those who receive questionable email, the following are websites to check them out: <http://www.hoaxbusters.ciac.org>, <http://www.sophos.com>, <http://www.snopes2.com>, <http://vmyths.com>, <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter>, <http://www.truthorfiction.com>, <http://www.scambusters.org/hoaxes>.

Once again, we had a free drawing for door prizes. There were several lucky winners. Ben Guaydacan volunteered to evaluate a software program called Tell A Phone and report his findings to the Club. In return, he gets to keep the program. Good deal for all of us.

After the break, Joannie Lenz (our Web Goddess) gave a presentation on eBay, how to sell and how to buy. You can also search for items to get an idea of what the prices are. She made it sound interesting and lots of fun. There was so much information given and questions asked, that this newsletter could not begin to do it justice. Just click on <http://www.ebay.com> and find out for yourselves. Also check out Joannie's website at www.RainbowFlair.com.

COMPUTER CLUB OF MENIFEE VALLEY
General Meeting, February 11, 2003

President Ed Freeman conducted the February 11th meeting of the CCMV. Seventy-nine people attended, among them ten new members or "returnees". Ed checked by a show of hands those who had not gotten notice of today's meeting, and reminded them to check their e-mail addresses in the sign-in roster. Dee, at the sign-in table has forms for the correction of your e-mail addresses.

Members were reminded of the Book-a-Buck table, which contains donations from Verdell and Glenn Roark. Free items are to be found at the back table, and they include magazines brought by members and for members. Sign-up sheets for classes, library items to be checked out, and business cards are also found there.

Lon's report on freeware/shareware indicated that the newsletter has information on "Solitude". He has made copies of popular items like Clipmate and Enditall and will mark whether new ware is XP compatible. Members who have bought "Digibook" and are having trouble installing it may exchange it for a new copy.

Art True reported that the Q- Table has the same good stuff, and in response to a request there is a single card on how to do attachments to E-mail.

The next computer classes will start the week of March 24th. Depending on interest those classes are to be Intro to XP, Intro to 98, Word, and Advanced 98. Current classes are ending this week, and members interested in the next group of classes are asked to put their names on the preferred class lists.

At President Ed's request, a member volunteered to use and evaluate a program "Send Photos" from Novatix. Look for his report in the newsletter.

Ed announced a board meeting February 18th at 1:30 p.m. the Senior Center. He asked that items to be considered be sent to him by the end of this week.

Door prizes were given to lucky members of the group, and after the break Art True introduced the program, a presentation by Minoo Saboori, Director of Marketing and Sales of Prolific. Her talk and demonstration of what she assured us was not a screen saver was very well received. Members took advantage of a special price she offered on her company's products.

The next meeting of CCMV will be February 25th and a program on printer maintenance will be presented.

Georgiana Dols for Sandy Kandl

February 25, 2003

By *Sandy Kandl*

Despite the heavy downpour, 60 brave souls turned out for today's meeting, including seven new attendees. President Ed Freeman reminded us of the shareware, cue card, buck-a-book, and free items on the back table. Lon will offer a free virus scanner at the next meeting at the shareware table. Ed asked members about various Internet Service Providers that they are using and whether they are satisfied. In the future a list will be published.

Art True showed NASA pictures created by PowerPoint, which were lovely, and showed the world really IS round.

Tickets for Door Prizes were handed out and there were several winners. This will be an on-going activity. Ed suggested we subscribe to a free newsletter. You can sign up at www.komando.com/newsletter.asp. The Komando newsletter offers many helpful tips and web sites.

Someday, your computer will refuse to start. Would you be in big trouble? The answer usually is "Yes!" But just how much anguish, time and money would this cause you? Ask yourself these five questions:

1. Do you know exactly what is inside your computer?

Your computer setup consists of various hardware components and software programs. If something goes wrong, it could be for a number of reasons. That's why you should know what is inside the casing. The time to get this information is now, when all is working properly.

Windows 98, Windows ME and Windows XP include a tool called "System Information" made precisely for this job. It captures a wealth of diagnostic information about your entire system. From the Start menu, open Programs, Accessories, and then the System Tools folder. Double-click System Information. To get a printout of the details, select Print off the File menu.

2. Do you have a Printout of all your passwords?

Odds are, you have passwords for Web sites, confidential files and maybe even one to access your system. Make a list of your passwords and store it in a secure place. Don't store the list on your computer. If the hard drive is gone and you don't remember your passwords, that list isn't any good.

It's not a happy thought, but someday, a family member may need access to your computer's accounts and files when you are gone.

3. Do you have a backup)?

Backups are like insurance. You may never need one, but when you do, you are sure glad it's there. You don't have to back up everything on your hard drive. Just copy your personal files. If a disaster occurs, you can reinstall your programs on the replacement hard drive.

Traditionally, backups have been done to tape drives. But tape drives are expensive and slow. And tapes are costly, too. Instead, consider adding a second hard drive to your system. You could also use an external hard drive (more expensive), a Zip drive, or a CD or DVD burner. Forget floppies; they're too small.

4. Do you have all your software product keys?

These are the alphanumeric numbers you must enter when installing software. If your hard drive dies, you'll probably need to reinstall the software. Without those keys, you might have to buy new software. Make a record of those numbers. They're probably on your installation disk cases.

5. Do you know where all your software is located?

Find a storage place for your software installation discs. Be sure they're all there. I can't tell you how many sad stories I've heard about missing discs. It's bad enough to lose your hard drive. Having to buy a new copy of Microsoft Office would really be rubbing salt into the wound.

OK, let's see how you did. Quite simply, you failed if you answered "No" to any question. Better get those answers now, before it's too late.

Ed told us that Dell Computer announced plans to discard the floppy drive. (You can order one at an additional cost or install one yourself). Others will probably follow suite. Traditionally, we used a floppy to create startup disks. If Windows failed, the startup disk could boot the computer. If you don't have a floppy drive, simply place your original Windows program disk in the computer's CD drive. Then, turn on the computer and follow the instructions. For those who have a floppy drive, but have not created a startup disk, go to My Computer, Control Panel, Add/Remove Programs. The third tab is Startup Disk. Click on it and follow directions to create a startup disk. Then put it in a safe place.

After the break, the members met in different rooms for Genealogy, Digital Cameras, Techies, and Newbies. The following Chet Hartley reported from the Techie group:

The member who has been reviewing the Parilant Tel-a-phone product gave a brief overview of the product. A report will be made to the entire club.

We talked about the problems of various forms of address books and the sharing of information between programs that use different formats.

A member is contemplating buying a DVD burner. We discussed the standards and suggested he wait until standards are firmed up. Also, it is likely that the current high prices will come down in the next few months.

We discussed large-screen video, including video projectors for people whose eyesight requires larger formats.

March 11, 2003

By *Sandy Kandl*

With President Ed Freeman doing the Hula in Hawaii, Vice-President Art True presided over today's meeting. He greeted 86 members, including four new attendees.

Art told us that the XP Cue Cards have been replenished and are now available. Lon Whistler told us about Gladiator, an anti-virus program, which is also available at the shareware table. You can read about it in the March newsletter for more information.

Joannie Lenz (our Web Goddess) is President of the Menifee Valley Woman's Club. She went into detail about all the good works the Club does, including making substantial donations to local organizations as Sun City Concern, The Community Cupboard, the Graffiti Task Force, Crime Watch, the Menifee Valley Medical Center, the Kinship Program as well as working with the California Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Club, contributing on a State and Global level. On March 22, 2003 at 2:00 PM, they are sponsoring a concert along with Dan Damon Productions at the Paloma Valley High School Theater at 31375 Bradley Road in Menifee. The program is called "Remember When" and the tickets cost \$12. Dan Damon and his Dazzlin' Dolls will perform hit songs. For more information and tickets, call Joannie at 301-6226. www.MVWomansClub.org

Grant Hanson, owner of USA Computers, reminded us that he is selling Dish TV at a very attractive price. It is even more attractive since cable has once again increased their price. You now can get more for less by contacting him at 979-4686 for more details.

We discussed the merits of the magazine, "Smart Computing" which gives information, hints and answers questions in everyday language. Subscribers may also go to their website and look up past issues. Also discussed was Jeff Levy's radio broadcast on 640 AM on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. For more info go to www.jefflevy.com. Another good newsletter is PCDon, which you can subscribe to at www.pcdon.com.

Art discussed the various ports on our computers, such as SCSI, USB 1.1, USB 2.0, Firewire (IEEE 1354 or Sony's i.LINK), Serial, Parallel, and ATA (IDE/EIDE). The reason for all these developments was to improve the data transfer rate.

We had another door prize raffle with Adobe Photoshop Elements, a 1279 page manual for MS Office 2000 Professional, a copy of Serene Screen Aquarium, and a set of 5 Jewel cases given to the lucky winners.

After the break, the newbies stayed in the meeting room, while the Techies moved to another room.

Chet Hartley, moderator of the Techies Group, reported that there were about 10 attendees this morning. Largest group in a long time. Several subjects were brought up including:

One member has a new HP all-in-one printer/scanner/copier. It prints and copies but won't scan into the computer. Several suggestions were given including removing and re-installing the driver.

Another member has a computer that sometimes won't shut down properly. We discussed what might be causing it.

We discussed using Go-Back, Restore and other such programs.

We discussed software "activation" and what information the vendors collect about the computer during the process.

One of these days, we will have to have the Techies talk to the Newbies since we all run into these problems!!

Remember to visit our website at www.ccmv.net.

March 25, 2003

By *Sandy Kandler*

President Ed Freeman returned from Hawaii, to welcome 95 members including two new attendees. A poll was taken and our web goddess, Joannie Lenz, will post the results on our web site, www.ccmv.net. The new classes have begun but there are still some openings available. Contact Ed if you are interested.

Ed gave a demonstration on how to free up system resources if you get a message that you have low or no system resources available. Instead of rebooting, you can go to START, RUN, and type in "msconfig" without the quotation marks. Go to the STARTUP tab that will show everything that starts up when you boot your computer and runs in the background using valuable system resources. Uncheck every box that you do not need at start up, but do not uncheck SystemTray, or any antivirus program that you may forget to turn on. You can always go back and recheck any box if you find you want or need it.

We had an early break to leave plenty of time for a most interesting speaker, Detective Jeff Reichmann from the Perris Station of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department dealing with identity theft and property crime. He stressed that we should not be paranoid, just careful. We should guard our credit card, bank account, and social security numbers. We should not give out any personal information over the phone to anyone we do not know or to give any information over a wireless or portable phone since criminals scan them for information.

Det. Reichmann suggested checking statements, carrying few credit cards, never carrying social security cards, and checking credit reports on a yearly basis to minimize risks. Keep all personal information in a safe place and shred all papers with your name before putting them in the trash. Do not put sensitive mail out in an unlocked mailbox and pick up your mail as soon as possible. If you are a victim, have a fraud alert put on your credit files, report it to the police, call the various credit agencies but then follow it up with letters. For your information, the following are the Credit Bureaus to contact:

Equifax - www.equifax.com

Experian - www.experian.com

Transunion - www.transunion.com

Their addresses are on their Web Sites.

You should also report the information to the FTC at 1-877-ID-Theft (1-877-438-4338).

We had a few minutes left for questions that Detective Reichmann answered. Before the meeting ended, we had our door prize drawing and we had several lucky winners.

April 8, 2003

By *Sandy Kandl*

Today there were six new members for a total of 76 attendees. President Ed Freeman told the membership that the FTC is launching a nationwide Do Not Call list for pesky telemarketers that will be effective October 2003. The State of California is pre-registering people who want to sign up now. Their web site is <http://nocall.doj.state.ca.us>. After October, there will be stiff fines for those who call numbers on that list. However, there are exceptions, such as charities, and companies that have an established relationship with a consumer will still be allowed to make calls. Also mentioned was a way to stop some of the phone calls when no one is there when you answer. Hit the pound sign (#) rapidly 6 or 7 times. When you pick up the phone, it signals to telemarketers the best time to call you. When you hit the pound sign, it breaks the connection and that means one less call you will receive.

The following prefixes are local calls to Sun City Residents: 244, 245, 246, 253, 286, 301, 325, 304, 436, 442, 443, 461, 471, 490, 508, 550, 566, 600, 609, 639, 672, 674, 677, 678, 679, 696, 698, 657, 704, 719, 723, 834, 894, 928, 940, 943, 926, as well as 800, 888, 877, 700, 866, and 855. The phone company is constantly adding new prefixes that are toll-free. To make sure, check with your phone company.

We had another drawing for prizes. There were several lucky winners. After the break, we met in several Special Interest Groups (SIGS). Meeting today were Genealogy, Digital Cameras, Techies, and Newbies. Several interesting questions were raised in the Newbie group and Ed had a mini-presentation on Copy and Paste for them.

At the next meeting, on April 22nd, we will have a swap meet. Bring in any computer items, software or hardware, that you no longer use or want. Put a price on your items and watch them sell. Each member is responsible for selling his own items and collecting money.

April 22, 2003

By *Sandy Kandl*

Ed Freeman welcomed 82 members including three new attendees. The current classes will end next week and new classes will begin in September with sign-up sheets at the back table and at the Kay Cenicerros Center. We had very good responses from the students in all the classes. They felt that they are more at ease with their computers since they completed the classes.

Lon Whistler at the shareware table will update the disks showing which are XP compatible. A list of available cue cards, as well as other interesting information is in the April newsletter which is available online along with all recent newsletters.. All members should visit the site. www.ccmv.net

Ed told us that United Online, which merged Juno and Net Zero, is offering a new faster dialup service. Go to www.juno.com. You will see Juno Speed Band, and the offer of the 1st month for \$9.95 and subsequently for \$14.95. NOTE: The speed is gained through compression and caching, not by sending data any faster over the line. How does it work? Before the text and graphics that make up Web pages get sent to you over your phone line, Juno SpeedBand compresses them using a proprietary technology. Less data is sent so the download of pages and your surfing experience are that much faster! In addition, Juno SpeedBand stores elements of the Web sites you visit frequently so you do not have to re-download them every time you visit these sites.

A drawing was held for door prizes and there were many lucky winners.

After the break, tables were set up for swap meet sales. The members brought items from home that they thought they couldn't live without and sold them to other members who thought THEY couldn't live without them. Fun was had by all.

May 13, 2003

By *Sandy Kandl*

President Ed Freeman greeted 85 members, including seven new attendees. Joannie Lenz is having a class on Power Point May 27th and 29th. Contact Joannie at 301-6226 if you are interested.

Vice-President Art True announced the following programs: May 27th a speaker on "Software Anyone Can Use"; On June 10th, Digital Photo Workshop and on June 24th, Bob Johnson from Mediacom will talk about Broadband Cable and Jo Bushnell will also talk about the Vial of Life on that day. These speakers will be of interest to all and we should make an extra effort to hear them.

Ed reported on the regional meetings for the APCUG (The Association of Personal Computer User Groups) to which we belong:

August 8 through 10 in San Diego at the Mission Valley Hilton

September 12 through 13 at the Holiday Inn Atrium Plaza in Beaumont, Texas.

September 19 through 21 in Atlanta, GA.

For more information, visit www.swugconf.org.

By popular request, Ed gave a demonstration on EndItAll, a free program that is extremely helpful. Lon Whistler has disks available at the freeware/shareware table but you need a WinZip or comparable program on your computer to use it. Lon will have these programs available for the next meeting. When you prepare to install a new program, you are requested to shut down all programs running in the background. The usual way is to do a Ctrl-Alt-Delete and End Task for each program EXCEPT Explorer and SysTray. If you accidentally hit Ctrl-Alt-Delete TWICE, your computer shuts down, reboots, and you have to start all over again. With EndItAll, you do it once to install EndItAll and never have to do it again. You click on the program and it shuts all unnecessary programs down and protects Explorer and SysTray.

The following websites were recommended as helpful and all have free newsletters to which you can subscribe:

www.pcdon.com

www.komando.com

www.langa.com

Door prizes were drawn and there were several lucky winners. After the break SIGs met for Newbies, Techies, Genealogy and Digital Cameras. The Newbies, led by Ed, had many questions and Ed told the group that they should go to the Help feature in any program to find answers.

Chet Hartley of the Techie group reported Members presented some interesting problems for discussion.

1. Member cannot read PDF files using Internet Explorer but can read them fine through Netscape. It was suggested that his link from IE to Adobe is corrupted.
2. Member had trouble with on-line banking. He described a successful help call to Dell that finally resolved the problem.
3. Member was unable to open second browser window. It was suggested that pop-up blocking software could cause this. He acknowledged that he had recently installed such software.
4. A few members sometimes had pictures that don't open in either email or browser. They usually leave a "place holder" box. Sometimes they load eventually after sufficient wait. In one case the mail had been forwarded through AOL and it was suggested that AOL might not be passing along the graphics file.
5. A member wanted to know how to turn off the preview pane in Outlook Express.
Answer: "view", "layout" and uncheck "show preview pane". Members presented some interesting problems for discussion.

For more information please visit our website at www.ccmv.net.

May 27, 2003

By Sandy Kandl

Today our general meeting was a short one to allow for a most interesting speaker. There were 75 members present and one new attendee. Joannie Lenz is holding an Intermediate Word Class the 2nd week of June. Anyone interested should contact her at 301-6226, joannie@RainbowFlair.com or visit her web site at: www.ByJoannie.com.

After an early and short break, Art True introduced David B. Whittle from iSee Media to us. He demonstrated several software products, such as 3D Album, PhotoVista Panorama, Alpha 5 V5 Home Edition, muvee autoProducer, PhotoVista Virtual Tour and Six Degrees. Mr. Whittle showed movies taken in Hawaii and what these products could do making a panorama of single shots. It was an amazing demonstration. He offered very attractive user group prices. Many members took advantage of them and purchased several software products. For those who did not purchase any software, but wish to, contact Mr. Whittle at davew@iseemedia.com.

In the remaining time, Ed Freeman held a door-prize raffle. David B. Whittle, the presenter of today's program, donated several of the door prizes. The members who won were very pleased.

CCMV GENERAL MEETING

June 10, 2003

President Ed Freeman welcomed four new members to the club. About 89 members attended.

Ed announced that Joannie Lenz would be holding a two-evening Word class, this evening and Thursday at the Ceniceros Center.

The SW Regional Conference of PC user groups will meet in September in San Diego. Ordinarily the meeting is for officers of clubs, but Ed has invited any member of CCMV who would like to attend to check the newsletter in the meeting summary for the website to obtain information on registration and scheduling.

President Ed reminded members of the materials available at the tables around the room: the club's newsletter, business cards relating to computer services, CDs and tapes including teaching ones such as XP Word and Excel, magazines, and miscellaneous free stuff. Cue cards and freeware and shareware are sold at Art's and Lon's tables. The shareware "Spy Sweeper" is featured in the newsletter this month.

The president reviewed the losses in the burglary of the Computer Lab at the Ceniceros Center. An estimate of the total loss was given at \$6,600. Details on the materials lost are found in the newsletter. Insurance coverage is currently under negotiation.

The business meeting was adjourned early to leave adequate time for the workshop on digital photography.

Vice President Art True, Program Chair, introduced Lee Otsubo, the digital photo guy, who gave a very well-received presentation. His workshop was neatly organized and a fine example of what good teaching can be. There was information that could profit all levels of ability in computing, served up with clever bits of humor. Members showed their interest by numerous purchases of Mr. Otsubo's CD's.

The meeting adjourned after door prizes were awarded to the lucky winners.

Georgiana Dols

June 24, 2003

By *Sandy Kandl*

Today, President Ed Freeman welcomed 68 members, including one new attendee. He announced that our Club member, Dick Allums, is in the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his wife, Meredith.

Before introducing the first of three speakers, Ed reminded us to check the back table for business cards on computer services, library material for check out and lots of free stuff, including donated magazines. The Q-Card table has many helpful tips and the shareware table has disks for 50¢ each.

Jo Bushnell, as a community service volunteer for the Meniffee Hospital, talked about the Vial of Life program, suggesting that our information should be available to the Fire Department and the Paramedics in the event they are called in an emergency. She explained how the system works and where the vial should be kept. They have a wonderful method to remind people to update their information by sending annual birthday greetings to all who register. Jo stayed during the break to enroll the members and distribute the vials and information forms. For those who did not attend the meeting, the forms can be obtained at various locations, including the Kay Cenicerros Center, Meniffee Hospital, Sheriff's office, Fire Department, etc.

One of our members spoke about organ donation. He checked and found that no one is too old. Young or old, the condition of the organs involved is the determining factor. If you wish to be an organ donator, mark it on your driver's license and carry a card.

Joannie Lenz (our Web Goddess) gave a demonstration on our new Web Page. Please check it out and take the new poll. It is an excellent site and very easy to navigate. The Club's web address is www.ccmv.net. She welcomes ideas for the Web Site. If you have any suggestions, send them to her by e-mail and she will incorporate them on the Site. Joannie is always a delightful speaker and donates her time generously.

Before the break, Sandy Kandl announced that she would be moving out of the Sun City area. Dee Morris, who takes care of keeping the Club Roster and sign-in sheets up-to-date graciously agreed to fill the position of Director at Large that Sandy would have to vacate. Georgiana Dols who is Secretary on the Board, and filled in for Sandy taking the minutes at the Club meetings, also graciously agreed to take over that position.

After the break, Vice-President Art True introduced Bob Johnson from Mediacom Cable to answer questions regarding Broadband Internet Service. Attending with him was Alan Publitz, General Manager, informing the members of several introductory offers. If anyone is interested, stop in at the Medicom office in the Sun City shopping center for details.

Before ending the meeting, Ed held a door prize drawing. There were several lucky winners. Next meeting July 8th. Mark your calendars.

CCMV GENERAL MEETING

July 8, 2003

Vice President Art True conducted the July 8th meeting of the Computer Club of Menifee Valley. Art announced that President Ed Freeman was in the hospital after suffering a heart attack, but his condition had been stabilized; a decision was to be made today whether he would have further treatment or be sent home.

Eighty-two people attended the meeting, and Art introduced 7 new members who came for the first time. Lon Whistler's choice for shareware of the month is reported in the newsletter. Check on SpamPal. Shirley is in charge of the Cue Card Table today.

Joannie Lenz announced that her Beginning Word class would start this evening, and a class in Excel is scheduled in three weeks. She reported that she has put a message board on the club's website, and she encouraged people to take the poll currently being run on the site.

Art gave the scheduled programs for July 22nd and August 12th; on July 22nd Dwight Jenkins will speak on how to get rid of pop-ups, and at the first meeting in August Alan Soberitz will give a history of communication. Art has heard Alan speak at a meeting of Crime Watch where he was well received.

Russell Ellis presented some interesting information on classes on line. He distributed a flyer with the website of "Leader in Virtual Studies" which contained information about registration, fees, etc. He included his e-mail address for those who want more information. His address is Russel@PcMagic.net

Art, with some input from Sandy Kandl and Lon Whistler, presented a demonstration on using the keyboard sans mouse. He had various suggestions including use of the Windows logo key, making shortcuts, highlighting, etc. It was suggested by a member that he make a cue card specifically on shortcuts, and he promised to do that.

After the break a Q and A group and various sigs dispersed to their meeting rooms.

Notes from Chet Hartley's SIG Group

A member has a single 30 GB drive and wants to install multiple operating systems. Some suggestions regarding partitioning and settings.

A member wants to reformat his "C" drive before reinstalling the OS. Program refuses. How can he overcome this?

A member described a simple GPS receiver that connects directly to the computer. The receiver itself has no displays, all interface is via the computer. Great for traveling with a laptop computer.

A member described wiring his new house with TV cable throughout for interconnecting devices. We also discussed fiber optics for the same purpose.

We discussed the recent proposals for broadband internet using power lines. There is likelihood that the technology would cause potential interference to radio services in the 2-80 MHz range. A member reported that a popup blocking program has "taken over" the sounds on his computer. He has removed the program but still doesn't have the sound back. There were some suggestions for checking the registry but with cautions regarding making registry changes.

Georgiana Dols

CCMV

General Meeting, July 22, 2003

President Ed Freeman conducted the July 22nd meeting of the CCMV. Seventy-five members attended with no new members joining.

Ed announced Joannie Lenz's class in Basic Excel on the 22nd and 24th, 5-8:30 at the Kay Cenicerros Center. People interested were to sign up at the back table.

President Ed reminded people of the services offered by the club: library materials for checkout, including instructional tapes and CDs; business cards on computer services; free materials including computer magazines. The Que Card table has helpful tips on computing, and the Shareware table has many items at 50 cents a disk.

Gene Barlow who does user group support sent along information about an updated version of Drive Image v7 available from Power Quest. He can offer user group members a discount from the retail price; \$35.00 as opposed to the \$79.95 retail price. Those interested can order from Gene's secure site, www.ugr.com/order using the special order code UGANNVP2. Two training CDs on backing up the computer are also available for \$15. Gene's full e-mail address will be posted on our web site in "Software News".

Joannie Lenz has added a message board to the club's web site. There has been little use of the board since the last report. Joannie will monitor features added to the board and will eliminate those not used.

Ed discussed with the group three web sites of interest: A Rube Goldberg one at <http://home.attbi.com/~bernard36/honda-ad.html>, another on file formats and how to deal with them-- <http://www.stack.com/file/extension/> and the third on graphics— <http://www.printasiafun.com> for free images.

A member suggested that it was unnecessary to type in the www and all the accompanying slashes, hyphens, and tildes to access a web site.

CCMV—July 22nd Meeting-Page 2

President Freeman gave a mini-demonstration on how to properly remove programs that are no longer wanted. Just deleting will not do the job. Parts of a program are installed in many locations. If the individual program has an uninstall feature it can be removed easily by bringing up the program and clicking the uninstall choice in the menu. If the program has no uninstall feature, in XP click Start—Control Panel. Double click the Add or Remove Programs. In Windows 98 and ME click Start-Settings-Control Panel. You'll get a list of the programs on your system; highlight the program to be deleted by clicking it once. In XP, click Change/Remove. In 98 and ME click Add/Remove.

Because of concerns of people who worry about the capacity of the hard drive on a computer Ed gave examples of what one gigabyte will hold—1,000 minutes of music, 350,000 typed pages, 875 books at 400 pages each . . .

A member of the group initiated a discussion of the operating system, Lindows. The web site Lindows.com explains the system and has FAQ's about it.

There was no new information about the status of the insurance on items stolen from the computer lab. Classes will be scheduled on a limited basis until replacements can be made.

After the break Dwight Jenkins gave an excellent presentation on pop-ups and how they get into the computer system. He thought Ad Aware the best system to delete and protect. The Shareware table has Ad-Aware 6.0, his choice.

Several lucky members won door prizes, and the meeting adjourned.

Georgiana Dols

CCMV MEETING

August 12, 2003

President Ed Freeman conducted the August 12th meeting of the CCMV. There were 82 members present. The president greeted five new members.

Ed reminded those present of the available materials at the tables around the meeting room. These included the August newsletter, library materials for checkout, computer-related business cards, and computer magazines and other free stuff donated by the members.

Art True who volunteers at the Que Card table told the members that the available Q-cards are now indexed making it easier to locate specific items. He also has three new cards one on using the windows key, one on superscript and subscript using, and one on shortcuts.

Lon's Shareware Table has many items for fifty cents a disk. These include Ad-Aware 6.0 which was located for us by Rose after it was discussed by last meetings' speaker, Dwight Jenkins. There are also some books for sale again.

Joannie Lenz's class in Basic Outlook to be held August 12th and 14th still has places available. She will be giving a Power Point class August 26th and 28th also at 5-8:30. Sign-up sheets are at the back table. Classes are held at the Kay Cenicerros Center. The new classes in September, offered by the club, will be limited until the insurance situation concerning the burglaries has been resolved.

President Ed reported on the new message board, which Joannie has added to the club's web site. At last report it had had little usage. If there has been limited use after a time, the message board will be taken off.

Ed detailed a communication from Shayne Nelson of White Canyon User Group Relations whom he had met at the San Diego Conference he recently attended. White Canyon's WipeDrive, a hard drive sanitizing solution, and SecureClean, an individual file scanning and deletion utility are offered at a 50% discount. More information can be found at <http://www.whitecanyon.com/usergroup.php>, the User Group Advantages page. The User Group code UGID1492 is to be entered in the login box.

A call for help had been received by Ed from Urania Watts who could not access an itemized statement for her new Dell computer as she had been directed to do. She needs the statement for her rebates. The group was asked to get Urania's number from Ed if anyone could help.

Page 2-- 8/12/03 Meeting

Joannie Lenz, who is district crime prevention chairperson of the California Federation of Woman's Clubs, asked volunteers from the club to set up a display on computer security in the spirit of crime prevention. A community crime prevention day is scheduled at the Kay Cenicerros Center for October 25th beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Bill Oberg has a Dell Computer for sale. He can be reached at 672-3387.

Joan Lenz gave tips on accessing minutes and newsletters on the computer club's website.

After the break Alan Sabsevits of Verizon gave an interesting and informative history of communication from the early invention of the telephone to today's much more sophisticated technology and its attendant problems and benefits.

President Ed had brought some really "good stuff" to be raffled. The winners were to be envied!

Georgiana Dols

COMPUTER CLUB MEETING

August 26, 2003

President Ed Freeman welcomed 6 new members to the August 26th meeting of the CCMV; 66 members attended. For the benefit of new members Ed reviewed the materials and services the club has to offer.

Joannie Lenz announced that her class in Powerpoint tonight and Thursday had places available. Sign-up sheets for her class and others are located on the back table.

The new message board on the club website is beginning to work well with more usage.

ArtTrue announced a Q. and A. session for next meeting. He is still working on the presentation for the second meeting in September. In-a-Box presentations from Intel, Smart Computing and JASC are available. A presenter from the club membership would be needed. The presenter would be able to keep materials after he had done the work of presenting.

A price break on software from JASC is current. Order forms are found on the back table.

Ed asked for items from the floor. One member mentioned the book "Blue Nowhere" by Jeff Deaver, which is about hacking and its evolution. Another told about the atomic clock available at Radio Shack.

The president discussed the MSBlaster worm and the removal process. He gave a mini-demonstration on how to look for the worm. He also mentioned a more destructive attacker SOBIG.f which evolved from SOBIG.a. He warned members not to ignore patches from Microsoft to keep their systems up to date. A new online spyware detection service from PestPatrol is available at <http://www.pestscan.com>. It tests for holes.

President Ed cautioned people to keep their systems' virus protection updated and to have a firewall. The Zone Alarm firewall is free to home users. Zone Alarm and Add-Aware are available at the shareware table.

Several lucky people won door prizes.

At the Q and A session many questions and shared information were about PC security.

Georgiana Dols

CCMV MEETING

September 9, 2003

President Ed Freeman greeted 75 members including two new people at the September 9th meeting. He reminded people of available materials found on the back tables including magazines which can be borrowed and returned, library materials for check out, and business cards relating to computer services.

Joannie Lenz announced her upcoming classes—Intermediate Excel in two weeks on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Art True's class in Introduction to 98 begins Friday at the Ceniceros Center. Sign-up sheets for classes are on the back table.

So far the CCMV's classes are limited since there has been no resolution on the insurance settlement claim since the burglary of the lab. A member of the group told Ed that County Supervisor Venable would be at the Civic Center's Town Meeting Wednesday and suggested that Ed contact him about the lack of action on the claim, which was filed through Family Services.

Lon's Shareware table has many items including AdAware for fifty cents a disk. His featured shareware explained in this month's newsletter is Exposed.

Art's Q-Card table has many helpful cards especially for new users. It is also planned to offer new users some useful information at meetings. At this meeting President Ed did a mini demonstration on sizing and moving a window.

Order forms for JASC software are available on the back table. There is a price break for our computer user group.

People who have posted problems on the new message board on our Web Site report prompt and helpful answers to their queries.

Art True, Vice President in charge of programs, gave the schedule of planned programs: September 23rd, Smart Computing Magazine's information on PowerPoint with Art as the presenter; October 14th Mark Haley of Microsoft will do a program on DVDs and CD-ROMs travel and nature; and on October 28th Nicole Diaz will speak on Active PDF Composer.

Ron Spath of the nominating committee reported that the committee has candidates for Secretary, Treasurer, and Member at Large, but does not have President and Vice President nominees.

Page 2 CCMV September 9, 2003

From the group came a request for movie reviews. Joannie Lenz suggested that the Community Calendar would be the place for those, rather than the CCMV web site.

Bill Oberg has a computer for sale at an excellent price. For details his number is in the roster of the club.

Ed reminded people that the parking spaces directly in front of the meeting room doors are for handicapped members.

Ed's jokes—one "the best lawyer story ever!!!" and a trick with rotating the right foot clockwise and then forming the numeral 6 in the air were fun and mysterious.

After door prizes were given to lucky winners there was a break. Different SIGs met in various rooms. New users had a demonstration from Ed on how to copy and paste the body of an E-mail to eliminate all the "forwards".

Georgiana Dols

CCMV MEETING

September 23, 2003

President Ed Freeman welcomed 66 members to the September 23rd meeting of the CCMV. New to the group were 2 new members and one returnee.

Joannie Lenz announced a Basic Word class to be held on October 14th and 16th. Sign-up sheets for her class and for others held at the Cenicerros Center are on the back table where library materials and business cards relating to computer services may also be found.

The Q-card table has helpful step-by-step tips on computing, and the Shareware Table has many items for fifty cents a disk, including copies of AdAware discussed at the last meeting.

The new message board on the club's web site is doing well with helpful answers to problems appearing in a short time.

Club members were reminded that they could get a price break on software from JASC. Order forms were available on the back table.

At the last club meeting, because there had been no action on the part of the insurance company in the matter of the burglary of the computer lab, the suggestion was made to contact Supervisor Venable to see what could be done in our behalf. A member informed the club that Mr. Venable would be at a town meeting at Webb Hall and it would be helpful to contact him there. President Ed sent a letter on our problems to Mr. Venable, and two of our club members spoke to him at the town meeting. As a result a meeting with the V. P. of Family Services was held and the denial of our insurance claim has been appealed. Ed thanked the club members who helped instigate this action.

A need to offer new users useful information at our meetings led the president to present the first of a planned series on basic procedures. He offered a demonstration on saving a file and opening a file and an example of use of these procedures.

After the break Art True gave the first of the planned "Presentations in a Box". These presentations include a script, CDs and prizes, which can be awarded as door prizes. The presentation this time was on "Smart Computing" the magazine subscription and its attendant benefits. Door prizes, which included gifts from Smart Computing.com, were given at the close of the meeting.

Georgiana Dols

CCMV MEETING

October 14, 2003

President Ed Freeman welcomed 102 members to the October 14th meeting of the Computer Club of Menifee Valley. Among them were 3 newcomers.

Ron Spath, Chairman of the nominating committee announced the names of prospective officers who were to be presented to the members for a vote. Since there were no nominations from the floor a motion was made to accept the slate as given. The membership elected:

Ed Freeman, President
Art True, Vice President
Georgiana Dols, Secretary
Chet Hartley, Treasurer
Dee Morris, Member-at-Large

President Ed conducted a very brief business meeting to make time for two presentations.

Art True introduced Mark Haley whose program was on DVD's and CD-Roms. He showed beautiful scenes of the National Parks, Birds, and famous cities including Machu Pichu among others. He demonstrated a multiple language CD, which converted Web text to speech. At the break he offered the materials he had shown in his presentation at an excellent discount.

The second speaker was Richard Katz who demonstrated the new Microsoft Office 2003. The members were very responsive to Richard's humor and had good questions and funny repartee.

Door prizes were excellent materials brought by the presenters. (And many t-shirts dispensed by Richard Katz!)

Georgiana Dols

CCMV MEETING

October 28, 2003

Seventy-six members, four of them new, attended the October 28th meeting of the Computer Club of Menifee Valley. President Ed Freeman presided. He informed the group that two of the club's members had died recently, Dick Allums and John Carr.

Since the scheduled speaker, Nicole Diaz, was not able to be present because of the fires in San Diego County Ed substituted two clever programs. One of the programs was a quiz with what seemed to be obvious answers—as “How long was the 100 years' war?” which turned out to be 116 years. The other was a collection of error messages to computer users done in Japanese haiku—a much gentler method than “You have committed an illegal act!”

President Ed reminded members of the various helps provided at tables around the meeting room. He also reminded people of the information provided on the message board on the club's web site. He asked for a show of hands of those who had visited the web site and who had used the message board and had received help after posting a question. So far no one had sent in a movie review. But Ed suggested “Runaway Jury” which he gave a very favorable rating.

In a report to members on the status of the insurance on the stolen items taken from the computer lab, Ed was able to report progress after a meeting with the VP of Family Services. The amount to be granted should be known by the end of the week. It is hoped that Supervisor Venable's promise of moneys from the discretionary fund may make up the difference.

The need to institute a short session to offer new PC users useful information was begun. President Ed demonstrated basic procedures based on Que Card 109, Defrag., Card 129, Removing Temp Files and Card 129 Print Screen.

After door prizes were awarded, there was a break and members regrouped in separate rooms for question and answer sessions.

Georgiana Dols

CCMV MEETING
11/11/03

Vice President Art True conducted the November 11th meeting of the Computer Club of Menifee Valley; seventy-five members, five of them new enrollees attended. Art called attention to the various materials and services offered by the club.

Shirley Frygear was at the Cue Card table, and LonWhister had freeware and shareware available including the Christmas Card people have asked about.

Ed Freeman had left Art True an E-mail of Haiku poetry used in Japan instead of the abrupt error messages we get. Art displayed samples and told the group they to could go to the club's June, 2003, Page 3, www.ccmv.net web site archives of the newsletter for more.

Following the practice of presenting simple demonstrations for less-experienced PC users Art presented a method of shutting down fast, making a short-cut for the floppy drive, copying to a floppy, copying a floppy to a floppy, and a convenient way of mailing a floppy.

After a break Janice Wendt from nik.multimedia, Inc gave a demonstration showing how to enhance digital photos. Janice showed some amazing enhancements to an original photo. She was a dynamic speaker, appealing especially to the digital photo SIG.

Georgiana Dols