

COMPUTER ^{User} _{News}

Monthly Publication of the Kentucky-Indiana Personal Computer Users Group

February 2006

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Back by Popular
Demand

Tom Scanlan
and
Wayne Perkey

Present

Internet Security
Part 2

February 7, 2006

General Public is invited to attend.
Free Program Starts at 6:30 PM
Directions - Page 3

www.kipcug.org

KIPCUG

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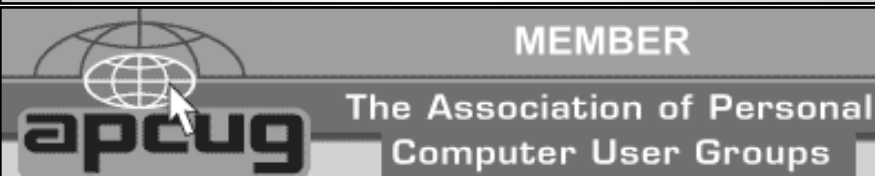
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Judy Lococo Tony Dattilo Charley May Joe Rothstein
Rosemary Viele Tom Denning Brian Miller



KIPCUG is a member of APCUG, an international association of computer user groups. Information is available at www.apcug.org

**KENTUCKY-INDIANA
PERSONAL COMPUTER
USERS GROUP, INC.**

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**EDITOR
SUSAN MOORE**

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Direct all magazine correspondence to the Editor at KIPCUG, 291 N. Hubbards Lane, Suite B-26-318, Louisville, KY 40207 or to editor@kipcug.org.

Over the Program Director's Shoulder

By Judy Lococo and Bill Buzan,
KIPCUG

February

After tabling the Internet Security Tom and Wayne Show, we will finally get to continue on with this in February. Both of these gentlemen are extremely capable of keeping themselves safe on the Net, but put them together and you have a dynamic duo unequalled. But you'll have to figure out which one is Batman! Also, in February, we will have an unusual User To User, as there were some unanswered questions from the January meeting. And you'll probably be able to find out how the sale of John's item is going on eBay.

I was unable to attend the January meeting, as I was trying to search out vendor resources for our group in Las Vegas at the APCUG confer-

ence. Please read Bill Buzan's comments under January about the General Meeting.

Future Meetings

I am hoping that Sandhills Publishing will be here in March. You may have seen some of their way of thinking by reading Smart Computing. I believe the meeting will be a refreshing change to hardware/software demos.

I am also trying to get Tanya Lux from Corel to return to our fair city in April to show us their latest version of WordPerfect. There should be a brand-spanking new release between now and then, so it will surely give you some insight into the latest features their word processing headliner brings to us.

And, I'm also working on a Linspire meeting for June. It seems there actually is an alternate operating system that is gui enough for me. I saw this presentation, and can actually admit that this Linux is a lot more user-friendly than what I had seen previously.

Stay tuned...

January

Jim Boneck, the LEADER of the Excel SIG, made a very informative presentation at the January General Meeting. Jim will be invited back for an extended presentation in the future.

Bob Rose and User to User suffered by have a limited time to respond to all of the questions that were submitted. Bob was able to

answer a few and will post the remaining answers at www.kipcug.org.

The main presentation was made by John Henderson with the Use and Operation of E-Bay, that is the use of E-Bay to BUY and SELL anything. He demonstrated on the screen all of his descriptions, tips and advice about his offering of his "Prized Baseball Card" on E-Bay. John was out of time and the audience was still wanting more info. He will also return at a later meeting. The attendance for this meeting was up 25%.

MEETING DIRECTIONS

Christ Church United Methodist
4614 Brownsboro Road

From I-264 (Watterson X-Way) take the US-42/Brownsboro Road exit number 22 turning left onto Brownsboro Road if you were traveling East on I-264 (turn right instead if you were traveling West on I-264). Continue for about 0.6 miles turning left at the traffic light at Blankenbaker Lane and turn left into the Church parking lot. Look for the signs.

Maps are at www.ccum.net and www.kipcug.org

WERE YOU THERE?

ON JANUARY 3

THE NAME DRAWN WAS

MARK GOSNEY

AND HE WAS NOT IN

ATTENDANCE.

NEXT MONTH

THE PRIZE WILL BE

\$40.

WILL YOU BE THERE?

Norton SystemWorks 2006 Review

By Tony Dattilo, KIPCUG

Norton SystemWorks 2006 (\$69.99) is a bundle of Symantec product offerings designed to help keep your computer operating in a well-maintained condition, prevent many common problems and assist in diagnostics when problems do occur. It includes a state of the art antivirus protection product needed to safeguard your computer against damaging virus attacks and dangerous spyware. And when trouble does occur, Norton SystemWorks is there to help you recover. This bundle is not to be confused with Norton SystemWorks Pro (\$99.99), which includes Norton Ghost.

In the 1980's, Peter Norton produced a popular tool to retrieve erased data from DOS disks, which was followed by several other tools collectively known as the Norton Utilities. Peter and his company, Peter Norton Computing, quickly became the accepted authority on DOS file structure. This and a succession of follow-on products were well received by the PC community.

At first, computer viruses consisted of executables inserted into the boot record of a diskette and propagated by moving an infected diskette between computers. Although some were destructive, many were just campus pranks like an unannounced Cookie Monster that would eat the text from your screen until you typed the word "cookie". Norton Computing was a leader in anti-virus detection and repair.

Norton Computing was sold to Symantec in 1990 and Symantec continued to use the Norton name in their product packaging. The devel-

opment team assembled by Peter continued to maintain a leadership in computer security. Symantec also began purchasing products developed by other companies and offering them for sale under the Symantec name. Some of these are Norton GoBack (formerly Roxio GoBack) and Norton Partition Magic 8.0 (formally PowerQuest Partition Magic.)

Since that time I have purchased several retail Symantec packages including Norton Utilities, Norton Firewall, Norton Antivirus, Norton SystemWorks 2000, Norton SystemWorks 2004, pcAnywhere and Symantec Partition Magic 8.0. The antivirus packages were available with updates and a one-year subscription.

The Symantec Partition Magic product was purchased to aid in upgrading a second hard drive. Having used the earlier versions by PowerQuest the second drive installation went as planned with no surprises. And then came the rub. Several days later, when attempting to recover the "C" drive using Ghost from SystemWorks 2004, the recovery program could not see the "C" drive. As a matter of fact, it did not see the whole physical hard drive. Without going into detail, let it suffice to say the emergency recovery diskette was required in the solution. The point being, current Symantec products are quality stand-alone packages, but they often do not work well with their siblings.

Now getting back specifically to Symantec SystemWorks 2006. First, let it be said this is a handy product to have on the shelf since some of the really useful utilities can be run

directly from the CD. These include:

- 1) Norton Cleanup
- 2) Norton Disk Doctor
- 3) Norton WinDoctor
- 4) Wipe Info

A comparison test was run to evaluate the WinDoctor utility. The 2004 version of WinDoctor was run and the defects corrected. Then the new 2006 version of the utility was run to see if any additional defects were found. Results, no additional defects found. The user interface of both utilities is very similar. The conclusion, based on a very limited sample, is "to the user this appears to be essentially the same product as the earlier versions." The same can be said concerning Norton Disk Doctor.

Also included is an option to install a product called Checkkit Diagnostics. This appears to be another purchased product that is a hardware diagnostic similar to the ones included in many OEM software packages. Next came the moment of truth: the installation of Norton SystemWorks 2006.

During the installation, a message appeared to the effect that Norton GoBack product could not be installed because the installer detected a multi-boot system. Now I am not aware of any installed multi-boot capability, but never argue with the Norton Utility when it comes to the boot record of a drive. I will resolve this issue later.

The installer next informed the operator that, if installed, the Symantec Password Manager would

Norton SystemWorks 2006 Review (cont.)

be removed (Symantec Password Manager is not one of the products included in this bundle.) The installer did provide the option to keep any password management data (which was comforting) and included instructions on how to reinstall Password Manager at a later time.

All of these compatibility problems discovered during the installation were of little concern because a complete backup of the "C" drive was made using Symantec Ghost just before starting the evaluation.

The big surprise was, without warning, Symantec Ghost had been disabled by the 2006 installation.

Enough already! Symantec SystemWorks 2006 was uninstalled, Symantec SystemWorks 2004 with Norton Ghost was reinstalled and the "C" drive restored successfully.

Bottom line: The security and utilities portion of the package are quality products. I do not know what they are doing that interferes with the operation of their other products (it may be some effort to

prevent illegal copies.) These installation surprises, if not corrected, will impact the value of what has been a quality software developer. Symantec is traded on the NASDAQ exchange with symbol SYMC. I would give a recommendation of "HOLD". This recommendation is based on street rumor that Microsoft may purchase Symantec.

For suggestions and comments - please contact Tony Dattilo, Tdattilo@aol.com.

KIPCUG Web Site Wins Award

By Charley May, KIPCUG

The international user group association, APCUG (www.apcug.net) awarded our web site www.kipcug.org second place in the Medium User Group category in January, 2006, out of all of the user group web sites, in 27 countries and 50 states. APCUG divides its member groups into small, medium and large categories. Web sites were judged on:

1. Group Information; site purpose, information, group calendar/history/officers
2. Layout and Design; attractive design, ease of use
3. Search Engine Results; will a search actually find the site
4. Interesting Site; a subjective analysis of the site

KIPCUG Webmaster, John Henderson, with the help of Roger Klingeman, Brian Miller and our Webmasters SIG have designed our

site to meet and exceed APCUG ratings. John also relies on Winnie Miller, Joe Rothstein and Doc Viele to point out needed changes and improvements. Photos are regularly submitted by KIPCUG Members Bob Setree and Bill Buzan. Susan Moore provides a digital copy of Computer User News each month. Judy Lococo and her Program Committee input the monthly meetings. Brian Miller provides SIG information. John, Charley May, Tom Scanlan, and Tom McArdle have put together a great list of "special offers" available to KIPCUG Members.

"Without the help of our members, we would not have won this award," said John Henderson, KIPCUG Webmaster. It takes many contributors to keep a User Group the size of KIPCUG fresh. No list of helpers

would be complete, of all that help with developing a web site that changes weekly.

Please continue using www.kipcug.org as a place to find out about the operation of our User Group and its benefits.



Online "My Family Health Portrait"

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director;
Columnist, The Examiner,
Beaumont TX; Radio Show Host

WEBSITES:

<http://www.hhs.gov/familyhistory>

<https://familyhistory.hhs.gov>

<http://www.hhs.gov/familyhistory/download.html>

Recently, a relative in another state was hospitalized via an emergency room admission. His new wife of just a year did not have much information on the family health history, so urgently needed by the physicians in order to diagnose and treat my relative. Urgent phone calls followed, gathering the requisite family medical history to enable the appropriate diagnosis and treatment. Philosophically, what if a comprehensive family medical history could have been immediately available? This circumstance is not unique, but a reasonable solution has been available for free for over a year at www.hhs.gov/family-history


history, courtesy of the U. S. Surgeon General's Office

This site explains the necessity of such data with the statement, "Health care professionals have known for a long time that common diseases - heart disease, cancer, and diabetes - and even rare diseases - like hemophilia, cystic fibrosis, and sickle cell anemia - can run in families. If one generation of a family has high blood pressure, it is not unusual for the next generation to have similarly high blood pressure. Tracing the illnesses suffered by your parents, grandparents, and other blood relatives can help your doctor predict the disorders to which you may be at risk and take action to keep you and your family healthy." In order to accomplish this task, the Surgeon General offers two simple options; one an online web-maintained version hosted on a secure server (that is what the "https" means in the internet address) at <https://familyhistory.hhs.gov>, the other a 1.6mb down-

loadable "Zip" file which may be stored on a home computer, and utilized in the privacy of the home. The files created in either version can easily be exchanged among family members via email or disc.

In the online version, a family history can be newly created, or an existing version can be uploaded from the home computer to the secure Surgeon General website where the data can be managed, and then saved back on the home computer; no personal information is saved or captured by the government computer, protecting the privacy of the user. It should be noted that much effort has gone into the creation of this web based service, in that it explicitly works equally well with almost all known browsers, including Internet Explorer, Firefox, Mac Safari, Netscape, and many other browsers.

The first step in using the online version is to "Create a Family History", or to "Load a Saved



- [HHS Home](#)
- [Questions?](#)
- [Contact HHS](#)
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Search

- [Family History Home](#)
- [My Family Health Portrait](#)
 - ◊ [English](#)
 - ◊ [Spanish](#)
- [My Family Health Portrait: Paper version](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [On-Line Resources](#)
- [Surgeon General's Press Conference](#)
- [Resource Packet for Health Professionals](#)

U.S. Surgeon General's Family History Initiative

My Family Health Portrait Download



Welcome to the My Family Health Portrait download page. From this page, you can download the My Family Health Portrait software and install it on your home computer, or you can use the new Web-based version.

To access the Web-based version, please click the link below:

Note: The Web version has been tested on the following browsers on Windows: Internet Explorer 5.0+, Netscape 7.0+ and Mozilla Firefox 1.0+. It has also been tested on the following browsers on Mac: Safari 1.3+, Netscape 7.0+ and Mozilla Firefox 1.0+. Internet Explorer 5.2 or lower on Mac is not a supported browser.

[Web-based Version](#)

Download My Family Health Portrait English Version 1.0 (Win 98, ME, 2000, XP & NT)

-  Download Size = 1.6 MB
-  Download Time = 5 minutes @ 53 kbps

* For questions regarding this software, please call 301-443-4000

[Download Now](#) (See instructions below)

Online "My Family Health Portrait" (cont.)

Family History" if a file had been previously created. The preliminary step is to create a personal profile, where basic information such as name, gender, height, and weight are entered. The personal profile continues with a simple checklist of major common diseases (such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes), and age of onset, followed by a fill-in-the-blank chart of other diseases. After the personal health history is created, there is then an opportunity to create a family profile. The family profile states "Only add family members that are biological (blood) relatives (not adopted or step-relatives)." Similar fill-in charts are presented to complete the information for the other family members. Data can be modified, added, or deleted at any time. Once the user has completed entering the basic family information, a button "Go to My Family" takes the user to the basic "Family Health Portrait" where a family health tree can be

displayed or printed; this family tree contains symbols and abbreviations immediately recognizable by a health care practitioner as a basic family health history. Other family members, such as aunts, uncles, and other blood relatives can be added to the list as well. Other family members listed on the family tree can have their own personalized family tree created at this point, and the entire file can be downloaded to the user's computer, leaving no personal data on the HHS computer.

If for privacy or other reasons, the user does not wish to enter personal family health data to the secured website, the downloadable version is a self-contained version of what is available on the website. Once uncompressed with any zip utility (built in to Windows XP), the file is easily and quickly installed. The software does require the Microsoft ".Net" utility, version 1.1 or later, available for free at windowsup-

date.microsoft.com. Once installed, the entire process is completed in the privacy of the home, with no personal data leaving the computer, unless the user desires to send the data files to other family members to complete or use as a basis for their own family health history.

With this information readily available both within a family unit, and shared with other blood relatives as appropriate, family health histories can be easily maintained, and distributed or printed as needed.

Many times we cannot recall family health problems that family members may have had which may give us a predisposition, or otherwise genetically affect us. With this free service and software from the Surgeon General, we may all be better able to provide our health care professionals with the information that may prove so vital to our health care and treatment.

Available Review Software

By Joe Rothstein, KIPCUG

GOOD NEWS!!!

New review software will be available at our February meeting.

We are fortunate to have received NORTON INTERNET SECURITY - 2006 Version.

Symantec Norton Internet Security: Enjoy your connection to the world. Protect your computer from viruses, hackers, spyware, and spam with comprehensive security.

This program includes: Norton AntiVirus, Norton Personal Firewall, Norton Privacy Control, Norton AntiSpam and Norton Parental Control.

REMEMBER THE REVIEW RULES - If you take the software, you have 30 days to evaluate, write, and submit, your review of 750 - 1000 words, for publication in KIPCUG's Computer User News. You then get to keep the software.

If you wish to review any software, sign in before the February

meeting starts, and a lucky name will be drawn during the meeting.

Special Note: If you have obtained new software during this holiday season, please consider submitting a review for our Computer User News. We would really appreciate your efforts to help our KIPCUG members.

Questions? Call Joe Rothstein at 451-3874, or joesr@iname.com.

Fearless Forecasts for 2006

By Rick Altman, Altman Digital Communications

I want a piece of the action. I want the opportunity to make embarrassing predictions, be ridiculed by our peers, and live in shame until next January. Here, therefore, is our annual contribution to the landscape of bold, prophetic statements that will surely come back to haunt us...

1. Microsoft has trouble with Office 12

The new version of Microsoft Office will not be plagued with bugs or security vulnerabilities. It will install without incident and run with acceptable or better performance on a majority of Windows boxes. The pundits will laud it and we commentators will speak of how the new interface will greatly improve productivity through all of the applications.

But the public will not embrace it. More set in their ways than any other type of PC user, daily users of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint have spent the past 48 to 60 months likening these apps to their toasters or microwave ovens: not every task is easy, but the mechanics of using the appliance is a no-brainer. That will not be the case at first with the freshly-designed Office 12, and many will find themselves retreating to Office 03 to get today's project out the door "until I have time to sit and play with it." We all know when that time comes -- December 32.

Consequently, Microsoft will consider a compatibility mode to keep

the new Office from becoming shelfware.

2. Corel products trade places

The Corel Graphics Suite (aka CorelDraw and PhotoPaint) will play to increasingly narrow niche markets, but Paint Shop Pro will hit its stride. It will become the most prominent alternative to Adobe Photoshop and work its way into more and more bundles with digital camera manufacturers.

PhotoPaint will begin to lose its identity and Corel officials will talk seriously about moving PSP into the CGS bundle.

3. Two lenses are better than one

The CES show in early January scooped me on this one: cameras with two lenses. Kodak debuted this at CES with a single 5MP sensor being mated to a pair of lenses, one fixed at 23mm and the other a 37-117mm zoom. My prediction was going to be that this would appear in 2006; now we will forecast that it will become commonplace this year.

4. Hand-held movies in high-resolution?

iPod devotees already speak of watching movies in their hands, but it is not my contention that you will ever watch feature-length movies on your iPod or mobile phone and actually enjoy it. We're getting closer, though: the digital videos that we create at our PhotosToMemories

web site will all play quite well on video-enabled handhelds, only requiring about 30MB apiece.

But that's not the same as watching a two-hour movie on your phone, and we know it. Technology cannot create comfort or compensate for lack of same, but there is no reason why your phone cannot be the movie player. A two-hour movie can be delivered in satisfactory 4:3 resolution in about 2GB and many phones, music players, and Palm devices can routinely accept a file of that size. What we will see in 2006 is the wide-spread support for those devices to connect directly to a television for playback.

5. Batteries...oy vey...

Whenever Prediction No. 3 becomes a reality, this one will be about six weeks behind: Batteries for handhelds will need to be about twice as good as they are now. Or the entire industry goes to hell!

6. Wither TiVo

Perhaps the most painful prediction in multimedia for 2006 will be our beloved TiVo, which will continue to fight to gain traction...and lose the battle. TiVo will become a technology, not a product, and those of us who bought in back in 2000 will be traumatized. For about a day...read on...

7. Television...directly to your PC

The networks will deliver us from

Fearless Forecasts for 2006 (cont.)

our trauma by offering services whereby you can subscribe to a television show and have it automatically download to your PC, with no restrictions or DRM issues. With relatively simple software, and more notably cooperation from the networks at a level not seen before, entirely new life will be breathed into the Windows Media Edition and to PCs billing themselves as media centers.

Before the year is over, I will walk

into a house that I have never been in before, take out my mobile phone and wirelessly play a network broadcast on the television there.

8. Every company will see the light...

...and train all of its employees so that nobody delivers obnoxious and annoying presentations and commits Death by PowerPoint ever again.

Well, seven out of eight won't be too bad.

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Microsoft Publishes "Home Office Security Checklist"

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont TX; Radio Show Host

WEBSITES:

http://www.microsoft.com/at/home/security/privacy/home_office_security.msp

<http://www.microsoft.com/at/home/security/privacy/default.msp>

<http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com>

<http://update.microsoft.com>

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

<http://www.safer-networking.org>

<http://www.lavasoftusa.com>

A lot of us do some or all of our work at home, and our computers are an absolutely vital adjunct to our ability to be productive and earn a living. While a successful attack on our non-commercial personal computing would be a personal crisis, a security breach of our computer when used for business purposes

may be catastrophic not just to us as individuals, but also to our families and clients.

Since many of us are so vitally dependent on our computers for our livelihoods, appropriate computer security practices are an absolute necessity. For this reason, Microsoft recently posted to the web a "Home office security checklist - Help safeguard your business when you work from home". These safe computing practices apply equally to telecommuters and entrepreneurs, as well as anyone else doing any work from home.

The first tip posted by Microsoft is a warning oft mentioned in this column, "Update your software". Much of the software that we use, ranging from our operating systems, to our word processors and spreadsheets, to our antivirus and antispyware utilities post frequent or periodic updates, which must be downloaded and installed. Recent ver-

sions of Windows can be updated using Internet Explorer (IE) and connecting to update.microsoft.com. Microsoft may download a small utility to your computer which will determine the software versions installed, and then provide a list of updates labeled with their degrees of importance. Updates labeled "critical" should be installed immediately, as they generally are provided to close security holes in the operating system or other key software components. Less critical updates and patches displayed should also be installed, but their importance is, by definition, less than critical. Any installed protective software, such as antivirus, antispyware, and firewall software should be checked for updates frequently, but not less often than daily, as they provide our critical first line of defense.

Microsoft recommends that all users have a firewall installed and properly configured. A firewall

"Home Office Security Checklist" (cont.)

helps protect the computer from hackers and crackers, and many of the worms that may infest our computers. Just like antivirus software, firewall software also requires periodic updating to protect from many of the newer threats. Users of Windows XP with service pack 2 (SP2) installed have a firewall integral with their operating system, but many of the third-party firewalls offer additional protection.

Antivirus software is absolutely required; there are currently over 100,000 viruses, worms, and Trojans in circulation that may threaten our computers. Viruses and other malware may come as email attachments, from media such as floppies or CDs, be installed by illicit websites, be loaded from "peer to peer" (P2P) networks, or be transmitted over a network from one infected computer to other connected computers. Most antivirus publishers now release updates very frequently, in some cases hourly, so antivirus software should be checked for updates several times a day, if possible.

Spyware is another somewhat recent scourge that has become endemic in attacking our computers. Spyware, and its cousin adware, may be as innocuous as showing unwanted pop-up ads on our screens, to capturing our keystrokes (user names, passwords, account numbers, etc.) and sending them to unknown third parties for illicit purposes such as identity theft, or breaking into our machines. One type of spyware, known as a "zombie" may actually take over our computers and use them to launch serious attacks against other computers, or as a trans-shipment vehi-

cle to unknowingly send out millions of spam emails from our computers, protecting the real purveyor of the spam. Microsoft has a free spyware utility "Microsoft Antispyware Beta" available for download from www.microsoft.com/security. There are also some excellent third party antispyware utilities, including some free ones, such as Spybot Search & Destroy (www.safer-networking.org), and Ad-Aware (www.lavasoftusa.com). Antispyware software needs to be frequently checked for updates, as several new spyware applications appear every day.

Microsoft also warns about the risks that otherwise innocent emails and instant messages (IM) may pose to our computing safety. Microsoft warns that even if an email appears to come from an acquaintance, the file attached to it or embedded in it may contain a virus or other software intended to attack your computer. Likewise, instant messages are now being used to transmit viruses and other malware, often as an attachment or as a download. It is also imperative that the user should never reveal personal or financial information in response to an email or instant message, as these modes are often used for "phishing", a popular method used to steal identities for nefarious purposes.

The three most important words in computing are "Backup, Backup, and Backup." Many of us learned dearly what can happen to the business use of our computers if struck by Rita, Katrina, or other disaster, or a common equipment failure were to wipe out our critical data files. Backup software is common, and

often included with external hard drives. CD and DVD discs can also be used to backup critical data files in the event of a catastrophic failure, as well as off-site backup services. In the event of a catastrophe or equipment breakdown, a recent backup can be used to quickly get us back in business, minimizing our lost revenues.

Microsoft also recommends the use of strong passwords, rather than easy-to-guess ones such as birthdays, anniversaries, kids' names, zip codes, etc., as there are several hacker utilities available that use high-speed digital dictionaries to quickly crack simple passwords, allowing illicit access to sensitive information. Passwords should also be changed frequently, and should always be properly secured, and not on a sticky note on the computer monitor.

Microsoft's final recommendation is not to let children use a business computer without proper supervision. Children are naturally curious and gullible, and often fall prey to viruses and other attacks that adults would likely prevent. Children should be taught not to download files, open email attachments, or engage in instant messaging on the business computer (or any other computer), unless closely monitored by a responsible adult.

By following some simple and common sense rules, and taking adequate precautions, we can protect our computers and our livelihoods from attack, and help promote our personal prosperity.

KIPCUG Financial Report

By Rosemary Viele, KIPCUG

The KIPCUG Board of Directors has voted to publish our financial report in the Computer User News every February and August. Our intent is to keep the members informed of the financial condition of our group. KIPCUG, like many computer user groups, has struggled in the past few years.

The Board is currently trying to find the best ways for our group to thrive. We need everyone's help in this endeavor. Our January meeting featured our own John Henderson explaining and demonstrating eBay. It was a great start for the year. In addition to our members, we had nine new members and twenty-three guests.

You helped by bringing guests to the meeting, renewing your memberships and giving memberships to your friends and families. New members and renewals are vital to our group and provide about 90 percent of our income.

We could also use a little of your time. We need volunteers to deliver magazines in their own communities, serve as SIG Leaders, procure more advertisers for the Computer User News, and serve on the Board. We need suggestions for program topics, places for our SIGs to meet, ways to save money and ideas to attract new members. KIPCUG belongs to all its members. We need every one of you contributing in some way. So let the fun begin, let us know how you are willing to help.

If you have any questions concerning this Financial Report, please contact Rosemary Viele, Treasurer.

KIPCUG Income/Expenses 2005

Income	
Member Dues	10100.00
Ads in Computer News	1360.00
Interest (Bank+PayPal)	174.79
Raffle Receipts	237.00
Non-Recurring Income	<u>380.00</u>
Total Income	12251.79

Expenses	
Administrative Expenses	
Fees & Dues	358.00
Office Supplies	161.99
Bank Charges	148.54
Misc Expenses	22.63
Membership Expenses	
Postage	310.40
Office Supplies	23.42
Meeting & Program Expenses	
Hall Rental	1500.00
Insurance	683.00
Education & Travel	350.00
Prizes	320.00
Meeting Expenses	115.89
Magazine Expenses	
Printing	9292.69
Distribution/Postage/Mail Service	1850.51
Software	149.99
Non-Recurring Expense	<u>1760.00</u>
Total Expenses	17047.06

Bank Balance 12/31/05	7855.44
Plus PayPal Account	640.45
Less Tom Carr Fund	<u>860.17</u>
Funds Available	7635.72

www.kipcug.org

A USB Primer

By Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D. Sarasota PCUG, Florida and APGUG Editorial Committee

By now most computer users are familiar with the term USB or Universal Serial Bus. This connection port on your computer is designed to replace the older serial, parallel and PS2 ports. Probably within a year you won't find any new computers with these older ports. They will have only USB. There are some things you might find useful about USB ports and hubs which could reduce or eliminate problems in dealing with them.

USB ports have a number of advantages over the old system of parallel/serial ports. They do not require I/O memory space or individual IRQ lines. Anyone who has had to work with older computers and operating systems will remember the problems of trying to prevent IRQ conflicts when connecting external devices such as scanners or modems. How many times did the sound card manage to steal IRQ's that you had to have for another device? USB also allows for automatic device configuration and hot-plug capability. The hot-plug or hot-swap function means that you don't have to power down the computer and go through a restart when you want to connect a new device. Instead you simply connect or disconnect the USB cable. The computer will recognize the device and connect to the proper driver. That is assuming this isn't the first time you have used the device and that the driver has already been installed. You commonly have to install drivers for external hard drives, printers, scanners, card readers, etc. You generally don't have to

install drivers for mice and keyboards that connect to the USB ports.

Next, consider that USB operates at three possible speeds: low speed or 1.4 megabits/second, full speed or 12 megabits/second, and high speed or 480 megabits/second (mbps). Low speed and high speed can be used with either USB 1.x or USB 2.0 hosts. The high speed can be used only with USB 2.0. The host is the computer that provides the USB connections. For USB 2.0 operation, the host computers "root port hubs" must support USB 2.0. That means the computer must have USB 2.0 drivers that are supported by the operating system. Windows XP (service pack 1.0) and Windows 2000 both support USB 2.0. The root port hubs are the USB connectors on your computer and are usually connected to the motherboard. You can also identify them in the Device Manager where they will show under the USB Host Controller.

Although the USB specifications indicate you can daisy-chain up to 127 devices from one port, this is not likely to happen because of the power drop that occurs over long connections. You can get external hubs that allow you to connect 4 - 7 devices to a single root port hub. The external hubs are repeaters that relay transaction information from the computer to a device connected to the hub's port. There is a catch to this as well. Some USB 2.0 hubs will decrease their maximum output if you have a USB 1.x device attached to a port. This means that any USB 2.0 device attached to the hub may not function or will function at a lower speed. I learned this

the hard way with an external USB 2.0 hard drive. I thought the problem was the drive, but it was the hub. I had a USB 1.0 card reader attached to the hub and as a result the current output to each port was reduced to the point that it was not sufficient to run the drive. This occurred even though the hub and the drive had external power supplies.

An ample power supply is necessary to operate USB devices. Root hub ports can provide 5 volts and up to 500 milli-Amps (mA) of current. The USB power specifications state the USB ports should provide between 100 mA and 500 mA. Devices connected directly to the computer are able to obtain the maximum current. So let's take a situation where we have a hub connected to the computer's root port hub. The hub is receiving 500 mA of current at about 5 volts. If only the current received through the connecting cable powers the hub, the output from each of its four hubs will be only 100 mA. This is referred to as a "bus-powered" hub because it receives its current solely from the USB bus in the host computer. However, if the hub has its own power supply and is receiving at least 1.6 Amps from this supply, then it can provide a 500 mA output at each port. In this case, the hub should be able to support high-speed USB 2.0 devices.

On some computers you will find an icon in the system tray that is a "hardware disconnect". In this instance, you need to double click the icon and wait for it to permit you to disconnect the hardware device. This icon does not appear with all USB devices. Since

A USB Primer (cont.)

installing SP2, I haven't seen this icon in my system tray. There are some reports of computers with SATA drives showing this icon. Since the SATA drive is supposed to be hot-swappable like USB devices, I'm not surprised that the icon shows up. However, with my Seagate SATA drive, I still don't see this icon. That may be because my motherboard doesn't support the hot-swap function even though it supports SATA drives.

When you plug in a USB device to either a hub or a computer port, there is an initial identification process referred to as the "configuration" step that occurs. During this configuration process the device can not draw more than 100 mA. If it does, the process will fail and it will appear that the device failed to work. The configuration process identifies the device, its drivers, and its power requirements. Only after this process is complete will the device be able to draw more than 100 mA current. Since this process is not instantaneous, some time must be allowed by the user before attempting to use the device. In addition, this configuration may not occur if the device is plugged into the computer before the computer is turned on and booted. In these cases, it may be better to connect the USB device after the computer is fully operational. Most of the time, the computer will identify and configure the device during the bootup.

Microsoft has a knowledge base article on trouble-shooting USB problems (#310575). Typically the problems relate to drivers or power problems. However, they also point out that high-speed devices should be connected with high-speed

cables only. The low speed cables may distort the signal as a result of their reduced amount of shielding. Another really complete source of trouble-shooting information can be found at: <http://www.usbman.com/winxpusbguide.htm>. This has references for Windows ME as well as XP and Windows 2000. However, anyone who hasn't dumped Windows ME should seriously consider doing so as soon as possible. WinXP is such a tremendous improvement over ME and will really make your computing experience much more enjoyable. My computer hasn't locked up or crashed in more than six months, probably longer. I really don't keep track anymore.

So what devices are typically high speed and require USB 2.0? Let's start with external USB hard drives. Seagate has a very interesting technical paper on external hard drives. In this paper they state that most 2 1/2" external drives require 1000 - 1100 mA during the start-up cycle and then can function at the 500 mA maximum current available from the USB port. They also state that most USB ports can support up to 700 mA on a continuous basis. This is something I have not found elsewhere. Consequently, my recommendation is that when looking for an external drive; pick one with its own power supply. I wouldn't want to depend on one that drew all its power from the USB.

Other high-speed devices include laser printers, scanners, and multi-function printers. All of these should have their own power supply. Other devices that operate at full-speed and don't need external power are blue-tooth adapters and card read-

ers. This is only a partial list of what is available in USB devices. Just remember, when you are looking at them that the term full-speed is not 480 mbps, instead it is the slower 12 mbps.

Dr. Lewis is a former university & medical school professor. He has been working with personal computers for more than thirty years. He can be reached via e-mail: bwsail@yahoo.com.

Membership

Tom Denning, KIPCUG

Please welcome KIPCUG's newest members.

LYNNETTE S LEGETTE
MARC MILLER
CRAIG UTLEY
ELIZABETH S MILLS
MRS LESTER ARNOLD
IRVIN R DENNISON
PAULA A BISHOP
CHARLES PRESTON
OSCAR FAIR
PAUL R HOLLERN
BILL HOUGHTON
JO ANNE GOLDE

Corporate Member
INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS
BILL THOMPSON
NANCY WHEELER
BILL KEATTING
LAURA FRANKRONE

Each new person that you invite to a KIPCUG meeting can earn a FREE month of dues for you if they join as an Individual or Family member! If you liked the Meeting, they will too!

Directory of KIPCUG Leaders

Name	Position	Home	Work	Email Address
Charley May	President	425-4604		sig@win.net
Bill Buzan	Vice-President	639-7647		bill.buzan@insightbb.com
Winnie Miller	Secretary	895-5360		winnie.miller@worldnet.att.net
Rosemary Viele	Treasurer	452-6878		treasurer@kipcug.org
Judy Lococo	Program Director			judyl@thorobred.win.net
Tom Denning	Membership Director	550-6106		membership@kipcug.org
Tom McArdle	Volunteer Director	458-7269		geezer@insightbb.com
Brian Miller	SIG Director	749-5892		sigs@kipcug.org
Susan Moore	Editor	499-5222		mooresk@win.net, editor@kipcug.org
John Henderson	Webmaster		812-945-1102	webmaster@kipcug.org
Vacant	Publicity Director			
Mike Shaikun	Legal Advisor	425-3326	587-3540	
Joe Rothstein	Review Editor (Acting)			
Doc Viele	Director	452-6878		aqviele@win.net
Beverly Setree	Director		452-9851	beverly@advanced-grinding.com
Charles Russman	Director	244-0667		eckrus@bellsouth.net
Ken Hubler	Director	812-738-3485		khubler@win.net
Wayne Perkey	Director			radiotechtalk.com
Alan Birch	SIG Leader	429-0506		ajbirch@bellsouth.net
Jim Boneck	SIG Leader			jboneck@yahoo.com
Martin Campion	SIG Leader	810-9125		mccampion@aol.com
John Kilpatrick	SIG Leader	969-6983		jewel@win.net
Grant McCormick	SIG Leader	935-2497		gmccormick@win.net (Preferred)
Bob Rose	SIG Leader	241-1604		britude@techemail.com
Tom Scanlan	SIG Leader	502-477-1639	477-1639	tpscan@iglou.com
Myron Smith	SIG Leader	897-7718		mjslks@insightbb.com
Jim Travelstead	SIG Leader	375-4796	852-4761	jim.travelstead@louisville.edu

For Your Information

Changes for mailing address, email address or telephone numbers should be sent to Tom Denning, Director of Membership. You can send the change to the KIPCUG mailing address printed on the back of this Magazine or by email to membership@kipcug.org. The KIPCUG Membership Renewal Link is on the web page at www.kipcug.org in the "For Your Information" section or you can access it directly at <http://www.kipcug.org/payment.htm>.

February 2006 KIPCUG Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Visual Basic SIG	3	4
5	6 Hardware SIG	7 General Meeting	8	9 Genealogy II SIG Investing SIG	10 Windows OS SIG	11
12 Articles for Magazine Due 2/14	13 Excel Basic SIG	14 Board of Directors	15	16 Webmasters SIG	17 Advanced Users SIG	18
19	20 Genealogy SIG	21 Real Estate SIG	22	23 Utilities SIG	24	25 Hands On SIG
26	27 Intermediate Users SIG	28 Digital Photo SIG Technical Mkt Analysis SIG	All Monday-Friday Meetings are at 6:30 PM. All Afternoon Meetings are at 2:00 PM.			

KIPCUG Special Interest Group Directory

ACCESS BASIC SIG - Meets at a date and location to be announced. Contact SIG LEADER Alan Birch at ajbirch@bellsouth.net or 429-0506

ACCESS PROGRAMMING SIG - Meetings on Hold - Meets at a date and location to be determined. Contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org or 749-5892

ADVANCED USERS SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 3rd Friday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Tom Scanlan at 1-502-477-1639 or tpscan@iglou.com

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG - Meets on the 4th Friday of specified months at Advanced Grinding and Machine Inc, 4644 Illinois Avenue. Contact TEAM MEMBER Beverly Setree at 452-9851 or beverly@advanced-grinding.com

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the LFPL-Bon Air Regional, 2816 Del Rio Place. Contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org or 749-5892

EXCEL BASIC SIG - Restarting - Meets 6:30 PM on the 2nd Monday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Jim Boneck at jboneck@yahoo.com

EXCEL INTERMEDIATE SIG - Meetings on Hold - Meets 6:30 PM on the 2nd Friday of the month at CCUM. Contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org or 749-5892

GENEALOGY SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 3rd Monday of the month at the LFPL-Eline Branch at St. Matthews City Hall Building at the corner of Grandview Ave. and Fairfax Ave. about 3 blocks south of Shelbyville Rd. Contact SIG LEADER Susan Moore at 499-5222 or mooresk@win.net (www.win.net/mooresk)

GENEALOGY II SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the LFPL-Jeffersontown Branch, 10635 Watterson Trail. Contact SIG LEADER Susan Moore at 499-5222 or mooresk@win.net

HANDS ON SIG - Meets 2:00 PM the 4th Saturday of the month at the LFPL-Eline Branch at St. Matthews City Hall Building at the corner of Grandview Ave. & Fairfax Ave. 3 blocks south of Shelbyville Rd. Contact Co-SIG LEADERS Charley May at sig@win.net or Grant McCormick at gmccormick@win.net or Tom McArdle at usersig@insightbb.com

HARDWARE SIG - Meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of the month at the LFPL-Eline Branch at St. Matthews City Hall Building, the corner of Grandview Ave./Fairfax Ave. 3 blocks south of Shelbyville Rd. Contact Co-SIG LEADERS Grant McCormick at gmccormick@win.net or Charley May at sig@win.net or 425-4604

INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 4th Monday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Jim Travelstead at jim.travelstead@louisville.edu or 852-4761(W), 375-4796(H)

INVESTING SIG - Meets 6:30 PM the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Louisville Aero Club, Bowman Field. Contact SIG LEADER Doc Viele at 452-6878

LINUX SIG - Meetings on Hold - Meets at a location and time to be determined. Co-SIG LEADERS Rob Coffey and Jacob Wilkins. Contact TEAM MEMBER Jack Link at redoscar3@yahoo.com

NEW USERS SIG - Meets at a date and location to be announced. Contact SIG LEADER Charley May at sig@win.net

NEW USERS DAYTIME SIG - Meets 2:00 PM on the 3rd Monday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Winnie Miller at winnie.miller@att.net

PDA SIG - Meetings on Hold - Meets 6:30 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at a location to be determined. Contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org or 749-5892

REAL ESTATE SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Bill Buzan at re_sig@insightbb.com or 639-7647

TECHNICAL MARKET ANALYSIS SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 4th Tuesday of the month at Louisville Free Public Library, Crescent Hill Branch, 2752 Frankfort Avenue in the lower level meeting room. Contact SIG LEADER Myron Smith at 897-7718 or mjlsks@insightbb.com

UTILITIES SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 4th Thursday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact Co-SIG LEADERS Tom McArdle at usersig@insightbb.com or Charley May at sig@win.net or 425-4604

KIPCUG Special Interest Group Directory (cont.)

VISUAL BASIC SIG - Meets 6:30 PM on the 1st Thursday of the month at the LFPL-Bon Air Regional, 2816 Del Rio Place. Contact SIG LEADER Martin Campion 810-9125 or mccampion@aol.com

WEBMASTERS SIG - Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at Win.Net located at 1048 Chestnut St. Contact SIG LEADER John Henderson at jh@inetmarketing.com or 812-945-1102

WINDOWS OS SIG - New Date/Location - Meets on the 2nd Friday of the month at 6:30 PM at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Bob Rose at britdude@techemail.com or 241-1604

YOUTH SIG - Meetings on Hold - Meets 6:30 PM on the 4th Friday of the month at CCUM. Contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org or 749-5892

The SIG Scene

By Brian Miller, KIPCUG

**Where to find the scoop on
your Special Interest Group**

HEADLINE NEWS

We are continuing talks with a couple of new meeting locations to determine what times are available and which SIGs will work best to meet at those locations. I appreciate everyone who has helped in this area and I believe we will come up with some great new relationships as well as meeting locations out of this. Since at this time we do not have a solid schedule, the ACCESS BASIC and NEW USER SIGs will not have meetings for February. If anything changes in this an email will be sent out to all those on the mailing list. Continue to forward information on any locations or ideas for SIGs that you may have to me at sigs@kipcug.org.

The COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG started January off with a large donation of computers from Summit Energy Services Inc. These computers will be refurbished and reloaded by the SIG members. I am excited to see how we as a group can give back to the community through the donation of these computers to needy individuals. Please submit any suggestions you may have of organizations, such as small schools, churches or non profit agencies that may be able to use one of these computers. If you haven't attended the COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG in the past, now is the time to check it out. Contact Bob and Beverly Setree at beverly@advanced-grinding.com to be added to the

email list of upcoming meetings.

The VISUAL BASIC SIG is currently on a leave due to their SIG LEADER being out of town for the next couple of months. Keep watching the email list for any changes to the status, but currently we expect to resume meetings of this SIG in April at the regularly scheduled times.

Whatever your area of interest is currently or what you may want to learn about, there is a SIG out there for you. So, come visit some of the SIGs. The SIGs and the General Meetings are open to all guests. If you do not see one that peaks your interest, then email me and let me know what would. I am always open to your comments and suggestions for the SIGs. After all, this is your User Group.

KIPCUG SIGs are still looking for NEW meeting places. Please keep your eyes and ears open for new SIG meeting locations and report suggestions to KIPCUG SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org or 749-5892. Locations should hold 12-24 persons with Internet connections and, if possible, computers for the attendees would be a plus.

ACCESS BASIC SIG

The February 11 meeting of the ACCESS BASIC SIG is still pending the confirmation of a new meeting location. We have evaluated a couple of locations and should have one available soon. I hope this will happen

The SIG Scene (cont.)

for the February 11 meeting, but am not sure at this time. We will send out emails and post on the website the information as soon as it is available. If you have a location that you feel may be suitable for this or any other SIG to meet, please contact Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org and put SIG LOCATION in the subject line.

The ACCESS BASIC SIG uses the tools that are available in Access without programming. If you have topics that you would like discussed, please contact SIG LEADER Alan Birch at ajbirch@bellsouth.net or 429-0506. If you have some tips and tricks to share, we would love to hear them.

ACCESS PROGRAMMING SIG

The ACCESS PROGRAMMING SIG has been suspended due to conflicts with the meeting location. We hope to resume meetings when a new meeting location is secured. The ACCESS PROGRAMMING SIG assumes a good working knowledge of Access and focuses on programming and advanced techniques.

If you would like to be notified of the restart of this SIG, you can contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org. Include ACCESS PROGRAMMING SIG in the subject line of your email.

ADVANCED USERS SIG

The February 17 meeting of the ADVANCED USERS SIG will meet at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM This will be a continuation of our past two meetings on networking topics. Windows XP supports numerous network enhancements such as network printing, remote management and assistance. Join us with your laptop as we establish a local network and experiment with XP's network features. We'll also discuss any hot security issues during our Q&A period as our SIG LEADER Tom Scanlan updates us on IT news, as well as questions the group might bring up.

On January 20 the ADVANCED USERS SIG brought in personal computers and, using a network hub, set up a local network. Then, using tools available in Win XP Pro, we set up a Remote Assistance session. We demonstrated how to use this XP feature so someone can help guide another user or repair a problem across a network.

Please check out the KIPCUG web site to read details of past and future meeting topics, new announcements and Q&A threads. Visit www.KIPCUG.org and click the Forum tab to see the Advanced User section.

The ADVANCED USERS SIG explores software and hardware topics of interest to people who are very comfortable with their computer who want to know even more. We encourage everyone to share

their experiences so we can all learn and grow into areas we would not normally explore on our own.

We meet in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at Christ Church United Methodist (CCUM) on the third Friday of the month. Add yourself to our email alert list by self-registering at groups.yahoo.com/group/KIPCUGAdvUsers or contact Tom at tpscan@iglou.com. Please use ADVANCED USERS SIG as the subject line of your email.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG

The COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG will meet again on March 24 at 6:30 PM at Advanced Grinding and Machine, Inc, 4644 Illinois Ave. in Louisville. We will continue in 2006 on our bi-monthly meeting schedule. At the January 27 meeting, we began assessing and repairing computers that were donated to KIPCUG. In January we received a generous donation of approximately 30 computers and almost as many monitors from a local business. We will get as many as possible repaired, reloaded and ready for use by someone or someplace in need. We will also be evaluating locations that have been suggested to receive these computers.

We are still accepting donations. The COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG has been designed to take donations of computer equipment and restore them to working condition. These computers can then be

The SIG Scene (cont.)

distributed to people in need. We are always looking for donations. Even if you think there is no value in your old computer, contact us and let us take it off your hands. We also welcome people willing to help restore computers for redistribution.

This SIG has provided PCs to disadvantaged residents of the area and will continue to provide a valuable service to the community. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

The COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG meets at Advanced Grinding and Machine, Inc, 4644 Illinois Ave. in Louisville at 6:30 PM on the fourth Friday of odd-numbered months except November. To be added to the SIG's advance mailing list, contact TEAM MEMBER Beverly Setree, beverly@advanced-grinding.com. Place the words COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG in the subject line of your email.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG

The next scheduled meeting of the DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG will be Tuesday, February 28, at 6:30 PM at the LFPL Bon Air Branch Library. At that meeting, we will continue looking at the camera equipment we already own or hope to possibly purchase in the future and continue to see how pictures we have taken or wish to take can be optimized first in the camera and then by the computer. Software

will be discussed including continuing examples by Matt Chojnowski using the free program The GIMP.

Any questions on your new cameras, software or printers will also be welcome. Bring those nagging questions, pictures on which you need help (on disk), cameras (with the user manuals), and if you have special software be certain to bring it also.

The specific purpose of this SIG is to examine the software and hardware topics that will make your photographic efforts more fun and rewarding. Members at any level of experience and owners of any type of digital camera are welcome. Again, please be certain to bring your camera, manual and photo CD and we will all increase our ability to understand how digital photography is different from using film.

The DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG meets monthly at 6:30 PM on the fourth Tuesday at the LFPL Bon Air Branch Library. Contact Bill Edwards by email at bedwardsna@sbcglobal.net to get advance notice of this SIG. Be certain to put DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY in the subject line so that it is not destroyed as SPAM.

EXCEL BASIC SIG

Our next meeting of the EXCEL BASIC SIG will be February 13 at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222 at CCUM. We will discuss more about built in functions and creating forms in Excel.

The EXCEL BASIC SIG met Monday, January 9. We looked at how Excel can be used to manipulate data from other software and make it useful for mailing lists. This utilizes importing, parsing, and a few more functions.

The pace of this SIG will be set by the attending members. Each session will start with member questions about home or work projects or last month's material. Feel free to bring in your data or existing spreadsheet. Next is a presentation of new material, followed by the opportunity to practice this material.

The CCUM Computer Lab has computers for your use, but some people bring their laptops so they can practice and ask questions about their particular situation. We wrapped up the meeting with Q&A.

The EXCEL BASIC SIG meets at 6:30 PM the second Monday of the month in the CCUM Computer Lab, Room 222. To be put on the email list or if you want to send a question, email Jim Boneck at jboneck@yahoo.com and put EXCEL BASIC SIG in the subject line.

EXCEL INTERMEDIATE SIG

The EXCEL INTERMEDIATE SIG assumes a working knowledge of Excel and familiarity with most of the Excel icons. There are many, many functions that are available in

The SIG Scene (cont.)

Excel that few of us realize can make our lives easier.

Due to low attendance, the EXCEL INTERMEDIATE SIG has been suspended. We hope that the SIG will resume soon if KIPCUG members express sufficient interest.

To be added to the email list or to state your interest in this SIG, send an email to SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org and type "EXCEL INTERMEDIATE SIG" in the subject line. In the meantime, you should attend the EXCEL BASIC SIG with Jim Boneck as the SIG LEADER. That SIG meets on the second Monday of the month at the CCUM Computer Lab.

GENEALOGY SIG

The next GENEALOGY SIG Meeting will be at 6:30 PM on February 20 at our regular location, the LFPL Eline Branch. The presentation topic will be Reports - How to Audit your Data. Everyone makes mistakes. If you can figure out what your most likely mistakes are then you can design a report to catch those errors and eliminate them. Come see how.

We did not have a January meeting because the library was closed on Martin Luther King JR's Birthday.

TMG version 6.07 is the most current version available. Be sure to update your program with either the free download, if you have not already downloaded it, or the

update on the Cruise CD. Now is the time to jump in so that you get all of the tips and tricks since we have had new users join us in the last few months. You will not be alone if you are new to The Master Genealogist.

The GENEALOGY SIG meets at the LFPL Eline Branch at 6:30 PM on the third Monday each month. SIG LEADER Susan Moore and all of the SIG's attendees are looking for YOU to join us at a future meeting. If you have any particular questions before the next meeting, please email SIG LEADER Susan Moore at mooresk@win.net. If you want a map or directions on how to get to the GENEALOGY SIG, go to www.win.net/mooresk.

GENEALOGY II SIG

The GENEALOGY II SIG will have its next meeting on February 9 and will continue to meet monthly on the second Thursday at 6:30 PM at the Louisville Free Public Library Jeffersontown Branch.

The GENEALOGY II SIG had its last meeting on January 12.

This SIG is going to be an informal Q&A session without any handouts. Topics are not announced ahead of time because the participants will determine the content of the meeting. Short subjects may be presented from time to time when there are insufficient questions.

If you have any particular questions before the next meeting, please email SIG LEADER Susan

Moore at mooresk@win.net. If you want a map or directions on how to get to the SIG, go to www.win.net/mooresk and click on the GENEALOGY II SIG.

HANDS ON SIG

Our next meeting will be on February 25, the fourth Saturday of the month, at the Eline Branch of the LFPL in St. Mathews. We start at 2:00 PM and will work with you to get your machine back up and running at top speed. The group can also help you build/upgrade your own PC in just one weekend. It may not always be possible to work on every machine that is not expected, but we resolve most issues by the library closing time.

There is no fixed topic to discuss, just a chance to find some assistance and learn more about your PC. You will need to bring your complete system, monitor, keyboard, mouse, cables and processor. Should you need help getting it up to the meeting room, members will assist you.

At previous meetings, we have worked with a member whose Operating System would not boot up, were plagued by slow systems and had security problems. Our work was done without losing any of the programs or data on the computer, to the delight of the computer owners.

If you are not comfortable going at it alone, email us in advance and the group will be ready to help you

The SIG Scene (cont.)

help yourself. Gain confidence and improve your knowledge base in just a few hours. Members with repair experience are encouraged to drop in and help other members solve nagging problems. All levels of experience are welcomed and we will share our abilities with one another.

Our location has a high-speed web connection and driver updates and patches can be downloaded quickly. We meet on the fourth Saturday of the month at 2:00 PM in the second floor meeting room at the Eline Branch of the LFPL. We often run well into the afternoon to assure your problems are resolved.

If you have a problem machine, contact the Co-SIG LEADERS listed below in advance of the next meeting so that time can be allocated to address your problems. For an advance notice of this SIG, please contact Co-SIG LEADERS Charley May at sig@win.net or Tom McArdle at usersig@insightbb.com. Please add the words HANDS ON SIG in the subject line of your email.

HARDWARE SIG

The group will meet on February 6 in the second floor meeting room of the Eline Branch of the LFPL in St. Matthews. We will welcome the expected return of Co-SIG LEADER Charley May. Charley, Grant and TEAM MEMBERS will start you on learning the process of finding what is available, pricing, purchasing at the good prices, and

assembling a new project or computer. We plan to review the newest hardware accessories for your home PC. We will review copies of the most recent advertisements and online specials, and give you our assessment of what the best bargains are.

At our last meeting, Grant walked the group through a step-by-step installation of a dual layer DVD burner in a desktop computer. Time was reserved for answering questions on member's hard drives at the end of the session.

Do you have a desire to expand the capabilities of your existing system? Do you want to be comfortable with adding your own hard drive, audio or video card, memory module, DVD burner or building your own computer from the ground up? Learn the tips and techniques necessary for a successful hardware upgrade.

Does your machine need help? Contact us so the Co-SIG LEADERS Charley May and Grant McCormick can be ready to assist you with your computer. Do not surprise the group. Let them know in advance that you are bringing your unit. With advance planning, you may not need to bring your complete system to the meeting.

Our regular meeting time is on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM, in the second floor meeting room of the Eline Branch of the LFPL in St. Matthews. If you would like a reminder of the next meeting and its topic, send an email to Co-SIG LEADER Charley May at sig@win.net. Be sure to put HARDWARE SIG in the subject line of your message.

INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG

For the February 27 meeting of the INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG which meets in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM at 6:30 PM, we'll have a Question and Answer session, so bring your computer/software questions. Don't forget to bring future topic suggestions you want covered to this meeting.

At the meeting on January 23, we went over some of the new things included in the new Windows Mobile 5 operating system for some PDA's. The PDA we looked at is an HP IPAQ hx2755 I upgraded from Windows Mobile 2003 Second Edition. Microsoft made changes to the use of ram/rom and made changes to the Office Software (Word, Excel, and added PowerPoint) and the ActiveSync software. Other visual changes were also made.

At the meeting on December 26, we had a question and answer session on the computer toys, accessories, hardware, and software that we got from Santa.

The SIG focuses on the various versions of MS Windows software, its features, methods of operation, problems and all the hints and tips that Jim knows you will be interested in. Topics suggested at meetings usually become future meeting topics. This SIG is for users who are comfortable with the daily use of their computer and want to learn more. In other words, you have

The SIG Scene (cont.)

mastered your fear of computers and you are willing to push the envelope a little. We welcome discussion and a chance for everyone to learn.

The INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG meets in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM at 6:30 PM monthly on the fourth Monday. CCUM is at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42) at the Blankenbaker Lane traffic light. Directions are on the CCUM web site at www.ccum.net and on the KIPCUG web site at www.kipcug.org.

If you have any questions or suggestions for meeting topics, bring them to the SIG or email Jim at jim.travelstead@louisville.edu or leave them at the INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG area in the KIPCUG forum and Jim will have your answer at the next SIG meeting or before.

Jim is updating his email list. Anyone interested in receiving an email about one week before the meeting please email him with "Add me to the KIPCUG INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG meeting email list" in the subject line. Anyone at the February meeting will be added to this list.

exchanges on any economic subject of current interest. Questions and presentations are encouraged.

The next SIG meeting will include general information on investing and the usual information exchange. The INVESTING SIG meets the second Thursday of the month at the Louisville Aero Club at 6:30 PM. This is not an investment club; they DO NOT discuss mutual funds.

LINUX SIG

With the loss of our meeting place, the LINUX SIG is presently in a state of limbo. At such time that new arrangements can be made, notice of future meetings will be posted in the Computer User News and emailed to list members.

Want to be notified about meeting subjects or do you have a suggestion for future meeting topics? Please send an email to TEAM MEMBER Jack Link at redoscar3@yahoo.com and type "LINUX SIG" in the subject line.

INVESTING SIG

SIG LEADER Doc Viele moderates the INVESTING SIG discussions, which have been ongoing since 1986. The next SIG meeting will be on February 9. Meetings consist of round table information

The date and time of our next meeting will be announced in the SIG Scene when arrangements for a new meeting place are completed. SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller will also have the new location of this

SIG announced on the website (www.KIPCUG.org).

To join our mailing list, send an email to SIG LEADER Charley May at sig@win.net and be sure to include NEW USERS SIG in the subject line. We will send you a reminder of our meetings and the topics to be covered a few days before our next meeting.

NEW USERS DAYTIME SIG

Due to the continuing recovery of SIG LEADER Winnie Miller, there will not be a February meeting. March 20 will start our new class. Get ready to start the first day of spring by learning beginner skills and introduction to Word or Works. Start marking your calendar for the third Monday of the month.

You can brush-up on your keyboard skills while you're looking forward to our next meeting. Try typing this sentence at home as all the letters of the alphabet are practiced: The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. With this one sentence in Word or Works, you may change size, color and fonts and save your work to a document. If you are not a typist and practice this sentence every day you will be amazed how your typing skills will improve. Come to class in March and continue practicing.

If you are interested in a special program, email me and I will let you know if we can help you.

The SIG Scene (cont.)

We meet from 2:00 to 4:00 in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM on the third Monday of each month. CCUM is located at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42) at the Blankenbaker Lane traffic light. To be added to the email list, please send SIG LEADER Winnie Miller an email at winnie.miller@att.net.

PDA SIG

Check out the INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG for information on PDA topics until this SIG is restarted.

There are currently no meetings scheduled for this SIG. Members are requested to let our SIG DIRECTOR know their ideas for this group. If you have a handheld device, we want to hear from you.

This SIG plans to review and explore the hardware and software of Personal Desk Assistants, Smart Phones and like devices. SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller encourages all members that are interested in this group to contact him. We expect to cover all versions of PDA's including the newest combination units with phone, PC and photo capabilities.

Members using these devices or that are considering the purchase of a PDA are asked to contact Brian at sigs@kipcug.org. You will be added to a contact list for advance notice of future meetings, topics, times and location.

REAL ESTATE SIG

The REAL ESTATE SIG will meet February 21 at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222 at CCUM. The SIG will continue its analysis and development of software for record keeping and management of Rental Properties. SIG LEADER Bill Buzan will monitor the discussion and lead the membership in its quest for the simplest and most comprehensive program to do so.

It is hoped that a new property analysis program will be completed and ready for discussion for the February meeting. Future meetings will continue this theme and expand into other aspects of this important subject. If you have any subjects related to Real Estate that you would like to have on the agenda for future meetings or would like to be added to our mailing list, please send your request to Bill Buzan at re_sig@insightbb.com.

The REAL ESTATE SIG met January 17 to continue the development of this program. The attendees were given a copy of a property financial program as well as the value of the Amortization Schedule and how to develop it quickly. The focus will continue to be on using the PC to save time and resources in growing our property assets.

The mission of this SIG is to provide property owners and investors the opportunity to gain a greater insight into the transaction, so that they can protect their endeavors more effectively.

The REAL ESTATE SIG meets monthly on the third Tuesday in the Computer Lab, Room 222 at CCUM at 6:30 PM. CCUM is located at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42) at the Blankenbaker Lane traffic light. Directions are on the CCUM web site and on the KIPCUG web site at www.kipcug.org.

To be added to our e-mail list to receive advance notice of the SIG's activities, contact Bill at re_sig@insightbb.com or call 639-7647.

TECHNICAL MARKET ANALYSIS SIG

At the February 28 meeting of the TECHNICAL MARKET ANALYSIS SIG at the Louisville Free Public Library, Crescent Hill Branch, 2752 Frankfort Ave. in the lower level meeting room, we will use our technical indicators to try to determine the near term direction of the market, and to hone our skills using these indicators with everyone's input. We use a group discussion format to answer everyone's questions and let everyone tell how they use the indicators.

Additional information will be announced by email to all members on our list. With the late date of the SIG's meeting and potential market fluctuations, email is the best way to inform all of our discussion topics.

The TECHNICAL MARKET

The SIG Scene (cont.)

ANALYSIS SIG meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, except December, at 6:30 PM at the Louisville Free Public Library, Crescent Hill Branch, 2752 Frankfort Ave. in the lower level meeting room.

For more information on meetings or topic information, contact SIG LEADER Myron Smith at 897-7718, or email him at mjslks@insightbb.com to be added to the email distribution list.

New attendees are encouraged to come to the meetings to learn about technical analysis and its application to the present market conditions. We generally discuss the present market, and use any web-based indicators available. Many times, we also have someone present topics of interest to anyone using technical analysis.

We are always looking for suggestions for topics of discussion, or suggested presentations by knowledgeable groups or individuals. Please send your ideas to SIG LEADER Myron Smith at mjslks@insightbb.com.

UTILITIES SIG

On February 23 at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM, Co-SIG LEADER Charley May returns and will show us some software he found while recovering at home. We will start with an open discussion period to address questions and help direct members to ways of getting their system back

up to top speed.

In January, Co-SIG LEADER Tom McArdle reviewed common compressing formats, what utilities are needed to get files into manageable sizes to post on the internet and how to recover those files once compressed. WirZip, and WirRar, are just two that we examined and showed how to use. A CD with common freeware and shareware utilities was handed out to those attending.

Members are kept up-to-date with timely messages and answers to their questions at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KIPCUGUtilitiesSIG/>. You do not have to be a member of the group to view the messages, but you will need to sign up (free) with Yahoo for full access. Links to sites discussed in our previous meetings are posted there.

Examining a mix of freeware, shareware and retail programs, this SIG hopes to make your computer experience more enjoyable. Members may bring blank CD's to exchange for free and trial versions of featured utilities.

This SIG meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM. To be added to our advance notice list, sign up at the Yahoo groups site or contact Co-SIG LEADERS Tom McArdle at usersig@insightbb.com or Charley May at sig@win.net. Please add the words UTILITIES SIG in the subject line of your email.

VISUAL BASIC SIG

The February 10 meeting at 6:30 PM at the Bon Air Regional Branch of the LFPL will be a discussion of VB6 or VB.net Programming issues. Since SIG LEADER Martin Campion is recovering from injuries suffered in an auto accident, SIG Member Tony Dattilo will lead the discussion.

Recovering from an accident in October, Martin was unable to meet with the SIG and is with his family out-of-state. We all wish him a full recovery.

The VISUAL BASIC SIG meets monthly on the first Thursday at 6:30 PM at the Bon Air Regional Branch of the LFPL, 2816 Del Rio Place. To be added to the email list for a reminder of meetings and topics planned, contact SIG LEADER Martin Campion at mccampion@aol.com. Add the words VB SIG to the subject line of your email.

WEBMASTERS SIG

On February 16, the WEBMASTERS SIG will meet at 6:30 PM at the Win.Net offices. SIG LEADER John Henderson will continue with FrontPage 2003. All web pages are a combination of text, images and HTML tags. Learn how Microsoft's FrontPage 2003 will automatically insert the necessary tags. FrontPage

The SIG Scene (cont.)

2003 has an updated look and has added a few features over the XP version. Attendees will learn that if they have XP they probably don't have to upgrade. However if they need to purchase a new copy, Microsoft is only selling the 2003 version.

We will cover how to include pages within pages, how to set up multiple hot spots (links) in an image, and how to create and manage forms. This latest version has the ability to open Dreamweaver created pages.

In January, John presented the basics of FrontPage 2003: How to get started, how to start from a blank page, how to add images and format the text. He concluded with building a 3-page web site and publishing it to the Internet.

The WEBMASTER SIG is one of 20 similar special interest groups that meet each month in the greater Louisville area. This KIPCUG event is open to members and non-members that have an interest in creating web sites for personal or commercial use. A summary of past meetings with helpful links may be found at www.inetwebmaster.com.

Every WEBMASTER SIG program includes tips or tools that you may use to improve your web site. There is a question and answer time after the main presentation. Those attending are encouraged to ask members to constructively review their web pages.

We meet on the third Thursday of the month at the offices of WinNet, 1048 E. Chestnut Street, second floor, at 6:30 PM. Additional information and a map may be found at

www.inetebmaster.com.

WINDOWS OS SIG

The WINDOWS OPERATING SYSTEM SIG meets on February 10 at 6:30 PM in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM. SIG LEADER Bob Rose will lead the members in a revisit of Windows XP Hacks. Learn how to speed your start up time and make your desktop more efficient. Always on the cutting edge, this SIG will help keep your PC running at its best.

At the January 13 meeting, SIG LEADER Bob Rose continued our look at things Windows XP left out of their operating system. Bob showed those attending what could have been included by Microsoft, but was not added to the package. Other software add-ons and plug-ins were demonstrated and members question were addressed.

The SIG will focus on maintaining and updating the various Windows OS's to keep them performing at peak efficiency. While our direction will be forward, questions and topics for older formats will be part of the topic list we intend to cover.

The SIG includes topics covering Windows Operating Systems from Windows 95 though XP- SP2, with an emphasis on changing technology. Time is always reserved to resolve problems and answer questions members bring to the meeting. To be sure we can get to your particular issue, please contact SIG

LEADER Bob Rose by email at britdude@techemail.com a few days before the meeting so he can have members prepared to address your problem.

The WINDOWS OS SIG currently meets at 6:30 PM on the second Friday of the month in the Computer Lab, Room 222, at CCUM, 4614 Brownsboro Road, US Hwy. 42 at the Blankenbaker Lane traffic light. Check the KIPCUG web site at www.KIPCUG.org for a map to the meeting site. To be added to the email list, please contact SIG LEADER Bob Rose, britdude@techemail.com and put the words WINDOWS OS SIG in the email subject line.

YOUTH SIG

Your input is requested as we reorganize this SIG. We hope to include KIPCUG and CCUM members in this SIG and hold weekend meetings in the Computer Lab. Consideration is being given to offering a computer gaming or an 'Instant Messaging' focus to this group to stimulate youth interest. If you have children or grandchildren with a desire for some additional computer activities, we want to hear from you. Please continue checking the KIPCUG web site for the latest information at www.KIPCUG.org. Saturday meetings are the likely dates for this SIG.

Continued on Page 27

Consumer Electronics Show

By Judy Lococo, KIPCUG

What a neat show for gadget geeks!

Having just returned from the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, I can safely say that if you didn't see it there, it wasn't. It was a huge show with exhibitors in the Las Vegas Convention Center, the Hilton, the Sands Convention Center, the Alexis Park, and private suites all over the strip.

I began the trek on Tuesday before the show began with the "CES Roll Out" that was a miniature of the real thing. There was a cross-section of all the various vendors compressed (encrypted even...) into a ballroom at the Venetian Hotel, and it was nose-to-nose media types asking questions, taking pictures, eating pasta, reuniting with old acquaintances, and trying to get a handle on how best to cover all the square footage of this year's show.

At the show itself, there were two-story banks of TV's that were so real, you could barely differentiate them from the 3D movies you saw as a child; except you didn't need to wear those tacky glasses. All the major manufacturers were showing off, and they did it so very well. I couldn't begin to choose from the Sony's, the Panasonic's, the Toshiba's, the Motorola's, the Casio's, etc. TV's, cameras, PDA's, mobile phones, everything imaginable that had some sort of electronic inside was on display. And there was drool everywhere you looked! Yes, there were a few Bimbo booths, and some adult entertainment at one end of the Sands Convention Center, but they weren't my type, and I didn't feel the need to agitate them this year, so I went to

other tech zones that were of interest.

I was eagerly waiting to see what the robotics were like this year. I have to say they weren't as impressive as other things I saw. Yes, they were cute: a dog that walked, rolled over, played dead, then righted itself & barked (\$80); a droid that waddled, pivoted, picked up a ball & dropped it; ones that looked like the Battle Bots on TV, except they only collected balls & dropped them in a container; and a dinosaur, etc. But they weren't all that functional, and I'm brainwashed into thinking they should be doing battle with Godzilla at the very least. The floor cleaner robots were there, but were modestly tucked away from the others.

One of the best small, intimate show-within-a-show is the Lunch @ Piero's. This isn't a loud, Bourbon Street type of atmosphere, but a worthy one all the same. One side of this renown gourmet restaurant is reserved for table-tops for vendors and the other is for the lunch that is to die for.

One of the first vendors I saw at Piero's was Linspire, and having just seen a demo of that interesting product, I knew the quality was there again this year. There were tablet PC's that looked like just a monitor, one even having a phone on the side of it. They were silent, with no moving parts, and an amazing use of technology.

My pick of the show was a most intriguing product called, "Babble" that is clearly a necessity in today's world of HIPAA. It actually garbles your voice so that the people in the surrounding cubicles can't understand what you are saying. They know it's your voice, but the words are unintelligible. This is one that I

think will definitely go for the touchdown. In their own words, "Providing voice privacy without walls, Babble protects your spoken words from the people around you. Just add Babble to any office, open workspace or cubicle to camouflage your voice for total confidentiality. Babble increases office productivity by allowing co-workers and colleagues to be more focused on their own work and less distracted by your individual voice." Check out <http://www.sonaretechnologies.com/babble.html>

If you get a chance to pack up and go to the show in Las Vegas next January, don't try to see it all. You'll come back flat-footed, exhausted, smug, inspired, all of the above.



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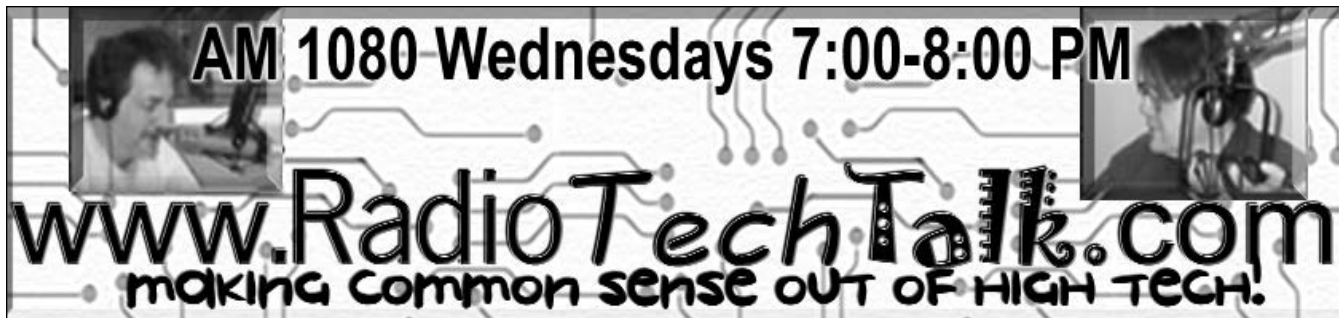
Continued from Page 25

To sign up younger members or to volunteer your assistance, contact SIG DIRECTOR Brian Miller at sigs@kipcug.org. Please put the words YOUTH SIG in the email

subject line.

This SIG's mission is to develop the computer skills of middle school or advanced elementary school students. It will cover top-

ics beyond those basic skills taught in the school system. High school age students can volunteer to assist in this SIG.



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- Individual - \$40.00 annually
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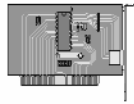
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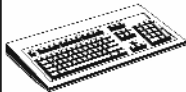


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The next General Meeting will be on
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