

Bits & Bytes

A Publication of the Kern PC Users Group

The program for the May 9th meeting is:
Ham Operating Software
by Richard Covey





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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.

Table of Contents

Prez Says:

Genealogy Corner	pg 4
Safer Email	pg 5
Spotlight on	pg 7
Rumblings	pg 9

We had another good program at the April meeting by Help Me 2 Learn. The also did tutorial programs, which where for sale at the end of the meeting.

There was something for various interests at the meeting, there was even some on Three Stooges and Crossword Puzzles. Jim got one on Dreamweaver Webpage Software he is working. I got one on Sign Language as well as Children's Software Programs. Those of you who didn't make it sure missed it!

Don't forget to bring your office or computer goodies to the May Meeting for our White Elephant Sale. Something you have two of to many, something you don't need or use anymore, or even got it at one of the shows like Comdex. It could be pens, mouse pad, coffee cup, note pad, etc. Mark your calendar for June 13th - White Elephant Sale and Potluck. You will miss a great time if you don't come.

The SCRUGS Meeting is in Southern California (Torrence Area I think) on Saturday, April 20th. I will be attending it, if anyone wants to come let me know and you can ride with me. Email me by Wednesday, April 17th, so I know you want to come to the meeting. I need to let them know.

Also make a note for this coming May Meeting. We have Richard Covey one of our own members will be speaking on Ham Operating Software. It should be really good, so don't miss it! See you there. Rhonda [:)

Genealogy Corner

Bits and Bytes

May, 2002

Jim Opperman

Here are some links and sites I have come across recently:

Kindred Konnections has both free and subscription services. You can get subscription access free time without paying fees by submitting family trees from your genealogy database. They have a completely revamped web site that is much improved and they have a wealth of information available. At least browse to see what's there.

Visit:

<http://www.kindredkonnections.com>

or

<http://mytrees.com>.

Said of people who are genealogy hobbyists: They spend more time in their local county courthouse than any professional attorney.

<http://www.savinggraves.com/> is an interesting site to visit.

<http://home.mmcable.com/bornagain/hessen/ships.htm> Lots and lots of options in addition to Ellis Island.

Iowa, Allamakee Co., St Johns Wheatland Church, 340 Records.
<http://rootsweb.com/churchrecords/>
Even if you are not interested in this location, check out other church records available here.

Did any of your relatives own government land grants?

Check out <http://glorerecords.blm.gov/>.

Have fun checking out these sites, and remember, feedback always welcome to mentorjim@atsecure.net.

Give me a list of your favorite genealogy sites, and I'll post them here. Tell others what you have found.

Safer Email

A major problem with email worms that infect your machine or someone else's is NOT that your machine is infected but that your machine will infect others.

The worst thing about the passing on of this infection is that it appears to others that YOU have done this nasty to them. The reason for this is simple. A worm works by looking at the address book in the infected machine and sending a seemingly harmless email to everyone in that machine's address book along with an attachment containing its deadly payload.

How can we defuse this worm? First, make very sure you keep your virus checker's definition file up to date. By "up to date" I mean at least weekly. There are hundreds of new viruses, worms, etc each week. Go to the site for your virus checker's publisher (i.e. McAfee, Symantec, Trend) and download and install the newest definition file. This file has all the latest viruses in a database for your checker to recognize.

ALWAYS save an attachment to an

email to your hard drive BEFORE you open it. Then use AT LEAST one virus checker against it to determine if it is free of infection BEFORE you open it. It doesn't matter WHO sent the file. (Remember, a worm works by using the names of people in the address book of the infected machine and one of them will be someone you know or you wouldn't be getting the email.)

A method that my friends and I use to help lessen the probability of getting unwanted infections is to always include a statement in our email message like: "I checked this attachment and it is clean." and sign it with both our real names and our screen names. (A screen name is something like GrapeStomper or whatever you want as your name online.)

Now, lets discuss an easy method for knowing whether a worm has attacked you.

In your address book, create a new name. Make the name !000 and then make the email address something like WormAlert. Your email program will protest that WormAlert is not a legitimate email address. Perfect! That is exactly what we are trying to do. The reason is that the worm will pick

up this as an address to send itself to and when it attempts it, your mail utility will promptly show the message WormAlert to you as an undeliverable address. You will immediately know that you have been infected.

In case you are wondering why we use !000, the worm starts trying to send to the first name in the address book and when you make it !000 it will probably be the first name in your list since I doubt you know many people whose names are !00.

If you discover that your PC has been infected, it is imperative that you DO NOT shut down your machine. Immediately check your machine for viruses/worms. (I prefer to do this by going to <http://www.trend.com> and running their "Housecall" utility.) There is a very good reason for doing this without shutting down your machine: Some worms, etc are known for infecting files such as win.com and when you re-boot they load themselves into memory and do unthinkable things to your machine like wiping out the files on your hard drive. If the virus scan finds an infection, it should tell you how to remove it or quarantine it.

While we are on the subject of email, I want to share a very important rule with you. NEVER send mail with the address of others in it. Send it to yourself and bcc: everyone you want to get it. Reason: It isn't usually your immediate recipients that do ugly things to you like porno sites, etc. It is the person two or three down the line. This becomes an enormous number of people that have your email address in a big hurry. More to the point, they also have the addresses of everyone on your email address. You don't even want to think of the really horrible things a person can do with that information.

Lastly, I promised to give you the site of the user group I still belong to in Houston. It is the world's largest user group and has an award-winning web page. It is packed full of information. The site is <http://www.hal-pc.org>

Lance Clarke

Spotlight on...

Rick Daney

KIPUG Vice President

Like so many other people working with computers today, Rick started out in a completely different career. He was a mechanic, working mostly on commercial vehicles. He got his first computer, a Commodore 64 with an external floppy drive, to help him with his work at Schlumberger Well Services back in 1980 when he was Division Mechanic for them. At the time, Rick was managing the Schlumberger fleet for the western third of the U.S. and needed to create a data base to keep track of the equipment.

When he finally outgrew that Commodore 64, Rick got a Compaq computer that had two 5 1/4 inch floppy drives, but no hard drive. He upgraded it himself with a 30 meg hard drive and used it for many of the details of his work. He later added a laptop computer to his collection for writing reports for his boss. All his experience with computers at that time was DOS based..

After nineteen years with

Schlumberger, Rick stepped out on his own in 1994 and opened a repair garage with a partner. They named it Tec Repair Services and serviced everything on wheels from automobiles, racing cars, and street rods to trucks and all kinds of farm equipment. They had maintenance information on CD's and handled invoicing with computer software. Rick was the Chief Financial Officer for the corporation until he sold his share in the partnership.

Never one to just quit, Rick then went to work as a mechanic for Cummins West, a company that makes diesel engines. Everything having to do with diagnosis and repair of the engines was computer controlled. This job, like all mechanic work--especially with commercial vehicles--required constant climbing, lifting, and standing every day. Rick's knees finally gave out from the strain, and in October, 2000, he had to have surgery to repair the damage. That's when he realized that he could no longer work as a mechanic.

But that didn't stop Rick. He had always been interested in computers, so he set out to learn all he could about working with them. He was especially interested in computer

networking. Rick joined KIPUG and started taking classes at B.C. He took a class in networking essentials and followed that with another class in hardware certification. He's continuing those studies on his own to get the certificate.

So Rick has done a complete about face in his career and is now working as a computer technician at Delano Union Elementary School District with Sam Thompson and Robert Stout. They take care of all computer-related issues including installations, repairs, cabling, networking, and even software support for the users.

Rick loves to take classes and learn more about computers. He usually gets A's because as he put it, he has "finally learned how to be a good student." His daughter has apparently learned good study habits from him. She's now a freshman at San Diego State and loving every minute of it. This native Californian is a good example of what initiative, hard work, and a willingness to learn can do to make our lives productive and meaningful.

Caroline Corser

Buying A Vehicle On The Internet

Buying a vehicle on the Internet is not as hard and difficult as I thought it might be. I went into search mode to look for a Ford Expedition. It took me to several categories, which I choose one that asked me for my zip code and how many miles out I wanted to go, which I told it 100 miles. It gave me a list of dealers it gave me a map and their general information. I clicked to inventory, answered specify general information on what I'm looking for and a list comes up with vehicles that fit my requirements.

I printed out the ones I was interested in of all the dealers I looked and sent messages to the ones I wanted to talk to. Of course, the best thing I liked was going all over California at 12:00 a.m. midnight on a Saturday night and Toby my spoiled cat trying to attack my mouse, while still at home in my pajamas. A salesman called me the next day to follow up on what I was looking for because the one Expedition, I really liked sold Saturday morning. Since I was just starting to look and had certain requirements I was looking for, not to mention five months left on my lease of the Expe-

dition I'm driving I have plenty of time to get the vehicle and price I want. I'm working with one particular dealer who had the best price and selection of what I was looking for and only about 80 miles away.

I have given Bakersfield and surrounding areas such as Shafter, Taft, etc. opportunity to have my business. Shafter is the only one that has come close (we bought my husband truck there), outer cities such as Valencia, Beulton and Los Angeles areas, where I have purchased my last four vehicles I paid at least \$3,000 cheaper than Bakersfield vehicles were priced at. I found Bakersfield sells 1998 and 1999 for about the same price 2000 and 2001 are going for in areas within a two hours drive. This doesn't work for everyone and some people don't like to research or are willing to take a drive. However, if I can get a newer model at a much cheaper price for what I want, I will do it every time!

Of course, after I did all this the lease company that had my lease, contacted me with such a good offer on my 1997 Expedition, I decided to buy it instead. If you are in the market for a vehicle any time soon, you might look around on the Internet also. Rhonda Pierce

Rumblings from the Editor

I'm happy to say that I could actually pick articles for the newsletter this time. I even have a little bit left over. Wow!

One of my endeavors in the last few months is shopping for a new scanner. My Hewlett Packard was still mechanically sound but the software for it was not keeping up. Windows XP had a kind of driver for it but it was not very good. HP was not going to supply new drivers for it. I looked around for what is new and came up with a new product from Epson. This was their Perfection 2450 Photo scanner. This scanner runs on USB2 and Firewire. I was attracted to it due to its scanning features. It does both photo prints and negatives. At 2400dpi optical resolution it compared favorably with my film scanner. I got a surprise when I got it; it had templates not only for 35mm slides and negatives, but also for 4 by 5 film and 120 films. I had some negatives from my mother's wedding in the 30s that were an odd size. One of the templates fit this film and I was able to scan them and print them. It is priced at \$399(expensive), however the scans from it are great. Installation was straightforward.

Dear KIPUG member:

The club would like to put together a membership directory. It is important to establish some rules in order to prevent misuse of the information. These rules are as follows:

- 1: Listing is strictly voluntary.
- 2: The listing information is for personal information only. Use for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited.
- 3: Members agree not to share this information with non-members.
- 4: The minimum information required to be listed is full name, membership type and e-mail address. Optional information will include occupation, address, phone numbers, birthday, anniversary, computer interests and family member names.
- 5: To receive a copy of the directory, the member must be listed in the directory. Members who opt out will not get a copy.

Member's name _____
Membership type: Individual _____ Family _____ Club position _____
E-mail address _____

We're not being nosy, but the more information we have, the better we can make this organization serve your needs and interests: Just fill in what you are comfortable with.

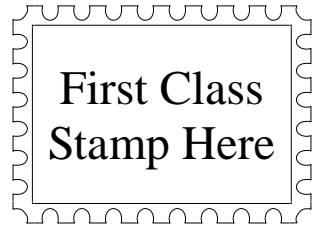
Occupation _____
Computer interests _____

Mailing address _____
Home phone _____ Business phone _____ Fax _____
Spouse name _____ Children's names _____
Your birthday: Month ____ Day ____
Spouse's birthday: Month ____ Day ____
Anniversary: Month ____ Day ____

You can mail or fax this form to:

John A Smith
3617 Glenridge Street
Bakersfield, Ca 93306

Fax 661-872-7111



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