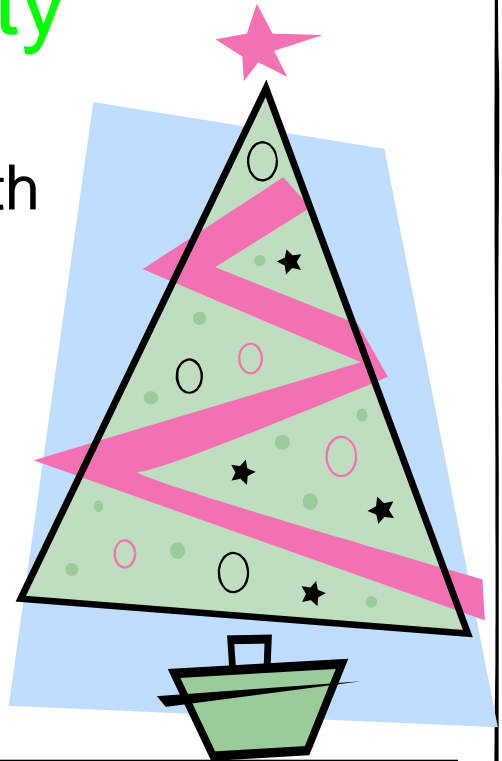


Bits & Bytes

A Publication of the Kern PC Users Group

Christmas Party

December 13th





Board Members

President: Rhonda Pierce
Pierce27@earthlink.net

Past President: Bill Peacock 328-0180
bpeacock@pacbell.net

Vice President: Stuart Ree 589-6172
rsrcomp@pacbell.net

Secretary: Tony Rizos 872-5622
trizos@ncinternet.net

Treasurer: William Lowell 664-1244
wlowell@bc.cc.ca.us

Director: Steve Garcia
Sgarc@ix.netcom.com

Director: Caroline Corser 871-9201
Cmcorser@pacbell.net

Director: Rick Daney
rddstewy@aol.com

Director: Ray Stubbs 834-6166

Newsletter Editor: David Chalmers
dcchal@pacbell.net

Education/SIG Coord: Needs a Replacement

Kipug Webmaster: Tom Rabe
Editortjr@aol.com

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 Rhonda Pierce, President, at pierce27@earthlink.net.

Table of Contents

The Prez Sez

<i>Genealogy Corner</i>	pg 4	Wow! What a great time I had at ACPUG and Comdex. I learned a lot of stuff both on computer club information, new software and hardware. I also met a lot of nice people there. The schedule was pretty busy 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. every day, but I really enjoyed learning about everything, especially from other club members. They had good information to pass on of various things they had done and ideas they tried.
Dec Meeting	pg 5	
Special Interest	pg 6	
Spotlight On	pg 9	

The presentations put on by Adobe, Handspring, Jasc, Quicken, McAfee, Microsoft, companies were excellent and the food was fantastic, you didn't go away hungry. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to stay for the Borland /Cassady & Green. Comdex was pretty big and busy too. I got to play and test some of the new stuff out like the new Olympus Digital Cameras, the X-Box, palm pilots and the new lap top computer notebooks. I want to get a new "Communicator" when they come out this spring (being a "Treky" fan) this was really cool. It looked and opened like the communicator on Star Trek. It was a mobile phone, two way radio, palm pilot, email instant messaging, full website capability, has a little keyboard and touch screen and the screen also comes in color.

I then got home in time to unpack, wash and pack again for another business conference the following weekend this time in Reno. On the way home we picked up identical twin young baby girls (through foster care), who have become the love of my life. I

(Continued on page 10)

Genealogy Corner

Jim Opperman

Bits & Bytes

December 2001

This month we shift gears from England to Germany.

Several URL sites are well worth checking out.

Most countries have sites where maps, both new and ancient can be found, these are invaluable because country boundaries as well as place names can change.

<<http://www.jewishgen.org/Shtet/Seeker/loctown.htm>>

Here you can find antique maps, Replogle globes, rare vintage prints. Art Source International.

<<http://www.genealogienetz.de/gene/misc/geoserv.html>>

<<http://www.mapblast.com/myblast/splash.mb>>

<<http://www.genealogienetz.de/gene/faqs/sgg.html>> an excellent site to guide those seeking German genealogy information and tips for researchers.

An e-mail locator is <geo@genealogy.net where> you request a German town location and they send you a return e-mail with the information you requested.

<<http://go.to/hessen>> is a source of German historical information as well as a message center where you can post queries and join surname groups where you can receive all messages that flow about a given surname.

<<http://www.mytrees.com/cgi-bin/genealogy/goaa>> has a searchable surname index of over 90 million individuals, any country.

To subscribe to German genealogy mailing lists don't overlook such sites as Prussia-roots where you can send "subscribe" to Prussia-roots-d-request@rootsweb.com (digest mode of all messages).

Have fun, enjoy and don't forget to give feed back on what you find to <mentorjim@atsecure.net>. Thanks.

Happy Holidays!

See you in 2002.

DECEMBER MEETING: FUN, FOOD, AND PRIZES

great, the characters will shine as usual, and the prizes are worth waiting for

~~~~~

Plan to come to our December meeting. It's our annual Christmas potluck to be held at the same time, 7:00, and the same place, Kern County Superintendent of Schools building, corner of 17th and L streets, on Thursday, December 13. If you get there on time, you can park in the parking garage, entrance on 18<sup>th</sup> Street. Otherwise, you can park in front on 17th Street. (They lock the garage gates pretty soon after seven.)

Next month, on January 10, you will learn useful tips, and some of the pitfalls to avoid, when putting together a newsletter, pamphlet, or book. It will be told by Caroline Corser, who has learned through bitter experience in self publishing two books and producing an online newsletter--all on her own PC.

Bring a dish to pass. (Drinks will be furnished.) And plan to win one of many really neat prizes, from software to really cool mice, speakers, keyboards, and even a 17" monitor. **DON'T MISS IT!** The food is always

Caroline Corser

## What's Your Special Interest? By Sam Thompson

### Introduction

Special Interest Groups (or SIGs) are the backbone of the user group movement. When we attended the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG) summit in Las Vegas last year, it was emphasized by several groups that the most interesting things were happening in their SIGs. In fact, there was one group who didn't even have a regular general meeting, but their SIGs met on a regular schedule.

Although there are some people who are interested in computers for computers sake, most of us have more of an interest in what computers can do. We have interests outside computing which drive our interests in computing. In other words, it's the software that drives the hardware.

Unfortunately, a general meeting is not the best venue to learn about and enjoy our areas of interest. The general meetings provide an overview, which is often too limited for the aficionado who

already knows the basics. Also, the range of topics at general meetings may be beyond the focused interest of the user. Here's where SIGs come in.

Keep in mind that SIGs are NOT training sessions. No one is responsible for setting up an agenda or giving a program. This is a place for users of varying ability to share what they know about an area of interest.

It's not a situation of  
"Why don't YOU"  
but it is about "Why  
don't WE"

If you have an interest in a topic, there's a likelihood that you can find someone else in KIPUG who shares

your interest. This is the basis for a SIG. In fact here are some ideas for SIGs, and some have already been proposed or are in place. If you have interest in joining or forming a new SIG, see the SIG leader or me at the next general meeting.

### Tech Talk

For about five years, I have hosted a group of KIPUGers on the fourth Thursday of each month. The conversation is free-ranging, and there is seldom an agenda. We're there to talk about what's going on in the computing world.

Although the bent is admittedly more hardware oriented than software, there is nevertheless every opportunity for everyone to discuss his or her problems or concerns and share new information. For instance, last month one subgroup spent most of the evening engrossed in a computer running Linux, an operating system, which is considered an alternative to the Windows or Macintosh environments. Another group was examining a new, fast processor which one of the members brought. It had a huge fan attached to it, which was about size of the fans attached to computer cases. This is the venue for experienced users to share their passion for computing. There are times when the talk gets technical, and it would be hard for a new user to follow, but most of the time less experienced or less capable users would feel right at home. What I'm saying is that everyone is more than welcome (encouraged, actually) to attend. Bring \$5 because we send out for Kento's for dinner and bring your drink if you don't want to take potluck, but do come out if you're interested.

### Linux SIG

In November, Steve Garcia hosted the first Linux SIG. A long time Board

member, Steve is recognized as one of our most technically proficient members. If you want to know more about Linux, this would be a great opportunity to learn more about it. Keep in mind that Steve is not there to teach a Linux class; he's there as a member just like everyone else, sharing what he knows with other members.

### Newbie SIG

Also in November, Lance Clarke, our new member from Houston, offered to host a SIG for new or inexperienced computer users. Lance has a broad range of computer experience which stretches over many years, and he has expressed interest in sharing his experience with new users. I know you will find the meetings fun, so talk to Lance at the next general meeting.

### Video SIG

One of my new areas of interest is video editing using the computer. Dan Walker has agreed to co-host a SIG with me as he shares this interest. Since he has been interested in this area for quite a while, I know he will have lots of info to share to get the group started. This SIG will probably start on the third Thursday of January, so see

Dan or me about attending.

### Music SIG

As many of you may recall, some of our best general meetings of past years were when David Schwartz brought his MIDI (music) setups to share at a general meeting. There was never enough time for Dave to complete his program, and we were all disappointed. Since I have had a passion for music since I was very young, I would like to see KIPUG start a MIDI SIG, and I would be willing to host the meeting if we can work out the schedule.

### Graphics SIG

In the past, Dave Chalmers has offered to share his interest and expertise with digital cameras, scanners and graphics software, and I'm sure he would be willing to host a group with similar interests. Dave has presented programs at our general meetings, so many of you have seen the expertise he has. This is an excellent opportunity to share what you are doing and pick his brain at the same time. See Dave if you are interested.

### Stamp Collecting SIG

Past Board Member Sarah Perelli-Minetti has a stamp collector website, and she has indicated a willingness to host a SIG based upon this interest. I know that this hobby has been popular for many, many years, and the computer can amplify the enjoyment as well as the chance to add to the collection, I'm sure.

### Genealogy SIG

In the past, we had a SIG which shared an interest in genealogy, but it somehow lost steam. I know there is a local genealogy user group that is not affiliated with a computer group, so perhaps there is no need for a KIPUG SIG, but I'll bet there is sufficient interest if someone is willing to host the meeting. You might want to consider meeting less often than monthly. Perhaps a quarterly meeting?

### Web Design

To tell the truth, I'm not sure exactly what people had in mind when this was mentioned at the November general meeting. Remember: a SIG is not the same as a class. Still, I think I can see where it would be nice to meet with others struggling to get up a web page

or trying to improve a web page. We just need a host (the term is not meant as gender-specific!).

Other Ideas.

Many years ago there were SIGs dedicated to specific software products. There was a dBase SIG as well as a Lotus 123 SIG. There was even a Word Perfect SIG for a brief time. Perhaps someone has an interest in reviving a product-specific SIG? Perhaps MS Office?

Conclusion

Finally, let me express my belief that SIGs are what user groups are all about. It's about sharing the work as well as the fun. It's about being an active participant and not passive. It's not a situation of " Why don't YOU..." but it is about " Why don't WE...".

Sam

## SPOTLIGHT ON Stuart Ree, KIPUG Vice President

Stuart's background is definitely unique among KIPUG members. He was born in Scotland, but he lived most of his youth and young adult life in England. He got his first training in typesetting print at Manchester College of Science and Technology. He then served a five-year apprenticeship as a typesetter until he enrolled at Manchester University, where he studied hydraulics engineering.

Once a full-fledged engineer, Stuart went to work with a hydraulics-engineering firm working on assignments for the British military. That's when he started working with computers. Stuart trained himself on the firm's old Unisys and IBM 3060 computers, which he used in his work. He bought his first PC in 1976, a Sinclair MK14, which had a total of 14 switches..."and no buttons!"

Stuart met his wife, Laverne, in 1980 on a plane from England to the U.S. She was returning from a vacation in England, and he was heading for his vacation in America.. The attraction must have been electric, ("and lots of static since") because he courted her by phone frequently (imagine the phone bills!) and visited her every year

for the next four years. They married in 1984, and that's when Stuart moved to the U.S. He said Laverne hates the cold.

For the first eighteen months after arriving in America, Stuart worked as a store manager for K. B. Toys. But, with his background, that couldn't last long. In 1986, our new American started working for Franklin Mutual Funds in San Mateo as a temporary data entry clerk. That was the start of a rapid climb to the top. He worked his way up in the firm until he became Vice President of Information Systems, a position which he held until 1994. Now the story starts coming home. Stuart and Laverne moved to Bakersfield in 1994, and Stuart set up his own business, RSR Computer Services, which he has continued to operate since then. Stuart's experience working with computers and computer systems at Franklin, combined with his engineering background, are obviously what makes him the computer guru we know today. In his business, Stuart builds and repairs computers and sets up computer systems for businesses and government agencies. Laverne keeps the books and keeps him on track. Their family consists of seven cats, which they clearly dote on. We're lucky to have this talented and compe-

(Continued from page 3)

took Thanksgiving week off from work to be with them and get organized (yeah, right!) for the holiday.

I look forward to the December Potluck Meeting there will be lots of yummys to eat and goodies to win. I hope to see you there. If not you will miss a really good time!

Rhonda

tent computer whiz in KIPUG. Besides that, he just happens to be a nice guy!

Article by  
Caroline Corser



# Membership Application

Annual Dues \$30.00 Mail to:  
PO Box 2780  
Bakersfield, CA 93303

Please Print Clearly — This application is  New  Renewal  Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
(     )

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(     )

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
                                          @

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I'm a:

Beginner                     Serve on a committee

Intermediate                 Assist the Editor

Advanced                     Help at Meetings

Hobbyist                      Join a SIG

Professional                 Do Whatever..

The Software I use is

WIN 95                         WIN 2000 ME

WIN 98                         WIN NT

WIN 98 SE                     Other

The Kern Independent PC Users Group — KIPUG is a nonprofit organization of computer users — novices, experts, professionals and hobbyists. KIPUG welcomes all new members interested in computers. A General Meeting is held on the second Thursday of the month at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Building, City Center, at 17th and L streets in Bakersfield. Meetings run from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM and include a business meeting along with product demonstrations, door prizes and a drawing.

## Membership Information and Benefits:

General Meetings are open to the public, free of charge. The public and guests are welcome but certain benefits apply to members only.

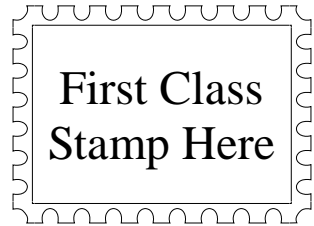
To become a member, complete the form above and mail your check to KIPUG.

### Member Benefits Include:

- A monthly newsletter — *Bits & Bytes* — a place to publish your articles!
- Free ads to buy or sell computer items.
- One free month's business card ad for corporate members.
- Web Site with free Listserv and access to the newsletter on-line.
- User group product discounts and special offers.
- Networking with computer enthusiasts who share common interests.
- Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to help you solve problems.
- All general memberships are family memberships, bring the family.
- Eligibility for door prizes and vendor giveaways.
- Product evaluation/review program — write an evaluation — keep the product.

Visit KIPUG's Web Site: <http://www.kipug.org/>





P.O. Box 2780  
Bakersfield, CA

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

**Your Address Here**

**Tom Rabe Webmaster**

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at  
the Kern Superintendent of Schools Building.  
17th and L streets Downtown  
Meeting Time is 7 pm