

*"Friends
Helping
Friends"*

COMPUTER CLUB of Meniffee Valley

 Member of
The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups

**Volume 7, No. 9
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Sun City, CA**

CLUB IS FEATURED IN THE SUN CITY NEWS

The August 23 issue of the *Sun City News* featured the Computer Club of Meniffee Valley as its front-page lead article. Included was a large photo taken at the computer lab, showing Ed Freeman checking some of the equipment.

This article was a result of the August 13 visit of Julie Farren, *Sun City News* reporter and George Campos, photographer.

Since this was the first meeting of the month, the members divided into the SIG (Special Interest Group) groups as well as the Question-and-Answer groups for "Newbies" and "Techies".

Julie spent part of her time in the "Newbie"

session, and part with the Digital Camera group. Lack of time prevented her from visiting the other SIGS.

The article related that, in 1986, Louise Schultz started the Computer club in Sun City. Her computer experience as a retired system development director for Biosciences Information Services in Philadelphia inspired her to start such a group here.

Also included in the article was a reference to Bill McKim's digital camera work. (See the photo on page 4, with the



Louise Schultz and Julie Farren during the interview.

minutes of August 13.)

Those who haven't read the *Sun City News* article may wish to take a drive to the Sun City Library and take a look.

CLASSES TO BEGIN THIS MONTH

Following the summer break, computer classes taught by members of the Computer Club of Meniffee Valley, are scheduled to begin on Monday, September 23.

Ed Freeman, Coordinator for the classes, has been assisted by Louise Schultz in adding new programs to the computers, readying them for the September classes, which

are held in the CCMV Computer laboratory housed in the Kay Cenicerros Center at Evans and Newport Roads.

Mr. Freeman is now arranging for teachers and assistants as well as being responsible for the class schedules.

Evelyn Rahn is making the final class arrangements, by phone, with those whose names were on the sign-up lists.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ron Spath has accepted the position of Chairman of the Nominating Committee for 2002-2003 officers, beginning in October 2002.

The other members are:

Sandy Kandl
George Metcalf
Art True
Frank Verano
Lon Whistler

**COMPUTER
CLUB**
of
Menifee Valley

Board of Directors

President

Glenn Roark
roark78@mchsi.com

Vice President

Ron Spath
maxxyz@aol.com

Secretary

Anita Hammerschlag
anitahamm@aol.com

Treasurer

Sharon Rea
josharea@inland.net

Director at large

Ed Freeman
ebfreeman@aol.com

Help line:

Graphics, Scanner, etc.
Louise Schultz
679-9261

Microsoft Excel

Glenn Roark
672-3068

Microsoft Word

Joannie Lenz
301-6226

Quicken

John Shallow
679-1474

Web Page Address

www.ccmv.net

Meeting Time and Place

2nd and 4th Tuesday
Seventh-day Adventist Church
29885 Bradley Road
Sun City, CA

Editor: Verdell Roark
verdelr@mchsi.com

FROM THE EDITOR

I haven't decided whether my computer addiction is a result of my fascination for learning and taking advantage of its many capabilities, or using it as an excuse to drift into la-la-land, ignoring my problems and household duties.

But. . . it can't go on forever, so my Radio Shack electronic timer has had to rescue me from spending *all* my time at the computer. It rings when I need to do something else.

I've found, that whenever I'm deep into the Internet my mouse takes me from one site to another, to another, to another... And what fun it is to follow these endless search engine roads to obtain information on almost any subject.

For example, a few days ago I was searching in www.google.com for information on Gainsborough's painting, "Blue Boy", I found the following site:

<http://www.s-t.com/daily/11-95/11-13-95/xrayart.htm#cut>

About halfway down the first page it tells of the use of X-rays in discovering another layer of the painting which has been painted over.

The photos of the painting show a puppy on the lower right hand corner on the first layer, which was painted out on the final one. It looks to me like the paws are still visible on the final painting.

This information sent me to the site where I could check on "Pinkie", a picture associated with "Blue Boy" although there is no connection except that the paintings are near each other in the Huntington Art Gallery in San Marino, California.

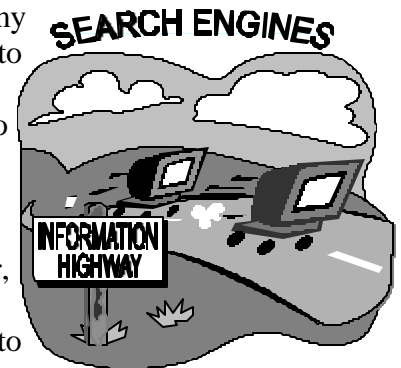
<http://www.huntington.org/ArtDiv/HuntingGall.html>

This site told me many things about the eleven-year-old "Pinkie", the daughter of a wealthy plantation family in Jamaica, who came to England for her education.

It also indicated that she died within a few months after the portrait was completed. And her brother, Edward, was the father of the poetess, Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

This has inspired me to search for the birth and death dates for "Pinkie" in the family history search engines. And I've also become more interested in researching the life of her famous niece. But that will have to be later. My timer just went off.

Verdell Roark



COMPUTER MAINTENANCE

By Ed Freeman

One of the areas that is a mystery to many club members is ScanDisk and Defrag. As hard drives have grown in size, maintaining them has become more time consuming. The ideal time to run utilities is the wee hours, but who wants to get up at 3 a.m. to do that?

The answer is the Scheduled Tasks function, which is present in Windows 98, ME and XP. You can schedule these utilities to run anytime you like, and as often as you like. Weekly is good, monthly is probably OK for most of our club members.

To get started, click Start>>Programs (in XP, All Programs)>>Accessories>>System Tools>>Scheduled Tasks. When the window opens, double click Add Scheduled Task. That will open a wizard. Click Next. Then:

- Select the tool you want (ScanDisk or Disk Defragmenter.)
- ScanDisk is not available in XP, so choose Disk Cleanup.
- Select the frequency with which you want to run the tool
- Click Next. Select more frequencies. Click Next
- For even finer scheduling, select the "Open advanced properties" box
- Click Finish

You're all set. Just remember to leave the computer on during the period when the schedule is to run. ScanDisk will leave you a message, telling you whether it found any problems. Disk Defragmenter will show you that it has completed its job.

And you don't have to sit around and watch if you scheduled it for a time that you don't usually use your computer. On the other hand, spice up your life and watch the computer work.

These utilities are sensitive to other programs. If other applications access the hard drive while they are running, they will restart. That can make the process interminable. So shut down the other stuff.

For instance, a clock program running on the computer, which is a Windows 98 machine, is shut down along with the firewall.

It is a good idea to shut down the screensaver, and the anti-virus program. And unhook the Internet cable connection.

Good maintenance habits will result in fewer problems and a faster, smoother running computer.

CURRENT COMPUTER POLL



Don't forget to take part in the current poll on the CCMV web site. www.ccmv.com

The question is: How much time do you spend (on the average) on your computer each week?

Greater than 15 hours

7—15 hours

3—7 hours

1—3 hours

less than 1 hour

So far,
Greater than 15 hours
is ahead.

MEETING MINUTES - AUGUST 13, 2002*By Sandy Kandl*

President Glenn Roark welcomed 80 members including five new members. A motion was made and seconded to retain our current name, **Computer Club of Meniffee Valley**.

Norm Spiere from the Hemet Computer Club invited us to attend a picnic on Monday, September 30, between 10 AM and 3 PM, which will be held at Gibbel Park at Florida and Kirby, on the north side of Florida and just west of the Mall. Hot dogs will be provided at no cost. Bring folding chairs and a dish of your choice.

Dwight Jenkins presented a software program called CuteSite Builder, which helps you create your own web site. You may access the program by going to <http://www.globalscape.com/pcug/index.asp> There is a 20% discount for Club members if you wish to purchase the program. Dwight is Managing Director at Rainbow Flair Web Design.



Bill McKim explaining his pictures to some of the members of the Digital Camera SIG.

Classes are due to begin September 23 and we are still looking for teachers and assistants. See Ed Freeman if you are interested.

After the break, we broke into separate groups Newbies, Techies, Digital Photography, Genealogy and Quicken.

Fifteen members joined the Digital Photography group. Most of the discussion centered on the enhancement of pictures taken with digital and 35mm cameras. They discussed resolution and saturation of pictures.

Bill McKim brought in several pictures. He explained what he had done to each one in regards to the color, clarity, etc. His pictures were excellent and praised by all present. Julie Farren from the Sun City News conducted a mini-interview with some of the members.

MEETING MINUTES—AUGUST 27, 2002*By Sandy Kandl*

Today President Glenn Roark greeted 99 attendees and three new members. A nominating committee is being formed to elect a new slate of officers for the coming year. Anyone interested please contact Ron Spath at 679-1958.

We were reminded once again about the shareware, cue cards, newsletters and freebies that are available to the members. If you aren't getting notices of the meetings, check with Dee and give her your correct email address.

Classes will start on September 23rd and Evelyn Rahn will begin calling and scheduling them very soon.

If you are interested in a class, please sign

up as soon as possible. If you missed a meeting you can borrow a videotape and see what you've missed.

After the break, Glenn demonstrated the burning of CDs using Roxio Easy CD Creator, and explained the difference between Audio and Data, copying CD to CD, and backing up your system.

He used an external CD-R Drive, courtesy of Louise Schultz, attached to his laptop.

Next meeting should prove very exciting and interesting. We will have a raffle (bring money).

We will have lots of Macintosh software so tell your friends who have Apple computers.

LON'S FREWARE OF THE MONTH

By Lon Whistler

Zoom Player (Media Player)

I'm a fan of DVDs and music. I'm almost always working on my PC with music playing in the background, and Gretchen and I have been diligently building our DVD collection.

I honestly don't know how I ever survived without all the cool features of DVD; the sound quality alone is enough to make me sad for all the time I spent watching movies on VHS!

Zoom Player is a fully loaded and versatile media player for your PC.

The list of features is staggering, but includes such things as DVD-Insert notification, easy-to-

control video size,

auto-play media

CDs on insert, fast

forward/rewind

support, on-

screen display navigation,

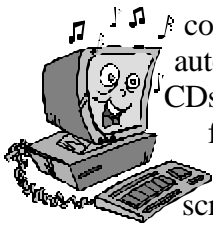
an interface for controlling aspects of the PowerDVD

and WinDVD DVD filters...

plus much, much more!

Also, like most great media programs out today, Zoom Player is skinnable and comes with 6 skins.

Zoom Player gives you more than any free media player should, and it wouldn't be wise to skip this download... you definitely get far more than your money's worth on this application!



SOFTWARE, SOFTWARE, SOFTWARE

By Ed Freeman

Software companies are strong supporters of user groups (CCMV being a user group). One of the ways is sponsorship of events at conferences. Another is offering members of user groups a discount on their software.

Jasc Software has been involved with APCUG (Association of personal computer user groups) and SWUG (Southwest user groups) for several years. CCMV is a member of both and I attend their annual conferences each year. SWUG held their annual conference in San Diego in early August. Jasc was there and offering discounts of their software.

I will give you a short overview of this software and the opportunity to purchase same at considerable savings (generally 30%).

The software be offered is Paint Shop Pro 7, Quick View Plus 7, Namu Webeditor 5, Media Center Plus, After Shot, and Virtual Painter.

Paint Shop Pro 7 has everything you need to edit photos, create Web graphics, draw, paint, animate and organize images. Quick fixes with automatic photo effects, color balance, saturation, contrast and more. Repair damaged photos and red eye.

Quick View Plus lets you view virtually any file, view e-mail attachments instantly, maintains formatting of original document.

Virtual Painter lets you turn your favorite digital photos into realistic-looking paintings in seconds. The program has many special effect filters as well as filters that simulate the appearance of different papers and canvas.

After Shot is a program that lets you organize your photos. The program lets you share your photos by e-mail, uploading to a site on the internet that friends and relatives can access, printing, etc.

Now the IMPORTANT stuff. The following shows the retail cost of each program followed by user group cost.

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|------|
| Paint Shop Pro 7 | \$109 | \$75 |
| Quick View Plus 7 | \$39 | \$27 |
| Namu Webeditor | \$149 | \$90 |
| Media Center Plu | \$39 | \$27 |
| After Shot | \$49 | \$29 |
| Virtual Painter | \$49 | \$34 |

I know. I KNOW! I did not review all the programs listed. Just those I thought would be of the most interest to CCMV members. Shipping will add about \$3 per item.

If any of these interest you, see me at the club meeting September 24 (I will be gone the 10th) and I will get a collective order off to Jasc.

REPORT ON 9TH ANNUAL SOUTH WEST USER GROUP CONFERENCE HELD IN SAN DIEGO ON AUGUST 9-11

by Larry Nelson



My first impression on this year's conference is how few vendors were in attendance and how much they cut back on giveaways and door prizes. All of our meals were sponsored by various vendors.

There were several Workshops to attend including "Conducting Effective Meetings, Growing your membership, Officer Burnout and Ink Jet printers". Most were very interesting and I learned a lot from them.

The most popular workshop was Digital recording on to CD's.

There were several presentations, during our meal times, given by industry leaders including Adobe, JASC, INTEL and, of course, Microsoft.

This year Microsoft emphasized their user group support program called MindShare. If you go to the Mindshare web site you can get a lot of information that is useful to user group members. (Mindshare.com)

VENDOR PRESENTATIONS

by Margie Nelson

I put together a few short notes from the meal presentations by vendors. We were appreciative of the informative talks but also for the great meals that were provided by the vendors.

ADOBE presentation by Alan Felgate

Alan talked about some of the new features in Photo Shop 7.0

- Give your digital pic a new name rather than just the numbers that come from the camera.
- Bring file management into Photo Shop.
- Do photo retouching easily with the healing brush or the digital iron.
- Use new tool presets to customize your work space, and make "talking" sticky notes.

JASC presentation by David Dean

David introduced their new product After Shot for digital camera users. He said there were four key features:

- Transfer
- Organization of your pictures
- Manipulation of images
- Share your images.

David took a few group pictures for use in demonstrating how you can search for specific photos, split the screen to see the before and after and give photos names that make them easier to identify rather than the numbers they are given by the digital camera. You can also add headers and footers such as dates, subject, etc. to the photos before you print them. You can also make a slide show of your photos.

INTEL presentation by Danny Cristofano

Danny said that Intel wants to reestablish its connection with user groups. He talked about Intel's vision, indicating that CPUs operating at 3GHZ and beyond will be seen in the near future.

MICROSOFT presentation by Alan Chitlik, Mindshare rep

Mindshare is Microsoft's User Group division, and Alan mentioned some of the things Mindshare is doing to support user groups and to help build their enthusiasm about MS technology. Microsoft.com/mindshare/demos.asp is a site users can go to and get product demos and users can also find links to other sites at Mindshare.com.

A QUICK FORMAT CHANGE

The *Format Painter* found in Microsoft Office programs (Word, Excel, Access, Publisher, and Powerpoint) is a great timesaver when changing the formatting (font, size, and color) of a section of text to the exact formatting of text that is already in the document in another place. Here's the procedure:

1. Select the word or text that has the format you want to copy to another area. (The entire area doesn't need to be selected.)
2. Click on the brush icon on the Standard toolbar. The mouse changes to a brush.
3. Drag the brush over the copy you *wish to be changed*.

The same font, size, and color are now in both places.

To copy a format to more than one area (and to keep the brush active) use the following procedure:

1. Select the word or text that has the format you want to copy to other areas.
2. Double click on the brush icon on the Standard toolbar. The mouse changes to a brush.
3. Drag the brush over each section of text that you wish to be the same format as the selected area. When finished, click on the Painter Format button to turn it off.

An example for using the double clicking for multiple changes is when you wish to change all the headings in a document—even when the desired new format change isn't already in the document.

Just change the formatting in the first one, select it, and brush over each area that you want to change.

The paint brush in the Painter Format button works only with text.

It won't paint objects or graphics.

BACKING UP DATA WITH ROXIO EASY CD CREATOR

If you have important files in your "My Documents" folder it's a good idea to back them up from time to time on a CD.

Using the following procedure, all the folders and subfolders can be restored from a CD in case the hard drive fails:

1. Insert a blank CD-R disc in the CD burner drive.
2. Click Start, Programs, Roxio Easy CD Creator 5.0.
3. The first thing to appear is the Project Manager menu. Click on Make a CD—Data CD project.
4. Another menu appears with the Select Source File window on the upper left.
5. In the drop-down box, on the left, select the drive where the "My Documents" folder is located. Double click it and it will go into the Select Source File window. (It may already be there. It's Drive C in most cases.)
6. Go to the CD Project Folder Tree window, on the right, and select "My Documents" from the list, dragging it into the CD Project folder window (lower right).
7. Click on Start Recording (the red button on the right.) It will let you know when it's finished.
8. You can now make a label for your CD or write directly on it with a Sharpie pen. Be sure to date all back-ups.

September 10—Raffle and Q & A

September 24—PowerPoint Demo by Joannie Lenz

October 8 - Q & A

October 22 - Web Site Development by Bob Fay