



November 1, 2001 Meeting Announcement

PowerQuest

The November 1st DVPC meeting will feature our old friends from PowerQuest. We'll see PartitionMagic 7.0, and learn how it works with all versions of Windows, including Windows XP. In fact, PartitionMagic 7.0 is one of the first software packages to receive official Windows XP support certification. We'll also see Drive Image 5.0, which is also Windows XP certified. And for those not using WinXP, there's DriveCopy 4.0 which eases the process of upgrading your hard drive.

Our attention will be on PartitionMagic 7.0 at the meeting. Partition Magic 7.0 supports PCs running DOS, Windows 95/98/98se/ME, Windows NT 4.0 Workstation, Windows 2000 Professional, and Windows XP Home/Professional. It will partition hard drives that have FAT, FAT32, NTFS, and Linux ext2/Swap file systems — or any mix of these formats! You can repartition drives, convert partitions from one format to another without losing or destroying data. PartitionMagic supports drives up to 80 MB, and can access and partition external USB drives.

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 November meeting!

What's Inside

Aluminum <i>George Griffin</i>	Page 2
If it Ain't Broke, Upgrade! <i>Alan Mildwurm</i>	Page 2
No-Right-Click Web Pages <i>Lockergnome</i>	Page 3
SIG News <i>Nick Chase</i>	Page 4
DVPC Board Meeting Minutes <i>Tom Krauss</i>	Page 6
Switch to the <i>Diablo Blue</i> Web Edition	Page 6
California Copy Source Ad	Page 6
Cookies <i>George Griffin</i>	Page 7
Email Meeting Notification	Page 7
Value Net Ad	Page 8
Connect Your PC to Your Stereo <i>Bruce Fries</i>	Page 9
Pre-Meeting Game News <i>Craig Peterson</i>	Page 10
Giving Versus Taking <i>Don Singleton</i>	Page 10
Special Raffle Promotion	Page 10
Change WinXP Password Expiration <i>Ron Ogg</i>	Page 12
Windows XP Links <i>Ron Ogg</i>	Page 12
Computer Crossword <i>Craig Peterson</i>	Page 13
Information About DVPC	Page 14
Membership Application	Page 15
Directions and Map to DVPC Meetings	Page 15
DVPC Calendar	Page 16

President's Corner

by [Alan Mildwurm](#) (ghost written this month by [Ron Ogg](#))

October 25th is just a few days away as I write this column. Those of you who participated in the eXtreme Event on Saturday the 20th came away with a copy of WinXP Home that will be delivered to you some time after the 25th. That's a great gift for those who spent a few hours representing DVPC.

These two topics come together in this issue of *Diablo Blue*.

First, we have the first of what will be many articles on Windows XP on page 12. One tells you how to overcome the limited time before a password expires, and the other has links to some great web sites that cover WinXP, covering topics for the beginner through the expert.

Second, we have a thoughtful article about being a member of a user group, and the importance of active participation, written by Don Singleton, a director of the Association of Computer User Groups on page 10. Take the time to read this article, and how **you** can help **your** user group, the Diablo Valley PC Users Group.

Aluminum by [George Griffin](#), DVPC

Innovation seems to be the heart of the Tech world, but now I will focus on a small, but newer segment, Aluminum computer cases. Aluminum has been around for a long time, but the new fad has introduced it to computer cases. They are quite good looking, but they also have lots of other pluses. They are light weight with out sacrificing strength, and the weight is less than a third of a steel case. They are great in heat dissipation, cause the case acts like a great heat sink. With the newer, faster computers heat has become a real important factor in design and operation.

Quite a bit of thought has gone into design [example: including USB, Firewire, etc.]. They have removed the sharp edges, most removable parts are held together with knurled thumb screws, no screwdriver is needed. Some things may surprise you. These cases come without a power supply. Why? Well, when you go to Pentium 4 CPUs a different power hookup is required, so now you have to pick a separate power supply to match the CPU and the motherboard that you are going to install.

The most prominent brand of aluminum computer case is Lian-Li, but other suppliers like KoolGuy have their own in-house brand.

OK! You want the bottom line. Aluminum cases run \$150 to \$260 plus. There is one dealer that has dolled up the case with a big plastic window, and a neon light so you can show off your computer's innards. This one also has extra fan openings. After going this route, you may be the Kooliest Kat around, but it sure will not help you with October's WinXP.

If it Ain't Broke, Upgrade! by [Alan Mildwurm](#), DVPC

As many of you know, I am a big proponent of networking the computers which seem to proliferate at home. (It goes without saying that networking is essential in business environments.) Somehow we now have more computers at home than family members but each machine has a use and purpose which justifies its existence. Having the computers networked provides a wealth of advantages including a shared broadband connection, access to different printers, file and information sharing and yes even network game playing. There are several ways to network your computers- from the traditional stringing of wire to the more high tech means of wireless, through the existing phone line, etc. Each method has its own benefits and drawbacks. For the most part, "traditional" wire (cat5) is cheapest and guarantees the best (fastest) connection. Depending on your home's physical structure or your ownership interest in the property you may be unable to string wire which relegates you to the other methods of networking. We are fortunate to live in a home constructed on a post and pier foundation which gives me access to a crawlspace. With some creative thought I was able to also string concealed wire upstairs. In addition to our wired network, I also have a wireless network attached to my laptop which allows me to roam the house and yard and still be connected. Physically I designated one computer as a "server" and installed two network interface cards (NICs) in that machine. One NIC went from the cable modem to the computer and the second went to a hub (actually a switch) which connected all the other computers in the house. The wireless transmitter/receiver plugged into one of the ports on the switch with a wireless transmitter/receiver pc card installed in the laptop. I used Proxim's Symphony (www.proxim.com) product line for the wireless component. It worked great but only at 1.6 mbps. The range was also less than ideal but certainly worked in the house and back yard. Back on the "server" I had to install proxy software which in essence acted as the gatekeeper for sharing the internet connection between all of the computers. I used Winproxy (version 4) by Ositis software (www.winproxy.com). I have been using Winproxy for several years (through two major upgrades) and it has always worked flawlessly with a minimum of tweaking, etc, to get things to run through the proxy — network games provide the largest headache.

So, if it all works, why change it?

Even though Winproxy does provide a firewall and antivirus software built into the software (for an extra subscription cost) I was concerned about security. Additionally, the machine

(Continued on page 3)

Aluminum

by [George Griffin](#), DVPC

(Continued from page 2)

acting as a server (the one with two NICs) has to be on for anyone else to have access to the net. There is a little drag on that system as a result. Winproxy comes in different flavors depending on the number of machines you want to have simultaneous connections to the net. Lastly, my wireless connection was not as fast and the range not as large as I would like.

Plus, it's fun to get new toys.

I bought a Linksys (www.linksys.com) EtherFast cable/DSL wireless router. Setup was very simple and straightforward. Hookup the router to your computer, type in the router's IP address and walk through the installation. It took less than 10 minutes. The built-in NAT technology acts as a firewall, protecting you from hackers. Configurable as a DHCP server, the EtherFast Cable/DSL Router acts as the only externally recognized Internet device on your local area network (LAN). Since the unit also has the wireless transmitter/receiver in addition to its four ports, it works with any Wi-Fi compliant wireless card. Unfortunately, my old Symphony card was too old to work with it. I therefore had to buy a new pc card for my laptop (I bought the Linksys card to insure compatibility). Once again, setup was very simple with the included driver disk. The benefit is better range with its diversity antenna and definitely better speed (up to 11 mbps). I do miss the Symphony software which let me toggle between the wireless settings and the laptop's NIC settings for going from wired to wireless. I solve this problem in one of two ways — either remove the card or disable the card in the control panel. Of course, there is available shareware which allows you to toggle between different NIC settings which I will explore.

I ran Steve Gibson's *Shields Up* (www.grc.com) to test my security, and the new router makes my network invisible to the outside. Be sure to change the built in router password and consider a firewall on each machine anyway; I have heard of hacking of Linksys routers. (I am not sure I would be a target but...)

My upgrade seems worth the trouble. In addition to some longer range and speed on the wireless portion, I don't have to go downstairs to turn on the "server" if I decide to go out on the net from an upstairs machine. I also found that several pieces of software that hiccupped through the proxy server are now working. The cost of the router with wireless and 4 port switch was \$179, and \$99 for the PC Card adapter. This compares very favorably with just buying a switch and then a separate wireless setup. All in all, a good upgrade!

No-Right-Click Web Pages

from [Lockergnome](#), 10/11/2001

There's no wrong way to do something right. Kevin Schumacher proves it with another way to get around those "no right click" Web pages. "I was recently re-reading back issues and noticed a [GnomeTIP](#) on ways to get around scripts (at the time, the suggestion was to hit CTRL+N to open a new window, or to use File/Properties). Well, as I recently discovered, there is an even easier way. This was only tested in Internet Explorer; it should work on any Web page. First, left-click and hold. While doing so, right-click. This seems to confuse the browser; yet, up pops your default context menu! You can do anything you normally do - including view the page's source or save an image." Well, you could do that anyway, just not as quickly or easily. To circumvent most of those dialogs, all you have to do is click File/Save As/Web Page, complete. Hey, have you ever used the other Save As option? The one where you could save it as a Web Archive, single file? Perfect for when you want to send a complex HTML document via e-mail without having to worry about attaching more than one self-contained file. And yes, you can open it up in Notepad since it's just a text file with MIME encoded components with originating URLs. Nifty!

See the Daily Lockergnome Tip on the DVPC Web site at www.dvpc.org/swsupport.html.

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.

Access/Visual Basic SIG [Ted Armstrong](#), SIG Leader – 939-4096

The Access/Visual Basic SIG meetings are no longer being held. If anyone is interested in becoming the new SIG leader, and finding a meeting location, should contact Nick Chase at nachase@yahoo.com or at 680-4211.

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 on a computer with a projector. 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. We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month, at 2000 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 185, in San Ramon. Take the Crow Canyon exit off of 680 and go east to the first signal. Turn left and go to the third driveway on your left; there is a large sign at the driveway entrance that says "2000". Turn in and enter into the building at your left.

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.

Last meeting we spent time looking at ways to use the web to find out what is going on in the [\(Continued on page 5\)](#)

SIG NEWS...

(Continued from page 4)

world. We talked about how we can get news and information from throughout the world and see the differences in how stories are covered by different news media. We also shared ways to check and verify the news we get from these sites as well as e-mailed information. If you would like to help us in our search of all that is new and interesting in the "wild, wild web" please join us at our next meeting on **November 21**. This month we are planning to talk about encryption, on line security, and "Carnivore". I am hoping to have several guides to give to members who attend and will have them available via e-mail to those out of town this month.

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.

Real Estate SIG [Bill Thompson](#), SIG Leader – 693-0174

The Real Estate SIG meeting location is still being researched, so meetings are 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](#) (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.

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

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

Meeting Date: 10/9/01 **Time:** 7:00 pm **Location:** Alan Mildwurm's house

New Business:

Coming events: Alan announced PowerQuest will be the presenter at the November meeting, demonstrating their Partition Magic 7.0 which let's you divide you hard drive into several logical drives, move installed software between drives, and supports Windows XP. December look for Alan's insider report on ComDex, and in January Microsoft will show us Windows XP.

Bargains: Easing ourselves into Business Mode, we began the evening with a discussion of the best place to buy computer paraphernalia for the best price. Best Buy was the winner in this category. Ron bought 50 TDK blank CDs there for nothing (after rebates) plus a little sales tax not in the rebate. Alan recounted the recent purchase of a computer for our Treasurer to use in her new digs at UC Davis for under \$800. I neglected to capture all the details (DVD, huge hard drive, etc.). Suffice it to say, it made me embarrassed to talk about my screaming Pentium II 266 with 6.5 meg of hard drive (spread over two disks). I don't even own a DVD player, much less have one in my computer. I never was a "cutting edge kind of guy"...

Video: With Charlie present, our conversation naturally turned to video machines. He and [\(Continued on page 7\)](#)

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...

(Continued from page 6)

Ron traded updates on prices and features. Charlie said he is contemplating the one he has in his home. This seems to me like a golden opportunity for the Club. In honor of his years of membership and service to DVPC, I recommend we sell Charlie the club's current machine, heavily discounted to our dear friend to about \$3500 or so. Then we can take the money and buy a new one for the club at around \$2000, and beef up the treasury a bit. Charlie could take expense as a tax write-off to a non-profit organization and everyone would be a winner!

More video: Nick had his marvelous digital still-and-video camera with him. He showed it to Charlie and they began talking a foreign language: something about "distribution medium of choice", "hack to regionalize your DVD", "doesn't transcode", "bandwidth", "phlangicize the blodgett", and so on. Again, being technically challenged, I lost the gist of that conversation.

Cookies by [George Griffin](#), DVPC

So! There I was, sorting my email to eliminate the Spam, and there was a message from Mr. R.O. our tireless Editor, asking if I cared to review a new version of the shareware program "Cookie Pal". Playing no favorites, he sent the message to the writing litterateurs of *Diablo Blue*. I sent a quick "Maybe", then downloaded Cookie Pal v1.7 from www.kburra.com/cpal.html. In the words of their home page "Cookie Pal is a complete Internet management tool". Well, it does this job OK. In a perfect world, there would no need for a program like this, but there are enough Nasties out there, thus the need for some kind of control to monitor them. Some cookie control programs will zap all cookies, but this is no answer, 'cause if you do much on-line purchasing those companies save cookie data that facilitates a repeat sale on your hard drive. If you do not make Internet purchases that's OK, but some web sites will not respond correctly if you don't accept cookies. If you don't shop on-line, Washie is a program that can be configured to accept all cookies, but the next time you boot up it zaps all the cookies, so you start with a clean slate. Find it at www.webroot.com/washie.htm. In summary, "Cookie pal" is a solution that lets you accept those cookies you want or need. By the way, I might have a more negative view of "Cookies" than or Editor Mr. R.O., but it would take a whole column to explain my bias. [OK George, start writing that column! - Ron]

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

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

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

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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!

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Get a Friend to Join DVPC!

Connect Your PC to Your Stereo by Bruce Fries

If you've taken the time to put your music collection on your computer, you'll probably want to listen to it through a good stereo system. Even if your stereo isn't in the same room as your computer, there are several options for connecting the two, including direct analog cabling, USB Audio devices, wireless audio transmitters, and network audio receivers.

The most basic concept of connecting audio equipment is that inputs must always be connected to outputs. Sometimes you will still get sound if you mistakenly connect a sound card output to an output of a stereo receiver. When in doubt, connect the sound card output to the CD jack on your stereo—it's always an input.

Connect high-level (also called line-level) outputs to high-level inputs, and connect low-level outputs (such as a microphone) to low-level (Mic) inputs. Do not use the receiver's phono input jack because this is designed for a very low-level signal and has a special equalization circuit. Avoid using the sound card's headphone or microphone jack to connect to other equipment unless you have no other choice.

Most consumer sound cards have 1/8" mini phone jacks. A mono jack is used for the microphone input, and stereo jacks are used for the line-in, line-out and headphone. Better sound cards may have separate RCA jacks for the left and right channels. These are the same kind of jacks found on most home stereo systems. High-end sound cards may also have connectors for digital inputs and outputs.

The simplest connection between a computer and a stereo system is to run a cable directly from the sound card's line output to a line input of your stereo. To record from your stereo system to your computer, connect a cable from a line-out (or record) jack on your receiver to the line-in jack on your sound card.

If your sound card's line output is an 1/8" stereo mini-phone jack, you'll need an adapter cable (male 1/8" stereo mini-phone to dual male RCA). These cables can be purchased from most consumer electronics stores, such as Radio Shack, Best Buy, and Fry's Electronics.

USB audio devices perform the basic functions of a sound card, but outside of the PC, and are less likely to pick up noise from the PC's electronics. USB audio devices can be used for both recording and playback and are a good solution for notebook computer users who want higher quality sound.

The Roland UA-30 (www.edirol.com) is a flexible USB audio device that supports both Macs and PCs. The UA-30 works great and includes just about every type of input and output connector you might possibly need.

Wireless audio devices can transmit a stereo audio signal up to 300 feet. These devices typically include a transmitter and a receiver with standard RCA line-level input and output jacks. Wireless audio devices provide more flexibility than hard cabled connections, but are much more prone to interference compared to other types of connections.

The MP3 Anywhere Digital Audio Sender by X10 (www.X10.com) is a good wireless audio device for most users. It sells for under \$100 and uses the 2.4 GHz spectrum to reduce interference and provide a high quality connection. The MP3 Anywhere also includes a remote control and software, which allow you to control most popular player programs.

The ideal way to transmit audio from your PC throughout your house is by streaming the audio from your PC via a network. A network audio connection eliminates the loss of high frequencies, interference and hum typical of analog cable and wireless connections.

The Rio Receiver (www.riohome.com) is a very capable network audio device that allows you to access individual songs and playlists from your PC anywhere you have a telephone or network jack. The Rio has an LCD interface that displays song title, artist name and other information, and also includes a remote control.

(Continued on page 10)

Get Involved! Learn!
Join a SIG today!

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

Last month's winner was **John Burnitt** with 101 correct words.

To play, see Peggy or Stan (or whoever is at the table when you enter) and 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 one member will get a prize. Good luck!

Connecting Your PC to Your Stereo...

(Continued from page 9)

Whatever your choice of PC to stereo connection, you will be able to use your computer as a digital jukebox and take full advantage of the latest digital music technologies to play high-quality music anywhere in your house.

For more information on connecting your PC to your stereo, pick up a copy of **The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook** (\$19.95) from www.TeamComBooks.com or read it online for free at www.MP3Handbook.com.

Bruce Fries is a writer, technology consultant and entrepreneur who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is an associate of the Audio Engineering Society and the founder of TeamCom Books, a customer-focused publishing company that combines the best of traditional print publishing with new media, such as e-books and the Internet.

Giving Versus Taking by [Don Singleton](#), Director, APCUG

Membership in your local User Group offers a wonderful opportunity to learn more about computers. With practically no effort on your part, other than attending a meeting, you can sit and watch a very good program, presented by a knowledgeable speaker, and frequently you also get an opportunity to participate in a raffle or door prize drawing where you have a chance to win a nice program for your computer. Even if you don't want to come to meetings, membership gets you a copy of the monthly newsletter, which contains information about upcoming meeting programs, some of which you may decide you want to attend. It also contains technical articles, reviews, and other news to read at your leisure.

But your local User Group also offers an opportunity to get a lot more out your membership than you can possibly get by being passive. It offers the opportunity for you to become an active participant, and give something of your self (time, effort, knowledge, etc.) to benefit others. The inner satisfaction and rewards one gets from helping others are truly amazing.

People frequently point to the 80/20 rule, which is found in many aspects of life; for example, 20% of the people in an organization will do 80% of the work, while the remaining 80% of the people collectively do 20% of the work. Well, there is a further application of the 80/20 rule: the active 20% doing the work, are getting 80% of the pleasure out of the club, and the passive 80% get only 20% of the pleasure.

I encourage you to think about this for just a few minutes. Is there something that you could

[\(Continued on page 11\)](#)

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!!

Giving Versus Taking...

(Continued from page 10)

do to help others, so that you can see whether or not I am right? You will certainly see that the returns from investing that effort to help others far outweighs the investment. Can you give just a little bit of your time, doing whatever you do best? Perhaps that is:

- Making a few phone calls to try to arrange something we need (speakers for a SIG, a meeting place for a SIG, advertising for the newsletter, etc.)
- Trying out a new computer program, and then writing a review of it for the newsletter, sharing what you liked and did not like about the program, so that other members can benefit from your experiences.
- Spending a little time in a one-on-one basis with a new member who just got a computer, or who just got a new program for his computer, and who is completely lost trying to figure out how to make it work.
- Donating some of your time to help church workers, or workers in some charitable organization, who are having trouble getting the most out of their computers.
- Spending a few hours sitting in a booth at a computer show, telling people that stop by the booth what your local User Group has to offer.
- Presenting a program to your user group, or to another user group in town.
- Speaking to a class in the public school system, telling them how computers are used in real life, and possibly sparking that interest that encourages them to work harder to learn how to use computers, or speaking to a group of public school teachers, teaching them things they don't know about computers, to better enable them to teach their students.
- Leading, or helping to lead, a special interest group, enabling UG members interested in a particular subject or program, to get together and share their experiences with others that have that same interest.
- Joining us in the UG's Refurbishing Computers project, to help recondition old computers to be donated to some worthy non-profit agency, or other worthy recipient.
- Spending some time adapting computers to aid the handicapped, so that a quadriplegic confined to bed or a wheelchair, and totally dependent on others, gains some control over his own life, whether it is something as simple as being able to turn the TV on and off without help from someone else, or whether it is a powerful as being able to communicate his thoughts, wishes, and ideas, when previously he may have been unable to seriously communicate with the outside world.

The elected officers, and the Special Interest Group leaders are all wonderful people, since most of them are Givers, rather than Takers. It is a real pleasure interacting with this group of generous UG Members, and they do a number of things to help make UG successful for the rest of the membership. But they can only do so much. There are many things that could be done, but are not currently being done, and I would be willing to bet your UG's President cannot in good conscience ask these Givers to give even more. Not that they would not accept the responsibility; they probably would, but he/she would run the risk of burning them out. What your President needs is a few more people to become Givers.

If you would be interested in helping your local User Group in any particular way, please let your President know. Things get pretty hectic at a meeting, so just mentioning your interest runs a risk that he/she may forget it when someone comes up after you and brings up something else entirely. But if you would write down your name, phone number, and the particular skills you have which you think your local User Group might be able to use, and perhaps an indication of the amount of time you would be able to devote each month, and either bring this to a meeting, or mail it or email it to your President [*Alan Mildwurm is DVPC's president, you can email him at awm@mildwurm.com*], he/she will do everything possible to match you up with a job you can handle, and you can start reaping the rewards of being a Giver.

And if your UG President can't find enough to keep you busy, contact president@apcug.org, and I bet Dan can find some committee in APCUG that could really use your help.

Change WinXP's Default Password Expiration by [Ron Ogg](#), DVPC

Now that you're running Windows XP on your new computer you are probably using a login ID and password. Unfortunately, login passwords in Windows XP are set to expire in 42 days by default. Most users would think that 42 days is too short before having to change their password. Here's how to change the setting:

To change password settings you have to log on to an account that has Administrator privileges. In Windows XP Home all accounts are created with Administrator rights by default, so just log on as usual and you should be able to make these changes. If your Windows XP Pro log on doesn't let you make the changes, you'll need to find out the Administrator password and log on as Administrator. To log on as Administrator, log out and at the login prompt press Ctrl-Alt-Del; a dialog box will open that will allow you to enter a user ID (Administrator) and password.

OK, now that you're logged on with Administrator rights:

Click on the Start button and select Run from the Start menu.

In the Run dialog enter:

```
mmc
```

and press the Enter key. The MMC (Microsoft Management Console) utility will start.

In the MMC window, click on File, and select "Add/Remove Snap-In" from the drop-down menu.

In the Add/Remove dialog box click the Add button, then select "Local Computer Policy" from the list and click the OK button.

Back in the MMC window expand the settings in the left window (similar to opening folders in Windows Explorer by double-clicking on the name or clicking on the + icon to the left of the name) as follows:

- Computer Configuration
 - Windows Settings
 - Security Settings
 - Account Policies
 - Password Policy

If it isn't already highlighted, highlight "Password Policy" in the left window by clicking on it.

At this point you'll see the various Password Policy settings in the right window. The one we want to change is "Maximum Password Age", which probably has the original default value of 42.

To change the value, double click on "Maximum Password Age" in the right window. A new dialog box will open where you can change the value. You can enter a number from 1 to 999 days; this is the number of days that a password will be valid, and after that number you will be forced to change your password. You'll start receiving a password change notification starting 14 days prior to the expiration date whenever you log in to Windows XP. However, if you would prefer your password to be permanent and never require changing, enter 0 in this field. Click the OK button to save your change, then close the MMC. When asked if you want to save your settings, you can click on No, or you can click on Yes to save the settings (a default file name will be suggested; accept this name).

Windows XP Links by [Ron Ogg](#), DVPC

Here are a few web sites that have great information about Windows XP:

Paul Thurrott's SuperSite for Windows: www.winsupersite.com/default.asp

NT Compatible Windows XP FAQ: www.ntcompatible.com/faq3.shtml

Windows XP Developer Center: windowsxp.devx.com/

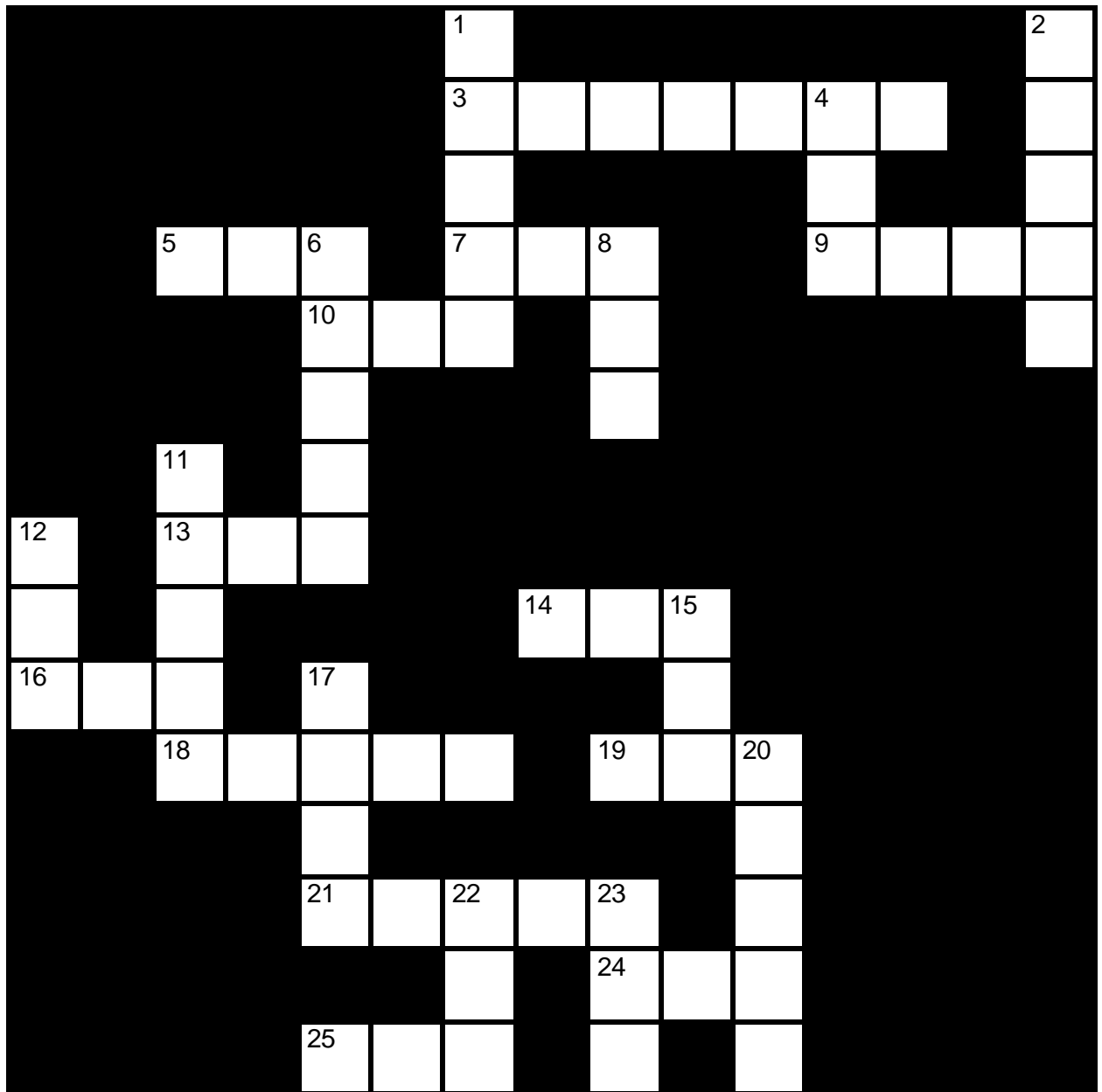
c|net Windows XP Superguide: www.cnet.com/software/0-6688749.html

Windows XP User: www.windowsxpuser.com/

Tom's Hardware Guide to Windows XP: www4.tomshardware.com/consumer/01q3/010803/

PC World Windows Activation Copy Controls: www.pcworld.com/news/article/0,aid,60523,00.asp

Computer Crossword "What did you say?"



Across

3. What You See Is What You Get
 5. Coordinated Universal Time
 7. I Seek You (messaging program)
 9. Direct Read After Write
 10. Local Area Network
 13. Heads Up Display
 14. Java Server Page
 16. For Your Information
 18. Common Business-oriented Language
 19. Mailbox
 21. Electronic Book
 24. Bitmap (file name extension) [Paintbrush Format]

25. Random Access Memory

Down

1. Technology Without Any Interesting Name
 2. Secure News Server [Internet]
 4. Year To Date
 6. Class Identifier
 8. Quick File Access
 11. Very High Speed Integrated Circuit
 12. Graphics Interchange Format (file name extension)
 15. Personal Address Book
 17. Adaptive Battery Life Extender
 20. Extended Copy
 22. Operations Per Minute
 23. Keyboard

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

Many of us who spend more time in front of a computer screen than in front of the TV find that we start taking short cuts when talking about what the computer is doing and what is inside (software and hardware). Instead of just TV for television, we start talking about CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) and Kilobytes (thousands of pieces of information). Well, now that you have found a way to save all that time, why don't you use it to solve this month's puzzle. (If you need help, check out www.geocities.com/ikind_babel/babel/babel.html#A)

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 Umlauft. 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 Umlauft, 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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The Diablo Valley PC Users' Group is a non-profit corporation
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)** _____

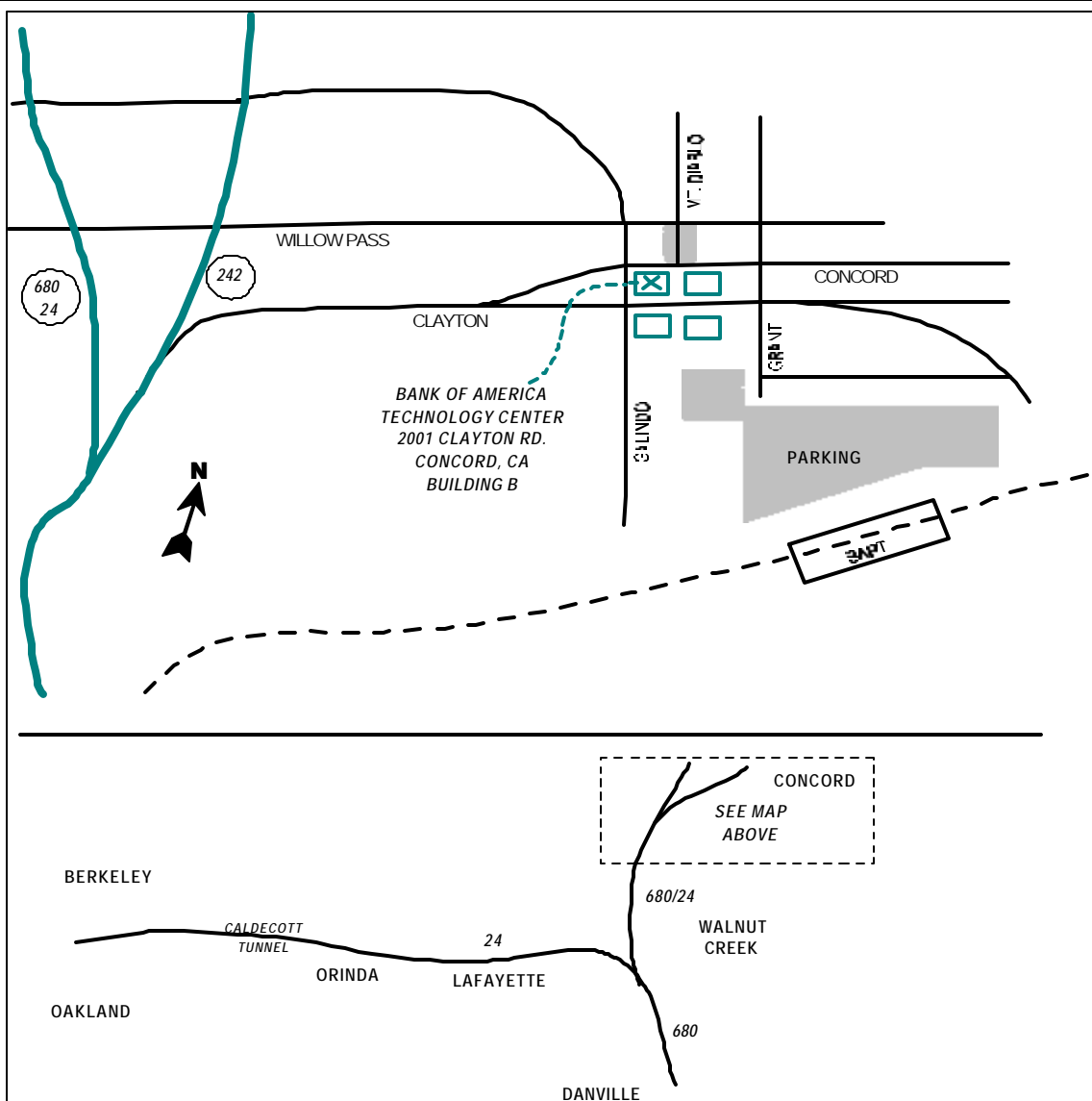
I'm also interested in these SIGs: _____

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 November 2001 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 DVPC Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. New User's SIG 6:30 p.m.	2	3 PC 101 SIG 1:00 p.m.
5 Windows SIG 7:30 p.m.	6	7	8	9	10
12	13 DVPC Board Meeting Alan Mildwurm's house 7:00 p.m.	14	15 Advanced Users SIG 7:30 p.m.	16 <i>Diablo Blue deadline: Email articles and ads to the Newsletter Editor: rogg@value.net</i>	17
19 Genealogy eSIG See SIG News on page 4	20 Photo SIG 7:00 p.m.	21 Internet SIG 7:00 p.m.	22 <i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	23	24
26	27	28 Education & Entertainment SIG 7:30 p.m. Advanced Developers SIG 7:00 p.m.	29	30	<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