

SLO Bytes HardCopy

A publication of the San Luis Obispo PC Users Group

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Alan's web links from the May 1, 2005 General Windows SIG by Alan Raul

Updated software versions reported:

Adobe Photoshop (9.0) CS2

Irfanview 3.97

Mozilla Firefox 1.0.4

Opera 8.0

RealPlayer 10.5 Build 6.0.12.1069

Sun Java 1.5.0.30

ZoneAlarm Free 5.5.094.000

Microsoft Windows AntiSpyware (Beta) [FREE] -- is a security technology that helps protect Windows users from spyware and other potentially unwanted software. Known spyware on your PC can be detected and removed.

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/software/default.mspx>

Belarc Advisor [FREE] -- builds a detailed profile of your installed software and hardware, including Microsoft Hotfixes, and displays the results in your Web browser. FREE

http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html

Everest Home Edition 2.0 [FREE] -- is a system information, system diagnostics and bench marking solution for home PC users, based on the award-winning EVEREST Technology. It offers the world's most accurate system information and diagnostics capabilities, including on-line features, memory benchmarks, hardware monitoring, and low-level hardware information. Everest software is based on the older, now defunct, **AIDA32** program.

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

May 1, 2005 Main Meeting Review by Bill Avery

First we have a chance to catch up on the past month, and share problems and solutions with each other in our Coffee/Tea and Cookie Break, with home-made treats served by our volunteer hosts, Nancy Vrooman, and Peter Stonehewer.

Our club guests were also welcomed by President Ray Miklas, and he suggested that they may want to join SLO Bytes at our sign-in table, by speaking to Bob Mires, our Treasurer and Membership Chairman. Ray announced our club activities, which include the HTML and Linux Special Interest Group meetings. The SIGs are scheduled for the first Monday and Thursday evenings of every month, respectively, at Ralph Sutter's home in Arroyo and at the KCBX Training Center in SLO.

If you have pictures to share on our website, please bring your files on a CD-ROM, thumb-drive or floppy, for download to a laptop at the Treasurer's Table, for transfer to our web host, thanks to Ralph Sutter.

The sign-in table is also the place to checkout software which we can loan from our CD-ROM library. Also, recycle any old ink cartridges which you have saved from your printers - just drop them off at the table, for Ray Miklas and Dave Grant to pickup after the meeting.

We had an interesting early presentation from our member, Dave McLaughlin, davemcl@pacbell.net, about Exploration Station's Computers-4-Kids program. Their website is <http://kcbx.net/~estation/computers.html>. They meet Wednesday afternoon, between 1PM and 5 PM, to refurbish used computers donated to their program. Their location is 867 Ramona Ave., Grover Beach, CA 93433, about 1 block from the Fire Department (at 701 Rockaway Ave.). They are listed in the recycling section of the 2004 SBC telephone book, and their phone number is (805) 473-1421. Any questions should be directed to Dave via email, or call him at (805) 473-3865.

Our featured speaker was **Ryan Dolphin from Pinnacle Systems**, their official company training director. He demonstrated Pinnacle Studio Plus version 9, with the topic: *"Learn to Make a Movie Masterpiece as easy as 1, 2, and 3: Capture, Edit, and Make a Movie"*. His educational and entertaining Pinnacle Studio clinic presentation focused on video capture, editing, and DVD authoring. He also covered the advanced features of Studio Plus, and **built a complete project!** Ryan touched on Pinnacle Liquid Edition 6. For anyone interested in creative uses of digital video, this session focused on the incredible power of Pinnacle Liquid Edition, as well as how easy it could be for a Pinnacle Studio user to migrate to the fully professional solution.

"Pinnacle Studio Plus version 9 is an advanced consumer video editing and disc authoring application whose intuitive interface and seamless work flow provide video enthusiasts with on-demand access to hundreds of professional-quality functionalities like Chroma Key and Picture-in-Picture effects, image stabilization, automated editing, color correction, noise removal and digital surround sound, while maintaining total ease of use from start to finish."

The 30-day free trial version (214 MB Zip File Download) is available, after a registration and login, at: [http://www.pinnaclesys.com/docloader_n.asp?templ=10&doclink=/WebVideo/studioavdvd deluxeversion9/English\(US\)/doc/Download_StudioPLUS_US.htm&Product_ID=2446&Langue_ID=7&loc=doc173&division_id=](http://www.pinnaclesys.com/docloader_n.asp?templ=10&doclink=/WebVideo/studioavdvd deluxeversion9/English(US)/doc/Download_StudioPLUS_US.htm&Product_ID=2446&Langue_ID=7&loc=doc173&division_id=)

The current on-line cost is \$99.99, with free shipping, and a \$20 rebate shown on the box. The "Moviebox" version is \$199.99, and includes hardware to interface with your digital source, such as a digital camera, video camera, computer, or television. See: http://www.pinnaclesys.com/Category.asp?Category_ID=1&openFamily=1&Langue_id=7

Our speaker demonstrated several aspects of the Studio program, including the ability to create interesting slide shows from basic still shots, by editing in any audio background music bed or comments, or allowing the program to combine segments of a program automatically, according to the beat or rhythm of an audio track. Many kinds of transitions or fades are available, and I was overwhelmed by the thought of trying all the possibilities. Titles are added to introduce the scenes, and chroma-key using a green screen allows creative overlay of multiple video images. Picture-in-Picture makes your own newscast easy as point, shoot, and click. Our group really responded well to this demonstration.

The Pinnacle website is a good place to study the program, so see:

http://www.pinnaclesys.com/howto/StudioHowTo.asp?Langue_ID=7

There are 5 lessons, which follow the presentation we saw at the meeting. Output is sent to a DVD burner, to share with neighbors and friends. Their complete product line website is:

http://www.pinnaclesys.com/default.asp?Langue_ID=7 and they are located at:

Pinnacle Systems, Inc.
280 North Bernardo Avenue

Mountain View, California 94043

Tel: 650-526-1600

Fax: 650-526-1601

You may order directly from Pinnacle Systems at 1-(800) 293-2948, or buy at Best Buy, Frys, or other retail outlets. On-line Store link:

http://buy.pinnaclesys.com/dr/v2/ec_Main.Entry17c?CID=123468&PN=1&SP=10034&SID=51106&CUR=840&PID=639865&V1=1271413&api1=67&api2=&api4=

So that should provide enough contact and product review information for the most curious movie maker in our group, and to top it off, Cliff B. won a copy to take home!

Don Jones' Featured Speaker Programming Schedule by Don Jones

Alan Raul's June 5, 1:00 PM topic will include a demonstration of Microsoft's "Remote Desktop" and "Remote Assistance" software. These are "remote control utility programs" which allow you to control your own personal computer or someone else's computer.

At 2:30 our featured speaker program will be a surprise presentation by one of our own members on setting up, configuring and using a WiFi home network. He will start with a demonstration setting up a WiFi network in the meeting hall. He will follow this with a Question and Answer session on WiFi. Be sure to bring your questions as this is an opportunity to learn from a real expert on the subject.

You won't want to miss this!

Don't forget to make your plans for the July 3rd BBQ instead of a featured program.

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 to our photo gallery shortly thereafter.

Ralph Sutter
SLO Bytes Webmaster

President's Message

June Meeting Schedule

At our June 5, 2005 meeting

At 1 PM, Alan will moderate a computer question/answer session

At 2:30 PM, Surprise guest will give his presentation on WiFi

Plans are well underway for our **July 3rd BBQ**. Bill Avery is heading up the BBQ planning committee consisting of Nancy Vrooman, Peter Stonehewer and Ray Miklas. It looks like we have enough volunteers to fill all the jobs to run this event.

As it looks now, we will have Alan's General CIG from 1-2 PM for members and guests and then we'll have a free BBQ for all members because SLO Bytes will fund this event. If you have special guest/s you would like to bring to our BBQ, a \$5.00 donation by each guest would be appropriate. We will have a sign-up sheet for all who intend to attend the BBQ at the Treasurer's table at the 7 June meeting and then will also send out an email, requesting a sign-up via email for those who did not sign-up at the 7 June meeting. This is necessary because we need to know how much food/drink to buy for all those attending the BBQ.

August 5-7 Southwest User Group Conference, San Diego. www.swugconf.org Fun in the Sun & Computers, Too! This is the 12th annual conference offering fun-filled days packed with vendor presentations, great food, workshops, a chance to talk with user groupies from other UGs, and much more. The conference begins on Friday evening and ends with lunch on Sunday. Workshops are offered for UG leaders and members, and there are also workshops for enhancing the attendees' computer knowledge.

Go to <http://sharewarejunkies.com/>, the Internet's oldest software review site. It is making its Newest Shareware email newsletter <http://www.newestshareware.com/> available to the general public. Take a look at it and see if you want to download/try the various applications available as Shareware and Freeware.

This came to me from **Judy Taylour of APCUG Region 10 Chair:**

"Here are the May PUSH articles. We have two bonus articles this month: Protecting Your Internal Passwords by Gene Barlow, User Group Relations; and Five More Annoying PC Annoyances by Steve Bass, author, *PC Annoyances: How to Fix the Most Annoying Things About Your Personal Computer.*"
Editor's note: There are 12 articles in the attached [May 05 PUSH.zip] file

If you wish to receive Gene Barlow's "**BARLOW'S HARD DRIVE NEWSLETTER**", you can sign up for free at www.ugr.com/newsletters.

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.

If you still are in need of **Windows XP Service Pack 2 CD** for upgrading you O/S, contact me and I will give you one.

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 SLO Bytes HardCopy June 2005

their organization by refurbishing and selling them.

--Ray Miklas

Treasurer's Report

Apr 24, 2005 – May 24, 2005

Income

Renewal members	\$225.00
New members	50.00
Refreshments	42.05

Donations:

B. Ward (CD sleeves)	5.00
Galeen Moyer	5.00

Expenses

Hall rent	75.00
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Bank accounts @4/30/05

Saving Acct Balance	3,174.66
Checking Ac	1,760.81
Interest- year to date	19.92

New members: two

Renewing members: nine

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

Ray Miklas (President, HardCopy Editor) rmiklas@bigfoot.com
Don Jones (V.P./Programs/Publicity) donej@sbcglobal.net
Robert Mires (Treasurer/Membership/Publishing) rmires@sbcglobal.net
Ralph Sutter (Secretary/Webmaster/HTML-Internet SIG) rsutter@cuesta.edu
Bill Avery (Contributing Columnist/Win95/98/XP SIG) wavery@slonet.org
Alan Raul (General SIG/Linux SIG)
Nancy Vrooman (Refreshments)
Peter Stonehewer (Refreshments)
Ken Stilts (Set-up/Clean-up)
Cliff Buttschardt (Set-up/Clean-up)
John Enos (Set-up/Clean-up)
Bill Palmerston (Set-up/Clean-up)

SLO Bytes Website <http://www.slobytes.org>