

Diablo Blue

December, 1999



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

December 2, 1999 Meeting Announcement

MGI PhotoSuite III and Photofun & **The Alan and Steve Show**

Our December 2, 1999 DVPC meeting is the last meeting of the millennium - unless you subscribe to the concept that the millennium actually ends on December 31, 2000 instead of 1999. In any case, why not celebrate during both Decembers? Either way, we're celebrating this year's millennium rollover by having MGI demonstrate their new version of PhotoSuite III and the brand new Photofun package. Editing digital photographs and other graphics files has never been easier or more fun. And if you're a millennium skeptic who thinks PCs will fall apart on December 31st, come and see if MGI can demonstrate that their software packages are Y2K compliant!

We'll also have this year's rendition of the annual "Alan and Steve Show", where you'll learn all about the latest and greatest products that these guys filch... snatch... walk off with... pocket... appropriate... umm, whatever... from that greatest of nerd holidays in the desert, Comdex. You'll hear amazing things. You'll see amazing things. You'll hear about all of the great stuff we'd all like to have that these guys got for free (that's free that rhymes with green that rhymes with jealousy, folks!). And you'll also hear about all of the giveaways like T-shirts and pens and envelope openers and pens and mini-flashlights and pens and balloons and pens and pop-open cardboard binoculars and pens and advertising badges and pens and AOL CD-ROMs and pens that Steve collected from all of those covering vendors who were unable to turn him away without giving him a freebie!

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President's Corner

by *Alan Mildwurm*

President's Message And Other Stuff While I Wait to Get on the Plane

As the subtitle infers, I am getting ready, as I write this, to go to Las Vegas for a week of Comdex. The typical Vegas greeting already sounds in my ears: Have a Good Comdex!

Comdex and Vegas deserve each other. They are both unusual places that are tons of fun. I read Ron's front-page notice in the meeting announcement above about Steve and my "report" due next month. I promise to do my best to come back with as much free stuff as possible. I am taking three empty suitcases of moderate size to assist in the task. Hope I need every cubic centimeter! (They also sell more suitcases in Vegas!)

In the meantime, thanks to all the vendors who supported *DVPC* at our Windows Night this past month. Windows Night was terrific. Thank you also to all our Board members who made it happen!

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Curmudgeon's Corner by [Walt Parsons](#), DVPC's Official Curmudgeon – Accept No Substitute!

WordPerfect Office 2000

As most of you know, I've been a dedicated WordPerfect user since the good old days when it was published by the WordPerfect Corp. in Orem Utah and it was a DOS program. I stuck with them through Novel and rejoiced when Corel bought WordPerfect from Novel. My faith was justified when they came out with Version 8 which was a pretty good product.

HOWEVER, the WordPerfect Office 2000 product has destroyed my faith in both Corel and their products.

The WP 2K package came out in June of this year and being the fanatic that I am, or was, I bought the complete package looking forward to taking advantage of all the new bells, lights and whistles, that were demonstrated flawlessly by the presenters at their roll out. Oh what a fool I was!!!!

Within a week of the rollout the Corel news groups exploded with complaints about the bugs. There were about 6 different news groups and each one of them was getting 15-20 bug messages a day. I am now thinking that the presenters were carefully trained to avoid the problem areas.

I can't help but wonder if there was ANY beta testing? Corel must have been under so much pressure to match the roll out of MS Office 2K package that they short circuited the beta process.

One major bug example was the Corel Address book which worked so well in version 8. (You could bring up the address book and insert an address into a letter or on an envelope. You could even access this address book from several other programs such as the e-stamp program. One of the nicest features was the fact that you could import an address list directly from the Paradox data base.)

In the new WordPerfect package the Address book was moved to something called Corel Central. This is a VERY POORLY designed product. You can not import directly from the Corel Paradox data base but have to go through the process of creating a text file with comma delimited fields. Okay, that was bad enough but the best is yet to come. For some strange reason the "Last Name" field cuts off the first letter of the name. I don't like to find my name listed under "arsons".

Another short coming was the elimination of a very good WP 8 feature for printing envelopes with the address inserted manually or by copying from a clipboard, or by using the WordPerfect Address book. The new "Envelope" macro just plain didn't work. (This was fixed in service pack 1.)

Okay, all of this is bad enough so you would think that Corel would bring out a Service pack (bug fix) as soon as possible. Well, about 2 months after the roll out a service pack was announced that could be down loaded from their web page if you had some 90 minutes to spare with a 56K modem. Or you could order it from the web page for \$9.95 and get a CD within 2 - 3 weeks. "Wonderful", I said, that would be better than trying to download the file, so I placed the order via their web page on 26 August. Some 5 weeks later on 30 September I sent a fax to the Corel Corporate office asking them what the heck happened to my service pack order and to get back to me within a week.. Surely this would get my order shipped!

On 30 October, some 10 weeks after I placed my order, I mailed another letter demanding action.

That did it. On 8 November I received a phone call from somebody in Corel. BUT, he wasn't responding to my 30 October letter, he was responding to my fax of 30 September. Apparently Corel translates (respond within a week) to mean within a month <g>. This gentleman sort of apologized for the delay and claimed that he had ordered a rush copy of the service pack to be sent to me that very day.

Well, today is 13 November and nothing has been received. Will I ever get the bug fix? Tune in next month to get the latest report.

So I hereby nominate Corel to the *Walt Parsons Hall of Shame*. They richly deserve the honor.

Junk Faxes

As many of you know, there is a federal law (Title 47, Section 227b (b) (1) (C)), stating that "It shall be unlawful for any person within the United States to use any telephone facsimile machine, computer, or other device

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Curmudgeon's Corner...

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to send an unsolicited advertisement to a telephone facsimile machine." In other words, NO JUNK FAX MAIL It looks like the a person receiving a Junk Fax can file a court action and get \$500.00 in damages. Of course you need an attorney to do this so it probably isn't worth while filing under this law.

Elsewhere the law says that faxes must contain the originating fax number information.

I recently received a Junk Fax that offered me the priceless opportunity to receive a Junk Fax each week. There were two strange things about this fax. No company was mentioned and no originating fax number was given. A clear violation of the federal law. The only phone number given was an 800 number where people could opt out of this invaluable special offer. From this number I discovered that the fax came from somebody called fax.com. Sounds like it might be a web page. SO I checked it out. Yes, it is web page but it doesn't give you a lot of information. All it says is: "Coming Soon, fax.com, The internet Fax Marketing Company." No phone number, no address, and no e-mail address.

Some how or another this outfit has to be stopped but without more information there isn't much that can be done.

Ron Ogg had a good suggestion. Send a reply to the originating fax written in 72 point type. (72 points are equal to 1 inch.) An average two-paragraph one page letter will now be some 17-18 fax pages. It should give the offender the message you don't like his junk. Unfortunately this Junk Fax didn't have an originating fax phone number.

I'll let my readers know what happens on this and see if detective work can get more information so this creep can be nailed.

DVPC Meeting Announcement...

(Continued from page 1)

Finally, we'll report on the extremely successful *Windows Night* and *DVPC Membership Renewal Millennium Y2K Special* that were held at our November meeting.

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 main entrance of the building, which is in the center of the front of the building that faces Clayton road.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. For the first time this month we will be starting **PC 101**, a class run by [Craig Peterson](#) on how to use the computer. The classes will be open to all members and start at 6:15 in the back of the room. This month's class is titled "Word Processing, or how to blame the computer for your spelling errors." Following the class, the New User's SIG will have their meeting from 6:45 to 7:00.

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

See you at the meeting!

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

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

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

The Access/Visual Basic SIG usually meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Gateway Group's offices, 3687 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 350, in Lafayette. However, because of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, there will be no meetings in November or December. See you in January! If you are interested in Access or Visual Basic, be sure to join other programmers at each month's Access/VB SIG meeting. Check out the Access/VB SIG on the web for information about each month's meeting at www.dvpc.org/sig_vbaccess. See the web page or the Clarion SIG announcement below for directions to the meeting.

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

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

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

The Clarion SIG usually meets at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Gateway Group's offices, 3687 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 350, in Lafayette. However, because of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, there will be no meetings in November or December. See you in January! Check out the Clarion SIG on the web for information about each month's meeting at www.dvpc.org/sig_clar. TopSpeed's Clarion 5 is a powerful object-oriented database development tool that competes with products like Visual Basic and Delphi and even products like PowerBuilder. If you are an advanced Clarion developer you are invited to join the SIG. This is a SIG for advanced users, so beginners will want to get some hands-on experience before joining.

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

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. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no meeting in November. And, because of the Christmas holiday, the December meeting will be rescheduled - check back on the DVPC web site (www.dvpc.org) for information about the date of the December meeting. The E&E SIG is oriented to exploring the best in education and entertainment software for the PC. Everyone is invited to attend our meetings, and bring your kids along - they'll have a great time, too! Directions: Take 680 to Bollinger Canyon Road, go west to San Ramon Valley Blvd., go south to Montevideo Rd. and turn left. Proceed east on Montevideo about 3 blocks to Broadmoor and turn left. The school is 1 block on the right. We meet in Room 22.

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SIG NEWS...

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

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

The SIG would like to recommend the following sites for the upcoming season:

www.noradsanta.org www.lnstar.com/mall/main-areas/santafaq.htm <http://rememberjosie.org/carols/>
www.geocities.com/Heartland/Prairie/5493/hanuka.html www.si.edu/organiza/museums/anacost/kwanz.htm
<http://web-star.com/Recipes/holidayrecipes.html>

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

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

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

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

For the first time this month we will be starting **PC 101**, a class taught by [Craig Peterson](#) on how to use the computer. The classes will be open to all members, and start at 6:15 in the back of the room. This month's class is titled "Word Processing, or how to blame the computer for your spelling errors." The New Users SIG will then hold its meetings at 6:45 p.m. prior to the regular DVPC monthly meeting. 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 for PC 101 at 6:15 p.m. and the New Users SIG meetings at 6:45 p.m. prior to each DVPC monthly meeting.

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

The Photo SIG meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Check the Photo SIG page on the DVPC web site at www.dvpc.org/photo.html for SIG information.

Tuesday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. the Photo SIG will meet at Graham Family Photo, 5100-35 Clayton Road, at the corner of Ayers and Clayton Road, Concord. Come and join us. For directions call 925-680-1333.

New people are welcome at our meetings. If you're interested in digital photography, scanning photographs, and more, you should attend this interesting new SIG. Please email your and full name and current email address to graham@value.net for follow-up information and to be placed on the Photo SIG notification list. Please let us know what programs or speakers you can provide for our monthly meetings.

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

A new Real Estate SIG meeting location is being researched, so there won't be a November meeting. The relocation is required because the Insurance Commissioner's office is prosecuting 5 other title companies for

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SIG NEWS...

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current RESPA violations. My boss and I are trying to figure out how to side step the commissioners office and make our efforts legal. If you have any ideas they would be appreciated. Contact SIG Leader Bill Thompson at (925) 998-8530 or email at thompson@dlsnetwork.com for additional information.

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

The Windows SIG usually meets at the Community Room at the Concord Police Department Building on the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. However, because of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays we won't have a meeting in November or December. Everyone who uses, is interested in, or is curious about Windows on their PC, is invited to attend. See you all at the next Windows SIG meeting in January.

Here are directions: The Concord Police Department is at 1350 Galindo Street in Concord. From the 242

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Switch to the Diablo Blue Web Edition

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

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

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DVPC Board Meeting Minutes by Tom Krauss, DVPC

Meeting Date: 11/10/99 **Time:** 7:00 pm **Location:** Alan Mildwurm's house

Bank Account: \$1,100 (approximately)

Upcoming Meetings: January, PowerQuest and Caldera; February, Microsoft with Windows 2000; March, How to Build a Home Network

Timely Business:

The few of you who actually read these minutes each month may perhaps be under the impression that I feel the Board is often slow to act, generally moving with all the speed, purpose and intelligence of a glacier. Well, you're right, I do. However three weeks ago an exception occurred.

I was going through the day's mail when a familiar packet of blue papers, folded and stapled together, appeared. It was a printed copy of the latest "Diablo Blue". I was surprised to be receiving this, as I signed up for the electronic newsletter over a year ago to save \$5 and a tree or two. I was even more surprised to see the phrase "Please come back!" handwritten next to the address label.

Obviously there was some kind of mix-up and Peggy believed that I had quit the club. Then I began to worry. Had I quit without remember it? Could this be one of those dread "senior moments"? Worse yet, what if I had been kicked out? Had I done anything wrong? The more I thought about it, the more worried I became that the rest of the Board was finally so fed up with my nagging and insulting gentle chiding that they held a secret meeting to expel me. Or maybe it happened at the last Board meeting while I was in the next room looking for leftover pizza.

Little did I know that this was only the first step!

A little while later I went to my computer and logged on to the DVPC web site to look at the newsletter online. I clicked on the hotspot for jumping to the current newsletter and was asked for the password. That's when I

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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:

Name _____

Email Address _____

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

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

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

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doesn't charge
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Value Net

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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- **Centrex ISDN**
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Get a Friend to Join DVPC!

Board of Directors Meeting...

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realized that I didn't have the password. I had not received the email.

My first thought was that Ron had put the new issue on the web site and then neglected to email all the electronic members the password. I began to savor the anticipated moment when I would confront Ron with his error (a very rare opportunity!). Then my elation faded as a light bulb went on and I realized that the problem was with me: I must have forgotten to renew my membership.

And that is just what had happened. Like most members, I don't mark on my calendar the pending expiration of my memberships or magazine subscriptions. I rely upon others to give me a gentle nudge when time is up. But Peggy and Ron are definitely on top of their DVPC tasks. At 12:00:01 a.m. on the morning of November 1, 1999, their computers knew that I was no longer part of this fine organization, and sat there waiting for the chance to act on that knowledge. And they did. I was an outcast.

Well, I wrote the check immediately. But I decided to hold it till Windows night, when I could turn it in and save the cost of a stamp. And congratulations to Peggy and Ron for a job well done. No scofflaws or shirkers will ever get by them!

Old Business:

Windows Night: Despite some concerns, Windows Night was very successful. An interesting and generous vendor turnout (thanks in large part to Alan's and Ron's tireless efforts) made for an entertaining evening. The excellent participation by our members, and a remarkable number of strangers (thanks to Mr. Publicity, Mark Allen) resulted in a crowd of several hundred restlessly filling the building lobby and flowing out of the building, waiting impatiently for the official Opening of the Doors. But Bill Earl, Sergeant at Arms, stood firmly in place, daring the crowd to attempt to get past him, and none were reckless enough to try.

The sale of raffle tickets and several successful auctions of donations brought in some much needed money for the treasury. Also, a number of members took the opportunity to renew their membership, and many more new members joined our ranks.

Future Speakers: Alan has an interesting array of speakers lined up through March, and six or seven others clamoring to present their wares to us. This is a welcome and somewhat unusual situation to be in. Let's hope the trend continues.

Publicity: Mark began by telling us what he wanted to accomplish: to what heights he wanted to take DVPC. We were so impressed with his vision and his enthusiasm that we actually let him talk uninterrupted for ten minutes.

Not content to rest on his laurels, Mark presented an excellent draft of a new brochure. To show him we cared, we critiqued it enthusiastically and at length. (I thought Charlie only cared about projectors and band width,

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Get Involved! Learn!
Join a SIG today!

Support **Diablo Blue** Advertisers!

SIG News...

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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.

New Linux and Genealogy SIGs

Bill Walsh and Nick Chase have started a **Linux SIG**. The first meeting will be held in January. Bill is using Red Hat Linux 6.0, and Nick is using Red Hat 6.2. If you are interested contact Bill or Nick at the next *DVPC*

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President's Message...

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On another note, as many of you know, we have a small network in the house. We just upgraded to the new version 3 of WinProxy. IT IS TERRIFIC. We are now able to videoconference from ANY machine on our home network. This is great because it means Jessica can VC with her boyfriend in her room and not tie up the server!!! (They VC for at least an hour a day!!!). Osis, the publishers of WinProxy, worked with me for several hours during the beta process to make sure this function would work - and it does. Their tech support is really good. If you need a proxy server, this is the one to get.

Another interesting thing I learned: During a sound card upgrade on another machine I started to have interrupt problems. I learned that if you have a VIA chipset on your motherboard (look at the logo on the big chips on your mother board) there is a patch which will solve this problem. Find it at www.via.com.tw. Curiously, the problem partially manifested itself by not allowing my mouse to drag and drop. Weird.

Coming up: January (assuming the world doesn't end at midnight on December 31st 1999): PowerQuest and Caldera; February: Microsoft with Windows 2000; March: How to Build a Home Network, Random Access, and Members' Swap Meet.

Well, I'm off, see you in a week. Here's hoping it will be a Good Comdex!

Board of Directors Meeting...

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but he can expound quite knowledgeably and at length on the fine art of printing, too.) Let's just say that despite the fact that there were more opinions expressed than at your last family reunion, Mark managed to get some good ideas from his fellow Board members.

The discussion drifted from the brochure to the target audience. Although generations of Publicity directors have waxed enthusiastic about canvassing the local colleges in search of new members, tonight the idea stuck a chord. Soon the Board members were shouting out names of colleges throughout northern California. Alan started making a list, and this was passed around for each of us to sign up for several schools to visit.

We were caught up in our enthusiasm. We demanded being assigned to the schools we wanted to visit and rehearsed the speeches we would give before the student body. We told how we would twist the arms of the administration to let us post our notices. Tongues of fire began to appear over our heads. I was so carried away that I nearly volunteered. But when schedules started being discussed I regained my self-control. I pointed out that it would be awkward to show up at a school, track down the appropriate administration and/or faculty members, force your way into their offices, demand to speak with the students, hand out brochures and post signs, and then, when the demoralized staff capitulates, say "Great! I'll be back when I have the stuff printed." So the pressure is on Mark again to deliver the goods, and no doubt he will.

Want Ad

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Dec/Jan/Feb

Windows Tips and Tricks by [Ron Ogg](#), DVPC

Closing Windows (from John Grygiel jgrygiel@foneinc.com)

If you want to close all windows opened in a particular windows drilldown session close the top window with the right upper corner X while holding down the shift key. All daughter windows will be closed avoiding the need to close all windows manually.

Putting Control Panel Applet Shortcuts on the Desktop

Are there some Control Panel applets that you use regularly, like Fonts or Add/Remove Programs? Instead of going through "Start - Settings - Control Panel - applet name" each time, put the applet's icon on your desktop. Here's how:

1. Open Control Panel, and make sure you can see the desktop around the window (if you can't, click on the Restore icon at the top right corner of the window).
2. Right-click on the applet icon holding down the right mouse button; continuing to hold down the right mouse button, drag the applet icon to your desktop then let the mouse button go.
3. From the pop-up menu click on "Create Shortcut Here".

You will have your Control Panel applet on your desktop.

SIG News...

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meeting, or email them: Nick at nachase@yahoo.com or Bill at bwalsh3@ix.netcom.com.

Peggy Johnson is starting a **Genealogy SIG**. This SIG will hold its meetings "virtually" in cyberspace. Look for more information in the January issue of *Diablo Blue*.

Become a Mentor by [Alan Mildwurm](#), DVPC

DVPC has a large number of knowledgeable members who are intermediate to expert users of various software packages. We're going to resurrect our Mentor program and take advantage of this storehouse of knowledge and let members share their knowledge with other members. If you use particular software packages, and would like to help other members when they have questions about any of those packages, you are a candidate for becoming a Mentor. Look for a Mentor Information Form when you register at the next DVPC meeting, and help your fellow DVPC members

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

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

Patterns Changing in Removable Media Drives

The removable-media disk drive picture is changing. This category includes CD-ROM and DVD-ROM drives, CD/DVD writable drives, other read/write optical disk drive formats, rigid disk cartridge drives, card format rigid disk drives, high capacity floppy drives and low capacity standard floppy drives.

New types and technologies that enable users to remove data from systems for safe storage or sharing with others are supplanting older ones. A Disk/Trends, Inc. Report covering 61 manufacturers notes that 1999 worldwide sales revenues of such drives will top \$10 billion. The sales outlook for the nine disk drive product groups included in the report is a mixed bag. DVD-ROM drives are projected to pass up CD-ROM drives in shipments within two years, excellent growth is forecast for writable CD/DVD drive formats, miniaturized hard disk drive cards will develop entirely new markets, shipments of standard 1.44 megabyte floppy drives will peak within two years, and high capacity floppy drives will continue a strong growth pattern.

Rapidly declining prices and performance improvements for DVD-ROM drives will make drive customers the big winners in this product transition, as DVD-ROM drives go through the same rapid product cycles of speed improvements and price declines that have characterized the CD-ROM market in recent years.

Falling prices and improved availability of CD-RW drives have made this format the leading growth product among all types of writable optical disk drives, at least for a few years. However, by 2002 significant growth in drive shipments is also expected for DVD rewritable formats and for new high capacity rewritable drives using new technologies.

Don't count out the lowly 1.44-megabyte floppy drive just yet. It is adequate for typical word processing applications and prices are now. Shipments should peak in 2001, then start a slow decline.

DSL Growing as Broadband Alternative

Covad Communications, a leading broadband access provider, recently reported its 20,000th DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) installation, and Earthlink began a pilot DSL project that it reportedly will expand nationwide.

Covad now claims to have the more installed lines than any other national provider. The 20,000th milestone represents a growth rate of 133 percent over the end of March 1999 and 413 percent growth from the end of 1998

DSL offers high-speed, always-connected, simultaneous multi-user access to the Internet over existing copper telephone lines, which proponents say will make it a major player in the broadband arena. Myself, I can hardly wait for a DSL installation in Ken's Korner, coming soon as part of the Earthlink pilot project. The cost: Only \$6 to \$9 more per month more than our current ISP/phone bill because we can get rid of our second phone line, which has been a dedicated dial-up modem line. Stay tuned for updates.

Science, Space Fans Get Online Community

If you are a science and space enthusiast, you now have an online community to call your own. Cosmiverse (www.cosmiverse.com), the Internet portal devoted to science, space, is a one-stop location on the Web where visitors can find a variety of services. Membership is free and entitles users to the following free services: e-mail address; search engine; auction house; daily planner/calendar; address book; stock quotes; news and local weather; web hosting space; file and data storage; chat rooms, and message boards. It also includes a game room with chess, backgammon, and science fiction games where players can play against other people on the web. A link from the Cosmiverse site connects members to one of the most interesting and innovative space projects on the Web. At Cosmic Voyage 2000, (www.cosmicvoyage2000.com), visitors can read about and even participate in the first-ever private space-exploration mission. The Near Earth Asteroid Project (NEAP), a mission organized by SpaceDev Inc., of San Diego, is intended to be the first in a long series of profitable commercial deep space missions to be conducted by SpaceDev Inc. NEAP is currently scheduled to launch at the turn of the new millennium.

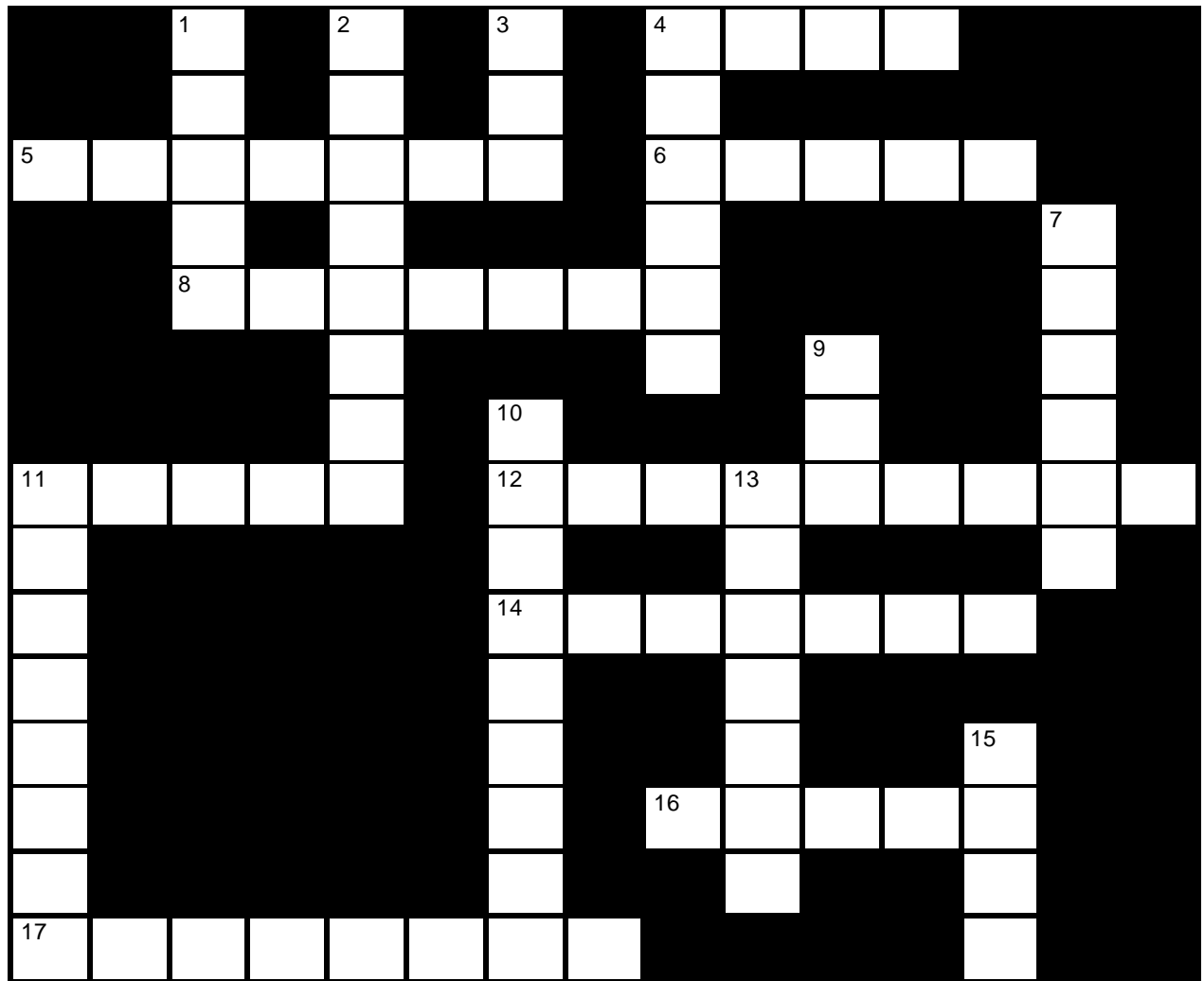
Does all this light your jets? If so, prepare for liftoff!

Copyright 1999 by Ken Fermoyle, Fermoyle Publications. Ken Fermoyle has written some 2,500 articles for publications ranging from Playboy and Popular Science to MacWeek, Microtimes & PC Laptop. Ken's Korner, a syndicated monthly column, is available free to User Groups.

For information or permission to reprint this article, contact kfermoyle@earthlink.net.

Computer Crossword, December 1999
Computers Peripherals

by Craig Peterson, DVPC



Across

- 4 Peripheral for storing and reading data (4)
- 5 Peripheral for the advance control of data (7)
- 6 Hand held control device (5)
- 8 Device for capturing images for later viewing (7)
- 11 Data storage disk system (5)
- 12 Peripheral for the remote access of data (9)
- 14 Peripheral for hard copy display of data (7)
- 16 Peripheral for communicating with other computers (5)
- 17 What you install in your computer to make it run (8)

Down

- 1 For entertainment and relaxation (5)
- 2 Peripheral for the reading of data. (2 words) (8)
- 3 Peripheral for the reading of data (3)
- 4 Device for capturing images for later viewing (6)
- 7 Portable computer (6)
- 9 Data storage disk system (3)
- 10 Peripheral for the storage and playing of music (2 words) (9)
- 11 They're never at the right volume for two people in the same room (8)
- 13 Peripheral for viewing data output (7)
- 15 Flavorful computer (4)

Diablo Blue Article and Ad Information

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

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

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

DVPC on the Internet

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

DVPC Officers and Directors

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

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

DVPC Voice Mail System

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

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

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

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DVPC is a member of [APCUG](#), the Association of PC Users Groups

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



Support DVPC — Get a friend to join!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

Name: _____

Company/School: _____ Email address: _____

Address: _____

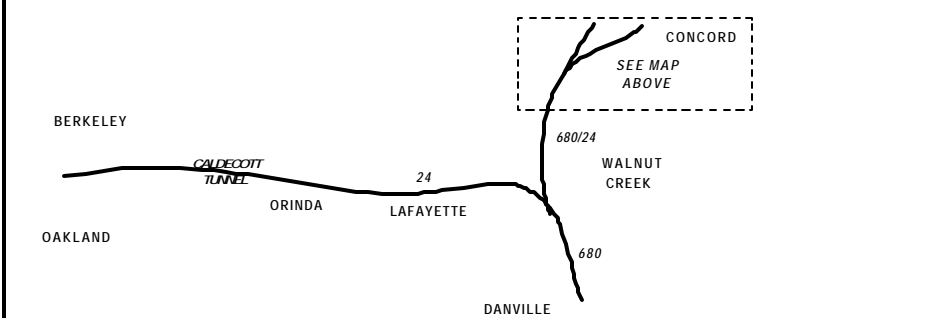
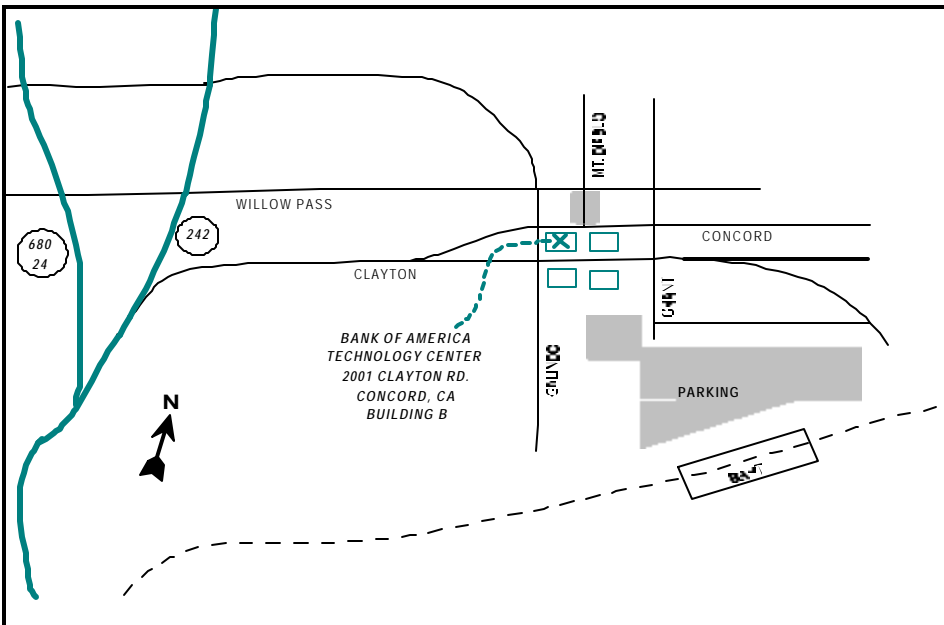
City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

I'm also interested in these SIGs: _____



Directions to Bank of America Building B in Concord

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

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

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

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

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

DVPC December 1999 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<p>See SIG News starting on page 4 for more information about SIG meeting dates, times, topics, and locations</p>		1	2	3
		<p>Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Alan Mildwurm's house</p>	<p>DVPC Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. New PC 101 class 6:15 p.m. New Users SIG 6:45 p.m.</p>	
6	7	8	9	10
				<p>Real Estate SIG No meeting this month</p>
13	14	15	16	17
	<p>Photo SIG 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Internet SIG 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Advanced Users SIG New meeting location 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Diablo Blue deadline Email articles and ads to the Newsletter Editor: rogg@value.net</p>
20	21	22	23	24
<p>Microsoft Project SIG 7:30 p.m.</p>		<p>Education & Entertainment SIG Clarion SIG No meetings this month</p>		<p>Windows SIG No meeting this month</p>
27	28	29	30	31
	<p>Access/Visual Basic SIG 7:30 p.m. No meeting this month</p>			<p>Last day of the 1900's! Maybe the last day of the Millennium!! Happy New Year!!!</p>

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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