

Diablo Blue

March, 2000



The Monthly Newsletter of the Diablo Valley PC User's Group

March 2, 2000 Meeting Announcement

Networking Night

For March, we have something completely different! First, our meeting is going to be held in Building A, diagonally across Clayton Road from our usual meeting location. We're going to have our first **Networking Night** at the March DVPC meeting. Members of the Board of Directors have taken on the responsibility of bringing in two PCs running Windows 98, installing a NIC (Network Interface Card) in each machine, connecting them using UTP (Unshielded Twisted Pair) network cable that has RJ45 connectors at each end to a 5 port 10MB 10BaseT hub, installing the drivers for the NICs, and configuring Windows 98 on each PC to communicate with the other PC using TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) in a peer-to-peer network (no server involved, just two workstations networking with each other). And, if everything goes as planned, it will be *Wow! Time* with a running network. This is often called a "living room network" – the kind some people already have and even more people will have at home

Next, Mark Allen will bring in a Linux PC into which he has installed a NIC and the drivers for the NIC, and configured Linux as a server, and he will connect it to the hub using a UTP network cable and set it up to communicate with the other PCs using TCP/IP – while other Board members configure those PCs so they can see the Linux PC and recognize it as a server. This is complex long-black-robe-and-pointy-hat-with-stars-and-moons-and-magic-wand work, folks! If everything goes correctly (and that's the challenge of all challenges), it will **really** be *Wow! Time* and we'll have a running network that includes two Windows 98 PCs connected to a Linux server

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President's Corner

by Alan Mildwurm

PLEASE NOTE: OUR MARCH MEETING WILL BE HELD IN BUILDING A, DIAGONALLY ACROSS CLAYTON ROAD FROM OUR USUAL LOCATION!

In addition to the change in location, we are dispensing with our usual presentation format. Instead of one or more invited speakers, we are planning to present a program on how to build your own network.

Many people now have several computers at home (at my house we have more computers than people – I guess we don't share well) and networking them has a number of benefits. Of course, it's nice to share a high-speed Internet connection amongst the family, but there are many other good reasons to tie them together. Just this afternoon my son Jason ran out of ink in his printer and we didn't have a spare cartridge (that's *not* supposed to happen). Instead of having to rush out to the store, we just sent his homework to another printer on the network. Last night, Jessica was downloading some HUGE video

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Ken's Korner by [Ken Fermoye](#)

CD-RW Drives Unseat Other Media For Removable Storage, Backup, Archives

The king is dead! Long live the king! (Until a successor ascends the throne.) The "dead king" in this case is the traditional 3.5-inch floppy disk drive and its cousins: Zip drives, Super Drives, tape backups and other removable storage media.

The new king is the CD-RW (Compact Disk-Re-Writeable) drive. The successor, already waiting in the wings, is the DVD-RW (Digital Versatile Disc or Digital Video Disk, depending on your orientation). Portable USB hard drives may be pretenders to the throne.

Of course I'm exaggerating a bit. You can't count out the lowly 1.44-megabyte floppy drive just yet. It is adequate for typical word processing and other applications that don't produce big files. Prices are low enough for both drives and diskettes to keep them alive for the near term. Shipments should peak in 2001, then start a slow decline.

[lomga's](#) Zip and Jaz products, Super floppies, tape drives and their kin won't disappear overnight either, but they all have drawbacks that will make it hard for them to compete with CD-RW drives in the long term. Generally, they have more limited capacity, higher media costs, and aren't priced all that much lower than the CD products. (Note that lomega recognizes the inevitable and introduced its own CD-RW drive, the ZipCD, in June 1999.) For example, a 100MB Zip drive costs about \$100 to \$130, depending on type (internal, external, SCSI, parallel, USB). Disk prices range from about \$8 to \$15 as this is written in mid-January, 2000. A 1GB Jaz drive costs about \$200, with disks going for \$90 to \$100.

By comparison, CD-RW drives hold 650MB and sell for anywhere from \$170 to about \$400, with most in the \$200-250 range. That means their disks hold as much as 6.5 Zip 100 disks and roughly 66% as much as the 1-gig Jaz disk. The kicker is the cost of media.

CD-R disks cost just \$1 to \$2 each. You can only write files to them once, no rewriting, but you can write to them in increments; adding files until the disk is full. This makes them ideal for permanent backup or archiving files. They are easily portable, since they are compatible with all CD-ROM drives of recent years. And they're so cheap you can use a lot of them without busting the budget.

CD-RW disks cost more, about \$5 to \$6, but you can write and rewrite to them just as you would a floppy or Zip drive. Generally there are more compatibility issues than with CD-R disks; they may not be readable in any CD-ROM, or even other CD-RW, drives. They are best used for day-to-day backup.

The nice thing is that a CD-RW drive gives you the best of both worlds, since you can burn CD-R disks or use CD-RW disks in one.

Let me tell you about my experiences with two quite different types of CD-RW drives I've been using for four months, since Sept. 1999. One is a Verbatim brand, Model 4420a (4X Record, 4X Rewrite, 20X Read): the drive itself is made by Mitsubishi. The other is more exotic: a Compro external drive from ACS Innovations. Made specifically for use with notebook computers, it weighs just over a pound and connects to a notebook PCMCIA slot or USB port.

Necessity led me to the CD-RW drives. I was preparing to do my Media Workshop in Orlando, FL last fall and realized the PowerPoint slide show I use to support my presentation was far too big to fit on a floppy. Putting it on a CD-ROM disk was the logical way to go. I began by investigating CD-R (record only) drives. They were cheap (\$160 or less) but I learned this was because they were being phased out. I was advised to go for a CD-RW drive instead -- and settled on the Verbatim 4420a as one of the fastest in my price range.

Installing it was simplicity itself. I merely disconnected my existing CD-ROM drive and plugged in the new drive in its place, using the existing cable. It came with just!burn software from CeQuadrat (taken over by Adaptec in mid-1999), which I found very easy to use after an initial goof. I ruined several disks by trying to format them not realizing that they were preformatted by Verbatim!

The just!burn Wizard makes it easy to create backup, audio or data disks. The CD-ROM disks I've burned with

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Ken's Korner...

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the CeQuadrat software have been readable by every CD drive in which I have tested them. The tests have included drives in a half-dozen desktop computers and three notebook computers. I should mention that none of the drives was more than 24 to 30 months old. I can't vouch for compatibility with older drives.

The Compro notebook CD-RW drive is a real gem, the world's first CD Rewriter with CD 4X recording, 4X rewriting and 20X reading function all in a slim 23mm height housing. Bare drive weight is only 18 oz. Other weights are: battery pack w/5 AA batteries (Alkaline or NiCAD and NiMH 1.2V rechargables), 7 oz; AC adapter, 8 oz; PCMCIA card/cable, 5 oz; USB cable, 4oz. Current price is \$269.

The whole works adds up to 42 oz., but one normally would use either the PCMCIA or USB cable so actual weight, including a few disks, is less than 2.5 lbs.

The amazing thing is how well this little drive works. It performs so well I don't use it only with my notebook. It is connected via USB port to one of the desktop machines in our office when I'm not travelling.

The Compro slimline came with Adaptec's Easy CD Creator, which most experts consider the top CD creation program. It includes DirectCD, which lets you treat CD-RW drive like a floppy drive. You can copy information in small packets and erase separate files ("random erase") instead of having to erase the entire CD. Packet writing allows sending of small amounts of data or "packets" to CD-R and CD-RW drives without wasted overhead and without risk of data transfer interruptions (buffer underruns).

Easy CD Creator makes it simple to create music, photo, video, and data CDs. You can even make bootable CDs. I have V.3.5 but plan to upgrade soon to V.4.0 which has some desirable features added. (Check it out at www.adaptec.com/products/overview/ecdc.html)

As always, your comments and experiences with these or similar products are welcome. I also invite you visit my website: www.zyworld.com/wordsmithken.

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DVPC Meeting Announcement...

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and all talking together!! That's **networking!**

Remember, this month's meeting is in Building A at the Bank of America Technology Center office complex in Concord, diagonally across from our normal meeting location (see the Map to Monthly Meetings on [page 15](#)).

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. We will have the next installment of **PC 101**, a class run by [Craig Peterson](#) on how to use the computer, at 6:15 p.m. This month's class is titled "Hardware, or how to identify what that thingamajig is". The classes are open to all members. Following the class, the New User's SIG will have their meeting from 6:30 to 7:00.

We'll also have the Networking Table from 6:30 to 7:00; if you have something to sell or trade, need technical help, or just want to exchange views, visit the Networking Table. We may have one of our ever-popular mini-auctions with great products, so bring your checkbooks and cash! Also, as usual, we'll have library disks and those great DVPC mugs (version 2) for sale, SIG news, random access, and some of our usual great door prizes. See you at the meeting!

SIG NEWS *Compiled by [Nick Chase](#), SIG Coordinator, DVPC, 680-4211*

See the DVPC Calendar on [page 16](#) for the date and time of each SIG meeting.

Access/Visual Basic SIG [Ron Ogg](#) (283-7900 Ext. 201) and [Ted Armstrong](#) (939-4096) SIG Co-Leaders

The Access/Visual Basic SIG meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Gateway Group's offices, 3687 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 350, in Lafayette. If you are interested in Access or Visual Basic, be sure to join other programmers at each month's Access/VB SIG meeting. Check out the Access/VB SIG on the web for information about each month's meeting at www.dvpc.org/sig_vbaccess. See the web page or the Clarion SIG announcement below for directions to the meeting.

Advanced Users SIG [Jeff and Sharon Noyer](#), SIG Co-Leaders – 778-4348

The Advanced Users SIG meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at 4208 Amargosa Drive in Antioch. Directions: Go east on Highway 4 through Antioch to the Hillcrest Avenue exit. At the light at the end of the exit ramp, go right onto Hillcrest Avenue, and then stay towards your left. At the 3rd light, Hillcrest Avenue turns to the left. Go left and stay on Hillcrest. (Landmark: "The Crossings" Shopping Center is at intersection). At the 4th light, go left onto Wildhorse Drive. (Landmark: 7-Eleven on corner at intersection). At the 2nd left turn, go left onto Meadow Lake Drive. At the 4th right turn, go right onto Amargosa Drive. 4208 Amargosa Drive is the 3rd house on your right, blue and white one-story. The Advanced Users SIG is for anyone interested in discussing advanced topics such as hardware and software issues, cutting-edge technologies, networking, Windows NT Server and Workstation, troubleshooting, etc. Please join us to participate in this very informative and educational forum. We hope to see you at the meeting!

Clarion SIG [Ron Ogg](#), SIG Leader – 283-7900 Ext. 201

The Clarion SIG meets at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Gateway Group's offices, 3687 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 350, in Lafayette. Check out the Clarion SIG on the web for information about each month's meeting at www.dvpc.org/sig_clar. TopSpeed's Clarion 5 is a powerful object-oriented database development tool that competes with products like Visual Basic and Delphi and even products like PowerBuilder. If you are an advanced Clarion developer you are invited to join the SIG. This is a SIG for advanced users, so beginners will want to get some hands-on experience before joining.

Directions: take Highway 24 west to the Central Lafayette exit, and keep to your left to the stop sign at Deer Hill Road at the end of the exit ramp. Turn left onto Deer Hill Road, and continue to where it dead ends at Happy Valley Road. Turn left onto Happy Valley Road. Turn right at the traffic signal at Mt. Diablo Blvd. Take Mt. Diablo Blvd. through the next traffic signal and turn left into the driveway at 3685/3687. Immediately turn right into the parking lot in front of 3687. Take the elevator to the third floor to the door on the right just before the end of the hallway. See the Clarion SIG's Web page for a map. If you get lost, call Ron Ogg at 283-7900 Ext. 215.

Genealogy SIG [Peggy Johnson](#), SIG Leader – 676-7522

The March Genealogy SIG will be held at 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 20, 2000 at Peggy Johnson's home, 4278 Satinwood Drive, Concord. Email Peggy at pegszone@aol.com for directions. Let's share our favorite Internet sites, lookup sources, and genealogy databases. We can demonstrate how to use them and their contents. Look forward to seeing you.

Education and Entertainment SIG [Alan Mildwurm](#), SIG Leader – 510-770-5770

The Education & Entertainment SIG meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Montevideo School in San Ramon at 7:30 p.m. Check the DVPC web site (www.dvpc.org) for information about each month's

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SIG NEWS...

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meeting. The E&E SIG is oriented to exploring the best in education and entertainment software for the PC. Everyone is invited to attend our meetings, and bring your kids along - they'll have a great time, too! Directions: Take 680 to Bollinger Canyon Road, go west to San Ramon Valley Blvd., go south to Montevideo Rd. and turn left. Proceed east on Montevideo about 3 blocks to Broadmoor and turn left. The school is 1 block on the right. We meet in Room 22.

Internet SIG *Craig Peterson, SIG Leader – 671-7025*

The Internet SIG meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at Computer Renaissance, 959 Contra Costa Blvd. in Pleasant Hill. We cover everything about the Internet, from browsing and email to creating your own web site and the tools for doing so. For more information, please call Craig Peterson by email at compmail@pacbell.net or by phone at 510-671-7025.

The SIG would like to recommend the following sites:

For Saint Patrick's Day: www.geocities.com/Athens/Parthenon/1502/stpat.html. For Ash Wednesday:

<http://aa.usno.navy.mil/AA/data/docs/easter.html>. For getting zip codes: www.usps.com.

If you like these sites or have others you would like to share, come to the next Internet SIG meeting. There you can find and share all that is out there in the "wild, wild web".

Linux SIG *Mark Allen, SIG Leader (680-7746)*

The Linux SIG will hold our meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Fireside Room of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Concord at 7:00 p.m. The March meeting will be on the 28th. The SIG will be exploring the usefulness of Linux, primarily for the power computer enthusiast on the workstation, but it will also be sponsoring special emphasis nights exploring the web server and administrative server, skills development for expanding Linux markets and workshops for advanced computer tweaking strategies. Our own InstallFests for people who can experiment with their equipment are inevitable. I'd like to see as many current DVPC members who have an interest in the possibilities of Linux at the first meeting as possible, to see what directions we should concentrate on. We should have some seasoned Linux system testers on hand to speak, plainly, about what is possible and what currently isn't on the hardware and software sides and what areas of the computer world market Linux is likely to be useful in. We would appreciate it if you would read some of the materials on the Linux SIG News page on the DVPC website for directions to the meetings, site links, and member white papers on different aspects of configuring, learning, and using Linux.

Microsoft Project SIG *Elias Asmar, SIG Leader – 299-8500*

The Microsoft Project SIG meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at InterPro ADF's office at 3569 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210 in Lafayette. Park in the lot behind Radio Shack. The entrance to suite 210 is at the back of the building. Enter through the door marked "210" at the parking lot end of the walkway from the street and take the stairs to the second floor. Everyone who is interested in Microsoft Project and project management is invited to attend. If you plan on attending, please call Elias Asmar at 925-299-8500, Fax 925-299-8511, or send an email message to him at:

elie.asmar@iadf.com.

New Users SIG *Bill Earl, SIG Leader – 939-5874*

The New Users SIG holds its meetings at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular DVPC monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at Bank of America building B. We discuss whatever is confusing or puzzling new PC users. If you are a new user of PCs who would like to meet with other new users — and some experienced users who can answer your questions as well — then join us at the New Users SIG meetings at 6:30 p.m. prior

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SIG NEWS...

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to each DVPC monthly meeting. Also, remember that PC 101 (a class on how to use the computer) will start at 6:15 in the back of the room. The classes are open to all members.

Photo SIG *Chuck Graham, SIG Leader - 680-1333*

The Photo SIG will be changing its meeting day to the **third** Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be March 21st. Starting time of the meeting will be 7:00 pm at Graham Family Photo, 5100-35 Clayton Road, Concord. Vineyard Center at Ayers Road next to KMart. Call for directions at 925 680-1333 or check out our map at www.grahamphoto.com. Fellowship to get acquainted will start for early arrivers at 6:30 p. m. and General Discussion about your software will begin at 7:00 p.m. At 7:30 Dan Meckfessel will demonstrate his Digital Camera and we will follow-up with a demonstration of the the Agfa MSC100 digital photographic printer. Please bring anyone that is interested the Photo SIG. Please continue to let me know what your interest are. Also be sure to see our page on the DVPC web site at www.dvpc.org/photo.html.

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Switch to the Diablo Blue Web Edition

*"I am a real computer person and as such recognize the ultimate reality of the '**Paperless Society**'. In keeping with this spirit and in an effort to help DVPC reduce overhead costs, I say "Nay" to a written newsletter. Give it to me electronically, I want to get my copy of DVPC's Diablo Blue off the Web. (I can always print it out on blue paper and don't even have to admit that I did!)"* Turn in this form at the monthly meeting – or email to nopaper@dvpc.org

Name: _____

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Email address for meeting notification: _____ Also notify me about these SIGs:

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DVPC Board Meeting Minutes by Tom Krauss, DVPC

Meeting Date: 2/10/2000 **Time:** 7:00 pm **Location:** Alan Mildwurm's house

Bank Account: \$2,000 Plus – Way to go, Jessica!

Movie Review: *Galaxy Quest*

Arriving five minutes late, I was relieved to see that the pizza had not yet been delivered. Last month I was right on time and the pizza was half gone. As I settled in, someone mentioned the movie "Galaxy Quest", starring among others Tim Allen and Sigourney Weaver, marvelously disguised as a blonde (she looked so different that at the end of the movie I still thought there was a 50-50 chance it was a different Sigourney Weaver from the one of "Alien" and "Ghost Buster" fame). This movie is a delightfully entertaining satire of the "Star Trek" phenomenon, reminiscent of the Saturday Night Live skit in which William Shatner played himself attending a Star Trek convention and at one point belittled at the crowd of adoring fans to "Get a life!". We went with some friends, and the wives were not overly enthusiastic. My wife has little interest in science fiction, Star Trek, or even movies in general. She strongly dislikes Tim Allen. But this movie had her laughing out loud along with the rest of us. She even said she would like to see it again.

If you haven't seen it, I and those of the Board who have strongly recommend it. It reminded Craig of a Star Trek convention he had attended, and he treated us to some of the goings on there, but he wouldn't tell us what costume he

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**Get Involved! Learn!
Join a SIG today!**

Email Meeting Notification Available by Ron Ogg, DVPC

We're providing an Email Notification service for the DVPC monthly meeting, and for SIGs as well, for all current, paid-up members. If you're interested in receiving an email message announcing each monthly meeting, and for the SIGs you attend, fill out this form and mail to the address on page 16 of this copy of *Diablo Blue*. Note that there's no separate notification for the New Users' SIG since it's held on the same night as the monthly meeting.

Send me Email notification of each monthly DVPC meeting:

Name _____

Email Address _____

Also send me Email notification of each of the SIG meetings I've checked below:

Access/VB SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Linux SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advanced Users SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Microsoft Project SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clarion SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Photo SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education and Entertainment SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Real Estate SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genealogy SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Windows SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

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- **Custom Business Solutions**

Get a Friend to Join DVPC!

Corel Newsletter by [Corel Customer Service](#)

Corel® LINUX® OS Launch at COMDEX/Fall '99 a Great Success

Corel Corporation successfully launched its distribution of the Linux® operating system, *Corel® LINUX® OS*, at Fall COMDEX on November 15, 1999. *Corel LINUX OS* is available in three versions: **Download** (available now!), **Standard** and **Deluxe**. The Standard and Deluxe versions will start shipping, in North America only, on November 30, 1999. Corel is also currently developing Linux versions of the entire suites of its flagship products, *WordPerfect®* and *CorelDRAW®*. For more information on Corel's Linux initiatives, please see www.corel.com.

New Product Releases

WordPerfect® Family Pack — Corel has developed an easy-to-use, feature-packed suite designed specifically for your family's home computing needs. *WordPerfect Family Pack* helps you create professional-looking letters, reports and newsletters, and keep track of home assets and the family budget. Great for school projects, greeting cards, party decorations, certificates and more.

CorelDRAW® 9 Office Edition — Does your business use graphics software? If so, you'll be happy to hear that Corel has just released an easy-to-use business graphics application designed specifically for office users. Click here to learn more about the wizard-driven graphics solutions and the fully-integrated *Adobe Acrobat* PDF file publishing capabilities of *CorelDRAW 9 Office Edition*. We are also getting set to release localized versions for our international customers in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and elsewhere!

CorelDRAW® 9 Premium Color Edition — Corel made waves at Seybold San Francisco '99 with the official launch of *CorelDRAW 9 Premium Color Edition*, an exciting new graphics product featuring professional color management from Heidelberg and a luminance sensor for creating monitor profiles.

Corel's Community Web Sites

This month at OfficeCommunity.com find out how your business can save money with smarter purchasing techniques; learn how to market your business on the Web; and get an introduction to *Microsoft® Visual Basic® for Applications* from macro wizard Gordon McComb. All this plus tips and tricks, free downloads and more. And don't forget to do a little free marketing by listing your business in our *Biz Directory*. Visit us today!

Right now at Designer.com: Debbie Cook shows you how to create a simple neon text effect using *Corel PHOTO-PAINT®*, Mark Alger continues his look at the use of layers in *CorelDRAW* and Theano Nikitas kicks off a new column on digital photography. Coming soon, Gary W. Priester looks at using type on the Web in the latest installment of the *Typophile*. Plus new Freebies, more tips, and the always popular *Designer F/X* and *Text F/X*. Visit us today!

News from Corel Support

There are some changes being made to our technical support for *Paradox®*. For information on Paradox upgrades and support changes, visit the Corel Support Web site or call Corel Customer Service at 1-800-772-6735 within North America.

Praise for Corel's Publishing Products

Corel's publishing products have been big winners as of late. *Corel VENTURA™ Publisher* and *Corel Print Office™ 2000* have been named to the Top 100 lists of *Computer Shopper* and *Home Office Computing* respectively.

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SIG News...

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Real Estate SIG *Bill Thompson, SIG Leader – 693-0174*

The new Real Estate SIG meeting location is still being researched, so meetings have been postponed until a new location can be finalized. The relocation is required because the Insurance Commissioner's office is prosecuting 5 other title companies for current RESPA violations. My boss and I are trying to figure out how to side step the commissioners office and make our efforts legal. If you have any ideas they would be appreciated. Contact SIG Leader Bill Thompson at (925) 998-8530 or email at thompson@dlsnetwork.com for additional information.

Windows SIG *Ron Ogg (283-7900 Ext. 201) and Walt Parsons (934-0775), SIG Co-Leaders*

The Windows SIG meets at the Community Room at the Concord Police Department Building on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Note that this is a new night! Everyone who uses, is interested in, or is curious about Windows on their PC, is invited to attend.

Here are directions: The Concord Police Department is at 1350 Galindo Street in Concord. From the 242 Freeway take Clayton Road east to Galindo and turn right; the Police Department building is 3 blocks south on your left. From Highway 24 take Monument Blvd. east and continue on Monument Blvd. to where it changes to Galindo; the Police Department building will be on your right a short distance past the signal at Cowell Road.

President's Message...

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files for school that she wanted to save on CD-ROM. Since her computer doesn't have a CD burner, we just sent the files to one that did. Similarly, doing back-ups are infinitely easier utilizing the network. Playing games over the network is also a lot of fun since there is little lag. Surprisingly, setting up a simple peer-to-peer network in Windows 98 is very easy. (For me, the hardest part is making the cable). The cost is also very reasonable (unless you go wireless!). If you have more than one machine, networking is really a great way to go!

In April we are looking forward to a presentation by Microsoft on Windows 2000 and, of course, our DVPC elections. SEE THE LATEST IN OPERATING SYSTEMS AND RUN FOR A DVPC OFFICE! A great double header!

A word about our elections. DVPC is a non-profit volunteer organization run by its members. Each year we elect a slate of officers to work as our Board of Directors and manage the business of our organization. To be a member of the Board means that you take on the responsibility of performing one of the duties of the Board, and attend the once-a-month Board meetings. For this effort you get the accolades of the membership, and you get to eat pizza at the Board meetings and join in hearty discourse. How about running for the Board? See me or any of the current Board members at the March meeting – and remember, it's in **Building A** this month only.

**Bring a Friend to the Next DVPC Meeting!
Get them to Join!**

DVPC Board Meeting Minutes...

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wore. What does this have with the DVPC Board meeting? About as much as 90% of our usual discussions do.

Old Business:

Network: March will be Build a Network Night, and there is a hint of nervousness in the air. Those Board members who will not actively participate in this urged at least a modest degree of planning and possibly even a rehearsal. Those who will be performing remained outwardly cool and calm, but did entertain the possibility of at least a meeting a day or two before to make certain all the required parts are available and will work together. An actual rehearsal was ruled out, as then the additional effort of dismantling prior to the general meeting would be incurred. Also, it was felt the demonstration would then lack that spontaneity that today's jaded audiences crave. This casual approach reminded me of my approach to my college education. Once I learned that I could think fast enough and write well enough to make my professors think I knew what I was talking about, I ceased reading assignments and studying for tests. (This attitude may have something to do with my transformation over 4 ½ years from an A- student to a C- student, but I doubt it.) Anyway, the March meeting will definitely be entertaining and probably educational, too.

Elections: (This should probably be under New Business because elections are in April, but I put it under Old Business this month because it was under New Business last month, so it is really Old Business this month.)

The April meeting will include the Board election. We discussed the number of positions opening up on the Board, and it was really beyond our ability to finalize the count.

Jessica will continue as Treasurer, but only for a few months. In the fall she will go away to college, where she will probably fall for a young man with five pounds of stainless steel hanging from various parts of his anatomy who is studying the social implications of diversity among the lower classes of Afghanistan. So we will need a new Treasurer. This lucky person will have six months on-the-job training at the side of our current, most excellent Treasurer before going it alone.

We would also like to replace Charlie as Member-at-Large. That didn't come out right—let's try again. *We also need to replace Charlie, the current Member-at-Large, who is unable to attend most meetings due to his work schedule.* No, I was right the first time: we would like to replace Charlie.

Perhaps finally, an assistant for Mark working on Publicity is needed, as Linux and his career are occupying more and more of his time. Bill Earl was not available for comment, and we discussed whether or not he wanted to continue as Sergeant at Arms. No one wanted to risk the wrath of Bill by presuming to know his mind on this, so unless we hear differently from him, Bill will continue in this role, intimidating visitors and members alike as he strides purposefully around the meeting hall maintaining order.

If these or any other position on the Board interests you, please let one of the Board members know. You will find the responsibilities relatively light and the rewards even lighter. You will get free pizza, a delicious and nutritious salad, and one of Ruth Mildwurm's excellent homemade deserts once a month. You will also be able to hang out with the other cool Board members. And, you will get to sit in either the front row or the very back at the general meetings (real Board members never sit in the middle). Oh, and don't worry about the cost of running for election: there is a cap of \$10,000 on campaign spending.

New Business:

Membership: Peggy gave us some statistics on our membership, but I didn't write them down. I do remember that in our database the "AE" code means "electronic only": in other words, "does not get a printed newsletter". I believe "AE" stands for "ad electronus", from the Latin "to the electronic". You will have to check with Ron Ogg on that, though — I may be mistaken.

There was an extended discussion regarding the awarding of complimentary memberships to people who out of the goodness of their heart provide shelter once a month to one or the other of our SIGs. This was the most serious discussion I have participated in at a DVPC Board meeting in a long time. We even had a motion and voted. The result was not unanimous. This is unusual, as at our Board meetings (and in California in general) it is usually viewed as bad form to cling to an opinion that differs from others in your immediate vicinity.

Anyway, it was decided by a split vote that... well, it hardly matters. The important thing is that we had a motion and voted. This is significant because with elections coming up in April, it could well be the last vote the current Board takes. The third vote in eleven months, we are running just a shade above average in that category.

Internet Explorer 5 Tips by [Ron Ogg, DVPC](#)

Improving Web Page Navigation

Do you find that sometimes when you click on a link on a web page, the new page opens, then when you click the Back button it seems to take *f..o..r..e..v..e..r* to reopen the page you started from? Here's a solution for IE5 users – especially if you are going to visit several links on a page, returning to the starting page each time, like when visiting a series of search engine results.

Instead of clicking on the link, **right**-click on it and select *Open in a New Window* from the popup menu. A new browser window will open with the selected page. When you're done, you can either keep the new window open to refer to that page, or close the new window. In either case your starting page will still be in the original browser window. This technique is much faster and will make for happier browsing!

BTW, I don't have Netscape so I don't know if this tip works (or is needed) for that browser – try it and tell us!

Improving Web Image Loading

Can you see what isn't there? Well, when it comes to IE5: yes. By default, however, it isn't easy to do. Unless you're on a mega-fast connection, it'll take a while for graphically-intense web pages to fully load. But, should you have to stare at a blank page while they're downloading? No! In Control Panel open Internet Options, select the Advanced tab. In the *Multimedia* section be sure there's a checkmark in the *Show Image Download Placeholders* box. From now on, before images completely load, you'll be able to see their correctly sized placeholders in advance. (*Adapted from Locker gnome, www.lockergnome.com.*)

Volunteer Match USA by [Chris Pirillo, Locker gnome](#)

Thousands of volunteer opportunities online... Time is a luxury, and not all of us can afford to spend it on helpful projects. But if you're a bundle of energy just looking for a conduit, consider searching for the right match. I've helped bathe and care for abandoned animals, read stories to young children, and taught a few community computer classes in the past. Give of yourself and you'll take home something more valuable than a paycheck. You're human. Visit Volunteer Match USA at www.volunteermatch.org.

Mentor List Coming “Real Soon Now” by [Ron Ogg, DVPC](#)

We've had a large number of knowledgeable members sign up to be Mentors to allow DVPC members to take advantage of this storehouse of knowledge. We'll be adding a Mentor page to our web site “**Real Soon Now**” (*apologies to [Jerry Pournelle](#)*). This page will limit access to DVPC members by requiring the same monthly login ID and password sent to members for access to the current on-line edition of *Diablo Blue*. You'll be able to look up the mentors for a particular software package or hardware product, and contact them by email to pose your question. Check the DVPC web site in April – the Mentor page should be up and running by the end of the month!

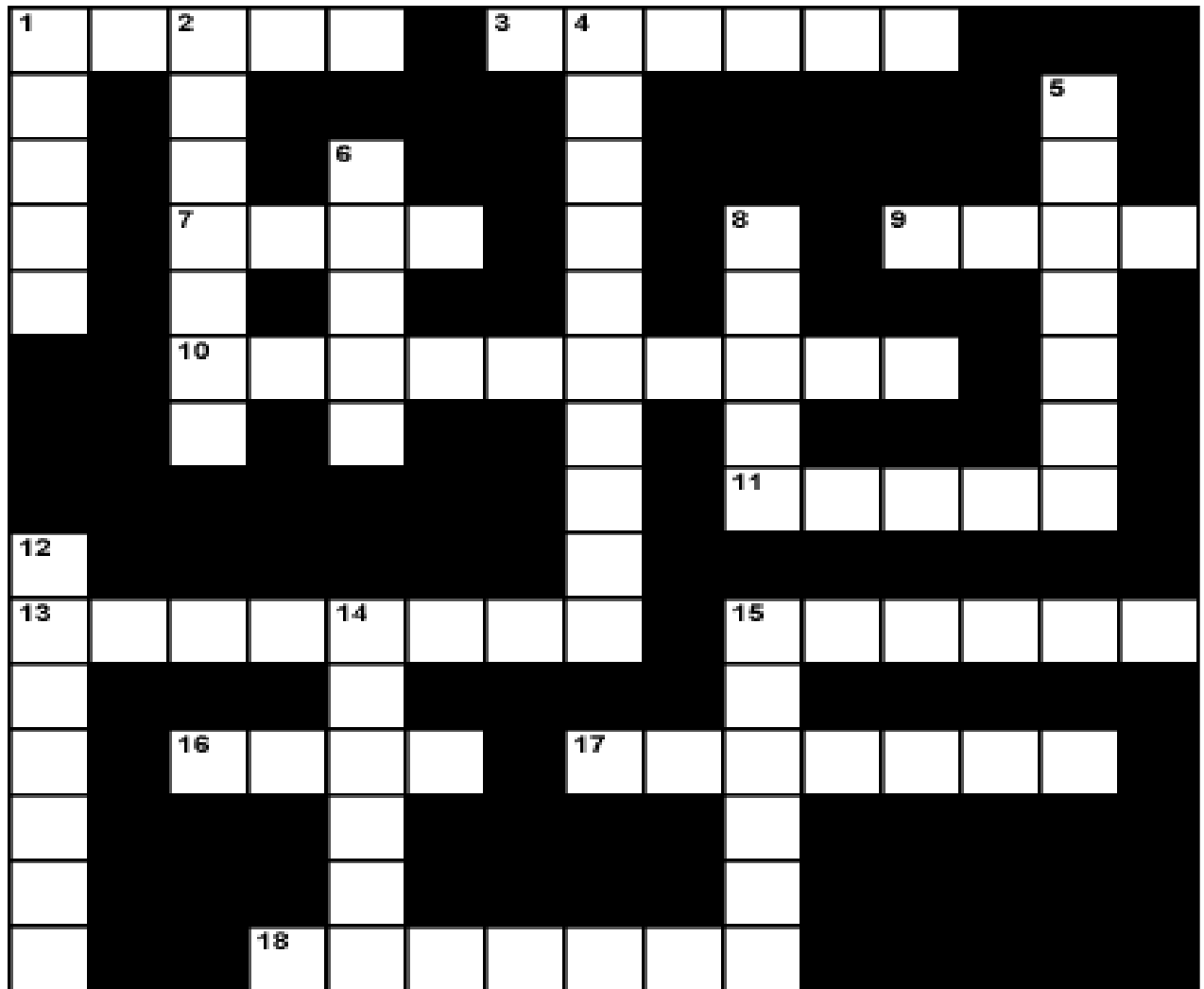
CompUSA User Group Discounts by [Dennis Grubb, DVPC](#)

On Sunday January 30th I went to the CompUSA in the Willows Shopping Center in Concord to make a purchase. They said that discounts are not currently being offered. As of January 24th CompUSA had been purchased and business and PC User Group discounts are not currently being offered.

However, it was reported at the Board of Directors meeting that there are still some CompUSA stores (Dublin) that are continuing to offer discounts to DVPC members.

So, when you're shopping at CompUSA, ask for your PC User Group discount, and let us know if it's honored.

Computer Crossword, March 2000
What We Do Together
 by *Craig Peterson, DVPC*



Across

- 1 The real reason we got the computer at work (5)
- 2 To enter (6)
- 7 To work together (4)
- 9 To attach different items together (4)
- 10 The act of using others to help one's career (10)
- 11 An agreement to meet (5)
- 13 To gather (8)
- 15 To consult together (6)
- 16 A social appointment (4)
- 17 To advise (7)
- 18 Educational meetings (7)

Down

- 1 To welcome (5)
- 2 A gathering (7)
- 4 A meeting for discussion (10)
- 5 To work together (7)
- 6 A group involved in a common task (5)
- 8 To make playful romantic overtures (5)
- 12 Questionable collaboration (7)
- 14 Possessed in common (6)
- 15 A meeting of a political group to choose a candidate (6)

About the March Crossword Puzzle by *Craig Peterson, DVPC Librarian*

This month the Board is going to show us all how to put together a network. Networks are great for helping us share data and do projects cooperatively. The crossword puzzle this month looks at things that we tend to do as a group with these machines that seem to be more and more important in every aspect of the work and play in our lives (and no, playing "kick the can" with the monitor is not a good idea, even when the computer crashes just after 6 hours of database entry). So give this month's puzzle a try. I'll have the solution at the March meeting.

Diablo Blue Article and Ad Information

Diablo Blue needs articles from the members of DVPC. See your name in print! Achieve fame and fortune! (Well, maybe just some limited fame in Contra Costa County...) We are particularly interested in product and book reviews and articles about your PC experiences.

Commercial advertising is available in Diablo Blue. Prices are \$75 for a full page, \$40 for a half page, and \$25 for a quarter page for one insertion - or get three consecutive insertions for the price of two. For more information, call editor Ronald Ogg, at 283-7900, Ext. 201 (days). Members of DVPC can submit personal classified ads that will be printed in Diablo Blue for three insertions at no charge. The rules are simple: up to 9 lines (as we typeset it), material must be suitable for publication (the editor is the sole judge of suitability), the member must be in good standing (current dues paid), and ad space is available on a first-come first-served space available basis only. If you want fewer than three insertions note that on your ad copy. If members want their business card reproduced, the rate is \$10 for one insertion, or \$25 for three insertions. The card must be horizontal and must be scannable.

Send your articles or member ad copy as email attachments to the [Newsletter Editor](#), or mail to: Editor, Diablo Blue, P. O. Box 2222, Orinda, CA 94563-2222. See the deadline information in the Calendar on page 15 of each issue of Diablo Blue.

DVPC on the Internet

DVPC has a web site on the Internet - thanks to our Web Team: Ron Ogg and Stan Umlauf. You can surf your way to our own domain and home page by starting your favorite Web browser and typing the following URL; be sure to save it in your browser's hotlist so you don't have to type it each time: <http://www.dvpc.org>

DVPC Officers and Directors

Alan Mildwurm, President/Programs 770-5770 (work) Mark Allen, Publicity 680-7746 (home)
Nicholas Chase, SIG Coordinator 680-4211 (home) Charlie Crothers, At Large 829-2237 (home)
Bill Earl, Sergeant-at-Arms 939-5874 (home) Peggy Johnson, Membership Secretary 676-7522 (home)
Tom Krauss, Secretary 689-9960 (home) Jessica Mildwurm, Treasurer 829-5858 (home)
Ron Ogg, Newsletter Editor 283-7900 Ext. 201 (work) Craig Peterson, Librarian 671-7025 (home)
Stan Umlauf, Web Site 458-5560 (home)

The Board of Directors usually meets on the Wednesday evening following the general meeting each month. Check the DVPC Calendar on page 16 of each issue of *Diablo Blue*, or the DVPC home page on the Internet (www.dvpc.org) for the meeting date, time, and location. You can reach any of the officers and directors by talking to them at the DVPC monthly meeting, or leaving a message on the DVPC voicemail System.

DVPC Voice Mail System

DVPC has a computer-based voice mail system. The phone number for the DVPC VMS is 556-1449. This communication vehicle provides members with up-to-date information about monthly and SIG meetings, potential new members with information about DVPC, and a message center for Board of Directors members and SIG Leaders.

Diablo Blue is the monthly newsletter of the Diablo Valley PC Users' Group. Editor: Ronald Ogg, Mailing: Peggy Johnson
Please submit articles and columns to the Newsletter editor by email at rogg@value.net or mail them to:

Ronald Ogg, P.O. Box 2222, Orinda, CA 94563-2222

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DVPC is a member of [UGNN](#), the User Group Network News Service



Support DVPC — Get a friend to join!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Enclose a check for \$30.00 for one year's dues with printed edition of *Diablo Blue*, or \$25.00 for one year's dues with access to the Internet edition of *Diablo Blue* (\$20.00 for students who must enclose a copy of current Student ID), made payable to **DVPC** and mail to:

DVPC User's Group, PO Box 3244, San Ramon, CA 94583

Renewal _____ New Member _____ Referred by current member? Name _____

Name: _____

Company/School: _____ Email address: _____

Address: _____

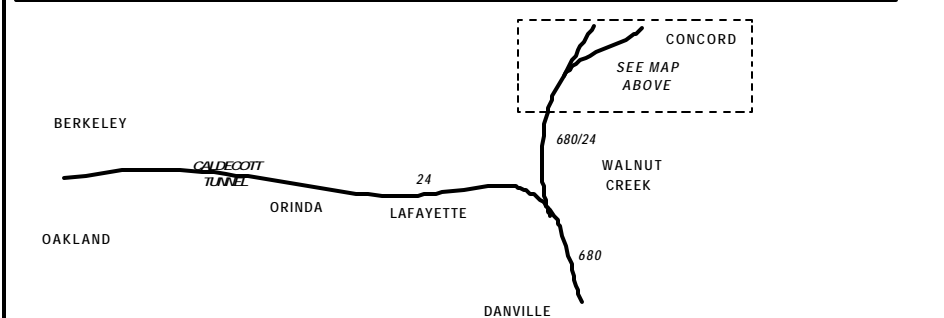
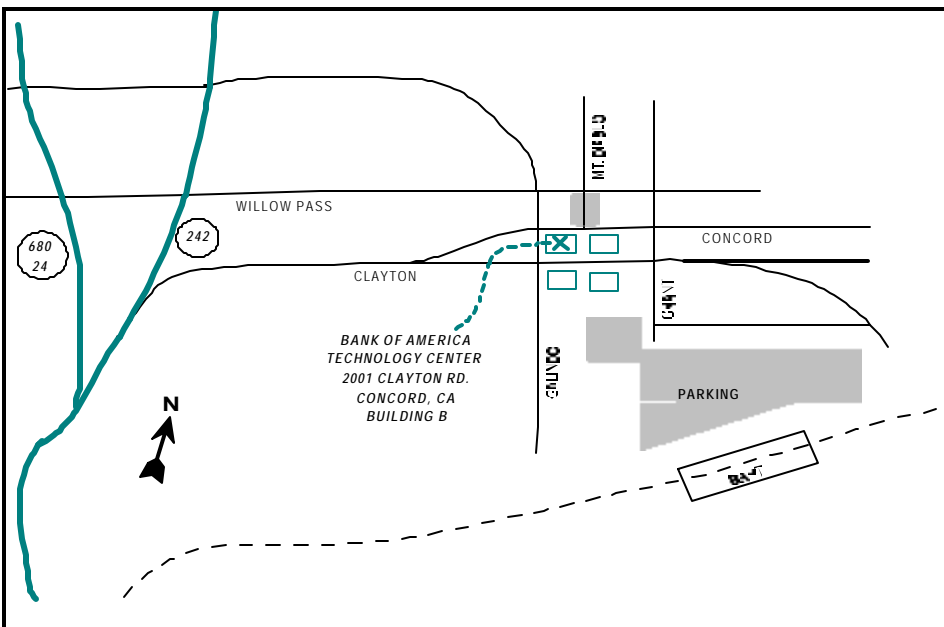
City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

On occasion DVPC publishes a list of members **for distribution to DVPC members only**. Please check how you would like to be listed: **No listing** _____ **List Name and Home** _____ **Work** _____ **phone number(s)** _____

I'm also interested in these SIGs: _____



Directions to Bank of America Building B in Concord

Take the Clayton Road exit off of the 242 Freeway, and go east on Clayton Road.

After about 1½ miles you'll come to Galindo, and you'll see the Bank of America complex of four high-rise office buildings.

Building B is the first building on your left, at the northeast corner of Clayton and Galindo.

Parking: Turn right on Grant Street (the first block past Galindo), then right into the BART parking lot at the back of the BofA complex. Or turn left on Galindo then right onto Concord Avenue to find street parking.

Be sure to observe parking regulations! Concord parking officers are very efficient!

DVPC March 2000 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<p>See SIG News starting on page 4 for more information about SIG meeting dates, times, topics, and locations</p>		1	<p>2 DVPC Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. PC 101 Class 6:15 p.m. New Users SIG 6:30 p.m.</p>	3
6	7	<p>8 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Alan Mildwurm's house</p>	9	<p>10 Real Estate SIG <i>No meeting this month; see the web site</i></p>
13	14	<p>15 Internet SIG 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>16 Advanced Users SIG 7:30 p.m.</p>	17
20	<p>21 Photo SIG 7:00 p.m. <i>New Meeting Night</i></p>	22	<p>23 Linux SIG <i>New SIG</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>New Meeting Night</i></p>	24
<p>27 Genealogy SIG <i>New SIG</i> 7:00 p.m.</p>	28	<p>29 Education & Entertainment SIG 7:30 p.m. Clarion SIG 7:30 p.m.</p>	30	31

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Diablo Valley PC User's Group
PO Box 3244
San Ramon, CA 94583