

# Bits & Bytes

A Publication of the Kern Independent PC Users Group

Volume 19, Number 11

November, 2000

## KIPUG Needs You!

### ***KIPUG Meeting Schedule and Program Lineup***

- Nov How to be a better Computer User
- Dec Christmas Party
- For more read Sam's Article page 3

### ***Kipug Meeting***

***Nov 9.***

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### Should We Tithe Computer Time?

In the September *Bits & Bytes* Del wrote an article about the procedural convolutions required to produce a membership application for a prospective member, so eager to join that he even went to a Board meeting in search of one. There ensued a series of mis-communications, members taking care of family concerns, and lack of follow-through. But hey, all these folks are volunteers, and you can't fire volunteers!

My husband and I joined KIPUG back in the early 80's after we purchased our first computer. We come to meetings regularly because we are still learning about computers, and can usually find a member, who knows more than we do, to ask questions about the latest problem to crop up. I was secretary in the late 80's until I entered grad school. I learned even more when I was secretary because I had 2 opportunities a month to ask questions if I needed to. Some of our present and former officers or chairpersons were serving then. Some serve very quietly, but how some of you would miss the coffee if it weren't ready for break time.

Having been a member of a

number of organizations over the years, I've learned that the more you put into a group the more you



get out of it. What is an appropriate amount of time and energy to give? Some churches expect members to tithe, or give 10% of their income to the group effort. Since the majority of KIPUG members don't actually receive an income from computer work, how about tithing the time? If not 10% how about 1%? Any percent? If you average 3 hours a day at your computer, that's 5400 minutes a month. A tithe would be 540 minutes or 9 hours a month. My guess that is Dave spends about that each month doing the newsletter, and Sam arranging programs and equipment for us. So the next time one of our officers asks for help, or describes a need, raise your hand. You'll be surprised at how much you learn in the process.

As gerontological nurse I am authorized to inform you that mental exercise is as important for staying

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## Board Members

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Elected June 1

## From the President's Desk - VMWARE -

(Warning, this is an article written by my husband and is geared toward people who can understand computer-ese). I found a new product about a year ago and I am now just getting around to using it. It is VMWARE. What is VMWARE you ask? Well it will allow you to run multiple operating systems at one computer. You say, "What's the big deal?" Dual booting into multiple operating systems is nothing new. Yes, but can you run them at the same time on the same machine? With VMWARE you can.

The install is simple and very straightforward (this comment from someone who lives, eats, and breathes computers). After the installation is finished you start the "virtual machine" just like any other application on your computer. The first thing to do is to create a new machine by deciding if it will be a Windows '95, Windows '98, NT, Linux, DOS, or any other operating system that runs on a PC – sorry Steve Garcia, it will not run OS/2. Once you decide the operating system you will be asked how much hard drive and memory your new "virtual machine" will have.

The floppy and the CD ROM drive  
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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 Robert Stout, President, at (661) 399-9505.

## Special Interest Groups

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

SIG	Contact	Day/Time	Location/Sponsor
Geneology	Donna Plunkett 398-8304	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:00 p.m.	Donna Plunkett's Home
Nerd Nite	Sam Thompson 399-1539	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

# Programs, Program, Programs

## by Sam Thompson

I know it's taken a while to get our programs scheduled this year, but this is the month you'll be given a tentative schedule. First, I'd like to thank Steve Garcia for his excellent overview of MP3 at the last meeting. I always enjoy Steve's programs because he is so thorough in presenting information. This program was no exception. Some of us who have no interest in Napster and those kinds of things nevertheless saw that MP3 could hold some interest. The thought of creating a sound library of CDs or records which we own that can be easily accessed definitely intrigues some of us.

Now on to the future. Keep in mind that the schedule I'll be presenting below is tentative in that I will be attending the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG) meeting in Las Vegas in November, and I will be trying to add more commercial presentations to the mix. If available, these folks have somewhat inflexible schedules at times, so we may have to push our local shows back a month or two so the presenters can attend several user group meetings in a row in this area.

November 9, 2000 - "How to Be a Better Computer User" This presentation will be by a panel of local experts who will share their expertise in a number of areas such as file management, data security, and basic applications. The panel will give you some operating system tuning suggestions as well as how to store data so that it can be easily accessed. Some program installation tips are also planned. Backing up data has become even more of a problem with the very large drives being sold with every computer now, so the experts will give you some sage advice on how to avoid catastrophe. Finally, you will be able to participate in a discussion about which even the experts may have disagreement - the Basic Software Arsenal. Which program categories should every user have? Which are useful only for specific niches? You'll

be able to share your opinions in this section.

December 14, 2000 - KIPUG Holiday Celebration Be sure to attend this annual potluck on the usual meeting night. This year we'll be giving away a Personal Information Manager such as a Palm Pilot as well as two club memberships at New Horizons. Due to the generosity of the management at our local New Horizons Computer Learning Center, you will have two opportunities to walk away with a one-year membership, which lets you take almost any of their one-day classes. In fact, Heather and J.C. have even let past recipients choose from a couple of other alternatives. Don't miss this meeting! By the way, also remember to bring a check to renew your membership for the 2001 year. This year will surely be an odyssey.

January 11, 2001 - "How to Be a Better Internet User"

We will be starting off the new millennium with an in-depth look at Internet use, looking at setting up your system to get maximum benefit from the Internet. One of the areas will be browser plugins. It's hard to know which plugins are vital and which are merely "gingerbread" as Robert Stout calls them. I'm sure our experts will have varying opinions. Other items which will be explored are: using search engines effectively, sharing broadband access with others in a household, installing a personal firewall (and whether it's needed), and creating a home page.

February 8, 2001 - "Interesting New Technologies" One of the reasons we join groups like KIPUG is that we want to see what new technologies are on the horizon and which may benefit each of us personally. This month we plan to look at several newer technologies and discuss their usefulness as well as whether they work as advertised.

Technologies which may be covered include: USB vs Firewire vs ?? (data transfer), data storage media, broadband Internet access, digital video cameras, Internet 2, and more.

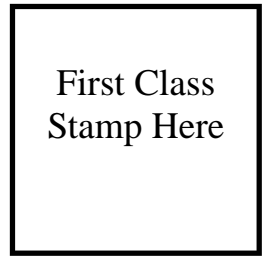
March 8, 2001 - Intuit

Matt McCann is one of Intuit's very entertaining user group evangelists, and we always enjoy his visits. The maker of Quicken, Quickbooks and TurboTax as well as several other financial management tools, Intuit has always been a great supporter of the user group community. Bring along your friends and fellow workers for an enjoyable and very informative evening.

April 12, 2001 - "Using Graphics Effectively" Again our KIPUG experts will be called upon to share how they are able to make use of the photos and clipart which are now so readily available. We will all be sharing which programs seem to be most useful to us, and our presenters will show how to use a scanner or a digital camera to add pizzazz to documents, how to change graphics from one format to another and why you might want this capability, how to import graphics from one application to another, and how to retouch graphics to make them more pleasing to the eye. These are the possibilities - we may not get to all of these topics, but we'll try.

May 10, 2001 - Open at this time

As I mentioned last month, we are also looking into providing a few training classes. I asked for you to e-mail your ideas about which classes we should offer, but I have not received a single message in this regard. I would appreciate some feedback if you feel this is something we should or should not pursue. Since these things do not happen by themselves, they will require some extra work on someone's part (probably mine) to make happen. Let me know if the Board should just drop this idea or not. My address is sthomp-



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Contd from Pg 1

– healthy as physical exercise is. And studies have shown that those who volunteer have stronger immune systems than those who don't volunteer, an important thing to keep in mind as the flu season descends upon us.

Audrey Cochran

Ed notes

Heather Coldren had her baby on August 3 , 2000  
His name is Nicholas Reed Coldren. Congratulations!  
Audrey's article hit the spot. You don't have to be a certified **nerd** to write an article.

Cont from Pg 2

— on the host machine will be the floppy and CD ROM machine on the “virtual machine.” Then hit the power button in the window, just like turning on a PC (and hopefully something will happen), you will then see the BIOS (Bt I'm wOrking, Sweetie) comes up and counts the memory. At this point you treat it just like any other PC, without an operating system installed.

Once the operating system is installed the “virtual machine” can be networked to any other network and to the Internet. This will allow you to transfer files from your host operating system to your guest operating system. Another use is that if you so desire you can have a DOS virtual machine just to test DOS or any other operating system without rebooting your workstation. I, as

a Nerd, find this a very cool and useful tool in my arsenal (take my word for it, he really is a nerd with a capital N).  
The requirements for running this “cool” little application:  
Windows '00 or Linux  
(It's kind of vague as to what the requirements are, but I am sure you will discover that  
you don't have something vital in the wee hours of the morning)  
Needs a Intel Pentium processor  
As much memory as you can possible come up with, at least 96 Megs  
To find out more about this product go to <http://www.vmware.com>

Article written by Robert Stout – President  
Typed and snide comments (in parenthesis) put in by Carolyn Stout – computer widow