

Bits & Bytes

A Publication of the Kern PC Users Group

Sundial Systems Junk Spy



Yea! We have some new officers



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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.

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Hi everybody, I'm your new president! I'm glad to be among a nice group of people. I hope to eventually meet every member of KIPUG. So that means some of you need to start coming to the meetings so I can meet you. I've been a member of KIPUG since 1986. However, I didn't come all the time, because of my business or an ill son, but I wanted to. I now have that pretty well under control and have enjoyed coming to the regular meetings as well as Nerd Night.

I know how busy everybody is these days, but one night doesn't kill you - terrorist do! Speaking of terrorists, I was very upset on September 11th, 2001 as many of you were also. I have come to this conclusion, sometimes when bad things happen, it usually brings good things out of it. For one thing: it has woke us up and pulled our head out of the sand to the evil so closely hiding around us, two; it has united All Americans together and gave us back our patriotism like never before, three; we will calmly and patiently go kick their butt to hell and back, and most importantly four; God needed some more guardian angels to look after us all. Of course, this is my opinion for what it's worth.

I really enjoyed the article by Jim Opperman. I talked to him at the September meeting and he said he was going to make a series of articles on Genealogy in each newsletter for the next few months. I hope he continues the series for a long long time. I'm a beginner at Genealogy, and very interested in it.. My great great grandfather was a Shaman, which is a medicine man. I'm trying to trace my Cherokee and Osage Indian heritage, I will hopefully some day accomplish it.

We are going to have some cookies and coffee at the next meeting, so we can all mingle around the munches. See you there!
Rhonda Pierce [:}

Genealogy Corner

Jim Opperman
Bits & Bytes
October 2001

First, let me recommend that you consider gathering genealogy information on the Internet just like you would gather information about any other topic. Have a search system that makes sense to you.

I have found that these Seven S's work well for me.

Search
Sift
Sort
Select
Secure
Save
Store

Make your initial Search query as short and specific as possible.
i.e., George Riddle b 1643 NE Ireland.

I assume that you are placing this query on a genealogy web site like RootsWeb at <http://www.rootsweb.com/> I recommend that you bookmark this site as a favorite, if you haven't already. It is free and provides thousands of resources and links to other genealogy web sites. This site offers two free newsletters Roots Web Review and Missing Links that can prove invaluable to beginning as well as advanced genealogy hobbyists.

An excellent genealogy software is Family Origins 10.0, just released in its latest version at <http://www.familytreemaker.com> at only \$29.95; \$19.95 if you have an earlier version. This is inexpensive and very versatile, and also lets you create your own genealogy web site, which makes it easy to share your genealogy information with others on the internet as well as find people who are researching your same family lines. Even if you already have another genealogy software program, you can easily transfer any data already entered there to FO 10. If you are just starting, all you have to do once your genealogy software is installed, just start entering data, beginning with yourself.

As I mentioned earlier, please leave me feedback on what you find so it can be shared with others, here, mentor-jim@atsecure.net.

Here are a few more links to try:

<http://www.sodamail.com>
<http://www.ancestry.com>
<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com>

PROTECT YOUR E-MAIL FRIENDS

by Caroline Corser

If you're like me, you probably receive lots of jokes and clever sayings that have been forwarded to you from someone who was on the lengthy forward list of someone who was on someone else's lengthy forward list from some other member of several forward lists, and all those lists show up on your screen. I sometimes have to scroll down a full page of lists before I can find the original story. It finally dawned on me that we are setting people (and ourselves) up for possible I.D. theft when we publish those forwarding lists. We're also weighing down our message with unnecessary and bothersome clutter.

I first started deleting the lists that came to me before I forwarded jokes when my sister asked me to remove them. She wanted to print out the jokes to pass on to an elderly lady with poor eyesight who didn't have a computer. You can't alter an e-mail before printing it, and she didn't want to waste all that paper printing a bunch of names that meant nothing to

her. I realized then that none of my friends needed to know everyone else's list of e-mail buddies.

But more recently, a discussion with the minister at my church brought to light the legal implications of publishing everyone's e-mail addresses every time a message was sent to the membership at large. Even if they only published the names, and not the addresses, they were infringing on the privacy of the members. That set me to questioning my own practices. I'm getting ready to publish an electronic magazine* (see below), and I realize that it's nobody's business who else I send them to. In fact, my friends' names and e-mail addresses should be protected any time I send a joke or quote to more than one of them.

Actually, it's just as easy to send lists of addresses as blind carbon copies (labeled "bcc" on Microsoft Outlook programs) as it is to send them the regular way. You put your own address in the "to" box, and then you list all of your recipients in the "bcc" box. Everyone will receive the message showing that it was addressed to you, and your joke or story will start without that cumbersome list to wade through. You will receive the mes-

sage, which you can just delete, since you already know what it says. (You can also set up a bogus name like, "undisclosed recipient" with your address, and it will work the same.)

Of course, if the joke has been forwarded to you, you will need to delete all the other lists before you send it on. By highlighting the whole section of forwarded lists, you can then just tap the delete key once and remove the whole bunch. (For beginners, this means you set your mouse cursor at the beginning of the lists and hold down the left button as you scroll to the bottom of the lists. The whole section is then highlighted and ready to be deleted..)

I think you will be doing your friends a favor to protect their names and to send them clean, direct messages that are not cluttered up with meaningless lists. You might want to send a copy of this article to those who forward jokes to you, or mention these points in a reply and ask them to pass the word on. Maybe we can start a movement that will change the way people use their e-mails.

*P.S. My new e-magazine is called, "Great Lifestyles After 50," published

monthly, and it has jokes, interesting websites, tips and articles on pursuing your life dreams, and more. If you'd like to subscribe, FREE, just send me an e-mail at cmcorser@pacbell.net <<mailto:cmcorser@pacbell.net>> and I'll put you on the list. Your address will not be given to anybody, ever, and you can unsubscribe at any time, no questions asked.

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I want to thank all of the members for their great articles. Putting together the paper this time was a pleasure. Greetings to our new officers. Hopefully Rhonda brings a **big** gavel to our board meetings. Considering how the rest of the board behaves, she will need it.

I sure hope Barry **brews** another article. Maybe November or December Hmmmm!

Rhonda mentioned that she might do a spotlight on other members. Who's next I wonder?

Ed.

A KIPUG Newsletter Article x 2+

By Barry Keniston

Well, I finally did it! I finally bought a new computer. One of the new “gadgets” that I added was this new-fangled thing called a “burner”. Naturally when you buy new hardware you also need to buy new software to make it go. No surprise here. This is what I did:

Following a suggestion from one of our members (see, membership does have its rewards) I went to my nearest Target store and purchased a program titled “Click’N Burn”. The box comes with a CD and a nice User’s Manual. Yes, I am one of those few people that actually read the manual so it is important to me that a printed manual exists. The program is so simple that a manual is not really necessary, but there is a lot of good information in the manual that I find valuable and/or comforting to read in printed form.

When you start the program, the first thing to come up is the Starter. From here you can quickly make a copy of an existing CD (Data or Music), or

make a new CD (Data or Music). I use the copy feature to make a copy of software so I can put the original in the vault for safe keeping and work off of the copy. So many programs today have music or video clips that require the CD be in the drive in order to run. Constantly changing CD’s can get them damaged even by careful handling.

The Starter window is usually enough to burn a CD. If you really want to have control over what is going on, simply click on the button to load the full application and you get a full featured program that lets you examine the structure of various CD’s, test the copy process before actually burning a blank disk, and all kinds of other stuff you might find useful. You can make your own music CD’s by selecting MP3, WAV, or WMA files in any order you want to fill the thing up and then burn away. You can also, under certain conditions, add tracks to the end of a CD that you burned earlier. That way if you have a CD with a little extra space left on it and you run across a new song that will just fit, just add it! Great program at a great price. (\$24.99)

OK, now I have a stack of disks that I

have either copied or created and they all look alike. First stop again is KIPUG. I asked around for suggestions for labeling software and the only real answer I got was to stay away from Avery. Hmm... I have been using Avery products for years to label my diskettes (5.25 & 3.5) and file folders (the paper ones in the metal filing cabinet, not the computer ones) so I asked why. It turns out that the tool that Avery came up with to center the label onto the CD doesn't work very well. So, armed with this data I head back to Target. (Gee, this is sounding like an add for Target rather than a software review. Oh well). I found a product from the folks at Fellowes called "Neato CD Labeler Kit". (\$19.99)

Inside this box is a CD called "MediaFACE II, an applicator tool (that works!), and a small stack of label supplies. Not included is a printed manual (Boo). On the CD, however, in Acrobat format there is a very good manual. Since I hate reading from the screen I printed mine out. It is 54 pages long but if you are clever it will print on both sides of the paper and therefore only takes 26 sheets of paper (really small tree). If you are curious about this, here is a quick printing tu-

torial.

DON'T CLICK ON THE LITTLE PRINTER BUTTON! That will send whatever is loaded to the printer, assuming all kinds of default stuff that you don't always want to happen. Instead select from the pull down menu File then Print. On this window you will find a box that says to print All Pages. Change this to All Odd Pages. Depending on your printer you may also want to select the option to print in reverse order. Go ahead and print a stack of the odd numbered pages. Now flip the stack over and put it back into your printer tray. Make sure you know which side should be face up and which is the top and bottom of the page. Now repeat the printing process but select All Even Pages this time. If you did it right you will now have a nice, neat, readable manual.

Now that I have a manual that I can read, I find that this is also a powerful product that will make labels for just about anything you can think of. It does the CD's and the Jewel Cases. It does 3.5" Floppy Disks, Zip Disks, Jaz Disks, VHS Tapes, Audio Cassette Tapes and many more. You can create labels with plain text, fancy text, pictures, clip art and all kinds of

stuff. I am not the creative type so my labels tend to be a bit boring but that is no fault of the program.

One tool that I found to be REALLY cool is the ability to take a picture and automatically fit the picture to the label. Picture files can be .JPG, .BMP, .TIF, .ICO and a whole bunch of other formats that I have never heard of before including Kodak and Adobe files. What I do when I copy a CD is to then throw the original in my scanner. I crop the scanner image with the scanner software to make a 4.8" square that just contains the picture of the original CD. I then create a high quality .JPG file. Yes, this takes a bunch of disk space but this file gets deleted later so don't worry about it that much. Back in the labeling software I simply select to place a picture on the label, select the file created a minute ago, then select Picture – Auto Fit. The image changes and I now have a label that looks just like the original. It doesn't matter if you put the CD in the scanner straight. A round picture on a round label on a round CD looks just fine even if it is rotated some. Who can tell if it is straight or not? Once again, don't click on the printer button. Select File – Print and tell your printer that you want the highest

print quality (this is slow and not the default for my printer) and also tell you printer if you are using the glossy labels or the Matte finish. I use the Matte labels for the stuff that I create from scratch and have blah designs on them. I use the Glossy labels when I copy a CD. The results are fantastic! You have to look close to tell the difference.

At this point you can save the label you designed if you feel the you may want to print it again later. If you have kids that are hard on CD's like I do you may need to re-burn/re-print a popular disk every few months or so. They get really scratched up in a backpack. Weather or not you save the label, don't forget to delete the .JPG file you created in the middle of the process. Good housekeeping makes for a happy computer. Hmm.. that sounds like another article brewing.

Spotlight On

Rhonda Pierce

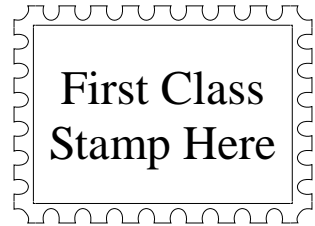
Rhonda was born and raised in Bakersfield, California. She's the oldest child out of four. She has been married for fifteen years as of this October. She has four children, two are grown, one son ten and one son twelve years old, who is handicapped. She has been a foster parent for thirteen years and will be adding a sister or sisters hopefully soon.

She worked for TOSCO Refinery for ten years. She then went to work for Coleman Homes as the Administrative Assistant to the Vice President for five years. After that she opened an antique and secondhand store specializing in handling, dispersing and selling estates for people. She did that for seven years. This was right up her alley since she has been an antique collector for thirty years. Rhonda and her husband also started a truck repair (24 hour) business at the same time and she was handling all the paperwork for both business, so she sold the antique business and put her energy in the truck repair business with her hus-

band. They now have the truck repair business, Napa Truck Parts and Warranty Station and the Ryder Truck Rentals. They have been in business for over twelve years.

She enjoys trail riding, camping, snowmobiling at Mammoth, spending time on her computer, learning about different software, getting on the internet playing around, taking pictures with her 35m and digital cameras, learning and researching her family history, collecting Indian artifacts, pre1970 Barbie's and 1930-40's glassware.

They also have turned a hobby into a business: "The love of horses". They breed and raise registered quarter and paint horses. Four mares are due to foal from February to April this coming year and she will probably not get much sleep during that time. She lives in the country, if you didn't guess that by now. She enjoys the peace and quiet (instead of honking cars), until the roosters crow.



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We are on the web at
WWW.KIPUG.ORG

Your Address Here

Tom Rabe 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