

# Bits & Bytes

A Publication of the Kern PC Users Group



Radiant  
Frames™

*A talk by Radiant Frames  
about their picture frame  
products*

*The meeting is at 7 pm on  
May 13*



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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 Rhonda Pierce, President, at pierce27@earthlink.net.

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Prez Says:

I'm very sorry I missed last month's meeting. However, I had put my youngest son (13) in the hospital the same day as the meeting with a drug reaction. Then right before the meeting my husband had chest pains, so I rushed him to Memorial and I was there until the next day. I had about two hours sleep in three days, that was a little more than I wanted to handle. The next week my youngest son had sinus surgery and a week later tooth surgery, in between this time I took my oldest son (14) to the Valley Children's Hospital in Fresno three times. April has been extremely busy and stressful for me.

Unfortunately, Julie Lagan will not be doing her presentation on Virtual Video Tours in May. We do however have a company called Light Wave on Radiant Frames coming to show and talk about their product at our May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. I met them at the SCRUGS quarterly meeting on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles, which was a great meeting to go to. It's where all the computer clubs come together to meet, brain storm, exchange ideas and vendor information. By going to this meeting, I have also signed up Phil Schnyder (Author of the ask-Sam Books) out of Arizona. He is doing a tour through all the computer groups and will be at our June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

They are also putting on a SW Computer User Group Conference in San Diego, CA on Friday to Sunday, August 6-8, 2004. I am going and have registered already. The cost for the conference is \$40 until July 16<sup>th</sup>, \$50 until July 23 and day of conference \$60. It is being held at the Mission Valley Hilton. I have registration forms and information papers, if anyone is interested in going or you can go to [www.swugconf.org](http://www.swugconf.org) on-line.

I'll see you there at the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Rhonda [:-)



Sarah Perelli-Minetti

As many of you may know I have been selling first day covers and stamps on EBay for almost two years now. My experiment in drop shipping items has not been as successful.

Below I will explain a little about EBay, the registration process for join EBay and the My EBay page.

EBay is the world's largest community of online buyers and sellers. To actually participate by bidding on items you must first register. If you want to just look at the site itself and get a feel for it you do not need to register.

Step 1 of the registration process takes a little bit of time and patience as it is a multi-step process. There will be a series of questions you must answer so that EBay can identify who you are. They include providing in order first name, last name, street address, city, state, zip code, and country, primary

telephone with optional extension and secondary telephone with optional extension. Next, you must provide a valid e-mail address and then the next fill in box is for re-entering your e-mail address. The next question is very important; you will be creating an EBay user ID. Since I sell mostly stamps and first day covers and have a website called

[www.topicalsonstamps.com](http://www.topicalsonstamps.com) I

chose as my ID topicalsonstamps. Later on if you want to change your ID this can be accomplished. Next your must choose a password and re-type it again for verification. There is also a space for a secret question and another fill in for your secret answer. EBay would also like to know your date of birth. (I received a birthday e-card from them last year, so they do keep track of these things.)

Once this is completed you will need complete Step 2, to agree to terms of a User Agreement and Privacy Policy. The user agreement defines the relationship between you, the user, and EBay and there is a privacy policy that your information will be kept private. You must be at least 18 years old

to be an EBay user. You will need to check the box to complete this process.

Step 3 involves responding to an e-mail you will receive entitled open now – complete EBay registration. This is to verify that you entered your correct e-mail address in step one above. Having a valid e-mail address is very important as e-mail is the primary means for sellers and buyers to contact one another.

Now that you are a member you can start using EBay to buy or sell items. My EBay page is very important.

### My EBay

My eBay is your convenient, personal and customizable place to manage all your buying, selling and account activities online. Each eBay member has his or her own personal My eBay section. Just click on the My eBay link at the top of any eBay page and enter your User ID and password to get started! I have this page bookmarked in my EBay folder in under my favorites menu in my Internet

Explorer. There are several parts worth noting to the My EBay page.

Under the Bidding/Buying tab contains items you are watching -- just click the Add to Watch List in My eBay on the right hand side of the each auction. You can also keep track of all the items you are bidding on and manage the items you have won by keeping track of what the next step is to obtain your items quickly.

The selling tab allows you to see what items you currently have for sale, items you have sold and items that haven't sold. Items in green mean there is a winning bidder while items in red show no bidding has occurred. You may also invoice your buyers, send payment reminders and leave feedback from this location. If you have a duplicate item for sale you may send a second bidder a second chance offer to place a bid on that item. Sometimes they accept. Sometimes the users let it go in anticipation you will relist the item again at a lower price than the second chance bid he or she placed.

The favorites tab allows you space to tack your favorite categories, searches, sellers, stores, so you can find what you want quickly. You may also sign up for e-mail alerts to let you know what items have been listed which match your search criteria.

The accounts tab lets you manage your account status, manage your seller account and pay your seller fees. I check mine on a weekly schedule. If you sell quite a few items and let it go for awhile it can take a lot of time catching up determining the actual EBay seller fees, etc.

The feedback tab is very important. Feedback is one way to judge a seller's reputation before actually bidding on an item. The number listed after the user's name (as of this writing mine is 344) means I have had feedback as both a seller and a buyer for 344 unique users. By clicking on the 344 you will come to a page listing more information. For instance, I have a 100 % positive feedback rating. I have no neutral or negative feedbacks. Look for a high positive feedback rating be-

fore bidding. At the bottom there is another item which can provide the buyer more information. My all positive feedback rating as of this writing is 472 which means I have had quite a few repeat customers. Different star colors refer to different feedback numbers.

The last item I will discuss under this section is the preference tab. Clicking here is where you can change your user ID, email address, and password and manage your personal information and set your notification preferences

Next time I will write about selling an item on EBay. Hopefully, this has provided some additional information which can make your EBay experience more helpful.

## Whither the Yellow Box?

By Moe Norris, Topeka PC Users Club,  
Kansas

Eastman Kodak Company, an icon in the photographic industry for more than 100 years, dropped a bombshell last September when it announced that the company would shift its focus from film and film-based products to *digital* equipment and processes! And it has resolutely continued down that path. In January 2004 the company announced that by the end of this year it would no longer be selling reloadable film based 35mm cameras, including APS models, in the U.S., Canada, and Western Europe. The “throw away” (i.e., one-time use) cameras will be the only Kodak film camera available in the west. The number of different films provided to retailers will be reduced, concentrating on just the most popular lines. Production of its Carousel film projectors was scheduled to cease the end of 2003.

Kodak said that it plans to continue providing 35mm cameras in emerging markets, such as China, India, Eastern Europe and Latin America, and will introduce six new film cameras in those markets this year. It predicts rapidly growing markets for cameras and film in those countries, in contrast to what is being seen in the west where the demand for film-related products is shrinking much more rapidly than anticipated, while purchases of digital cameras continue to grow dramatically.

Kodak’s array of digital cameras now extends from point and shoot consumer models to high-end professional (read very expensive) digital cameras and camera backs. It will increase its production of inkjet printing papers, and plans to introduce a new line of consumer ink jet printer models to go head-to-head with the well-established offerings from HP, Epson, Lexmark, etc.

Kodak’s landmark shift in focus represents a profound change for the world’s largest filmmaker, and a huge gamble. The success of the move remains uncertain. Just when Kodak needs increasing film revenues to underwrite the costs (in the billions) of this transition, film sales are dropping substantially. Since 1997 Kodak has reduced its workforce by more than 30,000 jobs. Another 15,000 jobs will be eliminated in the next two years in a further effort to reduce costs. Success is not a given. If fortune does not smile on Kodak, then not only may the Yellow Box disappear, but the company itself may go down the same path—and it won’t be a Yellow Brick Road!

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

## The Music Wars

By Wayne Steen, Q BITS contributing editor, Quad-Cities Computer Society, Bettendorf, Iowa

The music industry is at war with itself and its fans. Who ever thought that a rock and roll band would sue its own fans? Talk about the ultimate in corporate greed. The music industry is full of corporate greed.

However, fear not my loyal readers help is on the way. Steve Jobs of Apple, Bill Gates of Microsoft, and Wal-Mart are coming to our rescue. I feel better already.

Apple has already introduced iTunes and the iPod. Soon, Microsoft and Wal-Mart will come out with their own online music services.

Roxio has brought Napster back from the dead. Napster was once the largest illegal file-sharing service on the Internet. Roxio has now brought it back as a good file-sharing service that pays the record companies and artists for their music.

Real Networks has their own online music service and Music Match has

their own service. My head is spinning round, round, round.

### Apple

Steve Jobs and Apple are the first ones out of the gate in the online music services race. However, remember back in the 1980s when Apple was the top dog in the computer box wars? They eventually lost out to Bill Gates. Will history repeat itself or has Steve learned from his past mistakes?

iTunes is currently the world's largest online music services company. They have recently added the muscle of over 25,000,000 AOL customers to their arsenal. iTunes works on both Apple and Windows computers. You must have Windows 2000 or Windows XP on your PC in order to use iTunes.

The download is simple and without a hassle. All you have to do is go to <http://www.apple.com> and click on the iTunes link. All you have to do is enter your e-mail address and then download the iTunes software.

iTunes does not charge a monthly fee that all the other online music services charge. However, you can only listen to a 30-second clip from the song that

you are interested in. To listen to the whole song you must buy the song for 99 cents.

You can buy as many songs as you want through the Apple Music store. You will have to enter your credit card with Apple music store in order to download music from iTunes.

You can burn songs onto an unlimited number of CDs for your personal use. You can listen to your songs on an unlimited number of iPods. (I will talk about iPods in a minute.) You can play your songs on up to three Macintosh computers or Windows PCs.

You can also set up an account for your children. Kids now have a legal way to download their favorite songs with music allowance accounts. You set up the account using your credit card and then set up a monthly allotment of how many songs your kids can buy. Once they reach the monthly limit (and they will reach that monthly limit), they cannot download any more songs.

Another nice new feature from iTunes is you can now purchase audio books. At the time of this writing, Harry Pot-

ter books were not available from iTunes.

#### Napster

Napster is a monthly service that you pay \$9.95 a month for downloading songs. You can download as many songs as you want to your computer. However, if you want to burn the songs to a CD or digital device such as the Dell Music Jukebox then you must pay 99 cents a song.

Real Networks and Music Match also use the Napster model. I like having the ability to download as many songs as I like (or how many songs my hard drive will handle) without having to pay 99 cents a song.

If you want to burn the songs to a CD or a portable digital device then the Apple model may be more to you liking.

#### Problems

iTunes will only burn to CDs and Apple's own iPod. The iPod is a 15 GB device that sells for \$299.00 and will carry almost 7,000 songs. Let me see, 7,000 times 99 cents equals about \$7,000.00. This is a very good money-maker for Apple.

The Dell Digital Jukebox Music Player is very similar to the Apple iPod and costs \$249.00. The math is the same, about \$7,000.00 for 7,000 songs.

The problem is that iPod and Dell do not play nice with each other. If you use iTunes, then you are going to want to buy the iPod. If you use Real Network, Music Match or Napster then you are going to want to use the Dell Digital Jukebox Music Player.

The biggest problem is that not all famous artists are available for download with one of the online service providers. Therefore, you may only be able to listen to a favorite artist of yours on iTunes and another favorite artist of yours may only be available on Napster.

Once again, the consumer is on the short end of the stick with all of the big boys wanting to use their own standards. They are telling us, it is their ball, and you are going to play the game by their rules. We have danced to this song before!

### Conclusion

Who will win the music wars? Let us do some calculations.

I remember being able to buy KISS records on sale at Music Land for \$3.99. Let us do some math. Twelve songs on a typical album divided into \$3.99 equals 33 cents. Today we pay 99 centers for a song or \$9.95 for the whole album.

However, that is far better than the \$18.99 suggested retail price of CDs that are currently on sale in stores. Let me see, \$18.99 divided by 12 equals \$1.58 a song. Ouch! I do not know who will win the music wars, but I do know who has lost. The music store retailers and the consumers have lost. I am against illegal file sharing, but I am also against record companies suing 12-year-old girls.

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# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

<b>I'm a:</b>	<b>I'm Willing to:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Beginner	<input type="checkbox"/> Serve on a committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate	<input type="checkbox"/> Assist the Editor
<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced	<input type="checkbox"/> Help at Meetings
<input type="checkbox"/> Hobbyist	<input type="checkbox"/> Join a SIG
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Do Whatever..

### The Software I use is

<input type="checkbox"/> WIN 95	<input type="checkbox"/> WIN 2000 ME
<input type="checkbox"/> WIN 98	<input type="checkbox"/> WIN NT
<input type="checkbox"/> WIN 98 SE	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.

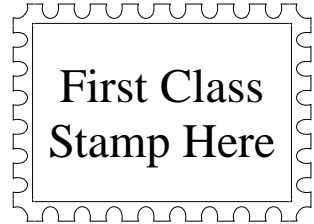
To become a member, complete the form above and mail your check to KIPUG.

### 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 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