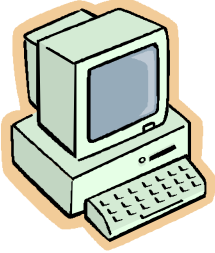


# SCPD "Let's Compute" Computer Club



# BITS & BYTES

WWW.SCPD-ComputerClub.org

September 2006 Volume XI Number 9



## General Meeting Sept. 19 - Speakers' Hall

### The Prez Sez...

By Lyn Morse

First off, I want to thank you for being so understanding about the lab's being closed for the carpet replacement. It gave the Board time to move the equipment out of the lab without rushing, to sort through a few ideas in regard to placement of items and to reconnect equipment in a way that fewer cables were exposed. Getting set back up and everything running took a lot of time. Remember that this was all volunteer. It was also a good break for monitors and teachers, a small holiday for them.

After all, without these volunteers, we wouldn't have much to offer you, the membership. Incidentally, two months into the current year, we're already over 600 members!

The teachers, monitors and Board appreciate the members who are so pleasant to work with. You're the ones who keep us working for you.

We realize there is a smell in the lab, but eventually the carpet will finish outgasing and that smell will go away.

A few classes have been added. Look for them

### September Meeting Program



#### PC-OLGY

Dennis Shelly of PC-Ology is coming to Sun-City again with a terrific program.

Your computer is about to get a shot of "healthy", as the PC-OLOGISTS (that's what the technicians are called) are stopping in to host a computer seminar. Your questions will be answered and your concerns addressed at this informative gathering. If you're concerned about being susceptible to a computer virus, pop-up advertising, email spam and all the other computer negatives, it's time to let the experts from PC-ology entertain and educate you about how to stop the negatives and make each computer or internet experience a positive one.

Some of the topics to be addressed will include discussions

about the latest (and hottest) technology on the computer scene, such as VOIP (Vonage Internet telephone services), playing music on your computer and using all the "bells and whistles" that continue to be developed for this great technology. Basic computer maintenance procedures such as "Defragmentation" and use of free maintenance utility programs that will keep your computer up and running will also be addressed. They'll show you that the computer can be a friendly and easy appliance to operate, and the PC-ology crew will be there to answer the questions, address the concerns and put smiles on the faces of the Let's Compute members. Be there on Tuesday, September 19th, at 2 PM, in Speakers' Hall.

**APCUG**  
**SWUG**  
**DMUG**

**What's with all these  
 \*\*UG's??**

Well, UG stands for User Group. Our club is a member of a national user group, the Association of Personal Computer User Groups. That organization arranges regional conferences. The Southwest User Group conference was held recently and many of our club members attended.

They have brought back information describing the events and will be reporting on topics of interest to our members in our monthly newsletter, the Bits and Bytes.

Oh, yes, DMUG stands for Desert Macintosh (you guessed it) User Group.

**SWUG Conference  
 San Diego**  
 By Lyn Morse

Southwest Users Group (SWUG) met in San Diego August 11-13. Three Board members (Shelia Harbet, Kent McDonald and Lyn Morse), three Chairpersons (June Cross, Sharon Kiel and Moe Sullivan) as well as six members – Barbara Kaley, Mary Ann McDonald, Abbie Scarpulla, Dick Scarpulla and Cathy Schaub - were there to represent Let's Compute.

At registration Friday afternoon everyone received their

event T-shirt and a huge shopping bag of goodies; it was a good thing it was huge because everyone also received a keyboard that lifted to reveal a storage tray underneath. They work on PCs only, which means mine will be a door prize at one of our General meetings.



At dinner, sponsored by Smart Computing, it was announced that 12 lucky people would have their names drawn for usage of a laptop with MS Vista loaded and rarin' to go for a preview of the new system. With 255 people in attendance, odds weren't too good for our group. Sure enough, the first set of four drawn didn't include any of our twelve.

Saturday's breakfast was sponsored by SWUG, and after a short presentation by Judy Taylor, one of SWUG's founders, everyone broke for the first of the hour long workshops. Each hour there were three or four topics to choose from, so we kept busy looking at schedules and finding the correct rooms.



Lunch was courtesy of Microsoft, and while we ate we were given a preview of what Vista has to offer. For our PC members who have experienced or seen iPhoto and Widgets on the Mac and wished PCs had them also – wish no more; Vista has Microsoft's answer to both, as well as the Dock for program icons! No more busy desktops

for PCs!

After the presentation came the drawing for the next set of four to play with the laptop and Vista. Surprise, surprise – Lyn Morse was called. Two heads swiveled my way: Shelia and Kent! I picked the laptop up and was told I had it until 10:00 p.m. Kent took off to get it charged so they could give Vista a trial run. This was the beginning of our group's lucky streak.

More sessions and then it was dinner time. The Tech Two, Kent and Shelia, returned the laptop to me and said they needed no more time with Vista Beta Two. (See their comments elsewhere.)

Dinner was a combination Mexican buffet and vendors faire. Food and tables were in



the middle of the banquet room, and computer software vendors with their products ringed the sides. Eat a bite, wander a bit – or not. 10 of the 12 sat at a table together, which turned into a very unique experience.

One great thing about the vendors' faire is that at the end of it, names are drawn for some of the things the vendors have brought. Table 13 turned into one lucky table. In fact, Let's Compute was one lucky club. Every one of our names were called. Unfortunately, five of those had left, so those prizes went to someone else. The seven of us remaining were in a state that went between giggles and sheer laughter at our good fortune. It can't get much better than that! So ended Saturday.

Have I mentioned the weather or location? We were at Town and Country, which is built around wonderful rose gardens and walkways; several pools dot the grounds also. And the weather was cool with a slight breeze. Definitely it was a nice change from browning palms and 110° plus!



Sunday morning and another tasty breakfast, provided by Corel. Shawn, Corel's representative, did a fantastic demonstration of Corel's Painter Essential 3. What a program! It is absolutely, beautifully simple to navigate and use. And, to my delight, cross platform! Someone's name would be drawn to receive the program! Would our luck hold up? The name was drawn – ta ta – Lyn Morse! Unbelievable! Much more laughter and astonishment from the Let's Compute quarter.

Okay, onward, two more sessions to choose from, and more ideas to return home with. Then it was lunch time with SWUG providing a very good deli lunch. This was followed by Smart Computing having a drawing for three prizes – each worth over \$800. We had eight entries in, but this time our luck didn't hold. We can't win them all, but we try!

Next was a photography show, a first for SWUG. Great photographs and an excellent critique by a professional photographer who projected jpg images of each one, and using Corel's Painter Essential 3, showed how he could have tweaked each just

a bit. It was very effective seeing the improvements instead of just being told what he could have done. The critiquing was very well received, as could be heard from the comments of those watching and listening.

And then, the final act of the conference; each of us had been given a ticket as we checked in, and there was an opportunity to purchase other tickets for an Olympus SP-310 digital camera with enough features to please anyone. The accessory kit was loaded with everything a person would want – from batteries, to charger, to mini tripod, etc. etc. etc.

Tension crackled, breaths were held, people sat on the edges of their chairs, the number was read, 9718, a pause as people looked at their tickets one last time. Our table erupted in laughter and clapping after we heard a small voice say, "That's Me." June Cross walked to the front for the Olympus.

The members of Let's Compute Computer Club were big winners; we not only learned a lot to take home and use for the club, but we also took away memories of good fellowship and laughter – and a few prizes.

How about being a part of SWUG next year, this time in mid July. Who knows, maybe Lady Luck will join our group again in San Diego, 2007.



By Shelia Harbet

We have all been hearing about Windows Vista for the longest time. At the SWUG in San Diego there was an opportunity to actually sit down with a laptop and "play" with it. Here are some of my observations.

Vista is beautiful to look at, promises to make our day-to-day lives a bit easier and contains some improvements. Vista does offer some new features that enable you to view your documents in radically new ways (new for Windows, that is).

For example, you are able to run a local search right from the Start menu. A new window displays a list of all the files, documents, email messages, music files, images and more that contain the search term. You are offered the opportunity to save the results in a search folder. The next time you open the search folder, Vista shows not only the files from the original search, but also any new files you've created that include the search term. That can be very helpful when working on a project.

The Start button has been replaced by an "orb" with the Windows logo and the Start menu has a new look. There are still Internet and Email icons pinned to the top of the left side of the menu, and the collection of links to Windows features on the right has been reconfigured. Also, the

Continued on page 4

## Windows Vista

Continued from page 3

icon at the top of the menu changes depending on which link is highlighted. The new Start menu has an integrated Search box as well.

Although the desktop itself hasn't changed much, the new high-resolution icons are much prettier than in previous versions. The most notable change related to the desktop is the new customization interface called Desktop Background, which is much nicer than the old dialog box of controls and also offers a much wider variety of wallpapers, some of which are quite stunning

Aero Glass is the new look of Vista's window, controls and other elements. The "Glass" part means that for systems with relatively high-end graphics capabilities, the window title bars and border will have a transparency effect.

Window thumbnails are scaled-down versions of windows and documents. For supported file types, these thumbnails are "live," which means they reflect the current content of the window or document. For example, in folder windows, the icon for an Excel workbook shows the first worksheet, and an icon for a Word document shows the first page. Similarly, a Windows Media Player thumbnail shows live content, such as a running video.

The live thumbnails idea also extends to the taskbar. If you mouse over a taskbar button, Vista displays a live thumbnail for the window associated with

the button.

Windows Vista has given folder windows a considerable makeover. The "address" of the folder is hidden in favor of a hierarchical "breadcrumb" folder path, the Task pane is now a strip below the address bar, the Classic (as they're now called) menus are hidden (you can display them by pressing Alt), and the window can be divided into as many as five sections. Besides the folder content, you can display the Navigation pane on the left, the Reading pane on the right, the Search pane above and the Preview pane below.

Vista's new Windows Search Engine promises to be a more powerful alternative to the search capabilities of previous Windows versions. This is partially because it supports searching via tags, comments, and other document information. But perhaps the biggest and potentially most useful search innovation in Vista is the Search box that appears at the bottom of the Start menu and within every folder window. The Search box enables you to perform as-you-type searches, which means that when you type even a single character in the Search box, Vista automatically begins searching all your programs and files (in the case of the Start menu's Search box) or all the files in the current folder (in the case of a folder window's Search box). There are also Instant Search boxes within Windows Media Player, Windows Mail, Windows Photo Gallery and many other locations.

The Windows Sidebar is a pane that appears on the right side of the desktop. You can populate the Sidebar with a new

technology called gadgets, which are mini applications that can display the local weather, stock quotes, the current time, RSS news feeds and much more. Gadgets are known as widgets on the Mac.

Windows Mail is the new name for Outlook Express, which Microsoft needed to change because some people were getting it confused with Microsoft Outlook. A nice addition is the new calendar application, Windows Calendar, to track appointments and to-do lists.

Windows Photo Gallery is a new program, that can import images and videos from a camera, a scanner, removable media, the network or the Web. You can then view the images, add metadata such as captions and tags, rate the images, search for images and even apply common fixes to improve the look of photos. You can also burn selected images to a DVD disc right from the program.

For those of you who are considering the switch to Vista, I would not recommend being an early adopter. I tend to hold off and let some of the major players work out the bugs in the first several months.

If you are considering updating or replacing your computer, the minimum requirements, as stipulated by Microsoft, to move up to Vista are:

- 800MHz modern process
- 512MB of RAM, (performance will be quite slow);
- 15GB hard disk free space minimum;
- Graphics memory minimum is 32MB.



By Kent McDonald

Our clan from Let's Compute was chosen by lottery to test drive the new Microsoft Vista Operating System that is scheduled for general release in 2007. Microsoft has promised to better fortify the new software against the nasty computer-security threats, so the release date has slipped into 2007 now.

The new Internet Explorer 7, which is bundled with Vista, alerts you when you try to go to a web site that is known to be a phishing site. Also, it warns you when spyware could be coming into your computer from a web site. The core software in Vista now has better protection from the types of crashes fondly known as "blue screen of death." Finally, there are parental controls to limit the privileges of children who might otherwise change system settings or surf to adult web sites.

The desktop appearance of Vista is new, in that the borders of windows now are transparent, and the file icons now look like thumbnail images of the document/photo. The way that you start and stop the computer has changed. Amazingly, it is even more obscure now than it was in Windows XP. New rendering software makes graphics appear more lifelike. This will please those who play complex games on the computer.

Vista now has better support of multimedia such as video, photos and video. A new photo gallery function allows tagging so that you can easily retrieve the pictures you want. A TIVO-like DVR function is also included for recording TV shows. A music gallery offers the same functionality that Apple has in its iTunes and Music Store for those who use iPods.

The Vista operating system is definitely an improvement over XP, but there will be upgrade headaches like we have seen before. There were bugs and quirks in the pre-release version we tested. Some drivers didn't work, and the new search function failed to find what was requested. I don't expect users to rush out and pay for the new features; they will wait until things settle down.



By Terry Kay

The August 8 ISIG meeting was remarkably well attended for a hot summer night. Approximately 20 brave souls showed up to hear about, and discuss, alternative internet browsers. Terry Kay led a short historical review of browsers and then focused on the latest challenger to Internet Explorer, Mozilla's Firefox. Many, if not all, the Computer Lab computers have Firefox installed, so it was easy to demonstrate. The main benefit of Firefox over IE seems

to be its low profile for malware.

The web needed a browser that was fast, lightweight, and did everything IE does, but better.

That browser is Firefox. Firefox



is a browser designed from scratch to be secure, fast and customizable. It

is the safest browser available, as it doesn't contain many of the more obvious vulnerabilities that IE has, such as ActiveX components so often used to install spyware on IE-users' machines. Most importantly, Firefox is still under very active development by a huge community of volunteer coders. If vulnerability is found, it is corrected and an update made available in days, sometimes hours. This means Firefox cannot fall into the same trap that IE did — receiving no updates for years and having its various security holes get exploited by thousands of hackers and virus writers.

<http://>

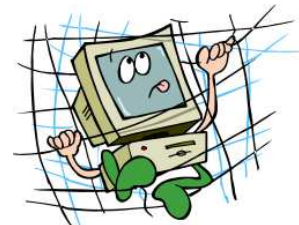
[www.yourhtmlsource.com/](http://www.yourhtmlsource.com/)

[starthere/](http://www.yourhtmlsource.com/starthere/)

[browserreview.html#reviews](http://www.yourhtmlsource.com/browserreview.html#reviews)

For more information on Browsers visit, **Download.com. An Introduction to Browsers on**

No particular topic was announced for the **next meeting on September 12**, so we will entertain questions from the floor as long as it pertains to the Internet.



# September Class Schedule

Day	Date	Time	Class	Book	Teacher
Fri	Sept. 1	10 - 2	Open Lab		
Sat	Sept. 2	10 - 12	<b>Open Lab</b>		
Mon	Sept. 4		<b>LABOR DAY - CLOSED</b>		
Tues	Sept. 5	1:00	PC Basics – Mouse and Keyboard (PC)	3	Shelia Harbet
		2:00	Desktop & Shortcuts (PC)	3	Shelia Harbet
Wed	Sept. 6	1 - 5	PhotoShop Elements Basic 5 – (Mac)	1	Lyn Morse
Thur	Sept. 7	8-10	Comic Life (Mac)	1	Lyn Morse
		3:00	Word 4 (PC)	2	Jan Grenert
Fri	Sept. 8	1 - 3:00	Burning an iTunes CD (Mac & PC)	1	Lyn Morse
Sat	Sept. 9	10 - 12	<b>Open Lab</b>		
Mon	Sept. 11	1:00	Word 1 (PC)	2	Walter Goldsmith
		2:00	Word 2 (PC)	2	Walter Goldsmith
		3:00	Calling cards (Mac)	1	Shirley Allan
Tues	Sept. 12	1:00	Internet Searching (PC & Mac)	7	Shelia Harbet
		2:00	Favorites: Using & Managing (PC & Mac)	7	Shelia Harbet
		7:00	<b>Internet SIG</b>		
Wed	Sept. 13	9:00	File Folders & Maintenance (PC)	12	Charlie Voelker
		1:00	Typing Workshop	15	Barbara Kaye
		2:00	Spanish Workshop 1	15	Barbara Kaye
Thur	Sept. 14	9:00	<b>Board Meeting</b>		Idyllwild Room
		3 – 4:30	Word 5 Part 1 (PC)	2	Jan Grenert
Fri	Sept 15	1:00	Excel 1 (PC)	5	Walter Goldsmith
		2:00	Excel 2 (PC)	5	Walter Goldsmith
Sat	Sept. 16	10 - 12	<b>Open Lab</b>		
Mon	Sept. 18	1:00	Word 3 (PC)	2	Walter Goldsmith
		2:00	Word 3.5 (PC)	2	Walter Goldsmith
		3:00	Creating/Sorting Lists & Making Labels (Mac)	1	Shirley Allan
Tues	Sept. 19	8 - 10	Photos into Word for the Mac	1	Lyn Morse
		1:00	Not available for classes		
		2:00	<b>General Meeting</b>		Speaker's Hall
Wed.	Sept. 20	2:00	Spanish Workshop 2	15	Barbara Kaye
Thur	Sept. 21	2:00	Switch to Firefox (PC)	7	Shelia Harbet
		3 – 4:30	Word 5 Part 2 (PC)	2	Jan Grenert
Fri	Sept. 22	1:00	Excel 3 (PC)	5	Walter Goldsmith
		2:00	Excel 4 (PC)	5	Walter Goldsmith
Sat	Sept. 23	10 - 12	<b>Open Lab</b>		
Mon	Sept. 25	10 - 2	Open Lab		
Tues	Sept. 26	10 - 2	Open Lab		
Wed	Sept. 27	2:00	Spanish Workshop 3 (Pre-req. Workshop 2)	15	Barbara Kaye
Thur	Sept. 28	3 – 4:30	Linking Text Boxes (PC)	2	Jan Grenert
Fri	Sept. 29	10 - 2	Open Lab		
Sat	Sept. 30	10 - 12	<b>Open Lab</b>		

## September Classes Listed Alphabetically

<b>Class</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>BOARD MEETING</b>	<b>9-14</b>	<b>9:00</b>
Burning an iTunes CD - Mac	9-8	1:00+
Calling Cards - Mac	9-11	3:00
Comic Life - Mac	9-7	8:00
Creating Lists & Making Labels - Mac	9-18	3:00
Desktop & Shortcuts - PC	9-5	2:00
<b><u>Excel Series for the PC</u></b>		
Excel 1 and 2	9-15	1:00+
Excel 3 and 4	9-22	1:00+
<u>Favorites:</u>		
Using & Managing PC/Mac	9-12	2:00
File Folders & Maintenance - PC	9-13	9:00
<b>GENERAL MEETING</b>	<b>9-19</b>	<b>2:00</b>
Internet Searching PC & Mac	9-12	1:00
<b>INTERNET SIG</b>	9-12	7:00pm
PC Basics - Mouse & Keyboard	9-5	1:00
<u>Photoshop Elements PLUS - Mac</u>		
Part 1 Basic 5 +1	9-6	1:00
Photos into MS Word - Mac	9-19	8:00+
<b><u>Spanish PC &amp; Mac</u></b>		
Spanish 1	9-13	2:00
Spanish 2	9-20	2:00
Spanish 3 (Prereq Workshop 2)	9-27	2:00
Switch to Firefox	9-21	2:00
Typing Workshop	9-13	1:00
<b>Word Series - PC</b>		
<u>Beginning Classes: Walter Goldsmith</u>		
1 Creating a Basic Letter	9-11	1:00
2 Revising a Basic Letter	9-11	2:00
3 More business letter basics	9-18	1:00
3.5 Envelopes and Labels	9-18	2:00
<u>Advanced Classes: Jan Grenert</u>		
Word 4	9-7	3:00+
Word 5, pt. 1	9-14	3:00+
Word 5, pt. 2	9-21	3:00+
Linking Text Boxes	9-28	3:00+

## September Monitor and Open Lab Schedule

<b>TIME</b>		<b>10-12</b>	<b>12-2</b>
1-Sep	Fri		J. Manion
2-Sep	Sat	L. Rowe	
4-Sep	Mon	<b>CLOSED LABOR DAY</b>	
5-Sep	Tue	S. Cronin	H. Reese
6-Sep	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
7-Sep	Thu	B. Osborn	F. Diaz
8-Sep	Fri		J. Manion
9-Sep	Sat	L. Rowe	
11-Sep	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
12-Sep	Tue	S. Cronin	H. Reese
13-Sep	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
14-Sep	Thu	B. Osborn	F. Diaz
15-Sep	Fri		J. Manion
16-Sep	Sat	L. Rowe	
18-Sep	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
19-Sep	Tue	S. Cronin	H. Reese
20-Sep	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
21-Sep	Thu	B. Osborn	F. Diaz
22-Sep	Fri		J. Manion
23-Sep	Sat	<b>CLOSED</b>	
25-Sep	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
26-Sep	Tue	S. Cronin	H. Reese
27-Sep	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
28-Sep	Thu		
29-Sep	Fri		J. Manion
30-Sep	Sat	L. Rowe	

## Mac Notes

### SAVING IN SAFARI

**Q:** How do I download pictures with Safari? In Netscape, I just click and hold and then save the picture. It doesn't work that way with Safari.

**A:** It's a slightly different process in Safari. Hold down the control key and click the image you want to save. This brings up a contextual menu that includes an option to "Download Image to Disk," which saves the file to your downloads folder. (An even easier option is to simply click and drag the image to the desktop.)

# September General Club Information

## INTERNET SIG

Sept. 12, 7:00 pm

## WINDOWS SIG

No Meeting in September

## DIGITAL SIG

No Meeting in September



## BOARD MEETING

Sept. 14, 9:00 am

## MAC SIG

No Meeting in September

## GENERAL MEETING

Sept. 19, 2:00 pm

## "Let's Compute" Officers

Lyn Morse, President, Programs .....	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 .....	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

### September Teachers

Shirley Allan .....	345-5087
Walter Goldsmith .....	772-8448
Jan Grenert .....	360-9085
Shelia Harbet .....	360-7146
Barbara Kaye .....	772-6529
Lyn Morse .....	345-4466

### Volunteer Coordinator: Sharon Kiel

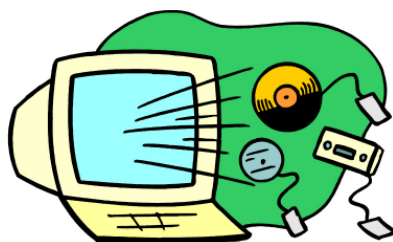
If you would like to be a volunteer, call Sharon at 772-0745

### September Lab Monitors

Cecilia Chu	David Feign	Howard Reese
Shirley Cronin	John Manion	Leonette Rowe
Bill Crowley	Bob Osborn	Charlie Voelker
Frank Diaz	<b>Moe Sullivan-Coordinator</b>	

### 35 MM Scanner Monitors

Pete Claar	Sheldon Plotkin	Leonette Rowe
Walter Goldsmith	Conrad Lembers	Harvey Schwartz
<b>Jack Drill-Coordinator</b>		



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