



THE PREZ SEZ...

Holiday Greetings members of the Computer Club of Menifee Valley! The holiday season has always been a special time of year for me. All the hustle & bustle of trying to get everything done seems to fill everyone with a special kind of

energy. Like everything else, I always wait until the last minute to do my holiday shopping. Procrastination seems to be my first, middle and last name lately. But things always seem to get done and to fall into place. We had a little extra hustle, and a LOT of extra bustle this past month. I would like to personally thank the members of our club who volunteered at the last minute to come and help move all of our equipment

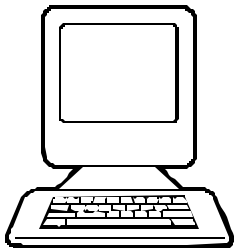
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Holiday Meeting Schedule

Don't forget... There is ONLY ONE MEETING in December. We will return to meeting twice a month in January. Enjoy your holiday!

Holiday Shopping Questions

Will Santa be leaving some computer equipment under your tree? You may have questions on what to buy and where to get the best price. Perhaps you've found a great deal... Ask it or Share it with fellow members on our message board. www.CCMV.net



Lon's Freeware of The Month

by Lon Whistler,
whis@hotmail.com

Santa's Workshop Screen Saver

This is the free version of Santa's Workshop Screen Saver.

It shows Santa's helpers making up the toys in his North Pole Workshop. A fun seasonal offering!

Two Christmas Cards

To share with friends & family.

You may remember these two Xmas cards from last year. By a click of your mouse, you can decorate the yard and inside the house. Pets included.

Hope you have a joyous Holiday Season

Temecula Valley Computer Club

On the afternoons of November 7th and 14th, (Sunday), members of the Temecula Valley Computer Club gave a Power Point presentation about digital cameras. On November 7th, the presentation was on selecting a digital camera to buy and on November 14th, Bill Harkins gave a talk on how to improve your photographs from your digital camera. These upcoming presentations were announced by Elaine Bryskar at our club meeting and a few of us attended them.

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Newsletter

E-mail your articles, comments

and suggestions to:

fbporter@yahoo.com

Web Page Address

www.ccmv.net

Take a look and take the poll

Meeting Time and Place

2nd and 4th Tuesday

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Seventh-day Adventist Church

29885 Bradley Road

Sun City, CA

THE PREZ SEZ...

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out of the lab at the Kay Cenicerros Community Center, and store it away until after the renovations are complete at the Center. When you see these members, please join me in thanking them. Our lab is an important part of what we do here, and I NEVER could have done it alone!

Thanks to Jim Richardson who orchestrated the whole thing. The move was not only done efficiently, but we were able to get a pretty accurate inventory in the process. Jim also is storing inventory, disconnect, pack, move and carry all of the "stuff". It was unbelievable the amount of equipment that was packed into that little room. It was done with expertise and care and you are all amazing!!! Thank you Pn'nah Stone-Kurtz, Bill Oberg, Ben Guaydacan, Malcolm Lowes, and Ken (whose last name I can't remember... sorry Ken) You all were awesome!!!! Now y'all need to save up your energy for January when we have to move it all BACK!!!

May this holiday, fill your hearts and minds with the spirit of the season, and be with you through the New Year. From our home to yours... a VERY Happy Holiday Season!!!

Joannie



Backup Headaches Solved

Backing up your system is a task we all know we should tend to more often than we do. But let's be honest---there's always tomorrow. The consequences of not backing up your vital data, however can be disastrous. Taking steps to protect your data is not as complicated as it may seem, and the results can turn what could have been calamitous in to a minor headache.

Question: How often should I back up my computer or data files?

Answer: The answer depends upon how rapidly you create new files or make changes to existing files. If you do a lot of work every day, daily backups are a good idea. Remember, your computer can go down at any time, and you could lose everything you haven't backed up. Eight hours of work is a lot to do all over.

This article from the October issue, page 38 of the SmartComputing magazine presented "Answers To 10 Common Questions". There's probably a copy of the magazine on our back table as several of our members subscribe to it.

Happy New Year

Newsletter Articles

Your Newsletter Editor needs articles for this Newsletter, so if you have computer related items to share with our members, submit them to Frank Porter, fbporter@yahoo.com during the early part of the month.

Happy Holidays

Computer Classes

Looking to get the most out of your computer? Then CCMV Computer classes are for you. Computer classes keep you informed and learning, and you get to meet a great group of people!

You can sign up at the back table at the next CCMV meeting, at the Kay Cenicerros Community Center front desk or contact the Registrar, John Cope , to sign up at:
copepiano@earthlink.net

Evening Classes By Joannie

Joannie's evening classes continue. Each class is two evenings and runs from 5:00 PM-8:30 PM, on Tuesday & Thursday. \$55 fee includes class and step by step manual. Find complete schedule and class outlines at: www.ByJoannie.com.

Jan 11th & 13th – Basic Microsoft Word
Jan 25th & 27th - Basic Microsoft Excel
Feb 8th - MS Outlook (1 evening course-\$35)
Feb 10th - The Internet (1 evening course - \$35)
NEW
Feb 22nd & 24th - Microsoft PowerPoint
Mar 8th & 10th - Intermediate Microsoft Word
Mar 22nd & 24th –Intermediate Microsoft Word

**Register online at:
www.ByJoannie.com or call
(951) 301-6226.**

NEAT NET TRICKS TIP:

If you're running Windows XB networked, you can use a little-known application to talk to others available users on the network. At Start/Run, enter "winchat" without the quotes. Click on Conversations and Dial, select the computer to call and click OK. This will ring the user and invite him or her to chat with you. Of course, you could step in the next room or call them on the phone, but that's so untekkie.

Submitted by Joannie

SCAMS AND SPAM

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pace, or worse. Unlike other problematic solutions, a virus scanner doesn't detect these "bad boys." Currently there are special spyware and adware detections and removal programs available online, such as "Spybot – Search and Destroy" which can freely be downloaded, www.download.com.

8. Subscribe to a free electronic newsletter that monitors the web. New information is invaluable in warning you of current scams and spam – junk e-mail (did you ever wonder where the name "spam" came from – if you guessed Hormel, you're right. Hormel went to court, and fought against the word "spam" being utilized for junk e-mail, however, they lost. Presently, Hormel uses a double play on the word, in a positive advertising campaign, for their canned meat product called "Spam".)

9. Be alert and careful, but don't be paranoid. Most businesses on the web are legitimate and provide tremendous advantages – lower prices, no traveling, world-wide access, and much more. Don't "throw the baby out with the bath water," use good judgment.

Never purchase from a bulk unsolicited e-mail (called spam.) According to research, Jim and Audri are alerting people that 95 per cent of bulk, unsolicited email is spam, and potentially a scam. Consequently, if individuals don't respond to the spam, they have done the single most important thing they can do to avoid getting taken. As Jim and Audri always say, "if it's spam, it's a scam!"

This was submitted by Diane of Canyon Lake

SCAMS AND SPAM ON THE INTERNET

Jim and Audri Landford have solid solutions to avoid being “scammed”

1. Use Common Sense. This should be obvious, but people don't always trust themselves. The old saying “if it seems too good to be true, it probably is”, encourages listening to your “gut” feelings.

2. If possible, always pay by credit card rather than check or money order. This is perhaps the most counter-intuitive advice on the list. When purchasing with a credit card, if encountering a problem—immediately notify the credit card company in writing. Using the credit card, a person isn't responsible to pay the charge while the dispute is being investigated. Your maximum liability is only \$50.

3. Take safety precautions. (a) Be vigilant to selection of passwords. For instance, select words that aren't in the dictionary use a combination of letters and numbers. Don't use the same password for various accounts, give your password out, or write out where snoops can find it. (b) Be selective in private information you give out on the net (i.e. don't mention to someone on the net you'll be on vacation!) (c) Don't let others use your computer unsupervised, unless you intend for them to witness every detail on your computer. (d) Use a firewall. Anyone using the net, should have one. Firewalls make a computer virtually invisible to any unauthorized site on the net, especially if you have an “always on” connection, such as DSL or cable modem. One firewall is “Zone Alarm”, which can be found at www.zonelabs.com. They offer a free, personal and professional version.

4. Be Skeptical. When shopping on-line, always check out the company. A reputable company will be pleased to provide you with references. Ask about returns. Only do business with companies who offer strong guarantees or warranties.

5. Never send an e-mail to anyone that says: “Send this to all your friends.” They are many times a hoax and a few legitimate e-mails include that language.

6. Be extremely careful at online auctions sites. Check the references of the seller, and if the cost of the item is more than you can comfortably lose, rethink the purchase. Most auction sites have a buyer and seller rating system, be sure to use this security resource.

Be diligent about protecting your personal information and your privacy. Identity theft is extremely serious and it's affecting hundreds of people

An additional threat to privacy is Spyware and Adware – these are two computer threats that are quickly over-taking viruses as a major concern to both home and business users.

These “spies” can be downloaded and silently installed in your computer while you surf the net. They attach themselves in various ways when you install a share-ware or freeware program, through pop-up advertisements and E-mail.

Technically, these are “Trojan Horses” type attacks. They record your online shopping, track your web surfing habits, record personal financial information (i.e. credit card, and bank), passwords, account names, and e-mail address books, plus they redirect you to other websites or cause continuous pop-up ads that flood your screen. The spyware and adware then pass your information to a host computer. Once compromised your computer will be flooded with marketing e-mail and pop-ups, and since these spy programs are always running, they use valuable system resources – even bringing your computer to a snail's

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Various CCMV Members

Sign Up for a Class TODAY!