

Diablo Blue

May, 2000



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

May 4, 2000 Meeting Announcement

Pacific Bell DSL

It seems that "broadband Internet access" is being discussed or advertised everywhere we turn these days. And some of our members have jumped on this bandwagon and are using either a Cable Modem or DSL. Well, for the rest of us we'll have the opportunity to hear about the DSL side of the broadband story at our May 4th meeting! Pacific Bell will present the entire story about DSL: what it is, how it works, how it's hooked up, what the options are, where you can (and can't) get it, how to find out if **you** can get it, and how much it costs. If you're interested in We're also going to have a special presentation on how to clean your PC. You know, that (probably) off-white box on or under your desk, with a monitor and a keyboard and a mouse hooked up to it. This will be all about *cleaning* it – the inside and outside.

DVPC meetings are held in the lobby conference room in Building B at the Bank of America Technology Center office complex in Concord, located near the northeast corner of Clayton Road at Galindo (see the Map to Monthly Meetings). Please use the main entrance of the building, which is in the center of the front of the building that faces Clayton road. This month's meeting is back in Building B, our normal meeting location.

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 we'll be using the text titled "Teach Yourself Computers and the Internet Visually". Members

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President's Corner

by Alan Mildwurm

There's no President's Corner column this month. It will return in the June issue of *Diablo Blue*.

Web Site Moves!

by Ron Ogg, DVPC

The DVPC web site, www.dvpc.org, was originally hosted at cc:Net and then at [Verio](#) since we started the site in 1995. Verio is finally shutting down the (very old and very slow) server where our site has been hosted. Unfortunately, they are also changing their policies for free web hosting, and those new policies won't work for the DVPC web site.

1. They are limiting free sites to a maximum of 5 MB of disk space. Our site is at about 42 MB now, and grows each month because of the size of our on-line newsletter and the newsletter pdf file.
2. They are eliminating the ability to password pro-

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

MultiRead Spec Brings DVD Rewriteables Closer to Reality

Recent action by the Optical Storage Technology Association (OSTA) to extend the capabilities of its "MultiRead" optical drive specification will make rewriteable DVD drives more practical. Lack of compatibility between drives from different makers has hampered growth of the technology to date.

All CD- and DVD drives that conform to the new MultiRead2 specification will read 2.6GB DVD-RAM ReWriteable media. Panasonic, a pioneer in DVD-RAM, projects that industry-wide DVD-RAM drive sales will reach 1.5 million units by the end of 2000.

"To protect consumers from compatibility issues and eliminate confusion, OSTA has developed a single standard that ensures media interchangeability of recorded media," explained Dr. Paul Liao, chief technology officer of Matsushita Electric Corporation of America" (Panasonic is MECA's principal brand.) "After completing all necessary testing, OSTA issued MultiRead 2, which validates DVD-RAM. This specification paves the way for DVD-RAM to reach the tremendous potential the DVD Forum envisioned for it."

That means lower prices, and not just for revwriteable DVD drives. CD-RW drives probably will drop, too.

I wouldn't be surprised to see CD-RW drives going for about \$150 in time for Christmas, if Panasonic's projections prove to be accurate.

DVD-RAM is the industry's first ReWriteable DVD format, and it provides a number of significant advantages over other removable, ReWriteable storage options. These include:

- √ A DVD-RAM disc provides a read/write capacity of 5.2GB (about 8 times that of CD-R/RW) on two sides (2.6GB single-side media).
- √ DVD-RAM media offers extremely inexpensive storage less than \$.01 per MB.
- √ Rapid data transfer 1.385MB/second for DVD-RAM, 2.77 MB/second for DVD-ROM and 20X CD-ROM read speed
- √ High-speed access 120ms or better for DVD-RAM; 85ms or better for DVD-ROM and CD-ROM
- √ Unprecedented media interchangeability DVD-RAM drives can read discs currently accepted by CD-ROM, CD Audio, CD-R, CD-RW and video CD drives, as well as DVD-ROM, DVD videos and DVD-R drives
- √ More than 100,000 write/overwrite cycles
- √ A technically-proven growth path next-generation media will provide a single-side capacity of 4.7GB; ultimately, higher capacities will be available

Panasonic began shipping its DVD-RAM drive in April 1998, and was the first company to deliver a DVD-RAM drive fully compliant with the DVD Forum specification. In January, Panasonic announced plans to market its first DVD-RAM-based video recorder, which will offer consumers "exceptional picture quality, multi-disc playback, digital recording and random access when connected to home theater components" the company claims. - *A TidByte from Ken's Korner*

Genealogy SIG Becomes an eSIG by [Peggy Johnson](#), DVPC

Starting May, 2000 the DVPC Genealogy SIG will become DVPC's first "**eSIG**". In other words, it will be like the various genealogy sites on the web with "list groups." If a SIG member finds a useful site, database or software, we will pass that information on to the other members of the SIG. Also, if one of us has questions or would like assistance or fresh ideas, we can broadcast our request to the other members.

If you want to be included, please send your email address to Peggy Johnson at pegszone@aol.com.

Enfish Onespace Product Announcement by [French Prescott](#), Enfish

Enfish Technology is ready to release its newest product in May and I think this will be of interest to the members of DVPC. The product is free to download from the Internet for Windows 95/98/2000/NT 4 users.

Enfish Onespace is a personal desktop service that integrates information from the Internet with data in your own files (e-mail, document files, and other application files) — so users can have one convenient place to work with everything. Now you can click on a contact in your address book and instantly see all the information from the web and your own hard drives that are related. Pick a topic and Onespace brings up your bookmarked web pages and your related files. No more searching through bookmarks, mysterious file names, and e-mail folders. Create your own special searches to track information relative to your current project. Open your Enfish page and everything is always up-to-date.

The Onespace desktop application is free to download (5.5 MB). ZDnet Launchpad is hosting Enfish Onespace beginning May 9 at www.zdnet.com/downloads/lpad/lpad.html. Direct downloading from the Enfish web site is available starting May 11 at www.enfish.com.

With Onespace, Enfish Technology brings users the first product capable of delivering a comprehensive array of personalized information — from both the Internet and the desktop — right to your fingertips. For more information, please visit www.enfish.com.

Enfish's previous flagship product, Tracker Pro, was demonstrated at DVPC and reviewed in *Diablo Blue*.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Text to MP3 Program from [Locker gnome](#)

TextAloud MP3 v2.0 [3.8M] W9x US\$15, unearthed by TJ Lee

Your computer can talk the talk, but can it translate the walk? Most contemporary sound cards can turn on-screen text into "speech," but how easily can it be turned into a popular audio format? Finally, you can listen to your e-mails on your way to work (providing you have a portable MP3 player). Put auto-translated documents and speeches onto CDs without half the hassle. You heard it here first; are you listening?

You can download TextAloud at www.webaloud.com/files/TxtAl020.exe.

The developer's web site is at www.nextuptech.com/TextAloud/.

This is a great product that proves that MP3 isn't just for music (pirated or other wise!) but for converting text files as well — give it a look.

DVPC Meeting Announcement...

(Continued from page 1)

who would like to order the book for home study can contact Craig Peterson (compmail@pacbell.net) for information. 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

Starting May, 2000 the DVPC Genealogy SIG will be an "eSIG". In other words, it will be like the various genealogy sites on the web with "list groups." If one of us finds a useful site, database or software, we will pass that information on to the other members of the SIG. Also, if one of us has questions or would like assistance or fresh ideas, we can broadcast our request to the other members.

If you want to be included, please send your email address to Peggy Johnson at pegszone@aol.com. I will provide each member with an updated list of members' email addresses. In your sign-up email, state the surnames, locations and time periods you are searching. This information will also be sent to all in the group, and each of us can then keep an eye out each other.

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SIG NEWS...

(Continued from page 4)

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 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 671-7025.

The SIG would like to recommend the following sites:

For Mother's Day: www.holidays.net/mother/. For May day: web.ukonline.co.uk/stephen.clarke/mayday.html. And for fun: howstuffworks.com.

Please note that these sites are for Adults only: www.joecartoon.com (note: lots of graphics, slow to load), www.gigglestick.com, www.kingofalljokes.com.

And as a bonus this month, The ten commandments of Email:

1. Thou shalt include a clear and specific subject line
2. Thou shalt edit any quoted text down to the minimum needed
3. Thou shalt read thy message three times before it is sent
4. Thou shalt consider how the person receiving the message will react
5. Thou shalt check both spelling and grammar
6. Thou shalt never curse, flame, spam, or USE ALL CAPS
7. Thou shalt never forward a chain letter
8. Thou shalt use email for illegal or unethical purposes
9. Thou shalt regard email as private (especially at work)
10. Thou shalt keep the message overnight and read it again if there is ever any doubt

And The "Golden Rule" of Email:

"Whatever you find to be hurtful or hateful to receive, do not send or forward".

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 has a new meeting night, the fourth **Thursday** of each month in the Fireside Room of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Concord at 7:00 p.m. The April meeting will be on the 27th. 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

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SIG NEWS...

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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

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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: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

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: 4/5/2000 **Time:** 7:00 pm **Location:** Alan Mildwurm's house

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

Old Business:

Elections: In keeping with established precedent, the previous year's Board members were all re-elected by acclamation at the April meeting. Also in keeping with established precedent, no other members expressed interest in running. The dynasty continues... [By the way, even though the election was done by acclamation, there have been some questions raised about how Tom Krauss had more than twice the number of votes than any other candidate. There will be an investigation! Ed.]

New Business:

Web site: Ron is beginning the process of moving our web site from [Verio](#) to [Value Net](#). Or should that be [Clear-Data.net](#)? The day of the Board meeting I received a snail-mail posting from ClearData.net announcing that on February 24 they had purchased Value Net: its "internet business and all assets". Now before you start making wisecracks about the post office and how it took 48 days for the letter to get to me, that was the date of the

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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"/>

Attn: DVPC Members!
Value Net is your best value for
ADSL (for home or office)!

Value Net
doesn't charge **Value Net**
extra for ADSL!

ADSL is a remarkable new technology that allows fulltime high speed connection to the Internet, and Value Net isn't even charging you for it! For home (single station)ADSL, you only pay our regular low monthly rate (see below), and Pacbell charges only \$39/month for the DSL line. For this low flat rate, you are always on, at speeds that put dial-up to shame!

Special plan for DVPC members:
PPP Dial-up \$15/mo (when paid quarterly)
with ADSL, only \$54/month total!

Value Net Internetwork Services
2855 Mitchell Dr., Ste 105
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Phone: (925) 943-5769

On the Web: www.value.net

E-Mail: info@value.net

Available Services include:

- ADSL
- Frame Relay
- ISDN Lan-to-Internet
- Web Hosting
- Centrex ISDN
- Custom Business Solutions

Get a Friend to Join DVPC!

Removing Find Fast from the Microsoft TechNet Web Site

We keep getting requests from members who want to remove or turn off *Find Fast*. Here's an excerpt from an article from the Microsoft TechNet web site that tells how to accomplish this task. The article is based on Office 97, but works with the version of Find Fast that comes with Office 2000 (if you have Office 2000 just substitute that name wherever you see "Office 97" in the article).

Find Fast Overview

The **Find Fast Indexer** is installed on your computer when you install Microsoft Office 97. Find Fast builds an index to speed up finding documents from the Open dialog box in Microsoft Office programs. When you install Microsoft Office 97, a shortcut called Microsoft Find Fast is automatically added to the StartUp group. This allows Find Fast to run whenever you start the computer. After Find Fast is started, it automatically builds indexes and updates them in the background.

If you attempt to disable the Find Fast control panel by simply removing the Microsoft Find Fast shortcut from the StartUp group, the following problems may occur:

- √ The index files are not removed from the hard disk. The size of these index files depends on the number and size of Microsoft Office documents you store on your computer.
- √ Microsoft Office programs continue to use the existing index files whenever you click Open on the File menu. When you disable Find Fast by removing its shortcut, the index files are not updated as you create or modify documents. This may prevent you from finding files you want to open, or cause unnecessary delays when you open files.

Disabling the Find Fast Indexer

The correct way to disable Find Fast requires that you delete the Find Fast index files. To do this, use the following steps:

1. On the Start menu, point to Settings, and then click Control Panel.
2. In the Control Panel window, double-click Find Fast.
3. In the "Index for documents in and below" list, click the first item.
4. On the Index menu, click Delete Index. In the Delete Index dialog box, click OK. When you are prompted whether to delete the index, Click OK.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until no more indices are listed.

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Microsoft Bug Site by [Ron Ogg](#), DVPC



Here's an interesting site — a Microsoft site that actually lists bugs and bug fixes for Microsoft's development tools (Visual Basic, FoxPro, etc.) and some application server products (Internet Information Server, SQL Server, etc.). If you're a developer who uses Microsoft products, this site is a great resource when you are trying to research a development problem!

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SIG News...

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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 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 continue to meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 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. Our next meeting will be April 18. 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 hope to have the Epson Printer Representative Dave Chew, but he hasn't confirmed as of the date of this article. If Dave can't make it we will have open discussion regarding Digital Photography, Adobe Photo Shop, and related subjects. 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.

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.

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

DVPC Board Meeting Minutes...

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purchase. The letter informing me of this was dated March 28 and took a mere fifteen days to get here. I am looking forward to great things from ClearData.net.

Oakland Computer Shows: Craig informed us that the next two shows are the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter, and Mothers' Day. We spent the next ten minutes telling each other that we each felt these shows would draw few if any visitors, and therefore we should skip them. Attendance has been way down at the last few shows anyway. Craig graciously volunteered to try the next show after Mothers' Day before packing up his banner for good.

Some how during this discussion the conversation turned to stolen goods and crime in general. I was surprised to learn from Nick "The Music Man" Chase that the Mafia is "totally legit" these days. I suspect a lot of people in law enforcement would also be surprised to learn this. The conversation drifted to which block of cement in what stadium contains Jimmy Hoffa, and again Nick was surprisingly well informed, explaining how Hoffa was killed and disassembled for ease of transport. I didn't think "Chase" was a particularly Italian-sounding name, but from now on I am going to be even nicer to Nick. I would hate to wake up and find the picture tube from an iMac in my bed.

Meeting Content: Again Craig touched off a long discussion when he passed on comments from several members that recent meetings haven't had any presentations that interested them. There is a perfectly logic reason for this: How can we have speakers that interest you if you don't tell what or who does interest you? I doubt if we have had more than five suggestions from members in the seven or eight years I have been coming to meetings in spite of rather frequently asking for input.

But there is substance to their complaint. Alan struggles long and hard to convince vendors to leave their office after a long hard day, come to Concord to spend an evening with us, and by the way, "give us some of your product for free". Fortunately Alan is a trained lawyer and is very skilled at convincing people to do things they really don't want to do and then pay him for the privilege. But it is getting harder to find vendors willing to come to user group meetings. And that makes it even more difficult to provide the variety that our members, as true diversity-loving Californians, demand.

I confess there are nights that I have no interest whatsoever in attending. But one thing I have learned is that no matter who the vendor or what the product, I usually learn *something* of value or interest. For example, at the last meeting I was eager to attend. I had won a copy of Windows 2000 Professional in an internet contest (yes, people really do win) and wanted to learn more about it before installing it. And I *did* learn one useful thing (but not much more): Microsoft does not recommend that product for the home user like me.

Anyway, we talked about this "problem" for some time. None of us had any solution to how to have vendors at every meeting that will interest every member. And we basically felt that we are getting a reasonable variety, and will continue to monitor this closely. But a new idea surfaced, too. We never did nail it down exactly, but we are going to start having a relatively short (5-20 minutes) presentation at the meetings by Board members and anyone else who wants to join in. These presentations will focus on issues like how to maintain your computer, both externally and internally, how to use some of the options that are not well advertised, like adding shortcuts to the status bar; and basics about some of the built-in software like Paint, Outlook, etc. Should be interesting!

This last topic led to a discussion of "the most I every spent for the least hardware". I thought my \$800 for a 1 GB "scuzzy" hard drive might win, but Ron beat me handily with \$1,799 for 16 KB add-on memory for a computer he owned at the dawn of the Computer Age.

Stan then shared something he learned while doing a bee job: Mix 3 ounces Joy dish detergent with 2½ gallons of water when washing windows and the water will cling to the windows much better and your squeegee will stay soft and firm. Stan's is.

After a brief discussion of fun with explosives (Nick "The Music Man" Chasiopini told of blowing up an old lady with firecrackers: he's dangerous, I tell you!) we closed the meeting with a round of Fry's horror stories and an inspection of the Mildwurm's new refrigerator.

Removing Find Fast...

(Continued from page 9)

6. On the Index menu, click *Close And Stop*. Then, click *OK* to stop Find Fast.
7. Then, do either of the following:
 - √ Remove the Microsoft Find Fast shortcut from the StartUp folder (typically in the Windows folder in the Start Menu\Programs folder).

-or-

- √ Run the Microsoft Office 97 Setup program in maintenance mode, and remove Find Fast.

Re-enabling the Find Fast Indexer

To re-enable Find Fast, do either of the following:

- √ Add the shortcut for Microsoft Find Fast back into the StartUp folder. The default command line for the shortcut is the following: C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office\FINDFAST.EXE

-or-

- √ Run the Microsoft Office 97 Setup program, and reinstall Find Fast.
-

Web Site Moves...

(Continued from page 1)

tect folders. This means we would not have a way to limit access to the current month's issue to paid-up DVPC members.

Because we can't maintain our site under these conditions, we were faced with the possibility of having to pay a monthly hosting charge of about \$25.00 with Verio or moving our web site somewhere else. We've been treated very well by cc:Net/Verio all of these years, so there are mixed emotions about a move. But because we don't want to have to pay \$300.00 per year for web hosting, we decided the move was inevitable. And it has to be done soon: Verio began shutting down the web sites on the old server on April 21, and we will have to have our site relocated by May 21.

Value Net, one of our long-term advertisers and a great supporter of *DVPC* and *Windows Night*, has come to our rescue. They will host our site for free, will not impose a maximum disk space limit, and will support password protection.

We are working with Bruce Campbell and his technical staff to make sure that the move is accomplished without any extensive disruption. The site has been copied to the Value Net server, and changing the DNS (Domain Name Server) entries that are the pointers that tell exactly what IP address the dvpc.org URL can be found.

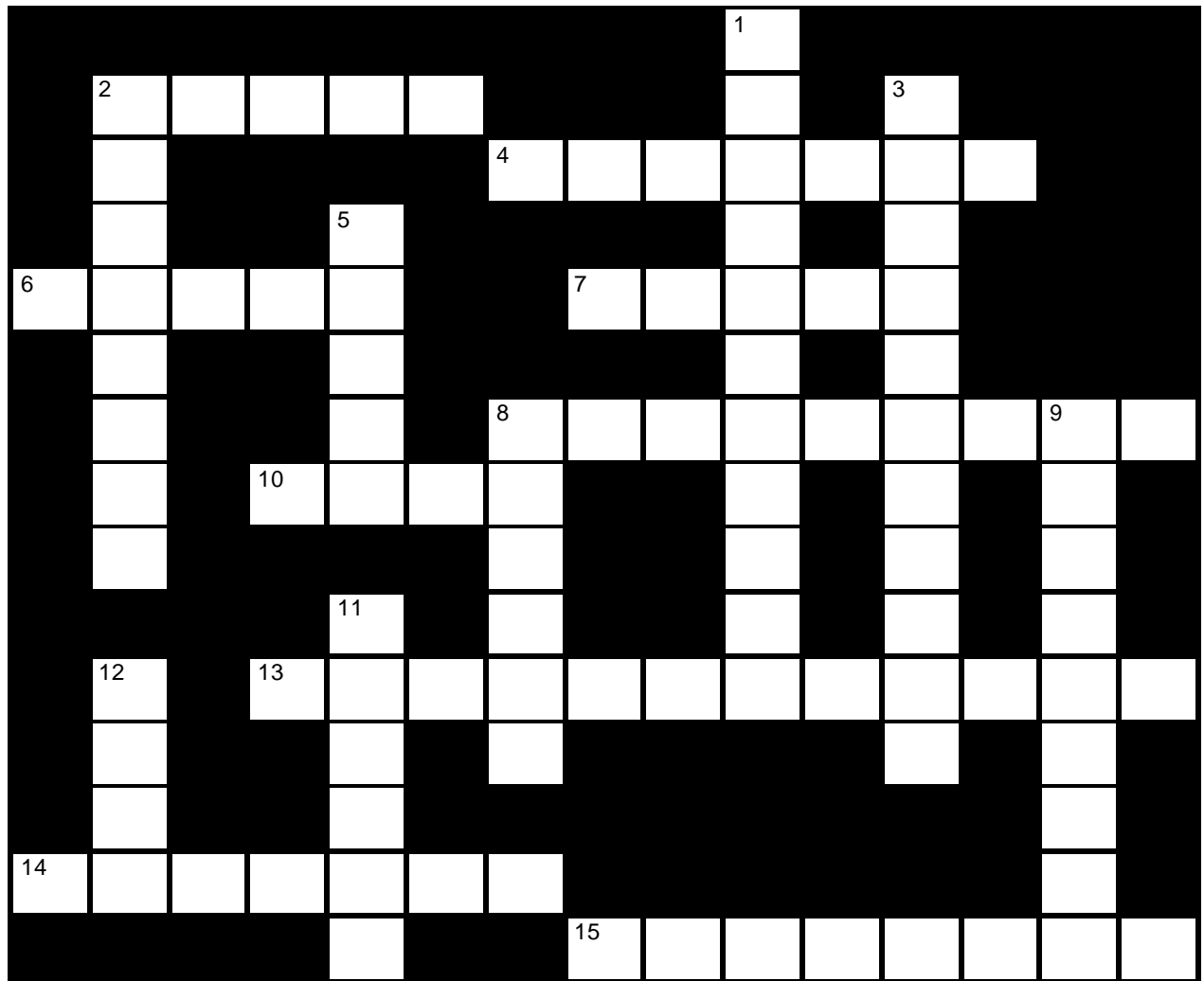
There may be a day or two where you can't get to our web site, but our site should be moved by early May.

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. Because of a hardware problem, the Mentor page has been delayed. Check the *DVPC* web site in May — the Mentor page should be up and running by the end of the month!

Computer Crossword, May 2000
The "M" Word

by [Craig Peterson](#), DVPC



Across

- 2 1/1,000,000 (5)
- 4 Video display (7)
- 6 A mini program used as a shortcut by the user (5)
- 7 To check for identity between two or more items (5)
- 8 A large, expensive computer generally used for information processing by large corporations (9)
- 10 List of options within a program (4)
- 13 A deviation from correctness in data caused by equipment failure (2 words) (12)
- 14 A transformation from one set to another set (7)
- 15 1,000 kb (8)

Down

- 1 Task done to eliminate faults or to keep hardware or software working properly (11)
- 2 1,000,000 floating-point operations per second (8)
- 3 What your sound card should give a present to on May 14, 2000 (11)
- 5 Device to move the cursor
- 8 Person attributed to having written the laws used most often in computer science (6)
- 9 Makers of MBASIC (9)
- 11 An orderly array of symbols by rows and columns (6)
- 12 1,048,576 (4)

About the May Crossword Puzzle by [Craig Peterson](#), DVPC Librarian

This month the crossword puzzle is all about the letter "M", in honor of **May** Day, Cinco de **Mayo**, **Mother's** Day, and **More**. Have fun.

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](#). 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)
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 925-556-1449. 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
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DVPC is a member of [APCUG](#), the Association of PC Users Groups

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: _____

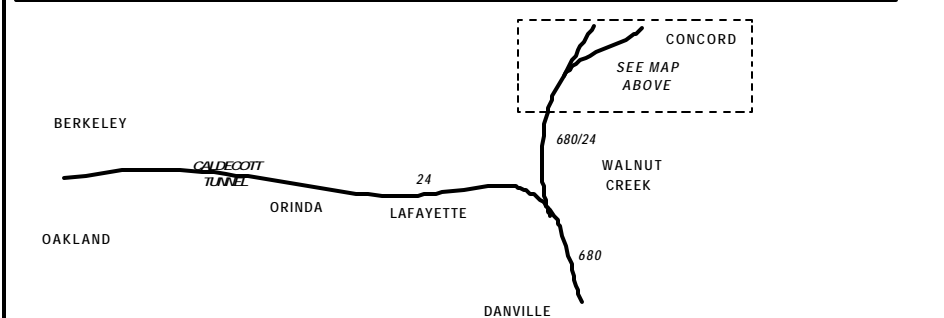
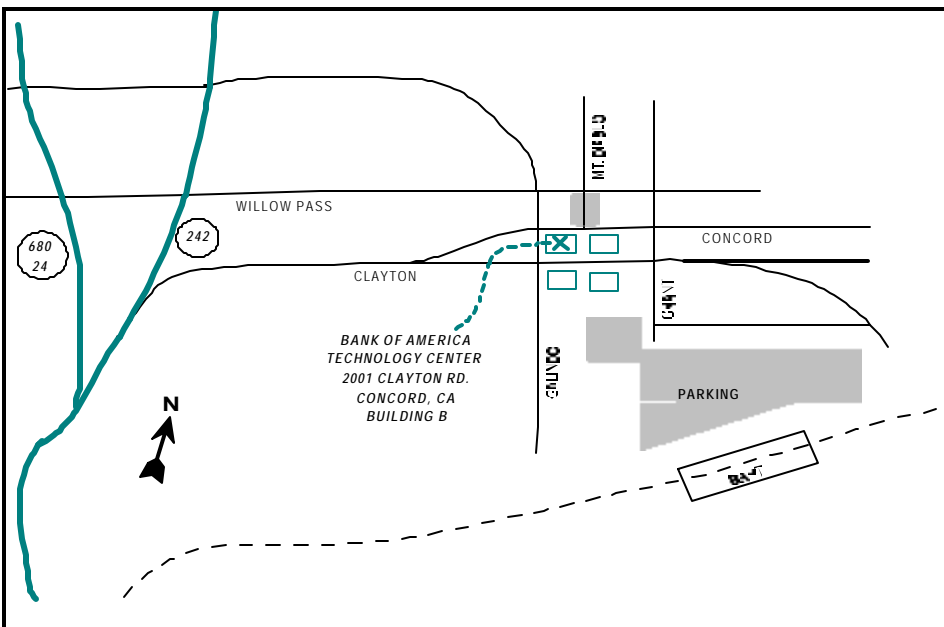
City/State/Zip: _____

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 May 2000 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1 Windows SIG 7:30 p.m.	2	3	4 DVPC Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. PC 101 Class 6:15 p.m. New Users SIG 6:30 p.m.	5
8	9	10 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Alan Mildwurm's house	11	12 Real Estate SIG <i>No meeting this month; see the web site</i>
15 Microsoft Project SIG 7:30 p.m. Genealogy eSIG <i>See Announcement on page 2</i>	16 Photo SIG 7:00 p.m.	17 Internet SIG 7:00 p.m.	18 Advanced Users SIG 7:30 p.m.	19 <i>Diablo Blue deadline</i> Email articles and ads to the Newsletter Editor: rogg@value.net
22	23 Access/Visual Basic SIG 7:30 p.m.	24 Education & Entertainment SIG 7:30 p.m. Clarion SIG 7:30 p.m.	25 Linux SIG 7:00 p.m.	26
29	30	31	<i>See SIG News starting on page 4 for more information about SIG meeting dates, times, topics, and locations</i>	

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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