

The Prez Says:

COMDEX!! Following the APCUG meeting (reported in last months newsletter) COMDEX commenced on Monday and ran the rest of the week. I lasted 3 days. There was a good deal of concern about the shrinking size of the event. Down from 200,000 + two years ago, to 125,000 this year. The number of companies showing had decreased by about the same proportion. However, when stuck in the middle of a crowd, it is difficult to tell the difference between 200K and 125K.

Another topic for much discussion was KEY3 MEDIA, the company that puts on this monster technology trade show. K3M was reported on the verge of bankruptcy and the concern was whether there would be a COMDEX in the future. K3M assured all that even if under bankruptcy protection, COMDEX would survive. Everybody breathed a sigh of relief. It would be hard to come up with a different lame excuse to spend a week in Las Vegas during November.

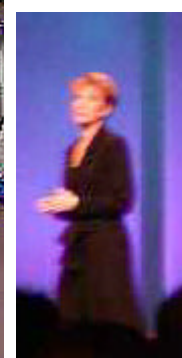
The serious side of technology seemed to be the focus of this year's event. Various reasons were offered, the state of the economy, the bankruptcy questions, some post 9-11 hangover. This focus seemed to be WIRELESS. Be prepared to hear new buzzwords like Bluetooth, 802.11a, 802.11b, Firewire, USB 2.0. These will relate to matters about connectivity and data transmission.

There were some notable items that would warm the heart of any computer geek. Planar's 17 inch LCD monitor, just 2 inches thick with both analog and digital inputs and a response time of 16 ms, fastest in the industry, at under \$590. Another item generating much interest was ViewSonic's Smart Display. With a Wi-Fi connection to your PC it allows Web browsing and e-mail checking from your couch. It's like a flat panel monitor and PC controls on a unit you can carry around in the house and still be connected to your PC. Seeing it displayed made more sense than my description, but BOY do I want one of these. They will be on the market in early 2003.

Cell phones were also on abundant display. Sony Ericsson's tri-band P800 lets you send multimedia messages, check e-mail, play video games, store addresses and even take pictures. This is another item with Blue Tooth capability. At \$500 it is a little out of my range for a phone, but what a neat geek machine.

The inverse ratio between power and size continues. Fossil will introduce a wrist PDA watch based on the popular Palm operating system. This amazing timepiece/personal organizer comes complete with an illuminated touch-screen face and a tiny stylus in the wrist band. At \$299 this looks like just the thing for the compulsively organized. DVD

(Continued on page 5)



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Take a look

Meeting Time and Place

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

TEXTRACTS — gathered from here and there

from Langa List E-mail Newsletter —

If you had recently uninstalled a copy of Roxio's CD Creator in Win XP, registry settings from that program are left behind in the registry, and renders your cd-rom and/or burner un-usable. A fix for this problem is available in this Microsoft KnowledgeBase bulletin

<http://support.microsoft.com/search/preview.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;Q314060> .

Granted, it involves going into the registry and deleting two items, which can be intimidating and dangerous if not done correctly. The title of the Knowledgebase article says it all: "CD-ROM Access Is Missing and Messages Cite Error Code 31, Code 32, Code 19, or Code 39 After You Remove Easy CD Creator in Windows XP."

On organizing the Start Menu display — Click to "\Windows\Start Menu," or "\Documents and Settings\[username]\Start Menu" and edit away, especially inside the "Programs" subfolder. You can create new folders, for example, and then move similar menu items to within the new folders.

I (Fred Langa) have a "Maintenance" folder, for instance, into which I've stuffed numerous system and disk utilities. Each utility used to have its own

entry in the Programs section of the Start Menu, but now just the top-level "Maintenance" folder appears there, saving space. The separate utilities are accessed by clicking on Maintenance folder.)

Here is a the humor link from the Redmond Roundup site. Much of the humor has gone around a good many times, but some is worth another look and laugh. Targeted is Microsoft; its programs and functionaries:

<http://i-want-a-website.com/about-microsoft/humor/>

Rough-Edged Bits — When you install software on older versions of Windows (including Win98), sometimes things don't work properly, especially if the hardware is a bit underpowered. Even if the system is otherwise in good shape and well tuned, and even if the installation seems to progress normally, the new app or utility may be crash-prone or the entire system may become less stable immediately after the installation.

A simple "magic" fix helps in a surprising percentage of cases. Install the new software a second time, exactly as before. While this doesn't always work, it works often enough that it's fostered a bit of geek humor: I once heard a techie tell a gullible user, "The data bits in freshly manufactured software have rough edges that snag inside the CPU and cause crashes. Reinstalling the software wears off the rough edges and lets the bits flow smoothly through the system."

Throbbing Monitors — Here's another small "magic" fix: An office mate complained of a weird pulsation in her monitor: The screen image would throb and wobble, giving her a headache. The simple fix: Move her desk fan away from the monitor. The fan's poorly shielded motor was creating a moving magnetic field that interfered with the monitor's own electro-magnetic imaging system. The fix seemed obvious to me, but it simply hadn't occurred to her that a fan could somehow affect the image on a monitor.

Digital Imaging SIG Dec 12 2002

Instead of passing around a piece of paper to collect the names of those who attended the meeting, our videographer, Orien Pfeiffer, immortalized us by capturing face and name on tape. Taylor had brought a couple of photos of airplanes from his WWII past. Bill McKim showed work to restore a 1911 photo of the students at a school his father-in-law attended. Someone had thought it practical to identify the youngsters by writing a number on some part of the individual's image, including -- in the case of McKim's father-in-law -- on the face.

Again, the discussion covered the characteristics of digital cameras. John Barbee had uncovered a site with information correlating the megapixel rating with the maximum size print (and camera price). The matter of optical versus digital zoom ratings were covered, also the differences in output obtained with glossy versus matte print paper. On the subject of paper "bargains," the user should note that the output is the weakest link in true reproduction of both sound or photos. Spending many hundreds of dollars for a camera offering 5-megapixel resolution and a computer system with the best graphics specifications, only to deposit the image on cheap paper is like spending many hundreds of dollars for a high-fidelity sound system to drive a 5-inch speaker.

Orien Pfeiffer

Man of many careers, he was a 16-year-old gold miner in the Gavilan hills behind Perris when the local Indians were packing sacks of ore and muck for subsistence. The operation was taken over by some British "con" men who sold questionable rights to their compatriots 5,000 miles away.



He also worked on the construction of route 60. In the U.S. Army Air Corps as an inspector/trainer of air base setups, Orien and his wife Thelma were stationed in Panama, Peru, and Japan.

Our videographer has been interested in photography since the mid-40s. His interest in computers started about 50 years later, after he retired to Sun City and his typewriter broke. Here, he joined the camera club and the lapidary club, in which he specialized in silversmithy. Thelma has passed on but they raised 2 girls and 3 boys. He said he has 12 grandchildren and "several" great

How to turn off Windows Scripting Host

by Robert Vamosi, Help & How-To

This default feature in Windows may be an open invitation to VBS worms. Recent virus outbreaks have exploited known vulnerabilities in Visual Basic Scripting under Windows.

For example, NewLove and ILOVEYOU both contain attachments ending in .vbs which the user must click on to become infected. In order to limit the risk of infection, users of Windows should turn off Windows Scripting Host. Doing so will prevent you from executing .vbs scripts by double-clicking. For a complete discussion of the pros and cons of removing Windows Scripting Host, see To script or not to script. Choose the instructions below appropriate for your version of Microsoft Windows.

Windows 95 — Note: Not all users of Windows 95 will have Windows Scripting Host installed. It is available on editions of Windows 95 SR-2 and later. It might also have been installed separately or along with Internet Explorer 5.0 or later.

Open "My Computer" > Select "View/Options" > Click on File Types tab > Find VBScript Script File > Select Remove > Click OK

Windows 98

Click on Start (the button on lower left of your Windows desktop). > Click on Settings > Chose Control Panel > Click on Add/Remove > Chose the Windows Setup tab > Click on Accessories to obtain details > Uncheck Windows Scripting Host if it is checked > Click on OK to save any changes

Windows NT

Open "My Computer" > Select "View/Options" > Click on File Types tab > Find VBScript Script File > Select Remove > Click OK

from *Keenager, Readers Digest*, and a couple of other magazines — "With my VCR I can tape a show on one channel while watching a program on another" a woman bragged to her friend
"Thats unbelievable!"
"Yeah, those machines are really something."
"No . . . I mean it's unbelievable that you can find two shows on TV you want to watch."

A physician went to heaven and met God, who granted him one question. So the physician asked, "Will health care reform ever occur?"
"I have good news and bad news," God replied.
"The answer is yes, but not in my lifetime."

THE METCALFS — Two more of our Volunteers by Evelyn Rahn, *erahn@inland*.

They were high school sweethearts -- that is the charming and obviously happy couple who greets us at the back table twice monthly on Tuesday. They are in charge of the listing of members who wish to enroll in classes and of the video and books library.

They were in school in Wheeling, West Virginia, where George excelled in football and obtained a scholarship to San Bernardino Valley College. He had completed one year. when Uncle Sam suggested he take a vacation to Korea. So he went home to West Virginia; he and Dorothy were married and five days later he was off to Korea.

George's career for more than a year for the Army in Korea was with the Signal Corps, a special Military Advisory Group working in intelligence for the 7th Pacific Fleet and the Army in the Pacific region.

George is holder of two degrees. His coach had written him suggesting that George complete his second year with them so he did. (After he was graduated, he transferred to San Bernardino State to finish his 3rd and 4th years.)

So it was off to California, this time with a wife. They lived 32 years in Buena Park Area where they reared a son and two daughters who, in time, supplied eight grandchildren. The children live in Southern California, the son in Corona where he is a vice president with Toys are Us.

George was a salesman for BMP/Unisource Corporation, distributed paper of all kinds.

George and Dorothy came to Canyon Lake in



1997. Besides the volunteer work they do at the Canyon Lake Senior Center and in Sun City, George golfs and does woodworking. Had we gotten their bios in the newsletter in time, we might have gotten him to carve a reindeer for us for Christmas!! He is carving some for the grandchildren. And he carves other items large and small for the boutique at the Canyon Lake Senior Center.

Dorothy was a homemaker when children were home but did work nine years for Mercury

Savings. as a loan processor. She has many hobbies, but, at the moment, is actively interested in Swedish crafts. Currently she and her group of friends work at many kinds of Swedish art. At any point in time everyone in the group may be working on a different type of project, many of which Dorothy has learned. She likes the weaving very much and at the moment has almost finished her first afghan.

When George was working, nothing involved computers; however Dorothy was with Mercury Savings she did use the computer for the specialized program processing loans required. In 1996 their son gave them a hand-me-down computer which they confessed being "scared of" and which gathered dust for about three years. They did take some classes at the local college but didn't feel they learned what they wanted. Then they heard of CCMV and decided it was time they joined the 20th century and the bug bit both of them. Dorothy is on the list for taking Introduction to WORD class in January.

Ten Easy Lessons: Solid Advice for Living a Long & Happy Life from Sandy Kandl

1. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctor worry about them. That is why you pay him/her.

2. Keep only cheerful friends. [The grouches pull you down.]

3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." The devil's name is Depression.

4. Enjoy the simple things. When the children are young, that is all that you can afford. When they are in college, that is all that you can afford. When you are on retirement, that is all that you can afford.

5. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath. Laugh so much that you can be tracked in the store by your distinctive laughter.

6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Be alive while you are alive, don't put out a mailbox on the highway of death and just wait for your mail.

7. Surround yourself with what you love, whether it is family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies. Your home is your refuge.

8. Cherish your health. If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.

9. Don't take guilt trips. Go to the mall, the next county, a foreign country, but not to Guiltville.

10. Tell the people you love, that you love them, at every opportunity. And always remember . . . Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take BUT by

MEETING SUMMARIES by Sandy Kandl, kandysland@hotmail.com

December 10, 2002

Today, our last meeting of the year, President Ed Freeman welcomed 83 members that included 6 new members. A thank you went to Georgiana Dols for sending out notices of today's meeting. Evelyn Rahn has added a column to our newsletter interviewing the new members and writing a short bio on each. It is very interesting and we thank her for that. Evelyn also sets up the classes so if you are interested in taking any of them, be sure to sign up at the Club or Ceniceros Center. Classes are due to begin the middle of January.

Ed gave a demonstration on how to send attachments both on AOL and Outlook Express, using two free programs, sold by Lonny, apropos of the Christmas Season. Ed also explained how to open a file from the A drive and how to move it to the desktop or wherever you may want to put it.

Ed explained that belonging to APCUG benefits our Club greatly. Through them we are able to purchase some software at user group prices.

We were very fortunate today as free raffle tickets were given to the members at sign-in and there were many prizes awarded. The three big prize winners were: John Barbee who won a Lexmark Printer, Dorothy Metcalf who won Picture It Digital Image, and Sandy Kandl who won a full version of Microsoft Windows XP Professional. Santa Claus came early for the winners.

After the break the Techies, Digital Camera users, and Newbies met in separate rooms. It was reported that the Techies discussed several ISPs and services, including but not limited to AOL, EZ2, MSN and ESL Extreme. They also discussed setting rules or filters for reducing unwanted mail.

A very happy Holiday Season is wished and a Happy New Year to all.

Lon's Freeware of The Month

by Lon Whistler, lwhis@hotmail.com

Manage Digital Pictures

Yes, Gazi Digi-Book is another program that lets you create and organize digital photo albums. However, it has a few twists that make it stand out. The user interface looks like a real bookshelf containing photo albums. Each page is customizable with the capabilities of selecting thumbnail sizes, choosing the number of images on a page, adding captions and sounds to pictures, and changing the album display. Download free Gazi Digi-Book skins to spice up the book covers, bookshelf, bookend, and layouts. If you have scrapbooking materials collecting dust in the closet like I do, then no worries about this software taking up shelf space. Klutzy artists (like me) won't have to deal with crooked lines and lack of creativity with the options available in Gazi Digi-Book! After completing the masterpiece, sit with your family at the computer desk and admire the handiwork and Joe's funny faces.



(Continued from The PrezSez page 1)

drives and software were also much on display. Until some semblance of standards is applied to this area of computing only mass confusion reigns. Most of the software hype sounded the same -- burn your home movies (and by implication, copy movie cd's) with a few button clicks. They forgot to mention that the process could take hours.

If you found Clippy (Microsoft's little helper in Word) annoying, MSN's Butterfly Guys ran a close race with all of the Austin Powers impersonators roaming the aisles and were 2nd generation irritating.

The most interesting exhibit was the Segway area. They had 20 of the 2-wheel units with instructors available for attendee's to ride. The lines were endless, so I passed on spending 3 hours in line for a five minute ride. I must admit that they looked like fun, but at \$4900 apiece, without a windshield looked at little high.

The most impressive speech I attended was a keynote given by Carly Fiorino, CEO of HP (see inset, page 1). Very impressive. I can see why she is the leader at HP.

Omega has developed a digital pen (reviewed in PC World, January 2003) that remembers what you write and transfers it to Word or Outlook as editable text. It looks like a chubby cigar and requires special paper to accomplish its task. There is a USB docking station to transfer the data. At \$200 it is expensive, except for compulsive note takers. Boy I wish I had one of these when I was in school.

Even at a less than past events, it was very impressive, a lot of fun and an event that requires preparation to attend. The preparation is getting in shape to walk miles, and miles, and miles.

I can hardly wait for next November.

Ed Freeman

A FEW OF OUR NEWCOMERS

by Evelyn Rahn, 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

Marshall Smith (677-7076) was born in Washington and his wife of three years is from Utah. In the Pacific theater in WWII as a paratrooper, he worked in construction after the war. He never used computers in his work, but has decided since he lives in an environment of computers he should keep himself up to date. His computer is equipped with XP and he is signed up for the XP beginners class in January.

Margarete DeCoursey (767-9130 ext. 4918) was born in Germany and came alone to America in 1950 at age 23. She worked in New York as a buyer for a clothing chain and worked to learn Court Reporting in school. After being a court reporter for years in Los Angeles, she established her own company in court reporting. It was from this that she retired. The court reporting involved computers but with its own specialized programs. Now that she is retired she wishes to expand her general knowledge. And she has signed for a class in January.

JACOB SCHUSTER (679-1299) and his wife were born abroad, lived in Canada for many years before moving to Sun City 13 years ago. Jacob hasn't decided whether he has enough interest to buy a computer. Jacob visited with us Dec 12 and put his toe into the water and I think we shall see him again.

DAN FREDERICK (679-4620) and his wife Carol, from Des Plaines, Illinois, are quite new to Sun City but they have entered into life here with gusto. They both are in the Illinois Club and Carol is in the Garden Club; he has joined the CCMV. Dan owned his own telephone company which involved designing and installing a business communication system. Looking to retire, he put his several hundred pound snow blower on his pickup and when he went far enough that people asked him "What is that thing?" he knew that is where he and Carol wanted to live.

LEE CARSON lived most of his life in Nebraska; his wife is from South Dakota. Married for 47 years, they have lived in Los Angeles area most of that time. He and his wife have 4 children and 10 grandchildren, all Californians. He and his wife moved to Menifee in 1995 when he was retired from Northrup. His son and grandchildren are computer literate so Lee wants to be as well. So, he has joined CCMV and signed up for two classes in the January session.

UTA METH (672-0883) was born in Germany and was a legal secretary when she decided she wanted to be a stewardess for Lufthansa Airlines. However, on her flight to America, she decided she could not fly; she hated flying. Therefore she stayed in America. Overcoming her inability to speak and write English effectively, she worked for Scott Paper Company, rising to position of Administrative Assistant and was retired from there after 18 years. Her working years did not include the computer and now that she has retired to Sun City she feels she will be left behind if she doesn't develop proficiency in its use.

CCMV BOARD MEETING, December 17, 2002

Officers of the Computer Club of Menifee Valley met on Tuesday, December 17, 2002 at the Ceniceros Center. Present were Ed Freeman, Art True, Chet Hartley, Sandy Kandl, and Georgiana Dols. Ed Freeman, President, conducted the meeting, which began at 9:34 a.m.

Important on the President's agenda was consideration of the purchase of an improved sound system to be used for meetings. The church's system is not omni-directional. It may be possible to incorporate the church system into a new, improved one. Dean Manning of Superior Hearing Aid Service has agreed to underwrite the new system.

In the next club newsletter Ed will report further on the APCUG meetings he attended. He has more materials gleaned at the meetings, which will serve as door prizes for monthly meetings, for publishing the newsletter, for the web site, and for classes.

Secty's Report: The secretary's report was approved after a motion by Chet Hartley and a second by Art True.

Treasurer's Report: Chet Hartley reported a beginning balance of \$3,506.64 on 10/15/02. Inflows totaled as \$756.78, outflows \$158.44 leaving an ending balance of \$4,104.98. Anticipated expenses include payment to the church for meeting room expense, payment to the Ceniceros Center for classes held there, purchase of floppy disks for the shareware table, the cost of textbooks for upcoming classes, and the hiring of a consultant to evaluate the computer lab's network.

Chet Hartley consult with the church secretary to consider our use of the hall and future payments. Ed Freeman was authorized to purchase a case of floppies for the shareware table. The purchase of textbooks will be arranged when next classes are set; the cost of the textbooks will be recovered from participants in the classes. Ed will investigate the expense of a consultant who would evaluate the network in the computer lab and make an estimate of what is needed and its cost.

Discussed at length was the purchase of a portable screen called the Traveler. It would be used for meetings and could be transported to other locations for use in presentations by club members. Art moved and Sandy seconded the motion for the club to purchase the Traveler from the Draper Company. The motion was approved.

The treasurer's report was accepted.

Education Classes: President Ed announced that classes to be offered. Evelyn Rahn will tally the number of people who have signed up and books will be ordered and schedules determined. Sandy, Art and Ed agreed to teach classes: Sandy, Intro98; Art, Intermediate 98; Ed, Intro XP.

Program Chairman Art True reported that Joannie Lenz will do a program on E-Bay on January 28, and Carl Brewster or Mike Block of Summit Comp. Technology, Inc. will discuss repair and maintenance of printers at the February 25th meeting. Art will investigate a program on identity theft.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.