

Bits & Bytes

A Publication of the Kern PC Users Group



Coming our way for the July 10
meeting

Also we have Elections this time
plus we are raffling off a New Hori-
zons gift certificate.



Board Members

President:

Rhonda Pierce 661-363-0771
Pierce27@earthlink.net

Past President:

Bill Peacock 661-328-0180
bpeacock@pacbell.net

Vice President:

Rick Daney
rdaney@bak.rr.com

Secretary:

Tony Rizos 661-872-5622
trizos@ncinternet.net

Treasurer:

William Lowell 661-664-1244
wlowell@bc.cc.ca.us

Director:

Steve Garcia
sgarcia@bak.rr.com

Director:

Caroline Corser 661-871-9201
Cmcorser@pacbell.net

Director:

Stuart Ree 661-589-6172
rsrcomp@pacbell.net

Director:

Dr. Leonard Liss 661-663-8834
lissmd@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor:

David Chalmers
dcchal@pacbell.net

Education/SIG Coord

Rick Daney

Kipug Webmaster

Sarah Perelli-Minetti
sarahpm@sbcglobal.net

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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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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.

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Well it's July already! Fireworks stands everywhere and Whistling Petes sounding in the wind. I'm glad we celebrate July 4th Independence Day, but living in the country with animals, having open pasture to catch on fire and people who are not responsible with fireworks, guns and cannons near us is not a good mix! We go out several times to talk to the horses and calm them down from the noise.

July 10th is Election Night, members get your volunteer hats on and sharpen up your hand to raise and get involved. New, young or old members give us your helping hand. If any one would like to be a Board of Director, the Program Chairman, or even give us names of people who could be a speaker call us, write us, email us, bring it in person and get involved, however you can get it to us please do. A club is only as good as the people who make it that way.

See you there on July 10th . Rhonda [:-)

I was contacted by Smart Computing for a talk this July. Rhonda was't in town so I accepted their proposal. Thanks Earl for allowing us to reuse the New Horizons gift certificate

Ed

Well, the June Potluck was a big success. There was lot's of good food, good attendance, nice prizes, and, to round it out, officer and Director nominations.

Rhonda started the festivities by getting everyone up to eat. She did not need a lot of help. She later handed the podium to Bill

Peacock who was the emcee for the raffling of the prizes. The grand prize was a gift certificate donated by New Horizon for a series of classes and was won by Earl McNab. He was excited about it when they announced the prize and was even more excited when he

won it. Other winners included Sarah Perelli Minetti who won a cordless keyboard and mouse and yours truly who won a 64 mb thumb drive AND Altec Lansing speakers.

Between the potluck and raffle, Sam Thompson presented a great Powerpoint presentation of KIPUG history, the bylaws and the election process to bring everyone up to date. The club is

currently about 4 months behind in having it's annual elections. Sam did ask for nominations for each of the officer position and one Director position. Speaking on behalf of the Board, Sam did nominate the existing officers. Nominations from the floor will happen again at the July meeting along with the election of officers.



Lee Lentz did volunteer to be a Director and will be placed on the list of nominations. Lee explained she had some ideas for the club, which is what it is all about, new thoughts, new ideas, and new participation. Lee also saved the club from an embarrassing

situation. It seems no one remembered to bring the tickets for the raffle. While Rhonda and others tried to come up with Plan B, Lee went and got a roll of tickets. Thank you Lee.

Being an officer or a Director is a fun and productive thing to do. The Board meets monthly at Marie Callander's to discuss business and prepare the newsletters for mailing. In addition to

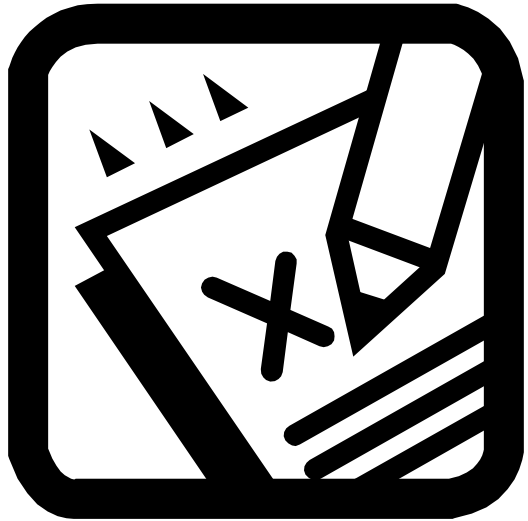
the club business, there are a slew of other topics discussed. It is a good group. It is not a lot of extra work and you have the chance to change the club. There is always room for improvement. If you were at the potluck, you probably noticed that nominating a new Secretary would probably not be a bad idea.

See you in July and give some serious thought of getting involved by being an officer or a Director.

Tony Rizos

ELECTIONS

JULY 10



Goodbye Family Origins, Hello RootsMagic

By Sam Thompson

Software is a lot like music: you like what you know. (Why else would people clap when an artist plays a favorite song at a concert?) I like Family Origins. It has been my genealogy program of choice for several years, all the way back to when Parsons Technology marketed it. Easy-to-use, feature-laden. It just kept getting better from one version to the next without abandoning the basic interface. I have version 8, but I think they have reached version 10.

Recently I had reason to use a feature which didn't seem to be working quite right, so I looked for a website to see if there might be a fix. What I found was the site of Formalsoft.com.

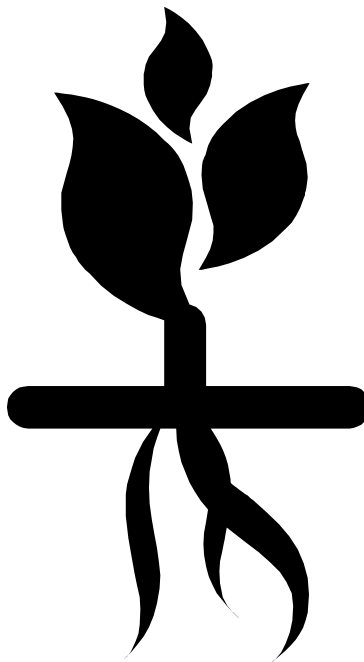
Quoting from the website, I found the following:

"Parsons Technology was bought up by Mattel, and our contract with Parsons was assigned to genealogy.com by them.

"In January 2003, genealogy.com discontinued Family Origins in favor of their own genealogy program. *This is the third genealogy program they have acquired the*

rights to and then discontinued."

By the way I found out that other program is Family Tree Maker. This is actually a nice program marketed by Broderbund, last I heard. I have an older copy of it, purchased before Family Origins could handle images so well.



Anyway, you can see I had a problem. No support for my favorite program. The solution: FormalSoft has created a new program which will import every bit of data from Family Origins. It's written by the same team that has

written every version of Family Origins, and it's called RootsMagic.

The interface is remarkably similar to Family Origins (duh!). It has new features which I would consider to be enhancements, and after playing with the downloadable demo, I couldn't wait send for the newest version. At \$29.95, I consider it a bargain.

Although I use the genealogy tracking features extensively, I have to admit that what I find most useful is the easy way it handles photos and other graphics I have scanned. I have marriage licenses, death certificates, driver's licenses and awards of all kinds as well as clippings. By scanning them, I can share with family members, and they can share with me. If a catastrophe were to occur and we lost the originals, we would at least still have the images. You can scan directly into RootsMagic, but I use a separate scanning program.

The problem I had with my Family Origins 8 was in creating a new database and dragging a person from another database into that one. The new program seems to handle that with no problem. It will automatically check for duplicates as you add new info,

too.

The newest features seem to be the support for publishing data in various ways. In addition to the many report formats as you would expect, you could actually create a book within RootsMagic. I'm not sure that interests me, but it is a powerful capability. I think it might be fun to print a calendar with family birthdays and anniversaries listed. By the way, there's a family reunion planner built-in, too.

Check out the website at www.formalsoft.com and download a copy of the demo if you're interested. I think it would be worth your time to consider.

Right Click Try It – You May Like It

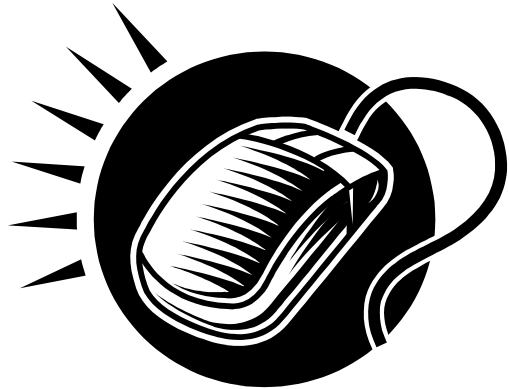
Les J. Kizer

Greater Tampa Bay PC User Group
Mid-Hudson Computer User Group
pc.Les@Juno.com

My friends, there was a time long ago. It was way back in the early age as computer time is told. Even some of us old folks find it hard to recall; however, you know, for the children's sake we need to remember history. It was a time before the ascent of the rodent.

In those prehistoric PC days, when we copied text from one place to another, we blocked the beginning of the copy or move by pressing ctrl-b. Then we would use the up and down arrow keys to go to the end of the block. Again we would press ctrl-b to define the end of the block. Eventually someone, who is long forgotten, highlighted the area from the beginning to the end of the block and told us the text was now selected, not blocked.

Unblocking was done with ctrl-o,



which today will help you open a file. Ctrl-b now causes selected text to become bold, which in those dark days before the rodent invaded, I can't remember having bold type at all.

Then while the text was blocked, or selected, we pressed ctrl-x for cut or ctrl-c for copy followed by using the up and down arrow keys to point to the place where we wanted the text inserted. Then press ctrl-v for paste. Ctrl-x, ctrl-c and ctrl-v still exist and are used by only the oldest among us.

When the rodent arrived and we plugged its tail into the PC, many advances came. The menu bar was enhanced buttons, and then the tool bar was added. Most application programs added rodent buttons for cut, copy and paste. With the index-finger pressing on the rodent's hind quarter, selecting

text was easier, and highlighted also. Moving the rodent to the cut or copy button followed by a flick of the index finger gave the command to be. Then sliding the somewhat tamed rodent to the location of the insert, a quick flick and then back to the paste button for another flick of the index finger. Progress! Ease of Use! Fabulous! And rodents become famous, heralded throughout the land.

That, though, is not the end of the rodent's march to fame. For all this fame was obtained by pressing the rodent with only the left or index finger. What about pressing the rodent's other hind quarter?

Silently, with great stealth, someone slipped in something new. It was done so quietly and without a fanfare, we are not even sure when it began to happen. It is called simply: right-click, as opposed to click.

Now we can select the text we want to cut or copy. Then without an arduous effort of guiding the rodent to the menu or tool bar, we simply right-click. Walla! A menu pops up on the spot giving us likely choices upon which to flick our index finger. Move the rodent to the insert point, and

right-click again. The same or a modified menu pops up for us to flick our choice. Neat, and so effortless.

Today, we can right-click almost anything – desktop, icons, menu bars – or anywhere, and a small menu pops up containing the choices we are most likely to flick. Such is the added triumph of the rodent and right-click.

Is there any end to what we can accomplish simply by flicking a rodent's hind quarter—one side or the other. Long live the rodent!

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SPOTLIGHT ON...

AUDREY COCHRAN

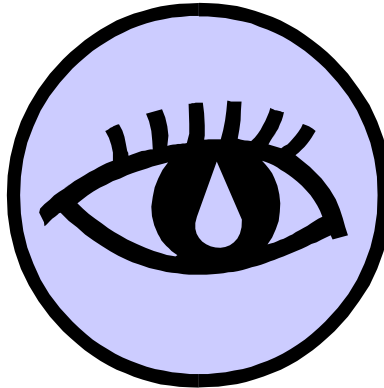
Audrey Cochran's many roles as a Registered Professional Nurse, specializing in public health and gerontological nursing, require different applications, and she uses computers for all of them. She has a total of four computers to keep up with her business and her personal life.

Audrey's main computer, a Hewlett Packard, is the workhorse for her business. On it, she writes a quarterly newsletter for the National Association for Pro-Life Nursing. She creates outlines and scans visuals for overheads for her talks to caregivers of people with dementia for the Alzheimer's Association. She also prepares handouts and fliers for her consulting services and when critical issues arise, she even writes letters to the editor. Audrey says that she is on the Internet daily doing research on the latest developments in nursing and health. And, of course, she keeps up with e-mail, too.

Audrey also has an IBM laptop computer for giving presentations. She creates them with the Corel Presentation program. Her Micron computer is used solely as backup for financial data and has no connection

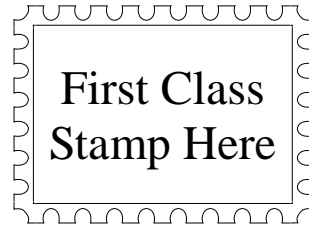
to the Internet. Audrey's fourth computer remains at a doctor's office where she works with patients one day a week using biofeedback for treatment of problems with incontinence.

As a stay-at-home mom, Audrey started out with a Victor computer with 128 kb of memory. She served as KIPUG secretary for two years in the late '80's until she entered the graduate program at Cal State Bakersfield. She wrote her Master's thesis on that computer, which didn't have enough memory to handle the whole document in one piece. It was so limited she even had to put titles in by hand. She's come a long way since then, progressing through a Dell computer before she started using her present four.



Audrey says she has found a secret Microsoft "stress sensor" that no one seems to have discovered or researched. It senses when you're getting stressed out or closer to your deadline, and the more stress you have, the more likely it is to malfunction. I know what you're talking about, Audrey. We've all been there and done that!

Caroline Corser



P.O. Box 2780
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