North Texas **PC NEWS**

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

NTPCUG

TO THE POLLS, YE SONS OF FREEDOM!
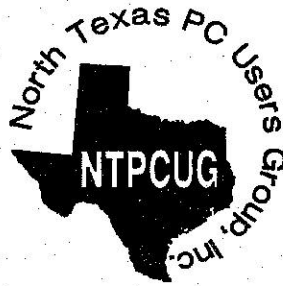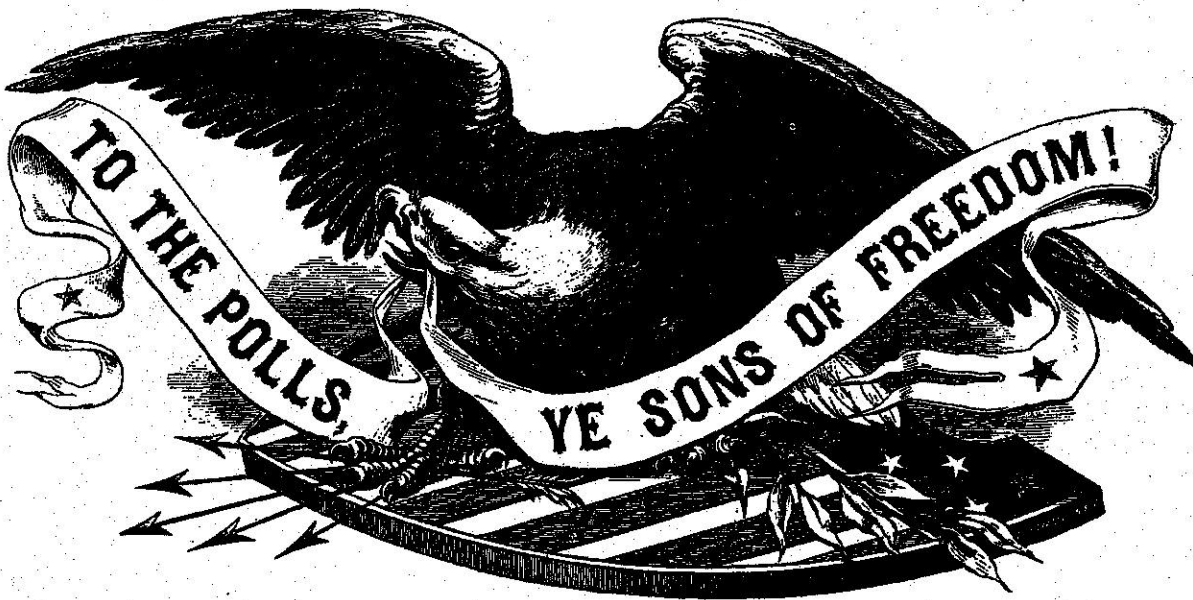
Important News
About 1999 BOD Elections and
January Business Meeting at the
Big Town Exhibition Center!
Details on Pages 1, 2 & 3

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 1,650 last month.

Member distribution was 1,400; 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 97*. This issue of North Texas PC NEWS was composed using *Corel Ventura 8.0, Corel Draw 8.0, Arts & Letters Express 6.01, Adobe Photoshop 4.01, Micrografx Picture Publisher 8, Microsoft Publisher 98* and HP Scanjet 6200Cse. 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 February
North Texas PC NEWS:
To be announced

Meeting Dates:

January 16 – 3rd Saturday
February 27 – 4th Saturday
SIGs To be Announced

NT PCUG
NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP, INC

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.

Where will the SIGs meet?

That's a good question. We thought we had an agreement to meet at Skyline High School, which is about one mile from Big Town Exhibition Center. That fell through at the end of November.

Since then, we've been actively looking for a meeting site. The search committee will check out several possibilities during the last week of December. We'll meet after the first of the year to see where we stand.

As soon as we know anything, we'll get out a newsletter with an announcement.

Business Meeting at Big Town Exhibition Center

We will be holding a business meeting in the Vendor Area at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 16th at Big Town Exhibition Center. In addition to voting for North Texas PC Users Group Board of Directors members and officers for 1999-2000, We'll have the latest information on locations and times the SIGs will be meeting in the future, the new BBS and other news at that meeting.

The Perfect Gift!

Looking for a last-minute gift that's quick, easy and keeps on giving for the entire year? Take a tip from Doug Gorrie and consider giving a one-year membership in the North Texas PC Users Group. This is an especially appropriate gift for a friend or relative who is new to computing and interested in learning how to use and enjoy the PC.

Point out the Genealogy SIGs to people who are collecting information about their families, tell friends how much the Internet SIGs can help in easing their way into really using the Web, and the benefits of friendly, early computer lessons in the Introduction to the PC SIG.

More experienced users would appreciate value of vendor presentations in making important software and hardware decisions during the year.

If you have a friend or relative who constantly "borrows" your copy of the latest *North Texas PC News*, a gift membership might be especially welcome.

Voting for BOD Members...

There is a ballot in this newsletter on page 2. Use it to vote either by mail or at the Business Meeting on January 16th. The ballot must be the original ballot from the newsletter; copies will not be accepted. If you mail the ballot to the post office box, it must be received by the end of the day on January 15th

Normally there would be an election for President-Elect on the ballot. I could find nobody who wanted to run for that position because of the uncertainty of where we would be meeting. We'll fill that position with a special election latter this year.

New BBS

The BBS committee has the new BBS up and running in parallel with the old BBS. We'll probably run in parallel for a month to make sure everything is working. As of 12/21/98, all Internet e-mail is going to the new BBS.

Many thanks to **Doug Gorrie, Gil Brandt,** and **Richard Miles** and all the others who contributed to the project.

Volunteers Needed

We want to have a information/membership desk at the vendor shows at Big Town Exhibition Center. If you will be attending and can spare an hour or two, please contact **Claude McClure.**

Vendor Show Dates

The dates for the first three vendor shows are:

January 16th, February 27th, and **March 27th.**

Jim

NTPCUG President–Elect & Board of Director Elections

The North Texas PC Users Group will hold elections for five members of the NTPCUG Board of Directors (BOD) in January. There is no candidate for President -Elect who is a member of the BOD and serves in that role for one year, then becomes President the following year. The five other Members of the NTPCUG Board of Directors serve one-year terms. A special election for President-Elect will be held later this year.

Officer Elections

NTPCUG & Candidates for President-Elect, Board of Directors

Candidates for North Texas PC Users Group Board of Directors

Timothy Carmichael

Timothy currently serves as Program Chairman of the NTPCUG and has done so since 1989 when he took over the job of arranging and scheduling vendor presentations for NTPCUG. Timothy is a past member of the Board of Directors and is a Member Emeritus. As the Program Chairman, he is responsible for arranging the Auditorium vendor presentations at our Saturday meetings and Timothy continues to do an excellent job for us. In his real job, he is an electrical and biomedical engineer doing research, applying computer hardware and software for medical measurement and diagnostic systems.
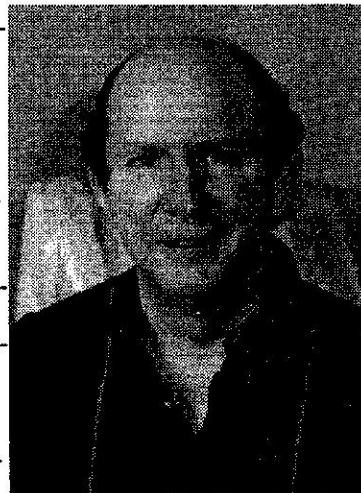
Marsha Drebelbis

Marsha Drebelbis is currently a Board member and SIG Leader of the Corel SIG, author of the *Corel Corner* column, and came to the NTPCUG in March, 1995, when the Corel group merged with us. She currently operates two design houses, Marsha Drebelbis Studios, a graphics design firm, and Litigation Graphics which serves the legal market with design of demonstrative graphics in Dallas. Marsha earned Bachelors degrees in Art Education and Fine Arts from the University of Kansas, and serves in a Pro Bono capacity with the Dallas Theater Center and Old East Dallas Renaissance Coalition.

Alex Lilley

Alex has been the Special Interest Group (SIG) Coordinator for the past six years and was also the SIG Leader for the *Introduction to the PC* series of classes on use of personal computers. Alex is the room scheduler for all computer groups that meet at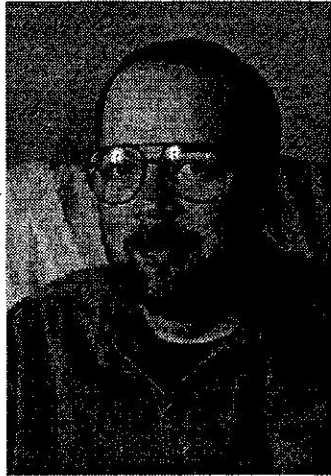 Infomart. In addition, Alex coordinates all audio-visual and white-board equipment used at the DFW Xchange meetings at Infomart. Alex is married with two grown children and works as an IS for a local commercial real estate company. He is a Certified Property Manager and graduate of Texas A & M University.
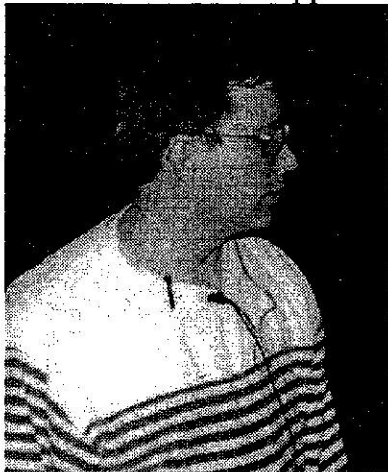
Andy Oliver

Andy is the immediate Past-President and Chairman of the Board of the NTPCUG. Andy was also President in 1996, 1994 and 1992, and has served as President-Elect in 1991, 1993, 1995 and 1997. Andy became active in the NTPCUG

in 1985 and has served as SIG Coordinator and Information Booth Anchor in the past. He is a member of the Microcomputer Managers Association and Dallas NetWare Users Group. Andy is now Information Systems Director for the Staubach Company in Dallas.

Andy Reese

Andy Reese should be well-known to NTPCUG members — as Past President of the AppleCorps, present Vendor Manager for DFWExchange Corp., and as a member of NTPCUG for more than 10 years. Although highly associated with Apple-Corps, Andy has been heavily involved with the PC platform in the business community for a number of years and is "at home" on either platform. He has
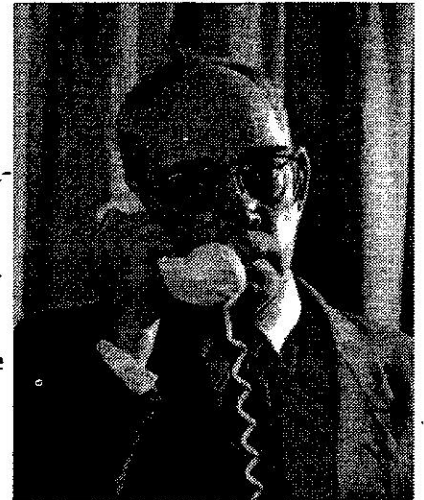
been instrumental in the growth and fortunes of both the NTPCUG and the AppleCorps since the early days at Jesuit High School where both groups met for their monthly meetings in the 1980's.

Harold E. (Spike) Smith, NCE

Member of the NTPCUG for the past 10 years. SIG Leader for the Introduction to the PC for the past year. I have the time and desires to share my talents and resourcesas a member of the Board of Directors and to take on more responsibilities for the betterment of our club.

My background has been in telecommunications systems engineering and related project design and development. Certified as Engineer Class One with (NARTE) National Association of Radio and Telecommunication Engineers. Master endorsements in rf and non-radiating telecommunications systems engineering.

Served as North Texas Area Governor as well as president and other offices at the local club level with Toastmasters International.
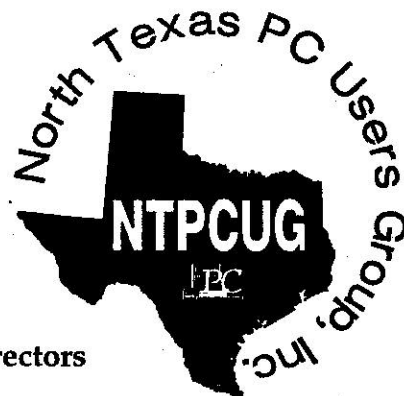

North Texas PC Users Group
Official 1999 Election Ballot
(Detach and use original ballot
— Copies are not acceptable.)

Nominees for
President-Elect: *None*

NTPCUG
PC

Nominees for Board of Directors
(Vote for 5 — below)

☐ Timothy Carmichael   ☐ Andy Oliver   ☐ _____
☐ Marsha Drebelbis   ☐ Andy Reese
☐ Alex Lilley   ☐ Harold (Spike) Smith

Mail Ballot to Secretary, North Texas PC Users Group, P.O. Box 703449, Dallas, TX 75370-3449, or bring to the January 17 Meeting. All ballots must be received by the secretary no later than January 15, 1999.

MICROSOFT ANSWERS

Statistics by Microsoft Excel

One of my favorite books is *How To Lie With Statistics* by Darrel Huff. It was written (tongue in cheek) forty years ago, and the numbers in the examples are out of date, but the horrible methods it exposes are still being used by those who would try to mislead.

Statistics are neutral. They are tools which can be used to clarify or to muddle. Used properly, statistics can illuminate truth in a very succinct manner. Excel's(R) statistical capabilities are ideal for doing this in a spreadsheet presentation.

Excel(R) has a set of statistical functions to use in spreadsheet calculations, plus a set of statistical procedures for more comprehensive work, contained in the "Analysis Tool Pack (ATP)." These functions and procedures are somewhat more extensive than those taught in "Statistics 101," but are not comprehensive in the field. For standard, run-of-the-mill statistical calculations, they are hard to beat. For highly specialized work, unless you are into "coding your own" in a Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) macro, I recommend going to one of the many fine standalone statistics packages on the market. Excel is capable of doing all these specialized calculations, but the specific spe-

cialized procedures are not written into the program.

Categories of statistical functions: Excel's functions can be categorized into these groups:

- Counting and Order
- Average, Mean, Variance, Standard Deviation
- Significance Tests
- Probability and Frequency Distributions
- Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), Linear Regression

A complete list of these functions is too long for this article, but if you're interested, send me email at billman@microsoft.com ailto:billman@microsoft.com, and I will send the list, with short descriptions, back to you via email.

The ATP contains these more comprehensive packages:

- ANOVA - single factor and two-factor with and without replication
- Correlation
- Covariance
- Descriptive Statistics
- F-Test (two sample)
- Histogram

Join the crowd of NTPCUG Members rushing to make sure their votes are counted at the January 16 Business Meeting at the Big Town Exhibition Center!

❦ Rank and Percentile

❦ Regression

❦ Sampling

❦ t-Test, paired and unpaired, equal and unequal variances

❦ Z-Test

Collection Looks Overwhelming...

This collection looks overwhelming if you are a statistical novice, but we still get lots of calls from customers who want more. When we get enough requests, we may write macros or worksheet procedures for our Knowledge Base (KB), or we may post articles at our Internet Web site (Home page is WWW.Microsoft.com). These articles, from both sources, are available to everyone. Occasionally, these procedures may be picked up and coded into the next version of Excel.

We can't help everyone who calls asking for help with statistics. Once we got a call from a lady

Microsoft Answers ... Ctd.

who had done a regression analysis, and wanted help with the significance figures. She wanted us to tell her whether her results were significant or not.

'Significance' Often Misunderstood

When I talked with her, she had already been through three Support Engineers (SE's) and one other Escalation Team member.

I had to reiterate that we couldn't do that - that was her responsibility, and there was no way we could know enough about what she was doing to interpret the significance results.

On the other hand, there are some fun calls. One call we get a lot, concerns ranking. The teachers love ranking their students ("10 are in the upper quartile, 20 are in the second quartile, etc."). Any ranking calculation can be destroyed by perverse data. For instance, how do you do a ranking if all the scores are the same?

It doesn't make any sense. Because of this, every author in statistics has his/her own way of compensating for pathological data. Every statistics book has its own algorithm for calculating ranking, and none of them are even equivalent.

Excel(R) has a good one, but it's just one of many. I tell the customers, "Tell me how you want to do the ranking, and I'll write you a solution for doing it your way!"

Lastly, many customers call in, saying that our hatever function is different in the sixth significant figure from somebody's calculator program, and what are we going to do about it? Statistics is a science of computing probabilities and making approximations, and the sixth significant figure is of little use to almost everyone (there are occasional uses for such accuracy). I have a lot of experience doing statistics in the real world of process experimentation, and I have never seen any need of calculating statistics beyond three significant figures. The real world just isn't that precise. Excel has more than all the precision you will ever need for doing basic statistical work on real problems.

Bill Manly and Bob Russell

Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community
Volunteers in Action
by Claude McClure

New Year with Promise

The promised land of new opportunity for all members of the NTPCUG is calling us. Charlton Heston's part is being played by **Jim Hoisington**, our club President. The past cannot be captured or revisited, and the future can't be known. The entire user group will live in the present and see the new direction unfold with each monthly meeting. Volunteers have worked all year under the threat of having the old meeting place dissolve. Now that era is past and the development of a new learning environment is our current job. Faithful club members have shown up monthly to lead their SIG groups, and demonstrate the new wrinkles of Windows 98 and other evolving programs. Now we close our training manuals, fold our tents, and prepare for the move. Now we pick up our Toshiba 4000's and Palm Pilots and march forward, and it will be an experience shared by all of us.

The information/membership desk has had a great year in 1998, with the addition of many new volunteers who work for about an hour every month alongside long-time volunteers. They help renew existing club memberships and recruit new members. The club is very fortunate to have such helpful members, and a sincere word of thanks is extended to each one. They were quick to mention club benefits like the Multimedia Video Library, Newsletter Exchange, club Web site and the *PC News*.

The NTPCUG is made up of a great group of volunteers who have made the monthly meetings at the Infomart possible. Thanks to the SIG leaders and volunteers who help during the monthly club meeting. The experience would not be the same without them. Take a moment to thank them as well as the club officers with a "Happy New Year" for the many hours they give for our benefit. Other volunteers' names are listed below.

Infomart Liaison
Andy Reese
Robert Hilliard
Alex Lilley

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
Anchors:
David Slavik
Kenneth Berg
Dick Abbott
Crew:
Willard Anderson

Dennis Brininger
Mark Guyer
James Hope
Orien Love
Fred Steadman
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 Wuller
Anchors:
Roger Bopp
Albert Champon
Cinda Lovil (Double)
David Martin
Bob McNeil
Fred Toulmin
Paul Williams
Booth Crew:
Al Aston
Deborah Bean
Jim Boyce
Randy Durham
Tim Foster (Double)

James Gorak
Herbert Gross
Neil Jochelson
John McNeil
Martin Moomaw
Thelda Opella
Ken Sauter
Oscar Tyler
Matt Williams

It does not take a Great Detective to know that voting in NTPCUG BOD Elections is how YOU can shape the future of Our Users Group! So Be sure and Vote on January 16 at the Big Town Exhibition Center!

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)

Information Booth and General Information

Claude McClure. . . . . (972) 867-0978 (h)

On not Running, Following Microsoft v. DOJ
An AOL 'Surprise' with Sunday paper and
Mostly a few, choice 'Quickies' this month

And DRAM/ SDRAM /SDRAM 100 Prices bounce up!

If you read pages 2 & 3, you'll know I'm not running for the BOD this year. I've either been President-Elect, President or a member of the NTPCUG Board of Directors (BOD) since 1987. I found myself saying 'No' too many times this year and spent quite a bit of time thinking about the NTPCUG, its goals and needs — and my attitude(s). I do feel very strongly about the Club and think it's time to backoff and allow new blood and fresher heads to chart the group's course into the 21st Century. It's been a Hell of a ride and I don't regret a second of it.

Microsoft Wins One!

Microsoft may have scored one in the eternal saga of their struggles with DOJ. Judge in the massive case denied DOJ request to allow depositions from the Microsoft v. Caldera episode to be aired in the bigger arena. Caldera is suing MS over *DR* *DOS* and allegations that MS sabotaged sales of DR DOS in Europe via 'unfair' business practices — although what's 'unfair' overseas is vastly different than in the US.
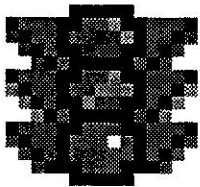
Remember AOL? They recently took over Netscape for

$4billion+. Guess they didn't have time to stop the insertion of many, many CD/ROM's in the most recent distribution of *The Dallas Morning News* (and probably a bunch of other newspapers) with version 4.0 of the AOL software & setup package featuring — MS *Internet Explorer.* Does this mean I can expect a similar 'Oops' CD/ROM with a future newspaper featuring *Navigator?*

Be fun to see and even more fun to read AOL's explanation of the goof.

DRAM/SDRAM Prices Surge over November & December — A Fluke?

Is this a "Fluke" or is it real? SDRAM and SDRAM 100 prices surges reached 10% over November and early December in CompUSA and Best Buy ads, at First Saturday and in the Vendor Area at the December meeting. Know that a bunch of companies have retreated from the DRAM blood-bath, but keep reading about the DRAM 'glut' in the media.

Coupled with AMD's announcements regarding K6-2 bus speeds and long-awaited K7 CPU's, DRAM increases seem suspicious at the 8 & 6 ns levels. Could be same price gouging seen this year on Christmas trees. Although impact of Summer drought won't be felt until next year's tree crop, prices doubled this year at number of tree lots.

Dallas Corel SIG

Meet at Big Town in January

There is no Dallas Corel program topic in January; instead, use the day as an opportunity to visit the new Vendor Show location at Big Town Exhibition Center (adjacent to Big Town Mall). We NTPCUG members are admitted free. When the new SIG meeting location will be announced, we will meet there starting in February.

February Program

Dick Clampitt from Red River Paper Company will return to our SIG in February. With the many recent developments in desktop inkjet printers and

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SyQuest SparQ Drives Still Seen on retailers' shelves Despite Chapter 11 news

On a recent trip to a local PC retailer, saw number of SyQuest *SparQ* drives on display and for sale. This seemed very curious to me since SyQuest went into Chapter 11 bankruptcy earlier (November) and I haven't seen any indications of resolution to the affair even though Iomega and others were interested in acquiring SyQuest's drive technology.

Have heard from number of members that the SyQuest Web site was down and they were unable to obtain support for existing drives. Would wonder about a retailer selling these drives with full knowledge that purchasers won't be able to obtain support, repair or replacement for defective units.

Reagan Andrews

printing papers, he will have lots to share. He promises to bring paper samples and maybe a door prize or two as well. Since we Corel users want the best output for our work, don't miss this timely program.

December in Review

Maria Whitworth, demonstrated several cool effects she uses in PHOTO-PAINT 8. Her instructions on metallic and dimensional lettering kept the audience glued to their seats. She also took us through the process of blurring a photograph and then using the clone tool to clarify desired portions. We wanted to rush back to our own computers to try it right away. Her results were so attractive, it's easy to see why her clients come back for more. Benchmark Display Systems is an advertising agency specializing in advertising placement for backlit display boxes, and Maria designs the display artwork. In the time remaining, **Marsha Drebelbis** demonstrated how to "stitch" together photographic images which have been scanned in pieces. Also we reviewed how to use the "mask" tool. **Rob Alschbach** described how he creates a database and merges information into his Corel Draw work. The holiday card he shared was an excellent example. What fun to gather excellent tips from our own SIG members.

Marsha Drebelbis

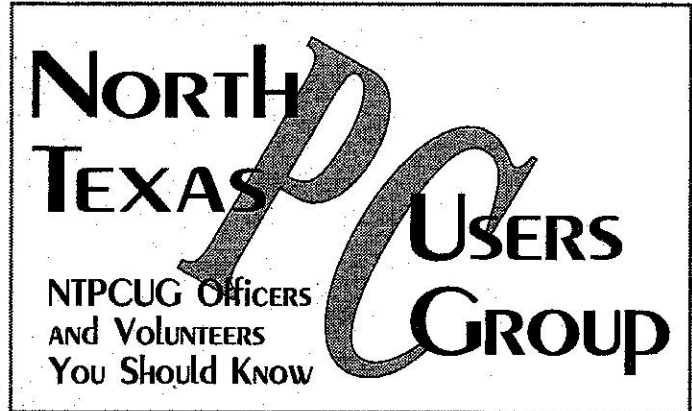*Dallas Corel Is A SIG Of North Texas PC Users Group*

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

NTPCUG OfficERS
ANd VolunTEERS
You ShouLd KNow

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
Board of Directors

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

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	Wade Emmert	(214) 740-3164 w
Membership Dir.	Jim Hoisington	(972) 416-3101h
Advertising Dir.	Connie Andrews	(214) 828-0699h
(Acting)		
Publicity	Rob Alschbach	(214) 368-4979 b
Volunteer Coord.	Claude McClure	(972) 867-0978 h
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
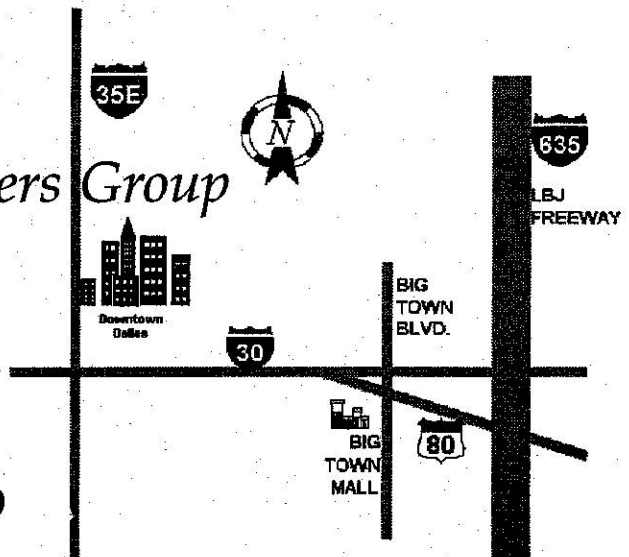Fred Williams   Timothy Carmichael
Andy Oliver   Mark Gruner

NTPCUG 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
(**N**o parity, **8** data bits, **1** stop bit)

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

Address Correction Requested

18.1

North Texas PC Users Group

Next Meeting:

16 January 1999

35E

N

635

LBJ FREEWAY

Downtown Dallas

30

BIG TOWN BLVD.

BIG TOWN MALL

80