

Bits & Bytes

A Publication of the Kern PC Users Group

TechSmith Demo
Given by
John Morgan from the
Tule Fog User Group

Club Elections!



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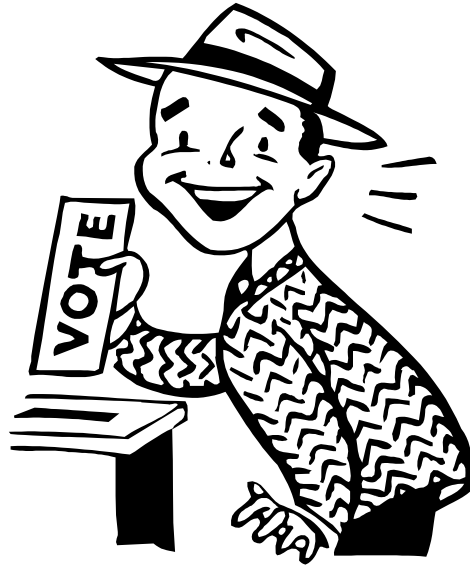
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From the editor

As you know, elections are coming up in September. The old officers need a break. We need to look for new people with new ideas to help get some new life into the club. If you read Bill Peacock's article in the July, the elections in September will tell what direction the club is going.

Get involved and volunteer for a board position. Speaking of volunteering, my thanks to Jim Opperman for his timely article



Genealogy Corner
Bits & Bytes
September 2001
By Jim Opperman

Genealogy is the fastest growing hobby worldwide--all because of the Internet.

More and more countries are posting family trees and making information about birth, marriage and death records available via the Internet.

In the “dark-ages” before computers, those pursuing genealogy information had to use “snail mail” and SASE’s to hopefully, get a reply.

Because genealogy is such an individual thing, each person who wants to research their family lines has to go it alone—so to speak—after learning basic genealogy terminology and techniques.

There are many places one can go on the Internet to glean information about basics.

There are many software possibilities—so which one do you choose?

Please feel free to contact me at mentorjim@atsecure.net if you have questions about how to get started, etc.

I have recently obtained a list of over 600 links to genealogy web sites of one kind or another.

I expect to list about six of these each

month, and ask only one favor: Tell me what you found that was useful, give me your evaluation of the web site to share with others, here.

Here are the six links for September, 2001.

European BaseMap [12.02.2000]
FranceGenWeb – Alsace Message Index [01.02.2000]
Bavarian Surnames [05.08.2000]
Germany Genealogy Forum [22.01.2000]
Homepage of Paul Johnson [14.02.2000]

I’ll continue this as a monthly feature of Bits and Bytes as long as I get interest from you. So let me know what you think?

Next month:

Some sites for the beginner.

BEFORE YOU FORWARD THAT EMAIL!

Big companies don't do business via chain letters and there is no computer program that tracks how many times an e-mail is forwarded, let alone by whom. Bill Gates is not giving you \$1000, and Disney is not giving you a free vacation. There is no baby food company issuing class action checks.

MTV will not give you backstage passes if you forward something to the most people.

The Gap is not giving away free clothes. Relax; there is no need to pass it on "just in case it's true."

There is no kidney theft ring in New Orleans. No one is waking up in a bathtub full of ice, even if a friend of a friend swears it happened to their cousin. Still believe the story? See <http://urbanlegends.tqn.com/library/weekly/aa062997.htm>. Here's a quote: "The National Kidney Foundation has repeatedly issued requests for actual victims of organ thieves to come forward and tell their stories." None have. That's "none" as in "zero." Not even your friend's cousin.

Neiman Marcus doesn't sell a \$200 cookie recipe. And even if they do, we all have it. And even if you don't, you can find it at <http://www.bl.net/forwards/cookie.html>. If you decide

the cookies are awesome, feel free to pass the recipe on.

If NASA's latest rocket disaster *did* contain plutonium that went to particulate over the eastern seaboard, do you really think the information would reach the public via AOL chain letter?

There is no "Good Times" virus. In fact, you should never, ever, ever forward any e-mail containing any virus warning unless you first confirm it at an actual site of an actual company that actually deals with viruses. Try <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/index.html>. And even then, don't forward it. We don't care.

There is no gang initiation plot to murder any motorist who flashes headlights at another car driving at night without lights.

If you absolutely **MUST** forward that 10th-generation message from a friend, at least have the decency to trim the eight miles of headers showing everyone else who's received it over the last 6 months. It wouldn't hurt to get rid of all the ">" that begin each line, either. Besides, if it has gone around that many times we've probably already seen it.

Craig Shergold (or Sherwood, or Sherman, etc.) in England is not dy-

ing of cancer or anything else at this time and would like everyone to stop sending him their business cards. He's apparently no longer a little boy either.

Make a Wish Foundation is a real organization doing fine work, but they have had to establish a special toll free hot line in response to the large number of Internet hoaxes using their good name and reputation. It is distracting them from the important work they do. Also, the American Cancer Society does not give 3¢ for each person you forward e-mail to. They don't give money, they seek money.

If you are one of those people who forwards anything that promises something bad will happen if you don't, I promise something bad will happen to you if we ever meet in a dark alley.

Women really are suffering in Afghanistan, but forwarding an e-mail won't help their cause in the least. If you want to help, contact your legislative representative, The Red Cross, or Amnesty International.

Generally, e-mail "signatures" are easily faked and mean nothing to anyone with any power to do anything about whatever is being complained about.

KFC really uses real chickens. No, they really do. Why did they change

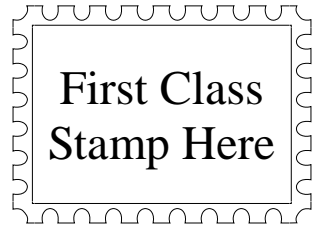
their name? In this health-conscious world, what was KFC's name? Kentucky Fried Chicken. *Fried* is not healthy. With the help of a focus group, they changed the name to KFC. It's short, easy to remember and doesn't offend dieters.

Just because someone said in a message four generations back that "we checked it out and it's legit," does not actually make it true.

The Bottom Line: Composing e-mail or posting something on the Net is as easy as writing on the rest room walls. Don't believe it until it's proven false. Assume it's false unless there's proof that it's true.

This article was taken from the "Central Kentucky Computer Society March 2001 edition" The editor of this newsletter indicated that the author is unknown. Considering the junk we all get, it is pertinent

ed.



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We are on the web at
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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