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PC Users Group**

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**American Power Conversion  
will protect your system with its  
“multipath” power protection!**

**A drop in power is be more  
common than the lightning strike  
and can cause just as large a  
problem!**

**Public is welcome at KIPCUG's  
General Meeting at IUS.**

**Free Program Starts at 6:30 PM**

**[www.kipcug.org](http://www.kipcug.org)**

**KIPCUG**

Next meeting

APC

IUS, OGLE CENTER

Tuesday, June 1st, 6:30 p.m.



# From The Editor

This month is election time for KIPCUG. I'm sure the 1999-2000 slate of officers will be Y2K compliant. I am equally sure that the new Board of Directors will face its share of opportunities. The growth of KIPCUG will depend on their leadership. (Notice that 100% of the slate will be serving in positions they did not hold 2 years ago.) It is my hope that they assume their positions with an eye forward while remembering the lessons learned from the past. KIPCUG has regained the membership losses we went through by changing meeting locations several times. We now have a long term commitment to and from IUS. The current finances are stable and positive. We have a strong membership program in place. Our SIGs have grown in number and in quality during the past year. Vendors view KIPCUG as a strong user group.

The eye forward should always be searching for new members and that is every member's responsibility. It should be simple: invite someone to a meeting, ask them to join, and ask them to help out! Marketing or Publicity will be key to our growth. Events such as ITEC Trade show, local KIPCUG promotions, SIGs, vendor presentations, and even the I/O are key to getting the KIPCUG name out in the marketplace. Let's remember to act and dress in a business manner as a non-professional action is worse than any positive action. As a group, let's have an open mind to exploring new ideas. Remember why we joined KIPCUG ourselves and try to offer that same reason to someone else. Next election - lets have your name on the ballot!

*How can we help you? John*

**Kentucky Indiana PC  
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(Newsletter business)  
1786 Klerner Lane  
New Albany, IN 47150**

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All editorial materials submitted to I/O become the property of KIPCUG, and may be used by the organization in any way deemed appropriate by the newsletter staff and the Board of Directors of KIPCUG.

The editors reserve the right to make any changes deemed necessary to any editorial matter submitted or to refuse publication of any material submitted.

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## Contributing staff writers

**Fred Soward      Charley May  
Karen Schuler    Judy Lococo**

**M  
E  
M  
B  
E  
R**



# American Power Conversion

APC will be here June 1st. If anyone thinks that a "power strip" is boring, you're in for a big surprise. APC puts on one of the best vendor presentations you will see on a user group stage.

We will have the opportunity to register to Win a FREE Dell Dimension Multimedia PC from APC...plus learn how to protect your hardware and data from the 120 power problems that affect your computer every month\*!

Over 2,000 thunderstorms are occurring somewhere on the globe at any moment. Simultaneously, lightning strikes the earth 100 times



a second. These facts mean potential damage to your hardware.

An IBM study shows that the typical computer is subject to 120 power problems per month. A power problem reaching your sensitive equipment has the same effect as a magnet near your hard drive: data loss and corruption. So how much is your data worth to you?

APC will discuss the proactive prevention of various power prob-

lems including, surges, spikes, sags, noise and blackouts. APC will also cover how these power problems affect your home and office electronic equipment; as they undoubtedly do, and what you need to look for in power protection solutions. See APC's latest products and learn why over 8 million customers choose APC.

## FREE

Be sure to attend the presentation, APC will be raffling a **Back-UPS® Office** and APC will extend a special DISCOUNT just for User Group members.

## Back-UPS Office: Multipath Protection

Multiple peripherals and data lines to and from your system are vital, but increases the likelihood of power related problems. Without them, you can't do your job. However, plugging a phone line into your computer doubles your vulnerability to power problems; add any peripheral, and it triples. If your modem drops during a power sag, you'll lose all data in transit.

Even if your computer AC power-line is shielded, when a surge hits an unprotected peripheral, it can blaze down serial and data lines, and toast your expensive PC. You lose time, money and end up spending another late night at the office to meet your deadlines.

Back-UPS Office, with instantaneous battery backup, full-time surge suppression, building wiring

fault protection and a common ground, keeps your hardware and data safe.

Until now, protection for your entire system required several devices. But multi-device protection can leave you vulnerable to line noise and unwanted data glitches created by the voltage differential between outlets. Back-UPS Office provides reliable, common ground protection for your entire system.

Ensure system continuity: Protect your CPU, internal drives, external storage drives and monitor with battery backup. Spread full-time, Multipath™ surge suppression safety net around any remaining integrated peripherals, like modems, printers, and phone systems. Back-UPS Office's convenient BlockSafe™ outlet spacing han-

dles all size plugs, including transformer blocks.

Back-UPS Office protection means true Multipath™ protection: Clean, safe power to every peripheral and instantaneous battery back-up to keep your cutting edge system from crashing. It means protection for less by integrating the security of a surge suppressor with the power of a UPS, guaranteed up to \$25,000.

# Upcoming Meetings

Fred Soward, Program Director

Upcoming General Meetings - ALWAYS THE FIRST TUESDAY of the month.

Most of you already know this, but for those who may have missed the announcement, this is my last month as the Program Director. Unless something unforeseen happens, Judy Lococo will be taking over Program Director duties beginning the 1st of June. I'm sure there will be changes, but the general flow of the meeting will likely remain the same.



**June 1** - APC (American Power Conversion) If it's summer in Louisville, it must be power outages, spikes, and other nasty things happening to the electricity going into your PC and peripherals! What an opportune time to talk about Uninterruptible Power Supplies, Surge Suppressors, and more. APC has already shipped the door prize and a LOT of special user-group-only pricing sheets.



Lava Technologies will be on-hand for a quick showing of some of their hardware products. Lava specializes in I/O boards with some interesting solutions. I'm especially interested in seeing and hearing about their dual-parallel port card.



**July 6** - Lernout and Hauspie. L&H is well-known for their Voice eXpress software. They produce other voice related software including Talking Max, a virtual talking pet. With this meeting, we will have the four most prominent speech recognition products currently available for PCs.

We're going to try this again - US Access Bank, Louisville's First Internet Bank. Originally scheduled for May, they'll be giving a short demonstration of the online access to the bank. Second, they'll be available to field technical questions about the bank and its on-line implementation.



**August 3** - Corel will be presenting both Corel WordPerfect 2000 and CorelDraw 9! They're scheduled for release in May and I already have a copy ordered. <grin> From what I saw at Fall COMDEX, the WordPerfect Suite has already leapfrogged over Microsoft Office 2000.

## September

**September 7** - We'll be taking a look at eCommerce and other

Internet technologies. Manpower Technical will also be presenting a seminar on their services and computer based training.

As a first step toward the goals I presented in last month's election column, I've already met with Deanna Epperly of KNITE. <[www.knite.org](http://www.knite.org) for information regarding KNITE> This was an initial discussion about bringing area user groups together to form a coalition. The thought is that this will let us speak to vendors with several hundred or even thousands of users behind us instead of many separate and disjointed voices. There should also be a sharing of resources and clarification of purposes within each of the groups. In the end, we should be able to provide better support to the needs of the current and future membership and to the community as a whole. Our next step is to contact other local groups and discuss ways we can help one another. What do YOU think? Let us know.

Anything else you'd like to see us bring into a General Meeting? We'll try to support your requests, but the first step is ASKING! Contact me by phone (502) 426-1829 or by EMail, [frsoward@win.net](mailto:frsoward@win.net).



# Lava Computer Manufacturing

Lava Computer Manufacturing will be at KIPUCG's June 1, 1999 meeting.

Lava is a Canadian designer and manufacturer of PC I/O boards, specializing in high-speed Serial & Parallel ports.

Established in 1984, Lava has gained a worldwide reputation for meticulous attention to detail, and unmatched manufacturing quality standards.

Lava's trademark Lifetime Warranty reflects the entire corporate philosophy: "We settle for nothing less than technical excellence."

Lava Computer MFG Inc. emerges a leader in today's computer industry with the release of its revolutionary and fully PCI compliant, Plug-n-Play Parallel port accelerator boards, the Lava Parallel-PCI and Lava Dual Parallel-PCI. As a manufacturer of I/O boards Lava now produces its own PCI interface chip, ensuring the highest quality, while keeping cost down.



(Information gathered from Lava, Rexdale, Ontario)

Lava Parallel-PCI hits the market with huge success. Building on the success of Lava's most popular ISA bus parallel interfaces, the Lava Parallel-PCI is the world's first PCI-based parallel port accelerator. As most PC's are now being shipped



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

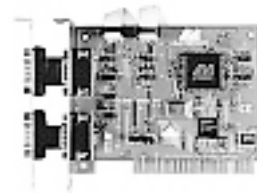
with only two ISA slots, Lava recognizes how valuable this real estate is, and is dedicated to the PC industry's natural migration to PCI. The Lava Parallel-PCI has all the advantages of the Lava's ISA bus parallel ports, but takes full advantage of PCI's speed, resulting in up to triple the effective data throughput rates when printing or accessing an external parallel port device (e.g. Iomega Zip drive, scanner, Internet camera) through the port.

Lava's single port 25 pin Enhanced (EPP) Parallel Port PCI accelerator can sustain transfer rates of up to 60 MBytes/minute, almost triple its fastest ISA predecessors. As the data demands of parallel peripherals increase, Lava's Parallel-PCI accelerator eliminates the most common bottlenecks that frustrate users. Furthermore, with the Lava Parallel PCI the user is no longer restricted to the three standard parallel port addresses. Its plug-n-play feature automatically selects a free address and IRQ during installation, eliminating user error and conflicts. The Lava Parallel-PCI is also configurable for



standard ISA LPT addresses (0278h and 0378h) for 100% backward compatibility with legacy peripherals and software.

Enhanced parallel peripheral performance can be seen with such devices as printers, Zip drives, external CD ROM's and CD Burners, optical drives, plotters and scanners with or without parallel pass through.



The Lava Parallel-PCI comes with a Lava Lifetime Warranty and carries a suggested retail price of \$54.95 (U.S.)

Lava's Dual Parallel-PCI has the same level of performance as the Lava Parallel-PCI with an added bonus of two Enhanced (EPP)



Parallel ports. The Dual Parallel-PCI offers great flexibility: its 2-port structure allows the user to connect two parallel port peripherals to one card, using only one system IRQ or sharing it with another existing PCI device. The Dual Parallel-PCI provides an excellent solution to a system short on IRQs and ISA slots. The card is also very easy to install - just plug in and go! Suggested retail price of \$69.95

# Free Software Available for KIPCUG Members

by Bonnie Zepka, Review Editor

As a KIPCUG member you are eligible for Free Software. The catch: you have to tell us if you liked the product or not?

Product reviewers are needed for I/O, the KIPCUG newsletter. You are probably well qualified to write reviews of software and hardware.

All you need is to:

1. Be a KIPCUG member.
2. Commit to write a 700-1000-word review within 30 days. (No special writing skills are needed. Just write in a conversational manner. Our I/O editor will help you to look good.
3. Have enthusiasm and curiosity about software and technology.

Once you write and submit your review, the product is yours to use and register!

Why do software producers make free review copies of their products available to user groups? Simple.

They know the power of word-of-mouth advertising.

If you are interested in writing a review of one or more of the products listed below, contact Bonnie Zepka at the KIPCUG meetings, by phone or email: [bzzzz@prodigy.net](mailto:bzzzz@prodigy.net)

Current Review Products available:

1. Cyber Sentinel, filters pornographic and sexually explicit material from your PC.
2. Norton Mobile Essentials by Symantec, helps manage your laptop and Internet connections (reviewer assigned)
3. Microsoft Publisher, powerful desktop publishing on your PC
4. ipublish, desktop publishing program, from print to web (reviewer assigned)
5. ArcSoft Imaging Suite, 4-in-1 program for file management & presentation
6. Spell Catcher, Universal spellchecker, thesaurus and glossary
7. Home Office Voice Mail; telephone automation for up to 2 phone lines

8. DropChute+, a personal file delivery software

9. Fix-It Utilities 99 by Mejenix, problem solver for Win 95, 98 and NT.

10. MapLinx Professional by IMSI, Instantly map data. (reviewer assigned)



KIPCUG's General Meeting is held the 1st. Tuesday each month in the Ogle Center at Indiana University Southeast.

IUS is located at 2nd entrance off Grant Line Road, just north of I-265  
Parking is FREE

## TFD to Shut Down June 1st.!

June 1, 1999 has been designated as the day our bbs (TFD) will be shut down.

The Board of Directors made the hard decision after months of study and analyzing how TFD was been used and not been used by KIPCUG members.

As many of you know, the number of conferences has dropped significantly over the last year. The vast

majority of e-mail being processed was "junk mail" that our members were not picking off the servers. The best of the 3 servers is a 486 machine. The current software would need to be updated by year-end. The mail readers in use by our members do not operated properly as the user upgrades to current Pentium class and higher speed computers. We have 3 phone lines and ISP charges each month.

These factors entered in the decision but the bottom line was that our members did not want to use a bbs. The Internet, News Groups, and E-Mail have replaced the need for a bbs. Researching other User Groups within our APCUG Organization brought home that point as only 20% of the groups we talked with still maintained a bbs.

KIPCUG information will be on our web site at [www.kipcug.org](http://www.kipcug.org).

# "The TECH SCENE"

by Charley May, KIPCUG

ADSL the next step up the ladder to faster Internet Service?

High-Speed ADSL (asymmetrical digital subscriber line) Internet Service will be rolled out by BellSouth in the Louisville Area on May 21, 1999. Availability will also be provided by Win Net (a local Internet Service Provider) a few days later, according to Win Net's Product Manager - Access Services, KIPCUG member and INTERNET USER & TELECOMMUNICATIONS SIG Leader Glenn Fish. This new Internet Service for Residential and Small Business Customers is up to 50 times faster than Dial-up Service.

According to information released by BellSouth when it started the same service in the Columbia, SC area and other information in a May 13, 1999 article by "The Courier-Journal", BellSouth and Win Net will be set for high-speed Internet race with this new service but it will cost you a little more than a cable Internet connection.

BellSouth and Win Net will be utilizing state-of-the-art ADSL technology; the service works at speeds up to 50 times faster than standard dial-up service. Large data files such as audio files, research documents; product literature and patient records can be downloaded or transferred in seconds rather than minutes.

ADSL service eliminates the two greatest frustrations with the Internet, the length of time it takes to connect to the Internet and the time for a Web page to appear on

your computer screen. So let us take a for instance, say that you have signed up with Win Net for ADSL service, here is how it works. Your regular phone line works just like it always has but now Win Net has you connected to ADSL over your phone line 24/7, always open. When you sit down to the computer and click on your browser and it loads, then you are immediately on the Internet because you are already connected to the Internet. Then the fun starts....or should I say SPEED starts.

This high-speed service is delivered over your existing telephone lines and now for the kicker, you can use your phone at the same time, WOW! In other words you don't need a second phone line to have 100% availability of voice phone service. What kind of "SPEED" you say? ADSL Internet access means that parents can email photos of their children to relatives in three seconds instead of three minutes while talking to them on the phone. A business user can save

valuable time processing electronic transactions and doing research because they don't have to wait for Web pages to download.

How fast is "SPEED" by the numbers? ADSL service will have a maximum download speed of 1.5 megabits-per-second (Mbps) and a maximum speed from the user's computer to the Internet of 256 kilobits per second (Kbps). It is an unlimited "always-on" Internet service with no waiting to dial up to connect. Web browsing becomes as simple as launching the browser to get connected at very high speeds.

This is an exciting new development, just starting to unfold in the Louisville Area and like Cable Modems it will be interesting to see where it will lead us, the users.

Hopefully, speeds will continue to increase and wider usage will bring prices down.



Speed  
Reliability  
Knowledge

## Special Offer for KIPCUG Members

- No setup charges for dial-up access (\$20 value)
- 100 free hours per month
- 5 Pop3 E-mail boxes
- 50 MB web site for business or personal use

· **\$14.95 per month**

**www.win.net**

**589-6800**

"Possibly the best tech support in the business..." PC Magazine

# From Your Board of Directors

by John Henderson, Nominating Committee

During the April General Meeting, nominations for 1999-2000 Board of Directors were submitted by the nominating committee and requested from the general membership. This published list is submitted by the KIPCUG Board of Directors. Elections will be held during the June General Meeting. Elected Officers will take office following the vote.

**President: Fred Soward**

**Vice-President: Don Fowler**

**Secretary: Winnie Miller**

**Treasurer: Tony Krainski**

**Membership Dir:  
Karen Schuler**

**Program Dir: Judy Lococo**

**SIG Dir: Charley May**

**Volunteer Dir:  
Phil Whitehouse**

**Director: Steve Goldberg**

**Director: Bonnie Zapka**

**Director: Larry Mand**

**Director: Susan Moore**

submitted by Tony Krainski,  
Treasurer

## **12/31/98 Assets**

Cash in Bank: \$19,373

## **1998 Income**

Dues: \$20,795

Other: 702

Subtotal: \$21,497

## **1998 Expenses**

Printing: \$6,479

Postage: 1,936

Telephone: 1,369

Mailings: 1,061

Hall Rent: 875

Meetings: 894

Fees/Dues 837

Office: 814

Ed/Travel 577

Equip: 291

Awards: 115

Other: 914

Subtotal \$16,162

Bank transfers \$1,581

**Net Income \$6,916**

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest KIPCUG members.

DERRICK K MATTH  
JERRY MASKLICK  
KEF HOLLENBACK  
MAX MARTIN  
PAUL J FLOYD  
REBECCA EASLEY  
RICHARD D RIVER  
ROBERT ALLEN  
WADE A BROWN

Other Board Notes:

Officer's slate for elections and financials are published in accordance with KIPCUG Bylaws.

The Board also wants to thank those that worked that recent ITEC Trade Show booth. We look forward to participating in future "marketing" opportunities for our organization.

Please remember that our bbs, TFD, will officially shut down on June 1st. KIPCUG information will be posted to our web site: [www.kipcug.org](http://www.kipcug.org)

June Board meeting will be held at 1618 Story Ave (brick building with green awning) Start time: 7:30 PM

## **Getting to IUS from Louisville**

Our meetings are in the Ogle Center at Indiana University Southeast.

Take I-65 north to I-265. Turn west on I-265 (after passing under the overpass).

Take the Grant Line Road exit from I-265.

Turn right at the intersection onto Grant Line Road. IUS is a half mile on the left.

Ogle Center is at the back right of the campus. You will not "get a ticket" for parking in the wrong lot or meter area. Park behind or in front of the building.

# Lighter Side of the Internet

by John Banks, Tucson Computer Society

If you're like me, you like a good laugh. and you probably can find lots of chuckles on the web, some of them intentional. Here are a few of my favorite spots, but click with caution if you're easily offended.

David Letterman's site (<http://marketing.cbs.com/lateshow>) posts his latest Top10 list. You can take the Late Show Daily Poll, listen to clips, and wander into Dave's Online Clubhouse. The Time Killers Section might keep you up past show time.

The satirical newspaper, The Onion ([www.theonion.com](http://www.theonion.com)), is published on the web and in ink. It is a +18 rated site with the articles spicier than the graphics.

A major part of my newspaper reading each day is the comics page. User Friendly won't make many newsstands, but the on-line version ([www.userfriendly.org/static](http://www.userfriendly.org/static)) is quite accessible. The geeks who populate this strip are more tech savvy than Dilbert and his colleagues. Ubergeek Eric Raymond says it's evidence of hacker culture's good health.

Up a nearby ally is the Code of the Geeks ([www.geekcode.com](http://www.geekcode.com)), a string of characters that can announce to the world where you stand on matters of importance to geeks such as appearance, computer skills, taste in politics and entertainment, and lifestyle. For what it's worth, here's my code: GMC d-s:++a+ C++ U+ P+ L+ E W+++ \$ N+ oKwO? MV? V? PS+++PE Y+

PGP-t+ 5 X R \* tv+ b++ DI++ D- G e++ h-r+++ y+++

More geek humor can be found in the Guide to MRML ([www.oxy.edu/~ashes/mrml.html](http://www.oxy.edu/~ashes/mrml.html)) Learn how to code websites with tags such as: <THOUGHTSUCK> "Thoughtsuck performs of deeper scan of the client's thoughts which may included details of significant events within the past 24 hours."

According to the published specifications, "MRML tags can be embedded into any regular web page. They are completely invisible to all browsers. No one will ever know you are using them."

The Humor Archive of Canonical List is a real treasury of humor. ([www.visi.com/~nathan/humor/canon/index.html](http://www.visi.com/~nathan/humor/canon/index.html)) You will find lists of all the different kinds of jokes you can imagine, from dumb blondes and elephants to changing light bulbs and Tom Swifties.

Next, Lip Balm Anonymous, ([www.kevdo.com/lipbalm](http://www.kevdo.com/lipbalm)) a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other so that they may solve their common problem. Is it serious? Is it satire? You decide?

Dave Barry's columns appear in many local papers but he writes for the Miami Herald. Barry's site has all the archives but you will have to use the Herald Search Engine for "Dave Barry." ([www.herald.com](http://www.herald.com))

Bob's Fridge is really Bob Hirschfiled. (<http://bobsfridge.com>) Bob's columns have appeared over the past 10 years in The Wall Street Journal, USA Today and The

Washington Post. There is a variety of material posted on his cyberfridge door, including parodies of America Online, the Drudge Report, and a corporate web site. Bob claims that "the reason NATO is using so many bombs is that they are not Y2K compliant and must be used by year end.

At the Center for the Easily Amused, ([www.amused.com](http://www.amused.com)) they are looking for the ultimate guide for their activities. It shows!

In a similar use of your time, try "[www.virtual-media.com/vm/presents/ouzo/99bottles.html](http://www.virtual-media.com/vm/presents/ouzo/99bottles.html)" If you are having trouble visualizing how many bottles are left - click on the number.

If you find yourself bored with this article, then check out Bord.com ([www.bored.com](http://www.bored.com)) They serve up a list of sites that include the Bureau of Missing Socks and the Internet Pizza Server.

As we edited this list, I am sure that something will probably go wrong! A trip to Murphy's ([www.hithere.com/murphy](http://www.hithere.com/murphy)) will confirm the thought. The Worst Church of Murphy's Law presents the familiar law and its corollaries, constants, and commentaries.

Finally, for my parting shot, here's a few Famous Last Words. (<http://web.mit.edu/randy/www/words.html>)

*Editors Note: A little humor in memory of the passing of TFD and its joke lists.*

# Ken's Korner: Why I Like "Rolling Upgrades"

By Ken Fermoyle, TUGNET

In the past I've written about "Upgrades that Make Sense." This time I will explain my approach to computer upgrades and how I revamped the Fermoyle office system over a 15-month period.

First, I believe in lagging various distances behind the cutting edge. Let early adopters and corporate users pay big bucks to buy (and find bugs in) the latest and greatest. Prices will drop as production and competition increase.

Second, I believe in what Roger Radcliffe, one of TUGNET's most knowledgeable gurus, aptly describes as "rolling upgrades." This means upgrading in increments, as needed, instead of wholesale makeovers or buying entirely new systems. Need more speed? Add RAM. Hard disk getting full? Install a second hard drive. The trick is to try to buy components that will be compatible with the next

enhancements you expect to make. This requires research and may not always be possible, but make it your goal.

We started our 15-month upgrade with three computers in January, 1998.

No. 1 was my 14-month-old, 166MHz Pentium Micron ClientPro, with 32MB of RAM, 28.8 modem and 2.1GB IDE hard drive. No. 2 was a 133MHz Pentium in full tower case, with 32MB RAM, 33.3 modem and 2.3GB IDE drive.

No. 3 was a 100MHz Pentium, mid-tower case, 32MB RAM, 14.4 modem and 1.2GB IDE drive.

No. 2 had previously gone through rolling upgrades from a hot 386 in 1989 to 486, then to 133 Pentium. No. 3 started life as a 386 in 1991 and had been upgraded with a new motherboard about 1995. No. 1 and No. 2 were directly connected (coax cable) in a peer-to-peer network. All had CD-ROM drives and 32MB of RAM.

Our peripherals included: two scanners (Relisys Taurus SCSI flatbed acquired late in '97 and older HP sheetfed, grayscale ScanJet 4.2 with parallel port interface), two printers (HP LaserJet III and HP InkJet 855Cse), SyQuest 135MB removable cartridge drive and Casio QV100 digital camera (Christmas present, 1996) and a couple of sets of inexpensive speakers.

Now we have all the above, plus one new machine, in a peer-to-peer network, using a LinkSys 5-port hub

and Category 5 UTP (unshielded twisted pair) cables.

The Micron got a 6.4GB Seagate UDMA hard drive. That worked so well and was so easy to install that I later (when prices dropped 10-15%) added a similar drive to No. 2 computer. Then came a Super Woofer speaker system and 56.6Kbps fax/modem for the Micron; about midsummer I upped the RAM to 64MB and slipped in a 200MHz WinChip cpu.

Then came a windfall in the form of several freelance assignments, including one for PC World. At the same time, Ken's Korner was growing rapidly and I needed more resources to do research, check products and technologies and store and keep track of data. So I decided to accelerate an upgrade of our entire system, compressing it into six months instead of spread over the year originally planned.

No. 2 computer, the one my wife Liz uses for graphics and financial work, got a major upgrade: New Socket 7 ATX motherboard, 225MHz WinChip, 56Kbps fax/modem, 32X CD-ROM drive replacing the 8X unit, 64MB RAM. The motherboard needed a new case, so we scrapped the full tower for a midtower with new power supply.

Next I added a totally new machine, as a combination server and workstation: 300MHz Pentium II with ball-bearing fan, BX motherboard, 64MB SDRAM, 6.4GB Samsung hard drive, AGP (advanced graphics port) Trident 4MB graphics card, 36X CD-ROM

**COMPUSA**

825 South Hurstbourne Parkway  
Louisville, KY

**Thank You for  
hosting our  
Windows, Word &  
Excel SIG**

We encourage all our members to support the companies that support us. Without them, we could not operate

# Ken's Korner (cont.)

drive, 1.44MB floppy drive and ATX midtower case.

I use a KVM (keyboard, video display, mouse) switch (covered in another article: "KVM Switch: Secret Weapon for Small Offices") to control the server and my No. 1 Micron machine. We use the server mainly to store files, for backup and for Windows Office 97 Professional Edition, which can be run via the network from any of the other machines.

The spare No. 3 computer got major upgrades, too. It now has a new motherboard, 300MHz AMD K6-2 cpu, 64MB RAM, 24X CD-ROM drive, 56K fax/modem, the 2.3GB IDE drive taken from the No. 2 computer (for a total of 3.5GB), new keyboard and mouse. I added a suitcase handle to the top of the midtower case so I can take it to meetings to show Power Point presentations or do demos. It retains both 3.5" and 5.25" floppy drives so I can copy files archived on older disks to newer media. I added a Quicken PhoneJack card and digital video camera so we can use this computer as a Net Telephony/video conferencing workstation. (Watch for a future article on this subject.)

Computers 1, 2 and 3 each have an attached printer: No. 1, LaserJet III; No. 2, HP InkJet 722C; No. 3, InkJet 855Cse. Any of our four computers can print to any of the printers via the network. We have speaker systems for all three of these machines, plus two microphones and a headset which are plugged in as needed.

The networked system works

great for our needs. While fairly extensive - more elaborate than many home offices, perhaps on a par with small businesses, whether run from home or a small office - it is not cutting edge by current standards. No Pentium III CPUs, no gigantic 12- to 18GB UDMA drives and no T1 or cable modem access to the Internet (though we're hoping for an ADSL connection later this year).

Liz doesn't do 3D graphics, we don't yet do any video editing or manipulate huge spreadsheets and we don't play performance-hungry games, so the system serves our needs more than adequately.

What are future plans? I intend to upgrade Liz' No. 2 computer to a 300MHz CPU, maximum for the motherboard, and will replace her CD-ROM drive with either a CD-R or DVD drive. The No. 3 machine will get a 15" SVGA monitor (to replace the current 14" VGA model)

and an 8.4GB UDMA drive (to replace the two smaller IDE drives). My No. 1 Micron computer likely will get a new motherboard and CPU within the next six to eight months

The wish list include a new higher-resolution digital still camera. Beyond that, who knows? Depends on the budget, our growing needs and price trends. We'll keep you posted!

*Editors Note: Besides being a member of TUGNET, Ken Fermoye is a columnist (Ken's Korner) & publisher: Fermoye Publications, (818) 346-9384*

*22250 Capulin Court, Woodland Hills, CA 91364-3005*

*Newsletters, Editorial Services, Graphics & Web Design*

*"In the beginning was the Word..."  
And don't you forget it!*

by Don Gonse

**Humorous Bits**

**Introductions at a Computer Convention.**

Request images from Don at [degonse@juno.com](mailto:degonse@juno.com).

\* Punchedline by Linda Gonse

# Directory of KIPCUG Leaders

Name	Position	Home	Work
	President		
Steve Goldberg	Vice President	282-5186	
Winnie Miller	Secretary	895-5360	
Anthony Krainski	Treasurer	429-5155	
Fred Soward	Program Director	426-1829	
John Henderson	Editor, I/O Magazine		945-1102
Paul Ward	BBS SYSOP	231-9267	
Mike Shaikun	Legal Advisor	425-3326	589-4200
Karen Schuler	Membership Director	239-3841	
Bob Streever	Publicity Director	895-4180	
Charley May	SIG Director	425-4604	
Marvin Livingood	Director Emeritus	459-8888	459-8888
David Brooks	Webmaster	454-4421	540-2730
Louis Gagel	Program Setup	361-4275	
Judy Lococo	Past President	893-8710	893-8710
Bonnie Zepka	Software Review Editor		449-6205
Larry Mand	Director		
David Puckett	User to User Coordinator	549-9008	

## KIPCUG Supporters

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The vendors listed below have contributed hardware or software to KIPCUG to assist in production of the organization's monthly newsletter. We encourage you to support these vendors who are helping to support our organization.

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# The Fifth Dimension

### *Official Bulletin Board of KIPCUG*

The Fifth Dimension is available 24 hours a day at (502) 231-0053. Data transmission standards are: 1,200-28,800 bps, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity, v.42, v.42bis., v.32, v.32bis. Operating with three nodes.

## I/O Submissions

Articles submitted to I/O should be in ASCII text format and submitted one month in advance. If graphics are included, they should be submitted in TIF file format whenever possible.

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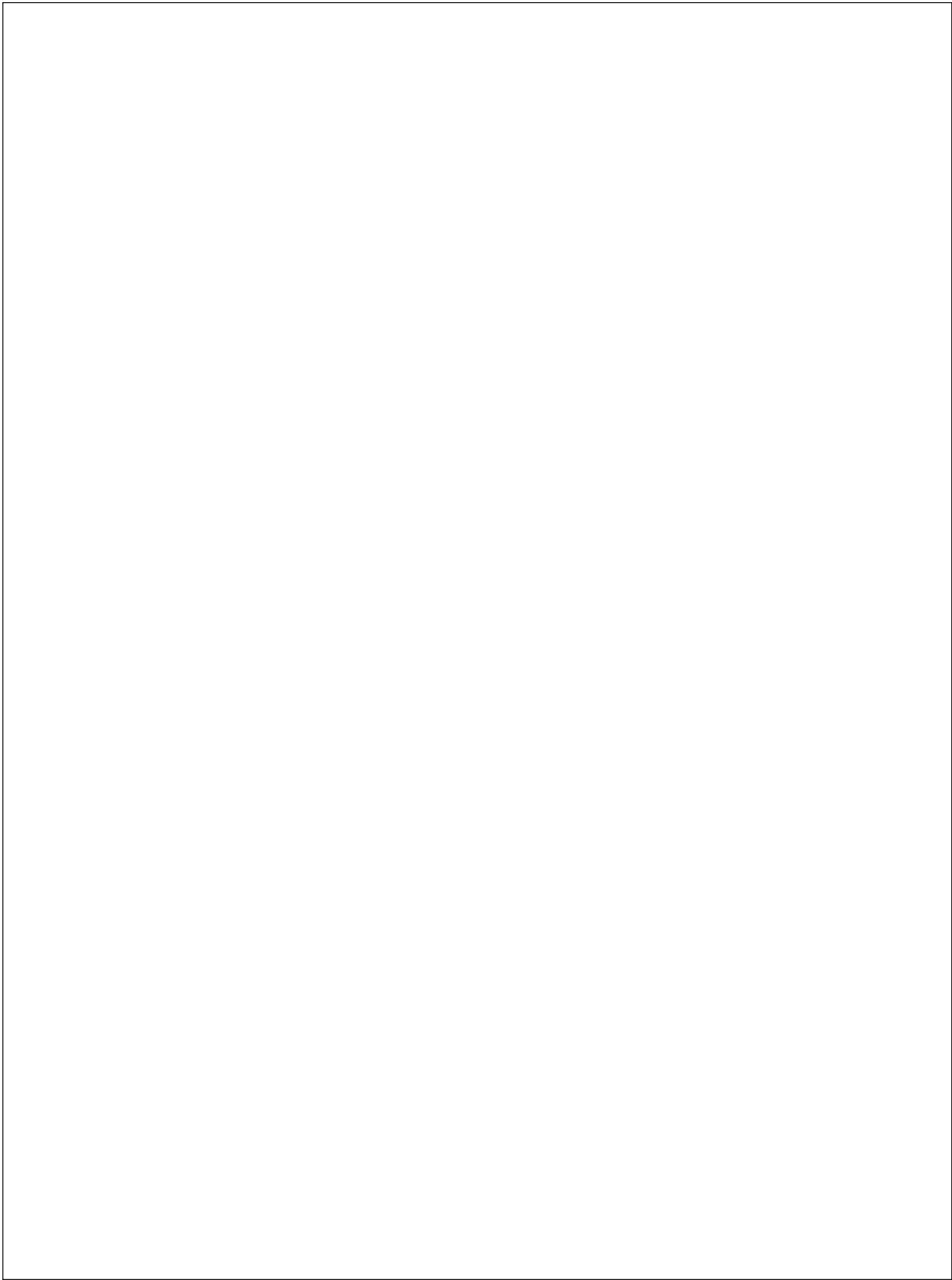
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**Send all advertising materials to:**

**Anthony Krainski, Treasurer. For more information, call (502) 429-5155 or send e-mail to: [anthony.krainski@tfd.org](mailto:anthony.krainski@tfd.org).**



# The SIG Scene

## ACCESS SIG

Meets 10:00 am on the 4th Saturday of the month at the Louisville Free Public Library, Eline Branch, located in the St. Matthews City Hall Building, at the corner of Grandview Ave and Fairfax Ave. about 3 blocks south of Shelbyville Road.

SIG LEADER: John Kilpatrick at 635-1153 or kilpat1@juno.com

## DELPHI SIG

Meets 6:30 PM. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the New Horizons Learning Center, at 10200 Linn Station Road in Suite 110 of the Triad E. Bldg.

SIG LEADER: Larry West at 239-7378 or larrywest@hotmail.com

## GENEALOGY SIG

Meets 6:30 PM. on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Louisville Free Public Library, Eline Branch, located in the St. Matthews City Hall Building, at the corner of Grandview Ave and Fairfax Ave. about 3 blocks south of Shelbyville Road.

SIG LEADER: Susan Moore at 499-5222 or susankmoore@iname.com

## HARDWARE SIG

Meets 6:30 PM. on the 1st Monday of the month at the Louisville Free Public Library, Eline Branch, located in the St. Matthews City Hall Building, at the corner of Grandview Ave and Fairfax Ave. about 3 blocks south of Shelbyville Road.

SIG LEADER: Grant McCormick at (wk) 266-9999 ext. 213, (home) 935-2497 or CO-LEADER: Charley May at 425-4604 or hardware@sig.win.net

## INTERNET USER & TELECOMMUNICATIONS SIG

Meets 6:30 PM. on the 4th Thursday of the month at 330-F, Distillery Commons in the Win.Net offices, at the corner of Lexington and Payne streets.

SIG LEADER: Glenn Fish at 589-6800 or fish@win.net

## INVESTING SIG

Meets 6:30 PM. on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Louisville Aero Club, Bowman Field. We do not discuss the relative merits of mutual funds.

SIG LEADER: Doc Viele at 452-6878 for details.

## NEW USERS SIG

Meets 6:30 PM. on the 2nd Monday of the month at the New Horizons Learning Center, at 10200 Linn Station Road in Suite 110 of the Triad E. Bldg.

Contact SIG Director Charley May at 425-4604 or sig@win.net

## OS/2 & OTHER 32-BIT OS SIG

Meets 6:30 PM. on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 120 Webster in the Bakery Square Building, right next to the Butchertown Pub.

SIG LEADER: Art Atkinson at 589-7411 or aatkins@ibm.net

## VISUAL BASIC SIG

Meets 7 PM. on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the New Horizons Learning Center, at 10200 Linn Station Road in Suite 110 of the Triad E. Bldg.

SIG LEADER: Martin Campion at 479-8952 or mccampion@aol.com

## WEBMASTER SIG

Meets 6 PM. on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 330-F, Distillery Commons in the Win.Net offices, at the corner of Lexington and Payne streets.

SIG LEADER: Don Fowler at 589-6800 or dfowler@win.net

## WINDOWS, WORD & EXCEL SIG

Meets 6:30 PM. on the 4th Monday of the month at the new training center located in the CompUSA Louisville store at 825 S. Hurstbourne Pkwy.

SIG LEADER: Jim Travelstead, 852-4761 (W), 375-4796 (H) or jim.travelstead@louisville.edu

**SIG Director:** Charley May 425-4604 or sig@win.net

by Charley May, SIG Director

SIG Director's Notes: Dear KIPCUG Member, as this first term as SIG Director reaches the end I would like to thank all of the many people that have made it happen. Without the tireless efforts of the SIG Leaders, Co-Leaders, Team Members and Guest Presenters there would be no SIGs for all of us to attend, learn from and have fun at.

Under the "We Need You" category:

if you are an intermediate or advanced computer user and if you feel that you could contribute a little time and knowledge to your fellow KIPCUG Members as a Guest Presenter, please call or Email me -- Charley May at 425-4604 or "sig@win.net". You know who you are and it will go easier on you if you come in voluntarily because, sooner or later I will find you <BWG>. Then, after you Guest Present you will say "I should have done this sooner because it was a lot of fun and I helped a lot of people

learn more about computing"

## ACCESS SIG

The ACCESS SIG meets the 4th Saturday of each month from 10:00 AM to noon, at the Eline Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library (LFBL) in St. Matthews. The ACCESS SIG is still new and is looking for more members interested in using Microsoft's Access

# The SIG Scene (cont.)

Database Program. If you are interested in getting together with others that want to use Access, try out our meetings. We have room for more attendees and use a large screen TV for presentations.

In the May meeting SIG TEAM LEADER John Kilpatrick, a business and personal user of ACCESS, will cover basic concepts on a new user level with easy to understand examples, followed by a Q & A session for all levels of users. Work on two SIG projects, will continue to develop, as both projects and learning tools.

The June and July meetings will continue covering the basic concepts on a new user level with examples, followed by a Q & A session for all levels of users.

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## DELPHI SIG

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In case you missed last months "The SIG Scene" I would like to repeat how pleased we are to announce the appointment of Mr. Larry J. West as the new DELPHI SIG LEADER. Mr. West is an active DELPHI Programmer with the willingness and ability to pass his knowledge on to you. Please try to find time to attend future meetings of the DELPHI SIG as I feel you will get a lot out of each new meeting that will help in your professional development.

The DELPHI SIG has conducted its first meeting under the new leadership of Larry West and is looking for more Delphi users to attend this SIG. If you are involved with DEL-

PHI in any way, please try to attend the next meeting and welcome the new SIG LEADER and make your thoughts known as to where you would like to see the SIG headed. Mr. West introduced a new meeting segment covering DELPHI Certification study. If you are interested in certification or all the things one must learn to be certified, I think you will find this segment interesting and productive.

The May meeting will continue to get attendees recommendations on SIG direction and discuss third party components and developer tools that you would like to see the group evaluate. The group will continue learning more on Delphi Certification topics (covering DataModules, Tcontrols, Buttons and more), the SIG's Project and discuss projects brought to the meeting by attendees, plus a Q & A session.

The June and July meetings will continue with the SIG's Project, certification subjects as well as attendee's projects and/or problems brought to the meetings.

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## GENEALOGY SIG

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The GENEALOGY SIG meet at its regular location the Eline Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL) for the April 19, 1999 SIG meeting and had 27 attendees and we are looking for YOU to join the SIG at future meetings. SIG LEADER Susan Moore covered how to document the source of your information, referred to as "citations" in "The Master Genealogist"

followed by a Question and Answer session.

With an earlier KIPCUG I/O publication cut off date the May meeting will not be reported until the next issue of the I/O.



Susan Moore  
Genealogy SIG Leader

Topics for May meeting include a presentation on how you develop parameters for special information reports that are used in gathering and verifying your information, plus any questions on TMG conversion/setup.

In the June meeting, Susan will cover participant problems with "citations" and "list of reports". This will be a review of previous presentations and will cover any questions that attendees might have on either of these subjects, followed by a general Question and Answer session.

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## HARDWARE SIG

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The HARDWARE SIG held their May meeting at the Eline Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL). There were 19 attendees and we still had room for more, including YOU. This meeting

# The SIG Scene (cont.)

revisited Motherboards, covering research, purchase, installation and configuration of a new Motherboard for your computer. KIPCUG Member, Joe Rothstein brought his computer to be the demo subject at this meeting and everyone watched and asked questions as the upgrade proceeded. Everything went well until the very end when the power button was pushed and the screen wouldn't even light up (blush). Even though we ran out of time before the problem could be found the Demo showed everyone how to upgrade his or her own computer with a new motherboard. Oh, you want to know why it did light up? Well, the next day, a quick recheck of everything turned up a memory module problem. It seems that with all the extra hands helping install the old parts on the new motherboard, the two pairs of memory modules got separated and were not reinstalled in pairs and this prevented the computer from booting up. So now Joe has a "new" computer that is a real screamer.

The June meeting will cover how to hook up that other computer in the house to your main computer. We will explore different methods, their cost, advantages and ease of setup. As usual, there will be hands on demos of what to do and how to do it with a Question and Answer session.

The possible subject of the July meeting will be the selection process, purchase and installation of a flat bed scanner for your computer. If you are planning to do this soon, consider the possibility of being part of the Demo at this meeting, and give us a call and tell us

that you want to volunteer.

If you have a HARDWARE problem that you would like to bring to the meeting to hopefully be solved, PLEASE call one of the phone numbers listed in the proceeding SIG Directory to get in the queue and so that HARDWARE TEAM Members can be prepared to handle your problem. With this advance planning you may not have to bring, as much of your computer equipment with you and the HARDWARE TEAM will be better prepared to help you.

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## **INTERNET USER & TELECOM SIG**

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In the April meeting SIG Leader Glenn Fish revisited I-PHONE, Internet Voice Communication to anyone's phone anywhere in the world. With on screen viewing Glenn Fish showed us how to use I-PHONE and gave us an understanding of the potential savings on your phone bill. The first half of the presentation went well, as planned and we talked to people all across the world in the I-PHONE demo groups. The second half of the presentation where KIPCUG members were to talk directly with an individual in another country did not connect. Even with repeated attempts, it was not possible to make connections. A call to the company involved the following day determined that the company (which makes the connection on the other end of the call) had severe problems and their Server had been down for over a day. Some time in the future

Glenn will cover I-PHONE again, because even the experts will occasionally have computer problems.

The May meeting will feature SIG LEADER Glenn Fish's Guest Presenter Greg Swinney, who will present "Gaming over the Internet". This one should be really interesting to gamers so, grab your gaming friends and bring them to this meeting.

The topic for the June meeting will be ADSL (see the "The TECH SCENE" article, page 7), Glenn will give us the latest scoop and a Demo of the new technology in action.

In all meetings, KIPCUG Members and guest are invited to bring their questions on Internet subjects to the SIG for discussion.

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## **INVESTING SIG**

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SIG LEADER Doc Viele conducts the investing discussions that have been going on since 1986. There were 12 attendees at the May INVESTING SIG meeting. Most attendees still feel the market situation is continuing to improve slowly at this time. According to Doc, only a few SIG Members are making limited new investments while most will continue to watch to see what happens for awhile before re-entering the Market with any vigor.

Next SIG Meeting will include general information on investing and the usual information exchange.

This is not an investment club; they DO NOT discuss mutual funds.

# The SIG Scene (cont.)

## NEW USERS SIG

The May 10, 1999 meeting of the NEW USERS SIG met at New Horizons Computer Learning Center located in the Triad East Building, 10200 Linn Station Road Suite 110. There were two Guest Presenters with two different subjects this month. The first GP, Grant McCormick of HARDWARE SIG fame, gave an introduction of what is required to hook up that other computer(s) in your house to your main computer. Grant covered the different methods, their cost, advantages and ease of setup, past around the hardware and cables involved and invited all attendees to come to the HARDWARE SIG next month for more detailed coverage and demo of how its done.

The second Guest Presenter was Susan K. Moore, SIG LEADER of the GENEALOGY SIG gave an introductory presentation on Genealogy, what it is, how to record your info, what you can to make your search easier and told how rewarding it is to find out more about your family. Susan invited anyone with the slightest interest in Genealogy to come to her regular GENEALOGY SIG any time in the future.

The subject for the June meeting has not been firmed up at time of publication. A poll of attendees at the April meeting showed interest in the following areas: Scanner software, Paint Shop Pro 5.0, Virus Protection Programs, Uninstall Programs, System Repair Utilities and how to hook up a Home Network.

SIG Director's Note: If you are an

intermediate or advanced computer user that has skills in any of the above areas and would be willing to be a one time Guest Presenter at the NEW USERS SIG, please contact Charley May, 425-4604 or "sig@win.net".

## OS/2 & OTHER 32-BIT OS'S SIG

The April meeting presentation was given by SIG LEADER Art Atkinson on NT Servers. Art has just finished building two NT Servers, one of them has two network adapters and has the ability to talk to Macintosh computers. Art covered in detail what was involved in setting up one of the servers. A question and answer session covering 32- BIT OS problems, tips and shortcuts followed the presentation.

KIPCUG Member, if you are interested in OS/2, NT or LINUX, please consider attending Art Atkinson's SIG held at 120 Webster in the Bakery Square Building.

Future meetings will continue to see broader 32 BIT OS coverage, moving into NT and LINUX Operating Systems.

New attendees should e-mail or call SIG Leader Art Atkinson at 589-7411 for meeting details. All meetings cover OS/2 tips, problems and shortcuts.

SIG Director's Note: We are looking for Guest Presenters or Team Members for the OS/2 & OTHER



Continued on page 20

# MEETING

May 4, 1999



May's General Meeting featured Inprise and its borland.com division. They brought the new release of C++ Builder 4.0. Topics also included Delphi 4.0 and a Corba demonstration of cross-platform connections.

Robert Barnes was also honored with our KIPCUG Award. Robert was chosen by Indiana University Southeast as the graduating computer Science student they felt will best represent IUS in the business world. The award is made in the name of former member Tom Carr and carries Honors Status with the University.



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• 11216

# Back-to Basics: How to Download Information

By Ken Fermoye, TUGNET

## Download Tutorial

If you want to save the information you find on a Web site, you can either print it and have a copy on paper, copy the file and paste it into WordPad or your processor, or you can download the file and save it on your hard drive or to a floppy.

### To Print:

When you find a page you want to save, click on the FILE menu, then on Print. If you use Netscape Navigator you can get a preview of how the printed material will look. Click on FILE, then PRINT PREVIEW.

### To Copy:

Use your cursor to highlight the text you want to save by clicking & holding down the left button at the beginning of the text; drag the cursor to the end of the text and release the mouse button. All text will now be highlighted. Click on the EDIT menu, then on COPY (or simply press the Ctrl & C keys simultaneously, a faster, easier shortcut). Minimize your browser window (click on the dash or minus sign in the upper right-hand corner) temporarily and open WordPad or your word processor. Click on EDIT menu, then PASTE (or use the Ctrl & V keys shortcut). Now you can save the file as you would any other you created.

### To Download & Save A File:

Click on the FILE menu, then SAVE AS. A dialog box will appear that allows you to select the drive

and folder where you want to save the file (at the top). At the bottom will be spaces for you to type in the same you want to give the file. Sometimes a filename is shown; you can either accept that or erase it and type in your own name. There will also be a line that says something like "Save as file type," followed by a space (which might say "HTML") and a down-pointing arrow. Click on the arrow and select "Plain Text," unless you have a special reason to save it as an HTML file.

### To Download & Save A Photo Or Other Graphic:

Simply place your cursor on the graphic and click the RIGHT button on your mouse. When a pop-up menu appears, click on "Save Image As..." A dialog box that looks the same as the one mentioned in the paragraph above appears NEXT. Do not try to change the file type, but you can change the file name and location where you want to save the image file.

For example, I have a "GIF&JPEG" folder in drive D on my system. So if I want to save a Web graphics file to that folder, I would select drive D in the dialog box, then click on the GIF&JPEG folder (make sure it shows in the "Save At" box) and finally click on SAVE.

### To Download Programs:

This is a bit more complicated, but usually the site contains detailed instructions. You simply click on the DOWNLOAD or CLICK TO DOWNLOAD words or button, and follow the instructions. Usually

there will be a dialog box, like the one mentioned in the above two paragraphs, which allows you to select the location (drive & folder) where you want the file to be saved. Sometimes the files will be in compressed Zip form and you have to use a Zip program to unzip (uncompress) them. Usually, however, they are in what is called self-extracting files -- which means you simply have to click on them and they will uncompress themselves. Such files have an .exe extension.

### Note File Name & Location

It's always a good idea to make a note of the file name and location as insurance against forgetting either (or both!) when you look for the file a week or two after downloading it. Another suggestion: create a DOWNLOAD folder on your hard drive and place all your download in it. You can always move them later.

### Download Time

Some large files can take a long time to download. Depending on your modem speed, file size and the amount of Net traffic, it might take from a few minutes to almost an hour, or even more, to download very big files. Many download sites give you the file size, sometimes an estimated download time, to give you some idea of how long the process will take.

# SIG Scene (cont.)

32-BIT OS's SIG to give presentations on LINUX and Windows NT OS's. If you can help or know someone who can, please contact Art Atkins at 589-7411 or Charley May at 425-4604 or sig@win.net

## **VISUAL BASIC SIG**

The May VISUAL BASIC SIG met as usual at the New Horizons Learning Center, located in the Triad East Building, 10200 Linn Station Road Suite 110. At the meeting, SIG Leader Martin Campion gave the presentation on File Access and possibly concluded with Masked Edit controls and how to use them in your programs (details missing as Martin was out of state before press time).

The June meeting will probably conclude file access and go into object-oriented programming and the creation of classes in Visual Basic. Martin will also cover questions that attendees have on their projects followed by a Q & A session.

If YOU have ANY interest in learning VB or think YOU might be interested, please come to this SIG and give it a try.

## **WEBMASTER SIG**

On May 20th at 6:30 PM., the WEBMASTER SIG will meet at the Win Net Offices and SIG Leader Don Fowler's Guest Presenter Kelly McKnight - Via Internet Studio, and the subject will be "Marketing on

the Net". Covering the new question for Marketing types, "now that you have a web site, how are people supposed to find it?" Also learn how to budget and consolidate your Internet efforts with other types of media. Come at 6:00 for networking with other members.

The June 17th at 6:30 PM. Meeting will feature Don's Guest Presenter, Elizabeth Lawler with Iris Interactive. Elizabeth will present Web Graphics layout, User Interface and Navigation Design. Learn about effective interfaces and get some good tips for professional design, functionality and loading speed.

## **WINDOWS, WORD & EXCEL SIG**

SIG Leader Jim Travelstead held the April meeting of the WINDOWS, WORD & EXCEL SIG at COMP USA's New Training Center located in their COMP USA Louisville Store at 825 South Hurstbourne Parkway. This presentation started Jim's first in-depth coverage of OFFICE 97 spreadsheet program EXCEL. Mr. Travelstead brought special little hints and tricks to the meeting, so that attendees could learn how to do things easier and quicker in the future. As always, Jim answered members' questions brought to the meeting with his usual thoroughness.

With this change of location, the WINDOWS WORD & EXCEL SIG Meetings are now on a monthly basis. This change will give YOU more space, new computers and a

computer/projector to aid learning more about WINDOWS, WORD & EXCEL from SIG Leader Jim Travelstead.

For the May meeting you might want to read PC World magazine - May issue, as Jim will be covering the article on "Ultimate Window Insider Tips for Windows 95/98" and he will show us how to implement the ones that YOU are interested in. Remember to bring your W, W & E problem(s) and get an answer from the Guru himself, SIG Leader, Jim Travelstead!

The June meeting will cover "Undocumented Windows Secrets; how to Unlock Hidden Windows Features Now" a feature article in the May issue of PC Computing.

Between meetings, if you have any questions on W, W & E save them and bring them to the SIG or Email Jim Travelstead at "jim.travelstead@louisville.edu" and Jim will have your answer at the next SIG meeting.

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# Deals Guy

by Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer User Group

Readers reminded me that the "Parsons/Broderbund/The Learning Company" acquisitions were not where that ended since Mattel topped it all by acquiring them. I wonder who those folks are working for this week!

The only deal still good is the "SpellCatcher" item. Call them at 1-800-359-4920 or visit their web site <[www.casadyg.com/stores/ug](http://www.casadyg.com/stores/ug)>.

## **\*So That's Where You Get Color Printers!**

A price reduction to \$1299.00 for QMS color laser printers was mentioned in a previous column, but not where to get it. The wait wasn't long since they're listed in at least three catalogs received since. The QMS and other color laser printers are listed in "Zones Business Solutions" (1-800-419-9663), "Publishing Perfection" (1-800-387-2164) and "Midwest Micro" (1-800-682-4211), and probably others. With time and shopping, you will probably find a deal, even if only saving sales tax ordering from an out of state catalog.

## **\*Come On Now, Be a Good Computer and BOOT-UP!**

This item may not be for the faint of heart, but more for consultants and people experienced inside the computer's case. We're talking about plug-in boards that will analyze your computer's refusal to boot if it's a hardware problem. "Data Depot" has three diagnostic test cards to plug in your motherboard.

1. "MiniPOST" economy Power-on self-test card for XT, AT, ISA, EISA computers. Shows self-test codes and power supply status when power is switched on. Instantly shows why system won't boot; Four LEDs show power supply status. Easy to read digital display shows test codes.

2. "PocketPOST V2" Power-on self-test card with logic probe for XT, AT, ISA and EISA computers. Instantly shows why system won't boot. Built-in voltmeter checks power to 95%. Shows status of 10 critical PC BUS signals. Easy-to-read digital display shows test codes. New built-in Logic Probe for the super tech. Troubleshoots to component level.

3. "PC PowerCheck." Professional PC/Amiga power supply test card. Plug-n-play, no software needed. Monitor reset, voltages high, low, noise and spike. LEDs show whether all voltages are in spec. Continuous/trap monitoring of hi/lo/spike.

More descriptions are on these brochures but visit their web site at <<http://www.datadepo.com>>, or call Data Depot at 1-800-767-3424 (# also good in Canada) or 1-813-445-3402. Prices for the cards are as follows:

MiniPOST test card, list - \$149.00, user group - \$69.00; PocketPOST test card, list - \$299.00, user group - \$159.00; and PC PowerCheck card, list - \$299.00, user group - \$199.00. Tell them the "dealsguy" sent you. I purchased a diagnostic card to check a computer I have, but have not had the chance to try it out at this writing.

## **\*Learning For Kids**

You might be tired of catalogs but this one caught my eye. If you work with young children, this catalog offers software, toys, books, videos and even Barbie software. All kinds of learning tools. It would be difficult to describe all it contains.

Call for the "Edutainment" catalog at 1-800-338-3844 if you haven't already received it. Mine had 40 pages of products, although nothing to help me learn to obey my wife better. Some items are for all ages, such as the "Complete Space and Astronomy," but no Hooter's stuff.

## **\*Deals You Only Find Out About By Ordering**

If you have not ordered from "Parsons" for a while, you might not be aware that packed with any order is an inventory reduction & closeout sale flyer. These sales are ongoing, and while the Parsons prices are already low, these prices are about half the regular price. Many at \$9.95 but be aware they are mostly outdated items.

Here's the catch, you only get this flyer with an "order" received from Parsons. They won't mail this flyer just for the asking. Mine had over 80 closeouts and specials. I'm told you can call in and see if something is on sale. They also offer daily specials that you only find out about by calling. Perhaps that's why I was on hold so long when calling for more information. However, it was nice to get a very friendly voice to answer my questions.

For what it's worth, both recent

# Deals Guy: (cont.)

orders were slow in coming and my patience was rewarded with free software in each order. Not bad titles either, although I'm still trying to figure out some things about the free "Newsletters & More."

For you Barbie lovers, since The Learning Company acquired Parsons they also offer several Barbie titles for \$19.95. The acquisition by Mattel should be completed soon, but that doesn't affect your placing an order.

The Parsons order number is 1-800-223-6985, but be prepared to wait. I'm thinking about getting some Barbie review software for my wife's birthday. Hmmm, it might be better to get her some cooking software to review.

## **\*Remember ViaGrafix?**

ViaGrafix has always been a friend to user groups. My club has had little contact with them the last few years but when checking an expired special, I found they still have a policy of offering products for review if your user group has it's "code" number.

Here's the deal: Your president, or your club's "Vender contact person," should go to the web site <[www.viagrafix.com](http://www.viagrafix.com)> and fill out the applica-

tion for your user group. That person will then be assigned a code number for ordering review items, and for members to order ViaGrafix products at a 20% discount. Thereafter, you can contact Tammie Kolker at <[tam@viagrafix.com](mailto:tam@viagrafix.com)> for review items. ViaGrafix's user group database should contain your officer and contact people list. Tutorials are on both video and CD ROM.

Order up to three review products. When they get a review from you, it is possible to order up to three more products for review. I can only tell you this offer is better than it sounds in my column. If your President doesn't already have your group's code number, consider it.

## **\*Good Heavens, Where Do I Find That?**

Many Deals column readers are business people. Information is a great resource, especially where to find a product or service. "Thomas Register" has been around the business world for many years and is a unique tool to find those products or services anywhere in North America.

Most products have risen in price

over the years, but not the Thomas Register. In fact, the price is better than ever, and it can even be bought on CD-ROM (Windows only). That version has nine CDs with tremendous search capabilities. I noticed a 1999 Thomas Register on CD-ROM entitles you to three years of use, but the search software expires on Mar. 31, 2002.

The price for this valuable product and services guide is \$199.00 right now, and if you have a "folio" number (mailed to you), it can be had for \$149.00 + %9.80 S&H in US. Sorry but no Canadian deals. You might ask if you can qualify for the \$149.00 special offer. Call them at 1-800-699-9822 ext. 444, or call customer service at 1-212-290-7277. Visit their web sites at <[www.thomasregister.com](http://www.thomasregister.com)> or <[www.thomaspublishing.com](http://www.thomaspublishing.com)>. They also offer the book version with 34 volumes, if you prefer, for the same price, but \$18.95 S&H.

Bob (The Cheapskate) Click.  
<[dealsguy@mindspring.com](mailto:dealsguy@mindspring.com)>.

## **If Microsoft made toasters ?**

Every time you bought a loaf of bread, you would have to buy a toaster. You wouldn't have to take the toaster, but you'd still have to pay for it. Toaster'98 would weigh 15000 pounds (requiring a reinforced steel countertop), draw enough electricity to power a small city, take up 95% of the space in your kitchen, would claim to be the first toaster that lets you control how light or dark you want your toast to be, and would secretly interrogate your other appliances to find out who make them. They would claim that their toaster is compatible will all brands and styles of bread but you would soon realize that the Bagel Engine is still in development and the Croissant Extension is 3 years away. Everyone would hate Microsoft toasters, but nonetheless would buy them since most of the good bread only works with their toasters. NToaster2000 would be larger, promise faster toast, but no actual release date would be available. Note: Microsoft would promise to only made toasters and not electricity - they would, however, buy a few bread companies.

## KIPCUG Mentors - aka members helping members

The following members have volunteered to provide assistance to any current member on these topics:

**Debbie Bulleit** (dbulleit@iusmail.ius.indiana.edu)

*AskSam, ASAP, Excel*

**Danny Lee Catron** (CDMRFIX@aol.com OR 502-495-1874)

*OS/2, Windows 95, WordPerfect 4 - 6.1, Lotus 1-2-3 ver 5, Hardware*

**T.Lee Harris** (tlee@aye.net)

*Pagemaker*

**Steve Goldberg** (stevegold@aol.com OR steve.goldberg@tfd.org)

*Paradox, Quattro Pro, WordPerfect, Excel, AOL, CompuServe*

**Mike Shaikun** (mike@aye.net)

*HTML and Basic WebPage Design*

**Bob Streever** (bob.streever@tfd.org)

*Pagemaker, FoxPro*

For help with additional topics, post a message to the KIPCUG Web Forum at <http://www.kipcug.org>

We are always interested in hearing from people willing to help out their fellow KIPCUG members.

Please contact a member of the Board of Directors if you are interested in being added to this mentor list.

**Kentucky-Indiana Personal Computer User's Group Inc.**

**KIPCUG**

**291 N Hubbards lane, Suite STE B-26-318**

**Louisville, KY 40207**

**[www.kipcug.org](http://www.kipcug.org)**

## Membership Application

Individual - \$35.00 annually

Family - \$50 annually for 2 people in the same household

Student - \$15 annually. Specify school & course of study \_\_\_\_\_

(Does not include mailing of I/O newsletter)

Corporate - \$160 annually for four people from same corporation

I prefer to receive the I/O newsletter by electronic means only

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to pay by Visa or MasterCard: Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**The next General Meeting will be on  
Tuesday, June 1, 1999 @ 6:30 pm  
at Indiana University Southeast, Ogle Center  
Subject: APC & Lava Technologies**

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