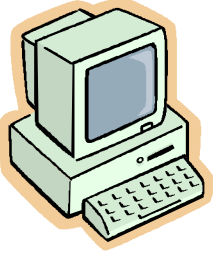
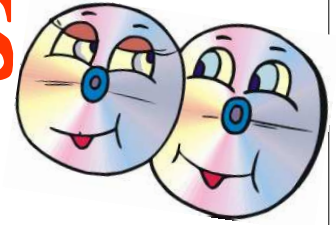


SCPD "Let's Compute" Computer Club



BITS & BYTES



WWW.SCPD-ComputerClub.org

April 2006 Volume XI Number 4

General Meeting April 25 - 2:00 p.m.

THE PRES SEZ...

By Lyn Morse

If you haven't been in the lab yet, get ye there! Yes, the new PCs were set up over the last weekend in March, and the members using them have been happy with their new computers. Barbara Kaye and Sheila Harbet spent many an hour at Barbara's home getting the towers loaded with all the programs we use and seeing that all was well. Barbara and her crew of Kent McDonald, Jack Drill, Tom Green, Jim Calvert, Kerry Green and Annette Kelty began working at noon on Saturday and spent most of the rest of weekend getting the old computers taken down and the new equipment installed. Barbara has an article this month explaining what features the PCs have for those of you who would like that information. Let's Compute extends its heart-felt thanks to all of those who worked at getting the computers ready so quickly for all of us.

The drawing for the old PCs is coming up around the 10th of the month, so if you're interested in being a part of that lottery, check

Continued next column

the dates on the form to make sure you have your slip turned in by the deadline. For anyone reading Bits and Bytes, and is not a member, of course you cannot be in the drawing!

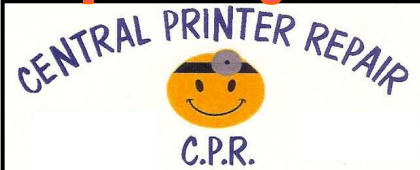
Mark your calendar for closure dates for the lab this month. The lab will be closed Thursday, April 13, and will not reopen until Monday, April 17.

We finally have the word on carpet replacement in the lab. I asked that it be delayed until August so there would be less impact upon our classes, and Steve Campbell – our facilities maintenance director – has arranged for the work to be scheduled during the first part of August. Therefore, another closure to note on your calendar. The lab will be closed beginning July 31 and reopen August 15; no, it won't take that long for the carpet, but everything has to be taken down, moved and set back up again. That takes time. We'll also be doing our inventory at that time. And very importantly to all those volunteer who make the Club the success it is, give them a much deserved break.

If you haven't taken advantage of the offer of PrintShop 21 and Elements 4 for the PC that

Continued next column

April Program



By Jan Grenert

Bill Crowley, VP of Programs, has brought back a familiar face to present this month's program at the General meeting in Speaker's Hall.

George Torres the owner of Central Printer Repair (CPR) has 27 years of experience of working on diverse office machines - other than computers. He will talk about the new technology in printers and other devices. George will have a question and answer period and offer some insights and advise. George is good - don't miss this program.

Sheila has gotten for our members, check out her article on how you can get the program at a goodly discount. For those of you who have taken all those classes over the years, you might want to take them again and see how PS 21 has made the program even better. The teachers will be working with the program to familiarize themselves with it before classes are offered. Watch the calendar for the classes.



By Kerry Greene

After taking a February Valentines Day break (love conquers all), the Internet Special Interest Group (ISIG) is back on track. We talked about a lot of things at our well attended March meeting, starting with some popular downloads from Microsoft to help protect and maintain our computers. Windows Defender (Windows XP only) helps block and remove spyware. Other free programs for spyware removal are available at download.com: Ad-Aware and SpyBot Search & Destroy are two good ones.

Some other useful utilities available at microsoft.com are the Malicious Software Removal tool (to quickly scan for the worst viral activity on your PC) and the Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer, which will check the overall security of your computer, including missing or incomplete updates for Windows and Office.

We're not done yet. An interesting firewall question came up; do we need a software firewall (such as the free Zone Alarm from Zonelabs.com) if we already have a hardware firewall which is part of our wired or wireless router? The answer was a resounding yes! A hardware firewall will indeed hide our computer on the Internet, but will not alert us if a Trojan Horse (virus) is pumping data out of our computer to the person or entity that planted it there. Make sure you are protected.

Top picks are Zone Alarm/Zone Alarm Pro (free/fee based), Norton Internet Security). Also consider McAfee, BlackIce, e Trust and F-Secure. For you AOL users, there is a new free program you can download from AOL called the Safety and Security Center, a nifty all-in-one suite that is easy to use, with antivirus and firewall powered by McAfee and includes the AOL PC Checkup and Antispyware utilities. Try key word 'antivirus' to get started.

Finally, the overwhelming favorite website of the month was zillow.com, where you can see the approximate value of your home and those around you. Discover a new and helpful website at our next meeting on Tuesday, **April 11th at 7:00 pm** in the lab – come check out our new PCs! The selection committee did a great job. See you there!



By Kerry Greene

We had a special guest presentation for the very well attended March Windows SIG. Mike Dunn showed us how to easily back up our entire hard drive using an external USB connected hard drive and the Acronis True Image software.

Now...we all know that it is vital to back up our critical data – our important documents, address books, internet favorites, etc. It is easy to do in Windows XP by just burning that data to a disc using your CD-RW drive. We learned that there is more we

can do and just as easily. How about backing up all of our data, all of our PROGRAMS, all of our settings – literally everything – a mirror of our hard drive? Mike showed us how Acronis True Image can do this entirely or incrementally.

If your hard drive fails and you have a backup made by Acronis True Image, you can be up and running on your new hard drive in as little as twenty minutes – that's just amazing! Many thanks to Mike Dunn for a very interesting and informative presentation. For more information about this, or to get a copy of the handout, you may email Mike at: mdunn@dc.rr.com.

The Windows SIG for April will meet on **Tuesday, April 18th at 7:00 pm** in the Computer Club lab. We plan to have a networking demonstration presented by Barbara Kaye. This should be a lot of fun, so we hope to see you there.



By Jan Grenert

There was no meeting last month, but we have something interesting planned for our **April 19th meeting. (7:00 p.m.)**.

Barbara Kaye will download Google's Picasa program on the instructors' computer. We will take a look at what Picasa has to offer. I find it helpful in locating pictures and downloaded clip art, because sometime I put things in squirrely places. Picasa locates and indexes them. Come see!

New Computers and New Software

By Shelia Harbet

For those of you who have checked out the new PCs in the lab and are thinking about upgrading from an old version of Elements or Print Shop to the versions on the lab computers, I want to share with you the "best price" information I was able to find.

PrintShop 21 was the Deluxe version and Amazon.com had the best price.

Adobe **Elements 4.0** OEM version with camera was purchased from <http://thesoftwareguy.com> and the site price is \$47.99. <http://thesoftwareguy.com/products.cfm?CatID=184> You have to add a code: **csun** This will give you a \$5 credit, which covers the shipping.



OUR NEW PCS

By Barbara Kaye

The new PCs were purchased from PC Club, a computer company well known throughout the western states, with a local store in Palm Desert.

They were configured to be ready to run Microsoft's new operating system when it is released next year.

The current operating system is Windows XP Pro for 64-bit.

The hardware consists of ;

- Intel 3.06 gig 64-bit dual core processors
- 2 gigs of memory
- 160 gig hard drive
- DVD burners with Lightscribe
- readers for digital camera memory cards
- floppy disk drives,

All these features are bundled together in a handsome (and cool) CoolerMaster case. They are complemented by 17" Real-sync flat panel digital monitors.

Avoiding Spyware and Adware

By Barbara Kaye

Many websites offer software, like smileys, screensavers, etc., to download that contains spyware and adware bundled with it. It seems that the more attractive the free software is, the



more unwanted bad companions it comes with. I thought I could spot which websites are suspicious, so I took an online test. I

failed miserably. Go to http://www.siteadvisor.com/quizzes/spyware_0306.html and take the test yourself. At SiteAdvisor's website (www.siteadvisor.com), you will learn about a free software you can download that will advise you whether a website that you are visiting is safe or may contain spyware and adware bundled with the software offered there for download.

Of course, you may already have spyware and adware on your computer. To eliminate these, download Spybot Search & Destroy and Ad-Aware. Both of these are free and can be found at www.download.com. You should update them once a month or so and run a scan of your hard drive to eliminate spyware and adware.



Want to Transfer your Media to CD/DVD?

An UPDATE

By Lyn Morse

Since I first wrote about Greg Venable in October of 2004, many of you have called me to get his telephone number, which I have given out. I recently spoken with Greg, curious to see how the prices had gone up – they haven't! What is of great interest to me, and for you, is that he now has a website where you can see what he does and what the charges are for the various types of transferring media to DVD.

The website is soundtransferhouse.com and his telephone number is 773-4073.

APRIL CLASS SCHEDULE

| DAY | DATE | TIME | CLASS | BOOK | TEACHER |
|-------|----------|------|---|-----------|---------------------------|
| Sat | April 1 | | 10:00 to 12:00 Open Lab | | |
| Mon | April 3 | 8:30 | Greeting Card 1/3 with Print Explosion Deluxe (Mac) | 1 | June Cross & Pat Myser |
| | | 3:00 | AppleWorks 3: Editing Docs (Mac) | 1 | Shirley Allan |
| Tues | April 4 | 1:00 | Excel 1 & 2 (PC) | 5 | Walter Goldsmith |
| Wed | April 5 | 8:30 | Greeting Card 2/3 with Print Explosion Deluxe (Mac) | 1 | June Cross & Pat Myser |
| | | 1:00 | Typing Workshop | 15 | Barbara Kaye |
| | | 2:00 | Spanish 1 (PC & Mac) | 15 | Barbara Kaye |
| | | 3:00 | Spanish 2 (Pre-requisite: Spanish 1) (PC & Mac) | 15 | Barbara Kaye |
| | | 4:00 | AppleWorks 4: Graphics (Mac) | 1 | Shirley Allan |
| Thurs | April 6 | 9:00 | Mouse & Keyboard Basics (PC) | 3 | Shelia Harbet |
| | | 1:00 | Photos & Graphics into Word (Mac) | 1 | Lyn Morse |
| | | 3:00 | Word 1 & 2 (PC) 2hrs | 2 | Jan Grenert |
| Fri | April 7 | 9:00 | Navigating Windows Desktop & Creating Shortcuts (PC) | 3 | Shelia Harbet |
| | | 1:00 | Excel 3 & 4 (PC) | 5 | Walter Goldsmith |
| Sat | April 8 | | 10:00 to 12:00 Open Lab | | |
| Mon | April 10 | 8:30 | Greeting Card 3/3 with Print Explosion Deluxe (Mac) | 1 | June Cross & Pat Myser |
| | | 3:00 | RoadRunner & Apple Mail (Mac) | 1 | Shirley Allan |
| Tues | April 11 | 9:00 | Creating/ Managing Favorites (PC) | 7 | Shelia Harbet |
| | | 2:00 | Print Explosion! What Can It Do? (Mac) | 1 | Lyn Morse |
| | | 7:00 | INTERNET SIG | | Lab |
| Wed | April 12 | 9:00 | File Management & Maintenance | 12 | Charlie Voelker |
| | | 3:00 | Calling Cards (Mac) | 1 | Shirley Allan |
| Thur | April 13 | | PASSOVER Lab Closed | | |
| Fri | April 14 | | GOOD FRIDAY Lab Closed | | |
| Sat | April 15 | | Lab Closed | | |
| Mon | April 17 | 8:00 | iPhoto 6 (Mac) | 1 | Lyn Morse |
| | | 1:00 | Beginner PC (1 of 5) Using the Mouse | 3 | Kerry Greene |
| | | 2:00 | Windows XP Basics & Beyond Part 1 of 5 (PC) | 3 | Kerry Greene |
| Tues | April 18 | 9:00 | Using Search Engines (PC & Mac) | 7 | Shelia Harbet |
| | | 1:00 | Beginner PC (2 of 5) Using the Keyboard | 3 | Kerry Greene |
| | | 2:00 | Windows XP Basics & Beyond Part 2 of 5 (PC) | 3 | Kerry Greene |
| | | 7:00 | WINDOWS SIG | | Lab |
| Wed | April 19 | 1:00 | Beginner PC (3 of 5) Creating a File | 3 | Kerry Greene |
| | | 2:00 | Windows XP Basics & Beyond Part 3 of 5 (PC) | 3 | Kerry Greene |
| | | 3:00 | Understanding Your Mac | 1 | Shirley Allan |
| | | 7:00 | DIGITAL SIG | | Lab |
| Thur | April 20 | 9:00 | BOARD MEETING | | |
| | | 1:00 | Beginner PC (4 of 5) Saving a File | 3 | Kerry Greene |
| | | 2:00 | Windows XP Basics & Beyond Part 4 of 5 (PC) | 3 | Kerry Greene |
| | | 3:00 | Word 3 & 3.5 (PC) | 2 | Jan Grenert |

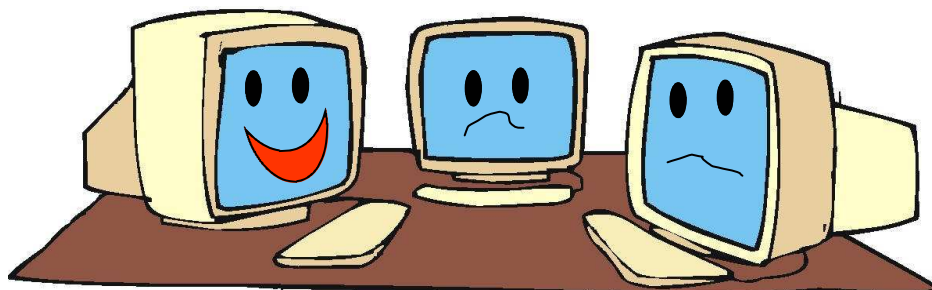
APRIL CLASS SCHEDULE

| DAY | DATE | TIME | CLASS | BOOK | TEACHER |
|------|----------|--------|---|------|----------------|
| Fri | April 21 | 8:00 | Burning CDs (Mac) | 1 | Lyn Morse |
| | | 9:00 | Mac SIG | | Lab |
| | | 1:00 | Beginner (5 of 5) e-mail & Internet | 3 | Kerry Greene |
| | | 2:00 | Windows XP Basics & Beyond Part 5 of 5 (PC) | 3 | Kerry Greene |
| Sat | April 22 | | 10:00 to 12:00 Open Lab | | |
| Mon | April 24 | 3:00 | Safari (Mac) | 1 | Shirley Allan |
| Tues | April 25 | 8:00 | Files & Folders (Mac) | 1 | Lyn Morse |
| | | 2:00 | GENERAL MEETING | | Speaker's Hall |
| Wed | April 26 | 2:00 | Memory Pages with AppleWorks (Mac) | 1 | Shirley Allan |
| Thur | April 27 | 10 - 1 | Open Lab | | |
| Fri | April 28 | 8:00 | Open Lab | | |
| Sat | April 29 | | 10:00 to 12:00 Open Lab | | |

Sale of "Retired" PCs

As we did with the Mac Computers, the used PC's will be sold. Notices were sent by Kent McDonald via e-mail to all members. Due to a 'glitch' in the system at AOL, some members received their notices later than others. Because of this, applications for purchase will be accepted thru April 10 rather than April 3. We hope this helps some of you who may want to participate in the sale.

Hey, Cheer up. We may be the 'old' computers, but we still have a lot of good life ahead of us. We're a great buy! Someone will give us a good home.



APRIL CLASSES LISTED ALPHABETICALLY

| <u>Class</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Class</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|--|-------------|-------------|
| <u>AppleWorks series (Mac)</u> | | | Mac SIG | | |
| 3 Editing | 4-3 | 3:00 | Mouse and keyboard basics | 4-21 | 9:00 |
| 4 Graphics | 4-5 | 4:00 | | 4-6 | 9:00 |
| Calling Cards | 4-12 | 3:00 | Navigating Windows Desktop and creating shortcuts | 4-7 | 9:00 |
| Memory Pages | 4-26 | 2:00+ | | | |
| <u>Beginning PC series</u> | | | Photos and Graphics into Word(Mac) 4-6 1:00+ | | |
| 1 The mouse | 4-17 | 1:00 | Print Explosion –What Can it Do? Mac | 4-11 | 2:00+ |
| 2 The Keyboard | 4-18 | 1:00 | | | |
| 3 Creating & Saving Files | 4-19 | 1:00 | Roadrunner and Apple e-Mail | 4-10 | 2:00 |
| BOARD MEETING | | | Safari, Apple's Browser 4-24 3:00 | | |
| Burning CDs – Mac | 4-20 | 9:00 | | | |
| | 4-21 | 8:00 | <u>SPANISH - PC AND MAC</u> | | |
| Creating and Managing Favorites – PC | 4-11 | 9:00 | Session 1 | 4-5 | 2:00 |
| | | | Session 2 – must have taken session 1 | 4-5 | 3:00 |
| DIGITAL SIG | 4-19 | 7:00pm | Typing Workshop | 4-5 | 1:00 |
| <u>EXCEL SERIES</u> | | | Understanding Your Mac | 4-19 | 3:00 |
| Sessions 1 and 2 | 4-4 | 1:00+ | Using Search Engines – PC & Mac | 4-18 | 9:00 |
| Sessions 3 and 4 | 4-7 | 1:00+ | | | |
| File Management & Maintenance – PC | 4-12 | 9:00 | <u>WINDOWS XP BASICS & BEYOND SERIES</u> | | |
| Files and Folders – Mac | 4-25 | 8:00+ | Part 1 | 4-17 | 2:00 |
| | | | Part 2 | 4-18 | 2:00 |
| GENERAL MEETING | 4-25 | 2:00 | Part 3 | 4-19 | 2:00 |
| | | | Part 4 | 4-20 | 2:00 |
| <u>Greeting Card series PrintExp. Mac</u> | | | Part 5 | 4-21 | 2:00 |
| Session 1 | 4-3 | 8:30+ | Windows SIG | 4-18 | 7:00pm |
| Session 2 | 4-5 | 8:30+ | | | |
| Session 3 | 4-10 | 8:30+ | Word Series - Beginning PC | | |
| iPhoto 6 (the new iLife 6 series) | 4-17 | 8:00+ | <u>Jan Grenert</u> | | |
| INTERNET SIG | 4-11 | 7:00pm | Word 1 & 2 | 4-6 | 3:00+ |
| | | | Word 3 & 3.5 | 4-20 | 3:00+ |



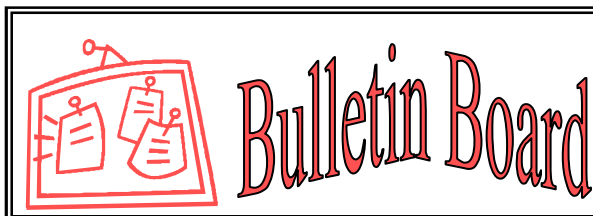
MAC SIG



By Betsy Lewis

The March meeting of the Mac SIG group was facilitated by our club President, Lyn Morse. Lyn brought everyone up to date on several programs connected to the i-series for the Mac. It's always interesting that, for every question brought to the meeting by a member, someone in the group has the answer. MacSig will soon be producing an "Experience" sheet for the members, that will designate the level of experience of each member and their area of their expertise. Meetings are the third Friday of every month. All Mac users are welcome! Our next meeting is **April 21 at 9:00 a.m.** in the lab.

April Monitor and Open Lab Schedule



This Bulletin Board is a service for our club members only. Use the Bulletin Board to sell, give away, buy or exchange computer related items. or trace down something lost in the lab. Send an email to Jan at jgrenert@dc.rr.com with the following information:

- ♦ A description of the item and whether you want to buy, sell, exchange or give away.
- ♦ Your name, phone number and/or email address.

Let's Compute is not responsible for the items posted or any dispute resulting from any type of exchange.

| Date | | Time | Time |
|--------|------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| | | 10-12 | 12-2 |
| 1-Apr | Sat | L. Rowe | |
| 3-Apr | Mon | F. Diaz | B. Crowley |
| 4-Apr | Tue | S. Cronin | H. Reese |
| 5-Apr | Wed | C. Voelker | D. Feign |
| 6-Apr | Thu | N. Streeter | B. Yeh |
| 7-Apr | Fri | P. Palladino | J. Manion |
| 8-Apr | Sat | L. Rowe | |
| 10-Apr | Mon | F. Diaz | B. Crowley |
| 11-Apr | Tue | S. Cronin | H. Reese |
| 12-Apr | Wed | C. Voelker | F. Lieb |
| 13-Apr | Thu | CLOSED | Happy Holidays |
| 14-Apr | Fri | CLOSED | |
| 15-Apr | Sat | CLOSED | |
| 17-Apr | Mon | F. Diaz | B. Crowley |
| 18-Apr | Tue | S. Cronin | H. Reese |
| 19-Apr | Wed | C. Voelker | F. Lieb |
| 20-Apr | Thu | N. Streeter | R. McCarthy |
| 21-Apr | Fri | B. Osborn | P. Palladino |
| 22-Apr | Sat | L. Rowe | |
| 24-Apr | Mon | F. Diaz | B. Crowley |
| 25-Apr | Tue | S. Cronin | H. Reese |
| 26-Apr | Wed | C. Voelker | F. Lieb |
| 27-Apr | Thu | N. Streeter | R. McCarthy |
| 28-Apr | Fri | B. Osborn | J. Manion |
| 29-Apr | Sat | L. Rowe | |

Wanted:

Computers, monitors and other peripherals, working or "dead". I will take them. Contact Shelia Harbet at 360-7146 or email shelia@csun.edu.

Wanted:

Do you have a computer or peripheral that you want to dispose of? I will take it. Contact Barbara Kaye at 772-6520 or email barbarak1775@aol.com

Let's Compute Honors Volunteers

By Jan Grenert

The Volunteer Appreciation Party was held on Sunday, April 2 in the Lakeview Clubhouse. Our club sponsors this event to honor and thank all the members who give of their time to keep our club up and running so that all of our members can enjoy the benefits of Let's Compute.

Each Volunteer was presented with the gift of a 32mg flash drive, food, friends and camaraderie. A good time was had by all.

April General Club Information

INTERNET SIG
April 11, 7:00 p.m.

WINDOWS SIG
April 18, 7:00 p.m.

DIGITAL SIG
April 19, 7:00 p.m.



BOARD MEETING
April 20, 9:00 a.m.

MAC SIG
April 21, 9:00 a.m.

GENERAL MEETING
April 25, 2:00 p.m.

"Let's Compute" Officers

| | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------------|
| Lyn Morse, President..... | 345-4466 | lynmorse@aol.com |
| Bill Crowley VP Programs | 772-2828 | wcrowley1@dc.rr.com |
| Shelia Harbet, VP Education | 360-7146 | shelia@csun.edu |
| Kent McDonald, VP Communications | 345-2931 | rkmcdonald@earthlink.net |
| Jan Grenert, Secretary, Newsletter Editor | 360-9085 | jgrenert@dc.rr.com |
| Jack Drill, Treasurer | 345-8709 | jdrill@dc.rr.com |
| Barbara Kaye, VP Maintenance | 772-6520 | barbarak1775@aol.com |

Committee Chairs

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Betsy Lewis | Audit Committee |
| Moe Sullivan | Monitor Coordinator |
| Jack Drill | 35 MM Scanner Coordinator |
| Richard Gregory..... | Budget Committee |
| June Cross..... | Computer Sale |
| Leroy Cox..... | Paper Exchange Coordinator |

Volunteer Coordinator: Sharon Keil

If you would like to be a volunteer call Sharon at 772-0745

April Lab Monitors

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Shirley Cronin | John Manion | Pat Palladino |
| Bill Crowley | Ree McCarthy | Norma Streeter |
| Frank Diaz | Howard Reese | Charlie Voelker |
| David Feign | Leonette Rowe | Beverly Yeh |
| Fred Lieb | Bob Osborn | |

35 MM Scanner Monitors

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Felice Bourne | Sheldon Plotkin | Leonette Rowe |
| Pete Claar | Conrad Lembers | Harvey Schwartz |
| Walter Goldsmith | Jack Drill | |

April Teachers

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Shirley Allan..... | 345-5087 |
| June Cross..... | 345-7876 |
| Walter Goldsmith..... | 772-8448 |
| Kerry Greene | 200-1551 |
| Jan Grenert..... | 360-9085 |
| Barbara Kaye | 772-6520 |
| Lyn Morse | 345-4466 |
| Pat Myser..... | 345-6095 |
| Charlie Voelker..... | 345-0123 |



Publication of the SCPD
 "Let's Compute" Computer Club
 Address Correspondence to:
 Bits & Bytes
 38180 Del Webb Blvd.
 Palm Desert, CA 92211
 e-mail: letscompute@earthlink.net

Bits & Bytes is distributed to current members of the SCPD "Let's Compute" Computer Club, which provides this publication for informational purposes only. The club neither endorses nor promotes any of the products or services that have been mentioned or suggested herein, or at any meeting, and assumes no responsibility or liability