

# Bits & Bytes

A Publication of the Kern PC Users Group



**Flash Demo Presented by Joel Hart**

Meeting on Feb 13 @ 7 pm



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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.

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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.

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Printer Problems	pg 4	Hi everyone! We sure had a great program for January. Thanks to David Chalmers one of our very own members and Newsletter Chairman, he did a wonderful job on Scanners and their software, not to mention learning some things about Photoshop Elements. I got an All-in-One HP Scanner/Fax/Photoprinter/Copier for Christmas and I'm enjoying it very much.
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February we should have a program on Flash Software. Don't forget to buy your favorite person a Valentine, flowers or candy always does the trick. See you at the February meeting. Rhonda



I know, I know! This doesn't look like Rhonda, But Monday Feb 17 is President's day

ED

## PRINTER PROBLEMS, OR, WHY DIDN'T SOMEONE TELL ME?

For a naive beginner like me, a printer is just a printer. They're all alike, right? Wrong! I got along just fine with my HP InkJet, but when I graduated to a laser printer a year or so ago, I discovered that there were important differences I hadn't bargained for.

My first surprise hit me when I tried to print the pages of my book. It quit after just a few pages. No matter what I tried, it wouldn't print. It seems that it didn't have enough memory to handle the photos and the many pages. Now who would know that printers have memory, too? Bill Peacock explained the problem and fixed it for me.

Then recently I got ready to print some address labels. After fussing and fiddling over size and shape of the labels, I bought a package marked for laser printers, although I couldn't imagine how it could make any differ-

ence. Fooled again!

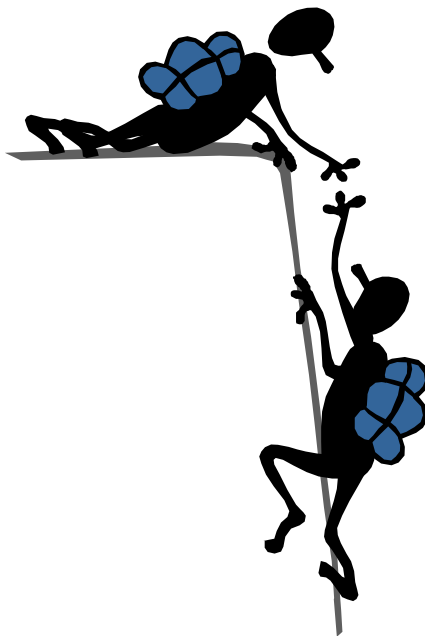
When I was ready to print, I grabbed a box of labels, not realizing they were old ones that I had bought when I had the InkJet. About half way through the second page, it quit.

"Paper jam?" I thought. When I pulled the sheet out, some of the labels were missing. Then the printer refused to print anything.

Bill Peacock came to the rescue again. Now how was I to know that laser printers operate with intense heat? The heat had melted the adhesive on those InkJet labels, and they stuck to the drum. He had to scrape them off

and clean the adhesive from the heat unit. No more problems with that then. So what else could go wrong?

Surely there would be no problem with just straight printing, would there? Well, yes, there could. I recycle all paper that is clean on one side. I'm

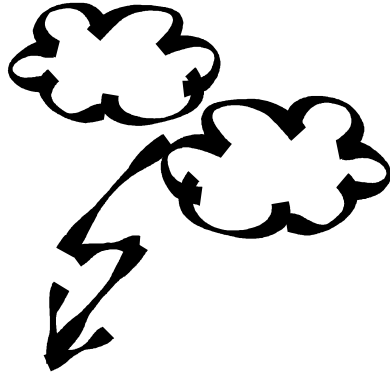


always delighted when I find an old file folder that I can clean out, and I save all the re-usable pages. It's the right thing to do, isn't it? Well, that depends.

Recently, I discovered that some of the pages from a very old file came through the printer solid black on the back. How curious! I thought that was a waste of ink, that the printer must have gotten too hot and immediately turned it off to let it rest. How naive can you get? I asked some of our techie members why that happened. We learn something new every day. It seems that some of the pages I was recycling were on heat sensitive paper, from my fax machine. The printer cooked 'em.

Now why don't the printers come with warnings? It says the unit is hot, so I don't touch the unit. That doesn't tell a computer novice like me what that means when I'm printing. But then, I probably wouldn't read the directions if they did spell it out for me. Thank heavens for KIPUG members who will bail me out when I pull one of these blunders.

by Caroline Corser



Caroline! Is Bill still talking to you? I'm sure glad I didn't stop at his shop when he was cleaning the printer. For those who didn't know, Bill runs a computer shop and does a great job of fixing and cleaning printers.  
ED.

## **Buying a DVD recorder**

By Bob Elgines, elginesz@rraz.net

Well the prices are coming down, now under \$300 and as low as \$220, for a DVD recorder. The blank disks are now under \$2.50 each in lots of ten or more. But beware, the great decision as to which format is still under debate, DVD-R or DVD+R! If you just wish to make videos either one should work in most DVD players made after the year 2000, but not all. Cheaper DVDR disks and players will not work.

Support out there is very weak to almost NONE! Much time is needed to be invested like 4 to 10 hours to make a 2 hour video DVD, of which several programs require you to sit in front of your computer.

Most of the software is over priced and does not work without many problems and no support like "Video Studio 6" by Cyber. The best so far has been "MyDVD" by Sonic. Some of the suggestions listed below came from them.

The best input devices are: "USB Instant DVD" by ADS (\$160), "Bungee DVD" by Pinnacle (\$150), "DCS

100" (\$170) and "DCS 200" by Dazle (\$230). They all come with software that have individual problems, and advertise "Fast, Easy & Fun", boy that is a huge JOKE! It's Slow, Hard, & Will drive you nuts .

If you can not provide all of the suggestions (really necessary evils) below then don't get involved. I became one of their guinea pig and I am about to throw it all in the circle file and call it a lost.

My ASUS computer is an Intel P3 @ 866MHz, 256MB RAM @ 133MHz, 60GB Hard Drive @ 7200rpm ATA100, ATI Radeon 32MB video card, with the "USB Instant DVD" input device (I tried out the DAZZLE equipment, but it had big noise problems and they had NO support at all), VIVASTAR (LF311) DVD-R recorder. I have tried two operating systems such as Win '98SE and Win'ME and saw no difference, went back to Win'98SE.

For Windows '98 'XP users start off with these suggestions on getting ready to record a DVD:

- \*Install at least 256 MB of RAM
- \*Disable the Screen Saver
- \*Disable the Turn off Hard Disks op-

tion

- \*Disable the Hibernation option
- \*Disable the Network Time Server (Win'XP)
- \*Disable Text to Speech (Win'XP)
- \*Disable any scheduled tasks (for example, virus scan)
- \*Do not increase Virtual Memory beyond Windows' recommended setting
- \*Close any other running applications
- \*Do not copy any large files while capturing
- \*Do not allow any remote activities, such as PC Anywhere or Timbuktu connections
- \*Your hard drives are formatted to NTFS (which as no files size limitations Win'XP)
- \*You have at least 21 gigs available on a single drive
- \*You have the latest drivers for the following: DVD Rom, burner, CD-ROM and burner.
- \*Your hard drives have been defragmented.
- \*In particular, while capturing video, do not use your PC for any other activity. Video capture requires all your PC's processing power, and any action such as inserting a disc or receiving e-mail may cause errors in the captured video files.
- \*Your monitor resolution must be set to 1024x768 16 or 32 bit color

- \*You are running ASPI driver 4.6. No higher, no lower. If you are unsure, you can go here to find out and/or download the appropriate driver: <http://aspi.radified.com>
- \*You are not running your machine/session of a network/RAID configuration
- \*Make sure you have the latest version DirectX (a must), WMP (a must):
- \*If your "Input digital device" is on USB, then remove all other USB external equipment.
- \*You may also find it beneficial to enable DMA for all your drives.

There are DVD-RAM and DVD+RAM which allows you to save up to 9.6GB of Data, but hard drives are much cheaper, like 20GB for \$69.00 or lower. It is just not FAST and EASY as they have stated in their advertising!

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using the article as long as it is kept in context, with proper credit given to the author. This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an International organization to which this user group belongs.

New DVD Burners are rapidly coming on the market, I hope the media type problem will be solved.  
ED.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Dave:

My dad and I have a new family camera for right now until he buys one for himself. We went down Christmas Eve, talked to Dusty at Henley's and came home with a Canon S30. Dusty said the camera is a few months old, but it is simple (I say if you understand it) and so far I am really enjoying it.

We decided to get a camera we could use for both travel photos and EBay. Two things my dad and I noticed immediately: I, in particular, have a very hard time with the instruction manual the terms used don't have anything to do with a film camera. The battery charger was so new dad and I both had to figure it out. The writer of the manual is color blind or something the indication light for the camera charging the battery says it ought to be orange, but the light is red instead. At least it changed to green (charged) after 1-1/2 hours. We discovered the charged battery in the camera didn't last too long, only a few hours, unlike regular film camera batteries. Secondly, something we will need to get used to when you get ready to snap a picture it seems to take its time. We found out it is very hard to take pictures at the dinner table with people

who were constantly moving. The picture that came out wasn't exactly the one I had in mind. I read later there is something in the manual about that. We found we loved the camera for a quite a few reasons. Once I got through the basics I could show my dad how to take a picture and review it and delete it if he wanted to. Everybody at the gathering loved having the instant feedback. I could show relatives pictures of one of my friends, Paul, and of my Christmas tree from home. My old camera, Ricoh FF90, is over 20 years old and an instamatic with no features on it. This camera has so many features. On the way up to Lodi during the boring drive I was able to get a really nice close up of the diet coke 20 oz. bottle we had. My next goal will be to learn how to get the detail on a postage stamp to come in clearly. I am also impressed with taking pictures in a darkened area. Things seem to brighter up more. I have figured out going through the menus and setting it up. My dad is still trying to figure it out. The camera is at my house. Paul, Bill, Glen and I will next figure out the USB part, so we can get the pictures to the computer. I will be at CompUSA buying disks to store pictures. —————>

# PC-Network Services

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We also take trade-ins.

Dad is thinking about a new kind of digital camera he just read about in a newspaper article that uses some new technology or something. Have a great New Year!

Sincerely,

Sarah Perelli-Minetti

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Bakersfield, California 93309 USA

<http://www.topicalsonstamps.com>

e-mail: [stamps@topicalsonstamps.com](mailto:stamps@topicalsonstamps.com)

Please visit [Topicals on Stamps](http://www.topicalsonstamps.com) for over 135 collector topics and organizations for the thematic stamp collector, news, discussion list, stamp scans, topic of the week and resources.

I thought this email should be shared ED.

**SPOTLIGHT ON:**  
**SAM THOMPSON**, Past President &  
Member Extraordinaire

Although he looks, talks, and acts like a computer techie, Sam Thompson will tell you that he's really an educator. That's because Sam sees computers as tools for educational applications.

He was originally an elementary school teacher back in the 70's, and throughout the years, Sam has taught nearly every level from first grade through high school and even college. Sam first started working with computers in 1980 after a year or so as an insurance agent, a teaching stint in Alaska, and work as an accountant. He was trained by the county to become a systems analyst and worked at Kern Medical Center under Tony Rizos. During that time, Sam was working on an M.A. degree in reading instruction with additional units in school administration.

Our talented friend finally returned to teaching as a resource teacher in Delano in 1984, but was soon asked to develop a computerized student information system for them. That was the beginning of a career that has lasted nearly twenty years. Sam moved from that position

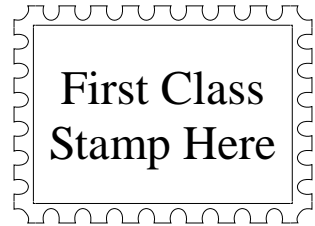
through Coordinator to his present position as Director of Technology for the whole Delano School District. He directs the business computer systems, which include the student information systems and computers for the administrative support staff. He also directs the district-wide network of school computers and their connections to the district office a total of 1375 work stations.

Sam has been a member of KIPUG since 1984. He has held nearly every office from Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and Vice President to President. He especially enjoyed serving as Program Chair, which he did for several years. In this position, he was able to keep up with innovations in the field. He used many of those ideas for improvements to the school district's system. Sam also started hosting the Tech Talk sig five years ago. They have met regularly at his home since then.

Although Sam claims to be an educator first, he's obviously a technically astute educator who knows his stuff. Not only that, he's been a positive support for KIPUG and its members. We're lucky to have him as a member of the club.

by Caroline Corser





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Bakersfield, CA

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

**Your Address Here**

**Sarah Perelli-Minetti 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