

Volume 15, Number 3—March 1999  
 slobytes website: [www.thegrid.com/slobytes/](http://www.thegrid.com/slobytes/)

## A message from PRESIDENT Ray Miklas

IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP OUR MEMBERS INFORMED, I will highlight three agenda items, which the Board took up in its February 7th meeting.

1. **Projector Fund:** How do we want to proceed in reaching the goal? Following a discussion, a decision was made to accelerate the fund-raising effort of reaching the \$4,000 goal by asking each Slobytes member to donate what ever he or she are able, with a suggested donation of \$10. The present balance is \$2481. We currently have 153 members. If each member donates at least \$10 then: \$2481+\$1530=\$4011. Members can mail their donations to Marvin or bring them in to our March meeting and place them in a Projector Fund Donation box, which Marvin will have on his table.

One other suggestion was made to reach this goal, was for members to bring in computer hardware and/or software which are no longer needed by them and sell them to others, with proceeds going to the Projector Fund.

2. **Treasurer's Report:** Marvin Baxendale Marvin distributed a "Simple Budget Review" report in which it reflected the cost of production and mailing of "Hard Copy" and various other fixed and recurring expenditures that SLO Bytes had in 1998. Since "Hard

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## PowerQuest Marathon

*By Lach MacDonald*

Gene Barlow of PowerQuest Corporation (P.O. Box 1911, Orem, UT 84059-1911)

was with us once again to demonstrate storage management solutions. Previously their son accompanied Gene; this time Mrs. Barlow was on hand to fill orders. Maybe they appreciate our responsive buyers or perhaps it is the weather we offer, although a cold spell followed on the heels of their visit.

### **Are You FAT16 or FAT32? (First Session)**

Gene is an accomplished presenter. He offered two sessions. For the first session he used excellent presentation slides to convey a ton of information. He began with the basics of hard drive construction, described how read/write electromagnetic heads place data on tracks, explained what sectors are, how additional platters are used on both sides increased hard drive capacity, and what are primary and logical partitions.

Listening to Gene was like having  
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## calendar

**MARCH 7, 1999**

The March 7th SLO Bytes meeting will feature a presentation by national computer trainer and local resident **Lauri Sowa** who will be presenting an overview of both **Windows 2000** and **Office 2000**.

Lauri is Microsoft Certified and teaches the Microsoft Products (Office, Windows, Excel, Word), Quickbooks and a variety of other topics. She has lead national seminars and has taught at the Santa Barbara Business College, Allan Hancock, PG&E, and a variety of other businesses.

Lauri will discuss the changes that are planned in the new releases and answer any questions relating to the current versions that are available. She will also discuss system requirements for the 2000 series and their effect on your current programs.

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# Symantec Visual Café Database Edition, 3.0

By Ruben Lopez, IBMPC UG of Redding, ruben@awwesome.com

SINCE ITS ORIGINAL RELEASE, VISUAL CAFÉ FOR JAVA has consistently been the most popular tool of choice for Java developers, and Symantec recently released three editions of the new Visual Café Version 3: Standard, Professional and Database Editions. Having already used Visual Café Version 2.5 for development, I was highly interested in seeing the improvements and enhancements promised by Symantec in this latest version.

While you will still need to know something about how Java works, Visual Café takes care of many time-consuming coding processes, and Symantec's claim that you can create complete applets without writing a single line of code is basically true. Start by selecting a component from one of several toolbars and drag it into the applet Form Designer, a canvas that is used to build your applet. You can easily drag a text box, resize the dimensions, add a label, a button, and many other Java components. Swing components, which are part of the Java Foundation Classes (JFC), are included as well as standard Java Abstract Windowing Toolkit (AWT) components. Visual Café supports JDK (Java Development Kit) 1.1.7, but a new feature allows you to plug in, compile and debug with any 1.1.x or 1.2 version of the JDK. Use the Interaction Wizard to generate or capture an event and associate it to a component, like changing text when a button is clicked. To test your applet, select "Execute" from the Program menu and Visual Café opens the Applet Viewer, so a user can write and test an applet without leaving the Visual Café environment, and without seeing any code. Support is included for using JavaBean components in your applets or applications, and you can even build your own custom Beans using the JavaBean Wizard.

I have mentioned that you can use Visual Café to create Java without writing code. However, if you prefer to code your applets yourself, writing code in Visual Café is easy, and the Java source files for your project are only a double-click away. If you prefer to write most of your code, you can even start with a blank project. I find that I use the Visual Café toolbars and Interaction Wizard to create the framework of my applet, then I open the source files to write specialized code. There are a lot of Java applets that can be created with the Visual Café wizards, but for advanced and custom applications you will still need to write the code yourself. There are features that help out with writing code, though, like the new Code Helper, which will help with Java language keywords and can be used automatically or just when it is needed, and the Syntax Checker, which can identify spelling errors in your code. If you need to find a bug, the built-in debugger provides all of the features developers expect in a professional tool. You can monitor variables and methods, control program order and execution, and evaluate expressions. The Professional and Database Editions also include incremental debugging, allowing you pause the program, make changes, then continue the program with the new changes. This is definitely one of my favorite features.

Another favorite feature, and one that drew me to Visual Café in the first place, is the ability of the Professional and Database Editions to create native code, which means that you can write a Java application and create a Win32 executable from the Java source code. While some Java purist might complain that compiling to native code cheapens Java, I see it as a great way to write Windows apps using Java. I quickly created a simple window app within minutes, again without writing any code, and I found this new version to be faster in generating the executable than the previous version. With this version Symantec has improved its Just-In-Time (JIT) compiler, which it claims is now the industry's fastest, and I can certainly see im-

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## PRES. MESSAGE

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Copy" is the single most expensive category in our budget, Marvin made various suggestions in how we can cut the costs here. One proposal was to strictly publish it in our Web site and/or as an attachment to an email, which would be emailed to all the members who have an ISP account. This was not a viable solution because we would still have to spend \$1,144 (projected) for first-class mail and for production for Non-Email (non ISP) and Juno only members vs. \$1,686 we currently spend per year for "Hard Copy" production and third-class mailing.

A decision was reached that if projected income does not improve by May '99, "Hard Copy" will be published on a by-monthly basis. That is, we will cut the cost of production/ mailing of our newsletter by approximately \$800/year and continue to receive it every-other month. It was felt that this solution will still keep members well informed and will keep Slobytes "in the black" financially. We all hope that Membership/Publicity Committee's efforts (agenda item #3, below) will bring positive results and we will not have to switch to a by-monthly "Hard Copy".

- 3. Membership/Publicity Report** Since Debie was not able to attend the meeting, Alan Raul and Sandra Nichols presented the Committee's "Promotional Literature Budget" request and proposal by distributing 3-pg. report. The Committee would produce SLOBytes promotional flyers, which would be distributed to local ISP's, computer retail outlets and other locations. After some discussion, a \$125 expenditure was voted on and authorized for their proposal.



# FileMaker Pro 4.1— Information Management from Desktop to Web

By Judi Bottema, IBM/PCUG Redding, [bottima@snowcrest.net](mailto:bottima@snowcrest.net)

**WHAT'S A DATABASE?** A **database** is a collection of information, or **data**, that you can organize, update, sort, search through, and print as needed. It doesn't just hold information—you use it to organize and analyze the information so that you can understand its significance. It can be one file, such as "Clients." Or it can be many files, that, together, contain all the information about a particular topic, or related topics. A relational database lets you join information between files and/or groups of files.

FileMaker is an excellent database that has been around for a long time and has continued to improve over the years. I started on computers by learning WordPerfect and FileMaker—both DOS programs. They have both changed a lot, but the quality has always been there. In my book, they don't get older, they just get better.

FileMaker Pro 4.1 is designed to be the easiest way possible to manage the information you need for your business or home. You can get data from a wide variety of sources like dragging & dropping from existing spreadsheets or importing from ODBC data sources. You can analyze information using onscreen and printed reports. You can publish your databases on your network or on the Web while maintaining built-in security. You can share existing FileMaker databases for access via Web browsing. You can publish company information, directories and catalogues.

Not only is it easy to manage your information, it is ideal for creating forms, labels, reports, almost anything you need to track or print. Everything can be placed in automated and customized forms using your own fonts, graphics, sounds, movies and more.

Because FileMaker Pro is a relational database, you can share information across files—making your data entry less repetitive. So if you change a record once, FileMaker updates the new info wherever it appears.

## TEMPLATES

FileMaker Pro comes with more than 50 ready-to-use templates if you are a little leary of jumping in and building your own. The templates are relatively simple and can be easily modified if you wish. A few of these include:

### Business

- Asset Management
- Bid Comparison
- Employee Management
- Cash Receipts
- Frequent Flyer
- Billing
- Time Cards

### Home

- Budgets
- Medical Records
- Party/Wedding Planning
- Photo Albums
- Music/Video Databases

### Education

- Certificates
- Event Schedules
- Student Records

.... and much more.

## TUTORIALS

I was most impressed by the onscreen interactive tutorials. They are very complete and easy to understand. The first tutorial teaches you about some **Key Concepts and Terminology**—helping you to understand how databases work. Other tutorials are:

- **Creating a Database** starts with how to organize your ideas on PAPER (imagine that!) before you actually key anything in. From there we learn how to define fields and enter info.
- **Designing Layouts** determines how your info looks on the screen and how it is printed. You might want one layout for entering data, another for searching, one for organizing, another for printing labels. You have a lot of choices with their layout menu. Add text, change fonts, include graphics,

radio buttons and portals to other databases. The drawing tools and color palette helps you mix in some spice and really customize your screen and printed materials.

- **Simplify** shows you how to speed up your data entry and improve accuracy by helping you learn to format fields to display lists of pre-defined choices. This is also where you learn to create calculation fields or values which can be placed in your customized designed pop-up menus. And here also, you can learn to set up relationships between two databases.
- **Finding & Sorting** guides you through how to find and sort your records, helping you organize in different ways. You can separate a group of records, showing only the records you want to use and hide the ones you don't need. Or find a group of records using more than one set of criteria. An example would be notifying a list of customers in the 30-50 age group in 2 different states about a planned event. Or you might need a search for all customers who attended an event during the month of May. Once you find the records you want—you can rearrange or sort them for view/use in many different formats.
- **Automating your database**—ScriptMaker helps you handle those frequent tasks by just clicking on a customized button or using one of many buttons that come with the program—couldn't be easier.

I highly recommend this program for its wide range of applications and its user friendly qualities.

**Claris Corporation**  
**5201 Patrick Henry Dr.**  
**Santa Clara, CA 95054**  
[www.claris.com](http://www.claris.com)

# VISUAL CAFÉ DATABASE ED.

*Continued from page 2*

provement in compiler speed.

The potential of the database components in Visual Café Database Edition is excellent. As with its other functions, Visual Café provides wizards to walk the user through creating and connecting with databases via JDBC (Java Database Connectivity), saving a lot of coding time, with support for ODBC datasources like Oracle, Informix, Sybase, and Microsoft SQL servers. The Databound Project Wizard creates the basics for a database application, and several new wizards, such as the Add Table Wizard, aid in speeding up project development. Database Edition users also have the option of using the dbAnywhere Server, which is included in this edition and is used to manage connections between databases and Java applets/applications.

The documentation included with Visual Café is extensive. The User's Guide alone is several hundred pages long and is enough to keep a new user informed, educated and busy. Included with the Professional and Database Editions is a "Getting Started" booklet and the "Visual Café Sourcebook", which provides examples of Java code. Additionally, the Database Edition comes with the "Database Developer's Guide", a manual to help create and deploy Java database solutions. Also

included with the Professional and Database Editions is Visual Page, Symantec's HTML authoring program, with two booklets of its own.

One of my complaints with earlier versions of Visual Café was that they were somewhat unstable, crashing too often and taking my most recent changes down with them. As I put this latest version through its paces, I was pleased to note that there is a definite improvement in stability as well as speed. As I stepped through various functions that sometimes locked up the last version, the program ran solidly and smoothly. One thing I have noticed, though, is that Visual Café likes lots of RAM. 64 MB is recommended, and anything less slows the program noticeably.

Visual Café usefulness extends from new Java programmers to experienced code jockeys. Its ease-of-use puts advanced features in the hands of beginners, while its professional tools speed application deployment for experienced developers. The basic integrated development environment is included in all editions, so for the beginner the Standard Edition, at \$99.95, is a good place to start, and is probably the best choice for someone working with Java in web development. To obtain high level options like incremental and remote debug-

ging tools or native code compiling, you will need to consider either the Professional Edition (\$299.95) or the Database Edition (\$799.95). In my view, both are solid choices.

System Requirements:

- Windows 95/98 or Windows NT
- 133MHz Pentium or compatible
- 64MB RAM minimum
- 165MB hard drive space minimum
- CD-ROM drive
- 256 color VGA monitor (16-bit Super VGA recommended)

**Symantec Corp.**  
**10201 Torre Ave,**  
**Cupertino, CA 95014**  
**(800) 441-7234**  
[www.visualcafe.com](http://www.visualcafe.com)

## People Helping People

NAME	PROGRAM(S)	PHONE NO.	HOURS TO CALL
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 Hunt	Win95, Win3.1	461-1444	days
Bob Ward	Netscape, Win '95, 3.11	528-0121	evenings

**We could use some more volunteers here. If interested, contact Bob Ward**

# Caere OmniForm 3.0

By Mary Richmond, IBM/PCUG Redding, richmond@calwest.net

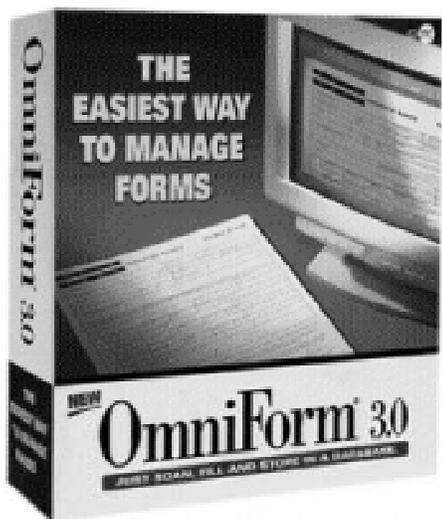
OMNIFORM 3.0 IS AN OCR (OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION) PROGRAM which allows the user to scan an existing form and automatically convert it into a fully editable electronic form. It places it on your screen where you can see it, edit it and fill it in — all that and with its own database too! When I first heard about the wonders of OmniForm 3.0, I was only too excited to take it for a test drive. I have to admit that I am a true left-brainer and felt that I just couldn't live without yet another program that could help make order out of chaos! Little did I know that I would start an almost relentless journey of continuing education! That of course is not to find fault with the program but to let some others out there know of the problems that I encountered as a novice.

First, OmniForm 3.0 performed brilliantly as far as the initial scan and conversion to a database. The scanned image was of good quality and the creation of a database was effortless. My problem arose when I tried to export the data to Excel or Access where I could further manipulate the data. That's when I found out that I didn't know the first thing about ODBC (open database connectivity). After trying to use the manual and the on-line help, I finally became frustrated and called for support only to find out that the technician couldn't help me because my operating system was missing the ODBC drivers or so he said. I asked if he could explain this to me or walk me through it and he suggested I contact Micro-soft online help for installing ODBC drivers or visit the Caere website for additional information. By this time I was quite frustrated and decided I would have to digest all this data when I had more time to devote and that I would live with just being able to scan and fill in the form and build the database to manipulate later.

When I finally learn how to locate my ODBC drivers and install them, I will be able to import from and export to Microsoft Access, Excel, dBase, FoxPro or any other ODBC-compliant database.

OmniForm 3.0 comes packaged with 5 OmniForm Filler licenses which allows users to tab and type to fill in forms that look just like the ones they are used to without being able to accidentally change the form. The program comes networkable and can capture multiple workstation entries in one centralized database. The administrator can make design changes easily to elements such as fonts, logos, calculations, fill fields, check boxes and tables. Wizards help you through many of these tasks.

The minimum system requirements for OmniForm 3.0 running in Win95 or NT 4.0 are: 486 PC and above, VGA or SVGA monitor, Windows compatible mouse, CD-ROM drive, 15 MB Hard disk space, 8 MB Ram (16 recommended) for Win95, or 16 MB Ram (32 recommended) for NT 4.0. The side panel of the box also has a list of the many supported scanners.



HARDCOPY

## MARATHON

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a master artist explain the fundamentals of line, form, values and perspective; it was an excellent review. But even those who thought it would be a refresher were soon deep into the distinctions of FAT and FAT32. It was more than a megabyte of information, maybe even a terrabyte (equals 1,000 gigabytes, you know). You had to be there to absorb the details!

Gene's recommendations included taking advantage of declining hard drive prices to add a second drive. PowerQuest's products have overcome some glitches that used to occur above 8Gb, but Gene suggested balancing the new drive and your old drive to comparable size, not a 2Gb and a 10Gb, if you can manage two of 4-6Gb each. Smaller drives, by the way, offer shorter seeks times. He suggested using two drives to back up each other, and to use separate partitions for your applications and your data. (Often, we don't know where data is stored by various programs!). In addition to cross-backup with two drives, backup to removable storage (e.g. ZIP drives) can be accomplished with Drive Image.

### SLOBYTES BRIEFS

After the break, President Ray Miklas reported on the meeting of officers and volunteers. See his message in this issue. He noted that about 65 of our 153 members were present. About ten more were on hand for the second part of the program. Please consider a donation of \$10 for the projector fund, and if you can sell old software, hardware or books at the next meeting, perhaps you will kindly donate the proceeds to the box that will be there for your contributions. (The 501c3 status is pending, by the way). This newsletter, meanwhile, may become a bi-monthly unless membership increases. [Here's a tip: tell your friends, people at computer stores, shoppers at COSTCO computer aisles, about SLOBYTES. If they have E-mail, get their address, then send them a reminder the Wednesday before the next meeting.]

### POWERQUEST BARGAINS FOR SLOBYTES

(Second Session)

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# TopDog™ 2.0 for Windows— Website positioning & ranking software for Windows

By Ruben Lopez, IBM/PC UG of Redding, [ruben@awwwsome.com](mailto:ruben@awwwsome.com)

ONE OF THE HATS WORN BY MOST WEB SITE DEVELOPERS TODAY is site promotion. Since most web surfers use search engines like HotBot or web directories like Yahoo to find what they're looking for, it doesn't take long to realize that getting a high ranking in one of these search utilities means more visitors to your web page. After all, once a web site has been created and published, it will do no one any good if it can't be found. There are numerous programs that will help a web site owner submit his or her site to hundreds of search engines, but none of these programs that I have seen help in discovering how the site ranks or if it ranked at all. TopDog is a program that automatically looks for your site on for 37 major search engines, including important engines in the United Kingdom, France, Australia, and Europe, and creates a report on how your site is ranked. This sounds so simple that some may wonder why there is a need for a piece software to perform this task, but researching search engines to discover how a site is ranked is a very tedious and time-consuming process, and one I gladly hand over to TopDog.

Using TopDog is easy. To begin a report, simply enter the URL of the site in the Search Form. Multiple URLs or even product or brand names can also be entered. For example, a search for Microsoft Windows could include the URL and product name "www.microsoft.com Windows". Next enter any keywords that you have chosen, or any words or phrases that may be used by someone trying to find the site on the Internet. Then click "Search All" and TopDog starts to work. You may chose to include any or all of the 37 search engines in your report, and TopDog will work in the background, requesting and analyzing the results, freeing the user to other tasks. In fact, as I am writing this evaluation, TopDog is working, review-

ing search engines for a site belonging to one of my clients. It quickly checks with each of its listed search engines, and will perform up to 999 searches over multiple pages with each engine until it finds the site. When it finds the site, it records the site's ranking, number of pages it searched to find the site, and position on the corresponding page. If the site cannot be found, TopDog reports the number of pages it looked at attempting to find the site. As the results from each search engine are completed, they are displayed on screen, and the user may select and view details for an individual search engine while TopDog is still checking the remaining search engines. This is a nice time saver, since the user can begin to analyze the results as they are received and doesn't need to wait until TopDog finishes with all of the search engines. When TopDog has finished searching all of the search engines, the results are updated on screen. Additionally, detailed and summary reports are also generated in HTML form, and TopDog can easily send these reports by e-mail. Each report can be saved separately, so reports can be generated for multiple sites or individual pages of a site. TopDog allows the user to customize several options, including how many engines are searched at one time, how many pages to request from each engine, and the total number of engines to search. Other options include customizing the HTML reports, e-mail info and changing the colors used for the screen display.

I had originally heard about and tried another web position program, and though I liked the idea, that first program was quite limited and pretty expensive (over \$250 dollars for the full version). I was extremely pleased to find TopDog, which offers a wider range of search engines and options and currently carries an introductory price of \$95 Dollars, which is very reasonable considering the versatility of

this program. TopDog is a great time-saver, and certainly a product I recommend for web site owners/developers who are serious about promoting their sites.

TopDog is purchased through the web, and a trial version can be downloaded at their web site, [www.topdogg.com](http://www.topdogg.com).

## System Requirements:

- PC running Windows 95, 98, or NT
- 16MB of RAM (32MB recommended)
- 5MB of disk space
- An Internet connection (any ISP, dialup, or network)

**DC Micro Development/  
Personalized Software, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 359, 118 So. Main St.  
Phoenix, OR 97535  
(888)823-6041 (toll free)  
<http://www.topdogg.com/>

## My Spelling Checker

Eye halve a spelling checker  
It came with my pea sea  
It plainly marques four my revue  
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word  
And weight four it two say  
Weather eye am wrong oar write  
It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid  
It nose bee fore two long  
And eye can put the error rite  
Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it  
I am shore your pleased two no  
Its letter perfect awl the weigh  
My checker tolled me sew.

—*from the Internet*

## MARATHON

*Continued from page 5*

Gene built on the knowledge of the first part of the program to demonstrate the advantages of four of PowerQuest's products. It was a long, interesting program and several of the members, including those with previous versions of the products, were persuaded that upgrades would increase their efficiency and productivity, or maybe just not be frustrated with their hard drive management!

It helped that the products were offered at special user group prices. Partition Magic is the flagship product; use it to reclaim wasted space, move free space, preview changes and then act on them in batch mode and organize multiple operating systems on the same computer. The latter was attractive to at least one of our car poolers who had arrived wondering how to use both Win98 and WinNT on his new computer. Partition Magic V4 lists at \$69.95+ and was available for \$30.

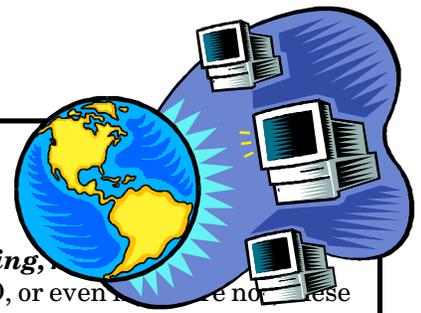
Drive Image V2 offers complete hard drive imaging for fast backups, upgrades and system recovery. Same price and user group special applies. Drive Copy 2.0 is particularly suited to adding hard drives and copying one drive to another, at speeds up to 200 MB per minute.

Lost & Found, developed by High Point Tech and the first PowerQuest offering of that group's products since acquisition, is a recovery program. It consists of three components: recovery, restore and backup modules, for either FAT 16 or FAT32 systems. The product is for hard drives (IDE, EIDE and SCSI), removable, optical and floppy that are still spinning. [That reminds me, if your swivel chair runs over your disk, do not attempt to read it in a drive. Who would run a chair over a floppy? The same person who can step on a pair of bi-focals when trying to pick them off the floor. I suppose that never happened to anyone in SLOBYTES!] Lost & Found doesn't need to be installed prior to recovery. Using menu-driven user interface the program deals with data, recovering files provided they have not been written over.

PowerQuest also offers a series of

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## HARDCOPY



## The SURFBOARD

*By Dorothy Kirk, IBM/PCUG Redding,*  
IF YOU ARE AN AUCTION AFICIONADO, or even a novice, these

sites will accord you hours of bidding action or just plain fun. You will find many categories, including collectibles, antiques, computers, food, sports, music, electronics, and many, many more. There are literally millions of items up for auction; you just have to find them. On some of the sites you can also sell your items.

All of the online auctions require you to register and offer some form of quick delivery. There are few, if any return privileges.

**WARNING!** Online auction sites are not regulated by any laws or regulations at this time, so "let the buyer beware". Do everything you can to authenticate your purchase before bidding, such as, a picture, a complete description, origin of item, etc. Make sure that the site is secure if you use a credit card.

If you never make a bid these sites are useful to find out what an item is generally worth and then you might expect that the retail price will go down to that price on a sale in the not too far future.

**KLIK-KLOK DUTCH AUCTION** <http://www.klik-klok.com> – This site is different; it offers limited quantities of top line new merchandise at great prices in 10 categories. How does it work? Items are on sale for about 2 minutes; the price drops incrementally from the discounted starting price every few seconds. Click your mouse when the price you want appears; the clock stops and it is probably yours. The drawback is that auctions are not online all of the time, but there is a schedule of upcoming auctions.

**UBID ONLINE AUCTION** <http://www.ubid.com> – An online auction house where bidders compete to win excess, refurbished, and limited merchandise. Ubid is a publicly traded NASDAQ company. You can get good buys here.

**eBAY** <http://www.ebay.com> – At present there are 1,489,352 items. Find out the current bid and then up the bid! Time is of great importance when auctioning time is almost up so eBay gives you the exact time. Find out what's new today and what's ending today. You can sell your stuff, too. Check out <http://www.emazing.com/auctionbot.htm> for an auction bot that is available for eBay to receive email for 3 items of your choice coming up for auction.

**BIDFIND** <http://www.bidfind.com> – The site covers items on 170 popular auction sites and indexes more than 100,000 items to create the listings. All items listed include the original auction site. Many categories are listed.

**AUCTION-WAREHOUSE** <http://www.auction-warehouse.com> – If you want an auction site dedicated to computer associated items, try this one. On the day I visited the site on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, there was a new IBM/Aptiva 17 inch Multimedia Monitor with bids starting at \$149; auction started on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> and was to last until Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. The current bid was still at \$149.



# Adobe PhotoDeluxe Home Ed. 3.0

*By John Cridelitch, IBM/PCUG Redding, jcridelitch@shasta.com*  
IT'S BEEN ABOUT A YEAR NOW since Adobe PhotoDeluxe 2.0 exploded on the scene with their new outstanding home version of their professional version of Adobe PhotoShop. The all new version of PhotoDeluxe 2.0 was an outstanding success and launched them into the number one spot of photo finishing programs. It was and still is one of the easiest programs to install and use. An interface concept that guided me through the photo editing process, resulting in a stellar looking product! And it was an integral part of the basic program. This is very important to the entry level user, because the point and click on the program's tools and features has also been modified to make it even more user friendly.

## Whats new in PhotoDeluxe 3.0?

- The first impression one has is the new format that leads you to many new guided activities.
- Digital camera direct access software has been included .
- New process to trim and print photos to standard frame sizes.
- Ability to adjust printer settings to match monitor colors.
- Fix photo quality problems using a new built-in *extensis* instant fix option.
- Create a panorama view by combining a number of photos in sequence
- Modify or distort your photos to your own style by using *changeables*.
- Arrange your photos into a multi-media photo parade such as in *story boarding*.
- Access special features and activities to emphasize seasons and holidays.
- Extensive down-load features and support for projects, such as photos, clip art and using the Adobe collectibles feature.
- Special download filters and plug in modules that add many new features to the Home edition which automatically upgrades.

Considering all the new programs on the market today, Adobe PhotoDeluxe 3.0 is still one of the best programs, especially for new users. Unfortunately, new users often become experienced users and the point-and-click, step-by-step features soon becomes extra work when you are forced to click through several prescribed steps to accomplish a task.

One feature I would have liked to have seen incorporated in Adobe 3.0 would be the ability to send photos to my friends via the e-mail with out the hassle of saving the photo in jpeg or gif format and than attach the file to your e-mail. Oh well, you can't have everything. Yet, this program is a very good photo editing program capable of turning out very professional work with most of the bells and whistles.

By the way , don't put your mother-in-law's photo on the head of a cow, you might get in trouble with your wife! (ahem)

Minimum System Requirements:  
Intell Pentium or compatible processor,  
Win95, 32 megabytes of RAM, 140 MB  
hard disk space, 256-color display moni-  
tor, CD-rom, Sound card, 32-bit twain  
data source software when using scan-  
ner or camera.

**Adobe Systems, Inc.**  
[www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

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## MARATHON

*Continued from page 5*

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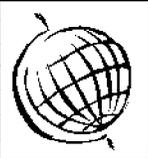
corporate programs, called "enterprise-level storage management solutions. You can find specifications, prices and information at [www.powerquest.com](http://www.powerquest.com) or call 1 (800) 379-2566 or E-mail inquiries to [magic@powerquest.com](mailto:magic@powerquest.com). Be sure to mention our good friend Gene Barlow and SLOBYTEs when requesting User Group discounts.

### MORE WINNERS!

When Bob Ward helped crank up the program for the monthly giveaways, among the names of the absent were Kathy and George Campbell, having we hope a good vacation. Among those present Joe and Elaine Johnson won Quicken 98, Harry Clark won Drive Image and Ed Faeth won Partition Magic.

Members are bringing magazines to give away as well as items to sell. Gary C Lawson of Grover Beach was giving out samples of Digital Imaging Inkjet paper coated on both sides. If you have an application like colored illustrations or photographs, you may want to call Gary at 489-1097 to check out this product.





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## 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 software drawing at the end of the meetings.

**Article Submission:** Deadline for submission of articles is the 15th of each month. Articles should be provided in ASCII format without any type of formatting from your wordprocessor 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.

**Reprinting of this Newsletter:** Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted by other user groups if credit is given to both the author and newsletter from which it was taken. Reproduction of articles with a specific © Copyright notice is prohibited without prior permission from the original author.

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Direct all correspondence and newsletter submissions to:

**BOB WARD, SECRETARY**  
2100 Andre Ave.,  
Los Osos, CA. 93402  
(805) 756-2164

## Meeting Times

GENERAL MEETINGS are held the 1st Sunday of each month. Our 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



### New Member

Welcome to our newest member.  
We hope we can be of service to you!

**Don Passineau**

### FOR SALE!

The club has two 486 monochrome computers with small hard disks (40-60mb) it will sell for any reasonable offer. One has both 1.44 and 360K floppies, the other a 3.5 floppy and CD-ROM drive. They come with 14" monochrome monitors and keyboard. The money will be added to our projector fund.

## Treasurer's Report



Beginning Balance ..... \$1,286.93

### Income:

Membership Dues ..... 275.00  
Refreshment Receipts ..... 26.78

### Expenses:

Corporate Re-License Fee ... 10.00  
Refreshments ..... 15.80  
Rent (Feb) ..... 75.00

New Balance ..... **\$1,487.91**

### Projector Fund

Savings Acct. .... \$2,481.03

GOAL: \$4,000.00

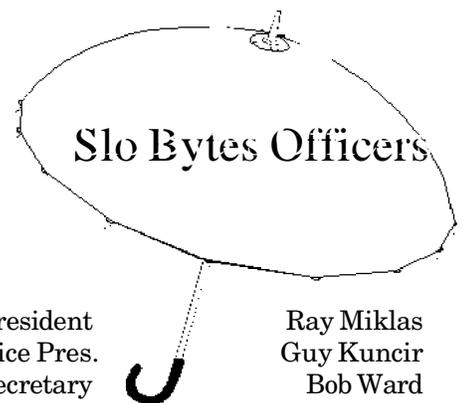
## Dues

Do you want to renew your SLO BYTES PCUG membership by mail? Send your check to:

**MARVIN BAXENDALE**  
543 Gularte Road  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
**481-8392** marvin@surfari.net

Make checks for \$25.00 payable to: "SLO BYTES"

ADDRESS CHANGES: Please e-mail changes to marvin@surfari.net or call 481-8392.



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