

SLO Bytes HardCopy
A publication of the San Luis Obispo PC Users Group
Vol. 21 No. 2 **February 2005**

January 2, 2005 Windows SIG Review by Alan J. Raul

Adobe Reader 7.0

NOTE: Adobe Reader 7.0 does not support the Windows 9x code base.

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

As you type, Google will offer suggestions. Use the arrow keys to navigate the results.

<http://www.google.com/webhp?complete=1>

Video Reviews

<http://www.3dgame.com/>

Video Review Archives

http://www.3dgame.com/videos_archive.html

Vantec NexStar 2.5" HDD External Enclosure

http://www.3dgame.com/vr/vantec/nexstar/video_review_02.html

Vantec

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

Weather Links:

<http://kcbx.net/~araul/weather2.htm>

January 2, 2005 Main Meeting Review by Ray Miklas

Once again Lauri Sowa, gave us a solid presentation covering pretty much all the various programs of Microsoft Office. Lauri is Microsoft Certified and has a solid track record in business and personal computing. Lauri is a SLO Bytes member and is also active in the Nipomo Black Lakes Computer Club. Lauri's company, Wise Owl Opportunities, provides computer and accounting services throughout the Central Coast of California. Her website has many articles and tips, describing various aspects of her business, dozens of computer related article, etc., so be sure to check it out at <http://www.wiseowlops.com> <<http://www.wiseowlops.com/>> .

By the way, Lauri invited our members to ask questions related to the various applications in MS Office. Let's say that you just "hit a brick wall", in Word or Excel, just drop Lauri an email wiseowl@wiseowlops.com and she will help you with what ever you are struggling with. Thank you Lauri.

Most of her presentation was centered on MS Word but she went back and forth to Access and Excel to show that all of these applications have similar Drop-down Menus and Tool Bars, duplicating the most used functions from the Drop-down menus.

We had a cold, rainy day but because of Lauri's reputation, we had 62 attendees at our January meeting, many being visitors who had learned of our meeting from the Dan Logan's column in the SLO's The Tribune Newspaper.

Lauri gives a very comprehensive, detailed presentation, yet one can easily follow her on-screen illustrated, remote mouse manipulated images she is talking about. She zooms in and out, so all can easily see to what particular object she is referring to. Lauri is truly skilled and thoroughly knowledgeable teacher of a complex set of applications in MS Office, in the latest and earlier

versions of all the programs. We are always pleased and awed when we attend Lauri's presentations!

Don Jones' Featured Speaker Programming Schedule

SLO Bytes' speaker at the February 6 meeting will be Alan Raul.

This month's topic will be "Customizing Microsoft Windows XP"

Alan is our regular Windows presenter for the Special Interest Group first session, always answering a wide range of questions. This month Alan will also be giving the guest speaker presentation at 2:30 PM. Alan will walk you through some tweaks of your Windows operating system to obtain maximum performance. Other tweaks he will show can help eliminate those pesky error messages which "pop up" when you really don't want to see them. Microsoft Power Toys for Windows XP will be demonstrated to further enhance your computing experience with Windows XP.

Alan has been dealing with computing and computers for the last ten years, and anyone who knows him, knows he loves to talk and share his extensive knowledge about computers. This will be a session that you won't want to miss.

Speakers for the month of March are Pete Gannon and Darren Dexter of Computer Stuff. Their subject for March 6 is "Learn how to Manipulate and Edit Video" or, "Want good Movies, Learn How". Members will remember that Pete gave us an excellent presentation last March on what upgrades are worth doing. Don't miss it!

Webmaster's Notes by Ralph Sutter

I've placed some photos of my recent trip to Chile in the SLO Bytes Photo Gallery, <http://www.slobytes.org/gallery/>. I invite all members to submit their own photos for inclusion too. Bring them in digital form to any SLO Bytes meeting. I'll transfer them to my lap top and upload them our photo gallery shortly thereafter.

Ralph Sutter
SLO Bytes Webmaster

President's Message

February Meeting Schedule

At our February 6, 2004 meeting

At 1 PM, Alan will moderate a computer question/answer session At 2:30 PM, Alan Raul will give his presentation.

I received the (below) email and the attached "1-05.zip" file from Judy Taylour of APCUG. The email is the summary of the articles contained in the .zip file, which is only 74k size and contains interesting and useful info. if you wish to peruse it. If you don't have a decompression program to view the .zip file, go to www.oldversion.com/program.php?n=winzip and download/install the version you prefer.

Hi Editors, here are the January 2005 PUSH articles. I'm sending them as zipped Word docs since I had a lot of trouble with AOL and the RTF discount list I recently sent to Presidents & APCUG Reps.

Ergonomics for the Elderly by Dr. Herbert A. Goldstein, Editor, Sarasota PC Monitor, Sarasota PC Users Group, Florida. As baby boomers reach retirement age the ratio of employees to retirees will equalize over the next 20 years. Considering that the foundation of Social Security benefits is generated from the workers, it is evident that benefits will be inadequate for future retirees. In order to endure, the elderly will be forced to keep working beyond the current retirement age. Upcoming ergonomic developments will be critical in order to accommodate the elderly as viable and productive members of the work force.

Gmail by Dr. Herbert A. Goldstein, Editor, Sarasota PC Monitor, Sarasota FL PC Users Group, Florida. Gmail is a new, free, web-based email service from Google, the people who brought us that remarkable search engine. Gmail, as offered today, is an experiment in a new kind of email. Similar to Hotmail, it has some important differences. Its foundation is the concept that emails need never be deleted, and you should always be able to find any message at any time by searching for it. But, there are several major reasons why Google's concept of how email should work is suspect. Read this article to find out whether Gmail is something you want to try.

Hard Drive Housekeeping is Vital by Dennis Schulman, Tampa Bay Computer Society, Florida. For those of you who surf the net on a regular basis and that includes those who use dialup access as well as cable or DSL it is absolutely crucial that you take your hard drive housekeeping more seriously than you ever thought necessary. Checkout Schulman's three reasons why he doubts you are protected even though you use a suite of utilities, such as Norton or McAfee, and the housekeeping procedure he uses.

Necessities for That New Computer by Ira Wilsker, APCUG Board of Directors. Did you buy a new computer this holiday season? Ira has some safe computing guidelines we should follow when setting up our new computer.

New Year's Resolutions for Computer Users by Ira Wilsker, APCUG Board of Directors. Ira gives us some suggested resolutions so we can be better cyber citizens and practice "Safe HEX."

Screen Capture Tools Put Windows Data at Your Beck and Call by Gabe Goldberg, APCUG Advisor, and AARP Computers and Technology Web site columnist.

When you are having trouble with your computer and need to get it fixed, a picture of what happens or what's wrong is the best way to give the information to the repair shop. Gabe has a couple of different ways for us to take that vital picture of what's wrong.

Simple but Powerful Tools Find Misplaced PC Files by Gabe Goldberg, APCUG Advisor, and AARP Computers and Technology Web site columnist. As applications proliferate and users create their own blizzards of data files (documents, pictures, sound and video files, etc.) PC files become needles in a haystack. Again, Gabe shows us a couple of ways we can find missing files.

Tech News by Sue Crane, Vice President / Editor, Big Bear Computer Club, CA. Did you know that blog was the most looked up word in 2004 on Merriam-Webster's website and NanoDynamics has come up with a golf ball that can correct its own flight path so it flies straighter than conventional balls? You'll find many more tidbits that will increase your reader's knowledge.

The Digital Home by Sherry Zorzi, APCUG Advisor. Will 2005 be the year your home entertainment goes digital? For many families, it will be. Welcome to the Digital Home! Does having a digital home sound like a futuristic dream? Well, the future is now, and it's surprisingly affordable. Sherry tells us what we'll need to make our home a Digital Home.

**Happy computing,
Judy Taylour, Chair
PUSH Editorial Committee**

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

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

Finally, we have a copy of Windows XP Service Pack 2 info. CD to check out which has a 20 min. video you can run giving you the overview of what SP 2 has to offer.

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

--Ray Miklas

Treasurer's Report
Nov 24, 2004 Dec 31, 2004

Income		
	Membership dues-new	\$ 50.00
	Renewal members	\$200.00
	Refreshments	\$36.53
	Leroy Gass donation	\$50.00
Expenses		
	Hall rent	\$ 75.00
Bank accounts @12/31/04		
	Checking Acct Balance	\$ 1,121.94
	Saving Acct Balance	\$3,164.24

New members: Connie Thomas; Leona Mastan

Robert Mires, Treasurer

Club Information and Meeting Times

SLO Bytes, a PC Users Group dedicated to educate its members in the use of personal computers, digital devices and software, meets on the first Sunday of each month at the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Hall at 520 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo. All meetings are open to the public at no cost. Special interest groups meet from 1 to 2:00 PM and guest speaker presentations begin at 2:30 PM. Contact Don Jones (773-5526, donej@sbcglobal.net) or visit www.slobytes.org for additional information about SLO Bytes and the scheduled presentation.

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

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

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

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

Outside Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

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

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

SLO Bytes Officers/Volunteers

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Bill Avery (Contributing Columnist/Win95/98 SIG) **wavery@slonet.org**

Alan Raul (General SIG/Linux SIG)

Nancy Vrooman (Refreshments)

Peter Stonehewer (Refreshments)

Nate Wallenstein (Contributing Columnist)

Ken Stilts (Set-up/Clean-up)

Cliff Buttschardt (Set-up/Clean-up)

John Enos (Set-up/Clean-up)

Bill Palmerston (Set-up/Clean-up)

www.slobytes.org