

# COMPUTER CLUB of Meniffee Valley



Friends Helping Friends

December 2002  
Volume 7, No. 12

## THE PREZ SEZ

Where did the year go! Here we are, last meeting of the year 2002. There is much to report about CCMV and it may take several editions of the newsletter to let you know about all the exciting things coming in the new year.

BUT, first let me give you a short report on the APCUG meeting and COMDEX in Las Vegas mid November. The APCUG meeting consisted of workshops on shrinking membership in clubs and strategies on how to solve this problem, newsletters moving from print to electronic, development and maintenance of web sites, accounting and money management for new club officers, and dealing with the shrinking availability of company presentations at meetings. At one meeting, company representatives and attendees discussed avenues of interaction between their organizations and clubs. Major companies that made presentations included Intel, Adobe, Handspring, Jasc and Microsoft.

While member dues go toward the bread and butter of running a national association, vendor sponsors are the muscle behind a national conference by underwriting the cost of meals, making presentations, providing software for member participants and offer user-group discounts on their products.

At the Intel luncheon on Saturday November 16, Senior VP Pat Gelsinger made a masterful presentation on Intel's work with threading, a process of using the computer processor to execute dual processing strings at the same time. In the past single string instruction was how cpu's did their work. This process will increase the speed a cpu by approximately 30%. He also mentioned that Intel is announcing the release of the 3+Ghz processor.

Adobe Systems hosted a reception Saturday evening. The food was excellent, as were the

presentations on four of Adobe's products; Go Live, Photoshop Elements, Premier and In Design 2. Adobe has always been a generous sponsor and each attendee received a copy of Elements (which will be a meeting door prize at a CCMV meeting).

Jasc hosted Sunday breakfast and demonstrated a program called Aftershot, a digital photo processing program. Attendees received a copy of the starter program of Aftershot (another door prize at CCMV).

There is a fuller version available from Jasc at a discount to user group members. In fact, Jasc is offering all their software at substantial discounts to user group members. These include Paint Shop Pro 7, Quick View Plus 7, Media Center Plus, After Shot and Virtual Painter.

Other sponsors included Creo (Six Degrees), a company that has developed a program to manage e-mail in a business setting. They plan to continue development to work with most e-mail clients and be available to home computer users.

Microsoft/Mindshare hosted the Monday evening event. Alan Chitlik, Mindshare Program Manager, introduced several team members who demonstrated several products Microsoft is introducing this year. Following the business part of the program, Alan introduced Leo LaPort and Chris Prillo from Tech TV. Those of you familiar with The Screen Savers program and Call for Help on Tech TV will be familiar with both. They were very funny and informative. Both expressed their support for user group help and education to new users. Their main theme among the humor was that computing should be fun.

**Have a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. See you again in 2003. Where did 2002 go? . . . . Ed**

*APCUG is the national organization of computer users groups that we support with our membership. COMDEX is the largest international trade show of computer products, both hardware and software. This is where companies announce their latest item designed to make our computing lives easier and more fun.*

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**Web Page Address**

**www.ccmv.net**

*Take a look and take the poll*

*Meeting Time and Place*

2nd and 4th Tuesday  
9: to 11: a.m.  
Seventh-day Adventist Church  
29885 Bradley Road  
Sun City, CA

## CD Burning Hints

*Condensed from "Seniors Computer Group of San Diego" October Newsletter*

When burning a CD, the process may fail -- the blank CD, the CD burning software, or the CD burner may be defective, or either software or burner may not be supported by the operating system. Further, either the source CD or the blank CD could be flawed or dirty.

To minimize these potential sources of failure, try the following:

Close down any Internet connection.

Shut down other applications: Although Windows is a multi-tasking operating system, multi-tasking will still greatly increase the possibility of burning failure.

Defrag the hard drive. During a data burning process, the burning software reads data from the hard disk, converts it to a recording format (ISO 9600 format), then burns the data onto a CD. If data is scattered on the hard disk, reading, converting and burning may not proceed smoothly. Defragging collects scattered data, reducing the delay in converting, thus reducing time gaps cause buffer under-run problems.

Disable anti-virus applications: Some anti-virus software may generate an error message, causing the burning process to fail. So disable anti-virus applications before starting the burning process, and then resume after burning is completed.

Disable Power Management -- to prevent the computer from entering power-saving mode suddenly and interrupting the burning process.

Disable Screen Saver. If your screen saver is set to a short waiting time, it can interrupt the burning process.

Disable CD-ROM Auto-Insert function. When enabled, this function detects onsertion of a CD and executes the Auto-Run program or plays the music on the CD. If this function is not disabled, the burning process can be affected.

*Researched by John Amrein*

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### QUEEREZ

Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, "I think I'll squeeze these dangly things here, and drink whatever comes out"?

Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp which no decent human being would eat?

Why is there a light in the fridge and not in the freezer?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?

Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?

If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?

Why is it that when someone tells you that there are over a billion stars in the universe, you believe them, but if they tell you there is wet paint somewhere, you have to touch it to make sure?

Why ARE Trix only for kids?



## Dolores Morris — One of our volunteers

by Evelyn Rahn

You all will recognize that cheerful smile with which we are greeted twice monthly as we check ourselves in at CCMV meetings. She is DEE: Native of Michigan, Mother of six, Housewife by career, Builder of Computers!

And she is that lady who keeps those notebooks neatly setup for us to check in twice monthly; who types up the list of members, corrects them, updates them, follows up for data about members, etc etc. She keeps track of getting and keeping current names of all attendees at the club. If your e-mail address has changed or is found to be incorrect, See DEE. And she will make your corrections and updates.

Dolores lives in Sun City She said hello to her first computer in 1990 — a 386 40 meg with Windows 3.1 and, of course, DOS. This was in Michigan. Her husband Alfred (Jay) had his own "rig" contracting with and driving for other trucking companies. He loved it but decided to retire to Florida in December of

1993. He was retired for only one year when his life was taken at age 62 by cancer.

During their lifetime together, they produced six children, three sons and one daughter who live in Michigan and a son and daughter in California. These six offspring produced 16 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Jay and Dee enjoyed their year in Florida with its lovely warmth. So, when Dee was left alone and she made the decision to move to be near some children, those cold Michigan winter winds blew her all the way to California, where she has been for seven years.

Dee is very well acquainted with computers. How many of us could buy parts, install them in towers with all those drives and modems with their weird cables, ports and boards, and produce something resembling a computer? DEE DOES!! Children, friends, churches and businesses are satisfied recipients. She didn't say if she charges or donates but I would hope she at least covers expenses -- however, this IS her hobby.

Thanks Dee.

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### The Digital Imaging SIG Meeting November 12

Bill McKim had hauled in his computer, mouse and keyboard, hoping to use the projector at the SIG so some examples could be shown of use of various photo image processing programs. However, the small group that met were disappointed because the projector was assigned to other use. So Louise Schultz started the discussion by showing three examples of photo restoration: a passport picture corrupted by the shadows created during scanning from the passport embossing stamp, a 30-year-old black and white photo that had suffered severe damage from humidity, and a snapshot in which the principal desired element — a german shepherd dog — was lost in deep shadow.

Two of the attendees were interested in advice on digital cameras — one as an upgrade to the modest one he had for on-line contacts, and the other as a tool supporting his work on genealogy.

The discussion of what to choose in buying a digital camera then turned to the relationships between the camera specifications and the capability of the device used to produce the output — on paper (at various magnifications), on home printers, and for e-mail use. Sam Scherf — new to our club — described the value of a comprehensive course he had taken. Not generally thought about by the average photo

enthusiast was his point that a high resolution original can produce inferior results when the program producing output, using mathematics, discards pixels. An original produced at a lower resolution would be mathematically modified less and likely would better represent what was photographed.

The meeting was recorded on video tape by Orien Pfeiffer. He got close-ups of the example material provided by McKim and Schultz, as well as the very informative discussions. It is available at the back table for members to borrow (for the two weeks between meetings). There are also tapes of most meetings — especially those with a presentation. Orien has been a video enthusiast for years and will be spotlighted as one of our active volunteers.

**Are You Getting the Most Out of the Internet? Check out the sites mentioned at the last meeting as listed in the Meeting Summary and check out our own site at [www.ccmv.net/](http://www.ccmv.net/). Joannie Lenz has posted all the material since September so you can catch up with full meeting summaries and the newsletters on-line — and in color.**

## A Bounty on Spammers (condensed)

by Lawrence Lessig (Professor of law at Stanford Law School and the author of *The Future of Ideas*)

**Lawrence Lessig has an idea: force spammers who don't label their junk e-mail to pay \$10,000 to the first recipient who finds them.**

The Internet has had a long history of digital vigilantism, the most common being spam vigilantes. These well-meaning souls fight to rid the Net of unsolicited commercial e-mail, sent mostly by direct marketers eager to get your attention, whether you want it or not, at work and at home. Such groups attempt to fight these intrusions by building lists of sites that don't obey "proper" e-mail etiquette and then by organizing automated boycotts of the sites on the list. If your company's e-mail server finds itself on one of these lists, then a significant number of your e-mails will be routed into a virtual black hole.

If California Congressman Howard Berman has his way, soon these spam vigilantes will be joined by a new rank of lawless law enforcers -- copyright vigilantes. In July, Berman, a Democrat, introduced a bill to deputize the recording industry and other copyright holders to help fight copyright violations. Through his bill, these vigilantes would be granted immunity from liability as they deployed tools to hack peer-to-peer systems that they "reasonably believe" violate copyright laws. Berman's idea is an extreme example, but it shares important features with spam vigilantism as well.

Both forms depend ultimately upon code -- the ones and zeros of digital nervous systems -- doing the dirty work. The spam vigilantes first decide upon the spam policies they will require of e-mail servers across the Net. They then use tools to identify servers that violate their policies. Desperate e-mail administrators then subscribe to their list of policy-violating servers, and block e-mail from the servers on the list.

Once added to the list, there is no way to appeal the blocking or to fight such policies. Sometimes, the spam vigilantes offer people a way to appeal, but not always. Spews.org, for example, blocks without any appeal allowed. Its FAQ helpfully informs administrators who want to know "How does one contact SPEWS?" Answer: "One does not. SPEWS ... it's just an automated system and Web site."

No doubt, the motives of the spam vigilantes are pure. These are talented coders doing a public service. But there's also no doubt that the effect of their work is to make e-mail worse. They looked at the open and flexible system of e-mail that gave birth to much of the Net and decided that this system created too much

freedom at least for spammers. Their response was to find a mix of code and norms to restrict the freedom of e-mail. The result of their good intentions is a much less flexible e-mail system but not much less spam. Indeed, it's hard to believe that this conspiracy to cripple e-mail has done anything except make e-mailing more difficult.

But at least with the spam problem, there is a much simpler solution that, so far, Congress has failed to see. Imagine a law that had two parts -- a labeling part and a bounty part. Part A says that any unsolicited commercial e-mail must include in its subject line the tag [ADV:]. Part B says that the first person to track down a spammer violating the labeling requirement will, upon providing proof to the Federal Trade Commission, be entitled to \$10,000 to be paid by the spammer.

The aim of Part A is to enable simple filtering. If all spam were tagged, then it would be extremely easy to choose whether to receive it or not. Spammers say there are lots of people out there who love to receive spam. Good for them. They can tell their Internet service provider or e-mail client to deliver all e-mail, regardless of the subject line. But those of us who actually work for a living can choose to ignore this class of junk on the Internet by filtering all e-mail with the subject line [ADV:].

The aim of Part B is to make Part A effective. The vast majority of proposals before lawmakers to regulate spam has made enforcement depend either upon an action by the state or by lawsuits filed by ISPs. This is not an accident; it is a product of effective lobbying by direct marketers and other commercial spammers. These people know that attorneys general and ISPs have better things to do than track them down. By making them the only enforcers, spammers know that any law aimed at stopping them will likely not be enforced.

But if the vigilantes who are working so hard to keep lists of offending e-mail servers were to turn their energy to identifying and tracking down spammers, then this passion to rid the world of spam might actually begin to pay off -- both for the public and for the bounty hunters. If we deputized the tens of thousands of qualified people out there who are able to hunt offenders, then a large number of offenders would be identified and caught. Pretty soon the message to spammers will be delivered quite effectively: Label or pay.

The good souls who fight spam on the Net should embrace the rule of law over the reign of code, and then turn their coding efforts toward assuring this law actually rules.

## MEETING SUMMARES

by Sandy Kandl, [kandysland@hotmail.com](mailto:kandysland@hotmail.com)

November 12, 2002

Today, we welcomed 91 members and nine new attendees. President Ed Freeman gave us Web sites he thought would be of interest. They are:

[www.dcvviews.com/](http://www.dcvviews.com/) on Digital Cameras

<http://www.californiacoastline.org/> shows pictures of our coastline as it is today. This will help to show how man and nature are changing it.

<http://contacts.gsa.gov/listgov.nsf/FirstGovEmailListDistribution/> gives access to most government publications.

<http://www.internic.net/whois.html/> deals with Internet domain name registration services.

<http://www.cia.gov/> connects to the CIA

[www.hemetseniorcomputerclub.com/](http://www.hemetseniorcomputerclub.com/) to see what they are doing, and, of course, don't forget to visit our own site at [www.ccmv.net/](http://www.ccmv.net/).

Ed mentioned a new virus that attacks Internet Explorer 5.01 or 5.5. You can download a patch from <http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com/>. Ed also asked that we recycle our old computer magazines for those who have not read them. Classes will start about the 2nd week in January. Sign up if you are interested. Sign-up sheets are at the back table.

Another very interesting site for the Club to visit was provided to me by one of Glenn Roark's many friends, John Obey. The site is [www.ashonline.org/roark.htm/](http://www.ashonline.org/roark.htm/). There is a memorial to Glenn and his picture. The Home Page should also be of interest to all those living in senior developments

Verdell Roark's new address is: 6637-C South Reed Way, Littleton, CO 80123 (303) 933-8695. Her new e-mail address: [verdellroark@aol.com](mailto:verdellroark@aol.com) She will continue to get mail on yahoo for a while.

Thanks were given to unknown "Joe" who sent out notices of this meeting.

After the break, we broke up into various SIGs. In the new users group (newbies), questions come from the members and are usually answered by the members, and Ed Freeman moderates the discussion. The question of uninstalling programs was raised and the suggestion was that you try to uninstall from the program itself. If it has no Uninstall, then you go to Add/Remove and uninstall it from there, being careful to

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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS



read any message that pops up on your screen so you don't uninstall any part that is needed by another other program.

Chet Hartley reported that the Techies group discussed several topics that could be of interest to all members of the Club. It was recommended that you not buy a new DVD writer in the next few months since new standards for DVDs are expected.

A user who had previously reported a condition of the system clock changing year without warning reported that re-installing Internet Explorer corrected the problem.

They discussed the new versions of MSN and AOL vs. independent ISPs. General conclusion is that experienced users are often happier with independent ISPs. A local ISP that received high recommendation is "Spectrum".

Also discussed was the difference between USB1 and USB2 and whether upgrading to USB2 made sense and adding USB to a computer that doesn't have it.

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### ROUNDING UP YOUR DRIVERS

Browsing the Kim Komando website recommended by our Prez, Ed Freeman [www.kommando.com/](http://www.kommando.com/), I found a link to download an exciting free-ware utility. WinDriversBackup identifies all of the hardware in your computer and the drivers associated with each of them. It then saves all of the drivers on your hard drive in one folder for easy retrieval. Copied to a CD, this emergency disk is worth its weight in gold when restoring or installing an Operating Sytem.

For those unsure of the term, device drivers are files containing information needed to run your printer, scanner, monitor and all other devices. They are specific to a particular device, to a certain version of Windows (such as WinXP) and often to the family of computers assembled by a particular company.

Many, if not most, computer companies procure hardware components from device manufacturers which are slightly modified to their order. Recently, I spent several frustrating hours attempting a "clean install" of Win98SE on a new 40 gig HD. While I was able to download drivers from the device manufact-

(Continued on page 6)

## SOME OF OUR NEWCOMERS

by Evelyn Rahn, [erahn@inland.net](mailto:erahn@inland.net)

*We hope you will want to get acquainted with newcomers to the club. We want them to feel welcome and eager to participate*

LEON HIGGENSON (Lee) 679 7344 email [ethelleon@aol.com](mailto:ethelleon@aol.com) is a native Californian, graduated highschool southern California 1939; joined the Navy and was at Naval Airstation in Hawaii at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, happily a survivor. He was an electrician in the Navy and after two sessions with the Navy was retired. He continued in the electrical field in civilian life. His three sons and the grandchildren are CP gurus, and are helpful to Lee who has quite a bit of experience on the computer, enjoys email and is on line where his interests are varied.

BEN HANSEN [BHansen@PeoplePC.com](mailto:BHansen@PeoplePC.com). (909) 533 3447 signed on with CCMV November 12 and immediately signed up for the January session of Windows XP. He is not completely new at computers, however, having worked with previous Windows programs. Ben is a friend of Emilie and Adolph Betke. And as good friends do for friends, Emilie will be bringing Ben to CCMV meetings as he can no longer drive. (more on Emilie follows).

EMILIE BETKE of Menifee, (909) 301 5894; [ebetke@MSN.com](mailto:ebetke@MSN.com) is married to computer guru Adolph. He urged Emilie to learn more as he is an engineer working a great deal at home as well as commuting to his work in Orange county. Emilie hopes to become more efficient with the computer in order to assist Adolph with his work. She is retired from a career as Occupational therapist and is interested especially in internet, QUICKEN and EXCEL. Hopefully if we cannot get classes in these areas we can help with individuals who can help her or one of the SIGS might help.

ROBERT STRIEB (BOB) (909) 679 8958 is a new user of PCs, having Hewlett Packard equipment. But it seems Bob would rather build than use computers!! He is building his second one for his church and hopes to build more for them. Maybe some of us can contribute some parts for his philanthropic endeavors.

SAM SCHERF signed in with us Nov 12 giving a South Dakota zip code and area code. He is an experienced computer user; is on the internet; does not use his computer in business but does use it for his photography and for investing. His internet supplier is DIRECTWAY.

*(Continued from page 5)*

urers for the sound card, video card, and other components for which I did not have separate installation disks, I found to my dismay that they would not run my installed devices. Finally I surrendered to 'conditions beyond my control', and in order to retrieve my component drivers, I reinstalled my original Win95 Restore Disk. then loaded Win98 Upgrade, then loaded Win98SE. I am still un-installing unwanted programs (Reader Rabbit?) when they pop into view. Of course, I could have bought a new computer!

The WinDriver Backup program can be downloaded free at <http://www.jermar.com/wdrvbk.htm/>. It is designed to work with Win95 and later versions.

[Frank@McCallum.net](mailto:Frank@McCallum.net)

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## Lon's Freeware of The Month

by Lon Whistler, [lwhis@hotmail.com](mailto:lwhis@hotmail.com)

This month's featured download has been submitted by Mr. Frank Mc Callum and appears to be a very useful product.

WinDriversBackup Personal Edition is a free utility for personal, non-commercial use, provided by JerMar Software Corp. specifically for backing up your Windows system driver files.

WinDriversBackup can identify all of your Windows driver files and save them to a secure location in two simple mouse clicks.

Backing up your Windows driver files means they will be available to you the next time you need to reinstall the driver or the whole operating system. WinDriversBackup places the driver files in one organized location of your choosing.

WinDriversBackup is especially helpful in situations where you have a computer in your possession and it's internal hardware is unknown. WinDriversBackup can identify the hardware on the system and the associated drivers ---then back them up to a specified location. WinDriversBackup is even network compatible --you can just as easily connect to a remote computer on your network and backup driver

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## NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

Make Money with Empty Cartridges & Help the Environment! \$5 per empty toner / \$2.50 per empty ink cartridge. FREE FedEx shipping - easy website instructions to print your own shipping label!

<http://www.recycle4dollars.com/>

Maybe the club could organize a collection.