

Bits & Bytes

A Publication of the Kern PC Users Group

January Program

Member to member

“How to be a better internet user”

**Make it your New Year's Resolution to come on
January 11 at 7:00 pm**



Board Members

President:
Robert Stout 399-9505
rstout@delanoelem.k12.ca.us

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:
Donna Plunkett 398-8304
Babypatches@earthlink.net

Director:
Rick Daney
rddstewy@aol.com

Director:
Ray Stubbs 834-6166

Newsletter Editor:
David Chalmers
dcchal@pacbel.net

Education/SIG Coord
Del Jones 871-0598
delj@lightspeed.net

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 Robert Stout, President, at (661) 399-9505.

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punch and ice.

Actually, everyone who came jumped right in to help make the evening special. Unfortunately, I can't remember or mention all of you, but your efforts were appreciated. I love a potluck I have to admit. There was lots of good food, and I sampled as many dishes as I could. There was no excuse for anyone to go away hungry because we had food left over.

When it was over, there were lots of folks to help clean up, too. There was only one problem with the evening that I noticed my number wasn't called on the grand prizes. By the way, thanks again to Heather and JC from New Horizons for TWO great grand prizes. I know I would

have loved to have one of those club memberships.

Now here we go into the (real) new millennium. I believe the new year of programs will be entertaining and informative, and I hope you agree. After going to the Association of PC User Groups Conference at Las Vegas, I have a few changes from the schedule I gave you previously, so please take note.

There was only one problem with the evening that I noticed my number wasn't called on the grand prizes.

January - Our club members will be sharing "How to Be a Better Internet User."

February - Gene Barlow will be dropping by to show us the latest versions of the products from PowerQuest. Be sure to bring your checkbook because Gene always has some great deals and plenty of software with him.

March - Veteran user group presenter, Matt McCann from Intuit will be showing us the newest version of Quicken in a very entertaining as well as informative presentation. Don't miss it!

April - Randy Whittle will be here to show MGI's latest software. In addition to new versions of familiar titles, Randy will be showing some new programs too.

May - In keeping with our motto of "Users Helping Users", the club members will be presenting "How to Use Graphics More Effectively."

June - Local educator Val Hemingway from Panama-Buena Vista School District will be sharing how to do non-linear video editing. This will be a demonstration of how regular users with regular equipment readily available in the consumer marketplace can make out-

standing videos. In fact, he may bring along some school kids to show just how easy it can be.

July - The summer months are traditionally somewhat slow but we will be looking for an exciting program for you.

August - Randy Whittle will be returning to represent a couple of new clients. Feel free to check out <http://www.iceka.com/clients.htm> to see a preview of the products from Microvision Developments and Zero-Knowledge Systems.

Well, there you are. I hope you will be there to show support for our program presenters. If we are to remain on the tour for the out-of-area presenters, we need to show our appreciation by turning out in large numbers. In fact, bring a friend. Perhaps they might wish to join KIPUG!

Web Jacking and Mouse Trapping

Excerpted from
FAMILY NEWS IN FOCUS STORIES

Web-Jacking and Mouse-Trapping
by Dave Clark, correspondent

SUMMARY: Pirates -- once a symbol of thuggery on the high seas -- are now bullying their way on the Internet. Their crimes involve hijacking Web browsers that link unsuspecting children and adults to pornographic Web sites. Searching online for Pokemon sounds and pictures is a favorite pastime for many kids. But imagine kids' surprise when they type in a Web search for those pictures and get pornography instead. "The kids get panicked, they're confused and they're afraid to go to mom and dad," said Jack Samad, with the Coalition

for the Protection of Children and Families.

Samad said "Web-jacking," as the practice is known, is the latest tactic pornographers use to entice the unsuspecting. You might be conducting a search for children's books or pie recipes. But pirates have made illegal copies of millions of innocent Web pages in order to redirect your search to a porn site. "That is done intentionally," Samad said. "The pornographers receive up to 3 cents per exposure on the computer." Multiply that by millions of hijacked "hits" a day and someone is making big money. "This is a very insidious problem," said Donna Rice Hughes, of the group Enough is Enough. What's worse, Hughes said Web-jacking is often accompanied by "mouse-trapping" -- meaning there

is no escape short of shutting down your computer. "When you click the "back" button or the "exit" button to get out of that porn site, it will simply take you further into the pornography site and will give you another picture to view," Hughes said. Samad, who thinks both Web-jacking and mouse-trapping should be illegal, said the Federal Trade Commission is now prosecuting the first case of its kind.

While there's no way yet to avoid getting Web-jacked, settings on your Internet browser can be adjusted to prevent being "mouse-trapped" within a porn site. Experts advise disabling Java Scripting on your browser's security settings to keep the new pages from automatically loading.

Submitted by:
Audrey Cochran,
RNCS, CCCN
rlloyd@data1.com

Rumblings from the Editor

Now that we have a New Year on hand, I decided to change the format of the paper. I hope this new format can work out to be as polished a format as Tom Rabe accomplished, during his long incarceration as the newsletter editor.

As always I give thanks to our contributors, Audrey and Sam, hopefully more articles will be forthcoming for the February newsletter from other members. It isn't too late for a New Years resolution to contribute articles for the newsletter, you know!

Hauling off the grand prize was a thrill for me. The Palm that I got was given to my oldest daughter and promptly taken to Switzerland when she visited her friends there. Usually she is not a gadget appreciator, but

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the Palm M100 was a real hit. Now if I can extract a review out of the kid (note to reading members out there, please don't hold your breath waiting for this review).

My youngest was given a Diamond RIO MP3 player. I got a chance to play with it while she was in New York and found it was an interesting device. After our recent MP3 talk I had a good chance to play with the technology. This thing connects up to your computer using an USB cable. It contains memory inside just like that found in digital cameras. You upload MP3 music files from your computer to it. Once you have files in the thing's memory you treat the unit like any of the Walkman devices. One nice thing is no moving parts. The playback device is about the length and width

Logitech makes a radio frequency variety of a cordless mouse

of a credit card and is about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick. With MP3 files you have about one minute of music per megabyte of memory. If you convert CD music files to wav files you need about ten megabytes per minute of music. The MP3 format saves a lot of space, as you can see. When you get tired of the music on the player you erase the memory and upload new files.

In the badge department, I will produce new badges for the February meeting. This is a not too subtle hint to pay your dues.

On another note, I recently got one of the new wireless mice. In my case it was really a trackball. It is one of the new Logitech trackballs that have the wheel feature built in. Logitech makes a radio frequency variety of a cordless mouse. Some of the other wireless mice



use infrared technology, so you have to keep the receiver in sight of the mouse. No such problem with this one.

The installation was simple. I hooked up the receiver into my PS2 mouse port, put batteries into the mouse and it got going right away. I installed the Logitech software and customized the buttons to my personal preferences. The software even comes with a battery level indicator. I have been using this for more than a month and the batteries are still good. Now I don't have to worry about smash-

ing the mouse cable when I'm closing my keyboard drawer. My old mouse cable has some scars on it.

The product is called the Cordless Trackman II Wheel. It retails for \$59.95. Logitech mouse products over the years have generally been excellent. I still have an old Logitech mouse of about 1985 vintage. Www.logitech.com.

While I was at Comdex I was given a demonstration of the new Photoshop 6.0. I got a chance to get a reasonable price on an upgrade version and recently installed it. This in my opinion is the premier photo editing program.

The new version cleans up some of the complaints about the user interface and also adds some new goodies. The learning curve and the price of this product are very steep, but they are worth it if you want to do

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interesting things to photos. It also has gotten much more supportive of images for the web. The ability to select parts of an image, so you can do things just to that part are enhanced. In some ways Adobe is doing something similar to Microsoft in enhancing their product. When a utility vendor makes an add-on product, Microsoft would incorporate that utility in the next release of the product, Adobe is doing the same thing.

Another nice change that occurred was that you now can print the image at any size without having to change the actual image itself. This feature is found in just about all of the inexpensive photo programs, but not In Photosh until version 6.0.

Dave Chalmers

It would only take 200 words to fill this column. How about some of you members out there doing this. We don't need techno articles all of the time, just something about maybe your personal adventures with a computer.

ED.



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

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City

State, Zip + 4
()

Home Phone
()

Business Phone
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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.

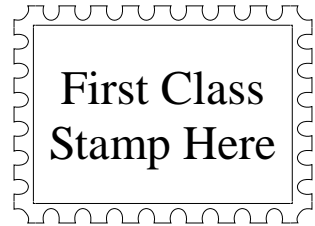
To become a member, complete the form above and mail your check to KIPUG.

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 2789
Bakersfield, CA 93303

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

Tom Rabe Webmaster

Your Address Here

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month
at the Kern Superintendents of Schools Building.

17th and L streets Downtown