

# Bits & Bytes

A Publication of the Kern Independent PC Users Group

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July, 2000

## *KIPUG Meeting Schedule and Program Lineup*

- July Picnic
- Aug Member run
- Sept Caere Corp

## *Kipug Picnic July 13 at Sam's House.*

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## **The Road to Sam's House**

### **Picnic in July!**

**M**ake your plans now to attend the annual KIPUG picnic in July. In lieu of a regular meeting, we will all meet on the usual date and time (2nd Thursday at 7:00 PM), but the location is my house at 5916 Carter Avenue. Since my yard goes through to Columbine on the backside, if you come from the Norris Road (north) side, it will make it easier to park. Of course, coming

from the front on Carter Avenue will work as well. We'll try to get a map in the newsletter for July.

Anyway, bring your family and a dish for the potluck. If you want other than punch, bring that, and we'll have ice in a couple of tubs.

We'll also supply paper goods, plates, flatware, and drink cups. We never have signups for what to bring, but it usually works out fine. We just adjust to whatever is brought. Feel free to bring a swimsuit



Off to Sam's House

if you wish to swim. There is a changing room.

Get out from in front of that monitor, and have a good time with your KIPUG friends!

By Sam Thompson

## **Photo Expo West 2000**

I recently attended a photo trade/seminar show in LA. I was curious what impact computers are having on the basic field of photography.

Wow! Some of the professionals haven't

used film in years. The equipment shown in the trade show had some of the usual photographers trappings, like lighting camera and camera peripherals. On the digital photography side I saw more kinds of inkjet pa-

pers than I could believe. It's amazing that in a space of 18 months, inkjet paper offerings went from a few papers put out by the major printer manufacturers to all sorts of art paper vendors. Cont pg 4



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Elected June 1

## Power Problems!

It was Saturday evening. The lights started yoyo-ing in intensity. I tried to call PG&E, but all lines were busy. Then it seemed to settle down for a while.

By Sunday morning, the hottest day of the year, the air conditioner didn't work. Calling the repairman out was a difficult decision, but Air tech responded right away. The problem was finally narrowed down to a blown thermostat, but it was Monday morning before repairs could be completed.

By that time, we found out that PG&E would be replacing the transformer on the pole next to our house. So we shut off the server and all the computers (and everything else), and we pulled the plug on the refrigerator.

When the transformer had been replaced, we started turning on the appliances, and the problems surfaced. The air conditioner didn't work. A TV and VCR in Rex's room didn't work. One of the surge protectors (connected to Rex's computer) had a blown fuse. A circuit breaker was blown, as in broken.

Also our home alarm system was out.

By now, we have a fairly good accounting of what happened. When the power was restored, anything which was online and drawing power was obliterated by a power surge. The TV and VCR draw power even when they are off. Their transformers were burned out. We should have disconnected them from the wall. The transformer in the air conditioner was also blown out, and the circuit breaker to which it was attached was blown. The alarm system has a transformer which also draws power as long as it is connected, so it was toast.



So what's my point? Be aware that turning off appliances may not be enough when power problems occur. You may need to turn off the circuit breakers as well. Or you can unplug the appliances at least. It would be a good idea to make a list of all of the electrical appliances which should be checked, and keep it handy. Perhaps you can learn from our losses.

By the way, I didn't lose a single computer! Let's hear it for even cheap surge protectors!

## Special Interest Groups

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

SIG	Contact	Day/Time	Location/Sponsor
Geneology	Del Jones 871-0598	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:00 p.m.	Donna Plunket's Home
Nerd Nite	Sam Thompson 399-1579	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 7:00 p.m.	Sam's House
Netware Users Inter	Robert Stout 399-9505	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:00 p.m.	New Horizons
Random Access	Bill Peacock 328-0180	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 6:30 p.m.	At Monthly Meeting
Beginning Internet	Sarah Perelli-Minetti 832-5437	Please call for details	Sarah's Place

# New Horizons

## A Review

OK, OK! I know how this is supposed to work. I won a prize at a meeting some time ago and I am writing an article for the newsletter to let everyone, including the vendor, know how I feel about this prize. Well, here goes...

Packaging: The product was handed to me with the absence of all that landfill wasting cardboard, foam, and cellophane wrap. While someone looking for software on the shelf at the local retail outlet needs to be drawn in by bright colors and shiny, sometimes holographic logos, this prize was refreshingly plain. Simple, and to the point.

Installation: Installation was a snap. It took no time at all to get started. I simply followed the directions. Once started, it took several hours to complete, but the time was very well worth it.

Manual: The manual is through and complete. It is spiral bound so it lays flat on the desk. This is a great plus! Many times when I am digging through a manual to find a solution to a problem I get real irritated when I turn to the keyboard to start clicking in a change and the book flips closed, or to another page. The manual contains detailed information on each item and includes many screen prints to help understand the material. There are also Tips, Tricks, and Shortcuts scattered throughout the manual that come in very useful. Some manuals give you just enough information to get by and nothing more. This one gives you more than enough to help you understand what it is talking about. The Appendix contains all kinds of good information

and the Index completes the ability to locate what you need, when you need it.

Do I Use This Product?: I sure do. I am an old DOS guy and I am dragging myself, grudgingly, into the new millennium and converting my data into Windows applications. This product has proven to be very helpful in accomplishing this difficult task. Without this product, I might not be as far along in my conversions as I would like to be.

Oh, I guess I forgot to mention the actual product that I won at the meeting. Oops. What I won was a class at New Horizons. (I bet this article is starting to make more sense now.) I would like to thank Heather and the staff at New Horizons for supporting KIPUG and making these class prizes available. Mine came at a most opportune time.

I have taken many DOS classes at Bakersfield College through the years and have become very proficient in applications like WordPerfect (ver 5), Lotus 1-2-3 (ver 2.2), and dBase (III, IV, & V). I took a class at New Horizons several years ago in MS-Word that helped with my word-processing conversion. Excel I learned at work, since most of my data is stored in spreadsheet type files. But my biggest stumbling block was databases. I took the Introduction to Access class at BC which was a good start but not enough to begin transferring my data. The Intermediate Access class that I took recently at New Horizons has given me the tools and knowledge I need to begin this difficult task.

Will I Use Other Products From This Vendor?: Yes! This is the second class I have taken at New Horizons and as soon as I

have converted my simpler databases and get more comfortable with Access, I will be signing up for the Advanced class. Since BC doesn't even offer the Intermediate class I'm sure it will be New Horizons where I turn when I'm ready to tackle my advanced database applications.

How Does This Product Compare With Others?: I have mentioned taking classes at BC and New Horizons. Cost is about the same. BC used to be far cheaper, but the enrolment fees have risen at BC and the books are rather expensive. At New Horizons the book is included. The BC classes usually meet one night a week for six weeks. New Horizons gets you in and out in one day. This has some good and bad to it. I admit to being over 40 and learning new stuff doesn't come easy. I prefer the slower paced class structure at BC but I was able to keep up in the New Horizons class. The trick is to start using what you learn as soon as possible. One day classes pack a LOT of information in your brain in a short period of time. If you use what you learn in class right away, it tends to stick; if not, it slips away. I do, however, remember seeing many things in the class that I can't remember how to do, but so far I have been able to dig through the book and my notes to jog my memory into working again. In today's hectic world where time is the most valuable resource we have, New Horizons is a great place to get what you need, in a hurry.

A product Review - by Barry Keniston



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## Club Member Articles

The Five articles that were included in this issue were written by members for members.

One article was a nice review by Barry Keniston. We give away a lot of goodies at our drawings and need more members to contribute their thoughts on what they got. Offering your opinion can be lengthy or short depending on your style. A review doesn't have to be a piece of hardware or software,

Sam's power problems is a good example of an experience of one of our members about some facet of computing. Any other experiences out there? Caroline Corser just published a book, Hmmm! Wonder what experi-

ences she had?

Coming up are two articles from James Wyatt one from Stuart Ree and one by Sam Thompson. Maybe by September we will finally have an eight page newsletter.

As usual this is a plea for more articles both short and long.

Dave Chalmers

Editor

Photo Expo Cont.

Interestingly enough a lot of the manufactures that make classic photographic paper have branched out into printer paper in a big time way. Printer inks have received the same treatment. Now the issue is archival quality inks. I remember when inkjet inks faded rapidly. One manufacturer is making a gray scale type of ink that replaces the color cartridges. Talk about beautiful B&W prints.

The seminar courses contained some classic photo courses but most of the seminars were about digital photography in one form or another. Adobe Photoshop was frequently featured. If you are interested in a digital darkroom there is a lot out there

Dave Chalmers