

SLO Bytes HardCopy

A publication of the San Luis Obispo PC Users Group

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October 2004

September 5, 2004 web links from Alan's General Windows SIG

SLO Bytes Web Photo Gallery

<http://www.slobytes.org/gallery/index.htm>

Microsoft On-line Windows Marketplace: Software & hardware for the Windows operating system

<http://www.windowsmarketplace.com/>

Microsoft Security Resources

<http://www.microsoft.com/protect/>

<http://www.microsoft.com/spyware/>

<http://www.microsoft.com/security/>

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/sp2/>

Windows XP Service Pack 2 (SP2) Support Center

<http://snipurl.com/8gjz>

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?pr=windowsxpsp2>

Microsoft Support Options for Windows XP Service Pack 2 (SP2)

<http://snipurl.com/8phj>

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=fh;en-us;Prodoffer80&sd=GN>

September 2004 Main Meeting Review by Bill Avery

We took a quick break for our Social SIG, our mid-meeting highlight, with real cookies and treats, fresh coffee and teas, expertly served by our hosts, Nancy Vrooman, and Peter Stonehewer. They are set up so our members and guests can enjoy a chance to catch up on the past month, and share problems and solutions on a one-to-one basis. As our group was sharing the afternoon meeting hall schedule with the big Odd Fellows Luau, we had to shift out of the dining hall to the front lobby. We resumed promptly in the main hall, when the iced tea ran out!

The main speaker was our friend, Gene Barlow, formerly of PowerQuest, the makers of Partition Magic, Drive Copy, and Drive Image software. He is now representing his own company, User Group Relations www.usergroupstore.com [ph.: 1-435-652-3005], and offering more products for members of PC user groups than he was able to do before, all at great discount prices.

Gene and Linda have been visiting SLO Bytes annually for several years, offering great products and a presentation that usually centers on data backup and hard drive recovery software. Gene has compiled 2 CD ROMs which help users understand the most important subsystem in their computer, the hard drive. One is titled *Discovering Your Hard Drive*, and the other is *Backing Up Your Hard Drive*.

This year we learned about Acronis' True Image, a new backup program which automates the process of creating incremental images of your entire hard drive, in case an unfortunate accident occurs, and you need to restore your investment in your computer. He also discussed a new hard drive organization tool,

called Disk Director Suite, V9, a comparable replacement for Partition Magic. Another product was featured in the discussion, called "Spirit Move Me V2.4". This is for moving a complete computer installation from one hard drive to another. Gene's recommendation is that we try to stay up to date with technology. These products are a key investment to help you achieve that goal. You set up the old computer and new computer, link them with a cable, and Move Me will duplicate the old system on the new one! If you need to erase the data on the old system, to prepare it for sale, or prevent any security problems, the WhiteCanyon WipeDrive V3.0 program will do the trick. Once the new drive is setup, you will probably want to backup the hard drive, as quickly and as easily as possible, onto another drive or other device, which you can store away from your machine, as an insurance policy. Gene does not recommend using a CD or DVD to backup a hard drive. He does suggest that an external hard drive is the best choice, and these are available in hundreds of sizes and models. We saw the miniature and standard sizes, which were very practical, and not too expensive. They come in USB-2 and Firewire connection styles. Be careful that you do not have an older USB port, which will be very slow, he warned. If necessary, an internal add-on card in a desktop system, or a PCMCIA [PC-Card] accessory can be installed to provide the upgraded connection. Currently, you can get up to 300GB drives, which can make several backups on one drive. His favorite choice was an empty external case, with a good quality drive inside. The cost at Fry's was \$25, plus a Seagate 200GB drive for \$60, for a total of \$85! Such bargains are available, if you watch the Fry's flyers in our newspaper. Opinions on how often to backup vary, depending on how much you use your machine. PC Mag. has said that once a week is best for power users, and if you are an average user, a schedule of monthly backups will probably be sufficient. The Acronis' True Image program will allow a full backup, followed by regular incremental backups, which is the most effective and efficient way to protect your hard drive. This is not a file backup method. Individual files can be retrieved from the image files, but individual files are not stored by themselves. Restoring hard drives can be done in a few seconds, and if a virus was stored in the most recent image, you can step back to a previous image to remove it, Gene said. We saw a quick demo of a backup from his laptop to an external drive, which was very fast. He used compression, and made new incremental images of the partitions which had changed since September 5. One advantage of Acronis over the older V2i Protector program is that True Image will run under Win98 or WinME, as well as WinXP, which the V2i would not do. It is better than Drive Image, which does not do incremental backups. Comparing these products to Ghost by Symantec, Gene said there have not been any new releases of Ghost since about two years ago, although Ver. 9 will be out fairly soon, and will contain improvements similar to the True Image product.

- W. Avery - wavery@slonet.org

Guy Kuncir's Featured Speaker Programming Schedule

The featured speakers at the October 3rd SLO Bytes meeting will be Pat and Kenny Keith, owners and operators of Computer-Works located at 207 W. Main Street, Santa Maria (boolseye@gte.net, 805-347-1076). Computer-Works is a PC service and repair company.

The Keiths' presentation will be focused on the software contained within the Computer-Works Essential Utility CD, showing the audience the best way to keep their computers safe from spyware, viruses and hackers. These disks contain over 20 useful utilities, including the recently released Microsoft Windows XP Service Pack SP2 anti-virus and anti-spyware programs, a file management utility, an Office suite and many other useful programs with general applicability. The Computer-Works CD has been compiled over the last year and a half selecting the best freeware programs they believe to be available. It also contains some shareware software, these being included where good versions of the desired capabilities could not be found; Diskeeper being one such shareware program. These CDs will be provided to all attendees free of charge, on-hand supplies permitting. The extremely popular CDs are also offered at their store at no charge and have been mentioned in the weekly Santa Maria Times column that Pat writes.

Additionally, the Keiths will describe their soon to be completed project of setting up a Computer-Works web hosting capability using a recently installed full class C T1 line will be happy to address any network questions that may arise.

Dennis Johansen, a San Luis Obispo business man, will be speaking about the *Technology Transitions in Digital Photography* at the **November 7th SLO Bytes meeting**.

There are almost daily changes in digital photography technology. We try to stay up with the changes as best we can and several industry magazines help by providing information about innovations months in advance. Knowledge of this field is something that must be constantly refreshed. In his talk, Mr. Johansen will provide us a "snapshot" of the technology that is the current basis of this rapidly changing industry.

Dennis Johansen is the owner of Jim's Campus Camera in downtown San Luis Obispo. Jim's is now beginning its 34th year of operation in San Luis Obispo, and is the largest and best-equipped camera store on the central coast of California. Jim's has been selling digital cameras for six years. Olympus, Nikon, Canon, and Minolta brands make up the selection of about 25 models on hand at any one time.

Jim's also sells the popular Nikon D-70 and Canon D-20, the new Canon Digital Rebel SLR cameras, and lenses.

Webmaster's Notes by Ralph Sutter

This is a reminder to all SLO Bytes members to bring their photos to each General meeting. Images can either be candid shots of club activities or any photos that you have taken and would like to see displayed in the SLO Bytes Photo Gallery, www.slobytes.org/photos. Bring your digital camera by the Treasurer's table at the close of each meeting and I will transfer your images to my laptop via a multi-format card reader. I will also accept images on CDs. Please note that I will not be able to accept prints. Share your pictures. Share your skills. Help SLO Bytes build our Photo Gallery.

Ralph Sutter
SLO Bytes Webmaster

President's Message

At our 3 October 2004 meeting

At 1 PM, Alan will moderate a computer question/answer session

At 2:30 PM, Pat and Kenny Keith will give their presentation.

Check out the **money saving offer that KCBXnet** (aka Slonet) is extending to all current and future members of SLO Bytes. Go to <http://www.slobytes.org> and click on the KCBX offers special Internet access pricing for SLO Bytes members link.

Take advantage of the four **learning CD's** "Learn Windows XP, Excel, Word & Power Point" available for our members to check out (at the Treasurer's table)

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We also have **Adobe Photoshop 7, learning CD's** to check out (at the Treasurer's table). These 5 CD's cover, in depth, the various program features in lesson format.

Continue to bring any **used ink-jet printer or toner cartridges** to our meeting. We collect them (at the Treasurer's table) and turn them over to "Make A-Wish Foundation" who generate much needed funds for their organization by refurbishing and selling them.

--Ray Miklas

Treasurer's Report

Aug 24, 2004 –Sept 24, 2004

Income

Membership dues-new	\$100.00
Renewal members	25.00
Refreshments	22.37

Expenses

Hall rent	75.00
Raffle prizes	41.89
Bus. Cards	41.82
Banner/domain name	124.86
Stationery	6.49

Bank accounts @ 8/31

Checking Acct Balance	\$ 1,123.40
Saving Acct Balance	3,149.14

New Members: Merle Ackerman; Henrietta Groot; Eric Schug; John Simko

Robert Mires, Treasurer

Club Information and Meeting Times

SLO Bytes, a PC Users Group dedicated to educate its members in the use of personal computers, digital devices and software, meets on the first Sunday of each month at the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Hall at 520 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo. All meetings are open to the public at no cost. Special interest groups meet from 1 to 200 PM and guest speaker presentations begin at 230 PM. Contact Guy Kuncir (489-1395, gkuncir@charter.net) or visit www.slobytes.org for additional information about SLO Bytes and the scheduled presentation.

HardCopy is a monthly publication of SLO Bytes PC Users' Group located in San Luis Obispo, California. Information in this Newsletter is derived from both our own membership and other PC User Group Newsletters. The purpose of this publication is to inform our members of meetings and provide information related to the use of PCs and various Operating Systems.

Membership Dues are \$25 per year. Full membership entitles you to our monthly newsletter via e-mail, technical assistance, raffle gift drawing at the end of the meetings, a voice in the affairs of the club, and comradeships.

Article Submission Deadline for submission of articles is the 20th of each month. Articles should be E-mailed to the editor (rmiklas@bigfoot.com).

Disclaimer: Neither SLO Bytes PC Users' Group, its officers, editors, or contributors to this newsletter assume liability for damages arising out of this publication of any article, including but not limited to the listing of programming code, batch files and other helpful hints. Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted by other user groups if credit is given to both the author and newsletter from which it was taken. Reproduction of articles with a specific Copyright notice is prohibited without prior permission from the original author.

Outside Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

HTML/Internet SIG normally meets at 6:30 PM on the Monday following our Sunday General Meeting at Ralph Sutter's home in Arroyo Grande. Call Ralph at (805) 489-8678 for directions.

Linux SIG normally meets on Thursday at 6:30 PM (following our Sunday's General Meeting) at KCBX.net [a.k.a. SLONET] Training Center, 4100 Vachell Lane, SLO.

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Alan Raul (General SIG/Linux SIG)

Nancy Vrooman (Refreshments)

Peter Stonehewer (Refreshments)

Nate Wallenstein (Contributing Columnist)

Ken Stilts (Set-up/Clean-up)

Cliff Buttschardt (Set-up/Clean-up)

John Enos (Set-up/Clean-up)

Bill Palmerston (Set-up/Clean-up)

SLO Bytes Website <http://www.slobytes.org>