

Bits & Bytes

A Publication of the Kern Independent PC Users Group

Volume 18, Number 06

June, 2000

KIPUG Meeting Schedule and Program Lineup

- June MGI
- July Picnic
- Aug Trend Micro
- Sept Caere Corp

ELECTIONS IN JUNE!

The June meeting is **elections** time. This is a call for members to consider running for election. All of the positions are open to all members. If you are a bit shy try for a director's position. This allows you to vote on club business without a lot of duties other than coming to the once a month board meetings

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A New Editor is Found

During the last board meeting one of the board members didn't duck fast enough.

After receiving steely glances from our vice president, enthusiastic platitudes from the president and a swift second from an unnamed board member I capitulated to their wishes. Sure hope it works out.

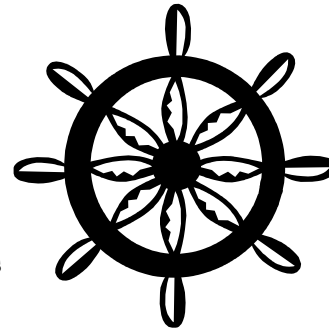
We owe Tom a great debt of gratitude for his efforts to make a professional looking newsletter. I'm glad he received his just desserts at the May meeting

My immediate goal is to figure out how to do the task. I suspect that your newsletter will start

out fairly simple and small.

A Newsletter is in some ways the heart of the club. It is a place where members can communicate information and help other members. This all means member participation. I know that most of us are not professional writers any more than I am a professional newsletter editor. It would be nice if a few more members would give it a try.

Right now we have a core group of about eight members that are almost



The KIPUG Literary Ship has a New Captain

the only contributors. That is about ten percent of the total membership.

We do have door prizes and other giveaways and we hope that the

lucky member would write a brief review or commentary on what he or she got. If your fingers don't work right let Del Jones or me interview you and fill in the blanks.

Dave Chalmers Editor

June Program MGI Graphics



Programs Notes
by Sam Thompson

Our program for June is going to be very special. Although you may not recognize the name MGI, you will probably recognize the at least one of their products.

For the past couple of years, you have probably seen the MGI Photosuite on special at whichever software source you happen to use. As I recall, Photosuite has been the largest selling program in retail stores for that period. I had Photosuite II and have now graduated up to the

newest incarnation of Photosuite III. The Welcome screen describes the products as "the ideal application for editing, enhancing, organizing, and sharing your photos."

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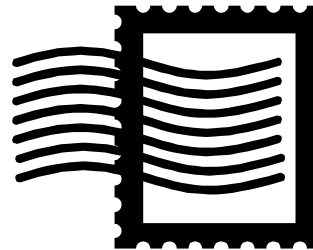
Sarah's Stamps

For about nine months now I have been working on a hobby-related website called Topicals on Stamps, a website dedicated to furthering topical or thematic stamp collecting, a branch of stamp collecting whose emphasis is on collecting a philatelic materials (stamps, covers, souvenir sheets, etc.) related to a topic, rather than a country. It has given me a greater understanding of my hobby, a hands-on learning experience, as I have had to dive in and learn software such as Office 2000, particularly Front-Page 2000 and other insights as well.

The first suggestion I have for developing a website is to surf the Internet and see what is out there before developing a website. At the same time I could find only one or two stamp resource sites that featured topical or thematic collections as a subset of stamp collecting, the best site having around 80 links to various personal topical collections of many different topics but many of them being dead links, those going nowhere or to pages not found.

The next choice for me was figuring out the software to use for Topicals on Stamps. This was an easy decision at the time as I was (and still am) attending New Horizons.

Now that I am well on my way after spending countless evenings surfing the Internet asking people if I could link their personal website to mine as well as topical or thematic collecting organizations, (There are over 100 categories on my page now.) I have now started to branch off and work on other aspects of the page. What do I



Stamps Online

want to do to set my site apart from the other topical-related stamp web pages that have also been put up on the Internet this past year? These are questions I will have to work on this year as I develop my site.

One of the joys of having my website is getting to know people in different countries who share my common interests in my hobby

One way I plan to generate traffic to the site is to occasionally have a give-away contest, giving away a topically related set of stamps. Updating and changing the content are also in my plans. To this end my long-term project is to create a topical page for all my topical stamp collections. Check back often to see what is new at my website.

Sarah Perelli-Minetti
[Http://www.topicalsonstamps.com](http://www.topicalsonstamps.com)

Special Interest Groups

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

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

Goodbye Drugstore Photo Processing

Canon FS 2710 Film Scanner

(www.canon.com)

Street Price \$500 at

www.camerasphere.com (actually came up on the Yahoo shopper)

I've been looking at film scanners for a long time but have been put off at the price. There have been some changes in the past year. Prices went from the \$2000+ bracket down to less than a thousand. The specifications for the less expensive scanners has gotten better. Before I get much farther, maybe I had better describe what a film scanner is.

A film scanner is a specialized scanner that scans transparent media. They usually scan 35MM and the more expensive ones scan 2 1/4 media or larger. They have the ability to scan a small area at a very high resolution (2500 - 4000 dpi). They can scan positives (slides) and negatives. With one of these you could make an 8 X 10 print at 300dpi with ease. Imagine getting your film developed at the local film processor's and then scanning the negatives at home to make prints for yourself and friends. The companies in this field are the ones associated with photography, i.e. Nikon, Minolta and Canon to name a few.

Canon seems to be relatively new in the field. They only have one current model that does 35MM only. Apparently they had an earlier model that was a dud. The FS 2710 is the second generation. I took a good look at the current Nikon model but at \$1600 it was a bit steep. The Canon started off retailing at \$750 and went down to \$500 in a few months. Comparing it to the Nikon the resolution was the same and the total number of bits scanned was the same. One difference was in a value called dynamic range. The Nikon has a wider range(3.6) where the

Canon has a lower range(3.2). The term itself means the difference between the lightest and darkest areas on a piece of film. Color negative film doesn't get near even the Canon's dynamic range. Slide film can get there on occasion. I think B&W negatives can also push the dynamic range. Considering that my final product would be printed on an ink jet printer with a fairly low range, why pay \$1600 for the Nikon?

In previous articles I talked about the importance of the scanning software. If you have a beautiful piece of scanning hardware and software that doesn't support the

scanner's features, you don't have much. The Nikon had several good reviews on both the hardware and software. One of my photo magazines had a review on the Canon that was positive with some minor complaints about an earlier version of the software. One advantage to the Canon was that I was able to download the current manual as a PDF file and take a good look at the software controls. Decision made!

The Canon arrived with all the goodies including an adaptor for the the Advantix type of film found on a lot of the new point and shoot cameras. The scanner is a SCSI device and comes with a specialized SCSI card for those who don't use SCSI(I can't imagine who). The driver software installed easily. The twain driver that comes with the scanner can operate in a stand alone mode or with any software that allows scanning from within.

The installation recognized both of the SCSI cards in my computer and found the scanner the

first time.

In operation the scanning software has a lot image adjustment features. It has many of the image adjustment features found in Photoshop and other sophisticated imaging software. There is also a simple set of controls. It seems that there is a little something for everyone's level of expertise. The scanning software is stable. It hasn't broken on me at all. Putting the film in the scanner is very easy. If you have mounted slides they are fed one at a time. For film strips there is a holder that holds up to six frames. Most of the negative strips you get from the drugstore are about six frames or less. I haven't tried the Advantix adaptor.

After scanning both color negative and positives, I am happy with the results. I was also able to scan some old black and white negatives that I had. The grayscale scan turned out well and printed reasonably well. The color results definitely beat what you get at the local film processor. One downside of the scanning is that the file sizes are huge. A good 24 bit full frame 35MM scan is about 30 meg. Maybe you should factor the cost of another hard drive along with the scanner.

One minor complaint. The scanning manual comes only on the CD. There is a printed manual for the setup of the scanner. The scanning manual is 130 pages, has a lot of good information and is well laid out, with good illustrations. A printed scanning manual would have been nice.

Now all I have to do is organize all the slides I have and scan them. Looks like I have something to do when it gets hot out this summer. Maybe several summers.

Dave Chalmers



Canon FS 2710 Film Scanner

The FS 2710 is the second generation



A PUBLICATION OF THE KERN INDEPENDENT
PC USERS GROUP

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

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage

Paid

Permit No. 77

Postmaster:

Dated Material
Please Expedite

I think that description of this one product should be enough to entice you to come to the general meeting. However, MGI has turned into a billion-dollar corporation with its Internet products, so I'm sure you will wish to come and see the other products which will be presented as well.

I checked MGI's website and got the following quote from the computer press: Over the past year, MGI (TSE: MGI) has evolved from a small software developer known for one product line - an image-editing toolkit called PhotoSuite - into a diversified corporation with business streams in digital photography, digital VCR, online photo finishing, DVD players, computer-based TV-oh, and e-commerce to boot."

Another product I have sampled is the Videowave. I purchased a special light edition originally with Buz, a product which allows you

to do non-linear video editing on a regular computer workstation. Then I saw someone present with the full version of Videowave, so I purchased the product. As with Photosuite, you need to see the product to appreciate it.

Our presenter will be Randy Whittle. Randy travels all over the world to show what MGI has to offer, so we are quite lucky to have a top-notch program for you again this month. Don't miss it!