



December 6, 2001 Meeting Announcement Comdex

The December 6th DVPC meeting will feature DVPC President and Program Chairperson Alan Mildwurm. Alan will tell us all about this year's Comdex trade show that was held the week of November 12. You can read some of Alan's comments made during the show in his *President's Corner* column below. We'll hear all about the show; the new products demonstrated for the first time at the show; the Keynote Addresses by industry luminaries Bill Gates of Microsoft, John Chambers of Cisco, Larry Ellison of Oracle, and more; see some of the neat toys that Alan has brought back to show us; and hear about the non-stop partying every evening.

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 on page 15). Please use the entrance that's on the east side near the southeast corner of the building. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

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.

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 will have one of our pre-meeting games, with a great prize for the winner! Also, as usual, we'll have library disks and those great DVPC mugs (version 2) for sale, SIG news, and some of our usual great door prizes.

See you at the December meeting!

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President's Corner

by [Alan Mildwurm](#), DVPC

I am writing this message from the Press Room at Comdex on Sunday morning.

The Comdex show-and-tell officially starts tomorrow. Already I have seen many changes from past years. For example, everything will be held in the Convention Center as opposed to having several venues. (In fairness, the Convention Center has been enlarged this year.) Except for Media, no one can bring a carry bag onto the floor and ID checks and searches will be the norm.

The expectation is that this year will be bigger and better — we'll see! I remember last year how large areas of the main floor were empty. The real measure will be the parties.

In preparation for the fun, I bought a memory module for my Handspring. This unit plugs into the Springport and takes a Smart Media card (Compact Flash modules are also available). The unit comes with several programs including a backup program — which as it turns out I

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President's Corner...

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needed — my modem did something goofy when its batteries died and I had to do a complete restore. I can also move software onto the card as well. Check out www.memplug.com.

Another Installment from the Front, Sent on Wednesday!

Comdex is certainly different this year. The Sands Convention Center is empty. Bomb sniffing dogs greet you as you enter the Convention Center. Only 150,000 people bothered to come. Parties are down, splashy booths are less prevalent. Booth Babes look just as bored. On the plus side, parking is easier, food is good (and plentiful — I'll diet next week), people are friendly, and the weather is perfect.

I haven't seen many blow-away new toys. Mainly refinements, mostly in the area of convergence — like PDAs+cellphones+2way pagers. Some truly interesting (curious) devices — like a massager that fits in a Visor Handspring port. Flat screens are everywhere, wireless is in — even Bluetooth is showing shipping devices — I want an IPAQ! See you at the December meeting, with lots more to tell and some neat stuff to show!

Start Here

by [Steve Bass](#), Pasadena IBM Users Group

I was sitting on the back deck, a Sierra Nevada Pale Ale in hand, and leafing through Microsoft's Windows XP Reviewer's Guide.

I was describing to my wife how XP made better use of the Start button than Win 98, when she casually said she hated it. "I never use the thing," she went on, not realizing I was under a moral obligation to make sure she was using the Start Button correctly. "I can get to all the programs I regularly use," she continued, "by clicking an icon on my desktop." Oy vey, I thought, the 293 icons-on-the-desktop syndrome. I had my work cut out for me. (Needless to say, she's never seen my collection of 70 Desktop icons, but that's another story altogether.)

"I'm a computing professional," I said empathically, hoping she wouldn't challenge me, "so tell me all about it."

"Besides," she was on a roll and there was no stopping her, "when I open the menu and click Programs, another menu slides out, then another, and half of them aren't even programs I have anymore. To get to the program I want takes, I dunno, 20 minutes."

Was that in real or computer time, I wondered, grabbing my beer, trying to decide if I should start the barbecue or plunge deeper into the abyss.

"The Start Menu," I said, easing back into the conversation, "is fully customizable. Give me ten minutes and I can show you how to make it look, feel, and act just the way you want it to."

Step into my wife's office and I'll show you what I did to her PC. I'm basing my tips on Windows 98 so while some will work in Win95 (and certainly in Win ME), you'll need to do some fiddling on your own.

STARTing to Understand

The first thing to be aware of is that the Start Menu is built upon directories (folders, if you're new to this sport) and shortcuts. If you'd like to make a sub-menu, just add a new folder. Don't forget, a shortcut simply points to the program and can be safely renamed, moved, or even deleted.

You might also think of your old program groups (hello? Win 3.1?) as the folders on the Programs menu.

The Structure of Start

When you click on the Start Button and the menu pops open, you'll see three sections. Depending on your PC, the lowermost part has Shut Down and Log Off. The middle section includes Run, Help, Find, Programs, and other entries.

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Start Here...

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Folder Fodder

The top section is the most troublesome and may have tons of stuff.

What happens when you install a new application is that the program, in collusion with Windows, adds a folder either to the top portion, the Programs area (again, just a folder), or worse, both spots. In my case, at least before I made the Start Menu my own, I had 12 entries (and few that I used often) because of the proprietary way these arbitrary, capricious, and dumb programs install themselves.

Making the Change

To reorganize items on the Start menu, just keep in mind they're all menus or shortcuts, and all your moves can be unmoved.

If you're a novice and want to experiment, try this: Close all your applications so you're at the Desktop. Open the Start Menu and slide any item from the upper portion onto the Desktop. Don't like it there? Two remedies to try: Right mouse click on the Desktop and select and click Undo Move. Or just slide the entry back onto the Start Menu by dragging it to the Start Button, waiting for the menu to appear, and dropping it where you want to see it. Cool (and easy), eh?

Now open Start, Select programs, wait for the menu to pop out to the side, and try the same thing. Move, delete, and rename items by dragging and dropping, or using the right mouse button to copy and paste.

Win Explorer Meets Start

If you want to be a power user (or pretend to be one), open Windows Explorer and head for \Windows\Start Menu. Both of those files are shortcuts and correspond to the upper portion of your Start Menu. Try this: Rename any item (press F2, a shortcut). Then open the Start Menu. The change is effective immediately.

Now click on the Programs folder and take a few minutes examining the contents. Each folder matches what's in your Start Menu, right? Begin rearranging items in a logical way. For example, I created a folder named "tools" and moved every system tool, utility, and applet into it. Another folder? Multimedia for all of my music programs. Ditto for security, photos, and games.

Now move programs you use often to the upper portion of the start menu.

Here's a trick: I take frequently used programs, ones I use daily — PowerDesk, Eudora, IE, Word's Open Doc, Snagit (a screen capture tool) — and stick a shortcut for each one in the Quick Launch part of my taskbar. Do it by right clicking on an empty area on your taskbar, click Toolbars, and make sure that Quick Launch is selected.

Then from Win Explorer or PowerDesk (or even your Desktop), drag a program onto the Quick Launch bar. It will add a shortcut (that's done automatically) and you can slide it along the Quick Launch area to suit your needs.

A Clean Start

As you poke around the Start Menu, my guess is you'll find more than a few dead links, programs that you've uninstalled but are still in the Start menu. Instead of hassling with it, use Start Menu Cleaner, a freeware utility which cleans the start menu by removing unneeded shortcuts and folders. It's available at www.mithril.d.se.

If you want to fiddle with other settings on your PC besides the Start Menu, say, changing

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Moving? Changing Your E-mail Address?

Tell us so you will continue receiving Diablo Blue!

E-mail your name and new information to changes@dvpc.org

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

Be sure to see the DVPC Calendar on [page 16](#) for the date and time of each SIG meeting, and any changes in meeting location or schedule.

Advanced Developers SIG [Ron Ogg](#), SIG Leader – 415-281-0431

The Advanced Developers SIG is a learning co-op. Every month we choose a topic and let people know where they can learn about it. We then get together and go over the information. We hope that if everyone learns a little on their own, and when we get together everyone can learn a lot. If you are an advanced developer you are invited to join the ADSIG. Beginners will want to get some serious development experience before joining the SIG. See the ADSIG page on the DVPC web site at www.dvpc.org/clarion.html for meeting location, dates, and time.

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!

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

The DVPC Genealogy SIG is a group of computer genealogists who share helpful websites, databases and source information found on the internet. It's an opportunity for members seeking help to put forth a question or problem to the SIG and receive suggestions and advice. When you locate a useful website, database or visit a research facility, please email the group of the details so we also can take advantage of this information. If you wish to be included in this Genealogy SIG, please email Peggy Johnson, pegszone@aol.com.

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

The Education & Entertainment SIG usually 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. Come back in the fall when everyone is invited to attend our meetings, and bring your kids along - they'll have a great time, too! Directions for our next meetings: 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, contact Craig Peterson by email at compmail@pacbell.net or phone at 671-7025.

Please join us this month for what is expected to be the best meeting of the entire year. Yes, we will be talking about what is new with the web, helping each other to solve those "little problems" that come up from time to time, as well as helping each other figure out what is meant when we see "BTW - IIRC it was Sunday at 11" in an e-mail message from a friend. It is also the **END OF THE YEAR PARTY!!!** (Please e-mail me with what you are going to bring (yes, I still like egg nog and cookies)). Hope to see you all on **December 19th**.

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SIG NEWS...

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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.

PC 101 SIG [Craig Peterson](#), SIG Leader – 671-7025

PC 101 (a class on how to use the computer) will be holding its next class on the Saturday following the general meeting in the community room of the Concord Police station, 1350 Galindo Street. The classes will start at 1:00 pm and end at 3:00. Join us for some hands on, one on one, help at the nuts and bolts of using computers. Those in the class enjoy the extra time we can now devote to each problem, as well as the time to answer questions in class.

Photo SIG [Chuck Graham](#), SIG Leader – 680-1333

The Photo SIG usually meets 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. 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. Because of the holidays, there will be no Photo SID meetings in November or December.

Windows SIG [Ron Ogg](#) (415-281-0431) and [Walt Parsons](#) (934-0775), SIG Co-Leaders

The Windows SIG usually meets at the Community Room at the Concord Police Department Building on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. We discuss the latest version of Windows, demonstrate interesting shareware and freeware, and have random access sessions where we all try to answer SIG members' questions. Everyone who uses, is interested in, or is curious about Windows on their PC is invited to attend.

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.

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icons or editing the Add/Remove Programs list, grab a copy of More Properties 2.0. It's free to try and a dollar if you continue using it. Go to home.global.co.za/~olivierd/imaginary/mp20lite.zip

Hey, I've gotta go. My wife's wondering if I can show her how to modify Word's Toolbar.

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World and runs the Pasadena IBM Users Group. Write to him at steve_bass@pcworld.com. Check PCW's current edition at www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp and sign up for the Steve Bass online newsletter at www.pcworld.com/bass_letter.

Bring a Friend to a DVPC Meeting
Help Them Grow their PC Knowledge
Help Grow DVPC Membership

DVPC Board Meeting Minutes by Ron Ogg for [Tom Krauss](#), DVPC Secretary

Meeting Date: 11/6/01 **Time:** 7:00 pm **Location:** Alan Mildwurm's house

Coming events: Alan confirmed that Microsoft will show us Windows XP at the January meeting. In February we'll have a speaker from the FBI talking about cyberterrorism – these should both be outstanding presentations!

No-Shows: Our secretary didn't make the meeting, so these Board Meeting Minutes aren't going to be any where as entertaining or informative as when they are actually penned by Mr. Tom. And Ted didn't arrive either – seems that he **actually believed** the notice on the Calendar page of the web site that implied that the Board meeting was going to be on the 13th. Well, maybe it *actually* showed that the meeting was going to be on the 13th. I guess the calendar mistake confused Ted, and he believed it, and that overrode the knowledge that Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday following the monthly meeting, like November 6th. Turns out that Ted did arrive at Alan's house on the 13th, and had a friendly chat with Alan's wife Ruth, and was sent on his way sans the knowledge and camaraderie and pizza of the actual Board meeting. Your editor promised to review the calendar more closely in the future.

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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10% Discount for DVPC Members with this Ad!

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Dear Egghead Customers by the Egghead Management Team

As we communicated to all of you in an earlier e-mail which we sent out in mid-August, since August 15, 2001 Egghead has been operating as a debtor- in-possession under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Our plan had been to sell the assets of the business as a going concern and continue providing Egghead customers with great value and selection. Unfortunately, we have reached a point where we are unable to continue active operations. As a result, as of 5:00PM PST on October 25, 2001 we have ceased active operations and suspended all commercial activity until further notice. The Egghead URL and web site will still be accessible at www.egghead.com but the shopping and fulfillment functionality will be disabled effective as of the date and time noted above.

Please Note: Egghead continues to have active discussions with several interested parties who are intent on re-activating an Egghead web site and once again operating the business as a vibrant going concern. Please continue to monitor the web site for further developments and updates.

Please refer to the Egghead web site for further information and for answers to some basic order processing questions that may be of concern to you.

Egghead appreciates and values all that you have done for us over the years and we would very much like the opportunity to serve you again in the future.

Going to Upgrade? Get Ready Now by Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

I'm going to upgrade. Yep, I'm breaking one of Bass International's number one rules, but I think it's going to be worth it. I can't give you all the details because it's coming out in December's PC World Home Office column (hey, they pay the mortgage). What I can do, however, is share parts of my upgrade experience, things that I didn't have space to say in the PCW column.

DOS Programs: Every legacy application I tried worked. A 1988 version of FoxBASE+ 2.10, WordStar 7.0, Norton Commander, and even a 1984 copy of Autodex 1.0, something few of you could possibly remember. More intriguing is Win XP's ability to run these programs better — faster and with more stability — than Win 9x. Why? Who knows, folks, magic maybe, but it does. I had trou-

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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 and these SIGs:

Name _____

Email Address: _____

Advanced Users SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Users' SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advanced Developers SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	PC 101 SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education and Entertainment SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Photo SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genealogy eSIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Windows SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

Give a Gift that Will Keep on Giving by Ron Ogg, DVPC

You are a member of *DVPC* – the Diablo Valley PC Users Group. The gift giving season is upon us. To make it a great combination, and to help with your gift shopping, we have *DVPC* membership gift certificates that you can buy and give to your relatives and friends who are interested in computers and who would enjoy being a member of *your* computer user group.

The colorful gift certificates will be available for purchase at the December *DVPC* meeting on December 6. These gift certificates are \$25.00 each for a Web membership (which includes access to the Web edition of our newsletter *Diablo Blue*), or \$30.00 each for a regular membership (which includes the printed version of *Diablo Blue* mailed to your recipient).

And, as a gift to you, at the meeting when your gift certificate is redeemed by your lucky recipient **you** will get 20 extra raffle tickets.

So bring your gift list and your checkbook to the December *DVPC* meeting, and make your gift shopping easier by giving a gift that will keep on giving!

Microsoft Power Toys for Windows XP by Ron Ogg, DVPC

Microsoft has released Power Toys for Windows XP. This free download includes the best version of Tweak UI yet, plus a series of other Toys.

- PowerToy Calculator: This calculator has numeric and advanced modes. The advanced mode includes the ability to graph and evaluate functions, use arithmetic or Reverse Polish Notation, and display calculation history.
- CD Slide Show Generator: Save images on a CD as a slide show, with the viewing program.
- HTML Slide Show Wizard: Create HTML pages of your slides and post them to a web site.
- TweakUI: Lets you change system settings that aren't otherwise readily available. *Look for the January issue of Diablo Blue where we'll have a review of TweakUI for Windows XP.*
- Fast User Switching: Windows XP lets multiple users log on simultaneously (unless you log in to a domain server, which prevents user switching); this Toy lets you switch users by pressing the Windows and Q keys simultaneously.
- Open Command Window Here: Right-click in a folder and select this option and a command window will open pointing at the selected folder.
- Task Switcher: View a large-size thumbnail of each open window as you Alt-Tab through running programs.
- Image Resizer: Select one or more image files in Windows Explorer, right-click on the selection, and select Resize Pictures.
- Webcam Timershot: Take pictures from a webcam connected to your computer at specified time intervals and save them to a designated folder.

You can download the Power Toys for Windows XP from either of these web sites:

www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/home/downloads/powertoys.asp,

www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/downloads/powertoys.asp.

Note that the copy of Power Toys for Windows XP you will download is exactly the same regardless of whether you do so from the "home" or "pro" site. It seems that it's possible that Microsoft may have different versions for Home and Pro users at some time in the future, and having these two links will allow different downloads for users of the two versions.

Power Toys for Windows XP is a great free download. Get it today, experiment, and enjoy!

Get a Friend to Join DVPC!

Aladdin Releases StuffIt 7 by [Aladdin UserGroup Coordinator](#)

Aladdin just released StuffIt 7, the easiest way to zip your files! NEW for StuffIt 7 is Windows XP compatibility, ArchiveSearch™, StuffIt Express™ Personal Edition, and more. Read on for more details (including a special offer for DVPC), or visit www.stuffit.com/stuffitwin.

StuffIt provides users with innovative, easy-to-use compression tools that allow them to both create and expand archives and encoded files in a variety of widely used formats. With the ability to create segmented archives, encrypted archives, and custom self-extracting archives, StuffIt provides a complete solution for users looking to package files for distribution. StuffIt 7.0 was also awarded the "Designed for Windows XP" logo certification. The Designed for Windows XP logo program makes it easy for customers to identify products that deliver the best possible computing experience when run on a Windows XP system.

StuffIt 7 introduces two new applications, ArchiveSearch™ and StuffIt Express™ Personal Edition, which combine StuffIt Browser™, DropStuff™, and StuffIt Expander™, to give users unprecedented control over the management and access of compressed data. From individual users to network administrators, StuffIt 7 provides a solution to fit any file compression or transfer task.

"Even with larger hard drives, and broadband Internet access, compression software is a necessary part of any computer users toolkit, not only for speed but also safety," said Matthew Covington, Senior Product Manager for StuffIt. "Using StuffIt is an effective way to ensure the contents of your attachment is protected while in transit."

StuffIt's archiving features are built with the Internet in mind. StuffIt was the first product to provide users with convenient one-step compress and email features, and StuffIt 7 is the first product to offer users one-click compress and FTP via StuffIt Express, an innovative new tool designed to let users automate all of their file compression and transfer tasks.

"For most of our users file compression is just one step in what is often a more complex and time consuming file transfer process," Covington continued. "Using StuffIt Express you can archive files, login to an FTP server, upload the data, and send a custom notification email, all with one click of the mouse."

StuffIt Express: By reducing the number of steps necessary to complete everyday file transfer tasks, StuffIt Express saves users time, and money, by guaranteeing error-free file transfers every time. StuffIt Express works by allowing users to create custom file transfer applications that contain all the information necessary to complete a specific task. Users then double-click, or drag files onto, these applications to start the transfer process. Driven by a simple point and click interface, StuffIt Express requires no knowledge of programming or scripting, and its easy-to-use wizards allow users to start creating these time-saving applications within minutes of installing the software.

ArchiveSearch: StuffIt 7.0 also provides new features targeted at business users looking for new ways to access their archived data. ArchiveSearch, a feature exclusive to StuffIt, allows users to quickly find files that are buried deep within both Zip and StuffIt archives. ArchiveSearch supports searches over the network, and allows users to create and save custom search criteria. With its support of wild card characters in searches, ArchiveSearch makes it easy for users to quickly and easily find related groups of files without having to manually decompress and search through each archive.

"With StuffIt 7 we have extended the scope of what users expect from a compression product, without raising the price," Covington concluded. "This represents a tremendous value for customers."

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Get Involved! Learn!
Join a SIG today!

Pre-Meeting Game News by [Craig Peterson](#), DVPC

Last month's winner was **Charles Thompson** with 57 correct words.

We have noted that there are fewer members joining in the game. If anyone would like to see a different type of game please offer your suggestions to Peggy or Stan (or whoever is at the table when you enter) when you get your puzzle. Be sure you turn it in before the first speaker (yes, those who come early get more time to work on it) and don't forget – one member gets a prize. Good luck!

Aladdin Releases Stuffit 7...

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StuffIt is the only solution for Windows XP that provides users with transparent access to all the files they download from the Internet, regardless of the format they are compressed in. StuffIt allows users to compress and expand the de facto standard file formats used on Windows, Linux, Solaris, and Macintosh computers. Aladdin also offers versions of StuffIt for all of these platforms, making StuffIt the only truly universal compression solution.

Key product benefits:

- Quickly find files buried in archives with ArchiveSearch
- Save time and reduce errors by automating all file transfer and compression tasks with StuffIt Express
- Encrypt files for greater security
- Protect files against corruption when transferring via the Internet
- Smart installation of Palm OS files
- Full-featured self extracting archive tool included for FREE
- Compress files up to 98%
- StuffIt compression format compresses larger files about 20% better than Zip
- Access any file, download, or email attachment
- One click compress and e-mail

System Requirement, availability, and pricing

Supports Windows® 98, ME, NT 4.0, 2000 and XP, running on a Pentium class computer or better. Aladdin recommends at least 32MB of RAM be installed, with 20MB of disk space available for installation files.

StuffIt is available directly from Aladdin at <http://www.stuffit.com/stuffit/win> and in the channel at major PC

retail outlets. The estimated MSRP for StuffIt is \$29.95, and a special competitive upgrade offer of \$14.95 is available to owners of other compression utilities. For more information

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Special Raffle Promotion

Bring a guest to a *DVPC* meeting, you get 10 Raffle tickets!
If your guest joins at the meeting, you get 10 Raffle tickets –
and your new member guest *also* gets 10 Raffle tickets!!

Aladdin Releases Stuffit 7...

(Continued from page 10)

visit Stuffit online at www.stuffit.com.

Registered users of Stuffit 5.5, DropStuff, and DropZip(tm) for Windows qualify for a FREE upgrade to Stuffit 7.0 for Windows. For more information visit the Aladdin Systems upgrade site: www.aladdinsys.com/support/updates.html#stuffit.

SPECIAL PRICES AT THE USER GROUP STORE!

User group members can purchase Stuffit 7 for ONLY \$14.95 from the Aladdin User Group Store. Go to www.aladdinsys.com/support/usergroups/ugvalid.html and use the code: PCUG 1001

FREE upgrade for registered owners of Stuffit 5.x: go to www.aladdinsys.com/store/upgrades.html.

Going to Upgrade? Get Ready Now...

(Continued from page 7)

ble with only one program — an early Windows version of Ventura Publisher. It turns out that even the current version of VP won't run under Windows XP. Advice: Read MS's "Reliability Improvements" article that explains why XP's more stable than Win 9.x. It's at www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/techinfo/planning/reliability/prevention.asp.

Then read "Windows XP Application Compatibility Technologies," a very comprehensive article that explains how to tweak apps so they'll run in XP. Pay special attention to the QfixApp, a tool that gets you to the database of compatibility fixes included with XP. www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/techinfo/planning/appcompat/default.asp.

Drivers and Upgrades: My Turtle Beach Santa Cruz sound card wouldn't work with XP. Advice: As with any Operating System upgrade (excluding Amiga and GEOS), dig out the drivers and upgrades before you start the upgrade. If you can, burn them onto a CD-ROM.

Networking: Lots, lots easier than in Win 9.x with one proviso...you'll have to dump NETBEUI on the other PCs in the network. Win XP relies totally on TCP/IP. Advice: Hone up on your networking skills or hire a consultant to up to speed. Read MS's "Home and Small Office Network Topologies" at www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/techinfo/planning/networking/topologies.asp.

Internet Explorer: IE 6.0 doesn't support Netscape-style plug-ins. The only one I missed-and was annoyed with MS's removal of — Apple's QuickTime player. That meant I couldn't play MOV videos. MS's claims it's for security. I say it's hogwash and a way to lock out Apple. By the time you read this, MS and Apple have probably tweaked the QuickTime Player to support ActiveX controls for IE 6. Advice: If the QuickTime player doesn't work, find the patch on MS's site.

Getting a Jump: One good place to see if your PC is ready for XP is with PC Pitstop. They have a neat-o XP test site that examines your PC's operating system, CPU speed, BIOS version, amount of memory, available hard drive space, and video capabilities. The results tell you how your machine matches up to XP's minimum and recommended requirements. The tool is available for you to try at www.pcpitstop.com/xpready. MS also has many good articles if you're a tinkerer. The "Consumer Desktop PC Design Checklist for Windows XP" provides technical details for building a new PC for XP. www.microsoft.com/hwdev/pcdesign. You might want to continue using W2K while experimenting with XP. Read "Multibooting with Windows 2000 and Windows XP" www.microsoft.com/windows2000/techinfo/administration/management/mltiboot.asp.

I'll have more to say about my XP upgrade experience next month.

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World and runs the Pasadena IBM Users Group. Write to him at steve_bass@pcworld.com.

Check PCW's current edition at www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp, and sign up for the Steve Bass online newsletter at www.pcworld.com/bass_letter.

Discount on Window Washer for DVPC Members

Window Washer is Webroot's Internet and Cookie cleaner. George Griffin's *Cookies* article in last month's *Diablo Blue* mentioned Window Washer, and you can find out more by going to www.webroot.com/washer.htm. If you find Window Washer of interest, Webroot has a special \$5.00 mail-in offer for user group members. Go to www.webroot.com/ugrebate.htm, follow the instructions to fill out the form, and it will be charged to your credit card for \$29.95 (\$24.95 special price + \$5.00 shipping and handling). This is a \$5.00 saving over the \$34.95 price (\$29.95 regular price + \$5.00 shipping and handling).

Ken Nash Cartoons from APCUG Reports, October, 2001

One of the benefits of APCUG membership is that every month the Editorial Committee sends a cartoon to your newsletter editor. Because of licensing limitations the cartoons can't be used in your hard-copy newsletter, but they can be posted in your electronic newsletter or on your web site.

The cartoons are the brain-children of Ken Nash, a 36-year old Capricorn who grew up in suburban Detroit and, after graduating from college, worked as an advertising copywriter in Detroit and Chicago. In 1992 he went to Prague and earned a living drawing illustrations and cartoons for the Prague Post. A book of his first Prague cartoons, which eventually became the Global Cartoon Project, was a bestseller at Prague's first English-speaking bookstore, out-selling Kafka and Vaclav Havel! Since Prague, the global cartoons have grown to encompass Guatemala, Thailand, the Baltic States and San Francisco, where Ken now makes his home.

Ken says he didn't watch much TV as a kid, though he enjoyed bad horror movies. And he wasn't a cartoon junkie either, though he liked Peanuts, Gary Larson, and New Yorker cartoons. Perhaps that's why his work is so original. Those of you who appreciate sick and bathroom humor will enjoy Rude Mountain, a parody of the electronic greeting card site Blue Mountain. The site had over a million hits in its first ten months of operation!

The cartoons APCUG sends to its members come from Techniks, a cartoon series Ken started when he was asked by an ad agency to come up with a way of attracting high-tech customers. Each panel of the series comments on the culture of the arena Ken lives in, and we're lucky and grateful that he allows us to use his work.

Catch Ken's web site at www.KenNash.com/techniks. Thank you, Ken!

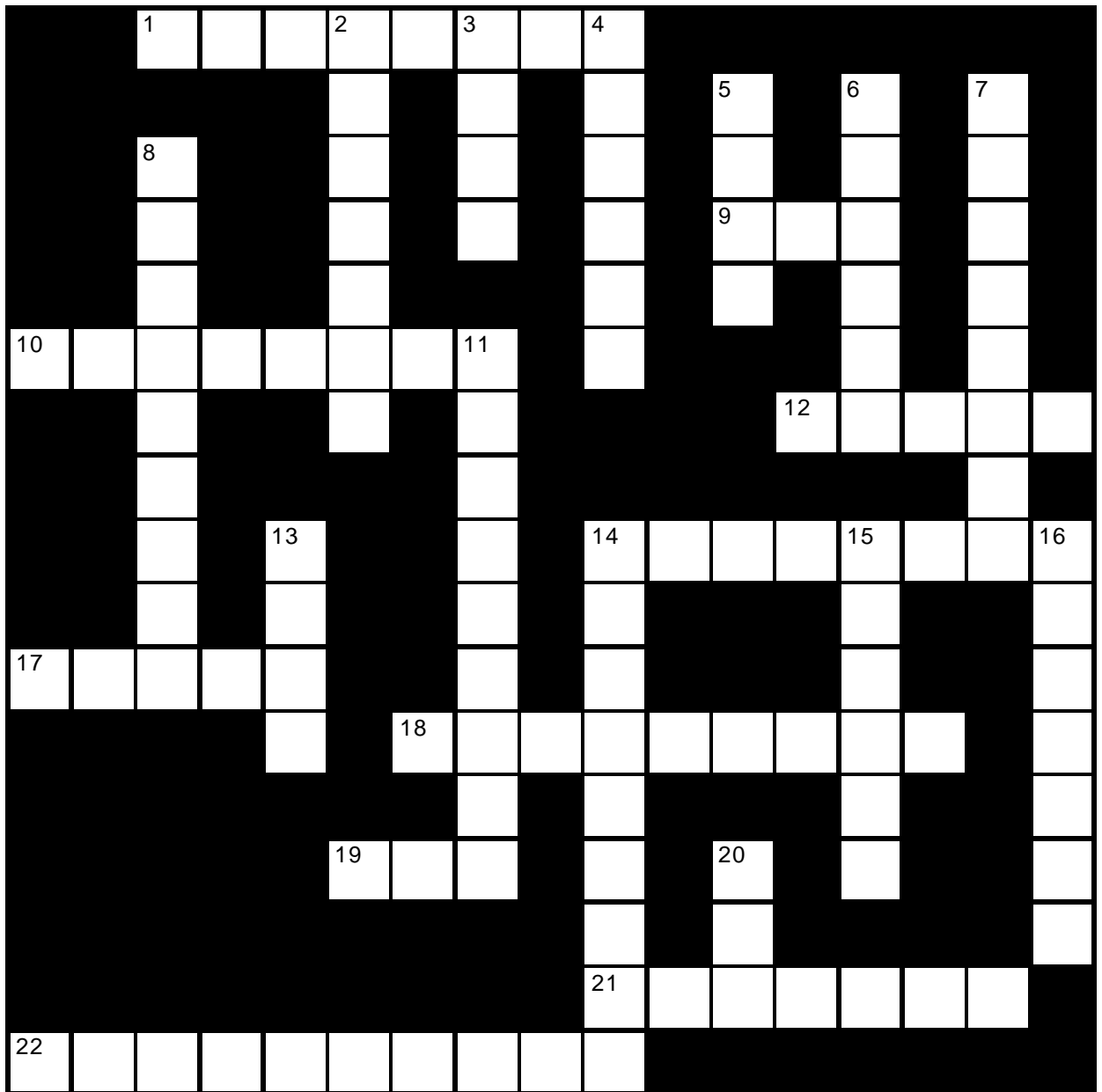
Windows Messenger 4.5 for WinXP Available by Ron Ogg, DVPC

Microsoft has just released the Windows Messenger version 4.5 upgrade for Windows XP. Got to Start—Help and Support Center then click on Windows Update to view this recommended download. Windows Messenger lets you see when family members, friends, and co-workers are on line, and then lets you communicate with each other. You can send instant messages, send files, have a voice chat, or have a video conference, and use a whiteboard to collaborate on documents and other files.

Windows XP comes with version 4.0 of Windows Messenger. The version 4.5 update has some nifty new features:

- Contacts can be arranged in groups, like family, DVPC members, the kid's soccer team, and so on. You can then instant message to the entire group with one click.
- Windows Messenger 4.5 can now be used to place calls to any telephone almost anywhere in the world. You can select from a list of phone service providers whose rates are lower than regular long distance services.
- .NET Alerts can be sent to your computer with stock quotes, weather bulletins, and more.

**Computer Crossword
"Toyland"**



Across

- 1. The "C" in DVPC
- 9. Let us hope that the person requesting this is not asking for a truck or a sheep
- 10. These make music easier to hear
- 12. The REAL reason many of us own a computer
- 14. Phone or wireless connection
- 17. One type of business conference
- 18. Measure of how fast data can move
- 19. What is replacing the VCR
- 21. Image
- 22. Lightweight monitor

Down

- 2. Device for hard copies of data

- 3. Digital video recorder
- 4. Device for letting more than one computer share a connection
- 5. Data storage device able to be changed as needed
- 6. Both digital and 35 mm are found on the same gift lists
- 7. The excuse we give for owning a computer (see 12 across)
- 8. Part of the computer that allows images to be displayed
- 11. Part of the computer that allows audio to be enjoyed
- 13. Microsoft's new game system
- 14. Software, training, or occupation that deals with JAVA and HTML
- 15. Portable computing device
- 16. Image capture device
- 20. Even more portable computing device

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

"The difference between men and boys is the price of their toys". This observation never seems to be more true than when you look at the gift list from the computer geek on your list (though "Harry Potter" merchandise may wind up costing more if only in the sheer number of items out there to buy). Take some time (after all the shopping is done) to solve this month's puzzle.

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 scanable.

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 510-770-5770 (work)
Ted Armstrong, Publicity 939-4096 (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 415-281-0431 (work)
Craig Peterson, Librarian 671-7025 (home)
Stan Umlauf, Web Site 458-5560 (home)

The Board of Directors usually meets the week following the general meeting. 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, by email to bod@value.net, 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. Hear up-to-date information about monthly and SIG meetings, information about DVPC for potential new members, 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 certified member of [UGN](#), the User Group Network



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: _____

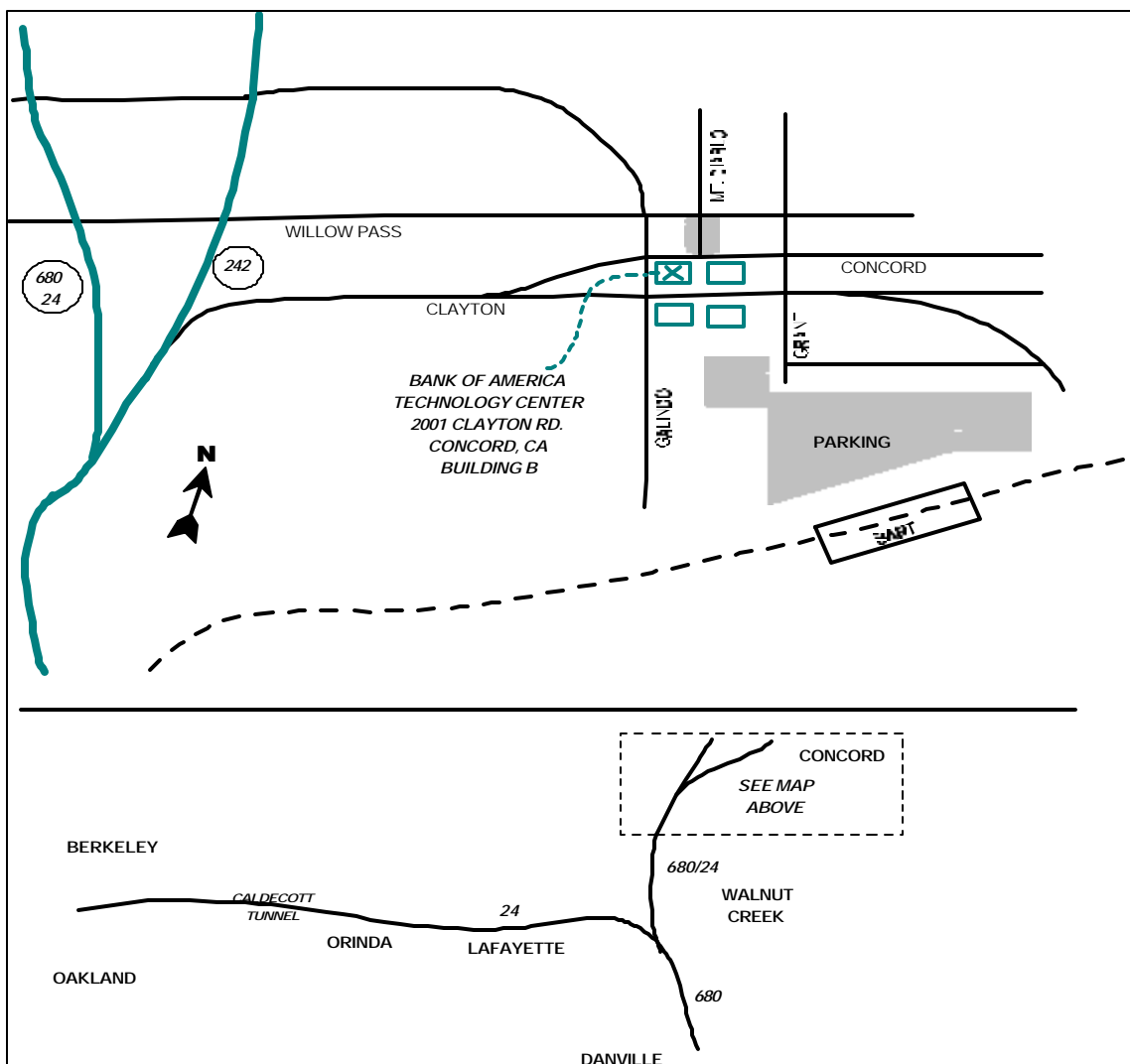
On occasion DVPC publishes a list of members **for distribution to DVPC members only**. Please check how you would like to be listed: **No listing** _____ **List Name and Home** _____ **Work** _____ **phone number(s)** _____

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 buildings. Enter the door on the east side near the southeast corner of the building. 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 December 2001 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3 Windows SIG 7:30 p.m.	4	5	6 DVPC Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. New User's SIG 6:30 p.m.	7	8 PC 101 SIG 1:00 p.m.
10	11 DVPC Board Meeting Alan Mildwurm's house 7:00 p.m.	12	13	14	15 <i>Diablo Blue deadline: Email articles and ads to the Editor: rogg@value.net Early deadline!</i>
17 Genealogy eSIG See SIG News on page 4	18 Photo SIG 7:00 p.m.	19 Internet SIG 7:00 p.m.	20 Advanced Users SIG 7:30 p.m.	21	22
24	25 Christmas Holiday	26 Education & Entertainment SIG Advanced Developers <i>No meetings this month</i>	27	28	29
31 New Year's Eve Holiday					<i>See SIG News starting on page 4 for more information about SIG meeting dates, times, topics, and locations</i>

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO:

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