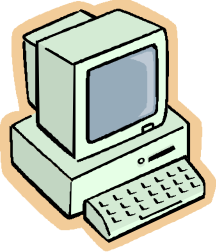


# SCPD "Let's Compute" Computer Club



# BITS & BYTES



WWW.SCPD-ComputerClub.org

May 2007 Volume XII Number 5

## May 15 - General Meeting

### The Prez Sez...

By Lyn Morse

By now you've received your letter with the ballot for election of next year's officers and your renewal form. Please note that you're asked to include your Association number on the membership form this time.

We had an excellent program at the April meeting with Ken Cooke. He showed us some practical uses of a scanner and shared some great stories from his long career as a professional news photographer.

May is the last general meeting until September. The speaker this month is Greg Rostami of ADS Technologies. We've had speakers this year who have shown us various ways to use our computers to enhance our digital work with photos and scanned items. The last link to putting all our memories into digital form is working with movies and music, and

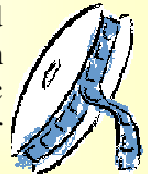
Continued on page 2

### Program for May General Meeting



## Solutions to Transfer Analog Memories to Digital

The year ends with **Greg Rostami** from Rostami Animation demonstrating two incredible solutions for transferring ANY of your older Analog memories and content to Digital. After Greg's presentation, you will be ready to convert old "memories" into digital format so you can work with them. Greg will show video products for both the Mac and the PC. Furthermore, a very easy transfer process for your 8mm film to video will be discussed.



#### DVDXpress DX2

- Easily Transfer and Edit ANY Video to DVD, iPod, Sony PSP and Cell Phone.
  - Copy videos from DVD, VHS, camcorder (Analog or digital), or ANY other video format in the WORLD without worrying about COPY-PROTECTION!!
  - REAL-TIME recording to Apple iPod, Sony PSP, Zen Vision, Zune (NO waiting for rendering or transcoding)
  - Capture video directly to popular video formats DVD, SVCD, VCD, MPEG-4 and DivX
  - Records video via any USB port to your hard drive or "Direct to Disc" (Compatible with all DVD and CD writers)
  - Exclusive "Hardware Encoding" produces the highest quality video and perfect lip synch without strain on your PC
  - Includes all the cables and software for video editing, titling, special effects, and DVD Authoring
  - You can even use the DVDXpress like a DVR (for scheduled TV recording like a TIVO)
- The ALL-IN-ONE Video solution for your PC

Continued on page 2

## The Prez Sez

(continued from page 1)

Greg will be introducing us to that. His products work with both the PC and Mac platforms, so come one and all.

If you are a teacher or monitor who is considering going to SWUG, remember the Club will pay your registration fee. That being said, there were 13 openings and they are dwindling down in number. Contact Jack Drill to see if any of those 13 is still available.

To those of you reading Bits and Bytes on our website back at your 'second' home, you can enjoy the colorized version of the newsletter.

## Solutions to Transfer Analog Memories to Digital

(Continued from page 1)

### Instant Music

- Easily convert your Old LPs and Cassettes to Audio CD, MP3 and iPod
- Easy to use with step-by-step guides
- Capture ANY audio source: Cassettes, Records, Radio, Concert DVDs, etc.
- Automatically removes LP clicks, pops, and cassette hiss
- Burn professional quality CDs

- Save music as MP3, WAV, WMA and AAC (iPod) audio formats
- Includes all the cables and software for audio editing and special effects

The Instant Music -The ALL-IN-ONE audio solution for your PC and Mac

Both programs will be offered to at a significant discount to members attending the meeting.

## TWO NEW CLASS THIS MONTH

### Costco OnLine With Photography:

By Lyn Morse

You've gotten familiar with taking your memory card out of the camera and going to a photography counter, popping the card into a machine and selecting 4 x 6 prints (or larger) as easily as touching the thumbnail of the photos you want. Are you now ready to do that from the comfort of home, to be picked up the next time you're at Costco – and to get terrific enlargements of your photos – at a good price?

If you're ready to take your photos to the next step with 8 x 10, 11 x 14 and larger sizes, I'd recommend you learn to navigate Costco's Photo Center for those prints. Costco's OnLine directions are pretty simple to



follow, but if you'd like an introduction to "How To," a new class is being offered to help get you get started. Chances are, a lot of those photographs you see displayed by the Camera Club across from the Post Office have been printed by Costco.

If you know how to get online, it doesn't matter if you're using a Mac or a PC, so this class is open to everyone.

### A New Way To Show Your Digital Photos and Videos

By Bob Osborn

Muvee (version 6) is a program which organizes your digital photos and videos along with music of your choice (MP3 files) into a professional quality slide show/music video, which you can burn to a DVD for use on your home TV using your DVD player.

The club has recently installed this new program on the PC's in the lab. I will be teaching a class this month, so check the schedule for it. You'll want to bring data such as .jpg photo files, videos (optional) and mp3 files on a flash/thumb drive or other portable media for use in class. Call me at 200-1149 if you have any questions.



By Shirley Allan

The meeting started with several announcements. First there has been a solitaire program put on all Macs in the Lab. It is the icon of a playing card in the dock. We also learned this week that Leopard (OS 10.5) will be delayed until October. Kent explained that the programmers were pulled from working on Leopard to finish the work on the new iPhone that will be released soon and uses Leopard. Kent also responded to a question about the difference between a four GB and eight GB iPhone, saying that the larger would be for folks that use it for storing a lot of pictures or videos.



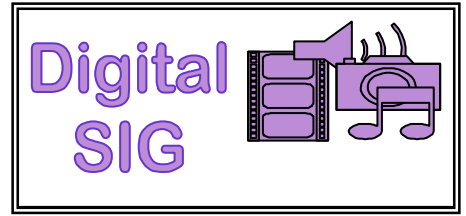
A question about movies that stopped for buffering brought about a discussion on the network speed differences between Time Warner Cable, DSL and Verizon's new fiber optics FIOS high-speed service. Kent advised to check the speed by going to the different web sites that check the speed of downloading and uploading and demonstrated one of the sites on the teaching Mac. The Fiber Optics network doesn't share either cable or phone lines; each customer gets a dedicated fiber to their house. With cable there may be several people in the neighborhood that are getting on line at the same time and are sharing the local "node."

With DSL, speed depends on how close you are to the switching station. We all agreed that we need to attend the May 11 meeting from 1:00 to 4:00 in the Sierra Ballroom by Time Warner to have our cable questions answered.

Shirley provided two hand outs to the group, one showing what downloads look like and said that once you have used the download, you can safely trash the .dmg, .sit, .zip or .hqx files that carried the download to your computer. The second hand out listed the keyboard symbols that may be shown in menus as keyboard short cuts as well as a description of the way you can program a "Mighty Mouse" so it acts the way you want it to.



She also recommended two web sites that may be of interest. The first was [www.leginfo.com](http://www.leginfo.com) where you can follow the progress of the two bills this session which will affect our community: SB 528 and SB 948. The second web site is [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) where you can do family research. This web site offers ever changing free areas in order to get you hooked on genealogy. For additional learning about Macs, Lyn and Shirley recommended Desert Macintosh User's Group that meets in the Community Room at the Palm Desert Library (see <http://desertmacuser.bravehost.com>) and the Palm Springs Macintosh User's Group (see <http://psmug.com>).



By Arlene Faber

Thanks to Kevin Gibbons for serving as moderator at the Digital SIG meeting on April 11. About fifteen members attended to learn how to work with the Organizer function in Photoshop Elements.


Kevin used the analogy of a library cataloging books so that library patrons can find the books more easily. He explained about cataloging images and the benefits to be gained by this process. Kevin asked members to open Photoshop Elements on the lab computers and go to the Help Index and click on "About Cataloging" and "About Tagging". He showed examples of how to tag images.

The group also discussed other products for photo organizing including Google's free Picaso program.

The next meeting will be May 9 at 7:00 p.m.

The Election of Computer Club Board Members is now in process. Please return your ballot by **May 31**.

Membership renewal forms are enclosed with the ballots and are due by **June 30**





By Kerry Greene

The final Windows Special Interest Group meeting of this season was attended by about a dozen interested folks. Our guest speaker this time was our own Charlie Kaczorowski, computer club member and frequent lab monitor. Charlie had found a fascinating application on the Internet called The PC Decrapifier, and he wanted to share it with us.

A descriptive excerpt from the website goes like this:

“So, you're the proud owner of a new PC. You anxiously open the box, dumping out the contents, casting the instructions aside. You feverishly push your old PC off the desk and get the new one set up. On the floor lies a pile of plastic wrap and twist ties. Your brand spanking new PC boots up only to greet you with a plethora of pop up advertisements pestering you to pay for anti-virus software or sign up for a music service. Your desktop is littered with website links for 'special offers.' The system tray is already full of programs that continuously use your internet connection to make sure that you're 'up to date.'

"When did I ask for this?" you ask. Well, you didn't and that's where the PC Decrapifier comes in. The PC Decrapifier attempts to remove all of the stuff on your PC that you never asked for or wanted. To manually remove all of this stuff by hand can take at least an hour (depending on the severity of the infestation.) The PC Decrapifier will detect the 'stuff' on your system; you choose what to uninstall, and then sit back and let the PC Decrapifier work its magic.

All of this stuff is placed on your new PC because the big companies like Dell, HP and others sell advertising space on your PC to put more

money in their pockets at the expense of your time and frustration.

The PC Decrapifier is a program free for personal use to help the average computer user combat this problem. It is also available for PC technicians at a small fee to use as a tool in their everyday business to save a tremendous amount of time.”

The application runs directly from the website (<http://pcdecrapifier.com/>) using ActiveX controls, and presents you with a list of things that can possibly be removed from your computer – you can choose what to keep and/or remove. Thank you, Charlie, for a very interesting presentation.

After our summer hiatus, the **Windows SIG will meet again in October**, on our usual third Tuesday of the month – watch your email for announcements, and have a great summer!



By Kerry Greene

Just when you think you have seen everything on the Internet, along comes another twist. Our well-attended Internet SIG meeting took flight with a presentation by club member Pat Palladino, who took us to Pigeon Radio (<http://pigeonradio.com/pr/>). It seems her brother is a pigeon fancier who was conducting a live web radio broadcast, and we got to listen in and send him an email of recognition. Our email was answered a little later on. Thanks, Pat – you always have something interesting for us.

Questions about Earthlink Web Mail arose, so we took a closer look at how it works. One big advantage for Earthlink users is that they can sync their desktop Earthlink email address book on their home computer with Earthlink Web Mail – now, their up-to-date address book

is available from any computer with an Internet connection by simply signing in with a user name and password.

If you ever wanted an easy way to back up your important files, member Len Heller brought us the solution. Mozy Online Backup (<https://mozy.com/>) is free for home users, with a 2 GB storage limit, and features options for automatic and scheduled backups. Unlimited storage is also available for a small monthly fee. Mozy is very secure, password protected, and allows you access to your files from any Internet connected computer – a Mac beta version is also available. A lead article in the current PC World Magazine about the best free online apps placed Mozy as the editors' pick in the online storage category. Good stuff, Len – thanks!

The meeting wound up with a little demonstration on how to more effectively use links in Internet Explorer 7, and the advantages of having your own Yahoo ID, so that you can actively participate at our SCPD Yahoo Groups web page located at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SCPD/>. Here, you have access to important information, such as a current list of recommended vendors and service people in the Files section. Another benefit is the ability to search the entire database for messages about a specific subject, business or person. The SCPD Yahoo Group was founded in November of 1998 by club member Terry Kay, and now boasts 1214 members who can post messages about items for sale, looking for help and advice, or making recommendations that may be of interest to other SCPD residents. Check it out and give it a try!

The Internet SIG will meet again on our usual second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Computer Club lab. Have you found something fascinating on the Net? We want to hear about it!

# May Schedule of Classes

DAY	DATE	TIME	CLASS	Book	TEACHER
Wed	May 2	2 – 3:30	Photoshop Elements Basic (PC)	14	Barbara Kaye
Thur	May 3	3 – 4:30	Word Art (PC)	2	Jan Grenert
Sat	May 5	10 - 12	Open Lab:		
Tues	May 8	8 – 9:50	iPhoto (Mac)	1	Lyn Morse
		1:00	Excel 1 (PC)	5	Walter Goldsmith
		2 – 3:30	Excel 2 (PC)	5	Walter Goldsmith
		7:00	<b>Internet SIG</b>		Lab
Wed.	May 9	8 – 9:50	Flight Simulator (PC) 1/2	13	Howard Chase
		1:00	Excel 3 (PC)	5	Walter Goldsmith
		2 – 3:30	Excel 4 (PC)	5	Walter Goldsmith
		7:00	<b>Digital SIG</b>		Lab
Thur	May 10	9:00	<b>Board Meeting</b>		
		1:00	<a href="http://scpdtech.proboards61.com">http://scpdtech.proboards61.com</a>	15	Shelia Harbet
		2:00	Joining “The List”	15	Shelia Harbet
		3 – 4:30	Word Draw (PC)	2	Jan Grenert
Fri	May 11	8:30 – 9:50	Digitals on-line to Costco (Mac & PC)	1	Lyn Morse
		1 – 3:50	Basic Photoshop Elements (Mac)	1	Lyn Morse
		4:00	PrintShop Business Cards (PC)	4	Doris Keniry
Sat	May 12	10 – 12	Open Lab:		
Mon	May 14	8:00	Beginning PC – 1/5	3	Jim Calvert
		1:00	Advanced Elements 4 (PC)	14	Jim Calvert
		2:00	Beg. Mac 1-Common Terms/Menus	1	Shirley Allan
		3:00	Beg. Mac 2-System Preferences	1	Shirley Allan
		4:00	Beg. Mac 3-Mac Maintenance	1	Shirley Allan
Tues	May 15	8:00	Beginning PC – 2/5	3	Jim Calvert
		2:00	<b>General Meeting</b>		<b>Speaker’s Hall</b>
Wed	May 16	8:00	Beginning PC – 3/5	3	Jim Calvert
		9:00	PC Maintenance	12	Charlie Voelker
		2 – 3:50	Beginning Elements 4 (PC) 1/ 3	14	Jim Calvert
Thur	May 17	8:00	Beginning PC – 4/5	3	Jim Calvert
		9:00	Muvee	16	Bob Osborn
		1 – 2:30	Burning CDs (PC)	9	Jim Calvert
		3 – 4:30	Digital Pictures in Word (PC)	2	Jan Grenert
Fri	May 18	8:00	Beginning PC – 5/5	3	Jim Calvert
		9:00	<b>Mac SIG</b>		Lab
		2 – 3:50	Beginning Elements 4 (PC) 2/3	14	Jim Calvert
		4:00	PrintShop Business Cards (PC)	4	Doris Keniry
Sat	May 19	10 - 12	Open Lab:		
Mon	May 21	2 – 3:50	Beginning Elements 4 (PC) 3/3	14	Jim Calvert
Tues	May 22	8 – 9:50	Basic Photoshop Elements (Mac) repeat	1	Lyn Morse
		1:00	Word 1 (PC)	2	Shirley Celli
		2:00	Word 2 (PC)	2	Shirley Celli
Wed	May 23	8 – 9:50	Flight Simulator (2/2)	13	Howard Chase
Thur	May 24	1:00	Word 3 (PC)	2	Shirley Celli
		2:00	Word 3.5 (PC)	2	Shirley Celli
		3:00-4:30	Linking Text Boxes (PC)	2	Jan Grenert
Thur	May 25	3 - 5	iTunes: Burn a CD of Favorites	1	Lyn Morse
Sat	May 27	10 - 12	Open Lab:		
Mon	May 28		<b>Closed Memorial Day</b>		



# A VOLUNTEER WITH A HISTORY

By Helen Barker

I'm sure you all know Norma Streeter. A soft-spoken women with a History...to the Computer club... This goes back to our beginning. Norma tells the story of the start of the Computer Club...it goes like this:

Back in the early days, the closet in the Stained Glass room was an alcove... someone had donated two Apple Computers and left them in there. That's where she and Charlie Voelker found them and checked each one to see if it



worked. As time went on, she and Charlie set up times they would be there to show people how they worked and to answer questions. This was where the Open Lab concept began. Mitch Weiner became the President and Lets Compute was on its way.

Next, Let's Compute moved to the area that is now the Staff Room for the employees. PCs were added and the Open Lab was under way. Things began to happen; we outgrew the space and moved back to the room that is now the Stained Glass area...and soon we outgrew that and moved to our present location.

Now that you know that, it's time to tell you how Norma fits into all this. Along with other volunteers, she took a position as a Lab Monitor and along with Liz Ferrel started Computer Classes.



These classes became such a success that more Volunteer Instructors were added.

Technology advanced, and it soon became apparent it was passing her by, so she moved on to helping instructors and kept her position as open lab Monitor. She has been a faithful Volunteer, and that's why, as she steps down from the open lab, she is remembered as a quiet Lady with a willing, eager passion to help people know and love their computers.



*Editor's note: Norma was the newsletter editor for most of those early years. Her experience in publishing came through the family business. Norma taught me how to put together a publication - and make it look good! Thanks from all of us, Norma.*

## May Monitor and Open Lab Schedule

DATE		Time 10-12	Time 12-2
1-May	Tues	S. Cronin	H. Reece
2-May	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
3-May	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
4-May	Fri	B. & C Kaczorowski	J. Manion
5-May	Sat	L. Rowe	
7-May	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
8-May	Tue	P. Palladino	H. Reece
9-May	Wed	G. Hans	D. Feign
10-May	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
11-May	Fri	B & C. Kaczorowski	R. McCarthy
12-May	Sat	L. Rowe	
14-May	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
15-May	Tue	S. Cronin	H. Reece
16-May	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
17-May	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
18-May	Fri	L. Espinoza	J. Manion
19-May	Sat	L. Rowe	
21-May	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
22-May	Tue	F. Leib	H. Reece
23-May	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
24-May	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
25-May	Fri	B. & C. Kaczorowski	J. Manion
26-May	Sat	L. Rowe	
28-May	Mon	<b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	
29-May	Tue	F. Leib	H. Reece
30-May	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
31-May	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert

# May General Club Information

## INTERNET SIG

May 8, 7:00 PM

## DIGITAL SIG

May 9, 7:00 PM

## BOARD MEETING

May 10, 9:00 AM



## GENERAL MEETING

May 15, 2:00 PM

## WINDOWS SIG

No meeting in May

## MAC SIG

May 18, 9:00 AM

## "Let's Compute" Officers

Lyn Morse, President.....	345-4466 .....	lynmorse@aol.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 .....	Finance Review Committee
Moe Sullivan .....	Monitor Coordinator
Jack Drill .....	35 MM Scanner Coordinator
Richard Gregory.....	Budget Committee
June Cross.....	Computer Sale
Leroy Cox.....	Paper Exchange Coordinator
Pat Palladino.....	Nominating Committee
Jill Johnson .....	News & Views

### Volunteer Coordinator: Sharon Kiel

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

### May Lab Monitors

Norm Alpert	George Hans	Bob Osborn
Cecilia Chu	Bea Kaczorowski	Pat Palladino
Bill Crowley	C. Kaczorowski	Leonette Rowe
Shirley Cronin	Fred Leib	Howard Reese
Linda Espinoza	John Manion	Charlie Voelker
David Feign	Ree McCarthy	

### 35 MM Scanner Monitors

Sheldon Plotkin	Pete Claar	Leonette Rowe
Walter Goldsmith	Jack Drill	

### May Teachers

Shirley Allan.....	345-5087
Jim Calvert.....	772-6710
Shirley Celli.....	345-7159
Howard Chase.....	200-8872
Walter Goldsmith.....	772-8448
Jan Grenert.....	360-9085
Shelia Harbet .....	360-7146
Barbara Kaye .....	772-6520
Doris Keniry .....	345-3464
Lyn Morse .....	345-4466
Bob Osborn.....	200-1149
Charlie Voelker.....	345-0123



Member of  
The Association of  
Personal Computer User Groups

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