

Bits & Bytes

A Publication of the Kern Independent PC Users Group

Volume 19, Number 12

December, 2000

KIPUG Meeting Schedule and Program Lineup

- December Christmas Party
- January How to be a better computer user
- February Interesting new Technologies.

Kipug Meeting

Dec 14 .

Potluck Dinner

Bring food and lot's of money to get in the drawings.

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APCUG FALL 2000 AT COMDEX

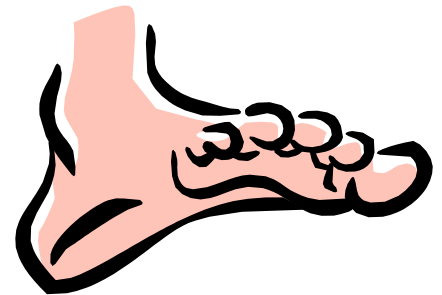
Tony Rizos

I am not sure how many members of KIPUG realize that KIPUG is a member of APCUG (Association of Personal Computer User Groups). Each year at Comdex in Las Vegas a large number of PC user groups from all over the world are represented and get together to share ideas, eat, talk to vendors, eat, have social events and eat. This year there were over 300 members attend. To give you an idea, members attend from Japan, Australia, Canada, and, in the past, Russia. One of the Australian representatives is also the voice that introduces Masterpiece Theater on PBS. Last year he started his speech with that famous intro which resulted in a widespread "Oh, Yeah" among the audience.

This is a great place to talk to and hear from the industry's best companies. In past years we have had the Presidents and CEOs of companies like Symantec, Corel, Borland, Handspring, INTUIT and even Microsoft's Bill Gates address the APCUG attendees at special events. Hopefully, as the club changes in the future by welcoming non-Windows/non-PC users such as MAC and LINUX users, the number of companies and sponsors will also increase.

The first two days of the conference are taken up with roundtable discussions. All the members break up into various conference rooms to discuss a wide range of topics. This year we had topics that included Managing and

Dealing with Difficult People, Care and Feeding of New Members, Alliances and Vendor Relations, Editor's Roundtable, Thinking outside of the Box, and Bringing New Life to



The body part that complains the most at the end of a Comdex day

Your User Group among a host of other topics.

One of the roundtables I attended was the Bringing New Life to Your User Group discussion. It was amazing what other groups are doing to keep their clubs going.

Continued on Pg 3



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A Spice Database for the home by Sarah Perelli-Minetti

Have you ever gone to the music store to buy a CD only to find you already have a copy tucked away at or near the bottom of the CD rack? I did this very thing a few years ago, buying my second copy of Fleetwood Mac's *Rumours* in the process. This also happened to me recently when I purchased a second jar of curry, one of my favorite spices.

Since I have so many spice and herb jars that I can't possibly keep track of them on my minute kitchen counter, as I live in a 35-year-old condo with a tiny, tiny kitchen, I thought I would create a database in Access to prod my memory before the next grocery shopping trip. First the hard part, doing the inventory – it took two hours as I had to write down all the herbs and spices, noting if they were a duplicate or not. That turned out to be the most time-consuming part of the project. I have collected herbs and spices while on vacation, from friends who brought them over when they cooked dinner and left the jars so Continued on the back

The following rates are for one insertion in the **KIPUG** newsletter. All copy must be received camera-ready, no later than the 15th day of any given month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

Camera-ready copy should be submitted to Bits & Bytes, c/o Dave Chalmers, P.O. Box 2780, Bakersfield, CA 93303

KIPUG members who have computer related items for sale or trade or who have information they would like to share with other members may do so **FREE** of charge as space permits. Ads larger than business card size are subject to 50% of normal advertising fees. Non-members are subject to the normal advertising fees.

Business Card \$ 5.00
Quarter Page \$ 15.00
Third Page \$ 20.00
Half Page \$ 30.00
Full Page \$ 60.00

ADVERTISERS

KIPUG will mail your direct computer user targeted mail advertisement (fully prepared for mailing, including postage) to our entire membership at a reasonable fee. For more information, please contact Robert Stout, President, at (661) 399-9505.

Special Interest Groups

Del Jones, ED/Sig Coordinator (661) 871-0598

SIG	Contact	Day/Time	Location/Sponsor
Geneology	Donna Plunkett 398-8304	3 rd Thursday 7:00 p.m.	Donna Plunkett's Home
Nerd Nite	Sam Thompson 399-1539	4 th Thursday 7:00 p.m.	Sam's House
Netware Users Inter	Robert Stout 399-9505	3 rd Thursday 7:00 p.m.	New Horizons
Random Access	Bill Peacock 328-0180	2 nd Thursday 6:30 p.m.	At Monthly Meeting
Beginning Internet	Sarah Perelli-Minetti 832-5437	Please call for details	Sarah's Place

Comdex Continued

One group has a Special Interest Group (SIG) with the name QUILTS (Quilters Using Imaging's Latest Technology for Sewing). QUILTS has members with similar interest, sewing and quilting. They get together to explore what computers can do for them and their hobby. Members belong to sewing list servers, do Power Point presentations on some of their projects to the rest of the group, and review software that is related to their hobby. This gets members who are really good at something, sewing and quilting, but have little or no experience with computers with those that do. Soon, there is mutual sharing of computer and sewing information and experience. This concept has been used with other hobby groups in the club.

Other hobbies that were briefly discussed included genealogy, birding, diet and exercise, recipes, food and nutrition, and music. These do not have to be computer related interests and the members do not have to be computer nerds. One idea that was discussed was having the PC User club contact local hobby clubs and discussing the possibility of forming mutual SIGs that explored the use of computers with the hobby. Collectibles was another hobby discussed where SIG members discuss using databases to catalog

them, presentation software to present them, digital photography to catalog them, websites to display them, internet use for research, buy and sell them, word processing and page layouts to explain them. Get the picture.

Finally, using SIGs for socializing was a big hit. KIPUG does a similar thing called Nerd Night or Tech Talk at Sam's. It has a good turn out and the food is great. One group had a SIG called PIG for Party In Group. These "meetings" take place at lunch time where the members meet at a restaurant or at a members house for a potluck or just about anywhere and anytime to socialize.

Lot's of ideas and that's what APCUG is about. After the two days of round table discussions, the rest of the week is spent going on the floor at Comdex. Breakfast and dinner meetings are where the members discuss what they saw on the floor and where to go the next day. We also compare T-Shirts or other stuff given away as gimmicks by the various companies.

It's a fun time and a good time to see what others are doing. I've been going for at least 8 years and have never been disappointed. And then there's the food. But that's another article.

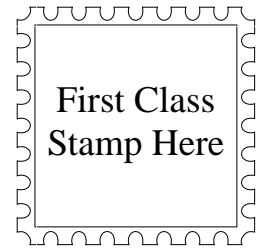


During my travels at Comdex I came across a truly international series of sections. They had all kinds of gismos and goodies.

I encountered the rep for the Watch&Smile graphics editor. This was a product designed for both picture and video files. On the photo editing side the software had some interesting features for color and contrast editing. The rep's native language was French and his software was also in French. This made for an interesting discussion! I am pretty sure this program was developed for the Mac and then for the PC. The interface is certainly different. I will make a full review later as I get to know the software. Their net site is www.watchandsmile.com. The company is in the Principality of Monaco.

One overriding impression, that was retained from the show is that I never saw so many large LCD screens in my life. These were from a lot of different manufacturers(many of whom I had never head of). By contrast one vendor had small screen LCD's for sale. The colors were very rich. The small ones were a bit pricey too.

Dave Chalmers



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*We are on the web at
WWW.KIPUG.ORG*

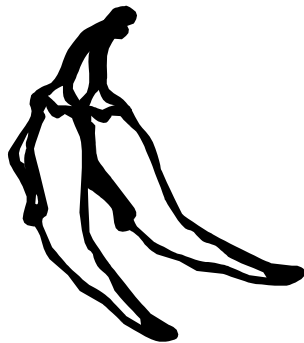
Tom Rabe Webmaster

Postmaster:

Dated Material
Please Expedite

I can use their contents later on and, of course, when I went to the store.

I first opened up Access and created a new table naming it spice. Then I formatted the text so it would be easy to see, bold and Arial 12. Then I started using the design view to create the table categories. I decided to name the columns Herb or Spice, Kitchen (are they stored on the kitchen counter?), Garden (a list of my outdoor herbs), Homemade (for premixed herbs and spices I have already made for recipes that are always “on hand” and ready to use), plus duplicates, the latter being stored



in the pantry. The first column is in a text format, the name of the herb or spice, and all the others have been formatted into a yes/no format. I then can simply switch from the display view to the table view or visa versa with a click of the view toggle. In the table view the column headings are at the top and the yes/no format has been turned into boxes which can be checked or unchecked. It was a very simple process filling out the table. If I really wanted to get fancy I could have added a column for the brand of her or spice, such as Spice Island or McCormick’s, but I didn’t feel this was neces-

sary.

When I was all done the two printed pages were placed in one of the baskets on the kitchen counter within easy reach to jog my memory the next time anyone in the house asks “Is there any rose paprika around?”