SLO Bytes HardCopy

Skip Tracers, Bug, Plug, & ALPS Thermal Groupies
by Lach MacDonald

October 4 featured a handout and a clever demonstration by Prexy George Campbell whose main topic was how to find people using the Internet. George chose one of the 500 search engines to find himself and a list of neighbors. Use? Down the street an obnoxious dog howls all night: you can locate the address and the phone that neighbor you've been unable to name...until now. From now on the neighbor will know you as the person who hates his dog. Remember: "Love me, love my dog."

* The search engines that show an underlined street will give you names, addresses and phones of neighbors, and some will also give you a map of street locations.

* Search engines will function as a long-distance phone directory, without the fees Ma Bell extracts for such information calls.

* Search engines will find businesses that have odd names and products hard to find in Yellow Pages.

* As many as 20 search engines will go to work doing your research if you use "Dogpile."

* There are reverse directory features that will give you a phone number by street address. (Unlisted numbers are still inaccessible).

Aladdin Systems

SLOBYTES CALENDAR
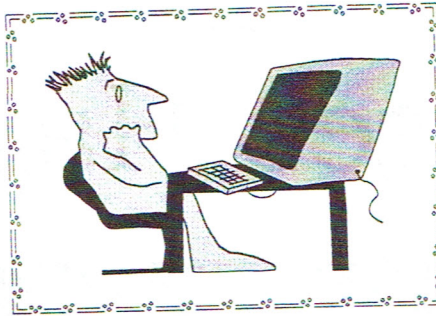
November 1, 1998
Aladdin Systems, Inc

December 6, 1998
Christmas prizes, sales, and elections of new officers—With Bob W. needing to scale down, give some thought to these elections, please.

January 3, 1999
Garret Madsen, IRS Electronic Tax Administrator for the Central California District.

Old Dog...New Trick

By John Sullivan, GSBUG, Inc.
from The Bug Report
A Publication of the Greater South
Bay PC Users Group
October 1998

Ever since I started using Windows98, I've been continuously frustrated by one of its programmed-inquirks: Whenever you go to Open a document, or Save a new one in Notepad, the file finder window defaults to a folder called "My Documents" which is created automatically during the Win98 installation process. This same annoyance happens when using the Paint program, and also with many other programs. Although it doesn't happen with every Win98 program, it happens with too many, in my opinion. At least in my former opinion.

Up until today, I had always appreciated when a program would remember the folder that I last worked in, and Open or Save from that folder. My theory was that I had made the folder when I used the program before, so a computer should be smart enough to know that that is the folder that I want to use with that program!

I've been fighting with Win98, trying to "teach" it to remember what folder I left off in, but it keeps going back to My Documents, which is pretty much empty because I don't save stuff in it! Also, I've been keeping an eye out for a handy tip in a magazine, or on the Internet, about how to change Win98 to do this, but haven't found one.

At the Windows 95 Utilities SIG the other night, they were saying that when you partition a new hard drive, you should have one partition in which you install all your programs and a separate partition in which you save all your data (all the stuff you make with your programs). This way, when you want to save all your masterpieces (also known as "doing a backup"), you don't have to search all over trying to find the files that you made, they're all in one spot, and you just make a backup of it. You don't make a backup of the programs themselves because you've got them on the original install disks, right? You just backup the files you made with them!

This morning it dawned on me that this is what Win98 is trying to make ME do! It automatically wants to save the files I made into the My Documents folder, which would make it easier for me to back them up. They are all in one place! Apparently Win98 is smarter than I thought it was! (maybe smarter than me !?. Well, let's just say that now I understand a little better what the programmers were thinking when they wrote Win98 that way.)

Another built-in feature of Win98 is that when you are working on a text document in Notepad and you open the file finder window, it only shows you the text files (.txt) in My Documents. (You can change that, but Notepad changes it back later.) If you're in Paint working on a bitmap image, the file finder shows you the .bmp files in My Documents. You can change that to show "All Picture Files," or even "All Files," but the default is Bitmap files. So Win98 is "smart" enough to know what type of file you're working on, and "assumes" that that is

Big Q&A Session

Q: My Win95 is running with 256 colors ... but there are really only 16 colors. How can I restore the high-color mode?

A: Start > Settings > Control panel > Display >Settings > Color palette.

There you can reset Windows to high or true-color mode.

More: If that doesn't work? It's either the VGA/SVGA card or its driver.

Q: What about programs that ran in DOS?

A: Start > Programs > MS-DOS Prompt opens the DOS shell. More: Your secretary recently installed Win95 and had some difficulty with her ancient games running under the sheil. Solution: Start > Shutdown > Restart computer in MS-DOS mode. The main problem was a failure of the system to recognize the mouse in DOS; a small Autoexec.Bat loads the old mouse driver before she does anything else.

Q: How can I save my own settings for Corel WordPerfect?

A: The user settings are in a data file (*.Dat) where DOS keeps track of 16-bit program settings. Find this .Dat file and make a backup.

Q: Where can I get a DOS driver for my Hewlett Packard printer? I have trouble printing from Word Star and the printer now only writes in condensed mode.

A: Hewlett Packard printers use the resident DOS printer driver. Check the printer's dip switches.

[When I covered the police beat in L.A. (have you seen "L.A. Confidential"?), I would hear a 211 Silent alarm (Armed Robbery in Progress). We couldn't call the bank and risk getting someone injured or killed, so we used the Backwards Directory to find an office or house across the street from the bank, dialed the number, and asked the occupant to peek out the window. "Oh, yes, I see a man running out with a brown paper bag and jumping into a blue sedan." Eyewitness account, in the days before Real TV.]

After you search yahoo.com or infoseek.com for E-mail addresses, go to anywho.com and look up that old acquaintance.

If your spouse or child or debtor skips out, just check the Internet. A little detective work may turn up the one you seek. Be careful out there.

BROADCASTS
George's presentation included information on how to listen to your radio via your computer. See the hand-out page 4. Check out broadcast.com. Internet Explorer 4.0 has a built-in viewer for live audio-video. See Real Player on IE, or download from Microsoft.

BUG
The BUG software ($65\yr) will find and excise bugs in your software; probably useful for anyone or company with multiple computers. The URL is bugnet.com.

PLUG
Free demo disks for Imation Data Advisor Version 4.03 by Ontrack were scooped up from the library table by the early arrivals. Instructions with the diskette says the program will determine why your hard drive failed and explain how to retrieve your data. Check out www.imation.com/datarecovery.

Food for Thought and Action

by Nancy Watts

We have no election committee.

Membership is declining at an alarming rate. (Defined by paid dues)

Do we need someone who can give the club 5 hours a week? The president might be such a leader, making sure that we have quarterly board meetings with a secretary taking meeting notes—our promise to the state (in our Charter). What are the ramifications of not following a charter?

Would the club die if we had people meeting more formally than just in monthly get-togethers?

I certainly enjoy George Campbell's presentations. He might be President next year if we nominate him. This year has been frustrating to him. His take is that we do not need more formality.

I have never read the Charter, but held a couple of meetings with Bob Ward, Jerry Mintz, Bill Avery, and Dave Bates. (Dave is our trusted media liaison—who is too often overlooked!). These meetings were held when Bob W. felt that he could no longer be Program Chair, Editor, and Jack-of-everything).

Do we need a President who has friends who could be appointed as Membership Committee, to get newsletters out to the various computer related businesses in the county? George points out that we can set a membership committee any time we want. November 1?

Do we need someone to greet newcomers and help them find the promised Sig. or

Try These Handy Internet Tools!
by George Campbell

Find People Fast

Where To Look	Tips For Searches
Try This URL *http://anywho.com* **Other URLs** *http://www.yahoo.com* *http://www.infoseek.com* *www.bigfoot.com*	Enter as much information as you know If it's an old acquaintance, start with the last known state Move next to the region of the country most likely and try in all states If you can't find the person, try locating a mutual acquaintance Look for Email addresses on **Yahoo.com** or **infoseek.com**

Check Out Long Distance Radio and Television!

Try this URL
http://www.broadcast.com

What You'll Find
- **News**
- **Sports**
- **Radio**
- **Television**
- **Special Interest Programming**
- **Music**
- **Archival Material**

Exterminate Bugs in Your Software

Try This URL
http://www.bugnet.com

Lots of free bug alerts and fixes, but you'll have to pay to subscribe to get everything such as alerts, access to the BugNet database, and more. Costs $65/year and up. Try their search tool to locate info on your software!

Find An Email List Server For Your Special Interest!

Try This URL
http://www.findmail.com
http://www.liszt.com

ALPS THERMAL GROUPIES

About 60 members were present for the talk by Sheri Smith of ALPS who hooked her Dell laptop to her MD 1000 demo machine and produced one of the best demonstrations we've seen in several meetings. The product impressed several SLOByters who lined up with their checkbooks to buy reconditioned machines but quickly upgraded to the deep discounts and rebates offered for new machines. What accounts for this kind of user group response, so reminiscent of the old days when peripherals weren't available as commodities in every big box store?

Technology is the answer. ALPS is a $5 billion OEM company based in Tokyo. They make laptop keyboards, air conditioning switches, air bag switches, microdrive technology, and Alpine stereos. Smith, a veteran of 5 years of ALPS service, tech support and marketing assignments, explained how the company applied microtechnology to the thermal process instead of taking the inkjet route. If the word thermal conjures up memories of browning, fading thermal paper, get up to date: the resin-based inks in the ALPS printers use the equivalent of a 133 Pentium microprocessor to manage the process. The resin on a ribbon in a cartridge is solid; heated to vapor by 240 print head elements the resin is applied in four passes from cartridges that are bar-coded. A finish cartridge gives the paper a smearproof, waterproof coating. The examples were truly impressive. Then Sheri Smith sprayed water on a fresh print and it was passed around. Try that with your inkjet.

Smith used the ALPS MD-1000 for her demo and described the MD-1300, which has all the features of the entry model, but uses Adobe Photo DeLuxe true die, and special acceptor paper for dye sublimation printing. Unlike dot resolution the vapor of the

dye sublimation creates a print similar to a continuous tone photo.

The thermal ink is dry until heated in the printing process; if you have had to discard dried-out inkjet cartridges, you will immediately see the savings in media. The photo paper comes to about $1 a sheet. Regular black and white output is 1200dpix600dpi.

Both models have straight paper paths and Smith says ALPS has never had a printer returned for registration problems. However, there is a free 24-hour repair deal, a 1 year warranty and extended warranty available. If you send your printer for repair, ALPS will send a replacement by FedEx as soon as they have your old printer on hand. Smith offered some of the reconditioned printers for $199 and $399 respectively, but most buyers went for a new MD-1000 at $299 less $30 instant rebate for the SLOBYTES members at the meeting, a $50 rebate mail-in and $50 in cartridge supplies. The $549 MD-1300 was offered with the same terms, but the instant rebate was $50 instead of $30.
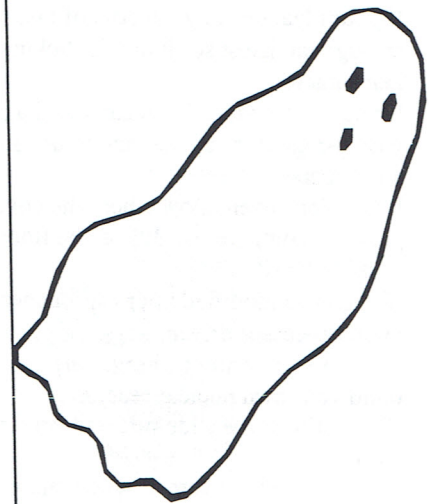
Smith mentioned an $99 PostScript and Pantone add-on, saying "If you know what it is, you probably need it."

ALPS contributed a MD-1000 with supplies for a drawing won by Robert Vulgamore. User group members winning various editons of Quicken included Eugene Yuan, Eugene Rheingans, Jerry Mintz, J. McNeil and Nate Wallerstein. Ed Faeth won a road atlas.

The ALPS products are sold at CompUSA and Frye's as well as via the internet (try buycomp.com for good prices). Iron-on paper, label stock and a silicon sheet are available. The output can include decals, bumper stickers and other applications. If you missed the demo, check out www.alpsusa.com.

INTERIM MONEY MEN

Ray Miklas and Marvin Baxendale staffed the entry desk. They will be happy to have you introduce a guest at the November and/or December meetings. They'll give them free copies of this newsletter and inform them of the benefits of joining up. And remember, you must have current membership for the great December potlatch that features prizes for everyone and sometimes double.

Old Dog... New Tricks
by John Sullivan, GSBUG, Inc. Continued
from page 2

the type of file you're looking for when you open the file finder window.

Again, when you open the file finder, you may not wish to see the same type of file that you're working on, and you may have to change the "File of Type:" box in order to display the particular file that you're looking for, but it is an attempt on the programmer's part to make life a little easier for you.

Whether it helps, or hinders, depends on what you're trying to do. But from now on, I think I will be making greater use of the My Documents folder, although I'm sure I'm going to change the name to something else.

You May Be an Engineer If...

Submitted to Placervlle/Cameron Park PCUG by Bill Matherly
www.appealsunlimited.com/vol3iss9.html
by Bill Matherly

If you stare at an orange juice container because it says CONCENTRATE.

If your wrist watch has more computing power than a 486DX-50.

If your spouse sends you an e-mail instead of calling you to dinner.

If you look forward to Christmas only to put together the kids' toys.

If you use a CAD package to design your son's Pine Wood Derby car.

If you window shop at Radio Shack.

If your ideal evening consists of fast-forwarding through the latest sci-fi movie looking for technical inaccuracies.

If you are convinced you can build a phaser out of your garage door opener and your camera's flash attachment.

If you don't even know where the cover to your personal computer is. (It's on the floor, next to my desk! SO THERE!)

If you have modified your can-opener to be microprocessor driven.

If you are currently gathering the components to build your own nuclear reactor.

If you still own a slide rule and you know how to work it.

If you rotate your screen savers more frequently than your automobile tires.

If you have a functioning home copier machine, but every toaster you own turns bread into charcoal.

If you have more toys than your kids.

If you have introduced your kids by the wrong name.

If you have a habit of destroying things in order to see how they work.

If your IQ number is higher than your weight.

If the microphone or visual aids at a meeting don't work and you rush up to the front to fix it.

If you can remember 7 computer passwords but not your anniversary.

If your checkbook always balances

If your wristwatch has more buttons than a telephone.

If you have more friends on the Internet than in real life.

If you thought the real heroes of "Apollo 13" were the mission controllers.

If you spend more on your home computer than your car.

If you know what http:// stands for.

If you've ever tried to repair a $5.00 radio.

If your 4 basic food groups are: 1. Caffeine 2. Fat 3. Sugar 4. Chocolate (or Chinese, pizza, beer, salt substrates).

If the only jokes you receive are through e-mail.

People Helping People

NAME	PROGRAM(S)	PHONE NO.	HOURS TO CALL
Jeffrey Mintz	Computer Networks, Win95, Netscape 3.0, Internet	547-9668	Sat 12-6, Sun 12-6
Jerry Mintz	Word 6	547-0774	Sat 12-6, Sun 12-6
Bill Roch	Ami Pro	466-8440	anytime
Don Morgan	Word 6.0, Equation 3.1	543-6241	anytime
Dan Logan	Internet MS Publisher	927-0515	M-Sat 8-6, Sun 12-6
Bob Ward	Netscape, Win '95, 3.11	528-0121	evenings
Bob Hunt	Win '95, 3.11	461-1444	days

What The Press Releases Say

by By O. T. Stoll — otstoll@tothenet.com
NOCCC - August 01, 1998 at 19:24:03:

Here are summaries of some of the latest press releases.

IBM Introduces Crayola Software Titles Prices at $9.99.— These are for children from two to 12. (I have tried them with my five-year-old grandson and found them interesting.) A number of pictures are presented and the child can color and print. First Ladies Costume Maker (ages six to 12) — Kids can travel back in time and design and decorate presidential fashions. Magic Princess (ages six to 12) — Interactive paper doll maker. Amazing Animals (ages 2 to six) — 3D technology brings animals to life. A number of other similar programs were also touted. Visit www.ibm.com/pc/us/multimedia.

Dragon Systems, Inc.— Dragon Naturally Speaking was selected for two 1998 PC World, World Class Awards. The program has over 40 worldwide awards to its credit. Dragon Systems is the ninth largest publisher of business software in the U. S. Dragon NaturallySpeaking exceeded IBM ViaVoice and Lernot & Hauspie VoiceXpress in revenues and number of units sold. See www.naturalspeech.com or www.dragonsys.com.

Mitsumi Electronics Corp. The world's largest manufacturer of computer peripherals announced the immediate availability of three new affordable mouse peripherals: The Standard Scroll Mouse, the Mitisumi Wireless Infrared Scroll Mouse and the Laptop Mouse. They are compatible with Microsoft's Intelligent Mouse. They also announced the availability of the CR-480! TE Compact Disc Recordable drive. The internal drive combines 4X-speed recording with 8X-speed playback. The drive conforms to the Enhanced IDE interface architecture. For more info see www.mitsumi.com.

BSQUARE — Announced their new software program bREADY. The program enables users to collect and organize data from the desktop or network into "books" with "chapters" on a desktop machine and then download the information to a Handheld PC. Other products announced were bFAX that supports printing from a Windows CE-based handheld PC, bPRINT for the CE-based Handhelds and bMOBILE a newsgroup reading program. See www.besquare.com for more info.

AUREAL Semiconductor — Their A3D supports the new levels of performance available in AMD's 3Dnow instruction set. It significantly enhances 3D graphics, multimedia, and other floating point-intensive PC applications. See www.aureal.com for more info.

Altec Lansing Technologies, Inc.— Announced the computer and home audio first to market USB streaming audio speaker system. This is specifically designed to complement the worldwide release of the Windows 98 operating system. Contact Sharon Entenberg at sharon_entenberg@altecmm.com for more info.

Silicon Graphics, Inc.— OpenGL long held dominance in the predominantly UNIX platform-based professional engineering and design marketplaces is now

Predictions for SLOBytes Y2K

By Lach MacDonald

It is January 1, 2000 A.D.
* SLOBYTES has 1,500 members.
* Dues are $30 a year. Dues pay for office rent, phone charges and computer maintenance a part-time Webmaster to maintain the web site. Expenses also include meeting rentals and security.
* Four quarterly meetings are held at a suitable locations (a large hall, a parking lot, a theatre or auditorium) to accommodate the activities: a computer swap meet, demonstrations of hardware and software, drawings for software and hardware worth thousands of dollars, election of officers. Special Interest Groups have their own schedules, including tours to local computer industry locations.
* The SLOBYTES web site enables members to download shareware, enter chat groups, locate other members, find information and attend Special Interest Group seminars. Software reviews, columns, humor, and a directory of members is available at the web site. Meeting schedules and announcements are sent to members by E-mail.
* Every member of SLOBYTES is required to have a computer, modem and E-mail address. The final edition of Hard Copy was delivered to the USPS snail mail in November, 1999.

What prompts me to issue these predictions? Could it be that I observe the attendance trends of current monthly meetings? Could it be that almost everyone one meets nowadays offers their E-mail address as readily as their phone number? Could it be that computer prices are dropping, memory and storage costs are most reasonable, and Internet access is easy as finding a computer ad on TV? Could it be that newsletters I've seen in exchange from other User Groups mention these same problems: mem-

people who share their expertise/interests? Personally, I'd like a Greeter appointed who enjoys the club as 90% social. Maybe someone who knows names.(Assuredly not my expertise! We need new blood this Halloween).

Do we need an Vice President to help the President? (Sometimes work is just done in the head. But it counts if ideas are needed and implemented.

Were we to be Tax Exempt, we'd need a lawyer to fill out a long document for the Federal Government. A lawyer takes money—money we do not have. **We will not have a club without money.**

Quarterly meetings of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer need minutes taken by the Secretary...for the State Charter. The Secretary should also mail thank you letters or other correspondence. Do we thank our Program providers (or are they helping themselves to our club's money and influence?

The only person I know for sure who might accept being an officer next year is Marvin Baxendale as Treasurer

Do we have some people who would benefit from a Titled job? (Prez, V.P., Sec., Treas.) Are titles rewards?

Publicity Chair, Newsletter Editor, Program Chair—these are not elected offices.

I know I have gained a great deal from the members, in and out of the meetings, and from listening to the presentations by George, Quicken, Alps, Corel... maybe Digital cameras and scanners and art could be in the future?
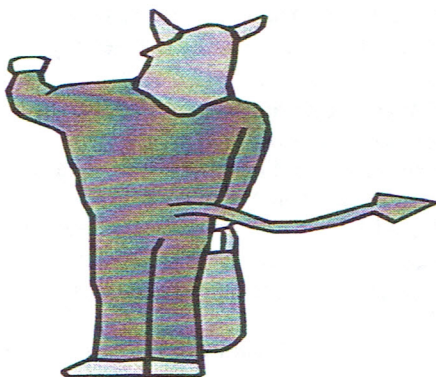
We've had sources of auctions, food recipes...and great deals on product and free gifts. We've had Sigs on Dos and Windows.

I hope the club can continue. I do not know if we can continue without more effort from some club members.

Is the club best with informality—I'm the last person to want to have meetings planning this and that. I'm a do-it kind of gal. I'm also a concerned gal.

available for PC desktop and PC workstations. OpenGL is the premier environment for developing 2D and 3D visual applications. Their web site is at www.opengl.org

MidCore Software Inc.— This company has come up with software, Mid-Point Teamer, to cut the Internet down load time in half by using two modems. The software works with any mix of analog modems of any speed from any manufacturer. Software price is $29.00. If you have two modems installed and want more information, E-mail info@midcore.com.

Pkware Inc.— Released PKZip 2.0 for Windows and is compatible with Windows 95/NT3.1x, DOS Win32 Unix and Mac OS. The company also markets SSSpider. SSSpider submits search criteria to eight search robots simultaneously and as the results come in, additional search robots are automatically queried. Talk to Bob Gorman at 414-354-8699 for more information.

NETCOM — NETCOM announced it is the first to support the new V.90 modem standard on all of their inbound modems.
See www.netcom.net.uk for more information.

Free Floppies or Games? *Trick or Treat!*

bership decline, fewer volunteers, less interest in shareware, difficulty in scheduling manufacturers' representatives for monthly programs? Answer: all of the above.

User groups in New York, Connecticut and D.C. have already announced moves toward metamorphosis. (That's an old European ten-Cesar word for change.) In the industry that is fastest changing in our world, we can hardly expect our user groups to remain unchanged.

Hey, if you have better predictions for 2000K, write it up and send it to Nancy Watts (nwatts100@hotmail.com). That's what I did.

Club Information

HARD COPY is a monthly publication of SLO BYTES PC User's Group located in San Luis Obispo, California. Information in this Newsletter is derived from both our own membership and other PC User Group Newsletters. The purpose of this publication is to inform our members of meetings and provide information related to the use of IBM PC's and compatible computers.

Membership: Dues are $25 per year. Full membership entitles you to our monthly newsletter, full use of the public domain software library, and drawings at the end of meetings.

Article Submission: Deadline for submission of articles is the 10th of each month. Articles should be provided in ASCII format without any type of for matting from your word-processor including tabs, indents, extra spaces, or highlighting. We prefer articles on disk but will accept hardcopies if necessary.

Disclaimer: Neither SLO BYTES PC User's Group, its officers, editors, or contributors to this newsletter assume liability for damages arising out of this publication of any article, including but not limited to the listing of programming code, batch files and other helpful hints.

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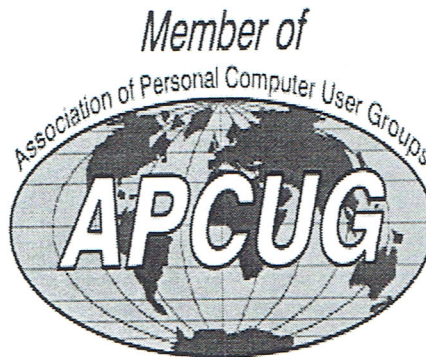
Nancy Watts
1805 San Luis Drive
San Luis Obispo, CA. 93401
543-3107
nwatts100@Hotmail.com

Meeting Times

GENERAL MEETINGS are held the 1st Sunday of each month. Meeting location is the San Luis Obispo I.O.O.F. Hall on Dana Street.

The general meeting starts promptly at 2:30pm.

Special Interest Groups (SIGS) meet at 1:00pm - 2:15pm

Member of

APCUG
Association of Personal Computer User Groups

Want to renew by mail? Send your check to:

Bob Ward
2100Andre Ave.
Los Osos CA 93402
528-0121

Make checks payable to SLO Bytes.

Treasurer's Report
by Bob Ward (as of 10/14))

Checking
Beginning Balance: +$1,698.28

Expense
MS Publisher Update: $75.06
Bulk Mail Permit: $85.
Room Rent (Oct): $75
Newsletter: $103.82

Deposits:
Deposit (9/10+$215.00
Deposit 10/13: $166.00
Dividend (9/30: $9.29

Cash Balance: +$1,534.69

Projector Fund:
Beginning Balance: +$2,233.63
Dividend; $15.33
Ending Balance: +2,463.96

Officers

President
George Campbell
Vice President
Gus Thomasson
Treasurer
Marvin Baxendale
Ray Miklas
Secretary/Program Chair
Bill Avery
Jerry Mintz
Editors
Nancy Watts
Bill Avery

SLO Bytes Home Page
www.thegrid.net/slobytes

Floppy Disks 4-Sale at the Meeting

DSDD 360K Formatted Floppy Disks with labels, tabs, & sleeves	.55 Each
DSDD 360K Formatted Label Over Floppy Disks	.45 Each
Generic High Density Formatted Floppy Disks (5.25" X 1.2 Mb)	.70 Each
Generic 3.5" X 720K Formatted Floppy Disks	.70 Each
Generic 3.5" X 1.44 Mb Formatted Floppy Disks	.70 Each
New Library Disks	1.00 Each

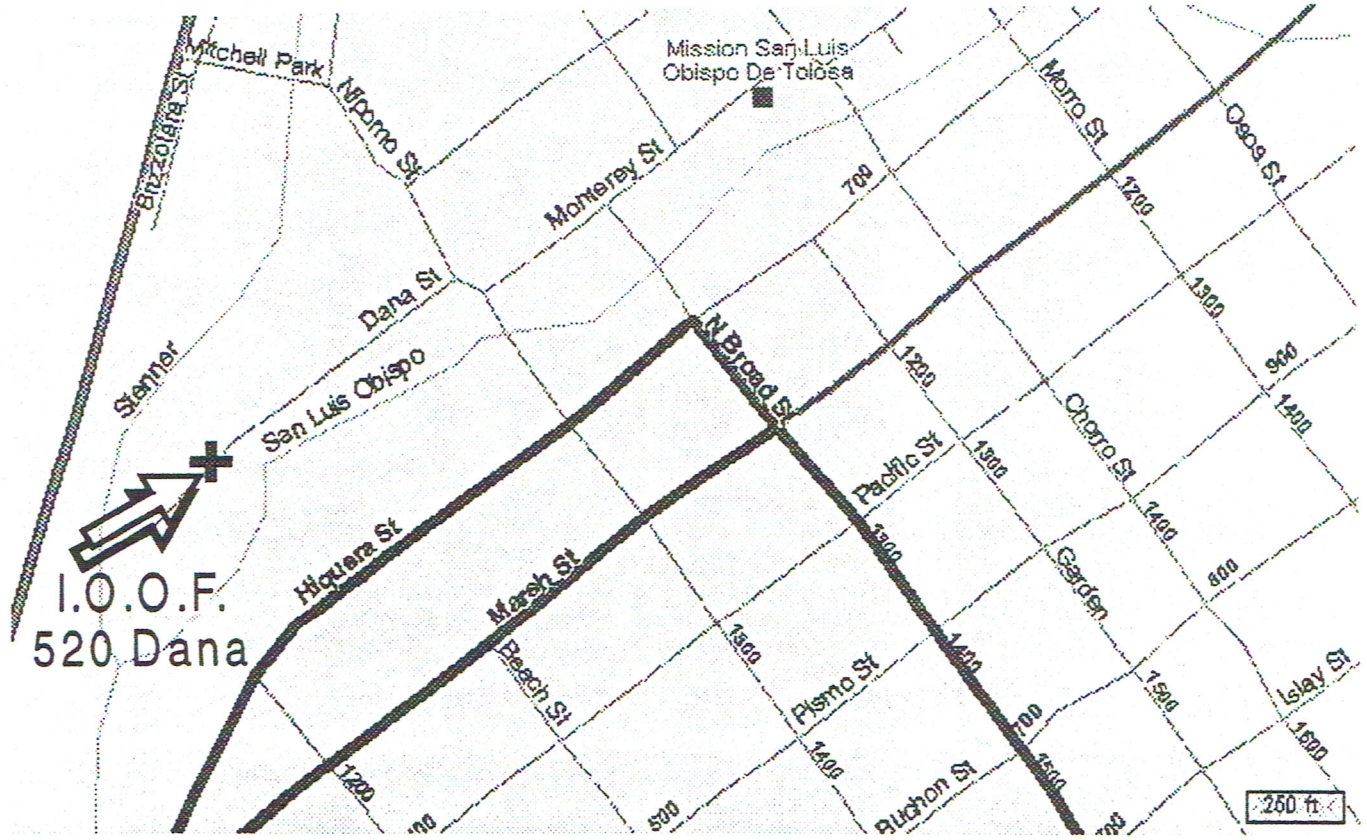All Disks fully guaranteed against defects.

I.O.O.F.
520 Dana