

**"FRIENDS
HELPING
FRIENDS"**

COMPUTER CLUB of Menifee Valley



Member of
The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups

Volume 7, No. 8
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Sun City, CA

CLASSES TO RESUME IN SEPTEMBER

Computer classes are scheduled to begin on Monday, September 23.

The full schedule of classes, along with the names of the teachers and their assistants, will be available soon.

Class sign-up sheets are available at the following places:

- ❖ The back table at the Computer Club meetings.
- ❖ The lobby of the Kay Cenicerros Community Center.

FEATURED SPEAKER



CONSUMER ALERT! POP-UP ADS MAY BE INVADING YOUR PRIVACY!

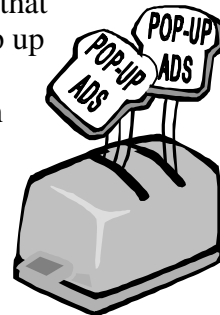
By Dwight Jenkins

Pop-up ads... Those annoying ads that open up in your face when you visit web sites. Have you noticed more and more of them lately? So have I, and like many others, I blamed the owners of my favorite sites for becoming greedy and over selling their ad space to the point of being ridiculous. Then I started seeing pop-up ads on Rainbow Flair sites... Hold the phone, we haven't sold ads on those sites, and certainly not pop-ups. So after some research, I found the culprit. Or rather culprits. It seems that there are marketing firms that distribute Trojan horse type programs, usually concealed in freeware or other programs, that will install themselves on your computer, and pop up those ads.

More than that, some of them actually spy on you, sending information from your computer to the marketing firms via the Internet. While they will probably claim they are only interested in an aggregate of the information, I certainly don't want my credit card numbers and other personal details floating about someone's database.

And to make it worse, some of these programs can actually alter the look of a web site you are visiting by placing bogus links on the page. Imagine your child visiting the Disney web site and clicking on a link to a porn site. That's exactly what some of these hidden programs are doing.

During my research, I found a program called Ad-Aware, (as of this writing in version 5.83) which will scan your hard drive, (much like a virus scanner), and identify and remove these adware or spyware programs.



See *Pop ups* on page 4

Mike Masterson, left, of Union Bank, spoke on on-line banking during the July 23 meeting.

See "Meeting Minutes" on page 5.

FIREWALL QUESTIONS

The following site answers frequently-asked questions about firewalls:

<http://www.interhack.net/pubs/fwfaq/>

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Web Page Address

www.ccmv.net

Meeting Time and Place

2nd and 4th Tuesday
Seventh-day Adventist Church
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

It's been over twenty years since I first heard the statement, "When you gain something, you lose something." This was repeated almost daily by my photography instructor. Wishing to include the best pictures in the grade school yearbook that I was editing, I'd enrolled in the college course.

In our darkroom that Glenn had set up, I quickly learned that when I gained something I did, indeed, lose something.

For instance when I enlarged a picture I gained size but lost clarity. When I lightened a dark picture I lost contrast and often had to compromise one feature to gain another.

This afternoon I thought about this gaining and losing concept when it comes to computer use.

Having e-mail access--definitely something gained by the wonderful contact all over the world--also causes the loss of control over what comes on--including unwanted messages.

A couple of weeks ago my friend, Jack Obey, a Computer Club member shared with me a note he received from Juno on how to get rid of those pesky messages.

Here's the information he received on how to block an e-mail address in Juno 5.0:

1. Right-click the message that is from the e-mail address you want to block and click on "Block Sender" in the window that appears.
2. A message appears confirming that all messages from this e-mail address will be automatically deleted. Click on the "OK" button.
3. The next time you receive a message from this e-mail address, it is automatically moved to your Deleted Messages folder; you'll never see it in your Inbox.

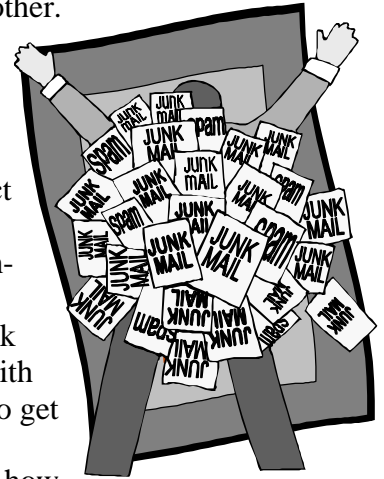
For more information you can e-mail Juno support at the following address: autoassist@support.juno.com.

My system, Outlook, has a similar procedure:

1. Right-click on the message that you want to block and "junk mail" will appear.
2. Click on "add to junk senders' list".

I don't have the resources to check other mailing systems, but they probably all have a way to eliminate undesired messages.

So, we can gain control over our e-mail senders, and lose (forever we hope) those undesirable intruders. We've gained something and lost something, but this time we're ahead on both accounts.



Verdell Roark

MEETING MINUTES - JULY 9, 2002

By *Sandy Kandl*

The weather is warming up and our members are slowing down. President Glenn Roark welcomed six new attendees for a total of 74 members.

Newsletters were available at the back table. Shareware and Cue Cards were also available.

We discussed a possible name change for our club, and Glenn asked us to think about names so we can go into it further at our next meeting. We are also considering incorporating and filing for tax exempt status which will be of benefit to the club.

Several web sites were discussed. To get rid of unwanted ads, www.lavasoft.usa.com. To stop spam, columnist Jeff Levy recommended <http://www.sunbelt-software.com/product.cfm?id=930>, or go to www.iHateSpam.us.

We are looking for a laptop computer with an external CD Burner so that Glenn can demonstrate the burning process.

After the break, we again separated into SIGs; Digital Photography, Quicken, Genealogy, Techies and Newbies.

The Techies reported discussing experiences using on-board Internet terminals on cruise ships. Chet Hartley was on the Holland America Line that had 10 Internet terminals available for 75¢ a minute after a \$3.95 setup charge. Pack-

ages are available that reduce the per-minute charge.

A member had installed a new 40gb disk drive and was having some trouble reinstalling Windows 98SE. He got several suggestions for addressing the problem.

They discussed the System Resources report and what affects the numbers.

They talked about what background programs are necessary and how to get rid of the others.

They mentioned on-line sources for help, Microsoft's "Mindshare" knowledge base, available from their website and other useful websites for addressing specific problems. Perhaps the club website could have a separate page of links to helpful fix-it sites.

They also had some discussion about virus checking and firewall programs.

Fourteen members were in attendance at the Digital Photography SIG (special interest group). They talked about taking pictures, sharpening images, and the contrast of colors.



Various picture programs were discussed, Paint, Adobe, Photo Shop, etc. Each had a favorite and stated why they liked that program.

Scanners were also discussed and what to look for if you're purchasing a new one.

LON'S FREWARE OF THE MONTH

Kill the clones

By *Lon Whistler*

Don't worry, this has nothing to do with that Star Wars movie.

If you're a long time reader of this newsletter, I'm willing to wager you've downloaded quite a few programs. Some you kept, while others just weren't suited to your needs. Perhaps you've even downloaded the same program more than once. It can happen; I've seen it happen.

Enter **CloneSpy**. It will search for, detect, and then remove all those duplicate files. Now your system can be a tad less cluttered. Nice.

"Also, **CloneSpy** is able to find files that are not exactly identical, but have the same filename.

With it, you can build checksum files from files on CDs (or even on hard drives, etc.) and use them to check if you have these files already on your system.

The checksum files will prevent you from playing DJ every time you search for duplicates." Those dupes are phantom menaces.

E-MAIL "NETIQUETTE"

It's considered poor etiquette to write e-mail in all capital letters.

Not only is it harder to read, but it comes across as shouting.

Pop ups, Continued from Page 1

Ad-Aware, which was selected as Freeware program of 2002 by PC World, is available for free from www.LavaSoftUSA.com.

They also have a paid version that will watch for new infections. The paid version is \$15 and includes free updates. It took about 30 minutes to run a deep and complete scan of my computer. Ad-Aware found, and after doing a optional backup, deleted 191 files and registry entries that were on my computer without my knowledge or consent. One Hundred ninety-one.

The difference is amazing. I've encountered one pop up ad in the last 2 days since cleaning out my computer. Compare that to before when 1 or more pop up ads every few minutes was not uncommon, and you'll see why I'm so thrilled.

Why won't your virus scanner catch these? That's a good question for your Virus Scanner manufacturer, but the main reason is these programs are usually installed along with other programs, and to keep them barely legal, a notice is buried in the fine print of the user agreement that you accept. on install. (And you ALWAYS read the whole agreement, right? Yeah, me neither, but I'm going to start being more careful.)

The Ad-Aware manual warns that once you've removed the adware or spyware, the original program you installed may stop working. Personally, that is the less of my worries. I don't want software from someone that would agree to such devious practices and losing their software is no loss in my book. Comments may be sent to dwright@rainbowflair.com.

The author was not compensated in any way for this review.

Dwight Jenkins, a member of the Menifee Valley Computer Club, is the Managing Director at Rainbow Flair Web Design.

NOTES FROM EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

by Anita Hammerschlag

Ron Spath has some great programs planned for future meetings.

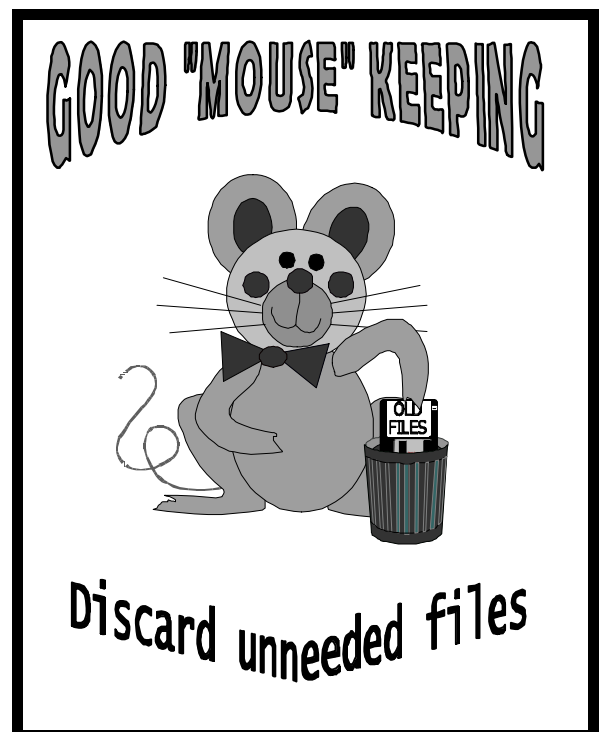
Glenn Roark will do a demonstration on burning CDs, Michael Masterson will teach us to do all our banking on line, John Van Olden will do a presentation on Ebay, Joanie Lenz will show us how to use Power Point and Ed Freeman will do a program on Paint.

The new computer classes will start on September 23, 2002. Remember to sign up early so you get into a class. There will be new textbooks for the classes this year.

Sign up sheets are on the back table, so go back there right now and sign up for your class!

Ed has purchased some new computers to take the place of the dinosaurs in the computer lab.

Be careful when you start to use the new computers. They work so fast they anticipate what you want to do and have it completed before you are able to grab the mouse!



MEETING MINUTES—JULY 23, 2002

By Sandy Kandl

Today, President Glenn Roark welcomed 74 members including four new members. We were reminded about the shareware and cue card tables, keeping our email addresses up-to-date, and picking up the free magazines on the back table.

Ed Freeman is looking for anyone who wishes to teach or assist in the new classes beginning September 23. Please contact him.

We discussed our possible name change before we incorporate. Several suggestions were made and they will be posted on our web site, www.ccmv.net. We can then vote on the name we prefer. Some of the suggestions were the current name, Computer Club of Menifee Valley; Menifee Valley Computer Users Association; Menifee Valley PC User Group; Computer Users of Menifee Valley; Computer Users of Sun City; and Computer Connections of Menifee Valley. Please visit our web site and make your feelings known.

Ms. Opal Hellweg, Manager of the Kay Cenicerros Community Center, spoke to us about the need for help with prescription drugs for seniors. There are many seniors on limited or fixed incomes who are faced with a choice of prescriptions or food.

Bring your empty prescription bottles or bottle caps with the price paid, along with a note showing your age, how many medications you take, and the amount you spend each month.

These are to be brought to the Cenicerros Community Center and they will be hand-delivered to Congress along with thousands of others. The form letters were available at the Club but you may write your own simply stating:



Opal Hellweg poses with her friend, Glenn Roark (president of the Computer Club.)

To Congress and President Bush:

I am a Senior Citizen living on a limited, fixed income. The high cost of prescription drugs forces me to frequently choose between getting my pills or food. PLEASE enact immediate legislation to have Medicare cover prescription drugs.

My age _____ I take _____ prescription drugs

After the break, Mr. Mike Masterson, Privacy Manager of Union Bank, spoke to us about on-line banking. Many members asked questions on how to bank safely, how to avoid scams, and identity theft.

There are several websites that can help: www.staysafeonline.info, www.consumer.gov/idtheft/index.html, and www.usdoj.gov/criminal/fraud/idtheft.html.

DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR COMPUTER'S BEST TIME-SAVER!

Some computer users—including some who are no longer “newbies,”—still haven’t learned to use the time-saving procedures of copying, cutting, moving, and pasting—probably for lack of understanding its advantages.

The following gives some examples of the usefulness of this powerful computer tool.

Copying and pasting text or graphics repeats the original selection in another location. The selected material, then, is in two places—the original location and a new place.

Cutting and pasting text or graphics removes the original selection and it appears only in its new location.

Some of the advantages of copying and pasting are:

1. Making correspondence personal, with added information sent to more than one person—without repeat typing!
2. Composing e-mail messages in a word processor; then copying and pasting it into the message area of the out-going message.
3. Copying graphics from one program to another.
4. Copying incoming messages or internet items of interest into a word processing program for future use and/or printing.

To Copy: Go to Edit—Copy (Control C)

To Cut: Go to Edit—Cut (Control X)

To Paste Go to Edit —Paste (Control V)

QUICK WAYS TO MAKE SELECTIONS FOR COPYING, CUTTING, AND PASTING

- ❖ To select one word: Double click anywhere in the word.
- ❖ To select a paragraph: Triple click anywhere in the paragraph.
- ❖ To select one sentence: Hold down the control key while clicking on the sentence.
- ❖ To select a block without your mouse running way ahead: Put your insertion point at the beginning of your selection. Hold down the shift key. Then take your cursor to the end of the selection. Everything in between will be selected.
- ❖ To select text from a given point to the end: Place the insertion point at the beginning of your selection. Hold down shift, control, and end. All text from that point to the end will be selected.



Three computers which were used in the Computer Club lab are for sale with very good prices for club members.

1. A 333 mghz e-machine
2. A Compaq 400mghz
3. An Amtron 450 mghz.

Anyone interested can see Ed Freeman at a club meeting or call him at 301- 9978.

KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

By Ed Freeman

Have you ever wished you could speed through shortcuts using keyboard commands rather than constantly reaching for the mouse? Well you can. Here are keyboard shortcuts that can speed up your computing and impress your friends with your technologic competence. Put these secrets to work and GEEK status is immediately yours.

These are the top ten keyboard shortcuts:

Help	F1
Open Start Menu	CTRL+ESC
Switch between open programs	ALT+TAB
Quit program	ALT+F4
Delete items permanently	SHIFT+DELETE
Highlight items in window	CTRL+A
Copy	CTRL+C
Cut	CTRL+X
Paste	CTRL+V
Undo	CTRL+Z

GENERAL KEYBOARD-ONLY COMMANDS

F1:	Start Windows Help
F10:	Activate menu bar options
SHIFT+F10:	Open context menu for selected item. This is the same as Right-clicking an object.
CTRL+ESC:	Open the start menu. Use arrow keys to select item. Select Start button. Press TAB to select the taskbar, or Press SHIFT-F10 for context menu.

See *Shortcuts* on page 8.



MOVIE AND TV LOOKUPS

Have you ever watched a program or movie and tried to recall the name of a familiar face—and it is continually on your mind while trying to watch the show?

If your computer is near the TV you can find your answer instantly at the following site:

<http://www.imdb.com/search>

Entries can be by show title, character, or actor/actress. Plots, as well as biographies on the performers, are also included in most cases.

Shortcuts, continued from page 7

ALT+DOWN ARROW:	Open a drop-down list box.
ALT+TAB:	Switch to another running application. Hold down ALT then Press TAB to view task switching-window.
SHIFT:	Press and hold the SHIFT key while you insert a CD-ROM to bypass the auto-run feature.
ALT+SPACE:	Display the main window's System menu. From the System Menu, you can restore, maximize, or close the window.
ALT+- (ALT+hyphen)	Display the Multiple Document Interface (MDI) child window's System menu. From this menu you can restore, move, resize, minimize, maximize or close the child window.
CTRL+TAB:	Switch to the next child window of a Multiple Document Interface (MDI) application.
ALT+(underlined letter in menu):	Open the corresponding menu.
ALT+F4:	Close the current window.
ALT+DOWN ARROW:	Open a drop-down list box.
CTRL+F4:	Close the current Multiple Document Interface (MDI) Window.
ALTF6:	Switch between multiple windows in the same program.

MICRSOFT NATURAL KEYBOARD KEYS

WINDOWS:	Start Menu.
WINDOWS +R:	Run dialog box.
WINDOWS+M:	Minimize all.
SHIFT+WINDOWS+M:	Undo minimize all.
WINDOWS+F1:	Help.
WINDOWS+E:	Windows Explorer.
WINDOWS+F:	Find files or Folders.
WNDOWS+D:	Minimize all open windows and display desktop.
CTRL+WINDOWS+F:	Find Computer.
CTRL+WINDOWS+TAB:	Move focus from Start, to Quick Launch, to System Tray. Use Right Arrow or Left Arrow to move focus to items on Quick Launch bar and System Tray.
WINDOWS+TAB:	Cycle through task bar items.
WINDOWS+BREAK:	System Properties dialog box.

Try some of these shortcuts and use those that feel comfortable as you incorporate them into your computing skills.