

SLO Bytes HardCopy

A publication of the San Luis Obispo PC Users Group

Vol. 20 No. 11

November 2004

October, 2004 - Main Meeting Review by W. Avery

At 2:15 PM, we had our Social SIG, the mid-meeting highlight, featuring great cookies and treats with fresh coffee and teas, carefully served by our volunteer hostess, Nancy Vrooman. She set it up so our members and guests can enjoy a chance to catch up on the past month and share problems and solutions on a one-to-one basis. We resumed promptly at 2:30PM in the main hall, as many members were interested in the free CD-ROM offered by our featured-speakers, Pat and Kenny Keith from ComputerWorks boolseye@gte.net, 207 W. Main St., Santa Maria, CA 93458 - phone: 805-347-1076; - fax: 805-347-0018.

Ray made our announcements of the club activities, which include the HTML SIG, and Linux SIG, scheduled for the first Monday and Thursday evenings of every month (which follow our General monthly meeting), respectively. These meetings are held at Ralph Sutter's home in Arroyo Grande and the KCBXnet Training Center in SLO. We asked our guests in the meeting to be welcomed and note how they had heard about our group.

If you have pictures to share on our website, please bring your files for download to the Treasurer's Table, and we will save them to a hard disk for transfer to our website, thanks to Ralph Sutter. The table is also the place to renew your membership (or change your address) and checkout software which we can loan from our CD-ROM library. Also, any old ink cartridges which you have saved from your printers can be dropped off at the table, for Ray Miklas and Dave Grant who turn them over to "Make A-Wish Foundation" who generate much needed funds for their organization by refurbishing and selling them.

Guy Kuncir introduced the main speakers, Pat and Kenny Keith of ComputerWorks, who had an excellent presentation on several aspects of PC computing, and who gave us copies of their store "Essential Utility CD-ROM", with the freshest downloads he could get for 21 programs, (including Windows XP SP2 Update) showing us the best way to keep our computers safe from spyware, viruses and hackers. The disks contain useful utilities, including anti-virus and anti-spyware programs, a file management utility, an Office suite and many other useful programs with general applicability. The ComputerWorks' CD has been compiled over the last year and a half, selecting the best "freeware" programs they believe to be available. It also contains some shareware software, these being included where good versions of the desired capabilities could not be found; such as "Diskeeper Trial, ver. 8.0", being one such shareware program. These CDs were provided to all attendees free of charge, on-hand supplies permitting. The extremely popular CDs are also offered at their store at no charge and have been mentioned in the weekly Santa Maria Times' column that Pat writes.

A handout described each of the Utility Programs, so we had an exact overview of the CD-ROM. As time permitted, Pat explained how each one works; and gave us the benefit of his comments, based on many years experience in the computer business. His favorite Utility is "PCOpus", which will remind older users of the famous XTree-Gold, previously produced here in San Luis Obispo!

For removal of Spyware, he likes "Spysweeper", "Adaware", and "SpyBot". Pat uses all 3 programs for best coverage. The personal firewall, "ZoneAlarm Free" is highly recommended. For popup protection, try the free program, "Popup Washer".

To quote Bob Gromer's notes: "A pop-up blocker is the first line of defense against intrusion and viruses". For up to date information, check the Symantec Antivirus Response Center at: www.sarc.com. If you are using Norton Antivirus, Intelligent Updater will provide the latest virus definitions. There is also LiveUpdate, which adds only the new information to your current system, weekly. Pat noted that the other Antivirus program, AVG, and Norton Antivirus do not conflict, which is a new viewpoint on this situation, at least within our general practices in the club.

There are some new ways to control the startup of your system, such as "Startup Cop", and "Startup Control Panel". They will help prevent any unwanted programs from running each time you start your system, by eliminating them from the startup sequence, while allowing other desirable programs to load automatically. Additionally, the "TweakXP" utility will offer extended control of your WinXP system, (with a free 30-view-trial shareware limitation). Many utilities, including a registry cleaner, are built into this one program, which is priced at \$39.95.

For protection against operator error, "PC Inspector" will help with data recovery, if you accidentally delete any information.

Other utilities on the disk include a DVD editor, "DVD Decryptor", a peer-to-peer file sharing utility, "P2P", and a life-like screen saver, "Serene Screen Aquarium."

According to Pat, the best browser is Opera, ver. 7.54.

He also included Mozilla Firefox, ver. 1.0 RC1. The final version being released on November 9th.

Pat noted that the government is recommending discontinuing use of Internet Explorer!

Note: Pat said that many of the programs on the Utility disk will NOT run under Win98.

Currently the Keith's are not recommending installation of SP2, unless it is installed on a freshly installed system.

We finished the meeting with our QuickPik raffle, and look forward to seeing you next month for the ever-popular digital camera updates from Dennis Johansen of Jims Campus Camera.

October 3, 2004 web links from Alan's General Windows SIG

Maps of Recent Earthquake Activity in California-Nevada <http://quake.usgs.gov/recenteqs/latest.htm>

Mount St. Helens VolcanoCam
<http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/volcanocams/msh/>

How to Update Your Computer with the JPEG Processing (GDI+) Security Update <http://snipurl.com/9elz>
http://www.microsoft.com/security/bulletins/200409_jpeg_tool.msp

Digital Camera Reviews and News
<http://www.dpreview.com/>

ACDSee 7.0
<http://www.acdsystems.com/English/index.htm>

Jasc Paint Shop Pro 9.0
<http://www.jasc.com/>

Computer Associates PestPatrol Spyware Protection
<http://www.pestpatrol.com/>

October 3, 2004 web links from the main speaker

Black Viper - Windows XP Home and Professional Service Pack 2 Service Configurations
<http://www.blackviper.com/WinXP/servicecfg.htm>

The definitive DVD backup resource
<http://www.doom9.org/>

Guy Kuncir's Featured Speaker Programming Schedule

Dennis Johansen, a San Luis Obispo business man, will be speaking about the Technology Transitions in Digital Photography at the November 7th SLO Bytes meeting.

There are almost daily changes in digital photography technology. We try to stay up with the changes as best we can and several industry magazines help by providing information about innovations months in advance. Knowledge of this field is something that must be constantly refreshed. In his talk, Mr. Johansen will provide us a "snapshot" of the technology that is the current basis of this rapidly changing industry.

Dennis Johansen is the owner of Jims Campus Camera in downtown San Luis Obispo. Jim's is now beginning its 34th year of operation in San Luis Obispo, and is the largest and best-equipped camera store on the central coast of California. Jims has been selling digital cameras for six years. Olympus, Nikon, Canon, and Minolta brands make up the selection of about 25 models on hand at any one time.

Jims also sells the popular Nikon D-70 and Canon D-20, the new Canon Digital Rebel SLR cameras, and lenses.

Webmaster's Notes by Ralph Sutter

This is a reminder to all SLO Bytes members to bring their photos to each General meeting. Images can either be candid shots of club activities or any photos that you have taken and would like to see displayed in the SLO Bytes Photo Gallery, www.slobytes.org/photos. Bring your digital camera by the Treasurer's table at the close of each meeting and I will transfer your images to my laptop via a multi-format card reader. I will also accept images on CDs. Please note that I will not be able to accept prints. Share your pictures. Share your skills. Help SLO Bytes build our Photo Gallery.

Ralph Sutter
SLO Bytes Webmaster

President's Message

At our November 7, 2004 meeting

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

Good news! Don Jones has volunteered to take the position of SLO Bytes Vice President/Programs/Publicity. Starting 1 Jan, 2005, Don will be relieving Guy Kuncir who has been in this position since 1998. Thank you Guy for serving in an outstanding manner all these past years!

At our December meeting, we will have an opportunity to cast our vote for all the officers of SLO Bytes. Even though the other Officers agreed to serve in the coming year, you are all invited to volunteer or nominate any member for any position to be voted upon at our December meeting. Please submit your nominations to our Secretary, Ralph Sutter.

Once again, I'll be the "Santa Clause" at our December 5, 2004 Meeting, passing out the various gifts at our gala give-away raffle. Plans are also in-the-works to hold 3 simultaneous SIGs for our program for the December's meeting, similar to what we did at our December 2003 meeting.

Check out the money saving offer that KCBXnet (aka Slonet) is extending to all current and future members of SLO Bytes. Go to 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 1:00-2:00 PM and guest speaker presentations begin at 2:30 PM. Contact Guy Kuncir (489-1395, gkuncir@charter.net) or visit www.slobytes.org and click on the KCBX offers special Internet access pricing for SLO Bytes members link for additional information about SLO Bytes and the scheduled presentation.

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.

--Ray Miklas

Treasurer's Report
Sept 24, 2004 – October 24, 2004

Income

Membership dues-new	\$75.00
Renewal members	125.00
Refreshments	31.41

Expenses

Hall rent	75.00
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Bank accounts @9/30/04

Checking Acct Balance	\$ 1,142.62
Saving Acct Balance	3,156.29

New Members: Debbie Ekes (Natural Foods Coop), Ted Ivarie, Jerald Jecker

Robert Mires, Treasurer

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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

Guy Kuncir (V.P./Programs/Publicity) gkuncir@charter.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) 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)

SLO Bytes Website www.slobytes.org