



# Orange Bytes

Award Winning News Magazine of the North Orange County Computer Club \*

Vol 31 • No 10

OCTOBER 2006



## Ivan Randall

using ADS Corp hardware, will demonstrate how at the Main Meeting

October meeting details on page 4

### NOCCC Meetings - October 1st

#### NOCCC Thirty years and counting

8:30 a.m:

**Visual Programming I&II**..... Science 109  
Visual Basic and Visual Basic Script for Beginners  
Visual C++ and Visual J++ for Beginners

9:00 a.m:

**Autocad**..... Science 203  
**Linux for Desktop Users** ..... Wilkinson 117

9:30 a.m:

**Computer Aided Investing**.....Science 111  
Member Investment Strategies, Techniques and Software  
**Computer Essentials** ..... Science 306  
Computer basics for new and inexperienced users  
**Digital Photography** ..... Irvine Hall  
We will try to fix your bad photos

10:00 a.m:

**Linux for Server Administrators** ..... Wilkinson 117  
**Visual Programming III** ..... Science 109  
Intermediate and Advanced Visual Basic

11:15 a.m:

**Amibroker SIG** .....Science 111  
Beginners, existing users, learn how to use and apply Ami-Broker for investing and trading, share ideas and software.  
**Computer Security** ..... Science 203  
**Linux Programming Concepts** ..... Wilkinson 117  
**Macintosh**.....Wilkinson 221  
**PC Q & A - Jim Sanders** ..... Irvine Hall  
Most Q's A'd, some problems solved, assorted demos done  
**Understanding Operating Systems** ..... Science 306  
Get Help with DOS, Windows 3.1, Windows 9x, OS/2, etc.  
**Visual Programming IV** ..... Science 109  
Office 97 VB for Applications programming.

**12:00 Noon PIG SIG.** Argyros Hall Cafeteria  
A lunch get together and talk.

**1:00 p.m: Main Meeting, Irvine Hall**  
Converting Analog VHS tapes to DVD, LPs to MP3

**2:30 p.m:**  
**Hardware Essentials** ..... Science 109  
Flatbed scanner technology  
**OS/2 News and Installation** ..... Science 203

NOCCC web site:  
<http://www.noccc.org>

Meeting Dates  
Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3, Jan 7

\* SWUG - 1st Prize 2006, 2005, 2004, APCUG 2nd Prize - 2005, 2004, 2003

Founded April 1976

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Borrow a computer book from our library, see page 19



Celebrating 30 years of  
“Friends Helping Friends”



## ORANGE BYTES STAFF

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Jim Sanders ..... editor@noccc.org

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Open

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**Copy Editor** • Does final proofing of Bytes for typos and misspellings. Ted Littman

**Classified Advertising** • Obtains members' computer-related non-commercial ads.

Jim Sanders • 714-636-5523 ..... editor@noccc.org

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for the following positions:

**Help Line** • Maintains the volunteer list, and the software and hardware subjects for which they are willing to answer questions.

**Circulation** — Oversees the mailing and distribution.

**Commercial Swap Meets** • Distributes Orange Bytes and NOCCC material at swap meets.

**Commercial Advertising** • Obtains ads from both national and local vendors for the Bytes; the success of this helps our club finances.

## President's Message

I hope that you did not miss Steve Gibson's presentation about how to use WiFi security. I always learn interesting things when he speaks. If you want to hear more of what he has to say go to his Web site at <http://www.grc.com/default.htm>. If you click on Security Now you will get a listing of the programs which he has done with Leo Laporte on various security issues. The programs can be downloaded as high quality MP3 files, low quality MP3 files, text files, and PDF files. There are 57 episodes available and a list of future topics. Remember MP3 files can be played on the same devices as MP3 music files. That means that you can probably listen to them in your car or anyplace where you can use a MP3 player.

Now, for our next meeting we will have a very interesting speaker. I first heard him at the SWUG Conference in San Diego. He was talking about video capture. This is a subject I am very interested in. If you are wanting to preserve your old VHS tapes, be sure to come to the October meeting. This is an area in which I need all the help that I can get.

You may have noticed that at our September meeting THERE WERE NO DONUTS. This is a problem for anyone who was depending on them to keep you going during the meeting. We have ONE volunteer to bring the donuts. Due to a personal problem of the volunteer and a phone message that did not go to the right place, we had no donuts. No one volunteered to go to the donut shop and buy some (the cost would be picked up by the club). You do not need to be formally appointed. If you see something that needs to be done, and you can help, then do so. We still need volunteers to help with our meetings. It does not have to be a large commitment. I would appreciate hearing from any members who would be willing to volunteer. Drop me an email at [president@noccc.org](mailto:president@noccc.org) and let me know what you would be willing to do. That way I will have a list of members I can call on if the club needs help.

At the last Main meeting I announced that we have a volunteer to lead a Home Automation SIG. He is very knowledgeable in that area and is a new NOCCC member. If you are interested in a Home Automation SIG please email me at [president@noccc.org](mailto:president@noccc.org). It would also be helpful if you state whether you would be more apt to attend in the morning or afternoon.

It is important that we have SIGs that are of interest to our members. I know it is disappointing to make the effort to go to a SIG only to find the room empty. Please let me know if this happens. Occasionally a SIG leader has an emergency and is unable to attend and may not have the time to get a substitute leader. But this should be a rare occurrence. I am also interested in any topics for new SIGs that you would like to have. You can suggest a topic without getting named the SIG leader. But, just because you would like to have a SIG in a certain area does not mean that we have a member that is ready, willing and able to lead the SIG. It is important to know in what areas members are interested.

If you send me an email concerning NOCCC stuff please put NOCCC in the Subject line of the email. It is surprising how much spam is sent to [president@noccc.org](mailto:president@noccc.org). I look at the subject line when I am deciding if I want to read the email. If there is enough there that lets me know what it is about, such as "NOCCC SIG Information" I will read it and answer it.

We will have another eWaste meeting in November. Mark it on your calendar. Same rules as before. This is a wonderful chance to get rid of the old electronic clutter before Christmas to make room for all the new electronic gadgets.

I hope to see all of you at the October meeting. ■

## Membership Benefits

As a valued member, we bring you a section of discounts and offers as part of the entire "Benefit of Belonging." (Caveat - we are unable to endorse these companies, but make these offers available as a service to our members).

### Orange Bytes on PDF earlier in the month!

Members ONLY: Watch your e-mail every month for the Password to get the award winning Orange Bytes much earlier in the month via PDF file on the <http://www.noccc.org> website. Make certain you let us know any e-mail changes ([membership@noccc.org](mailto:membership@noccc.org)) so you can get the jump on all the great Reviews and Articles!

### User Group Offers

**AskSam** - is offering SurfSaver 6, it places information from your browser into a searchable filing cabinet. Normally \$29.95, you can get it for \$19.95. AskSam 6 + SurfSaver 6 is a flexible and powerful way to organize information and create searchable databases from Web pages, Email, PDF files, texts, and Word documents. Normally \$149.95 but you can get it for \$69.95. You can also download 30 day trial versions.

**Blue Squirrel** - [www.bluesquirrel.com/](http://www.bluesquirrel.com/) 50% off all products - call 800.403.0925 to order and mention user group special pricing.

**Corel** - at the Feb 5 presentation, Corel gave us the following link for special pricing to user group members. <http://www.corel.com/specialusergroups>

WordPerfect Office X3 for \$159, CorelDRAW Graphics Suite X3 for \$179, Corel Painter for \$229, Paint Shop Pro X for \$59, and Paint Shop Photo Album 5 for \$29.

**Laplink** - [www.laplink.com](http://www.laplink.com) - Laplink Everywhere 4 is a great remote computer control and access program. An annual 3 PC license normally sells for \$129.95. Use coupon code LLE4THIRTY at checkout and get it for \$30. Their PCmover program, for moving all of your applications, settings, and data files from your old PC to your new PC while keeping all the new software intact, is normally \$39.95. Use coupon code PCMVRTEN and get it for \$10.

### O'Reilly Books

Get 30% off a single book or 35% off two or more books from O'Reilly, No Starch, Paraglyph, PC Publishing, Pragmatic Bookshelf, SitePoint, or Syngress books you purchase directly from O'Reilly. Just use code DSUG when ordering online (<http://www.oreilly.com/store/>) or by phone (800-998-9938). Free ground shipping on orders \$29.95 or more in the US. If, for any reason, you're not completely satisfied with your purchase, return it to O'Reilly and get your money back. A return shipping label is included with every direct purchase, and directions are posted online in case you've misplaced it: (<http://www.oreilly.com/oreilly/cs/guarantee>).

**Peachpit Press Books Discount** - of 30% can be obtained by joining the Peachpit Club. Go to <http://www.peachpit.com> to sign up as a member. User group members should note that once you've become a Peachpit Club member, you may use your user group coupon code ON TOP of the permanent savings you earn as a member of the club. Just make sure you've logged into the site before you make a purchase to ensure this permanent discount will be in effect, and then enter coupon code UE-23AA-PEUF (case-sensitive) at checkout! This coupon code is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes. The offer applies to all titles at [peachpit.com](http://peachpit.com) including New Riders, Macromedia Press, Adobe Press, and Peachpit Press.

### Prentice Hall, Addison-Wesley, and IBM Press

Become a registered member at these publishers' sites and

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# September Board Meeting Minutes

The monthly Board Of Directors Meeting was held on Monday, September 11, 2006 at Elise Edgell's



home. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Elise Edgell. In attendance were Elise Edgell, Ted Littman, Dallas Hazelton, Richard Miller, Doug Steiner, Jim Sanders, Else Olovsson, and Herbert Wong Jr.

## Officers Reports

**Secretary's Report** - (H. Wong, acting secretary) The Minutes from the August 6, 2006 were accepted as printed.

**Treasurer's Report** (Doug Steiner) - Collections during the August meeting include \$600 for membership dues, \$31 from the consignment table, \$51 from the raffle, and \$12.50 from the coffee pot (no doughnuts at the meeting).

Current membership consists of 282 regular, 10 family, 9 newsletter, and 1 student; for a total of 302.

Next NOCCC Meeting October 1, 2006

Next Board Meeting October 2, 2006

**Report on General Meeting** - Steve Gibson made an excellent presentation. Attendance was about 60-70 people. Greater effort for publicity is needed for future presentations.

## Committee Reports

**Publications** (Jim Sanders) - For the third year in a row the Orange Bytes received First Place for publications (includes print and web distribution newsletters) at the annual Southwest User Group (SWUG) Conference.

The Orange Bytes was delivered to the USPS bulk mail facility in Santa Ana on September 1, 2006. With the Labor Day holiday, most members did not receive their printed editions before the monthly meeting. As per policy, annual financial information was removed from the web .PDF before posting.

**Programs** (Elise Edgell, Jim Sanders) - ADS Corp. for October

1, 2006 must be confirmed.

**Reviews** (Ted Littman) - Four books and two software programs were released for review at the meeting. The lending library loaned three books and received \$7.

**Publicity** (Else Olovsson) - Meeting dates were published in Computer User magazine each month for this summer.

**University Liaison** (Elise Edgell) - Elise will determine arrangements for the NOCCC donation to Chapman University. Recent donations to Chapman University were \$2,000 in December 2001, \$2,000 in April 2003, and \$1,500 in February 2005.

**Internet Committee** (Herbert Wong, Jr.) - There were some issues with email forwarding that are unresolved. The Orange Bytes were reposted after the NOCCC annual financial statements were removed.

**Raffle** () - Items for October include an annual subscription to Smart Computing Magazine, Executive Software Undelete 5 (software), Member only - Printshop 2.1 (software), Autoworks (software), Nokia Smartphone Hacks (book), and C++ programming (book).

**SIGs** (Herbert Wong, Jr.) - Linux SIG should be moved to Wilkinson 111.

**Consignment Table** (Richard Miller) -

**Membership** () -

**Classified Ads** (Jim Sanders) - No valid ads submitted.

**Opening And Closing** (Jim Sanders) - No significant problems.

**Old Business** -

August Volunteer Party went well. Some great pot luck dishes and good company made for an enjoyable afternoon

New Business -

eWaste collection (by Omni Technics, Inc.) was greatly received by members. Next collection dates are November 2006 and February 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. ■

## OCTOBER 1ST MEETING PREVIEW

**DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG** - 9:30 am - Larry Klees - At the next meeting Larry will cover: Learn how to fix bad photos. Bring your photos in and we'll see how to fix them. •

**COMPUTER ESSENTIALS SIG** - 9:30 am - Elise Edgell, your club President, will be leading the SIG that is dedicated to helping new and inexperienced users conquer their computer challenges.

**Computer Aided Investing SIG:** 9:30 am - Review Market Performance and Indicators. Begin discussion on Trading System Backtesting and Optimization and the need for choosing the proper objectives, and testing out-of-sample.

**AmiBroker SIG:** 11:15 am - Continue review of Charting using built-in charts and indicators. Introduce AFL coding and editing simple programs. Review various database setup ideas for Fast-

Track and QuotesPlus supplied data. Extra time spend on Q&A at the end of the session.

**MAIN MEETING 1:00 pm, Irvine Hall** - Our October Main Meeting will be on the "Digital" conversion process. Ivan Randall will demonstrate converting Analog Video (VHS, Hi-8, Beta, etc) to DVD as well as for Audio, converting LPs and Cassettes to CD, MP3 & more using ADS Corp. hardware.

**THE CLUB RAFFLE** items this month are: 1 year subscription to Smart Computing, Undelete V5 - Executive Software, C++ Common Knowledge, The Art of Computer Programming. Hedge your bet, wear your current membership badge and get a free ticket for the member only raffle.

**THE MEMBER-ONLY PRIZES** (requires wearing badge to get a free ticket) will be: Printshop 21, Autoworks, Nokia - Smartworks & ??? ■

# Consignment Table

1. The consignment table is for members only. Only current members can place items for sale, but non-members are welcome to purchase items from the table. This is a great place to get some money for your surplus computer items, and help your Club at the same time.

2. The consignment table operates on a 90/10% basis — with the owner getting 90%, and the Club treasury 10%.

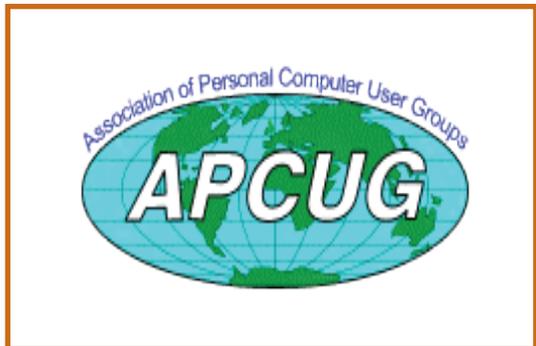
3. Fill out a tag on each item! It must contain: Seller's Name, NOCCC Membership Number, Item name, a short description and selling price.

4. Also, fill out the USER LIST with Name, Address, Phone Number. and a complete list of items and their selling prices.

5. All items and/or money may be picked up by the owner at any time, but MUST be picked up no later than 2 PM on day of sale. Because of the new disposal laws, if you have a display or computer that doesn't sell, you must pick it up. The club has no storage room available, and can not legally put it in the trash.

6. Any items and/or money not picked up by 2 PM, will become the property of NOCCC and will be subject to disposal at the Club's discretion. As it is now illegal to put monitors or computers in the regular trash, you must agree to pick these items up if they don't sell.

7. NOCCC is NOT RESPONSIBLE in any way for items bought and/or sold at the Consignment Table. Each item is placed and sold on an AS-IS BASIS. ■



# NOCCC Officers

## President

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## Treasurer

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## Webmaster

Herb Wong..... 714-968-7264 ... ocug@singularitytechnology.com

## Volunteers, Committees, and Projects

### Business Solicitations/Lecture Series

Open

### Consignment Table

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### Classified Advertising (non-commercial, members only)

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### Commercial Advertising

Editor ..... editor@noccc.org

### Help Line

Need volunteer to fill this spot

### Membership Database

### Membership Chairman

Open

### Programs

Open

### SIG Coordinator

Herb Wong..... 714-968-7264 ... ocug@singularitytechnology.com

### Public Relations

Else Olovsson ..... 714-832-3155 ..... eolovsson@msn.com

### University Liaison

Open

## Ted's Stuff

By Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor and Board Member

This is the 4th issue of a new column for the Bytes. In it, I share with my fellow NOCCC members links to interesting and useful web sites as well tips and ideas on computing that I come across.



If you would like to include your gems or make comments, please email them to me at [tedsstuff@adelphia.net](mailto:tedsstuff@adelphia.net) for publication in this column, with appropriate attribution of course. **To date, none of you good folks have responded. Is anyone listening? Do you want me to continue this column?**

### Mozilla Firefox

If you are one of the many users who have switched from Internet Explorer to the Firefox, you might be interested in an article in the August 15, 2006 issue of c|net ([http://www.download.com/Best-Firefox-extensions-User-favorites/1200-11745\\_4-5164802.html?tag=nl.e415](http://www.download.com/Best-Firefox-extensions-User-favorites/1200-11745_4-5164802.html?tag=nl.e415)) that has a whole lot of interesting Firefox extensions, including user favorites, to make your Internet browsing better.

### Free HP Online Classes

Free online classes covering a wide variety of subjects (Digital Photography, Digital Entertainment, Security, Genealogy, Home Office, and others) are available at <http://search.hp.com/query.html?cc=us&lang=en&qt=classes&la=en>.

### Microsoft's Security Info Web Site

If you go to <http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/downloads/default.aspx>, Microsoft has provided a list of sources/links for security software including a number of antivirus programs (with free trial periods from 3 months to 1 year) as well as several free antispyware ones. You even can get a free safety scan of your PC using Microsoft's Windows Live OneCare scanner ([http://safety.live.com/site/en-US/default.htm?s\\_cid=sah](http://safety.live.com/site/en-US/default.htm?s_cid=sah)).

### c|net on the Best Free Security Software

For an even more comprehensive source of free downloadable security software that c|net has tested, check out [http://www.download.com/Best-free-security-and-spyware-software/1200-2023\\_4-5163183.html?tag=nl.e415](http://www.download.com/Best-free-security-and-spyware-software/1200-2023_4-5163183.html?tag=nl.e415).

### Antispyware Programs

In the Oct. 2006 issue of PC World magazine (p. 54), five software programs were rated, including the popular free Lavasoft Ad-Aware SE Personal 1.06. The top-rated Webroot Spy



Sweeper 5.0 Beta (\$30) was given a Best Buy rating as well.

### Desktop Computers

Also in the Oct. 2006 issue of PC World magazine (p. 72) are rating of two price classes of computers, many with the new Intel Core 2 Duo processors. If you are in the market, check out the review. Velocity Micro Vector GX Campus Ed. (\$1099) got one top rating and CyberPower Gamer Infinity SLI Ultra (\$3299) got the other. The much less expensive Dell XPS 410 came in a close second. If you aren't a subscriber, the magazine is available in your local library.

If you are a do-it-yourselfer, there is a great article (p. 97) on upgrading your PC with step-by-step instructions on replacing CPU, Graphics Card, Power Supply, Hard Drive, and Optical Drive and adding or replacing Memory.

### Laser Printers

Monochrome lasers continue to fall and there are some highly-rated ones in the range of \$150-250, according to PC World's Oct. 2006 issue (p. 86). Three of the top 10 models are from Brothers. Surprisingly, no models from HP made the cut!

### Creating a Business Card

If you use Microsoft's Word or Publisher and would like to make your own card, check out the information at <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/assistance/HA011912461033.aspx>. The article provides all the basic information you need from templates to printing.

### Seterra – Learn Geography

Seterra is a challenging geography program with 70 different exercises. Give it to your school-age children or grandkids to help them learn about countries, capitals, flags and cities in Africa, Europe, South America, North America, Asia and Australia, using outline map exercises! And, it is free at <http://www.wartoft.nu/software/seterra/>. It was developed by a Swedish freelance software consultant, Marianne Wartoft (<http://www.wartoft.nu/software/about-me.aspx>). To check out her other free educational software, go to <http://www.wartoft.nu/software/>. I found the link to Seterra in the c|net issue of Sept. 8, 2006.



That's it for now. Happy computing and see you next month. ■

## LIGAS Microsystems

Custom Systems - Consulting - Service  
Cable and DSL services configured

Routers installed  
sick computers healed

[jsanders@ligasmicro.com](mailto:jsanders@ligasmicro.com)

714-636-5523

NOCCC member 0019, Jim Sanders



# How Do I Get My Home Videos Into The Computer?

By *Elise Edgell, NOCCC*

I have stacks of VHS and 8mm tapes that I want to convert to digital format before they are no longer accessible. I know that once I get the analog videos converted to digital format I can preserve them, edit them, back them up, etc. But, what technology is available to me?

First of all, let me explain that I have never been good at reading about a technology, learning all its terms and features before I have had a chance to use the technology. When I am making a decision about software, frequently the feature, which sounded so good on the box and enticed me to purchase it, is not the feature which I really use. It often is something that I was unaware of when I initially got the program but which I use the most and like the best. An example of this is the "Reveal Codes" feature in WordPerfect.

When VCRs first came on the market, I wanted one. I heard about the pros and cons of VHS and BETA formats. I had a hard time remembering which was which. I had never used a VCR before I purchased a VHS model. I rapidly learned the different recording speeds and how they affected the quality of the image. The next VCR I purchased was a BETA format. The image quality was much better and I couldn't understand why it was not the format of choice for everyone.

Since that time, I have had a VHS camcorder, an 8mm and a Hi8. Again, the quality difference between the 3 formats is noticeable. I have not purchased a digital camcorder yet so I have not learned the difference between the different types of digital camcorders. When I was looking for the technology necessary to convert my precious memories to digital format I was focused on analog conversion devices.

The first analog capture device connected to the computer with a USB1 cable. That did not work well and I put the project aside for a while. I then received a ADS Instant DVD USB 2 capture device as a gift. By this time I had acquired a couple of video editing programs. I had installed them, read the documentation (much of it was incomprehensible to me without actually using the program), and attempted to capture some video from a Hi8 tape. This did not work well. I found that software programs are very touchy about which video capture device they will talk with. Fortunately, the video capture device came with capture software so I am able to transfer my analog video to digital. But, not in the way I wanted and I am still learning the terminology.

I wanted to write this because some of my confusion may be the same as yours. The software programs say that they can "capture" both analog and digital video. They also talk about "capture card" for the digital video. It is necessary to have a "capture card" or "capture device" to take the analog information from your VHS (or other analog input) and con-

vert it to digital information. This is usually accomplished by connecting the video-out and audio-out from your analog device (VHS player, camcorder, etc) to the input section of your capture card (this may be your video card) or external device. When you are in the process of capturing the video, the analog information is converted in the capture device to a digital format (there are several such as MPEG1 and MPEG2) and then stored on your computer. Once stored, they can be used by video editing programs or can be burned to a disk.

Please note, if you have a digital camcorder, you do not need a conversion device. The information that is on your camcorder is already in digital format. Depending on the type of camcorder the digital information may be stored on a tape, memory card, hard disk, or even on a DVD. If you cannot remove the storage device and put it into a reader on your computer then the way to transfer data is through a FireWire or USB2 connection to your computer. If you are using a video editing program to enable the transfer, there are some nice things that the program may be able to do with the data as it is received. It may automatically create chapters and provide other information that is handy when you want to edit the information (rare is the tape which cannot be improved with cutting out the unintentional video of the pavement).

There are programs which let you transfer your converted VHS tape directly to a DVD. The reason to do this is to get the analog tapes preserved. I know that I will never have the time to edit all the old tapes which I have, but I do want to preserve them. The CapWiz program which came with my ADS Instant DVD USB2 capture box has this feature. If you purchase a program that is not bundled with the capture box (or card) be sure that specific version of that program will work with your model of capture device.

Expect to put in some time learning the terminology. Read carefully what the program will do and what it will not do so that you are realistic in your expectations. Keep in mind that what you are working with, once you have your video in digital format, is a file. The file can be in several different formats with different characteristics. What I mean is that, just like with digital photos, a file format which is really compressed will not look as good as a larger file with more information. When dealing with video information, you must remember that you need a lot of storage on your disk and it really helps to have a disk with fast response time.

A fast computer with lots of RAM is also important. It is only recently that video editing has become practical for the home user. Before really large, fast hard disk storage was affordable, the home user was very limited in the size of file that could be edited. With today's fast computers, inexpensive RAM, large storage disks, and inexpensive DVD writers it should be within the reach of many home users to be able to preserve valuable analog tapes. Plus, be able to make home movies from them that friends and family are willing to watch.

If you are planning to buy a new computer in the near future, keep in mind the requirements for video editing as well as the requirements for VISTA. Fortunately, the requirements for the Ultimate version of VISTA are also good for video editing purposes. ■

# To Dual-Core or Not to Dual-Core?

By Jim Sanders, NOCCC

If you have been in that should I or shouldn't I mode for a while, now is a pretty good time to make the plunge. The prices of dual-core processors has come way down in the last year, at the same time the performance has moved several rungs up the ladder. In May, AMD introduced several new high-end Athlon processors. In July, Intel unveiled it's long anticipated Core 2 Duo (AKA code name Conroe) chips. These are Intel's long awaited response to being out-gunned by AMD. They have the new Core micro-architecture that reportedly out-performs similar models of AMD chips

The introduction Core 2 Duo chips by Intel started a price war between AMD and Intel. One sage speculated that this was a strategic move by AMD to make it difficult for Intel to dump a huge inventory of older technology chips without taking a loss on them and lower the profit margin on the new chips. What ever the case, the end users win. The latest and greatest chips from both vendors are a lot less expensive than they were just a short while ago and the older chips are available at bargain basement prices.

The technology that is in the new chips from both AMD and Intel has been significantly improved in the last two years. Intel has upgraded it's NetBurst architecture with the Core and Core 2 Duo technology. AMD has introduced the new AM2 processor socket which, compared to the older 939/940 socket, effectively doubles the processor-to-memory bandwidth with it's support of DDR2 RAM.

There are a lot of individual engineering pieces or basic building blocks that make up all X86 processors. For years Intel rode the marketing bandwagon that basically touted the "My processor clock is faster than yours, so I am better than you are" concept and that was, more often than not, true. AMD tried to compensate for the fact that their high speed chip technology lagged behind Intel by building more efficient CPUs. There are lots of ways to do that, and doing more things in parallel (at the same time) is one of the ways to build a more efficient CPU. So if the CPU is doing twice as many things at the same time, the processor clock can be half the speed. To pick a number lets say the AMD chip actually has a clock of 500MHz but it is marketed as a 1000+ and the fine print explains that it "Performs as well as other CPUs that really do have a 1000MHz clock. A number of people feel that back a few years, AMD was overly optimistic with their "Performs as well as" ratings. The concept however remains true. Over the years, AMD improved the efficiency of their CPUs as well as the clock speeds and the "Performs as well as" ratings more closely matched reality. Once Intel started making chips in the over 3000MHz clock range, they started tripping over the difficulty of making chips run that fast at all, complicated by the huge amount of heat it created. Acknowledging the writing on the wall, Intel

decided they had to start making more efficient chips as well.

The irony of Intel running into the wall that those irrefutable facts of Physics represent, is that Intel had to borrow a page from the AMD marketing manual. They had to convince their followers that these new Intel CPUs with the slow clock speeds were getting just as much or more work done as the older chips with the impressive clock speeds. Both companies had to deal with the problems created by CPUs that generated as much heat as a 100 watt light bulb. Along with other problems, the size of the heatsink/fan assembly was getting obscene. The demand for ever increasing compute horsepower, however, was relentless. In addition to improving the efficiencies of their processor cores, both companies decided the next logical step was to build two complete CPUs inside one chip and really do twice as many things in the same amount of time. Because Intel still leads AMD in the ability to build chips with tinier features (65nano meter vs. 90 nano meter), they can afford to put twice as much cache in their chips and run a higher clock speed and still have a good power consumption rating. By moving the memory controller inside the CPU, AMD has a better multi-core memory scheme. And the technical details, and the debates about them, go on and on.

I am going to try and give you enough of an over-all picture of who is offering what in today's processor world that you can at least determine if you want to try and play in the major leagues or the minor leagues. That is really a daunting task and I hope I come somewhere close to success. One master list of currently offered X86 chips (all of those chips that trace their ancestry back to the original Intel 8086) had nearly 400 different models listed. Most of those are no longer made and ranged in price from \$7.00 for a 600MHz Celeron to \$954 for a Pentium Core 2 Extreme 3.2GHz and from \$17.00 for a 700MHz Athlon Slot-A to \$769.00 for a dual core Athlon FX-62 socket AM2, 2.8GHz processor.

There are a lot of very fast single core CPUs available at very good prices. If you are not an enthusiast user (mostly that means gamer) or heavy into video editing, you may not need one of the dual core units. Some of the single core units are the best values (read cheapest) available and any of them that are rated as being in the 3.0GHz or more category should even run the Vista operating system when it is released. Visit the MS Vista hardware requirement site at <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/windowsvista/evaluate/hardware/vistarp.msp> and get the official, albeit optimistic, definition of the minimum hardware you will need to run Vista. Based on my experience with the September RC1 release of Vista running on an AMD 2800+ with 1Gig of RAM, I would not be happy with a slower machine.

If you are an enthusiastic gamer or hard core videophile, and live next door to Bob Jones, plan on spending close to a thousand dollars for your CPU. Not to mention the dual \$500 video cards and 4Gig of RAM. The first of the three categories of processors that we are going to list is the one that you enthusiasts are interested in.

Those categories are; the Enthusiast Dual Core Processors, Main Stream Dual Cores, and Single Core Processors. There is some overlap in both the performance and price of the high

end single core and the low end of the dual core processors. One thing to keep in mind, all of the Dual Core chips are 64 Bit processors and most of the single core processors are not 64 Bit.

### Enthusiast Dual Core Processors

For the AMD processors you have: Athlon 64 FX-62, Athlon X2 5000+.

For the Intel processors you have: Core 2 Extreme X6800, Core 2 Duo E6700, E6600.

Because Intel and AMD are constantly jostling each other to claim title to King Of The Hill, it changes hands. For many months, through June of 2006, it was AMD. Then, in July 2006, Intel reclaimed the title. For almost anyone except the well heeled enthusiast with a social need to be on the Bleeding Edge, any of these processors would make a great system. As has been the case for years, the price curve for the last three to four speed ranges is geometric in nature. The 2.4GHz E6600 is about 40% of the price of X6800 and provides about 60% of the performance. The same is true for the AMD pricing.

### Main Stream Dual Cores

For AMD – Athlon 64 X2 AM2 4600, 4200, 4000, 3800, Athlon 64 X2 S939 4800, 4600, 4400, 4200, 3800

For Intel – Core 2 Duo E6400, Pentium Extreme Edition 965 & 955, Pentium D 960, 950, 945, 930, 915, 840, 830, 820, 805

On the AMD line you can easily see just one of the many things that can be confusing about the different designations for AMD's dual core processors. There is a Athlon 64 X2 AM2 4600 and a Athlon 64 X2 S939 4600. The only visible difference is that one says AM2 and the other says S939. As explained above, the AM2 designation is for the new DDR2 RAM CPUs. AMD uses two different speeds of DDR2 RAM. The DDR2-800 is used with the Enthusiast CPUs and the DDR2-667 is used with the Main Stream CPUs. Faster memory will, in general, improve through-put and is most noticeable on memory intensive applications. Another consideration when trying to decide between the new AM2 socket and the older S939, is the supply and cost of memory. Production of DDR RAM is being reduced while production of DDR2 RAM is being RAMPed up. That means that the price of DDR is going up and the price of DDR2 is going down. You may have noticed the price of the older PC100/133 RAM is almost double the price of PC2700 DDR RAM and I have seen a price for a 1GB DDR2 that was less than the price for the PC3200 1 GB DDR Ram.

At the top of the Intel Main Stream Dual Core line category are the older technology Dual Core models:

D 965 DC Extreme Edition (3.73GHz/775pin PLGA /1066FSB /2X2MB L2 Cache Dual Core) \$1075

D 955 DC Extreme Edition (3.46GHz/775pin PLGA /1066FSB /2X2MB L2 Cache Dual Core) \$995

D 960 DC Standard Edition (3.6GHz/775pin PLGA /800FSB /2X2MB L2 Cache Dual Core) \$349.

E6400 Core 2 Duo Processor (2.13GHz/775pin LGA 1066FSB 2X1MB L2 Cache) at \$345 is the better buy. This is a good example of the seemingly weird pricing that occurs with bleeding edge CPUs. The D955 is \$646 more than the D960 which has a faster clock but a slower FSB (Front Side Bus). Even stranger is that the price for the older technology

D 955 is more than the fastest Core 2 Duo chip. The oldest technology dual core chips from Intel are the D800 series.

### Single Core Processors

After looking at the long list of single core processors that are clocked at 3GHz or greater, I changed my mind about listing them. Instead, I will just repeat the advice about computing needs and price. If you are not into gaming or a videophile, they can make a fine system. I am still using an Intel 3.1GHz P4 with 512Meg of expensive Rambus RAM to produce the Orange Bytes and it works fine.

The future of computing is going to be 64 Bits for a long time even though it is just now starting to gain traction. Since that is true, if you are going to upgrade at all, going with a dual core 64 Bit CPU is the only thing that make sense if you take a long term perspective. Same thing is true for DDR2 RAM, PCI-Express video, and SATA2 hard disks. So the sweet spot today is a system based on an Athlon 64 X2 AM2 4200, or an Intel Core 2 Duo E6400 and a good 256Meg PCI Express video card, everything else, your choice. ■

## Windows Media Player 10

By *Justin Harrison*

Published: March 30, 2006

This article is provided by our friends at Microsoft® Windows®, via the Mindshare group <https://www.microsoft.com/mindshare/default.aspx>.

### How to organize and transfer music and movies to portable media devices.

Microsoft Windows Media Player 10 is an evolutionary leap from previous versions of Windows Media Player. Not only does Windows Media Player 10 feature an all-new interface that makes using your favorite features easier, it also contains a lot of new functionality. Windows Media Player 10 catalogues pictures and keeps track of recorded television shows in the Media Library, alongside your music. Windows Media Player 10 also actively monitors items and entire folders in the Media Library to make sure that the latest information about your media is saved.

Based on your viewing and listening habits, Windows Media Player 10 automatically rates items and determines your media tastes. With portable media devices being more popular than ever, Windows Media Player 10 features enhanced manual and automated synchronization support that copies the media that you value most to your portable media device or music player. When a portable media device is connected to your computer, Windows Media Player 10 automatically detects the device and updates it with the most valued media in the Media Library. Windows Media Player even automatically

Continued on page 16

# Photoshop LAB Color

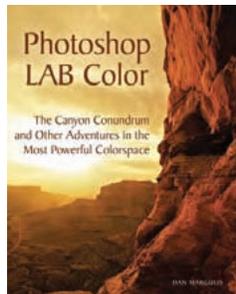
By John Donan, NOCCC

“The book you are holding in your hands is the most deeply advanced, inspiring, insightful, maddening, awesome, demanding, and illuminating educational effort --- in any media format --- ever created for Photoshop.” So wrote David Biedny in his four-page Forward to the book. The full title is Photoshop LAB Color: The Canyon Conundrum and Other Adventures in the Most Powerful Colorspace. David is a power user, educator and author himself. His out-of-print 1998 book, Photoshop Channel Chops, (written with Bert Monroy and Nathan Moody) in Photoshop 4 terminology, is continually referenced today. Author Dan Margulis, in his Introduction, notes that a used copy today sells for over \$150.

I became aware of The Canyon Conundrum while reviewing Scott Kelby’s book on channels. Scott presents five techniques in his book involving LAB (pronounced ell-ayee-bee) color and he mentions Margulis or LAB seven other places. Kelby, Pres, Natl Assn Photoshop Professionals, is quoted on the cover: “This book will radically change how we do color correction... it’s that revolutionary!”

The three channels for this color model are L, A, and B. L for luminance or lightness, its range of values is from 0 to 100. A Lightness value of 0 equals black and a value of 100 equals white. The A channel contains colors ranging from green to magenta and the B channel contains colors ranging from blue to yellow. (Magenta may be referred to as red in other texts) Unlike RGB and CMYK, its single channel for brightness being completely independent of the color component allows for things as sharpening without creating color artifacts.

Starting with the first chapter, the book builds on a simple 30-second “recipe” of simply changing the slopes of the three LAB curves. Some of the photographs used in the book were of canyons because of the ease in showing how color, which is actually there but missed in a monochromatic, can be made more visible. While LAB corrections perform well for these types of images, there are some for which it doesn’t. The author notes, “... three types should be avoided. First, the image should not contain colors that are already brilliant or highly saturated. Second, it shouldn’t have an overall



color cast. And third nobody should have applied unsharp mask yet.” A CD accompanying the book holds the starting photographs which he enhances using LAB modifications. Many of the LAB modifications shown cannot be duplicated in RGB. I have applied his 30 second recipe to photographs he has provided and found it to be a good reference point for further learning.

Each of the first six chapters has a second half with more advanced treatment which can be skipped when starting. (For benefit to the novice he is expected to have an understanding of Curves and Channels to appreciate this material.) A retrace, review and reread is to be expected to be needed by beginner and expert alike. In fact, all reviews I have read agree that more than one reading is needed to absorb the material presented. My first read and reread started with the second chapter where the reader can become more familiar with LAB and its notations. These chapters show how to deal with color problems, the benefits of the L channel when sharpening and noise are involved. There are about a dozen clarifications of confusion which might result when first introduced to LAB. I found myself searching the Internet to find how well a technique of the author worked with photos affected by various types of haze. The result of my first application of a simple adjustment of curves is shown here in Figure 1.

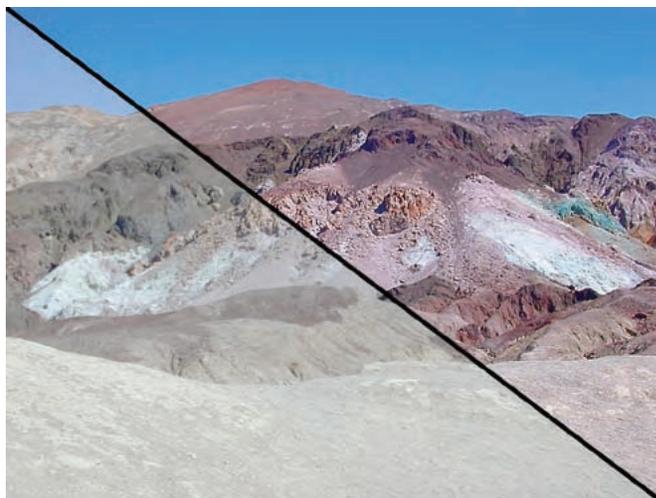


Figure 1. Left to right are the before and after application of Margulis’ 30 second recipe.

Chapters seven through sixteen are more advanced, and it is recommended that the reader be advanced enough to be comfortable with using most of the common editing features of Photoshop before continuing here. These chapters hold more topics than can be discussed in any detail. They do cover such things as: Workflow, imaginary color (out of gamut,) masking, color change, where LAB can excel in retouching, more LAB vs. RGB, a specific recipe for portraits and many other very specialized areas. Whew! This is a good place to note that the book is not intended for Photoshop Elements users because Elements does not support the LAB color space. I found my learning enhanced by finding material outside the book which paralleled the book’s examples. There were cases where this became

counter productive when, in my eagerness, I was trying to do things before fully covering an explanation.

The book goes from canyons to faces. Each chapter includes a sidebar with review questions and exercises as well as a "Closer Look" section that examines some of the principles behind the techniques. As mentioned, a CD includes exercise files. Even though the reader has knowledge of the basics of Photoshop the book can still seem intimidating, at least at the start. I found that after working on his first example the later information seemed to more easily fit into place. My greatest satisfaction is in now knowing I can make superior color corrections that would not otherwise have been possible using RGB alone. I heartily recommend the book for any one who wants to sharpen his skills in this direction..

The book is: Paperback: 10.0 x 8.1 x 0.8 inches, 384 pages, Publisher: Peachpit Press; Bk&CD-Rom edition (August 8, 2005), ISBN: 0321356780, <http://www.peachpit.com/bookstore/product.asp?isbn=0321356780&rl=1>, MSRP=\$54.99, but user group members can get a 30% discount from Peachpit. ■

## SiteHound 1.4

By *Ted Littman, NOCCC*

Firetrust, the New Zealand software company, released this new online security program (<http://www.firetrust.com/firetrustsitehound.html>) earlier this year. According to Firetrust: "SiteHound protects you when you're browsing the Internet by warning you if

you're about to enter a website that's known to be fraudulent or associated with spyware. These websites are rapidly becoming the biggest security threat online. Recent research has shown that there are now more than 50,000 known sites that contain spyware - and it's all too easy to fall prey to them. And this doesn't include the tens of thousands of fake banking sites that attempt to lure your log-in details from you. And there are more than 200 "anti-spyware" applications that don't actually do anything useful - and a few of these even put spyware onto your machine! SiteHound uses a blacklist of known bad sites and this is increasing in size daily due to the efforts of our user community (which already numbers around 27,000) who report bad sites when they come across them."

The basic SiteHound is a free program that adds a toolbar to Internet Explorer and alerts you if you try to view a known fraudulent website containing phishing, scams, spyware, adware, malware, or viruses or objectionable content sites by popping up a warning. The paid version (\$20 US) gives a graphical display with these details:



The paid version also can provide you with site information and includes a world map showing where the site is located and who owns it. It also shows you the real URL which may not be obvious with fraudulent sites. SiteHound uses a blacklist database of known "bad" sites that has been assembled and is kept current with the help their user community which numbers over 27,000 and is increasing in size daily. According to Firetrust, there are now more than 50,000 known sites that contain spyware, over 4,000 fake bank & credit sites, and tens of thousands of pornographic/adult sites.

You can download SiteHound at [http://www.firetrust.com/firetrustsitehound\\_download.html](http://www.firetrust.com/firetrustsitehound_download.html). After the first year, updates cost \$13 for an annual subscription. There is a 100% money-back guarantee for the paid version. System requirements include Internet Explorer 5.5+, just about any Windows version, and hard drive free space of 1.4 MB. A version of SiteHound for Firefox is in the works. Tech support is available 7 days a week.

I downloaded and installed the program without problems. The Help file is adequate and the added IE bar works fine. To the best of my knowledge, the software works as advertised. I did have a problem initially due to pop-up blockers on my computer preventing SiteHound from working fully. However, Tech Support was quite helpful in resolving the problem via e-mail exchange although it took several days to get the initial response. So, I do recommend that you at least try the free version to protect your PC and its users from the sites that can cause you lots of grief. ■



### Pig SIG Open To ALL

Meet us in the Cafeteria in Argyros Hall around 11:30 am (until about 1pm). If you're hungry, there is a buffet lunch and snack bars open.

There are several sets of tables where NOCCC people gather, eat and chat. Just look for the badges, grab a chair, and join in! This is an informal group, so many different subjects are discussed. It's a great opportunity to mix, mingle and network. See ya there! ■

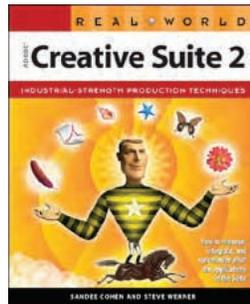
# REAL WORLD ADOBE Creative Suite 2

By John F. Donan, NOCCC

August 1, 2006 - "Adobe's Creative Suite offers a powerful unified design environment that includes Photoshop CS2, Illustrator CS 2, InDesign CS2, GoLive CS2, and Acrobat 7.0. Problem is, you've still got to learn the thing, and learn it well: Your job, after all, depends on it. No one understands that better than the authors of this book, who draw on their own real-world professional knowledge to deliver all the industrial-strength production techniques and timesaving tips you need to start creating print and web projects with the Creative Suite 2 in record time. You'll find everything you need here to successfully master its advanced tools; working with the Adobe Bridge file browser, Stock Photos and more."

This software release is slanted for the professional. We, who are not professionals, but own and use the software elements mentioned above can benefit as well. The book concentrates on using the suite as a whole. (Books devoted to only one of these software components can exceed the size of this 694 page volume.) The authors, with complementary backgrounds, have been teaching the integrated use of the suite in seminars. Sandee comes from advertising, primarily design and art. Widely published you can find her as Vectorbabe on the Internet. Steve's background is printing and prepress. The book is an outgrowth of their teaching.

The book distinguishes seven categories of projects which employ CS2 They are Photographic Projects, Books, Other Long Documents, Enterprise Documents, Design Projects, Art and Illustration, Web Pages and Web Graphics. These cover a total of 46 different projects. About one fifth of these, text books, magazines, matchbooks, technical drawings etc, would not be of interest to most of us. Either way, the book holds many good things. The intent of the book is to familiarize the reader with the specialties of the CS2 software components and how they complement when working together. The first chapter introduces Creative Suite 2; the second provides an overview of the projects and. relates the applications to specific chapters. It references where techniques for each of the 46 projects is to be found. There is also a chart showing the best choices of software to use. Being a Photoshop user, I noticed that PS was deemed unsatisfactory in creating logos and corporate identity, only Illustrator should be used here. One benefit I have always gained from having more than one book on a particular subject is that I usually find information in one



which was not emphasized or I had overlooked in the others. Page 9 of this book mentioned a Goodies folder on the Resources and Extras disk of CS2, overlooked by me up until now. The Illustrator goodies contain 100 stock photos and 1,600 clip art files.

Then comes the Bridge. There is a forty-four-page Chapter 3 titled, "View from the Bridge." (Photoshop's File Browser has been completely rebuilt and renamed Adobe Bridge.) Adobe Bridge is an entirely separate application that can be launched independently but can also become a new hub for the Creative Suite. Its four standard views are thoroughly covered. A fifth view, which is not usually mentioned in other books, is Slideshow, which provides a quick and easy view of files in a full screen format. Another feature of Bridge, not usually found, is the Bridge Center. In CS2, this gives a quick access to the following: file groups, recent folders, recently used files, an RSS reader, tips and tricks, color management settings, Version Cue projects, stock photos, and help.

Chapter four, Pixels and Raster File Formats, is where this book's difference from the "Classroom" type books becomes apparent. There is no lead-you-by-the-hand trip through prepared lesson-projects. Instead, this book discusses various items; it discusses the facets of raster files. Its presentation benefited me in the case of the "Healing" tools. I have not kept up to date here. With the reading of a two-paragraph description I was able to apply them without concern. Smart Sharpen is another yet to be used feature of PhotoShop but more than this book will be necessary here. The next chapter is on vectors considering how they apply to the principle software units, Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. For someone like myself who travels from Photoshop to Illustrator and back again I found this to be a great refresher. This takes the reader over one third of the way through the book.

There are twelve more chapters with titles which pretty well describe their content. The next is Type Magic which introduces the new text engine and how to transport between applications. The Photoshop user is advised to maintain type in vector form as long as possible before rasterizing. Text in PS can now employ text frames and can be spell checked. The chapter, Managing Customizing the Interface, stresses the commonality which exists in CS2. Working with Style is a summary of the many styles used in typography down to Cascading Style Sheets, a standard for defining and laying out web pages. The book explains that the prevalent font for CS2 is the new OpenType. I noticed that some of the TrueType choices I have used in the past were no longer present on this my newly activated computer. One of them, Old English Type MT, which I used with the clip art example, had to be obtained.

Smart Objects and Intelligent Layouts - For this feature, smart objects, one can make multiple copies of a single object and all copies will be updated when one of the copies is edited, but one can still apply such as layer styles or adjustment layers to the individual smart objects without affecting all copies, which provides for considerable flexibility. This capability provide a great advantage for those working with Raw files.(There is an article on this at <http://www.creativepro.com/story/feature/23667.html?cprose=6-48>.) Although I had completed a course in InDesign just three months ago it took but three pages in this chapter to gain a full appreciation of Snippets and Libraries.

There is something new for me in each chapter. Colors and

Color Management (Chapter 10) distinguishes the difference between proper and fake duotones. The chapter on transparency points out that transparency effects are used in many ways, such as feathers and glows, unaware to the user. There is a table of 34 transparency features. Thirty five pages are devoted to showing how layers are used and shared between applications.

The last third of the book is of more value to the professional dealing with workflow, reviews and corrections via Acrobat, automating, preflighting and printing. There was a time that Adobe seemed to be aloof from the Internet; well, the last chapter of the book is "To The Web" where slicing, dicing, and animation are treated.

I recommend this book for any one who intends to use at least two of the CS2 component programs.

Publication data: ISBN: 0321334124; Publisher Peachpit Press; Authors: Cohen, Sandee, Werner, Steve; Series: Real World; Publication Date: June 2006; MSRP=\$49.99 USA. Books ordered from Peachpit are discounted 30% for users joining the Peachpit Club (<http://www.peachpit.com/bookstore/product.asp?isbn=0321334124&rl=1>).

Reviews Editor's Note: For another brief review see: <http://www.htreview.com/>. ■

## Home Networking: The Missing Manual

By *Bill Trammell, NOCCC*

At last, an easy to read, straightforward book on setting up and modifying home networks. I've been running a four-computer home network for several years, but needing outside help when changes are required. The subject book provides detailed directions on setting up Windows and/or Mackintosh networks. Yes, you can have both operating systems on the same network.

For the first-time network builder, the author provides advise on which of three types of approaches (Ethernet cable; Power line - the use of home electrical wiring; or wireless) that are available. All approaches require a "router" which acts as an interface between networked computers and if Internet access is desired, a modem. Routers conforming to standard 802.11g are recommended for wireless (WiFi) use. All approaches require network adapters (card, USB) for each computer. Recommendations and suggested prices are provided for routers, adapters, and other equipment discussed.

Instructions are given for configuring routers and computers. Details are provided for securing networks, particularly WiFi's. Details are also provided for file, folder, and printer sharing. Suggestions are given for



managing user access and creating limited access to files.

One chapter is dedicated to the "fun and games" a network can provide. This chapter includes using your computer to play music on a stereo system (this requires an adapter, such as Apple Airport Express) on the stereo and either cable or WiFi connection. The chapter also includes using the network to send digital photos to a television, adding storage space to the network for use by all computers on the system, and playing video games by interacting with game consoles. Note: If you want to add a network storage hard drive, be aware that it will be reformatted upon installation. Another chapter is devoted to accessing the network, either by direct dialing or by web browsing, while on the road.

Prior to reading this book, I'd been using a network composed of three desktops (one in a remote location) and a laptop connected by WiFi. This network utilizes a Linksys router; Ethernet cards in the desktops and a PCI card in the laptop. My router has four cable ports and is expandable (details also provided in the book). After reading the book, I have increased the network security and am thinking about adding a Mackintosh computer for video work.

This book was written by Scott Lowe and published in 2005 by O'Reilly Media. The list price is \$24.95 (NOCCC members can get a 30% discount). I recommend this book for anyone planning a network and suggest it for network users who may want to expand the security and use of their networks. The book contains good illustrations and reasonably up-to-date information on equipment choices. You can order from O'Reilly: <http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/homenetmm/index.html>. ■

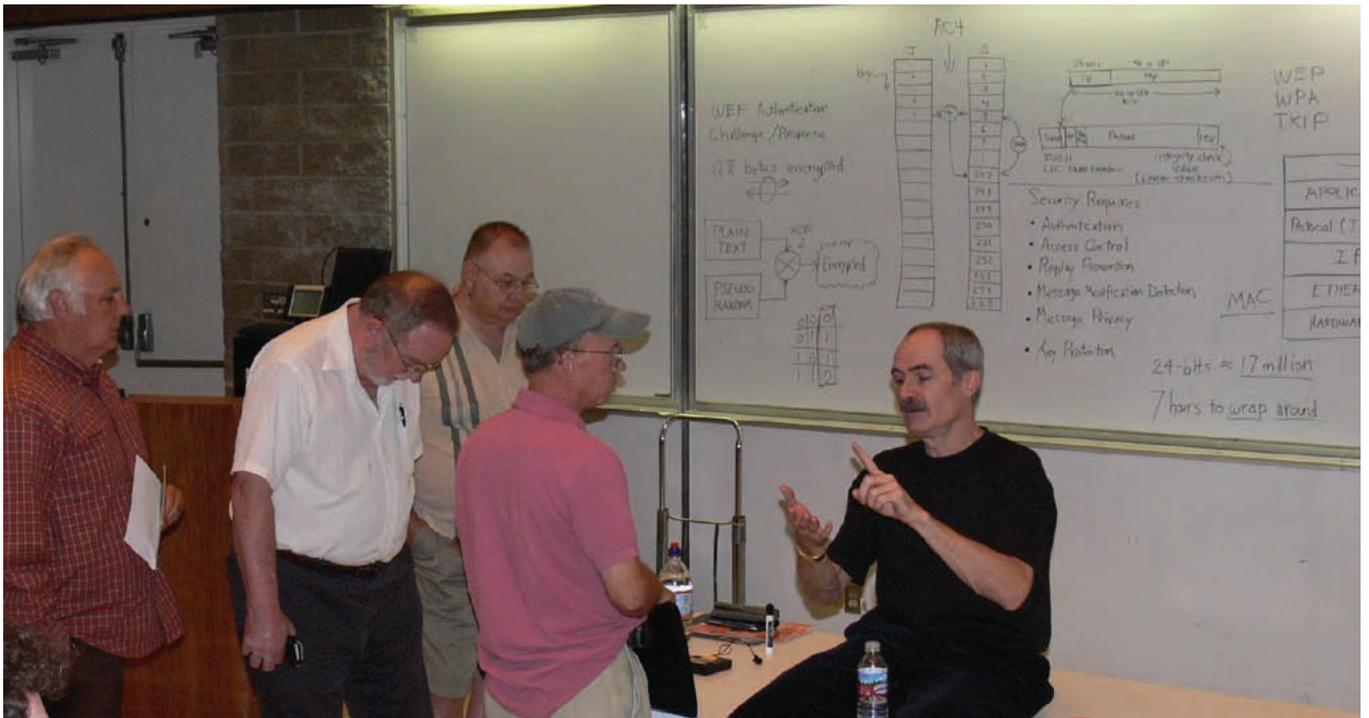
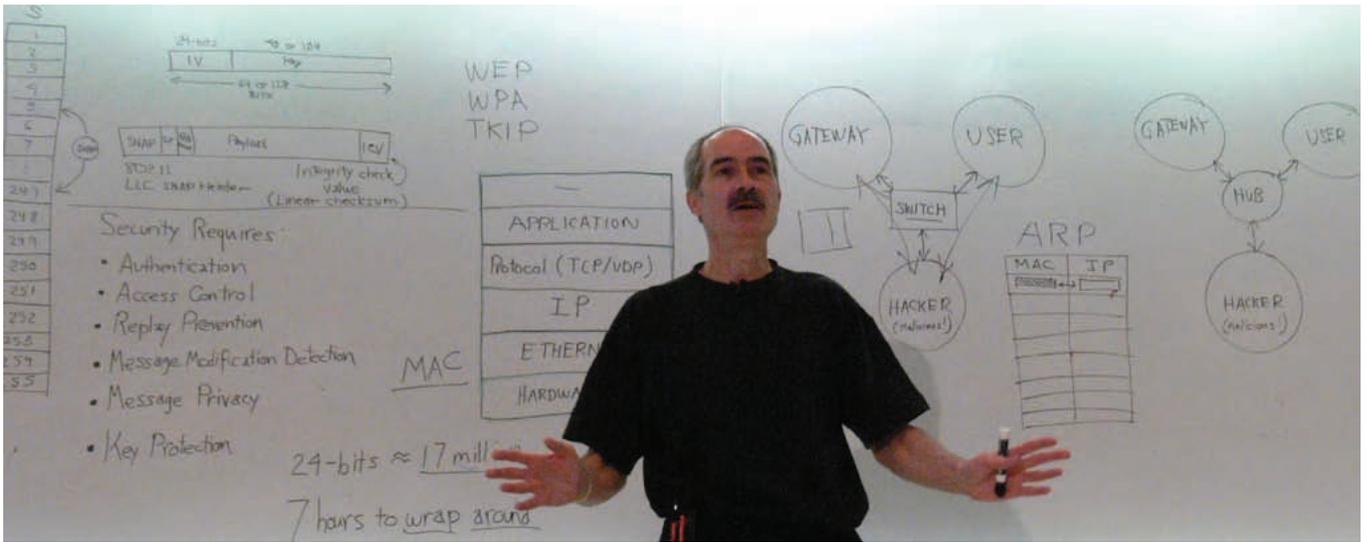
## Orange Bytes Late Mail Problem

By *Jim Sanders, Editor*

Quite a few club members have complained about not receiving their Orange Bytes news letter before the meeting date that the newsletter is about. Members who have provided a current email address get early online notification that the PDF is available at [www.noccc.org](http://www.noccc.org). The September 10th meeting issue was mailed on September 1st. I didn't receive my copy until September 13th. Over the last several months the Orange Bytes has been hand delivered to the Sunflower Bulk Mail Facility 8-9 days before the meeting. Delivery times have varied from 4 days to over 3 weeks for some members. I was told that USPS delivery guidelines should result in 3-5 day delivery. If you have had late deliveries, contact your local Postmaster and ask for an explanation. If you get an interesting response that deviates from those guidelines, let me know by email.

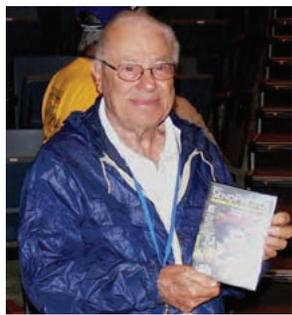
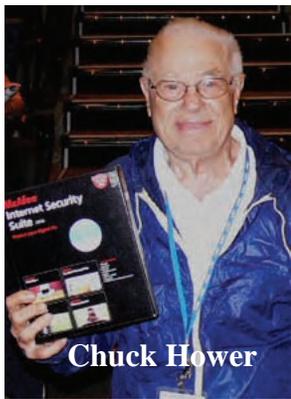
This issue of the Bytes took five days of my time to produce and should be mailed on 9/21/06. With some volunteer help, it could have been done earlier. There has been one volunteer offer in three years and that didn't work out. ■

# September Meeting Photos

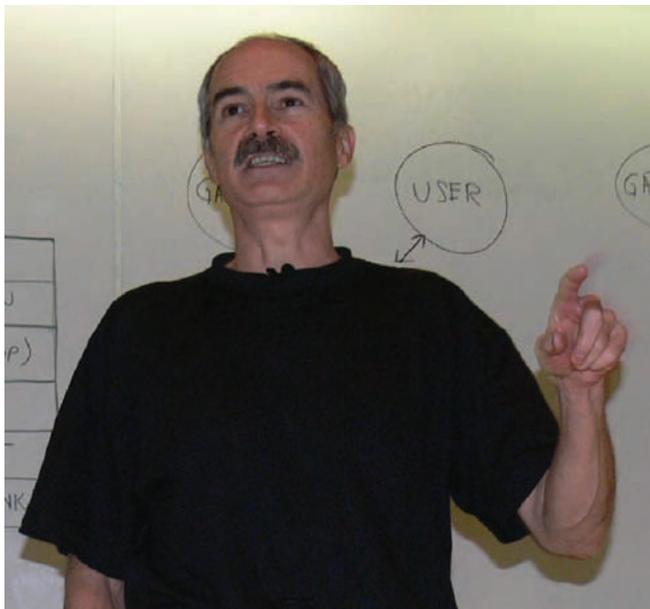
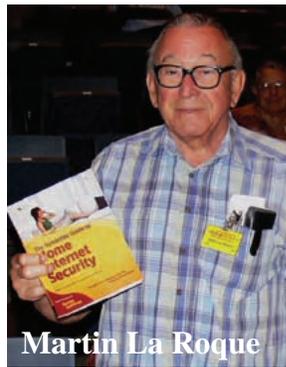
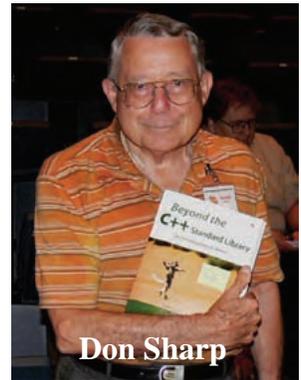


Steve Gibson, head of Gibson Research Corp. gave us an interesting, animated, and informative presentation on WiFi security. With lots of examples, he explained why WEP is a joke and WPA is some serious security if used right.





A double winner!



Hmmmm...that's interesting



converts music and movies to fit smaller portable media devices.

In this column, I am going to show you how to take advantage of the features in Windows Media Player 10, including intelligent media monitoring, automatic playlists, and enhanced portable media device synchronization.

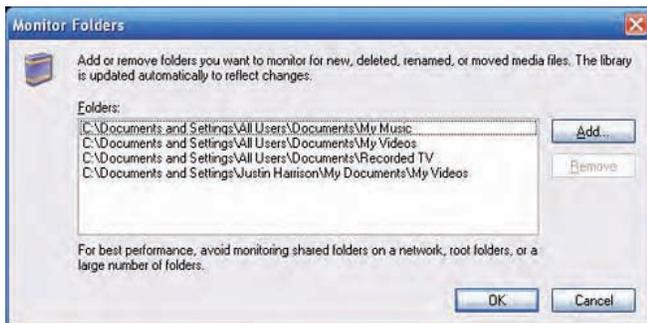
### Let Windows Media Player learn about you

Windows Media Player 10 is more than just a standard media player that lets you view your favorite movies or listen to your favorite music. Windows Media Player is constantly working in the background to find and organize movies, pictures, music, and recorded television. Windows Media Player 10 does this through a series of features:

#### Watched Folders

Windows Media Player keeps track of folders on your hard drive. It monitors new files, renamed files, deleted files, or moved files. When it detects changes, it automatically updates the Media Library. Windows Media Player watches the My Music, My Videos, and Recorded TV folders by default.

To add or remove watched folders, click **Tools**, and then select **Options**. Click the **Library** tab, and then click **Monitor Folders**. To add a folder to the Folders list, click **Add**. Browse to the folder of your choice, and click **OK**. To remove a folder from the Folders list, select the folder of your choice, and click **Remove**.



#### Automatic Playlists

Windows Media Player maintains lists from your Media Library that fit particular criteria, such as album artist, album title,



or play count. Many automatic playlists are already created and included with Windows Media Player, including four- or five-star

rated music, music that is usually listened to at night, and music that is never listened to. You can view a list of available automatic playlists by clicking **Library**, then expanding **Auto Playlists**.

To create your own Automatic Playlist, right-click **Auto Playlists** in the Media Library, and then click **New**. Name your Auto Playlist, and then select the criteria necessary for songs to show up in the playlist. I made a playlist of all the music that I have rated with five stars, but I limited the playlists total duration to five hours.

#### Automatic Rating

Windows Media Player keeps a count of how often you listen to each song in the Media Library. The more you listen to a song, the higher it is rated. To manually rate a song, click **Library**, right-click the item that you want to rate, point to **Rate**, and then click one of the ratings, or click **Unrated**. One Star is the lowest rating; 5 Stars is the highest rating.

The automatic and manual rating of a song effects how it is listed in automatic playlists. If you want to see how often you have played a song, right-click the column header in the Media Library and click **Play Count**. The Media Library will display the play count for each song alongside the title, artist, album, and other information.

#### Copy music and movies from your computer to your portable media device

If you have a sizable music or movie collection, you will appreciate the new synchronization features that are available in Windows Media Player 10. Synchronization is a way to make sure that your portable media device has the same Media Library as your Windows Media Player. There are two ways to transfer, or synchronize, Media Library content to a portable media device manually or automatically.

#### MANUAL SYNCHRONIZATION

With manual synchronization, specific selected songs or playlists that you chose are transferred to a portable media device when it is connected. To select a song for transfer with device synchronization, right-click the song in the library, click **Add To**, and then click **Sync List**. You can synchronize entire albums, artists, or playlists the same way.

#### Automatic Synchronization

Automatic synchronization is more intelligent and does not require as much interaction. After a long day of classes or work, you can sit down, connect your portable media player, and Windows Media Player automatically transfers what you listen to most.

Windows Media Player automatically detects when a portable media device is connected to the computer. Devices as simple as a USB Flash Disk or as advanced as a Portable Media Center can synchronize with Windows Media Player 10. When a device is connected for the first time, Windows Media Player starts the Device Setup Wizard.

If you do not want to allow automatic synchronization, click **Manual**, and then click **Finish**. If you do want to use automatic synchronization, click **Automatic**. Automatic synchronization copies the contents of automatic playlists to your portable media device.

To customize which automatic playlists are used for automatic synchronization, click **Customize the playlists**

that will be synchronized, and then click Next. If you do not customize which automatic playlists are copied during automatic synchronization, then Windows Media Player will use a default set of pre-existing automatic playlists.

To change automatic synchronization settings later, click **Tools**, and then click **Options**. Click the **Device** tab, and select your portable media device. Click **Advanced**, and then under Automatic synchronization, click **Settings**.

#### A quick note about Portable Media Centers

Portable Media Centers are an entirely new class of device that run Windows Mobile. They usually have 20 GB of storage or more and feature sound/video output. Portable Media Centers may seem familiar because they have an interface just like their perfect companion Windows XP Media Center Edition. For more information about Portable Media Centers and Windows XP Media Center Edition, read [Using the New Windows Mobile-based Portable Media Centers with Windows XP](#) by Expert Zone Columnist Barb Bowman.

When a Portable Media Center device is connected to a computer it will enter Connected mode. While in Connected mode, the Portable Media Center synchronizes and copies information from the host computer. You must disconnect the Portable Media Center to use it normally.

Windows Media Player automatically transfers enough media to fill your portable media device when it automatically synchronizes. But some media is just too big to fit on the smaller hard drives and flash memory components that modern portable media devices use. There is only a finite amount of media that a portable media device can fit. If a movie is made to be viewed on a big screen monitor, then copying it to a portable media device with a three inch screen is not very effective or efficient. Windows Media Player optimizes music for listening or movies for viewing on a portable media device using a process called transcoding.

Transcoding is a new technology that helps Windows Media Player during the synchronization process. When Windows Media Player plays a music file or video, transcoding simultaneously converts the old format into a new copy in a different media format. It is still the same song or movie, just in a (likely) smaller file that is optimized for your device.

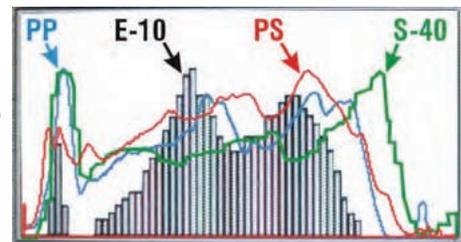
If your computer is not very powerful then transcoding may take a long time and could slow down other things happening at the same time. You can enable or disable transcoding and control certain parameters that Windows Media Player follows during the transcoding process, such as quality. To adjust the quality of transcoded media, click **Tools**, click **Options**, and then click the **Devices** tab. Select your portable media device, and then click **Properties**. Click the **Quality** tab. Windows Media Player detects the most optimal quality level for media. If you want to override this, just click **Select quality level** and move the slider between Smallest Size and Best Quality. To turn off transcoding, clear Convert files as required by this device.

Windows Media Player 10 offers more than just portable media device synchronization. This column has been a sampling of what it can do for you. ■

## DIGITAL PHOTO SIG

FROM PAGE 23

The PP (blue) is from Corel Photo to Paint. The E-10 (black bar graph) is from the LCD display of the E-10 camera. The PS (red) is from Adobe PhotoShop. These histograms



Histograms of unaltered high contrast JPG

were all from the same image file. The S-40 (green) is from the LCD on the back of the S-40 camera of a different image file that was taken from the same tripod position and zoomed to the same target area with similar on camera flash to create a test image virtually identical to the other. Even though these variations are not enough to alter shooting decisions, I rely heavily on histograms and was surprised by the differences.

With the knowledge gained from the first experiment I set my camera's contrast to high and the very first shot I took managed to get the histogram to climb both walls making the picture un-useable. I can't show you that histogram because the memory card was full and I needed the space to redo the shot. It was in full sun and similar to the picture below.



#### Waiter There's no fly in my plumeria

The histogram for this image is shown below.



This one is fine since the histogram drops off just before each wall is reached. It doesn't quite climb either wall, although it comes close to climbing both.

If it were to climb both, information is lost in both the highlights and shadows making for a very poor picture. ■



## PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

A number of products have been obtained from vendors for review by qualified NOCCC members. If you are interested in doing a review (which will be published in **Orange Bytes**), please call or send an e-mail to me and provide your membership number, phone number, and e-mail address; or pick up the product at the next NOCCC meeting.

Remember, **YOU GET TO KEEP THE SOFTWARE OR BOOK!** Currently available are the following products:

### Boxed Programs and CDs

**Linux Starter Kit** – This new software/manual/DVD from Sams contains everything you need to start using Linux. The DVD includes the full SUSE Linux 10.1. MSRP=\$40.

**Internet Security Suite 2006** – McAfee's defense against Viruses, Spyware, Worms, Phishing, ID Theft, & Pop-ups. MSRP=\$70.

**PCdefense** – Laplink says that this software program provides maximum and unique protection for your PC against a wide range of threats such as spyware, crimware, adware, rootkits, and viruses. It also allows you to restore your files, settings, and programs at any time. MSRP=\$50.

**V2i Protector 2.0** – From PowerQuest/

Symantec, this program provides desktop backup & disaster recovery by capturing and protecting real-time working states of systems & data partitions. MSRP=\$39.

**Backup MyPC 2006 Deluxe** – This is Sonic's latest version of its software backup program with new features to protect your system. MSRP=\$50.

**My DVD Studio Deluxe 8** – From Sonic, the "easiest & most complete solution for DVD & CD Creation." MSRP= 150.

**Easy Media Creator 8** – This suite empowers you to live your digital lifestyle to its fullest potential. With 25 products in 1, you go beyond just CD burning! Now you can organize, edit, share, and preserve your digital photos, music, video and data. .From Roxio, MSRP=80.

**ConceptDraw 5.5, Pro Edition** – This Windows business & technical diagramming software from Russia "with love," is intended for professional flow-charting, diagramming and illustrating. Its flexible, handy tools help quickly document a variety of complex structures, systems, and processes. Its charts can be shared as a large array of graphic files and CAD documents, presentations, and web pages. It is a Windows and Macintosh cross platform. All documents and libraries are 100% compatible. Produced by Computer Systems Odessa, the MSRP=\$299.

**ConceptDraw Project 2, Desktop Edition** – This software also is from Computer Systems Odessa and is a unique project planning tool designed for efficient planning and tracking of multiple projects. Any business activity requires planning of several simultaneous projects with different dependencies and limited resources to be used. With You can easily share resources between projects, establish links between them and organize them in a single workspace to successfully plan projects of any size and complexity. MSRP=\$249.

### Books

The following Addison-Wesley books have recently been received:

**The TAO of Network Security – Beyond Intrusion Detection** – This book by former AF Security Officer, Richard Bejtlich, will arm you with the knowledge you need to defend your network from attackers. MSRP=\$50.

**Software Security** – This book/CD, authored by Gary McGraw, a leading authority in the field, teaches you how to put software security into practice. MSRP=\$50.

**How to Break Web Software** – This book is a definitive guide to security testing any Web-based software and is authored by Mike Andrews & James Whittaker. The companion CD contains full source code for one testing tool you can modify & extend, free Web security testing tools, and more. MSRP=\$35.

**Real Digital Forensics – Computer Security and Incident Response** – In this book, a team of world-class computer forensics experts walk you through six detailed, highly realistic investigations and provides a DVD with all the data you need to follow along and practice. MSRP=\$50.

**Preventing Web Attacks with Apache** – This book by Ryan Barnett is the only end-to-end guide to securing Apache Web servers and web applications. MSRP=\$50.

**IPsec Virtual Private Network Fun-**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

## Preparing a Review Article for the Orange Bytes

by *Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor*

The article at the following link provides suggestions for preparing a review article for the Orange Bytes and for submittal. Please read both. <http://www.noccc.org/bytes/info/index.html> **Important!** Please follow the below link to the NOCCC website and read the article on submittal. <http://www.noccc.org/bytes/info/index.html> ■

# BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY

NOCCC has a special benefit program for members – the **Club Library**. Members may check out books at the Reviews & Library Desk at the monthly meeting for a period of one or two months for a nominal fee of \$2 for one month or \$3 for two months. A security deposit (equal to the list price of the book) must be posted. When the book is returned in good condition, the deposit is refunded. **No review is required.**

The full list of 57 available books is posted at <http://www.noccc.org/members/library/index.html>. A partial listing is as follows:

#### **Windows XP Hacks, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition**

– 100 smart, time-saving and useful tips and tricks for virtually every feature in Windows XP Home & Pro editions. From O'Reilly. MSRP=\$25.

**Building the Perfect PC** – This book by Robert Bruce & Barbara Thompson delivers end-to-end instructions, simple enough for even the most inexperienced computerist, for creating your ideal machine. Five different classes of machines are covered with full descriptions of all items and options. From O'Reilly. MSRP=\$30.

**Upgrading Your PC, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.** – New Riders book + DVD authored by Mark Soper. A good reference if you are planning to enhance your PC. MSRP=\$25.

**Absolute Beginner's Guide to Creating Web Pages, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.** – This book authored by Todd Stauffer from Que Publishing teaches you how to design & build your own Web sites by showing you the fundamentals first and then building on that foundation with a hands-on tutorial approach. MSRP=\$19.

**Advanced UNIX Programming, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.** – The classic guide to UNIX programming is authored by Marc Rochkind & published by Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$45.

#### **Linux Programming by Example**

– This book teaches Linux programming by showing & explaining well-written programs drawing from both V7 UNIX and GNU source codes. Authored by Arnold Robbins (who wrote UNIX in a Nutshell), the book is from Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$40.

#### **UNIX Shells by Example, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.**

– Author Ellie Quigley has thoroughly updated her classic book and delivers the information today's shell programmers need most – including comprehensive coverage of Linux shell programming with bash! The accompanying CD has a comprehensive shell programming code library with all source code & data files necessary for this book's hundreds of example programs. From Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$50.

#### **Understanding the Linux Virtual Memory Manager**

– This book/CD, authored by Mel Gorman, presents both theoretical foundations & a line-by-line commentary in unprecedented detail. It covers everything from physical memory description to out-of-memory management. Published by Prentice Hall, MSRP=\$60.

**Managing Linux Systems with Webmin** – System Administration & Module Development by Jamie Cameron from Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$45.

**Building Applications with the Linux Standard Base** – An initiative of the Free Standing Group, the LSB is a set of standards designed to increase compatibility among Linux distributions and enable applications to run on any LSB-compliant system. This book (plus CD) shows developers how to create, test, and certify software for LSB-2 compliance. MSRP=\$45.

**The Official Samba-3 How to & Reference Guide, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed.** – This book is part of the Bruce Perens' Open Source series. Authored by Terpstra & Vernooij, it is a practical, authoritative, step-by-step guide to cutting IT costs with Samba-3. From Prentice Hall PTR. MSRP=\$50.

**Open Source Network Administration** – Author James Kretchmar from MIT presents an extraordinary collection of open source tools for streamlining and improving virtually every facet of network administration.

Publisher is Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$45.

#### **Succeeding with Open Source**

– This book, authored by Bernard Golden and published by Addison-Wesley, is the first how-to book on the subject based on a product's characteristics such as quality, support, & longevity. MSRP=\$40.

**PHP-Nuke Garage** – This book shows you how to master the most powerful open source Web content system ever created, then use it to build whatever your heart desires, hands-on, step-by-step. Authored by Don Jones, from publisher Pren Hall PTR. MSRP=\$25.

**The Symantec Guide to Home Internet Security** – Published by Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$20.

#### **Know Your Enemy - Learning About Security Threats, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.**

– Max Kilger & Rob Lee provide an unrivaled "intelligence report" on those who use the Internet for destructive purposes plus an in-depth guide to honeynets—high-interaction honeypots designed to capture extensive information on exactly how your enemies operate so you can protect your systems from them. Book + CD from Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$50.

**Essential Check Point Firewall 1 NG** – An installation, configuration, and troubleshooting Guide authored by Dameon Welch-Abernathy (aka "PhoneBoy") from Addison-Wesley/Pearson Education. MSRP=\$55.

**WI-FOO The Secrets of Wireless Hacking** – This hands-on, practical guide covers everything you need to attack or protect any wireless network. Authored by Andrew Vladimirov, Konstantin Gavrilenko, & Adrei Mikhailovsky, the book is published by Addison-Wesley. MSRP=\$35.

**Real 802.11 Security, Wi-Fi Protected Access & 802.11i** – An Addison-Wesley book by Jon Edney & William Arbaugh provides what you need to know on wireless LAN security. MSRP=\$45.

**Project 2003 Personal Trainer** – You can become the Project Superhero in your office with this easy-to-follow training manual with an interactive simulation CD. Published by O'Reilly. MSRP=\$30.

#### **Will Wheaton: Just a Geek**

– Will Wheaton, a regular on the Star Trek series, tell all in this book from O'Reilly. MSRP=\$25.

### Main Meeting Report



By Eric Saca, NOCCC

Steve Gibson of Gibson Research Corporation joined us again in September for another very informative presentation -- this time on WiFi security.

President Elise Edgell started the meeting with announcements.

The e-Waste collection program was available most of the day for members to drop off equipment in the parking lot. (It was run by Omni Technics, Inc from Los Alamitos, [www.OmniTechnics.com](http://www.OmniTechnics.com).) Gerry Resch announced it would be returning in November. He also mentioned the new underground parking lot set up by Chapman University. It can be entered through Walnut Avenue, 800 free spots are available, and since it's underground, cars won't be heating under the sun during the meeting.

George Margolin introduced Steve Gibson.

Steve started off announcing his new weekly podcast with TechTV's Leo Laporte -- Security Now! In it, they discuss WiFi security, VPNs, virtual machine technology, and much more. (Leo also runs This Week In Tech -- [www.twit.tv](http://www.twit.tv).)

In fact, Security Now! is in its second year and on the Gibson Research Corporation website, [www.grc.com](http://www.grc.com), Steve maintains previous episodes in MP3 format -- about 56 hours worth! Steve said it's an incredible body of tutorials for anyone interested. Show transcripts are also available and if anyone is interested in submitting questions, there is a form at the bottom of the Security Now! website ([www.grc.com/SecurityNow](http://www.grc.com/SecurityNow)).

Steve mentioned that he had a look

at the upcoming Windows Vista from Microsoft. He can already see problems coming. First off, Microsoft completely scrapped the TCP/IP stack from Windows XP and re-wrote it, which is good and long overdue. However, the new stack is problematic. In testing, people are encountering old problems that were solved years ago -- but are returning because this new stack was built from the ground up. Peer-to-peer networking is now enabled by default -- a security problem waiting to happen. Plus, Windows Vista is proving to be a power hog.

Steve recommended that when Vista comes out, everyone install it on a test machine and play with it briefly to see what it can do -- then shut it down. He advised everyone to continue using XP for production work until all the issues are worked out of Vista.

With regards to WiFi, Steve said he was reluctant to use it for a long time because of the inherent security issues. Using it was basically like plugging an extra-long cable into your network, then running that cable far out to the end of your front lawn and leaving it there, with a big sign saying "Hook Up!" Steve is finally using it, though, since its security features have become stable enough.

He explained that WiFi is basically Ethernet over a wireless link instead of a wired one. Ethernet was not originally built with security in mind. When Bob Metcalfe developed it at Xerox years ago, computer networking was a very expensive and specialized field. The network security issues people are facing now just didn't exist back then.

Now, wireless Internet connections are being set up everywhere for commercial use. For instance, several hotels offer wireless Internet to all guests -- and no security practices are being followed! A hacker could connect to the network at any of these hotels and sniff everything going across, including Pass Word credentials and personal and private data from all guests.

It's actually easy to obtain a sniffing program. A popular one available for download is called Cain & Abel. Steve suggested Googling that

name to see what the program can do.

In 1998, when WiFi networking equipment was first arriving on the market, a very basic security protocol was released for it -- WEP, Wired Equivalent Privacy. However, experts in the security industry were not consulted in creating this protocol. Thus, it provides weak security and has some very fundamental problems.

WEP uses RC4 to generate pseudo-random sequences of data. It takes plain text user data and uses the XOR function to mix this data with the pseudo-random sequences. This is how it encrypts the data before transmitting it over a wireless network. Then it decrypts the data on the other end by using XOR again to remove the pseudo-random sequences.

Steve briefly explained how RC4 works. He said that from an engineering stand point, that RC4 was a really good encryption scheme. Like other encryption algorithms, it uses a key to generate the pseudo-random data. To maintain the security of this encryption, it's critical to keep the key hidden. However, WEP exposes the key. That is one of its main flaws. An analogy is a homeowner installs a really good \$200 dead bolt lock on his front door and then puts a spare key under the welcome mat.

A security protocol needs to offer six items to provide reliable security. Steve wrote these on the board. They are 1) Authentication, 2) Access Control, 3) Replay Prevention, 4) Message Modification Detection, 5) Message Privacy, and 6) Key Protection. WEP has none of these.

Eventually, a protocol was developed to replace WEP -- and this time, the Security industry was involved from the very beginning. The new protocol is WPA, Wi-Fi Protected Access. Essentially, WPA is WEP updated to provide the aforementioned six items for reliable security. It involves the use of another security protocol: TKIP, Temporal Key Integrity Protocol.

Happily for people with WiFi already, WPA allows use of existing hardware. Also, new wireless access points offer three choices for security in their con-

figurations: WPA, WEP, and no security.

The one issue to be aware of for WPA is that it requires a good, strong password. It's not hard to figure out the WPA password using "Brute Force" if the password is not strong.

Steve offers a helpful web page that will generate a unique, never repeated, industrial-strength password for each visit to [www.grc.com/passwords](http://www.grc.com/passwords). He advised using that page for your WPA passwords if you can't think of strong passwords on your own. As they are 64 characters long and difficult to type correctly, he recommends using the cut and paste procedure and keeping them in a secure file. Currently, the page is used by 3,000 people a day.

Of course, there is still one fundamental way that hackers can shut down a WiFi network. Steve explained it. Ethernet networking components use the Address Resolution Protocol or ARP to find systems on a network. Each networked computer is uniquely identified by something called a MAC address.

With a WiFi Ethernet network, a hacker could play ARP games to cause a disruption. He could spoof the MAC address of a key computer on the network, thus tricking the network into thinking he is the key computer. That way, he could cause all traffic destined for the key computer to go off into oblivion, thereby kicking the key computer off the WiFi network.

However, with WPA encryption -- and a good, strong password -- the hacker would not be able to read any data off the WiFi network. Even if he re-routed all data to his computer's MAC address, he wouldn't be able to read any of it. That is important for security.

Most hackers are interested in reading a person's private data for purposes of identity theft. They usually don't care about disrupting a network unless they specifically hold a grudge against a person using the network. Thus, for most security purposes, WPA is an excellent protocol.

Steve recommended using WPA from now on instead of WEP.

He mentioned that everything discussed in this presentation is covered in episode 11 of Security

Now! He also suggested we review the Security Now! series on VPNs.

In closing, Steve answered several questions. One member asked what protocols are used to protect application-level data, such as bank transactions. He said that SSL, Secure Sockets Layer is the key protocol for that. It provides a very strong encrypted link. Banks regularly use SSL.

**Next Meeting** -- Will be on the "Digital" conversion process. Ivan Randall will demonstrate converting Analog Video (VHS, Hi-8, Beta, etc) to DVD as well as for Audio, converting LPs and Cassettes to CD, MP3 & more using ADS Corp. hardware. ■

## Computer Aided Investing



*By Bob Krishfield, NOCCC*

Market Review: August produced unexpected results with markets rising above their June and July highs and approaching the highs of May. Our analysis last month hinted that the markets were more likely to go down and that's the way we voted and missed the mark again. Now the major indices are above their Bollinger Band midpoints for the daily, weekly and monthly charts. The positions above the monthly midpoints have been maintained since 2002 -- a continuing bullish trend that has not yet been broken. Looking at the breath to determine the market strength, all signs are positive based on the A/D line, the McClellan Oscillator and Summation Index. The NASDAQ has been recovering for the last month -- driven by technology stocks, and it's stats are improving, but aren't strong enough to indicate the trend will continue. Looking at other indicators to determine what may happen next, most of the signals and indicators look positive. Martin Pring's growth/defensive indicators were bearish, but none others were found. Even looking at the momentum of Fidelity Selects,

they were mostly positive and above the money market benchmark. Tango5 is on a buy as are most of the Fast-Track/Trade signals. So is there a concern? Should we all be fully invested?

Most of the gurus are recommending cash and local experts are in cash or mostly cash. Why the disparity with the signals and technical indicators? Are the experts wrong? The bearish outlook for the market was established in June, after the May highs, based on the upcoming 4-year cycle bottom, which was expected in Oct, but now is not likely until March '07. However, the current market performance is being driven by other factors -- the fear of inflation and the Fed's response with its interest rate policies, and the price of crude oil and its speculative component. The first week of September, the market rallied based on crude oil dropping to 5-month lows. The Fed's actions are not investor-friendly as they tighten the money supply and hint they could increase rates in September to hold back inflation. With the up-coming elections, there should be pressures to minimize the impacts on the market, but these are beyond the charting capabilities of our current tools.

Four Year Cycle: We spent last month looking at the 4 yr cycle and went into it more this meeting. While we can't forecast what the political events will do to market trends, we do have a lot of data to review on the 4 yr cycle and how the market reacts to it. There is a lot of data on the web available using a Google search on the four year cycle, and we reviewed several viewpoints. One key point was made by the Elliott Wave followers, watching to determine if the 2002 4 yr low will be taken out by the new 4 yr low, beginning a new downward spiral. Martin Pring ([pring.com](http://pring.com)) publishes newsletters and tutorials on the 4 yr cycle, and uses a barometer to measure how the US Economy is doing and what stage of the 4 yr cycle we are experiencing. It was interesting to note that movement across the stages was not uniform and the time from top to bottom of the last

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

## Meeting Reports

### CAI SIG from page 21

couple of cycles was less than a year.

The impact of the 4-year cycle on various investing approaches was an open question. The market typically dips over 20% from its high. We looked at how some high performing systems did if they were held through the 2002 4 yr bottom. The results were consistent with other results where a set of high performing securities went through a dip and bounced off the bottom. If they are high beta securities, they drop a lot, and have a big bounce, usually getting back to or above where they started. Low beta securities, drop less, and bounce back less, resulting in a net loss for the equivalent time period. We looked at this on some relative performance charts that compared a few top stock systems, ETFs and mutual funds. The conclusion was to avoid the drawdown, and buy into the high beta securities when the bottom comes. Holding index funds through the bottoming process would result in losses. Next month – backtesting. ■

## AmiBroker SIG

*By Bob Krishfield, NOCCC*

The second meeting of this new SIG focused on AmiBroker charts, the screen layout and some of AB's basics. The AmiBroker SIG is intended to help members learn how to use AmiBroker for investing in stocks, ETFs, funds, etc., and perform technical analysis of the markets and securities to help with trading decisions. AmiBroker has the capability for charting, screening, and ranking, and developing and testing trading systems. This SIG will focus on AB as a tool, while the preceding CAI SIG covers various aspects of investing and technical analysis – focusing on the processes and methods.

A few new faces were present, increasing the attendance beyond the initial meeting. User manuals were passed out for those who ordered copies. We discussed a number of basic AmiBroker

commands, toolbars, and tabs – experimenting with how to customize them to make the screen to our likes and desires. Questions from the members were discussed, with the most benefit going to those who brought their laptops and getting answers to what they were doing in real time. Those who are trying to remember everything that is demonstrated will need to exercise a lot of memory to be able to replay these things at home. I suggest working the tutorial/subject before the meeting and asking specific questions, or bringing a laptop to the meeting to resolve issues as they arise.

Getting started on a curriculum that will be of most value is still a challenge – since there is too much material to cover using a standard instructional course format for a once-a-month meeting. With the membership at various levels of AB exposure, it will require some innovations to help those just getting started, and provide interesting materials for the more advanced members. A set of problems/projects is being considered for providing a challenge to those members ready and willing. A closed bulletin board system was setup to provide discussions of AFL code in-between meetings, help to get around difficulties getting started, and share among members the questions and answers.

My continuing recommendation to those beginning AmiBroker, is to review the first part of the User manual and try out some of the tutorials to gain familiarity with AB's commands, tools, and resources. In the meetings, we will cover these materials on a hit and miss basis, spending time on some of the complex issues not obvious from the manual's presentations. For the more advanced users, my recommendation is to continue to learn by following discussions on the Yahoo groups AmiBroker sites, and FT-Talk forums for FastTrack/Trade users.

Users of other technical analysis programs should outline some of the things they want to accomplish using AB that they were doing TC2000, MetaStock, FastTrack, etc. This will help establish meaningful reference projects to work that will make use of the technical experience of other investing tools, and learn to use AB's technology. ■

## Computer Essentials SIG Report

*By Elise Edgell, NOCCC*

In the September meeting of Computer Essentials, we discussed the policy of AOL giving users the use of their Screen Names and Address Book without charge. If you are using a provider other than AOL for your Internet access then you do not have to pay a monthly fee to AOL. There are a couple of services that you will no longer have, such as free telephone support. One other difference is the number of XM Radio stations that will be available.

I currently use AT&T DSL as my Internet provider. I am a long time AOL user. I have kept AOL because of my Screen Names. It is relatively easy to read my mail from another location which has Internet access. Also, I have enjoyed the advantage of not worrying about changing my email address every time my Internet provider has changed. I know that I could get a Domain but I have not done so yet. Maybe now that I am not going to be paying AOL a monthly fee I will be more inclined to pay for a Domain.

During the SIG we looked up what was covered by the free AOL and what was necessary to convert to the free edition. Since the meeting I did put in a request to change to the free edition. I'll keep you posted as to how that will work out.

We also had a first time attendee at the SIG. She has a laptop computer. We went over some of the things that you can do besides get email and maps of where you are going. I tried to download Google Earth and run it. It downloaded but the WiFi signal was not good enough to run the streaming video. We also discussed the advantages of reading your newspaper, in this case, The Orange County Register, on-line. I like the feature of having the capability of enlarging

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

# Digital Photography



By Larry Klees, NOCCC

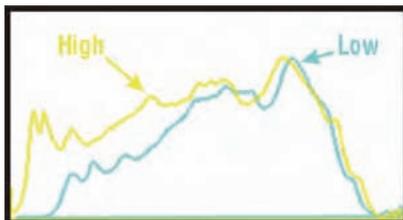
## FIXING BAD PHOTOS

Per request; for the October SIG we will take some bad photos and try to fix them. Although I have plenty of bad ones to work on, it would be much better if you bring some of your own.

The overall conclusion of the September SIG report was that adjusting the camera's contrast is relatively simple, relatively safe, and offers a small improvement in picture quality. Since that report I have been able to improve the test target by adding pairs of black, 50% grey, and white squares. The new white, black, and grey squares increase the tonal range to the maximum possible and make image equalization very easy. The revised target is shown below.



The tests with the Pentax S40 camera were repeated with similar results. The tests were performed with an Olympus E-10, also with similar results. The histograms for the E-10 low and high contrast images are shown below.



The most interesting observation from the extended tests was that different programs and different cameras each obtain a different histogram from the same image. See histograms below.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

## PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

FROM PAGE 18

### amentals – An Introduction to VPNs

– This book by James Carmouche, provides you with a basic understanding of how IPsec VPNs operate and also prevents an explanation of the different components of Cisco IPsec implementation. MSRP=\$55.

### ATL Internals, 2nd Ed. Working with ATL8

– Four leading Windows programming experts systematically reveal ATLs inner workings. MSRP=\$60.

Additional books available for review:

**Photoshop Masking & Compositing** – Masking and compositing are two of the most fascinating aspects of creative imagemaking and are essential to master if you're trying to create truly inspiring images. Katrin Eismann zeros in on the fine points of this craft in this book published by New Riders. MSRP=\$55.

**Photoshop Workflow Setups** – This new essential reference by Eddie Tapp, an award-winning photographer, teaches you how to organize Photoshop as a powerful digital darkroom, customize preferences & menus, use Adobe Bridge for workflow/image management, etc. From O'Reilly, MSRP=\$30.

**Stephen Johnson on Digital Photography** – Internationally recognized digital photography pioneer Stephen Johnson chronicles his own expedition on the bleeding edge of digital photography's evolving frontier and explores a wide-range of issues. The book from O'Reilly is beautifully illustrated with lots of color photographs. MSRP=\$40.

**Word Hacks** – This new book from O'Reilly, authored by Andrew Savikas, offers tips and tools for customizing, programming, and automating Microsoft Word. This book explicitly covers only Word 2000, 2002, and 2003 although many of the "Hacks" will work with older versions. MSRP=\$25.

**QuickBooks 2005 – The Missing Manual** – This thorough guide by Bonnie Biafore, examines the many features of the popular QuickBooks accounting software. Through dozens of insightful tips and tricks and a friendly writing style, it enables financial managers to quickly understand how to use the program's tools to implement and maintain critical accounting processes. Ideal for QuickBooks users of all levels. Published by O'Reilly. MSRP=\$30.

**The Internet: The Missing Manual** – David Pogue's new book from O'Reilly tells you all you need to know to effectively & efficiently use the Internet. MSRP=\$25.

**eBay: The Missing Manual** – Another good book on eBay from O'Reilly/Pogue Press, authored by Nancy Conner and issued Aug. 2005. MSRP=\$25.

**The eBay Price Guide** – This 570-page book by

Julia Wilkinson takes the guesswork out of buying on eBay from the very proper museum-quality item to the truly bizarre. The companion CD contains a demo version of HammerTap's DeepAnalysis auction research software as well as The eBay Appetizer, The Seller's Guide, and The Auction Accelerator which has 6 startup lessons. Published by O'Reilly/No Starch Press, the MSRP=\$30.

**BlackBerry Hacks** – The versatile and flexible BlackBerry handheld computing device allows you to stay in touch and in-the-know--no matter where you are or where you go. For both corporate and consumer users, BlackBerry Hacks delivers tips, tools, and innovative ways to most effectively use the all-in-one phone, inbox, organizer, and browser for phone calls, instant messaging, email, organizing, web browsing, receiving RSS feeds, and much more. From O'Reilly, MSRP=\$25.

**PC Hacks** – 100 Industrial-Strength Tips & Tools by Jim Aspinwall from O'Reilly shows you how to get the most out of your hardware and software. MSRP=\$25.

### Windows XP for Starters: The Missing Manual

– This new book by David Pogue from O'Reilly provides everything you need to know to set up Windows XP, whatever your knowledge level. The step-by-step tutorials save you time and frustration, and prevent you from making common mistakes. MSRP=\$20.

**Data Binding with Windows Forms 2.0** – A new book by Brian Noyes on programming smart client data applications with .Net. Published by Addison-Wesley, MSRP=\$50.

**Murach's ASP.NET 2.0 Upgrader's Guide VB Edition** – Mike Murach has published this VB edition of their ASP.NET book for experienced developers. MSRP=\$39.50.

**Murach's ASP.NET 2.0 Upgrader's Guide C# Edition** – Mike Murach has published this C# edition of their ASP.NET book for experienced developers. MSRP=\$39.50.

**iPod & iTunes Garage** – Author Kirk McElhearn shows you how to get more music and way more magic from your iPod & iTunes. From Prentice Hall PTR. MSRP=\$25.

**Implementing CIFS, the Common Internet File System** – An authoritative guide to the inner workings of Microsoft's Internet/intranet file sharing system from Prentice Hall authored by Christopher Hertel. MSRP=\$45.

**SUSE Linux: A Complete Guide to Novell's Community Distribution** – This new book by Chris Brown from O'Reilly will get you up to speed quickly & easily on SUSE, one of the most friendly and usable Linux distributions. MSRP=\$40.

**UNIX to Linux Porting** – This new book is a definitive guide to porting applications from today's most widely used UNIX platforms to Linux. Published by Prentice Hall, it has an MSRP=\$65.

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# SIG List

Those who have listed an e-mail address would prefer to be contacted by e-mail rather than by phone, whenever possible

SIG	Bldg	Room	Time	Leader	E-mail	Phone
AmiBroker	Science	111	11:15	Bob Krishfield	bobkrish@socal.rr.com	714-532-3096
Autocad	Wilkinson	111	9:00	Joe Mizer	joem@pvateplaamerica.com	909-688-9848
Computer Aided Investing	Science	111	9:30	Bob Krishfield	bobkrish@socal.rr.com	714-532-3096
Computer Security	Science	203	11:15	Dave Keays	rdksoft@sbcglobal.net	714-821-4792
Digital Photography	Irvine Hall	—	9:30	Larry Klees	lklees@dslextreme.com	714-879-6405
Genealogy	Science	111	2:30	John Johnson	jrosjohnson@juno.com	714-991-3314
Computer Essentials	Science	306	9:30	Elise Edgell	EliseEdgell@aol.com	714-544-3589
Hardware Essentials	Science	109	2:30	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264
Linux for Desktop Users	Wilkinson	117	9:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux for Server Administrat	Wilkinson	117	10:00	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Linux Programming Concepts	Wilkinson	117	11:15	Bob C. Ray	bobcray@pacbell.net	714-634-7520
Macintosh	Wilkinson	221	11:15	Claire Lemire	clemire@ucdavis-alumni.com	714-292-9772
PC Q&A	Irvine Hall	—	11:15	Jim Sanders	jsanders@ligasmicro.com	714-544-3589
Understanding OS's	Wilkinson	111	11:15	Charlie Moore	mooreca@adelphia.net	714-529-9071
Visual Programming I & II	Science	109	8:30	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming III	Science	109	10:00	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Visual Programming IV	Science	109	11:15	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@hotmail.com	909-860-9515
Please report SIG changes to	Herbert Wong, Jr.				ocug@singularitytechnology.com	714-968-7264

## Membership Benefits

FROM PAGE 3

enjoy savings on books of 30%: go to <http://www.phptr.com>, <http://www.awprofessional.com>, and <http://www.ibmpress-books.com>.

**RoboForm** is a Password Manager and web form filler for storing your online passwords and automates entering passwords. You can download a complimentary version at [www.roboform.com/corts](http://www.roboform.com/corts). If you want to upgrade to the PRO version before September 30, 2005 use the coupon code CORTS and get 10% off.

**Smart Computing** - [www.smartcomputing.com](http://www.smartcomputing.com) For each paid membership (subscription to either Smart Computing or Computer Power User) via personalized membership forms or by telephone, our group will receive one credit. When the group has accumulated 5 credits (subscriptions), Smart Computing will donate one subscription to the group (great to use as a raffle prize or a "thank you" to a member, etc.). Call customer service at 1-800-733-3809 and tell them you are with the North Orange County Computer Club. If you go to their website to subscribe, click on User Groups and there is a drop down menu with our group's name on it.

**Techsmith** [www.techsmith.com/store/order/bundle.asp](http://www.techsmith.com/store/order/bundle.asp) using promotion code PRESBN05 you can get SnagIt (screen capture program) and Camtasia Studio (quickly record, edit and publish multimedia demos and presentations) Bundle for \$269, a \$50 savings. ■

## Essentials

FROM PAGE 22

the size of the type so that I can read it comfortably. For some things, it is much easier to read on-line than in paper edition. The other feature which I really appreciate with the eSubscription (which comes with my regular subscription) is the ability to search the newspaper's archives without additional cost. Frequently I remember something which I read a few days ago and want to go back and read it again. When I search through the stack of papers that have not been recycled yet, I can never locate the article. When I search the archives I can locate it without any difficulty and it is usually a couple of weeks older than I had remembered.

Some of the other things that I think are useful are having the ability to get immediate answers to questions on subjects that are not important enough that I would take the time to go to the library to get an answer, downloading books and having the option of having the computer read them to me, and the ability to be able to dictate to the computer.

I have been reading a book on Google. Google has abilities far beyond what most of us use or even know are there. Next month, come to our SIG and ask basic questions, bring your spouse or friends who needs to get some basic computer knowledge, and bring any computer gadgets you might have that your can't get to work. I will spend some time going over some of the lesser known features of Google. ■

# NOCCC Help Line

The Help Line is in the true spirit of NOCCC, which is to help others to learn more about computers. The following is a list of Help Line Volunteers. The list is organized by the topic that each volunteer is willing to help you with. Please help us to keep this list current. Call or e-mail [editor@noccc.org](mailto:editor@noccc.org) with additions, deletions, or corrections.



AI  
Amiga  
Apple  
Apple II  
Apple/Educator  
C/C++  
Computer Boards  
Corel Draw  
Excel(IBM)  
MacIntosh  
MacIntosh  
Memory/Interrupts  
Modem Hardware  
Modem Software  
Neural Networks  
OS/2  
PC, Beginners  
PC Hardware  
Quicken 6.0  
Quickbooks 5.0  
Quicken 2000,2001  
Quickbooks  
Quicken Home &  
Business 2000, 2001  
Powerpoint  
Realtime Control  
Robotics  
Tcl/Tk  
Unix  
Windows 9X  
Windows 9X  
Windows 2000  
Word  
Word  
WordPerfect

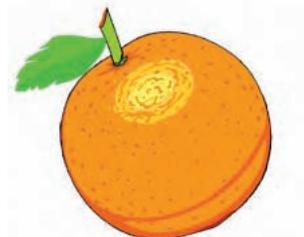
## FREE AD SPACE

If you are an NOCCC member, and have a computer-related, non-commercial ad that you would like to have placed on the Internet, visit the Classified Ads section of our website at: <http://www.noccc.org> or contact Jim Sanders at [jsanders@ligasmicro.com](mailto:jsanders@ligasmicro.com)

Club members are also welcome to post **“Wanted”** or **“For Sale”** notices on the kiosk, but please do not tape them on doors, windows, or walls.

The Help Line names and numbers are in the printed Orange Bytes

New volunteers for the Help Line would be appreciated!  
If you have an area of expertise to share, let us know.



## Products for Review

FROM PAGE 23

**User Mode Linux** – This new addition to the Bruce Peren’s Open Source Series, this book by Jeff Dike shows you how to create virtual Linux machines within a Linux computer and use them to safely test and debug applications, network services, and kernels. Published by Prentice Hall, the MSRP=\$55.

**Classic Shell Scripting** – The key to unlocking the real potential of Unix. A How To book by Arnold Robbins & Nelson Beebe from O’Reilly. MSRP=\$35.

**Guide to Linux** – This new book by Peter van der Linden from Prentice Hall takes the mystery out of learning Linux. It comes with the Linspire 5.0 CD. MSRP=\$40.

**Linux Pocket Guide** – This book by Daniel Barrett covers the most useful and important parts of day-to-day Linux in a concise & friendly style for beginners as well as experience users. From O’Reilly. MSRP=\$10.

**Linux Desktop Garage** – This book/CD by Susan Matteson from Prentice Hall PTR is full of tools and info to do practically everything with Linux. MSRP=\$30.

**Self-Service Linux** – This new book from Prentice Hall PTR is authored by Mark Wilding & Dan Behman and offers a definitive overview of practical hints and tips for Linux users. MSRP=\$40.

**Linux Debugging and Performance Tuning Tips & Techniques** – This is the definitive Guide to Linux software debugging & performance optimization at both the kernel and application levels. Author Steve Best systematically introduces open source tools & best-practice techniques for delivering bug-free, well-tuned code. Published by Pren Hall PTR, the MSRP=\$50.

**J2EE Security for Servlets, EJBs, and Web Services** – This book by Pankaj Kumar from Prentice Hall is the definitive guide to securing server-side Java and covers every significant J2SE and J2EE security mechanism. MSRP=\$50.

**Linux Phrasebook: Essential Codes & Commands** – This new pocketbook from Sams Publishing is authored by Scott Granneman and contains the codes you need to quickly & effectively work in a Linux OS and development environment. MSRP=\$15.

**A Practical Guide to Red Hat Linux, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition** – This new book from Prentice Hall was written by Mark Sobell and includes the full Fedora Core on the accompanying DVD. Completely revised, it will meet all your Fedora Core & Red Hat Enterprise Linux needs. MSRP=\$50.

**Red Hat Fedora 5 Unleashed** – This new book from Sams Publishing was written by Paul Hudson & Andrew Hudson & presents comprehensive coverage of Fedora 5, the open-community version of Red Hat Linux – the most comprehensive Linux distribution. The accompanying DVD includes the full Fedora Core 5 binary distribution & the complete OpenOffice.org office suite. MSRP=\$50.

**Point & Click Open Office.org!** – Book + CD from Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$30.

**The Official Samba-3 How To and Reference Guide** – This book is part of Bruce Perens’ “Open Source” series. Authored by John Terpstra & Jelmer Vernooij, this is the practical, authoritative, step-by-step guide to cutting IT costs with Samba-3. From Prentice Hall. MSRP=\$50.

**The Design & Implementation of the FreeBSD Operating System** – This hard-cover book by Kirk McKusick & George Neville-Neil from Addison-Wesley is the most comprehensive, up-to-date, and authoritative technical information on the internal structure of this open source operating system. MSRP=\$60.

**Core Web Application Development with PHP and MySQL** – This book from Prentice Hall PTR by Marc Wandschneider has everything developers need to know to build robust web database applications from upfront design and planning through testing & deployment. Three start-to-finish application case studies with code are provided on CD-Rom. MSRP=\$50.

**PHP 5 Power Programming** – In this book from Prentice Hall, PHP 5’s co-creator and two leading PHP developers show you how to make the most of its industrial-strength enhancements in any project. MSRP=\$40.

**Apache Derby – Off to the Races** – This book tells you how to master Apache

Derby, the only open source, pure Java, fully transactional, small-footprint RD-BMS. Authored by Paul Zikopoulos, Dan Scott, & George Baklarz, the hard-cover book is published by IBM Press/Pearson plc and has an MSRP=\$40.

**Web Design Garage** – This book has everything you need to help design your web site. From author Marc Campbell and publisher Pren Hall PTR. MSRP=\$30.

**How to Do Everything with Dreamweaver 8** - Covering the latest version of this Web design tool, this step-by-step guide shows beginning to intermediate users how to create and maintain striking Web sites with Dreamweaver. Readers will learn to use all the components, including the visual layout tools, application development features, and code editing capabilities. The clearly defined chapters work equally well for readers who prefer to learn sequentially in a tutorial fashion, and those who need a quick reference to a specific task or feature. Published by Osborne/McGraw Hill, MSRP=\$25.

Ted Littman, NOCCC Reviews Editor (714) 779-1936

reviews@noccc.org. ■

## NOCCC Membership Fee Schedule

In an effort to increase club membership and provide additional resources, attract young people involved or having an interest in computing, to attract local computer-related businesses to place ads in the Orange Bytes with or without becoming NOCCC members, the schedule has been revised. And, we are offering members the opportunity to help our club financially by making donations that should be income-tax deductible since we are chartered as a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. Membership level will be designated on the Membership Badge and Donators will be acknowledged in an issue of the Bytes. ■

Membership Level	Fee (\$)	
	1 Year	3 Years
Individual Member	\$35	90
Each Additional Family Member	15	45
College Student	20	
High School Student	15	
Business Member + Ad (Business Card)	180	
Business Member + Ad (1/4 Page)	465	
Business Member + Ad (1/2 Page)	800	
Business Member + Ad (Full Page)	1,475	

### Membership Donations (\$)

Contributing Member	75
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- **Special Interest Groups.** Our 20 SIGs cover a broad spectrum of user interest; they invite you, whether you rank as beginner or seasoned computerist, to the lectures and demonstrations they sponsor, and to share computer knowledge.
- **Get help with your current computer problems.** In the Random Access portions of the Irvine Hall meetings, you ask your question of the entire assemblage, and more than likely someone will have the answer.
- **The NOCCC HelpLine.** Some 20 NOCCC volunteers, experts in their fields, are ready to assist with your problems, and are as close as your telephone.
- **The Orange Bytes Newsmagazine.** Our Award Winning newsmagazine mailed monthly to your address reports on current activities and gives you articles and reviews geared toward your needs.
- **Raffles.** We have distributed thousands of dollars worth of hardware and software raffle prizes at our General meetings.
- **Product Review.** Write a review for this newsletter and keep the software, hardware, book or CD. Members reviews are published in this newsletter.
- **Consignment Table.** We have a thriving consignment table on our regular meeting day in which we assist members to sell or buy all kinds of computer items.
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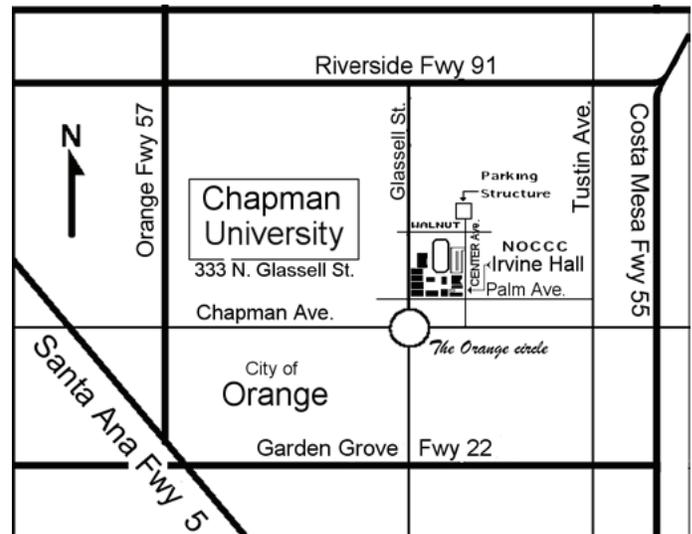
**Parking Information** — Chapman University's main parking

lot (P6) is on the north side of the campus (enter from Glassell & University Dr.) and lot P3 (N Center St. & E Sycamore Ave) is free of charge for NOCCC's meetings on Sunday. Please feel free to park in the parking lots.

Parking is also free on the **campus-side** of the surface streets. The city of Orange's parking laws prohibit parking in front of residential housing which is across the street from Chapman University. **Expensive parking tickets will be issued to violators.**

The NOCCC Information Desk, Membership Desk, Reviews Desk, Consignment Table, and most of the meeting rooms are in Irvine/Hashinger Hall and the Science Center on the east side of the campus (near Center Street).

Become an NOCCC member by signing up at the Membership Desk on our general meeting day, usually the first Sunday of the month. Or simply fill out the form on the reverse side of this page and send it in!



For current meeting information, please call  
**(714) 998-8080** for a recorded message.

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