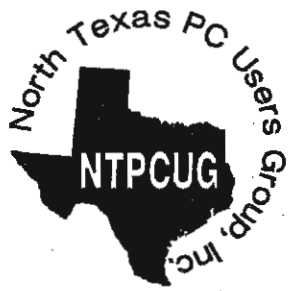


Price \$3.00

North Texas



PC NEWS

May, 1998

VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 5

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Deadline:

All advertising and other material for publication in North Texas PC NEWS must be received by the NEWS staff by the 15th of the month prior to publication unless otherwise listed. See deadline information below.

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation was 2,400 last month. Member distribution was 1,600; remaining copies were distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

The editors of North Texas PC NEWS use Microsoft Word for Windows 6.0. This issue of North Texas PC NEWS was composed using Corel Ventura 4.2, Corel Draw 7.0, Arts & Letters Express 6.01, Adobe Photoshop 4.01 and HP Scanjet IIp. Repro was printed on a HP LaserJet 4M. Principal typefaces include: Times, Palatino, Helvetica, A&L Cafe, French Vogue, and Lithos.

DEADLINE
Copy deadline for June
North Texas PC NEWS:
Wednesday, May 27th

Meeting Dates:

May 16, 1998 – 3rd Saturday
June 20, 1998 – 3rd Saturday



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Visit the North Texas PC Users Group web page:
<http://www.nitpcug.org>

North Texas PC News

Advertising Prices and Policies

Ad Size	1X	3X	6X	12X
2-Page Spread	\$400	\$325		
Full Page (7 x 9)	225	195	\$165	\$150
Half Page (7 x 4 1/2)	150	125	110	100
Qtr Page (3 1/4 x 4 1/2)	100	80	65	55
Business Card (2 x 3 1/4)	65	50	40	35
Business Card (Members)	35	25	20	20

Reduced rates for multiple insertions of same ad. Require prior commitment in writing and payment in advance (3 months minimum). Copy and mechanical changes requested between insertions will be billed accordingly.

Deadlines: All advertising copy must be received by the PC News staff no later than the 10th day of the month prior to the month of publication unless other arrangements are made with the Publisher. NT PC News publication date is 10 days before the monthly meeting of the North Texas PC Users Group.

Policies & Mechanicals:

- Commercial ads must be in repro form, in final size, ready for printing.
- Halftones must be furnished as final size, screened prints or negatives.
- Halftone screens cannot exceed 100 LPI maximum.
- No ads on front cover. Bleed pages and color must be discussed with Publisher before submission.
- Related ads only; suitability is at discretion of the Publisher and the North Texas PC Users Group Board of Directors.

Payment: Payment in advance of publication.
Make checks payable to: North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM

The Year 2000 Bug: Can Companies Meet the Deadline?
BMR Software, Inc. (www.bmrsoftware.com)
Bob Berner, President

There's little hope that all systems worldwide can be Year 2000 compliant using current methods. Hear the "Father of ASCII," who coined the term COBOL and created the ESCape sequence, speak about the Y2K problem. Will government be ready? Corporate America? Wall Street? Bob Berner, who predicted the problem in 1979, will discuss the options and consequences, as a recognized Y2K expert. Hear about his solution, touted by The Wall Street Journal as the silver-plated bullet.

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS...
TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM

Messaging Solutions for Enhanced and Secure Communication
TenFour US (www.tenfour.com)
Victoria Parry, Regional Manager

TenFour provides connectivity solutions for the Internet, paging, MCI Mail and the most popular LAN-based messaging platforms (MS Exchange, MS Mail, Lotus Notes, cc:Mail, Novell Groupwise and MHS) and almost any SMTP-compatible mail server. Features include the ability to form a Virtual Private Network, high-speed directory synchronization, virus scanning and filtering of incoming Internet messages. Add-on features expand capabilities. TFS Encryption encodes messages to prevent tampering. TFS Translator allows multilingual translation for email and TFS WebWriter allows Web document retrieval. There will be a drawing for many prizes. *

11:00 AM - 11:55 AM

Building N-Tier, Component-Based Applications with Visual Basic and JAVA
Riverton Software Corporation (www.riverton.com)
Todd Fraser

Riverton Software markets a tool called HOW(tm). HOW is a component-based modeling tool and deployment framework for building business applications. HOW makes it straightforward for mainstream developers to build distributed and Internet applications in Java, Visual Basic, Microsoft Transaction Server, DCOM, and other Enterprise Technologies from Microsoft. This product demonstration will give you a detailed overview of HOW and its critical role in building Component-Based Applications. There will be a drawing for free products. *

* Tickets for each drawing will be given out from 10 minutes before until 15 minutes after the start-time of the meeting to attending NTPCUG members who show proof of membership.

MAY 16

SIGs NTPCUG SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

8:00 - 8:55
 Internet - WEB Developers
 Microsoft Networking
 Visual BASIC - Beginning
 MultiMedia

8:00 - 9:55
 Hardware Solutions

9:00 - 9:55
 DOS/ Operating Systems
 General Genealogy
 Internet-Advanced
 Introduction to the PC
 SQL Server
 Quicken
 Visual BASIC
 Windows Applications
 MS Word for Windows

9:00 - 10:55
 Dallas Corel
10:00 - 10:55
 ACT!
 CAD
 Delphi

Emerging Technologies
 Fox Pro Database
 Networking
 Internet-Beginning
 Introduction to the PC
 PAF-Genealogy
 WordPerfect for Windows
 UNIX

11:00 - 11:30
Business Meeting

11:00 - 11:55
 Assembly Language
 Family Tree Maker

11:00 - 11:55 Ctd.
 CAD (Cont.)
 Investors
 Graphics
 Microsoft FrontPage
 Paradox
 Ultimate Family Tree
 Spreadsheets
 Microsoft Visual C++/MFC

11:30 - 12:00
NTPCUG Orientation

12:00 - 12:55
 Access
 Alpha Four
 C++ Language
 Communications
 Desktop Publishing
 Introduction to the PC
 Java
 The Master Genealogist

12:00 - 1:55
 VRGN Internet Gaming

1:00 - 1:55
ActiveX Developers
 Business Apps./DAC Easy
Introduction to the PC
 Lotus Notes & Domino
 QuickBooks
2:00 - 2:55
 Advanced Programmers

SIG Schedules may be subject to changes at the last minute. Please consult the BBS, or the NTPCUG Web page (www.ntpcug.org) and remember to check the handouts in the INFOMART lobby and at the NTPCUG Information Booth in the Vendor Area for latest SIG schedules and room locations.

MICROSOFT eXTREME 2

AFTER THE SHOW'S OVER...

Microsoft presented a live simulcast, with 37 theaters across the country participating, titled *eXtreme 2*. The Dallas portion of the event, held at the UA Prestonwood Theaters on April 4th, showed features of the upcoming '98 product line including Windows 98. 1,100 people registered for the event, and another 100 were on a standby list.

We are not sure whether it was the nice weather, or the length of time between signup and the show, but there were not 1,100 people there. One of my suggestions back to Microsoft will be to send out an e-mail reminder about a week prior to any future events. The NTPCUG had as many people show up for the Developer's tour, held during one of our regular meetings.

Well, if you were not there, you missed several treats.

Windows CE -- And EVERYTHING "98"

The people who were there saw a well-produced show highlighting Windows CE built into your car stereo (the AutoPC), with the ability to accept voice commands for directions, to turn on the CD player, and call up your e-mail and have it read to you in your car.

We also saw the new features in Money 98 and Microsoft Publisher 98. What the crowd was waiting for, and what MS left for the last, of course, was Windows '98. With a June 25th shipping date, the features shown at the meeting were good and solid.

And... T-shirts, CD's & Prizes

T-shirts went to the first 400 people, cokes and popcorn were provided, and at the end of the show, each person was handed a CD with Outlook '98 and a flyer for a "grab bag" of goodies at participating CompUSA and Computer City stores. I collected my T-shirt, my popcorn and coke, and I stopped by CompUSA for a grab bag.

My grab bag had literature and discount coupons, but many of them were seeded with valuable prizes. Let me know what you won.

This event provided great exposure for NTPCUG and all that we do. Hopefully, a few new members as well.



THANKS TO NTPCUG VOLUNTEERS & MICROSOFT

Many thanks to Microsoft, to our two theater MC's, Theresa Jacobs and Diana Hardin, to the multitude of Microsoft volunteers and to the North Texas PCUG volunteers who helped sign people in, check hand stamps, pass out literature, and everything else.

The United Artists' staff was well prepared, very professional, and they did an outstanding job. I did not get the man's name, but a special thanks to the individual who provided sign language interpretation throughout the entire event. He did an awesome job.

COMING UP NEXT -- ITEC EXPO

— JUNE 17 & 18 AT THE INFOMART

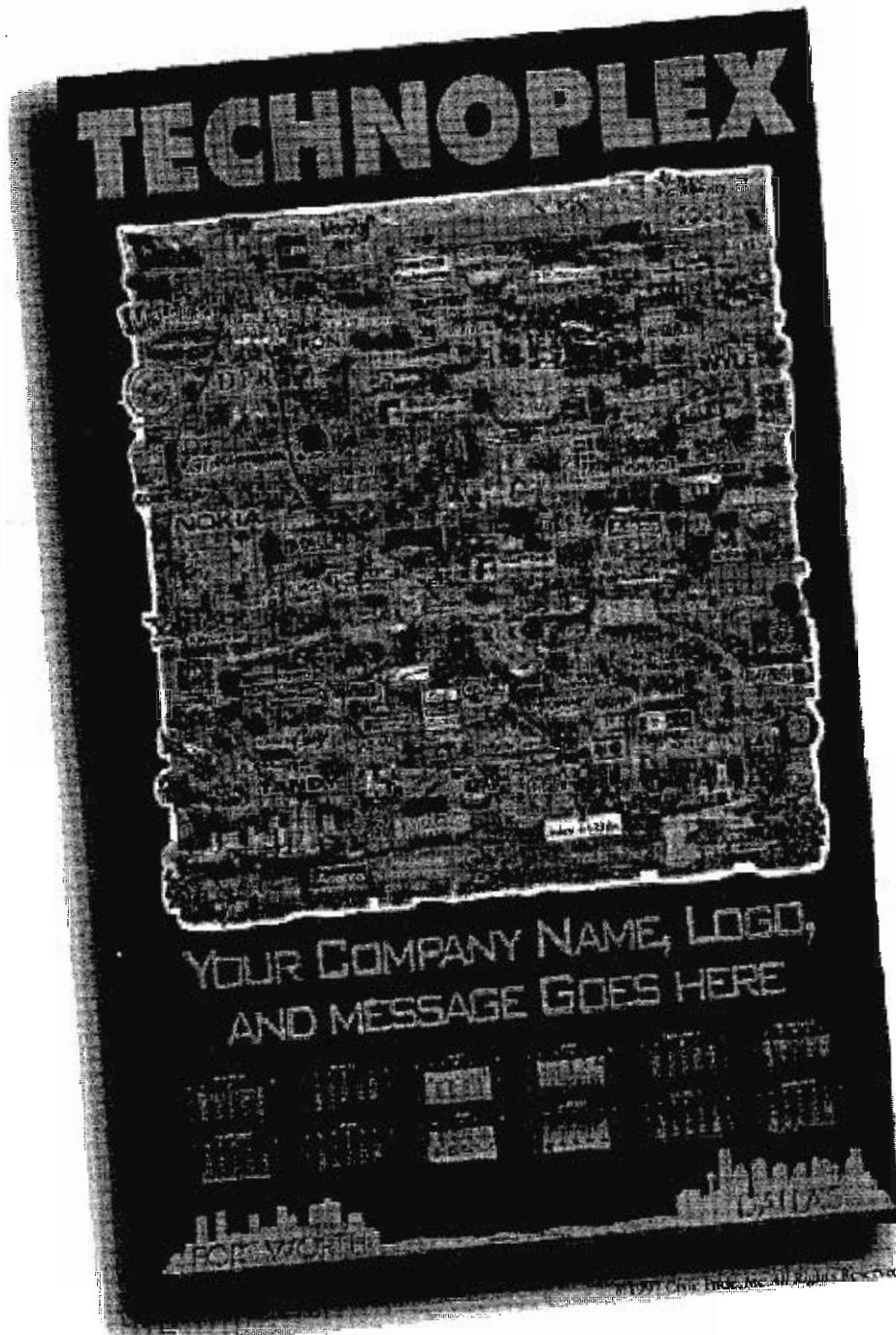
We will need NTPCUG volunteers for one hour shifts at our booth. This will be a Wednesday and Thursday event, so if you are planning on attending, please set aside an hour to help out. Our volunteers will sign up new members, pass out literature and answer questions about our organization.

Also needed are volunteers to teach two classes. The first class will be "Introduction to the Internet". It will be a one-hour session and there will be a session each day. Doug Gorrie has agreed to volunteer, but he needs help from a second person. The next class, "What to know when buying your first computer" will need two volunteers and it will also run for one hour each day. Step up and help out.

Many thanks.

Andy

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FINANCIAL RESULTS OF THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP

by E.H. Foerster & Mark Gruner

This article discusses the results of the User Group for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997. The NTPCUG uses a cash basis to maintain our financial records which means that transactions are only entered when cash is received or disbursed.

The NTPCUG is a 501(c)(3) educational, nonprofit organization which means that the group pays no federal or state income tax. We are also exempt from paying sales tax on products and services that we purchase. As a nonprofit organization, the Board of Directors has adopted a "fund" accounting approach which means that a few "accounting" terms are changed. For instance, "Revenue" is changed to "Receipts", and "Net Income" is changed to "Excess Over Expenses". While these changes may seem subtle, they are an important distinction for nonprofit organizations.

As you can see, the Group lost money last year. The User Group "lost" \$13,159.95 for the year. Here is a brief description of the various receipts and expenses:

Operating Results for the Year Ending June 1997		
	In Dollars	of Receipts
Membership Dues	\$44,771.00	83.0%
Disk of the Month	\$ 3,249.00	6.0%
PC News.....	\$ 4,374.00	8.1%
Mailing List Sales.....	\$ 250.00	0.5%
Interest Income.....	\$ 1,325.97	2.5%
TOTAL Receipts.....	\$53,969.97	100.0%
DIRECT EXPENSES:		
Membership Expense.....	\$ 1,906.19	3.5%
DOM Expense	\$ 2,269.12	4.2%
PC News Expense	\$30,387.56	56.3%
BBS Expense	\$ 1,459.68	2.7%
Meeting Expense.....	\$14,776.09	27.4%
Equipment Purchases	\$ 5,418.80	10.0%
Equipment Maintenance & Repair	\$ 1,124.79	2.1%
TOTAL Direct Expenses	\$57,332.23	106.2%
EXCESS OVER DIRECT EXPENSES ..	\$ (3,362.26)	-6.2%
INDIRECT EXPENSES:		
Administration	\$ 6,530.71	12.1%
Advertising/Publicity.....	\$ 1,170.00	2.2%
Office Rent.....	\$ 1,320.00	2.4%
Sales Tax on DOM Receipts.....	\$ 240.49	0.4%
Bank Charges/Discounts	\$ 536.49	1.0%
TOTAL INDIRECT EXPENSES	\$ 9,797.69	18.2%
EXCESS OVER EXPENSES	\$13,159.95)	-24.4%

E.H. Foerster, Treasurer

Receipts: The majority (83%) of the Receipts of the group is from membership dues that you pay. Ads in the *PC News* were our second highest source of funds, and Disk-of-the-Month a close third. Interest Income was fourth. Mailing list sales are one-time sales of mailing labels of our membership database to companies. All mailing list sales are approved by the Board of Directors.

Direct Expenses: By far the group's biggest expense is the publishing, duplication, and mailing of the *PC News*, our monthly newsletter. The second highest expense is Meeting expense, which is primarily the rental of audio visual equipment for the SIG rooms and the auditorium, etc. The Disk-of-the-Month (DOM) expense is the production and administrative expense of the DOM. Membership expense includes items such as mailing membership renewal letters, cost of new membership kits, and mailing membership badges not picked up at the monthly meeting. The majority of the BBS expense is the cost of the three telephone lines. The Equipment Purchased was for a new PC's for SIG's and BBS. Equipment Maintenance and Repair were upgrades and parts for the BBS computer and modems.

Indirect Expenses: Administration expenses include Officer's meetings, supplies, and other expenses to provide for group administration. The office rent is for a very small office with no windows for all of the BBS equipment and storage. Sales Tax is the sales tax collected on DOM sales and then sent to the Texas Comptroller's office. Even though the User Group pays no sales tax, we must charge sales tax on DOM sales. Bank Charges and Discounts include fees charged by banks and discounts on MasterCard and Visa transactions.

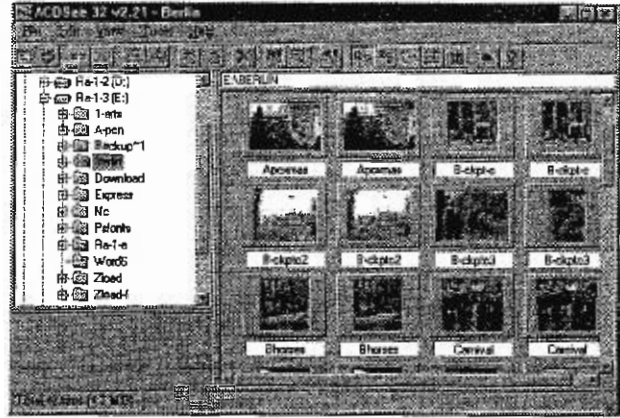
Hopefully, this brief article answers most of the questions you might have on the financial results of your User Group. In case you are wondering how you can help improve our financial results, here is a brief list:

- ❖ Tell all of your friends about the NTPCUG and the benefits of becoming members,
- ❖ Tell your vendors about the benefits of advertising in the *PC News*,
- ❖ Use the DOM for your shareware needs instead of other vendors, pick up membership cards at the meeting;
- ❖ Use checks or cash, not credit cards, for membership renewals and DOM purchases
- ❖ 5) do not "bounce" checks.

ACDSee32 Falling in love — AGAIN 32-bit Graphics Viewer Fills A Void

ACDSee32 is latest object of my affection and is one of the best graphics viewers I've stumbled across on the Web. Viewer is a product of ACD Systems Limited of Arlington, TX, and I was hooked after downloading a "trial" version from one of the ShareWare Web sites that specializes in 32-bit software for Windows.

ACDSee32 solves one of my biggest graphics management problems. I've got 100's (actually 1,000's) of graphics files in directories all over my main 4.3G disk. I have used the browsers that came with Micrografx *Picture Publisher* and a similar utility I received with Arts & Letters *Picture Perfect*, but both have a serious limitation in use. Each displays "thumbnails" of the files in a directory, and each also takes you to the application when a thumbnail is selected for viewing. If you want to get back into the browser, you have to call it up again.



ACDSee32 has a built-in viewer with multiple controls that allow switching back and forth between browser and viewer by keyboard or mouse. In the browser mode, you can copy, delete, move or rename image files. You can also attach a brief description to image files. The browser also allows selection of image files (using the [Ctrl] + mouse click sequence) and view them in slideshow mode with selectable interval in the viewer.

What can ACDSee32 see? Almost any image file you can imagine including, BMP, GIF, JPEG, PCX, Photo-CD, PNG, TGA, TIFF, IFF, PSD and WMF files are supported. You can't see EPS (encapsulated PostScript) files, but ACDSee32 will find the TIF images on the files if attached. The utility also supports animated GIF and multi-page TIFF files. (Going through your cached IE 4.x files is a real experience.) You can also do file conversions to BMP or JPEG format.

That's half of the joy. Other half is how intuitively this thing works, and nicely it navigates around the disk — and the Windows network that connects our three main PC's. Intuitive? ACDSee32 doesn't come with a bulky, filled with multiple-key-stroke commands, manual or other on-line documentation. It isn't needed. Instead, it comes with a CD-sized, 14 page instruction brochure that describes ACDSee functions and how to achieve them quickly and easily.

If you don't believe me, check out a trial version at www.acdsys.com. If you like it, and I think you will, you can send \$34 plus \$4.95 for handling and shipping to ACD for the CD/ROM version.

ACDSee32
ACD Systems Limited
2201 North Collins, Suite 100
Arlington, TX 76011

Reagan Andrews

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SPARE STORAGE OR DATA BACKUP? SPARQ 1G DRIVE RAISES QUESTION

Syquest is probably much better known in MAC circles than in the PC sphere. Syquest has been the main standby of graphic artists and service bureaus for the past several years as a result of their very (MAC) demanding need for high-capacity, removable media drive with which to transport immense graphics files for subsequent publication.

Got an E-mail from a Syquest representative who wondered if I'd be interested in reviewing the new Syquest SparQ drive. I had an initial "Ho-Hum" response until I needed to transfer several hundred megabytes of files between my home PC and office PC. For a number of reasons, I wasn't anxious to use PKZIP and save across 100M ZIP disks, and thought that a parallel-port, 1G drive might have some usefulness.

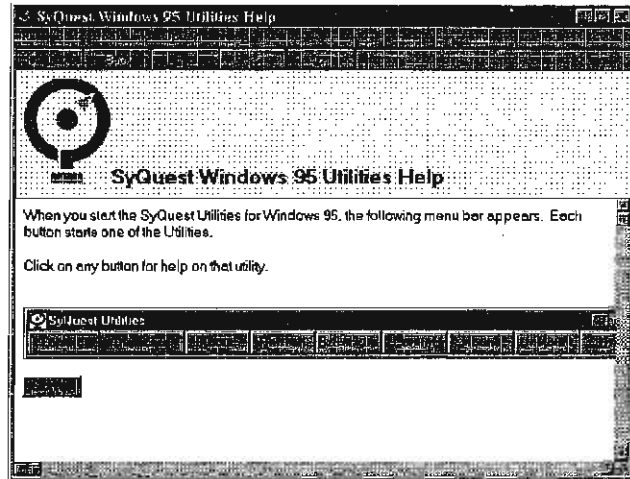
Got the SparQ drive and disk several days later.

I haven't been sorry I agreed to review the drive. It installed easily, performed better than I had expected and did its job quietly and seamlessly. Seagate's Backup software for Windows 95 saw the drive and did a multi-gig backup without stuttering. I couldn't ask for more. I tried using the drive with the driver installed by Iomega's ZIP parallel port installation, but this proved a futile effort -- which I expected.

What I wasn't prepared for was the speed of data transfer the drive exhibited. No, it wasn't as fast as my primary backup medium, the 8-G Seagate SCSI tape unit, but it was faster than I would have thought the parallel port could produce. Trick here was CPU utilization. If you watch Windows 95 screen work during 500+ MB transfers, you'll notice everything else gets much, much slower. Since I always transfer/back-up in single-tasking mode, this isn't a problem.

Cost of media is a problem when comparing to tape. I paid \$99 for three additional 1G disks which compares to \$30 for an 8G TR-4 tape. This is offset by file availability which is incredibly quick compared to restoring a file from a tape back-up source.

The down side is construction. The SparQ drive costs \$199 locally with one, 1-G disk. It's mostly plastic and doesn't appear to be really heavy-duty, particularly the drive door. Since Syquest has announced a 1.5G and (coming) 2+G SyJet drive, users with heavy-duty use requirements may be ad-



vised to consider the extra \$\$\$ for the more solid drives.

However, users with "occasional" need to transport large directories and files from one PC to another, or light-duty storage of games, CD's etc., would have to look pretty long and hard to beat the Syquest SparQ in terms of value delivered for a relatively small price.

SparQ drive I tested came with a number of Sega sample games. Since I'm not a game-oriented user, I didn't try them as that wouldn't be a fair test of the drive. I would be curious as to the impressions that serious game fans gained from the SparQ samples.

Reagan Andrews

NTPCUG MEMBER'S LETTER TO THE EDITOR

First, I would like to thank you and your organization for helping this 'newbie'. Keep up the great job!

This is in response to James Dunn's article in the March 1998 newsletter, "Where's the Disk?". I purchased a system in December, and did not receive a Windows95 CD, but did receive disks with various drivers.

When I e-mailed, nothing, and a letter just got a message about 'buying' the Windows upgrade to get the disk! While I do not want to make a 'case' out of this, what is Microsoft's position on all this?

Thanks for the help.

*Glenn Knuth
glennkn@juno.com*

Selected SIG Reports . . .

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups
 (Material for this column should be sent NTPCUG BBS SIG Upload Area or to
 Connie Andrews, Special Interest Group Editor, before the 10th of the month.)

Access SIG

In May, regular SIG attendee **Derrel Allen** will demonstrate and present *Speed Ferret* from Black Moshannon Systems. When Access people talk about add-ins for global search and replace, the commercial software they mention is *Speed Ferret*. It has a reputation as a solid and stable tool with a friendly user interface. They have versions for Access 2, Access 95, and Access 97, and their latest offering is for Visual Basic 5.0. Derrel will be demonstrating the Access 97 version. Now, in case you were wondering about the rather unusual name of the company when you search on the Internet for "Black Moshannon" the first site you're likely to find is for Black Moshannon State Park, in Pennsylvania. It would seem that the company is named for a geographic area - quite ordinary compared to

some initial thoughts about the name. If you'd like to visit the software company's Web site, it's <http://www.moshannon.com>, where you can download a not-fully-functional demo version. (Finally, if you were wondering about the shareware product Access people mention for this purpose, it's *Find and Replace*, from *Rick Fisher Software*, 30-day fully functional trial version downloadable from <http://www.rickworld.com>.)

Derrel has obtained, courtesy of Black Moshannon Systems, a registerable copy of *Speed Ferret* for our giveaway. If you're getting the magazine, you are already a member of the NTPCUG, but remind your friends to join before the meeting - this is a "major" giveaway, available only to NTPCUG members. There may be some "minor"

FROM THE SIG COORDINATOR

The following are changes/additions/needs that the NTPCUG has made to the SIG's.

Groups Looking for Help in Leading their SIGs:

- **MS Word for Windows** [Contact Jan Patton @ (903) 886-6249h or janpat@unicomp.net]
- **Spreadsheets SIG** [Contact Eb Foerster @ (214) 357-7602 h]
- **Dallas Corel** [Contact Marsha Drebelbis (214) 951-0266]
- **Hardware Solutions** [Contact Charles Miller (903) 938-4220 h]

The requirements for forming a SIG are:

Leadership - at least one individual willing to lead the SIG, and an assistant.

Membership - at least eight individuals willing to attend the SIG fairly consistently.

If you have a group that meets these qualifications or would like help in finding others who might share your interests, please contact me at (972) 517-7430 (H) or (972) 960-4276 (W).

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SIG LEADER LISTINGS

SIG Coordinator

Alex Lilley - (972) 517-7430 h

Legend: h = Home #, w = Work #
M = Metro #

ACT /

Jim Thompson (817) 261-6159 h
 (972) 487-8499 w
 Deborah Bean (972) 475-7463 h
 (972) 475-3124 w

Access

Larry Linson (817) 481-2350 hM
 Jack Atkinson (817) 481-6623 h
 Dianna DeCicco (972) 448-0638 h
 Tom Lukers (972) 423-4308 h

Alpha 4 / 5

Ron Jackson (972) 276-3661 h
 Bill Parker (214) 369-5888 h

ActiveX Developers

Larry Linson (817) 481-2350 h
 Linda Moore (214) 342-8833
 Vince Prehn (214) 880-0000
 Dan Ogden (972) 417-1916 w

Assembly Language SIG

Frank Cavallito ... (972) 423-9221 h
 Glynn Brooks (972) 578-8737 h
 (972) 716-3281 w

Business Applications/DAC

Putt Shaw (972) 235-2559 h
 Bruce Schubert ... (972) 394-5328 h
 (972) 233-8353 w

C++Language

Howard Harkness (972) 492-1508

CAD

Bill Sephton (972) 296-1799 h
 (972) 387-3500 w
 Neil Culver (972) 690-6552 h
 (972) 235-3031 w

Communications

Alan Brosz (972) 548-7928 h
 (972) 498-1237 w
 Birl Smith (972) 960-8227 h
 (214) 220-9388 w



items, too, available for any attendee.

April's topic was "Miscellaneous Musings on Access and Server Databases," by **Larry Linson**. Back in Larry's IBM days, he was told, "In IBM there are no problems, only opportunities." At the April meeting, Larry had the opportunity to go back in time when the demo machine froze solid and he couldn't even transfer his PowerPoint presentation from diskette to the hard drive. Fortunately, he could remember the "olden days" when most presentations were done with memory, a marker, and a whiteboard -- he's hoping he didn't forget any really important parts of the solid information, tips, hints, and warnings that were in that PowerPoint presentation. If you have PowerPoint 97 and want to see it, he's attached the file to a message in the Access message conference on the BBS (see the last paragraph for more on the BBS).

Coming Soon to An Access SIG Near You: FMS, Inc.'s *Total Access Code Tools* - tools to make life easier for the Access user and developer, "Odd and Not-So-Odd Items of Interest" - near to and far back from the bleeding edge (many not even remotely be connected with Internetting), and, finally, "That Presentation You've Been Planning to Tell Larry You'll Do," the one that can be for any level of Access user.

Between meetings, check out our local MS ACCESS message conference on the NTPCUG BBS (electronic bulletin board system). Telephone numbers are inside the back cover of this issue. It's where we ask and answer questions, post sample code, and keep in touch between monthly meetings. Oh, yes, while you're on the BBS, take advantage of the free Internet e-mail.

If you're on the Internet, the Access "meeting place" is the *comp.databases.ms-access* newsgroup.

We look forward to seeing you at the May meeting. Come join us!

Larry Linson

ActiveX Developers SIG

In May, we'll have a discussion session on topics germane to our chosen subjects: ActiveX and Application Development. Given the questionable performance of the demo machine at the April meeting, we may or may not have any demos - but Andy and Alex were going to take a shot at diagnosing the problems. Bring your own topic ideas and be prepared to both ask and answer questions. If we run out of topics from the floor, we'll look at some from some of Larry's "light reading" books, like Dan Appleman's book on *ActiveX Components*, or one of the Microsoft Press books (about the Registry, Active Server Pages, or Front Page). An interesting aside various Microsofties got carried away with the ActiveX name, as we've commented before: everything was an ActiveX *something*. Well, the Microsoft "machine" finally realized the folly of that and have reined in the troops "ActiveX components" are now, again, Component Object Model (COM) components, for example. (Or, let me see, were they originally OLE components? It's a little difficult to keep up with the latest names.)

In April, we had not one, but two featured presentations. **Dr. Tom Lukers**, freshly returned from the *Visual Basic Insiders Technical Summit (VBITS)* in San Francisco, gave us a brief review of the conference and some of the particular meeting topics he found interesting.

SIG LEADER LISTING

Legend: h = Home #, w = Work #
M = Metro #

Dallas Core!

Marsha Drebelbis (214) 951-0266
Susan Biggs (214) 340-7794

DOS/ Operating Systems

Jim Holington (972) 416-3101 h
Reagan Andrews (214) 828-0699 h

Delphi

Fred Williams (972) 492-1315
Tom Browning (214) 892-9784 h
Frank Cavallito (972) 423-9221

Desktop Publishing

Mark Stuert (214) 528-5311 h

Emerging Computer Technologies

Dick Vedder (817) 481-6457 w
Lynn Peterson
Walter Johnston (972) 612-0604 h

Fox Pro

Kevin White (972) 383-5211 w

Genealogy - General

Al Sanford (972) 278-7888 h

Genealogy - Family Tree Maker

Neil Sunderland (972) 272-2869 h

Genealogy - PAF

Joe Waldrop (817) 498-5856 h

Genealogy - Ultimate Family Tree

John Wylie (972) 495-4410 h

Genealogy - The Master Genealogist

Jen Steele (972) 306-1696 h
..... (972) 917-3917 w

Graphics

Neal Berkowitz (972) 475-7463 h
..... (972) 475-3124 w

Hardware Solutions

Charles Miller (903) 938-4220 h
Ralph Beaver (817) 624-9530 h
Gary Johnson (972) 938-6344 h

Internet-Beginner

Tom O'Keefe (972) 247-8812 h
Doug Gorrie (972) 618-8002 h
..... (214) 464-4568 w
Erik Leaseburg (817) 266-7550 hM

Internet-Advanced

Tom O'Keefe (972) 247-8812 h

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Internet-Advanced Ctd.

Doug Gorrie..... (872) 618-8002 h
..... (214) 464-4568 w
Erik Leaseburg... (817) 265-7550 hM

Internet-WEB Developers

Mark Camp..... (214) 583-9012 w
David Maxwell... (214) 977-7584 w
..... (972) 299-6295 h

Introduction to the PC

Alex Lilley..... (972) 517-7430 h
..... (972) 960-4276 w
Bob Russell..... (972) 422-4269 h

Investors

Dick Richtman... (972) 437-0322 h

JAVA

Lotus Notes & Domino

B.J. Shultz.....

MS Word for Windows

Jan Patton..... (903) 886-6249 h

Microsoft FrontPage

Robert Masters... (972) 462-7490 hw
Jeff Cooper.....

Microsoft Networking

Bruce Wynn..... (972) 335-2507 h
..... (972) 756-7832 w
Richard Miles..... (214) 767-7315 w
..... (972) 298-5356 h
Gil Brand..... (214) 508-8370 w
..... (214) 341-7182 h

Microsoft Visual C++/MFC

MultiMedia

Dennis Rice..... (972) 680-8299 h

Networking

Mike Momen..... (972) 238-1244 h
..... (972) 916-2166 w
Leroy Tennison
Francis Bright

Paradox

Tom Browning... (214) 692-9784 h
Fred Williams... (972) 492-1315 h

Programmers

Jim Herington... (972) 416-3101 h

Thanks, Tom, for bringing us up-to-date on happenings in the VB conference arena. VBITS, by the way, is *the* conference for Visual Basic developers. It's presented two or three times each year in different locations in the United States, and also in several other countries. It's sponsored by the publishers of Visual Basic Programmer's Journal magazine and Microsoft with support from a number of vendors of VB-related products.

Then SIG Leader **Dan Ogden** showed us some high points of the Microsoft Mastering Series self-study, *Mastering Internet Development*. Dan did a great job, despite the demo machine freezing up on him three times during his demonstration. The Mastering Series CDs have a very good reputation as user-friendly self-study material and Dan showed us why. Thanks, Dan.

The *ActiveX Application Developers SIG* addresses issues of developing applications under the *Component Object Model (COM) using ActiveX Controls* and other ActiveX components. Just because so many of our attendees work in Microsoft Office and other software using it, we have considerable emphasis on VBA issues. We still ask and answer a few questions about *Open Database Connection (ODBC)* technology, too. As hot as the Internet is, our topics aren't necessarily about *Internetting*, since ActiveX controls work equally well on the desktop and in client/server environments. That's one of the attractive features: one type of control, usable in many environments.

Come join us in May, and we will, as usual, do our best to make it interesting and productive for you.

Larry Linson



ASSEMBLER SIG

Our topic in April was a review of an article that appeared in the March 1998 *Windows Developer's Journal*, "An Undocumented Function for Formatting Drives". Of major interest to the SIG is the techniques used to locate the function, as well as figuring out how to use it. One interesting piece of information in the article was the fact that Windows provides a RUNDLL32 utility that allows you to try out DLL exported functions, including some examples of usage.

I will be out of town for the May meeting - hopefully, I will be able to locate a stand-in to lead the SIG in May. Our June meeting will consist of a presentation "Circular Shift (and other instructions missing in C)". This will explore how to implement circular shifts in C, as well as other useful opcodes that have been left out of C.

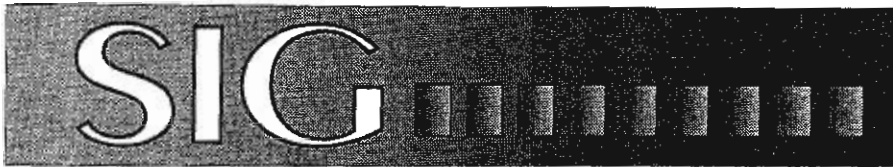
We hope to see you in June - as usual, suggestions for future presentations are always welcome.

Frank Cavallito and Glynn Brooks

C++ LANGUAGE SIG

General Format: Approximately one-half hour tutorial on the C++ language, followed by a Q&A session, with occasional presentations by guest speakers. Suggestions (and volunteers) for future programs welcome.

The April presentation was an introduction to the STL. The May meeting will be a continuation of the same topic - STL is a pretty big subject. This summer, I plan to do a series on the new Borland C++ Builder.



I have another book to give away at the May meeting – the new Stroustrup book *The C++ Programming Language*, 3rd edition. You must be an NTPCUG member to participate in the giveaway, but attendance to the SIG is open to the public.

The May C++ SIG meets at noon on Infomart Saturday. The meeting room is usually 7004, but be sure to check the schedule posted on the West wall of the vendor area.

SIG Leader information: Howard Lee Harkness (harkness@skeptics.org) has been teaching C++/OOA&D since 1992 for several national training companies. He is also a co-moderator of the Usenet group comp.lang.c++.moderated.

Howard Lee Harkness
(harkness@skeptics.org)
New Phone # 972-492-1508

COMMUNICATIONS SIG

We be hosting Debbie Trofholz, from PageNet for our May meeting. There are quite a few new, one-way communications products. The products offered are the Alphanumeric paging, news services, sports trax (pocket scoreboard), voice now (voice paging), One Worx (connecting your information through one phone), e-Worx (e-mail to your pager) and numeric paging.

We will also continue our discussion of new developments in the modem world. A new product that has come on the market allows 43.2kbps transmissions between two analog phone lines. The 56K technology only allows upload and user-to-user transmissions of 33.6 kbps. We will also

have time for questions and answers.

Birl Smith and Alan Brosz

Dallas COREL SIG

Member Showcase

In May, every Dallas Corel SIG attendee is invited to participate in our Member Showcase. Bring a sample of your finest work accomplished in any Corel software program. Any version, any medium. Share your printed cards, brochures, logos, newsletters, catalogs, illustrations, paintings, posters, photos, etchings, decals, mugs, T-shirts and more. Billboard too big to get in the door? Bring its file on a floppy disk, Zip disk or CD-R and project it. Play your multimedia show on the SIG's PC or play your VHS tape on our VCR/monitor. Whoop it up at this popular annual spring event. We're ready for you to "show and tell".

IMPORTANT COREL ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

Corel Corporation
1600 Carling Avenue,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1Z 8R7

- ❖ Technical Support Representatives..... 800-818-1848
- ❖ G1 Release, CD-Rom only (latest "fixes" and patches for Corel products) 800-772-6735
- ❖ Customer Service Representatives 800-772-6735
- ❖ IVAN (Interactive Voice Answering Network)..... 613-728-1990
- ❖ 24 Hour Automated Fax System 613-728-0826 Ext.3080
- ❖ Technical Support hours are 4AM to 8PM (EST) excluding holidays
- ❖ To obtain our catalogue please request document #2000

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QuickBooks

Dave Guier (817) 429-7417 h
..... (817) 265-1618 w

Quicken

W. L. Harris (972) 291-7616 h
Phil Faulkner (972) 239-0561 h

Spreadsheet/Spre.Dev

Eb Foerster (214) 357-7602 h

SQL Server

Ada Finigan
Steven DeSalvo (972) 716-2684
John Penaska (972) 431-3979
Erin Welker (972) 462-6033

UNIX

Doug Scott (817) 261-1653 hM
..... (817) 878-0367 wM

Visual Basic — Beginning

Thomas Lewis (972) 994-5387
Jim Carter (972) 235-5968 h
Jim Hart

Visual Basic — Advanced

Ed Diehl (972) 687-9043 w
Jim Carter (972) 235-5968 h

VRGN Internet Gaming

Al Aliman

Windows - Applications

Noal Berkowitz ... (972) 475-7463 h
..... (972) 475-3124 w
Deborah Bean (972) 475-7463 h
..... (972) 475-3124 w

WordPerfect / Windows

Cindy Adams (817) 481-1300 wM
Diane Bentley

April Program in Review

In April, Jay Bartlett brought us his enthusiasm for Web page development and the latest tips and trends in Web page design. He maintains hundreds (thousands?) of Web pages as an Intranet/Internet Developer for IBM and loves every minute. Jay demonstrated how he uses Corel PHOTO-PAINT, DRAW, and Web Master Suite to quickly create sites. He showed us how to optimize the color palette and to reduce the file size of images. In planning a sample page for us, he demonstrated how to break up large images in PHOTO-PAINT to make them download more quickly. He masked 100 x 100 pixel sections of the image, using "snap to guidelines", and then created an object from the mask. This was repeated for all sections of the image. Well, you had to be there to see how logical the process really is. Jay also showed us how to make the dimensional artwork for cool "roll-over" buttons. Jay maintains our Dallas Corel SIG Web page, so you can see an example of his work and send him e-mail messages. Thanks, Jay, for a valuable and motivating session.

March Program in Review

CorelDRAW 8 tips and tricks were brought to life with demonstrations at the March SIG by several of our members who attended the recent day-long Unleashed Seminar in Dallas. The seminar was presented



by Foster D. Coburn III and Peter McCormick, co-authors of the best-selling book, *CorelDRAW 8: The Official Guide*. We who attended were excited to share new features in 8 at our SIG and discuss ways we incorporate them in our work.

Adrinne Dixon broke the ice for us with Font Navigator. He traced the steps that make it easy to keep only your frequently used fonts (200 or less is typical) installed and the remaining thousands in a conveniently accessible "library" in compressed form. Owners of DRAW 8 and WordPerfect 8 get Font Navigator on the CD. All others may download it from Bitstream's Web site for 30 days FREE, then pay about \$40. Go to www.bitstream.com or call 800-522-FONT. You still need ATM to rasterize fonts and can now get it FREE at Adobe's Web site. Maria Whitworth dazzled us with the new "masking with the eraser" technique Pete introduced. Her enticing examples made us all want to try it ourselves right away. Ardee Ramirez intended to demonstrate "masking" techniques on his underwater photography examples, but instead shared a story of trials and tribulations of hardware inadequacies and failures he experienced in the previous week. Those of us whose work pushes the upper limits have learned to endure this periodic need to upgrade computer systems and empathized. We trust his brand new computer will be ready soon. Maren Riise brought old family photos and demonstrated helpful

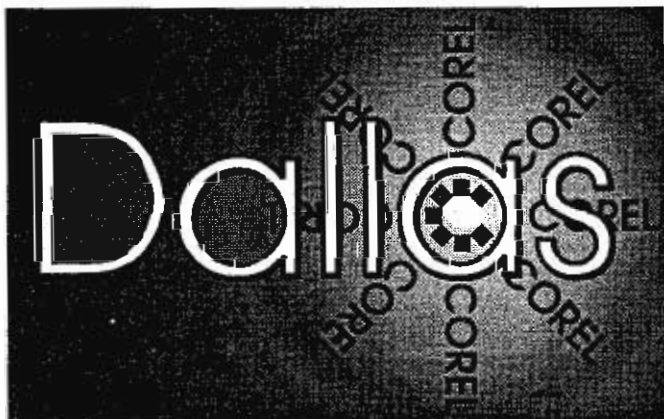
restoration techniques that surely will encourage anyone editing images. Her step by step instruction and her results were outstanding. Thanks to all who generously and enthusiastically gave us a valuable learning session in March.

NTPCUG Multimedia Show on Corel Magazine Archival CD

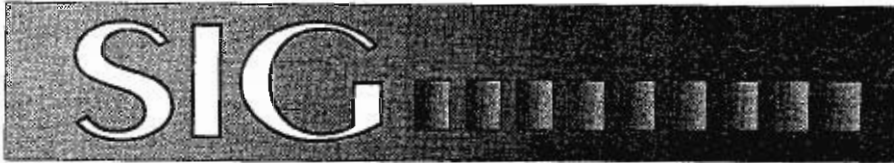
For just \$34.95 you can get all the 1995-97 *Corel Magazine* articles on a convenient archival CD just released. And guess what. Also on the CD is the neat multimedia show that our SIG member Rose Anne Ellison created to promote NTPCUG. She created it in Corel Presentations 8 (found in WordPerfect Suite). Just push a button and it starts the 8-minute presentation which includes sound, animations and transitions, all to demonstrate the benefits of NTPCUG membership. To order the CD call 800-856-0062 or send e-mail to subscrip@corelmag.com. You can also visit the web site at www.corelmag.com.

Recent Programs at Dallas Corel SIG

- ❖ Mar/97 - VENTURA 7 Demonstration
- ❖ Apr/97 - CorelDRAW 7 & PHOTO-PAINT 7 in Real World Uses
- ❖ May/97 - Corel SIG Members Showcase Their Work
- ❖ Jun/97 - Productivity in DRAW 5, 6 & 7
- ❖ Jul/97 - CorelDREAM 3-D 7
- ❖ Aug/97 - WebMaster Suite, Lumiere and Click & Create
- ❖ Sep/97 - Presentations 8
- ❖ Oct/97 - Font Management and Acrobat



Dallas Corel Is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group



- ❖ Nov/97 - Customizing CorelDRAW 7
- ❖ Dec/97 - CorelDRAW 8 Launch by Corel Corp.
- ❖ Jan/98 - Roundtable Discussion
- ❖ Feb/98 - Inkjet Desktop Printing Papers by Red River Paper Co.
- ❖ Mar/98 - DRAW 8 Tips & Tricks
- ❖ Apr/98 - Web Page Design Tips & Trends

Marsha Drebelbis

More Unleashed Tips

Wacom has updated their free set of plug-ins, PenTools, with two new tools. New to the set are Bit Blaster and Metal Leaver. And the existing plug-ins have now added one level of Undo. Note that these plug-ins are only useful for those using Wacom tablets, but they are FREE! To download a copy, visit <http://www.wacom.com/pentools>. For those without a tablet, visit <http://www.compu-d.com> for the best prices on Wacom tablets that we've found. Tell them that Unleashed sent you.

We are often asked how to get rid of the "white box" around bitmaps. The simple answer is that there is no way to get rid of it as all bitmaps must be rectangular. But you can make the box transparent. The following instructions are valid for the CorelDRAW 7 and 8 suites. Start with the bitmap in Photo-Paint. Using the masking tools, create a mask around the area of the image that you want to retain. Convert the masked area into a floating object. Now save the file in CPT format. Now import the CPT file into CorelDRAW. Notice that the Status Bar says that you have a "Group of x Objects". Ungroup and delete the "white box". Sometimes it is easier to distinguish the white box when working in Wireframe

mode. Note that this method only works in version 7 and 8.

Foster Coburn and Peter McCormick

Delphi SIG

I hope all went well for the April SIG meeting. I was out of town for the holiday. At the April BOD meeting, I recommended the next time Infomart wants to sack us with a holiday weekend in 1999, we just tell them, "No thanks, we'll just skip that month." I suspect they will find an "overlooked" substitute before the contract is signed. If not, attendance is always way down on holiday weekends, so little would be lost.

I am so busy doing paying things, I am really struggling to find time to do even a minimal effort on my volunteer positions. In that light, I am actively seeking someone willing to share a good part of the responsibility for running the Delphi SIG.

This would allow me to devote more scarce resources ("spare" time) to my duties as NTPCUG BOD member. The NTPCUG is going through a continuing crisis and much effort needs to be devoted to redefining the mission NTPUG will play in our future.

I would give up the paying stuff if I could get Cisco to split two for one about two more times. But, until that happens I'll have to keep the "meter" running.

An acquaintance and his young close friend have sold all their "worldly possessions" and are headed for Whitefish, Montana. As soon as he has located all the good trout streams, he has prom-

ised to contact me. Then, for a bit, billable hours be damned!

"So what's that got to do with Delphi?", you asked. Not much, but I sure would enjoy the break!

Meanwhile, while I'm waiting, we do have the May meeting to attend.

I've been doing a lot of Client/Server type stuff lately, so that means no demos, unless I load SQL Server on the laptop! Marc, the aforementioned VB convert, has been doing interesting things with "Sockets" here lately, but that is Client/Server as well.

I'll try to come up with something a little out of the ordinary for a short presentation. If not, we may just have a long question and answer session.

Meanwhile, think not what your user group can do for you, but what you might do for your user group! All applicants above room temperature will be considered.

Fred Williams

DOS/OPERATING SYSTEMS SIG

DOS SIG May

Find yourself running as fast as you can, but being followed by a pack of ravenous Wolves? Take care. That's how I'm beginning to feel about Microsoft Office 97 and Word 97 in particular. First round with 97 was described last month and was a good introduction to some tips on installing Windows OSR 2.1.

I listened to Jim Hoisington's advice and phoned Microsoft about the problems I experienced and received the "patch" CD-ROM two days later. Reinstalled Word 97 and same problems returned - Word wanted to save everything as an HTML document. Luckily, I had waited until 97 was installed, then installed Word 95 in a separate directory. I also installed Mi-

crosoft's 97 converter upgrade and everything is (mostly) back to normal, i.e. I can produce documents in 95 that save correctly and can edit documents produced in 97.

Takes us back to a core issue though. I was careless and didn't "test" operation of each program and Windows in a step-by-step process. This is particularly important when bringing a machine back after a major crash that forced reinstallation of the OS (operating system.) Also emphasizes need for appropriate backup of "critical" files needed by applications that aren't part of the Windows installation. Last month, I was lucky since I was able to "find" a copy of the DOS SHARE.EXE program needed by Word 6 for installation.

DOS Programs: Tip here is to note all the old DOS program modules used by your DOS software applications and saving them separately on floppy disks. Check the associated BAT, INI and CFG files created by the programs to see which DOS files are called or used. Save them. You can save all of a typical DOS 6.0 installation on four 3.5" floppies without resorting to disk compression.

Windows Programs: If all the software in use is relatively-new Windows software, this shouldn't be a problem unless you run into the



"Dreaded DLL Substitution" (DDLs) quagmire. DDLs is a probably a bit of programmer humor — or pure laziness — and occurs when a program substitutes an "older" DLL for the current DLL during installation which in turn causes some other application to crash. One way to deal with DDLs is to install the older programs first, then work your way up to the newest applications, testing operation of all at each step. Even this doesn't always work because the application may have been developed in an "old" environment and specify the old DLL's, etc., during SETUP.

Wearing a Belt & Suspenders: If you have the time, and most of us don't, make a tape or high-capacity disk backup of the installation each step of the way. Run a Comparison scan of the machine after the "bad" program installation to find/identify the "offending" files installed by the program and replace them.

In May, we'll look at these issues and perhaps get members to share their experiences and horror stories of wayward software installations.

Would be nice to develop a listing of the offending packages and the "fixes" others have discovered.

Reagan Andrews

INTERNET SIG- BEGINNING

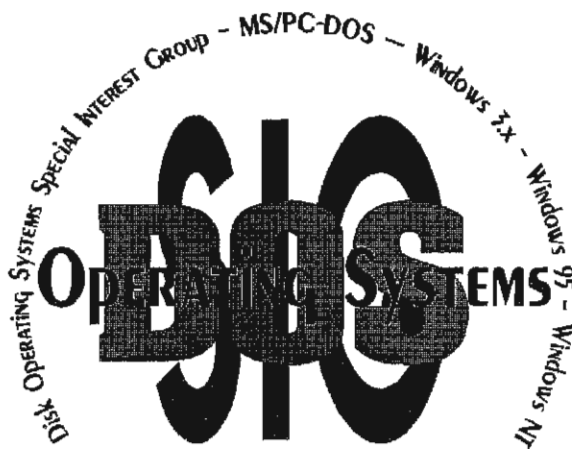
At our last meeting (April 11th), we began an effort to concentrate more on Internet basics. There are still thousands of "newbies" just beginning to "surf the

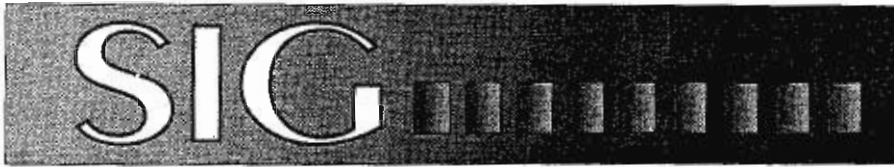
Web" (although not all of them make our meetings!!), so the basics continue to be very important.

Our topic in April was browsers, specifically, *Internet Explorer 4.01 (IE40)*. Doug Gorrie uses IE40, but *Netscape* is a favorite of many and "just as good" (user perceptions?). Both browsers support frames, which allows different chunks of data to be placed throughout your display and updated separately. Doug covered the basics of acquiring a browser initially (through your Internet Service Provider, usually), portions of the browser screen layout, how to spot and use links (which take you quickly to a new page or site), and how to save and organize your favorite links in the "Favorites" list (also called Bookmarks).

We discussed the "Address" line (also called URL -- Universal Resource Locator -- by some browsers), and how you enter an address. We demonstrated how IE4.0 will auto-complete the address if you have been there before, saving you keystrokes. [TIP: You don't need to enter the "http://" part of the address -- just start with the "www" portion. Http is the default protocol assumed by the browser -- it is inserted automatically.]

We touched on Search Engines, used to search the World Wide Web for information. One member pointed out that you can initiate a search directly from the Address line by entering "find word1 word2", where "wordx" is one or more keywords that will help pinpoint the desired information. For example, "find netmeeting" would bring back a number of Web sites that discuss Microsoft's NetMeeting product.





However, search engines are a topic of their own, so we elected to cover them at the **May 16th meeting**. Familiar search engines are Yahoo, Excite, HotBot, and others. Come join us as we discuss which ones are best, how to use advanced search methods, and how to enter a single search request that queries **multiple** search engines for you.

We are always looking for feedback as to what our members want to see presented. This is an ongoing request. We encourage you to contact Doug Gorrie (dgorrie@onramp.net) with whatever thoughts you may have.

The ongoing purpose of the Beginning Internet SIG is to explain the Internet to those unfamiliar with it. This includes such things as how to choose and connect to an Internet Service Provider (ISP), what software options are available, what hardware is needed, and how to decipher all those confusing acronyms and buzzwords. Although we have several "prepared" sessions and speakers, look for general Q&A sessions (Question and Answer) periodically, too.

See you May 16th!!

*Doug Gorrie, Tom O'Keefe &
Kiff Barnes*

INTERNET SIG- Advanced

At our April 11th meeting, **Doug Gorrie** and **Bruce DeGrasse** continued more into the H.323 standard by demonstrating the functionality of *Microsoft's NetMeeting* software. What does it do? It allows for data, audio and video conferencing between multiple NetMeeting users, using tools such as whiteboarding, FTP, Chat, and sharing (collaboration) of applications. With

NetMeeting, two or more users can join together to exchange information and work on projects, or just have fun.

NetMeeting can be downloaded as an individual product from Microsoft (www.microsoft.com/netmeeting), or as a component within Internet Explorer 4.01. It is free to the public, which by itself should increase its use.

A recent article in *Network Computing* (11/15/97) indicated that there is a high level of interoperability between NetMeeting and White Pine Software's CU-SeeMe product, so NetMeeting and CU-SeeMe can be used together. However, not all functionality in NetMeeting is included in CU-SeeMe.

On two dates prior to the April 11th meeting, and on April 16th, we held online conferences using NetMeeting. Attendance was light, but we feel that periodic conferences using NetMeeting will prove interesting and educational to our members. Additional online meetings will be held periodically, so watch the Advanced Internet SIG on our Web site and in the newsletter for any specifics. If you wish to be notified by e-mail when a "meeting" is scheduled, please send your name and e-mail address to dgorrie@onramp.net. I will confirm your membership in NTPCUG and add you to the distribution list.

At the May 16th meeting, we expect to spend a few minutes going over the results of our NetMeeting online conferences, then proceed into **Internet Phone** (voice over the Internet). We hope to be able to do a live presentation of some form. If you have experience with voice over the Internet, Doug would appreciate hearing from you (214-464-4568).

And, don't forget that we are always looking for additional assistants for the Beginning and Advanced Internet SIGs. Many of you probably have Internet and/or Web experience, or have access to speakers within your firm that could be persuaded to volunteer some time. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

The Advanced Internet SIG addresses topics and issues of interest to experienced Internet users, who are looking for more in-depth content. Sessions address such topics as IP addressing, Domain Name Services, Internet phone and teleconferencing capabilities and tools, basic Web page development, Web server options and features, network and data security, search engines, and more.

Sessions usually include time to address member's questions. Answers may come from SIG leaders, session presenters, or from other attendees in the audience.

We encourage you to join with us May 16th.

Tom O'Keefe & Doug Gorrie

INTRODUCTION TO THE PC SIG

The following is the tentative schedule for SIG classes that will be offered as an Introduction to the PC during the next listed months. Classes can be taken in any order suitable to the individual student's schedule. Printed notes are provided during classes.

April 11, 1998

- ❖ 9:00 Class 5
Graphics for the PC
- ❖ 10:00 Class 6
Word Processors
- ❖ Noon Class 7
Spreadsheet Programs
- ❖ 1:00 Class 8
Other Software for the PC

May 16, 1998

- ❖ 9:00 Class 9
Hardware for the PC
- ❖ 10:00 Class 10
Printers for the PC
- ❖ Noon Class 11
Overview of Quicken Accounting Software
- ❖ 1:00 Class 12
Modems & Telecommunications
- ❖ 2:00 Class 12a
NTPCUG Bulletin Board System (BBS)

June 20, 1998*

- ❖ 9:00 Class 13
Overview of Microsoft Windows
- ❖ 10:00 Class 14
Overview of Multimedia Software & Hardware
- ❖ Noon Class 15
Disk of the Month (DOM)
- ❖ 1:00 Class 16
PC's Into the 21st Century

July 18, 1998*

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE INTRODUCTION TO THE PC SIG?

The Introduction to the PC SIG will highlight computer hardware at 9:00 A.M. We will select hardware elements to provide a really neat PC. A PC designed however to not leap into obsolescence nor will it push the state-of-the-art beyond the realities of the checkbook. We will identify various form factors that ensure proper interfaces. In addition to form, fit, and function we will perform economic tradeoffs.

The 10:00 A.M. session will investigate PC printers, their availability, costs, and benefits. Tradeoffs between: SCSI, parallel, and serial interfaces; Laser Jet vs. Ink Jet; different dot resolution; black ink and colors.

At 12:00 Noon, an overview of personal accounting systems:



- ❖ 9:00 Viruses and Their Prevention

August 15, 1998*

- ❖ 9:00 Class 1
Introduction to the SIG and the Personal Computer
- ❖ 10:00 Class 2
Working with Files & Directory Structures
- ❖ Noon Class 3
Disk Operating System (DOS) - Part I
- ❖ 1:00 Class 4
DOS - Part II

* These dates are subject to change. Check your *PC NEWS* and/or the NTPCUG BBS for corrected dates before the meetings.

Spike Smith

Quicken, Money, and QuickBooks will be presented.

At 1:00 P.M., we will provide an introduction to modems, the best selection (guess) to make, and what one does with these devices. Internal, external, and costs are considered.

Earlier schedules showing our BBS system at 2:00 P.M. are in error. Please consult your new member packet for NTPCUG bulletin board introduction and setup.

The Introduction to the PC SIG needs two assistants. Please contact me at Spike@altinet.net or tel. (972) 231-0730.

Harold (Spike) Smith

Pro SIG

The group was entertained with a rousing discussion of what constitutes a real-time operating system. As each programmer's favorite O/S was presented as a contender, it was shouted down by objections from each of the other programmers present. The only operating system to emerge unscathed as a real-time operating system was LDOS. (This may have been because there were only two programmer's in the room who have programmed LDOS.)

Join us next month as we delve into the structure of COM blocks.

Jim Hoisington

Visual Basic SIG - BEGINNING

The May meeting scheduled for May 16, 1998 will be combined with the Advanced Visual Basic SIG meeting and hosted by Thomas Lewis, Leader of the Advanced Visual Basic SIG. Thomas plans to give an introduction to classes and class modules during the 8:00 to 9:00 AM time period and go into more advanced topics on classes and class modules during the 9:00 to 10:00 AM time period. I will not be able to attend this month's meeting and Thomas has agreed to fill in. It should be an informative meeting

NOTE: I published the following notice in last month's newsletter regarding Visual Basic instruction and did receive some response. In order to have a successful program, we need more participation. If you know someone that might be able to assist, please ask them to contact me.

At some future meeting, I would like to host a presentation on the



Visual Basic classes offered by the local community colleges (Richland, Brookhaven etc.), four-year colleges (SMU, UTA, UTD etc.), commercial business schools (DeVry, ATI etc.) and anyone else teaching Visual Basic courses. If you are an instructor of one of these classes or have specific information about someone who is teaching such a class, please contact me at Jim_Carter@msn.com with details. My plan is to invite a panel of instructors to discuss their courses during a regularly scheduled meeting of the Beginners Visual Basic SIG. It is my hope that we can pull this information together for our meeting in July of this year.

Bring your questions on Beginning Visual Basic to our meeting beginning at 8:00 AM on Saturday, May 16, 1998 at the Infomart. Check the projection screens in the vendor area on the first floor for the correct room assignments.

Jim Carter

Visual Basic SIG - Advanced Coming Attractions

This month, **Jim Carter**, the Beginner Visual Basic SIG leader has asked me to do a presentation for him at his eight o'clock meeting. I have decided to combine the topic for this meeting and the Advanced Visual Basic meeting. So in the Beginner Visual Basic SIG I will discuss the fundamentals of Visual Basic classes and in the Advanced Visual Basic SIG we will discuss advanced topics dealing with Visual Basic classes.

I think it will be quite interesting. So if you have not had any experience using classes, I suggest you get to the Infomart at eight o'clock

so you will be prepared for the advanced discussion.

The Top Third-Party Tools

I conducted an informal poll of Visual Basic programmers and asked what third-party tool for Visual Basic did they use the most? What would you expect them to say? True DBGrid Pro? Crystal Reports? Data Widgets?

No, the most used third-party tool are magazines and books. Was it what you expected? It does make sense though. Most programmers, even the staunchest advocates of "roll your own" coding have picked up a magazine or book. I know I have six Visual Basic books in my bookshelf right now. At one point I had ten! I also have subscriptions for the *Visual Basic Programmers Journal*, *VB Tech Journal*, and *Access/Office/VB Advisor*.

Advisor. I probably also purchase two or three other magazines a month. I would consider these great tools to be used with Visual Basic.

Which Magazines are for You?

The *Visual Basic Programmers Journal* is probably the best magazine for Visual Basic professionals. It's content is for the intermediate or advanced-level programmer. Fawcette Publications, who publish the *VBPJ*, also has a *Getting Started* with VB magazine they publish for those just starting out. I recommend getting a subscription, you won't be disappointed. I also suggest that you go to their Web site at www.devx.com and check it out. It is the best Web Site produced by a Visual Basic magazine. Also, sign up to get to the premier content. This will enable you to not only download current and ar-

chived articles, but also the code that goes with the articles. It is well worth the money (I believe I paid \$20 for 6 months, but this could have changed).

The *VB Tech Journal* is more for the project manager. It spends a lot of time comparing and evaluating third-party controls. It may have an article or two about coding but that is about it. It also has a case study that it presents in each issue. If it were not for the free subscription, I would probably only get it if I saw an interesting article.

The *Access/Office/VB Advisor* is a good magazine. I suggest this magazine for anyone who uses many flavors of Visual Basic and who also uses Access. Their articles are very easy to read and are written for the intermediate-level programmer. I recommend this magazine strongly.

Books, the Tools of Champions (or fools!)

When you take a trip to any major bookstore, you will find that the shelves are overloaded with Visual Basic books. Unfortunately, the majority of them are just rip-offs of the help file or Books Online. I always suggest to someone new to Visual Basic who asks me what is a good book to get that they should look at the Books Online first. It contains good solid information, and more than likely will help you learn the product. Plus, the best part is that it comes free with Visual Basic! Why go out and buy a book that is nothing more than a regurgitation of the help file? Here are some of my tips on purchasing books:

1. Do not buy any book with the words idiot, moron, fool or the like in the title.
2. Do not judge a book by its thickness, it may just have more pages of fluff.

3. Do not purchase a book that does not discuss database access (unless you are buying for a specific topic).

4. Do not believe a title that tells you that you can learn Visual Basic in days, hours, or nanoseconds.

5. Beware of books available before the actual release of the software.

So which books do I recommend?

1. *Developing ActiveX Components with VB 5.0: A Guide to the*

Perplexed by Dan Appleman

2. *Doing Objects in Microsoft Visual Basic 5.0* by Deborah Kurata

3. *Professional VB5 Business Objects* by Rockford Lhotka

4. *Database Access with Visual Basic* by Jeffrey McManus

Conclusion

Take time to look at magazines and books. They are good tools for your Visual Basic development. Not only will you learn new subjects, but also see how someone else implements a solution. This is how we learn to become better programmers. And that's a good thing.

Thomas Lewis
aliensite@msn.com

WORDPERFECT FOR WINDOWS SIG

In April, Diane helped us better understand how the Address Book is a valuable tool in Corel WordPerfect 8. This month I will show you how to use the information you have input into the Address Book for mass mailing, envelopes, etc. through the feature called Merge.

To create a Merge, you have to create a form document (such as a let-



ter) and then you take your address book information or a data file and merge the two together – creating several copies of the letter for each individual in the address book.

Keep in mind that you are not limited to how many form documents can be linked and used by one data file! You may only want a new letter to go to a targeted group – that is also possible by either selecting, sorting and marking records. It is also possible to have a Merge stop and let you input information manually instead of having all the information input by your data file. We call this Keyboard Merging and if we have time, we'll peek at that too!

See you there!

Cindy Adams

Tip of the Month – Setting Tab Stops on the Ruler Bar

If you want to change the tab settings, the Ruler Bar is a quick way to make the changes and be able to see the results as you make it. To display the Ruler Bar:



WP8 View, Ruler

WP7 View, Toolbars/Ruler, Ruler Bar

WP6 View, Ruler Bar

Tab setting changes take effect at the point of the insertion point, so it is important to position the insertion point before making the changes. If the text is already typed and surrounded by other text, select the text which will be affected by the tab change.

. Delete a Tab stop ... drag the tab marker down, off the Ruler Bar

. Delete all Tab stops ... right-click the Ruler Bar, Clear All Tabs

. Select a Tab Type (alignment) ... right-click the bottom of the Ruler Bar, select a tab type

. Set a new Tab stop ... select a Tab Type, then click on the Ruler Bar where you want the Tab stop to appear

. Change the Type of an Existing Tab stop ... select a Tab Type, then click on the existing Tab marker to be changed

. Move a Tab stop ... drag it to the new location; a pop-up box shows the exact tab position, and a Ruler Guide (vertical dashed line) will show you where the Tab marker is positioned in relation to the text

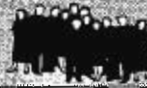
. Return the Marker to its Original Position while dragging it ... drag it up above the Ruler Bar until the marker pops back into place and the Ruler Guide disappears, then release the mouse

Diane Bentley

INSIDE THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

by Claude McClure



The Ticket

My membership card is like having twelve front row seats to the biggest computer show under the Big Top. It's a permanent pass to a full day of excitement, with food and drink on the premises. Like a three-ring circus, the NTPCUG monthly meeting is filled with many activities taking place concurrently. You have to attend several monthly sessions to get the full picture.

This full year of entertainment, education, and instruction is made possible by the wallet-sized membership card mailed to most members by **Randy Durham** who is responsible for mailing them out after every meeting. Randy is a six-year member of the NTPCUG. He has never failed to send those cards out to us. Because he is so efficient, getting our card has been one of those things that is

easily taken for granted. It isn't easy being so unfailing in this duty. For one thing, the shape of the cards has changed over the years. The newer cards don't fit the envelope, so Randy fastens them in with our name showing in the window. Self adhesive stamps are his most favorite thing. I never asked him the time difference between sheet and roll stamps, but when you remember he mails over one hundred every month, you know he can tell you the time it takes to count, fold, stuff, seal, stamp, and hurry to the post office. Let's give a big hand of applause to Randy, for a great job, well done.

Thanks to the many volunteers whose names are mentioned below. Thanks to the officers and leaders who make the NTPCUG a possibility. Thanks to the SIG leaders who study, plan and present the food for thought and the learning experience the rest of us enjoy.

Infomart Liaison

Stuart Yarus
Robert Hilliard
Chris Jung
Alex Lilley

Vendor Setup/Breakdown

Anchors:
David Slavik
Kenneth Berg
Dick Abbott
Crew:
Dennis Brinninger
Allen Drake
Tim Foster
David Goldstein
Son Hong
Larry Matzek
Robert Whiteside

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jung
Christopher Carmichael

Newsletter Labels

Charlie Fernandez

Information/Registration Booth

Statistician:
Connie Andrews
Ralph Beaver (Assistant)
Scheduler:
Bob Waller
Anchors:
Vernon Cates
Hank Holt

Cinda Lovil (Double)
David Martin
Bob McNeil (Double)
Foy Mills
Fred Toulmin
Paul Williams
Matt Williams

Booth Crew:
Al Aston
Deborah Bean (Double)
Glynn Brooks
Jim Boyce
Randy Durham
Tim Foster (Double)
James Gorak
Bill Hatchel
John McNeil
Nora Carambot- Muentes
Bill Opella
Thelda Opella
Raymond Reyes
Ken Sauter

Disk of the Month (DOM)

DOM Shift Supervisors:
Joe Allen
Roy Bales
Philip Bridge
Don Chick
James Donlon
M. Pat Henley
Martin R. Gluck
Arnold Krusemark
DOM Desk Crew:
Richard Abreu
Michael Ashley

Douglas Athas
Bernie Baars
Richard Blair
Jim Boyce
Linda Campbell
Gene Carleton
Norm Dang
William Farris
Brad Ficke
Edwin Griffin
Jimmy Hurst
Tom Jackson
Tom Jones
Mac McKeethen
Mark Miller
Nancy Ogden
John Primm
George Read
Jim Russell-Redman

Oscar Tyler
Lee Williams

With Special Thanks to:

Set Up Crew:
Kent Haven
M. Pat Henley
David Huckabee
Jerry Stone
Inventory and Take-down Crew:
Richard Blair
Mark Christopher
Brad Ficke
Martin R. Gluck
Arnold Krusemark
DOM Desk Scheduler:
Philip Bridge
Disk Production:

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. Via BBS: (972)387-2751, (972)387-2752 or (972)263-9036 (metro). Sign up on the Volunteer Conference - make the subject matter your area of interest.

2. Meeting day: Sign up at the Information Booth or DOM Booth to work those areas in a coming month.

3. By phone:

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael (972) 661-4626 (w)

DOM Booth Scheduler
Phil Bridge..... (972) 422-5400

DOM Software Review
Mark Grunerl..... (972) 964-8147 (h)

Information Booth and General Information
Claude McClure..... (972) 667-0978 (h)

NTPCUG USER - To - USER PROGRAM

Introducing the NTPCUG User-To-User program, composed of members who are willing to donate their time to help others with software and hardware questions. Some of our helpers are professional consultants. All have joined the User-to-User Program because they want to share their knowledge with others and help them. They agreed to answer questions that they are comfortable handling over the phone, without charge, and within reasonable time limits (at the volunteer's discretion).

These individuals are volunteering to assist NTPCUG members. NTPCUG is assisting in finding these volunteers for you, but cannot be responsible for unsatisfactory outcomes. Next to each subject, we will list the person's name, phone number and the times they are available. Please honor the wishes of our helpers by seeking help only during those hours.

Please try to resolve your problem by reading the manual and any on-line help BEFORE calling.

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS	SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Access				Excel			
	Ram Bhandari	(972)243-4056 h	M-F 1300-1700		Warrington Williams.....	(214)348-6869	M-F 1800-2100
					.....		S&S 0900-2100
Assembly Language				Hardware Help			
	Frank Cavallito	(972)423-9221	7 1800-2200		Charles Miller.....	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400
	Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200				
BASIC				Internet - General			
Beginner Problems					Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
	Jan Parkhill.....	(214)828-2216	M-Sa 0900-1700		David Martin	(972)930-0283	M-F 1900-2200
	Shirley Hudgens.....	(903)432-9780	7 0900-2000	Internet - Telnet, FTP, NetScape, Web Explorer (OS/2)			
Brother's Keeper					Bob Wilson	(972)517-1434	M-F 1900-2200
	Neil Sunderland.....	(972)272-2869	7 0900-2200		.....		S-S 1000-2200
C++ (the language)				LANs -- Novell			
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900		Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Howard Harkness.....	(972)492-1508	7 1000-2100	-- Lantastic			
CA Clipper					Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	Richard Mitchell.....	(972)625-9130M	M-F 1900-2100	Managing Your Money			
	.....		SS 0900-2300		Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
CorelDraw				Modems			
	Linda Hume	(817)472-7555	M-F 1900-2200		Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
	.....		S-S 1300-2200	MathCAD			
Batch Files					Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900
	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400	Norton Utilities			
Borland C++					John Dyer	(972)790-3311	M-Sa 0800-2200
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900	OS/2			
	Howard Harkness.....	(972)492-1508	7 1000-2100		Larry Truesdale	(972)442-7074	7 1000-2200
Borland Turbo C				PC Tools/Win			
	John Keohane	(972)690-8092	7 1900-2100		Glynn Brooks.....	(972)578-8737	M-F 1700-2200
CompuServe				Paradox			
	Bob Adams.....	(214)328-1455	M-Sa 0900-1900		Fred Williams.....	(972)492-1315	7 1300-2100
DOS				PKzip/PKUNzip			
	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200		Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200
	Erik Leaseburg	(817)265-7550(m)	7 2000-2200	ProComm/ProComm+			
DR DOS					Bill Green.....	(817) 731-1308	
	Ralph Beaver	(817)336-0570	M-F 0800-1700				
	.....	(817)624-9530	SS 0900-2100				

NTPCUG USER — To — USER PROGRAM

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
ProComm/ProComm+ (Ctd.)...			
	Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
Publisher (Microsoft)			
	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
	Pat Cote	(972)831-8055	M-F 0800-1700
	.....	(972)496-3894	7 1000-2200
Quicken			
	Jim Hall	(214)348-7848	7 1000-2100
Quickbooks			
	Jim Thompson	(214)953-0051	M-F 0800-1800
SPFPC			
	Doug Gorrie	(214) 464-4568	M-F 0800-1700
	.....	(972) 618-8002	S-S 1000-1900
UNIX			
	Doug Scott	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200
Virus & Anti-Virus			
	Charles Miller	(903)938-4220(*)	7 1900-2400

SUBJECT	HELPER	PHONE	DAYS/HOURS
Visual Basic -			
	Jim Carter	(972)235-5968	7 1700-2130
	L.J. Johnson	(972)495-9067	7 1700-2130
	Gene Hamelman	(972)495-6342	7 1700-2130
Windows for Workgroups			
	Joseph Beasley	(972)225-8752	7 0800-2400
	Joseph Beasley	(214)410-3818	7 0900-2200
	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
Windows NT 4.0 & 3.51			
	Richard Miles	(972)296-5356	M-F 1900-2200
	.....	.....	SS 10:00-16:00
	.....	(214)767-7315	M-F 1500-1700
Word for Windows			
	Bob Russell	(972)422-4269	7 1900-2200
XENIX			
	Doug Scott	(817)261-4653	7 1830-2200
XTREE			
	John Dyer	(972)790-3311	M-Sa 0800-2200

LEGEND:

7..... All 7 days of each week
 M-F ... Monday through Friday
 T&T ... Tuesday and Thursday
 M-Sa .. Monday through Saturday
 S&S... Saturday and Sunday
 (*)..... Caller should incur any Long Distance charges


The subject areas below do not have a volunteer to answer questions. If you would like to assist or add possible categories for the future, please contact Doug Gorrie at (214)464-4568 M-F 0800-1700 or Sa & Su 1000-1900 at (972)618-8002. Doug will send you a form on which you can list your qualifications and sign.

Areas Needing Helpers:

- CAD
- dBase
- Delphi
- Forte Agent & Free Agent
- Fox Pro
- Harvard Graphics
- LapLink
- Microsoft C
- Microsoft C++
- Microsoft Visual C++
- Microsoft Word
- Pagemaker
- Roots
- Sound Blaster
- TurboTax
- Corel Ventura
- WordPerfect/ Windows
- XTREE

North Texas PC

Membership



Users Group, Inc

Application

The NTPCUG is a non-profit, independent organization of individuals learning to apply personal computers to practical problems. For additional information, call (214) 746-4699.

Member # _____

Name (Last): _____ (First): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone (Check preferred.) Home: (_____) _____ - _____

Work: (_____) _____ - _____ Ext. _____

Occupation/Profession: _____

Check one from each column below

Payment:	Membership	Application Status:
Cash _____	Classification:	New Member _____
Check _____	Regular (\$30.00)	Renewal _____
Credit Card _____	Student (\$25.00)	Address Change _____

Applications should be mailed to: North Texas PC Users Group, P.O. Box 703449, Dallas, TX 75370-3449 (Make checks payable to : NTPCUG.)

Please initial here _____ if you do not wish to have your address included on member lists sold for the NTPCUG's benefit to advertisers of PC compatible products.

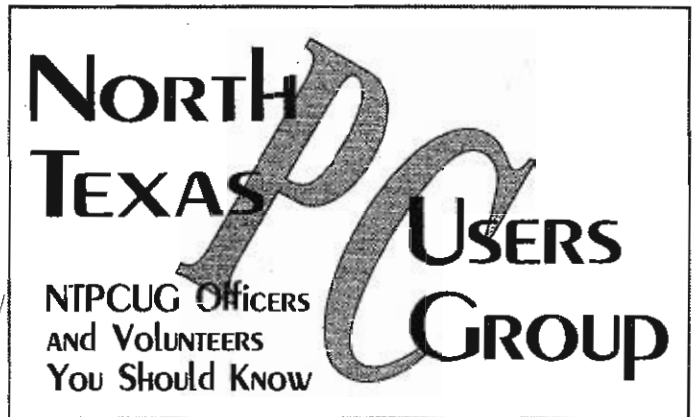
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

P.O. Box 703449, Dallas, TX 75370-3449

Phone (214) 746-4699 for recorded information about the North Texas PC Users Group and scheduled meeting date times and locations. Please leave a message if you would like specific information about the Group. Or, visit our Web Page at: www.ntpcug.org

The North Texas PC Users Group, Inc., is a non-profit, independent group, not associated with any corporation. Membership is open to owners and others interested in exchanging ideas, information, hardware, predictions, and other items related to personal and compatible computers. To join the Group, complete the application blank printed elsewhere in this newsletter, and send with \$30 membership dues to the Membership Director — address shown below. Subscription to the newsletter is included with each membership.

The Group meets once each month, usually on the second or third Saturday. See inside front cover for date, time and place of the next North Texas PC Users Group meeting.



North Texas PC Users Group, Inc. Board of Directors

Andy Oliver *Chairman*
Reagan Andrews *Marsha Drebelbis*
Timothy Carmichael *Alex Lilley*
Jim Hoisington *Fred Williams*

NTPCUG Bulletin Board

NOTE: To access the BBS Metro line from outside Area Code 972, use Area Code 972. (This is NOT a toll call from Fort Worth and the Mid-Cities area.)

Bulletin Board Settings: N - 8 - 1
(No parity, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit)

NTPCUG Officers

President	Andy Oliver	(972) 462-1896 h (972) 960-4215 w
President-Elect	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101 h
Program Chairman	Timothy Carmichael	(972) 566-4626 w
Treasurer	Eb Foerster	(214) 357-7602 h
Secretary	John West	(972) 620-8741 h
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101h
Advertising Dir. (Acting)	Connie Andrews	(214) 828-0699h
Publicity	Rob Alschbach	(214) 368-4979 b
Disk of the Month		
Volunteer Coord.	Claude McClure	(972) 867-0978 h
Bulletin Board	Fred Williams	(972) 492-1315
DFW Xchange	Information	(214) 746-3365 www.dfwxchange.com

Members Emeritus

John Pribyl (1924 - 1993)
Phil Chamberlain **Jim Hoisington**
David McGehee **Stuart Yarus**
Tom Prickett **Connie Andrews**
Kathryn Loafman **Reagan Andrews**
Fred Williams **Timothy Carmichael**
Andy Oliver **Mark Gruner**

NTPCUG BBS Telephone Numbers:

..... (972) 387-2751
..... (972) 387-2752
..... METRO (972) 263-9036

SYSOP: Fred Williams
Assistant Sysop: Tom Prickett
Assistant Sysop: Doug Gorrie
Information Mgt: Lewis Graber
User Relations: Adam Peterson

Password problems?

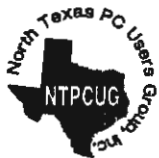
Call Doug at..... (214) 464-4568

Address Changes, etc...

Payment of dues, address changes, and inquiries about membership should be directed to:

NTPCUG Membership Director
P.O. Box 703449
Dallas, Texas 75370-3449

(Check newsletter mailing label for your renewal date..)



North Texas PC Users Group
P.O. Box 703449
Dallas, Texas 75370-3449

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North Texas PC Users Group

Next Meeting:
16 May 1998

