

# Diablo Blue

November, 1999



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

## November 4, 1999 Meeting Announcement *Windows Night*

The November, 1999 DVPC meeting will be our annual Windows Night extravaganza. This year's WINDOWS NIGHT will feature products and demonstrations from many outstanding companies including:

*Microsoft, PowerQuest, Broderbund, Ositis,  
Nolo Press, Computer Renaissance, Panda Software, New Horizons, Value Net,  
and many others.*

Most of us plan to attend each year just for the FREE information and to keep track of what is new and exciting in the ever-changing world of high technology. There are a few, however, who look forward to the many items given away in raffles, the auctions of exciting hardware and software, and getting HUGE discounts on products and services. Whatever you are looking forward to, place 7:00 p.m., November 4, 1999, on your calendar.

DVPC Windows Night is 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.

*(Note that the usual New Users SIG meeting will not be held this month.)*

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the Windows Night event. See you at this year's Windows Night!

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### President's Corner

by Alan Mildwurm

#### *Windows Night*

I can feel it. Windows Night is approaching. Will we have enough participants? Will we have enough attendees? Actually, short of violating the room occupancy fire code, the answer to both questions is always, a resounding NO!

For those of you unfamiliar with Windows Night, it has been an annual tradition of the club for many years to have a mini-trade show in November (a warm-up for Comdex????). We invite several companies to set up tables and demonstrate some of their latest and greatest software and hardware.

We are fortunate this year to have excellent presenters including Microsoft, PowerQuest, Ositis, Broderbund, Nolo Press, and lots more. Sprinkled throughout the evening are raffles and auctions. This truly is a fun event (except if you are on the Board and responsible for making it happen).

The event is open to everyone, but of course, members

[\*\(Continued on page 12\)\*](#)

## More Blasts From the Past by Ron Ogg, DVPC

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That stack of old issues of *Diablo Blue* that Alan Mildwurm handed me continues to provide material that reminds us that, when someone tells you about “the good old days of computers,” you should remind them that today is *much* better! And, so you know exactly what I mean, a reprint of one of those old articles follows for your interest and amusement. Look for more in future issues of *Diablo Blue*.

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## Our Archives: Reference Set from the August, 1986 Issue

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### *A Software Review by Carl C. Disbrow*

Teachers run in the family. My grandfather, my mother, my father, and my sister; all have followed that trade. My father also worked as a proofreader and typesetter for a small town newspaper. Give him a word correctly pronounced and he would give you the correct spelling without ever having seen the word. For me, the ability to spell never passed through the placenta. After the school bully who couldn't spell his own name correctly, I was the next to be seated in the spelling bees that we had in school.

When spelling checkers became available for the computer, I thought that the pearly gates were about to be opened. My first (and last) spelling checker was more work than looking up the words in the first place. It was supposed to have a dictionary of 50,000 words, but it was forever saying that there were no such words. Type “ing” on the end of a word and the chances were good that it would not know it. Type “ly” and you could be sure to have to look it up anyway. Even the words that I did spell correctly it did not recognize. So it sits on the shelf – unused – a waste of money.

Then came Turbo Lightning and Reference Set, memory resident spellers, and once again I was interested, but having been burned once, I was glad to learn that the club library had a copy of Reference Set for trial.

The program will run on a floppy system, but it is better suited to a hard drive. I happen to have an extended memory board that allows me to run the hard drive system on my floppy machine, using the EMS as a very large RAM disk.

The task of initialing the program is tricky if you are not familiar with writing config.sys files like myself. In the process, I discovered an error in the documentation – a typo, I suspect: two files, rhtxx.dic and prfxx.dic should be copied using the following: “a:>copy a:rhtxxldic b:\dict\rht.dic” and “a:>copy a:prfxx.dic b:\dict\prf.dic” instead of the ones listed in the manual. Remember that this applies to a floppy system. The ones in the manual may be correct for a hard drive.

I like the onscreen checker because it allows me to look up a word as I type and get the correct spelling. So far, it has only stumbled once and that was on the word initialing. It did not even come close until I used the wild-card approach. When I type init\* then it found the correct spelling.

At first, the full document checker did not work so well. The problem was of my own lack of information. In the initial setup you need to tell the program what word processor you are using. Since Enable was not one of the default ones, and I did not know the technical construction of Enable word processing files, I get quite a few words that were spelled correctly but which had unusual characters in front of them. This I found was the one drawback to the program, minor, perhaps, but how many people in today's environment bother to know how their word processor treats the 8th byte of a word? My way around this is to save the file in ASCII format. It works just fine.

One feature that I especially like is the program keeping you informed as to what it is doing. So often when the cursor just sits there blinking at you without anything obviously going on, you begin to wonder if it is working as it should or if the whole thing has come to a grinding halt.

Reference Set is not easy on your memory requirements. The small dictionary takes up 117K, the larger one 188K. The larger thesaurus uses 208K and the smaller one 120K. On a floppy system with only 256K, this can be a very significant amount of memory. On top of that, you must add the memory needed by your word processor and its data files. If you like to use resident memory utilities, you may not have enough room for everything.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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## Our Archives: Reference Set...

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*(Continued from page 2)*

Finally, I find that in most cases it is not sensitive to word endings such as “ing”, “ly” etc. Up to this point, my conclusions could be that this is a good program, it works as you would expect it to, and once you get past the process of initialing the disks, it is easy to use. I use a special booting disk to set up my extended memory board and load Enable, so it was an easy thing to simply add the Reference Set COM files to that disk. I can have Enable in RAM drive, Reference Set in A drive, and my data file in B drive. It all works together like a charm.

When it came time to test the Thesaurus, I was in for a jolt. While the dictionary worked just fine with Enable, the Thesaurus hung up the computer so that it had to be rebooted. Every time I would try to use it, it would try to find the necessary files on drive C despite the use of the special set up program telling it to look on A drive.

Calling the support number, I was told that the person who handled the technical questions for the Thesaurus was busy on another line, I could wait or I could have him call back, I chose to have him call back – I should have waited. I was still waiting the following day. My next call did get help. There are three word processors that Reference Set does not support: Enable, Samna, and one which I do not remember for sure but which I believe was Deluxe Volkswriter. Back to WordStar!

One thing became painfully obvious to me: I would never go back to WordStar just to be able to use the Thesaurus. Not that the program did not perform well, it did just as it was supposed to according to the manual. But the advantage of the Thesaurus was not enough for me to give up the little niceties I have grown accustomed to in Enable.

Would I recommend these programs? For a floppy system, it would be questionable unless you have plenty of memory. On a hard disk system, they would be very handy adjuncts to your word processor.

### *Addendum*

Having written all that, I find that both the speller and the thesaurus work with Enable if you choose carefully the combination of Alt and letters that you use. It seems that the normal Reference Set commands conflict with a set of commands for Enable. After some study, I found that Alt-W, X, Y, and Q would work without interfering with any Enable commands. Unfortunately, these are not easily remembered in connection with the command for Reference Set. But like so many of the WordStar commands which we learned, in time these can be mastered by sheer force of will. I cheat and use a “sticky note” on the monitor to remind me. If Reference Set allowed you to assign commands to Alt-1, 2, 3, 4, etc. it might be easier, but these are illegal Alt combinations. For the past three weeks I have loaded this program and found that I enjoyed having it available to use and put to work. I am amazed at how quickly it checks a full screen of text.

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## DVPC Membership Renewal Millennium Y2K Special

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Y2K is nearly here. And DVPC is celebrating by offering a special membership renewal offer for the approaching millennium.

Renew between now and the end of Windows Night on November 4, 1999, and DVPC will extend your by 3 extra months. It doesn't matter when your membership is due for renewal – all current and former DVPC members are eligible for this special offer. If you take advantage of this special and you introduce someone who's never been a member of DVPC to the club and they sign up for a new 12-month membership between now and the end of Windows Night, we'll extend your membership for another 3 months for a total of 6 months free! So, print and fill out the renewal form here on the DVPC web site, or use the renewal form on page 15 of each issue of Diablo Blue, and bring it with your check or cash to Windows Night and take advantage of this special offer. Remember, November 4th is your last opportunity to take advantage of this special offer, so do it and save! save! SAVE!

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

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

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

The Access/Visual Basic SIG meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Gateway Group's offices, 3687 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 350, in Lafayette. If you are interested in Access or Visual Basic, be sure to join other programmers at this 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](http://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](http://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](http://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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*(Continued from page 4)*

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

The Internet SIG meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Computer Renaissance, 959 Contra Costa Blvd. in Pleasant Hill. Our November meeting will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup>. We cover the world of the internet from email to browsing.

One of our members (SQRL2) would like to share these "Sites of the Month":

[www.staples.com](http://www.staples.com)

[sunsite.unc.edu/mdw/LDP/gs/gs.html](http://sunsite.unc.edu/mdw/LDP/gs/gs.html) (Note: No www)

[www.firstfantasies.com](http://www.firstfantasies.com)

[www.Rouze.com](http://www.Rouze.com)

[www.fieldguide.com](http://www.fieldguide.com)

[www.odci.gov/cia/ciakids](http://www.odci.gov/cia/ciakids)

If you like these (or have better ones) come join us as we explore the wild world of the web. For further information, please contact Craig Peterson by email at [compmail@pacbell.net](mailto:compmail@pacbell.net) or by phone at 510-671-7025.

### **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](mailto:elie.asmar@iadf.com).

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

The New Users SIG usually 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 usually 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. However, because of the Windows Night event there won't be a meeting in November. See you in December!

### **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](http://www.dvpc.org/photo.html) for SIG information.

Tuesday, November 9th 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](mailto: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 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

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## SIG NEWS...

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*(Continued from page 5)*

you have any ideas they would be appreciated. Contact SIG Leader Bill Thompson at (925) 998-8530 or email at [thompson@dlsnetwork.com](mailto: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 Freeway take Clayton Road east to Galindo and turn right; the Police Department building is 3 blocks south on your left. From

*(Continued on page 10)*

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## Switch to the Diablo Blue Web Edition

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*"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](mailto:nopaper@dvpc.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## DVPC Board Meeting Minutes by Tom Krauss, DVPC

**Meeting Date:** 10/13/99 **Time:** 7:00 pm **Location:** Alan Mildwurm's house

**Bank Account:** \$891

**Unusual Business:**

When the first of us arrived at Alan's home for the meeting we couldn't help but notice a new electronic gizmo in the middle of the meeting table. It looked remarkably like one of those four inch high by six inch wide speakers that office managers in the '70s had by their phone so that they could practice their putting while participating in a phone call. But knowing Alan and his penchant for the latest in electronics, we wondered what it *really* did. Was it a soon-to-be-released Pentium 990 with one gig of memory and a 63 gig hard drive? Maybe the beta of a combination infrared/microwave/laser GPS and video camera? Perhaps the latest iMac? No, not that. We knew that Alan would keep *that* hidden from us.

Well, it turned out to be a '70s phone speaker with sound quality just a shade better than a crystal set (you kids as your grandpa about that – your dad won't know, either). It seems Ron was emulating O. J. "Hertz" Simpson in San Francisco and forgot to call for his stunt double, or something. Anyway, Ron was not up to moving, not even for pizza and chocolate cake, so he joined us from home via the antique speaker phone. Although he could only hear every third word, fortunately he missed nothing important.

**Old Business:**

*Windows Night:* We have a pretty good lineup of vendors for Windows Night (if they all show up), and still more that are either undecided or unreachable. Fortunately Ron and Alan can be very persuasive with vendors (I think their secret is they actually call the vendors). If it were left to the rest of us, Windows night would consist of Alan telling us about last year's Comdex.

There was some concern regarding possible competition for attendees at Windows Night. It seems Stan put an ad for DVPC in one of the Flea Market newspapers, but put his own phone number in instead of the Club's. Some of us were concerned that he was going to start a club of his own, but when he pointed out the ad said nothing about bees, we began

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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!

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## Board of Directors Meeting...

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*(Continued from page 7)*

to believe him that it was the paper's mistake. And if it wasn't, he is being punished with some very interesting phone calls.

In addition to making himself a pest with the media in an attempt to get some publicity, Mark plans to spend the next week papering the county with notices about Windows night. That should counteract anything that Stan may or may not be up to. Any members wishing to get some fliers to post at the school, office, bowling alley, bar, wherever, should contact Mark. Or use some of that fancy software you've got cluttering up your hard drive and make your own.

### **New Business:**

The only new business was a suggestion to get someone to talk about Linux at one of our meetings. The rest of the meeting revolved around Windows Night.

How can nine people spend two hours talking about getting vendors and attendees to a meeting? If you have ever seen your Board in action, you would know. Whenever a vendor's name is mentioned, we all struggle for a chance to speak. Upon gaining the floor, we then do a core dump of everything we know, hear, guess or imagine about that vendor, the previous name and owner, who *has* bought them and who *might* buy them, which of their products were good and which were similar to Alan's speaker phone, and what their relationship was to us individually. The useless information spewed forth makes the answers in Trivial Pursuit seem like explanations of the Meaning of Life by comparison.

Please don't assume from this critical analysis of Board behavior that I feel myself to be above this sort of thing. As my wife and sons will be quick to tell you, I am a prodigious repository of useless information, and am generally quite eager to prove it. My problem is that I know little and care less about the genealogy of technology. I just want equipment and programs that work. So I tend to be quiet (okay, less outspoken) during these vendorfests. I sit there quietly taking notes about the events going on around me and checking my watch every few minutes as I wait for desert. But let someone touch on a topic I care about, and I can put a glaze across the eyes of everyone at the table faster than you can say "Corel bought Word Perfect from Novell".

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## Accessing HotMail from Email Programs by [Ron Ogg](#), DVPC

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If you use HotMail, you can access your account through your favorite e-mail program instead of a browser. Go into your email account setup screen (in Outlook or Outlook Express it's on the Tools/Accounts menu; you'll need to check the documentation for other email programs). You need to enter *pop.hotmail.com* as the POP3 server, and *relay.hotmail.com* as the SMTP server. You will also need your user ID and password to set up the account information. (In Outlook and Outlook Express you'll probably have to reselect the account from the Tools/Accounts menu and select Properties button to complete your setup.)

Get Involved! Learn!  
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## SIG News...

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*(Continued from page 6)*

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.

### **Linux SIG?**

Bill Walsh and Nick Chase are interested in starting a Linux SIG. Is there anyone else who would be interested in joining? 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 meeting, or email them: Nick at [nachase@yahoo.com](mailto:nachase@yahoo.com) or Bill at [bwalsh3@ix.netcom.com](mailto:bwalsh3@ix.netcom.com).

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## **Timeslips – A Software Review** by *Alan Mildwurm, DVPC*

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In my other life, I keep time. My income depends on billing my time so my office needs a program that can easily and accurately accomplish that vital task. Sadly, Timeslips version 9 by Sage does not fit the bill. For many years, we used version 5, which was a stand-alone DOS based product. It was boring (how much fun can this type of software be!) but it worked and worked well—even though the copy protection often got in the way (even with everyone having a licensed version of the program) when we transferred our individual records to the bookkeeper. Recently we networked our office, and decided to upgrade Timeslips so that we could access the billing on the network and avoid the Y2K problems of version 5.

This is where our problems began. It's hard to say which is worse, the software or the tech support. From our experience, neither work. We needed to convert our version 5 files to version 9. That makes sense. Unfortunately, it is a two-step process. First convert to version 8 and then on to version 9. Unfortunately, the documentation we had left out vital information on this process. We tried several times and it always failed. Calls to tech support yielded no help. In fact, it was clear that the tech support people were guessing and had NO clue on how to solve the problem. We downloaded 9 Megs of patches to no avail. Their website was essentially useless in trying to find a solution. Since tech support is a revenue source for Sage (i.e. you pay for the privilege of learning how to make their software work) one wonders about their motivation. The various people often contradicted themselves in their advice to solve our problem. One tech tells you to follow a certain sequence of steps; the next says that is wrong. At least it stopped costing us money because they stopped responding to e-mails or phone calls. Of course, they have a no-return policy on components we ordered so we now have a shelf of useless software. We struggled for months trying to get the software to run. At this point, we are back to version 5 and looking for a good time keeping program. My advice, steer clear from Timeslips 9.

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## **Beta Testers Wanted** by *Camille Smith, InDefense*

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Wanted: Beta Testers for InDefense Virus Protection System

Beginning mid-November, InDefense will be beta testing several products (Windows 95/98/NT/2000), including:

- InDefense Macro Virus Protection for Client
- InDefense Virus Protection for Outlook E-Mail Client
- InDefense Virus Protection for Exchange E-Mail Server Plug-in
- InDefense Virus Protection for Checkpoint Certified Firewall Plug-in
- InDefense Virus Protection for Stand Alone Client (new version release)

Testers will receive an email announcing which products are available and testing parameters.

Reward: For their participation, testers will receive a single license for InDefense, free. In addition, testers in a network environment will receive a 45% discount off the MSRP for the network version of InDefense.

Testers are asked to register at [www.indefense.com](http://www.indefense.com). Questions can be directed to Camille Smith (Toll-free: 1-877-472-3372) or [camille@indefense.com](mailto:camille@indefense.com).

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## **TheHungerSite.com** by [Nick Chase](#), DVPC

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This is a really commendable website. All you do is click a button and somewhere in the world some hungry person gets a meal to eat at no cost to you. The food is paid for by corporate sponsors. All you do is go to the site and click. You are only allowed one click per day so spread the word to others.

Visit the site and pass the word. [www.thehungersite.com](http://www.thehungersite.com).

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

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### ***Microsoft Outlook Tip***

If you've switched to another Outlook folder and want to quickly return to the Inbox folder, press Ctrl+Shift+I instead of using the mouse – it's faster.

### ***Windows 98 Link Check Wizard***

Have you ever double-clicked on a shortcut icon on your desktop or in a Programs folder, and then watched an animated flashlight wave back and forth? If so, that shortcut's target may have been moved or deleted. To avoid these situations, track down all of the "orphaned" shortcuts using the Link Check Wizard which is found on your Windows 98 CD in the reskit folder.

If you've installed the Resource Kit Sampler already, click on Start, choose Accessories/Windows Resource Kit, click on Tools Management Console from the pop-up list, from "Tools A to Z" click on "A to C", then double click on Check links to run the Link Check Wizard. Click Next and the Link Check Wizard will display a list of "dead" links. If you want to delete them all, click the Select All button, click the Finish button, then click OK. To delete some links, select the them by clicking on them so there's a check mark next to each file name you want to delete, click the Finish button, then click OK.

(Note: If you haven't installed the Resource Kit Sampler, you can install it from your Windows 98 installation CD. Insert the CD and choose Browse CD from the splash screen that will open. Navigate to the tools\reskit folder, double-click on startup.exe, and follow the on-screen instructions.)

### ***WinDiff***

As long as you've installed the Resource Kit Sampler, take a look at the WinDiff tool. It lets you select two files, or two directories, and compare them. You'll be shown the differences in a color-coded display.

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

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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](#)

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### *DSL Growing as Broadband Alternative*

Coved 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:kfermoyle@earthlink.net).*

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## President's Corner...

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*(Continued from page 1)*

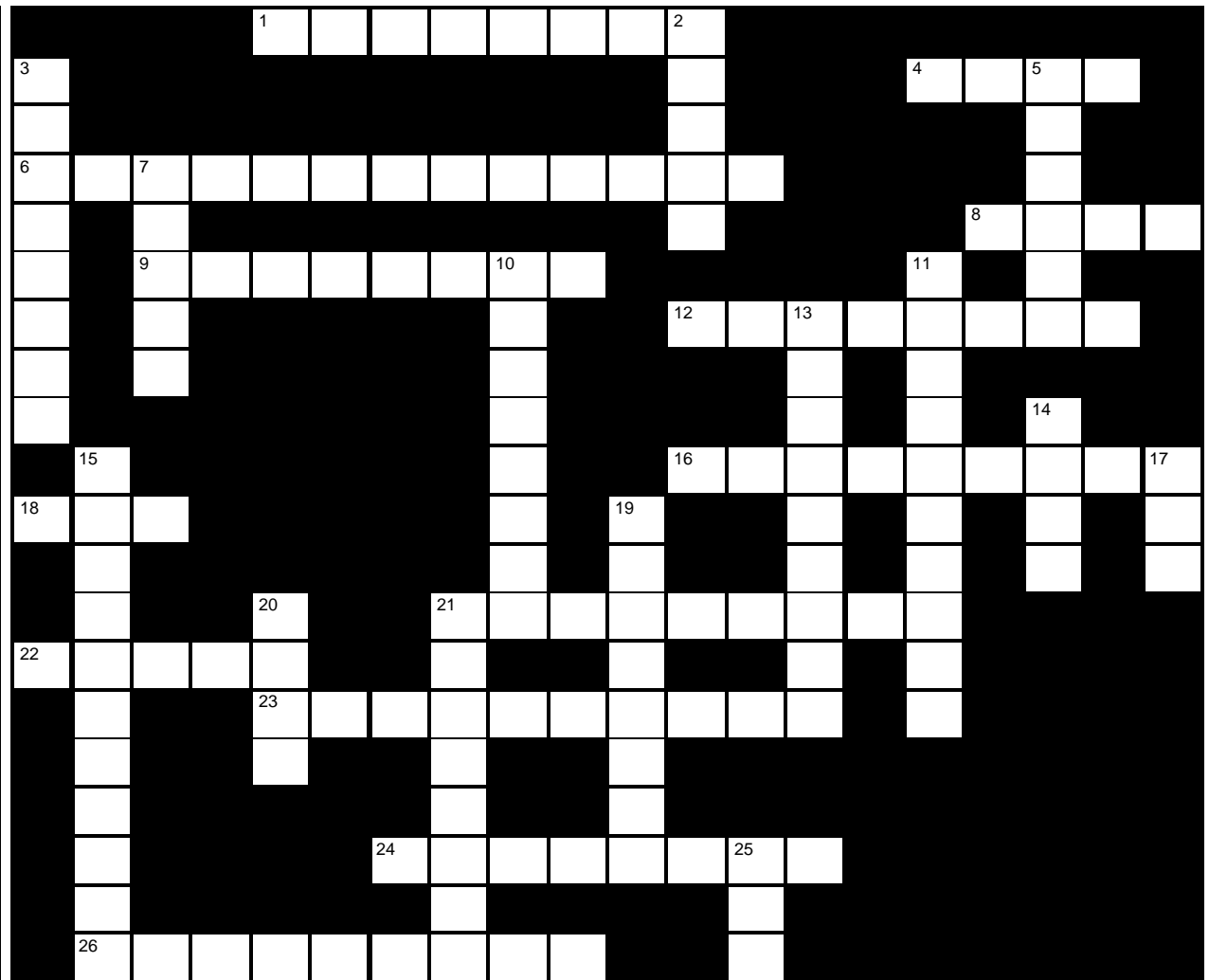
get the best stuff. Our Millennium Membership Special is in full swing so it is an excellent time to join or renew and get a few extra months of membership for free. Recommend a new member and get even more free months of membership.

Help us out: renew your membership, bring a friend and have them join the club, buy raffle tickets, bid recklessly at the auctions, and, of course, have fun.

I am pleased to report that I reserved our site at the Bank of America building today for our meetings next year. We are set again on the first Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 9:59 p.m. (now all we need are people to fill all of the seats!).

# Computer Crossword, November 1999 Computers and Programming

by Craig Peterson, DVPC



## Across

- 1 Abbreviation of word that stands for another word or phrase (8)
- 4 Program subroutine causing a repeat of an action (4)
- 6 Solid state circuits that replaced transistors (13)
- 8 Basic unit of computer memory usually expressed in terms of bytes (4)
- 9 3.5", 5.25, or 8" portable memory storage device (8)
- 12 Program to translate between a programming language and a machine language (8)
- 16 A thin piece of cardboard used to enter information into the computer (9)
- 18 Command to stop the program running (3)
- 21 Diagram of the various steps taken by a computer (9)
- 22 American Standard Code for Information Interchange (5)
- 23 Small program or routine within a larger program (10)
- 24 Magnetic tape in a box to hold information (8)
- 26 Single computer instruction (9)

## Down

- 2 Language used by business. (5)
- 3 Low level symbolic programming language (8)
- 5 Code signifying a particular task to be done by the computer (6)
- 7 Peripheral device for converting signals from audio to digital and digital to audio (5)
- 10 Input/Output device (8)
- 11 High capacity (1 to 10 MB) hermetically sealed hard disk (10)
- 13 The actual computer in a large computing system (9)
- 14 Paper strip to hold programming information (4)
- 15 Replacement for vacuum tubes (11)
- 17 Disk Operating System (3)
- 19 Time a computer is out of service (no, the answer is neither "always" or "far too often") (8)
- 20 Flat piece of magnetic material used to store data (4)
- 21 Software permanently stored in a computer using a ROM device (8)
- 25 One of the original terms for a computer terminal (3)

## 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](http://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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

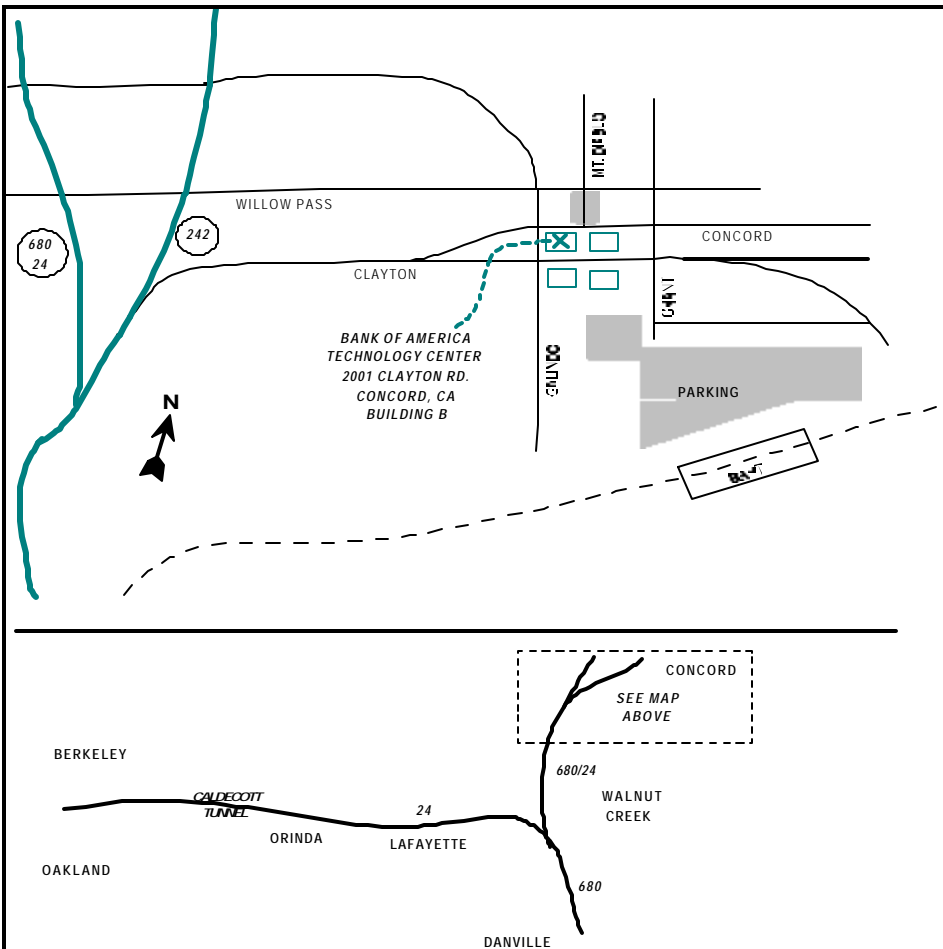
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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 November 1999 Calendar

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

**TO:**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

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