

# User Friendly

September 2003



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## LACS General Meeting

### Photo and Video-editing

DAVE WHITTLE

Tuesday September 9, 7 P. M.

Fellowship Hall, 8065 Emerson Ave., Westchester

Dave Whittle returns with a quiver full of photo and video programs to show. Programs shown will be chosen from *Iseemedia - Photovista, Photovista Virtual Tour* and/or *Reality Studio, Micro Research Institute - 3d Album, Muvee - Muvee Autoproducer* and perhaps others, as time permits. Many of us are becoming more active in digital photography and/or video. These are tools Dave has chosen for user group presentations. With Dave's background in photo and video imaging programs, this promises to be an interesting evening. Open to the public. Come and learn with us.

The usual computer forums for beginners and advanced users start at 6:00 P.M. Information: 310-289-7177 or <http://www.lacspc.org> ♦

## August Meeting Report

By **Charlotte Semple**, LACS President

We had a packed house this evening, with many visitors in attendance as well as some familiar faces that we don't see often enough. Thank you all for coming! For the benefit of visitors and newcomers, **Charlie** explained about SIGs and when and where they meet. He made special mention of our new Wi-Fi SIG that will be meeting at CompUSA Thursday Aug. 14 at 6:30 PM.

Three printers have been do-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

## LACS 2003 Elections: Vote!

By **Richard Harmetz**, LACS Nominating Committee Chair

Candidates for officers of the Los Angeles Computer Society and for five seats on the Board of Directors been nominated. The nominating committee, consisting of Richard S Harmetz, chair, Charles Mahan and Joe Falcon, solicited nominations and candidacies by contacting individually over sixty LACS members.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

**(AUGUST MEETING REPORT)***(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)*

ated to LACS for sale, and Charlie announced that he had made sure that they are in working order. He also announced that LACS has been offered **Lou Glazer's** computer stuff following his recent death. Volunteers are needed for sorting through and storing it all.

Karl asked those members who have been attbi.com cable internet users to go to the LACS website, <http://www.lacspc.org>, and use the Changes button to notify LACS of their new xxxxxxxx@comcast.net email address.

**ELECTION**

Vice President Richard Harmetz, Nominations Committee Coordinator, announced the slate of Officers and directors who are running in the upcoming October elections. Candidates for Director are, Patsy Bellah Nancy Cattell, Leah Clark, Helen Karagozian, Todd Martin, Richard Steinberg, and Richard Smith. Those running for Officers are, Charlotte Semple-President, Charlie Semple-Vice-President and Patsy Bellah-Treasurer. There is no one running for Secretary at this time. Ballots will be mailed to members in September. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the September general meeting.

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Bill Hughes** announced that the Library has too many "vintage" books and that most of them are being given away to any one who would take them, but that the Library does have several learning tapes.

**Helen Karagozian**, our Special Event Chairperson, announced that she has signed LACS up to attend the SONY Studio filming of "Jeopardy" October 21, 2003, at 11:00 a. m., and "Wheel of Fortune" on November 21, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. Show producers will donate \$10.00 per person attending "Jeopardy" and \$8.00 per person attending "Wheel." We need at least 20 persons to attend each Show.

**EBAY**

Then with a wink and a grin, **Charlie** introduced the speaker (me). eBay is a whole new world that can give anyone an excuse for spending a few hours "window shopping." When a curious person goes to <http://www.ebay.com>, a wonderful page opens up with mind-boggling lists of items for sale. It is true! You can sell or buy ANYTHING on eBay.

There are Tutorials to help you learn more about Buying and Selling. When you click "live Help." a real person "holds your hand" to answer your questions and solve problems. The center of the mail page is full of "special deals". To realize the power of eBay it is necessary to do a bit of exploring. Have fun! CPKS. ♦

**EBAY — Buying and Selling Hints and Tips**

By **Cathy Grammar-Margolin**, NOCCC

EBay is the largest online marketplace. Tons of new and used and collectable items are bought and sold every day. Last year, eBay users exchanged some \$9.3 billion worth of goods. On an average day in May, one million sales occurred, according to Newsweek. It allows an individual access to the global marketplace without having to be a large company.

**REGISTRATION**

First you have to sign up and get a user id (do not use your e-mail as your user id, as they can pull it off of eBay to spam you). Once you get used to buying on eBay, note that you can have multiple eBay id's. I use one only for selling and another for buying (to not upset my customers).

**BIDDING**

When you bid, I recommend sniping (bidding at the last minute). If you continue to bid during a 7-day auction, you and your competition could drive the price up, while bidding at the last minute helps to keep the price lower. Think of any auction you have been to—it is only the last price at the close of the hammer that counts! To that end, there are lots of sniping programs you can buy from Websites like ([www.hammertap.com](http://www.hammertap.com), [www.vrane.com](http://www.vrane.com), [etusa.com](http://etusa.com), etc. Or check [www.download.com](http://www.download.com) for any auction sniping software—there are lots!) or use a sniping

service (they bid at the last minute for you for a fee such as esnipe.com).

**SELLERS**

Make certain you check the sellers feedback—too many negatives and neutrals is NOT good. Even sellers with no feedback could be a disaster—they may not know the ropes yet. Beware of a seller with no feedback and a large dollar item for sale - they may be good or bad, but you do not have enough information to trust them with your hard-earned money. If you have a concern about a seller, ask them a question a few days before the auction's end (such as cost of shipping, do they take Paypal or eBay Payments, etc.) to see how they respond.

**OTHER AUCTION SITES**

AuctionWatch.com has lots of tips for buyers and sellers at: <http://www.auctionwatch.com/awdaily/tipsandtactics/index2.html> They also have a message board for many different auction sites at <http://www.auctionwatch.com/mesg/> where you will notice that eBay comments outnumber other comments by a 1000%. eBay is where the market is in online auctions.

Before you buy, be aware of the Terms of Sale (TOS) for that seller. They differ greatly. Some take only money order (be careful with those), some take eBay Payments only, etc. If you pay with a credit card or eBay Payments, it is easier to get reimbursed (chargeback) if the transaction goes wrong. Just remember to be as careful you would normally in any

transaction.

**SELLING**

You need a credit card and a bank account, currently. eBay is an ever changing marketplace, where change is constant. But it is a unique marketplace. I needed a glass double boiler to make my Mom's famous hot fudge sauce, and learned they no longer make them. I turned to eBay and found only antique and very expensive ones. But I waited and found one that was clouded on the bottom (fine for my purpose, but not as good for an antique) and \$20 later, I had my double boiler! You would be amazed what you can find!

*Cathy Grammar-Margolin,  
NOCCC - published in Orange  
Bytes the newsletter of  
NOCCC ♦*

**Welcome To You All**

**NEW MEMBERS (3)**

- Jennie Gaines
- Bessie Harrison
- Barbara Van Dam

**RENEWING MEMBERS (13)**

- Eddy Acemyan
- Ray Crovella
- Edie Ditmars
- Steven Halpern
- William Hatton
- Harold Klein
- Jerry Lee
- Lee Leventhal
- ♥Jules Moster
- ♥Leatrice Pride
- Emil Rozek
- Herb Van Brink
- Charles Wallace

**♥Contributing ♦**

**Wi-Fi SIG Report**

By **Leo Salazar**, LACS

**THE MEETING**

The second meeting of the Wi-Fi SIG was held at **Helen Karagozian's** home in Pacific Palisades Wednesday July 30. At this meeting **Charles Mahan** presented an overview of Wi-Fi security issues and Helen demonstrated her recently completed wireless home installation.

This was our first closer look at the problems of eavesdropping and intrusion, issues which have become as much emotional as technical. Security is indeed the single issue still causing many SIG members to question their own home use of this now readily available technology.

**THE NEW SECURITY**

Wi-Fi computing is fast becoming THE cultural cutting edge for security concerns of all kinds. In the era of purely wired connections, we learned to proceed cautiously everywhere we traveled on the web. But improperly secured radio wave connections can now create vulnerability to neighbors and strangers intruding upon us as well. This heightened risk creates attitudes ranging from indifference to complete rejection of the new technology, with the sensible answers as usual somewhere in between.

A thriving industry now exists to protect Wi-Fi users, and stories abound of eavesdroppers cruising the streets to sniff out

*(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)*

**(WI-FI SIG REPORT)***(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)*

unprotected networks. During the evening it became clear that the original WEP (Wireless Equivalent Privacy) protections have flaws that a serious intruder can exploit.

This, of course, is true for door locks and airline security as well, and it became equally clear that a bomb shelter mindset is probably no more useful in computing than in our streets and neighborhoods. Indeed the stories seem to illustrate only the simple need to act here with the same responsibility that other life activities demand.

**Helen's Home System**

It was odd to make our first encounter with these issues in Helen's home; her warm hospitality contrasting with the darker theme of surveillance and intrusion from outside. During the break she brought out her laptop to demonstrate the Wi-Fi system she'd just set up for herself. Hooking to the projector, she let us watch on the larger screen her attempts to reach the Internet via the wireless access point placed elsewhere in the room.

Helen is still learning her own system, but her efforts — a bit bumpy at first — were successful, and we soon were watching her visit various sites. Indeed, tagging along through her family e-mail and online bridge games was so enjoyable that we nearly forgot the exercise's point of demonstrating the system itself, the Wi-Fi enabled laptop,

DSL broadband, and router access point.

Soon others fired up their own laptops to use her access point for tuning-in practice. For some, this was their initial attempt, and the fact that not everyone was successful became our first taste of the need to assist each other more in future meetings.

**WEP REPAIRS**

The major example of 'fixing' comes from the fact that WEP relies on a secret 'key' between the access point and the mobile station. Whether using a 40-bit or 128-bit static key, the longer it remains unchanged the greater chance hackers have of cracking it. So most 802.11b Wi-Fi users must periodically change the security key for each NIC card and access point manually, a laborious task virtually guaranteeing that keys get left in place too long. The 802.11i technology now on its way addresses this problem by using TKIP (Temporal Key Integrity Protocol) to replace the static keystate with a dynamic one that automatically changes each time a predetermined number of packets have been sent. Still not perfect, but better.

Such weaknesses arise from the fact that WEP was apparently never offered as a complete privacy package on its own but rather as a first basic protection, intended for use with other protections such as firewalls, virtual pipe lines, and encryption. Users may also buy enhanced proprietary versions of WEP with extra safeguards

added in, though this can tie them to upgrading with the same supplier.

And for all its weaknesses, everyone still advises enabling WEP against the kind of casual snooping that most of us are likely to experience. Indeed, the worst problem on everyone's list is the continuing failure of most novice Wi-Fi users to turn on its protections at all, rather than leaving the pre-set open defaults unchanged from the box. This was perhaps the evening's best illustration that common sense is still the strongest security measure for computing of any kind. ♦

**Digital Photo SIG Report**

By **Helen Karagozian**, LACS

The Digital Photo SIG met on July 28 with 26 members attending. The meeting was co-chaired by Fred Kong and Helen Karagozian.

Elliot Silverstein continued with the fundamentals of learning Adobe Photoshop Elements and presented enhancing photographs. We learned how to use auto contrast, adjusting backlighting, fill flash, color cast, brightness/contrast and variations.

After Elliot's very informative presentation, a question and answer session occurred.

We will continue at the next meeting following the outline which Elliot previously prepared for the group. ♦

# My Floppy Disk Died And I'm Not Feeling Too Good Either

By Susan Ives, Alamo PC

Archival librarians have long been wrestling with the implications of storing important historical documents on digital media. As genealogists, you face the same problem on a more intimate scale. Will your electronic family histories stand the test of time? The truth is, we don't know. Electronic archivists face two hurdles. First is the stability of the media themselves.

How long will floppy disks last? A CD-R? A zip disk? Hard drive? Tests by the National Media Lab show that the best quality CD-ROMs stored under ideal conditions are expected to last from between 50 and 100 years. Most zip drive owners have experienced the "click of death," signaling last throes of a damaged disk or drive.

Floppy disks are not certified for long-term archival storage, which is defined as more than three years. If your records are stored on floppies:

### PRECAUTIONS WITH FLOPPIES

\* Never allow anything to touch the magnetic surfaces of a disk. A fingerprint will leave an oil residue and tiny scratches that cause permanent damage.

\* Always store 5.25" floppy disks in their disk jacket, and avoid squishing them together in overloaded diskette boxes.

\* Avoid high humidity environments and choose a location at

room temperature, which is free from fumes, dust and vibration.

\* Avoid leaving disks in high heat, such as parked cars or mail boxes.

\* With 5.25" floppy disks, fill out the label before attaching it to the disk. If the label is attached, use a felt tipped pen. Avoid using Liquid Paper on

### Editors Note

This article was written especially for those interested in genealogy and the preservation of their genealogical records. However anyone interested in preserving information such as photographs, data files, or any information that you might want to preserve for your children, grandchildren or others will find this article of interest. ♦

disk labels, as loose particles can cause surface scratches. Paper clips can cause magnetic corruption or come loose and wiggle their way into the disk jacket.

\* Floppy disks are rated for temperatures within the range of 10 to 45°C. Continual temperature fluctuations should also be avoided.

\* Magnets can destroy data. Sources of magnetic fields include battery chargers and power packs, electric clocks, computer monitors, modems, printers, computer speakers, telephones, radios, electric typewriters, and magnetized hand tools .

\* Disk drives collect dust and foreign matter, which can cause surface scratches on disks. Clean them.

### OTHER MEDIA

These tips will serve you well for almost any medium. Keep your digital archives at a stable temperature and humidity, handle them at a minimum, keep them clean, don't shove

them into dirty drives, don't moosh them together and keep them away from magnets.

To add another level of insurance, keep all of your important records in duplicate in case a disk or tape fails, Even better, keep them stored in two different media, for example, on a zip drive and on a CD ROM.

Archivists sometimes "refresh" their media. Every year or two pull out all your archived material and copy them onto fresh disks. And, even though it might not be apparent to the naked eye, technology does improve. Modern floppies have better anti-static shielding. Newer CDR's are less vulnerable to corrosion.

After archiving your data, check out the new disk to make sure it works. Quickly check to make sure the old and new disk contain the same number of bytes, but also open a few files to make sure they are not corrupted.

### LABELS

Although these aren't physical problems, make sure that your disks are clearly labeled so that you do not accidentally overwrite them. Label them for future generations so that your descendants will know that they contain important genealogical documents and don't sell them off in a yard sale. And make sure you virus check your material!

Another solution is to print your material. Be wary. Ink jet printed materials can deteriorate, too. I have had the ink lift right off documents that were stored in non-archival quality plastic document protectors. At best, ink jet printed photographs are predicted to last one generation, 20-26 years, if printed using highest quality photo inks on best quality matte photo paper. Worst case is less than one year before de-

**(LACS 2003 ELECTIONS)***(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)*

Additional nominations will be taken from the floor at the September 9 meeting, at which time nominations will be closed. A person may run for both an officer position and a directorship.

**ELECTION & BALLOTS**

The Elections Committee, Gene Jacobs, Chair, will prepare the ballots and mail them to members about September 13. To be counted, they must be received at the LACS mailbox by 5 p. m., October 10. The Committee will count the votes and report the results at the October 14 general meeting.

The following members have been nominated for the year 2004.

**FOR PRESIDENT****Charlotte Semple**

Charlotte Semple is running for her third term as president. Charlotte, who gave the eBay presentation at the August 12 meeting, keeps the books for her son's printing business, runs a home-based doll-making/repair/restoration business, and is married to former LACS Vice-President Charlie Semple. Charlotte is no stranger to holding office, having been president, chair, and leader in such organizations as the Episcopal Church, both the Boy and Girl Scouts of America, Girls' Friendly Society, and the American Women's Association (Singapore). She has been LACS Treasurer, Greeter Coordinator and Secretary Pro-tem, and has represented

LACS at many Southwestern and national User Group conferences.

**FOR VICE-PRESIDENT****Charlie Semple**

Sometimes looking back can be satisfying, but looking ahead is usually more productive. 2003 has been a year of significant challenges for LACS, among them, declining membership, difficulty obtaining advertising for User Friendly (with its important revenue) and coping (GRIN) with an "in-house" President. Change is inevitable. We're learning to cope with it and benefiting in the process. Getting back into the role of Vice-President seems the best contribution I can make to LACS. JOIN ME. Accept a role in which you too can contribute. There are lots of jobs to do. Some of them are small; others need commitment. ALL of them are important.

**FOR SECRETARY**

Candidate Needed

**FOR TREASURER****Patsy Bellah**

I have served as a member of the board for the past five years; two years as secretary and the last three as a board member. I have also served as leader of the E-mail/Internet SIG. I have discovered that the more I participate in LACS functions, the more I learn. I urge everyone who is a member to participate, even if it is only to ask a question so that someone else can have the good feeling of helping someone by answering it. I ask for your vote, and I will do my best to serve with prudence and diligence.

**NOMINEES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS****Nancy Cattell**

Co-chair of the Digital Photography SIG, Nancy has been involved in computers since 1960. An attorney specializing in estate planning, she served five years in the army and is the author of two books. She is a former chair of the Board of Trustees of Santa Monica College, where she served two terms on the board and thirty-one years on the faculty. She is a member of the executive board of the Santa Monica Retired Teachers Association and a member of the League of Women Voters State Committee to Study Community Colleges. Nancy also was Santa Monica Commissioner, Housing.

**Leah Clark**

As a member of LACS for five years, I have learned a lot. I started using computers with an Apple 2 twenty years ago. I have retired after forty-four years as a medical technologist at UCLA. Now I am the coordinator of the Genealogy SIG, a member of the digital Photo SIG, the Greeter coordinator at the general meetings, and the indexer for User Friendly.

If I am elected to the board, I hope to learn more about the operation of the society and to find new ideas to serve the members.

**Richard S Harmetz,**

A retired community college English professor, Dick is LACS's outgoing vice-president. He has been a member of LACS for over a decade, a board member for three years, and has worked as copy editor on *User Friendly* to which he has contrib-

uted many articles. One of his *User Friendly* pieces was awarded an AOL prize as Best User Group Article of the Month. He was active in the Desktop Publishing SIG and has loaned his home for SIGs. This November, he will serve his fourth year as an LACS delegate to the APCUG user group meeting at COMDEX in November.

### **Helen Karagozian**

I am a retired teacher from Los Angeles Unified School District and have been an active member of LACS for six years. In my capacity as Special Events Chair, I have arranged for our members to attend various TV shows and have raised considerable money for the club some of which was used to purchase our current projector. I am co-chair of the Digital Photography Sig. I would like to be on the board to encourage more SIGs and special events functions and to continue to provide highest level of services for the membership on a sound fiscal basis.

### **Todd Martin**

Well, that was a fast two years and, once again, my term is due to expire in January. If you will have me for another two years, I'm willing. And everyone, please vote.

### **Richard (Dick) Smith**

I have been serving as a director of LACS and have participated in the ongoing improvements and accomplishments of the group. I have been a member of LACS since 1994 and have participated in many activities including four years as

editor of *User Friendly*. As editor of *User Friendly*, being a member of the board has provided me with the opportunities to interact with the other officers and board members and get current, accurate information into the newsletter. If re-elected, I will do my best to advance the objectives of LACS and help make it an organization that is beneficial to all members. Thank you in advance for your vote.

### **Richard O. Steinberg, O.D.**

Upon retiring from professional practice of Optometry after 50 years, the first thing I did was purchase a computer with the express purpose of being a part of the 20-21<sup>st</sup> Century. This decision has been both stimulating and frustrating and an ongoing challenge. Techie I'm not, but I am in awe that I've been able to keep my nose above the water line and do maintain a ongoing interest in most things CPU related. Joining the LACS several years ago was a conduit to that further interest. I'm not sure what I may bring to the board of directors other than a desire to represent the membership's best needs. If elected, I can only promise to be open-minded, impartial and sincere to the membership

### **CONTINUING DIRECTORS**

**Fred Kong and Paul White** will continue to serve out the second year of their two-year terms as directors. ♦

## **Your Telephone Number On The Internet**

Google has implemented a new feature where you can type someone's telephone number into the search bar and hit enter and their name will appear. Then, if you click on the Mapquest or Yahoo icon shown, you will be given a map to their house.

If your child gives out his/her phone number, someone can actually now look it up to find out WHERE you live AND get driving instructions to GET there.

Most people would only use this feature for reasonable purposes. My concern is with those people who would not. I am concerned about a feature which makes it that much easier for them.

Results are given for both Yahoo and Mapquest, which actually put a star on the house, on the street, if there is an address listed with the public listing.

In order to test whether your phone number is mapped, type your number in the search bar of **www.google.com** with the dashes (e.g. 310-XXX\_XXX) and hit enter. If your phone number is not publicly listed, you should be fine, but for those of you wishing to BLOCK Google from divulging your private information, click on the telephone icon to the left of your phone after it locates you and you will see a link where you are allowed to REMOVE yourself from Google's database. ♦

## Would You Like Printer Repair With Your Order?

By **Mark Presky**, LACS

Hunger contributed to the repair of my inkjet printer. Several months ago I was driving along Santa Monica Blvd in West LA, approaching a set of the Golden Arches, when I realized that it was Filet-O-Fish Friday (99 cents), and I was hungry. I have significantly reduced my consumption of fried foods, but the thought of deep fried compressed minced cod (or whatever they use) oozing with a glob of fatty, salty tartar sauce was too much to resist - I must have been REALLY hungry.

After receiving my order I sought a clean table upon which to dine. There was one unoccupied small table well seasoned with various condiments, so I looked further to a larger nearby table occupied by only one gentleman. After asking if I might join him at the table, and introducing myself, I started up a conversation. He was dressed in a jacket and tie, so I asked what he did for a living. When he said that he serviced computer peripherals including printers and fax machines - my ears perked up. I told him that I had been wrestling with a frustrating printer problem for over a year and hated giving up. He inquired further.

### PROBLEM

I told him that my HP 694C would print a page or two and then stop suddenly, often mid page, to inform me that the printer carriage was unable to

move. Over the months I had discovered that by turning the power off and then using rubbing alcohol (not orally consumable spirits) to clean the stainless steel or chrome shaft upon which the carriage with the ink cartridges traveled, I could get it to print another page or two or three ... if I was lucky. After several months of this I finally replaced the 694C with an even older HP 600 monochrome printer (manufactured in the days before humans were upgraded with retinal cones) of my father's that I kept in the closet for emergencies.

### SOLUTION?

The gentleman said that it sounded like the bearings underneath the carriage were clogged with dried ink. I asked him how ink would even get there. He responded that ink tends to distribute itself everywhere inside most printers. He is no longer amazed at the places he finds it doing damage.

He suggested using a small amount of Windex on tissues to dissolve and tease out the congealed ink from the bearings, and then to lubricate, sparingly, the shaft upon which the carriage moved.

### FIXED

Later, I pulled the inoperable printer from my closet and set it up on the kitchen table. I assembled some discount glass cleaner (sorry, Windex) and several off brand Qtip type cotton tipped sticks and went to work. Close examination revealed a glob of gelled ink on either side of the carriage adjoining the shaft. I must have

gone through about 20 of these cleaner dampened cotton tipped sticks before the amount of dissolved ink coming from the sides of the carriage where it joined the shaft began to subside. It just kept coming and coming. There must have been a cartridge's worth of ink in there (OK, I exaggerate a bit). I then used the tiniest bit of silicone gel lubricant (an amount the volume of about a quarter of an apple seed) and spread it over the shaft. Although I spread it so thin that I couldn't see it, I then wiped off most of that with a clean tissue. From my years of experience maintaining medical equipment I have learned that less is usually better in these situations.

### CONCLUSION

Now, time for the test. I replaced the older printer on my system with the newer, and hopefully, fixed instrument. After plugging it in and powering it up, I requested the printing of a 6 page document. IT WORKED! After all the hours of frustration I had endured with that printer I was not satisfied. I now ordered it to deliver another 6 pages. And another. I was ecstatic.

My day was made. And I owe it all to fast food. It may be clogging my arteries, but it helped me clean out my printer's clogged carriage bearings.

Hey guys and gals, maybe we should be trolling for new LACS members at fast-food outlets, offering to help with computer problems. ♦

## September 2003 into October 2003

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 September</b> Board meeting 7 PM sharp	<b>2</b> Daytime SIG 12 PM (lunch) Office SIG 7 PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9 General Meeting 7 PM</b> <b>Forum 6:00 PM</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11 WI-FI SIG 6:30 PM</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16 Daytime SIG 1 PM</b> Hardware SIG 7 PM	<b>17</b>	<b>18 Membership Committee 7 PM</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>22 Digital Photo SIG 7 PM</b>	<b>23 Beginners/Internet SIG 6:30 PM</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1 October</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6 Board meeting 7 PM sharp</b>	<b>7 Daytime SIG 12 PM (lunch)</b> Office SIG 7 PM	<b>8</b>	<b>9 .Genealogy SIG 7 PM</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

SIG meetings are run by and for LACS members. Visitors are welcome to attend up to six SIG meetings (three of the same SIG) before joining LACS. To inquire about a SIG, please call or e-mail the contact person in advance. SIG Coordinator: Charlie Semple, sig.coord@lacspc.org.

SIG	Contact	Telephone	When and Where, Notes
After Meeting	Cap Kierulff	310-472-9206	Dinah's Restaurant on Sepulveda, southwest of Centinela.
Begin./Internet Computer Forum	Dorothy Miliman	310-473-1391	4th Tuesday, 6:30 PM Culver City Comp USA
Daytime	Cap Kierulff	310-472-9206	2nd Tuesday, 6:00 PM before General Meeting. Front of hall.
		capkierulff@MSN.com	First Tuesday, 12-1:30 PM, Golden China Restaurant, L.A. W.L.A.
Digital Photo	Helen Karagozian	310-454-3426	Third Tuesday, 1-3 PM, Felicia Mahood Center, W.L.A.
Genealogy	Leah & Joe Clark	310-677-2792	4th Monday, 7 PM American Legion Hall, 5309 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City helenk2@earthlink.net
Hardware	Charlie Semple	310-398-5052	Second Thursday, 7 PM once a quarter at the Clark's home leahclark@sbcglobal.net
Comp. Faire	Stephanie Nordlinger	323-299-3244	Third Tuesday, 7 PM, CitiBank. csemple93@earthlink.net
Membership	Vacant		If interested, call or e-mail pastpres@lacspc.org.
Office Suites	George Wolkon	310-459-2671	Third Thursday, 7 PM.
WiFi	Leo Salazar		First Tuesday 7 PM. CitiBank. * wolkon.gbwolkon@verizon.net
			Second Thursday 6:30 PM Culver City Comp USA

\* CitiBank Community room (in the basement), 12101 San Vicente Blvd. (at Saltair), Brentwood, \$1/meeting donation requested for room rental at CitiBank and at American Legion Hall. ♦

### Members Helping Members

LACS members volunteer to help other members solve hardware and software problems by telephone during the hours listed below. Select the topic from the list and then call a person whose number is listed next to it. We hope that you find this free service useful. ***If you are experienced in a particular program or topic, please volunteer to be a consultant.*** To volunteer for this list or to make corrections, please e-mail editor@lacspc.org or call Dick Smith at 323-294-3441. More Quick Consultants are always needed. You can always decline or postpone a call if it catches you at the wrong time. You perform a valuable service and often learn something unexpected! ♦

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No.	Name	Daytime Phone	Eves/Weekends	From	To
7	Greenberg, Allan	310-576-1310	310-576-1310	10 AM	10 PM
8	Heller, Elmer	310-839-9764	310-839-9764	9 AM	10 PM
9	Hershman, Irv	310-397-9453	310-397-9453	11 AM	11 PM
14	Kamerman, Cora	310-472-7487	310-472-7487	10 AM	8 PM
20	Nordlinger, Stephanie	323-299-3244	323-299-3244	9 AM	10 PM
24	Springer, Karl	310-645-3410	310-645-3410	10 AM	10 PM
27	Rombouts, Tom	310-519-2941	310-519-2941	6 AM	11 PM
32	LaVere, Hy	310-837-6517	310-837-6517	10 AM	9 PM
33	Kierulff, Cap	310-472-9206	310-472-9206	9 AM	9 PM
34	McDonald, Len	310-836-8698	310-836-8698	9 AM	10 PM
36	Hage, Elias	310-815-8020	310-815-8020	9 AM	10 PM
37	Ganz, Bill	310-360-7088	310-360-7088	9 AM	9 PM
41	Engfer, Mark	N.A.	310-451-1942	5 PM	10 PM
42	Theodore, Carol	310-659-0604	N.A.	9 AM	5 PM
43	Semple, Charlie	310-398-5052	310-398-5052	9 AM	10 PM
44	Lang, Bobbi	310-454-9903	310-454-9903	10 AM	5 PM
45	Gibson, Merrill	310-785-9487	N.A.	9 AM	5 PM
46	Martin, Todd	818-766-1151	818-766-1151	10 AM	10 PM
47	Gold, Mike	N.A.	310-379-8321	6 PM	10 PM
48	Flores, Alexys	N.A.	310-306-8403	8 PM	11 PM*
49	Beckman, Loling	310-471-7893	N.A.	9 AM	5 PM
50	Silverstein, Elliot	310-670-1544	310-670-1544	10 AM	10 PM
51	Katz, Effie (Pager)	310-785-3313	310-785-3313	9 AM	10 PM

\*Weekend: 3 PM-10 PM ♦

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**(MY FLOPPY DISK DIED)***CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)*

terioration sets in. Consider sending a sampler of your best digital images to a professional photo lab like PC Alamode advertiser River City Silver. They use a different printing process that can make your digital prints last as long as those made from 35mm film.

**STORAGE**

Finally, consider storing a complete digital archive in another location, such as a safe deposit box or a distant family member's house. If you do suffer a catastrophe, such as fire or flood, your family history will be protected.

You've done your best to physically, safeguard your disks, but that's just half the problem. The other challenge you face is technological obsolescence. Think back on Phil's master's thesis. It was stored on a 5 1/4" floppy. Do you have one on your current computer? Probably not! Some new computers that come bundled with CD-ROM burners do not include floppy drives at all. There are many new storage technologies hitting the market, such as flash memory, smart cards, Orbs, Jazz, LS120, Read-Write DVD, magneto-optical drives and pocket hard drives that plug into a USB port. Will these technologies still exist 50 or 100 years from now?

**UPGRADE YOUR MEDIA**

One solution is to "migrate". your archives to new media every time you upgrade or replace your computer. If you're like most people, that's every 18 months to 3 years. Pause for a moment and pay attention to the newest computers and how they are configured. If you notice a trend, such as new systems shipping without floppy drives, it's probably time to consider a different archival

medium. Your floppies, Zip disks, or whatever could be ready for the great computer museum in the sky. This is also the time to inventory every archival disk you own to make sure it survives the migration.

**REMOTE FILE STORAGE**

Also consider remote file storage. World Wide Web sites such as, FreeDrive and Yahoo Communities allow you to store files, for free, on a remote server. This is not a long term solution. Will these sites still exist 50 or 100 years from now?. Probably not! But they can get you over a hump. You probably have some free Web space thrown in with your Internet account in some cases, as much as 100MB of storage. Your ISP can tell you how to upload, or FTP, your files to this space for remote storage. Storing files on the Internet bypasses the entire issue of selecting viable storage media.

As insurance, consider having an old-style drive installed on your new system just in case an errant disk didn't make the conversion. A local PC builder can even transfer your old drive to a new computer. I kept putting 5-1/4" drives on my new systems, long after I stopped using those disks for storage, on the off chance I might stumble across a critical document that didn't migrate to the new medium.

If your descendants can put your disk into their computer's drive (assuming there are computers, disks and drives in the next century) the next hurdle they have to face is the operating system. Remember, Phil's disk was formatted for DOS. My old grad school papers were typed using a KayPro 4, which used the CP/M operating system. Will Windows 98, ME or XP be running 50 years from now? Probably not! Microsoft introduced Windows 3.1 in

1992, the same year IBM debuted OS/2. 'Nuf said. Try reading an OS/2 disk today.

The easiest time to migrate your storage media to a new operating system is when both the old and the new system are alive and kicking. Translating floppies from DOS to Windows was fairly easy in 1994. Today, it's a major project. You can figure that software companies upgrade their operating systems on an average of every 18 months, and kill off support to the OS introduced two changes ago. That means, at a minimum, you need to take a close look at your operating system every four years or so to make sure you don't get stuck with an orphaned OS. The longer you wait, the harder it gets.

Archivists sometimes "pickle," or preserve, old computers. This is a last resort—usually reserved for unique and rare operating systems. It's not just a matter of stuffing an old computer in a closet. Batteries can corrode or die, which could involve reconfiguring a system or having to boot from a disk. Other mechanical things can go blooey when you're not looking. If there is a way to migrate your files to a current operating system, do it.

**RESURRECTION GUARANTEED?**

I've saved the best for last. You may be using genealogy software, such as Family Tree Maker. You are probably using a word processing program. Maybe a database and spreadsheet. Graphics and photo enhancement software? Page layout software, such as Microsoft Publisher. Presentation software such as PowerPoint. Face it: none of this will be for sale at, compUSA 100, years from now. To get around this hurdle, keep a copy of your software in the same place you keep your archived files. Include the disks, man-

ual, passwords, and everything else you need to crank up the program. And I mean all of your software. John has a copy of Sierra Generations Family Tree Grand Suite. In addition to the basic genealogy software, the configuration program, asks you to point to your word processing program, your Internet browser, and makes use of Zip compression to create archives across multiple floppies. Save the font files that you might have used in word processing documents. Times New Roman may not survive into the next century. Save your graphics program. If you gather genealogical information from e-mail and news groups, save your mail and newsreader programs. Continue to migrate your data to new software. Your old DOS program may work just fine for you today but you won't be able to run the program if you can't get a DOS machine. Ten years from now Windows 98 users will be in the same boat. Although it's troublesome, in the long run it pays to keep your software current. Don't fall more than a version or two behind.

Make sure that the disks are well marked to include the program needed to access them. You could do this on each disk but it would also be a kindness to make a master list of all the file formats you use and the programs needed to open them. Your great-great granddaughter might not realize that wpd is a WordPerfect document or that she needs WinZip to decompress a zip file.

Experts recommend saving a copy of your files in the least processed file format. Each program has its own native format. For example, Family Tree Maker for Windows has a file extension FTW. These files can only be opened in that pro-

gram. Most genealogy programs also allow you to save as a GEDCOM file and, as an ASCII comma delimited text. GEDCOM files often lose some of their integrity when imported into other programs. ASCII text can be opened in any word processor, database or spreadsheet. Save your files in both of these formats. Odds are that both will survive into the next century. Text files can be saved as ASCII text

#### **E-MAILS ETC.**

Cut and paste important e-mails, newsgroups postings and Web-based data into WordPad and save them in ASCII format. Save photographs in the uncompressed TIFF file format. At the very least, save stand-alone copies of your photos rather than integrating them into another program such as genealogy, word processing or presentation software. Integrating photos with another program will force your descendants to grapple with two file formats instead of one, decreasing their chances of success.

Overwhelmed? You're not the only one. The U.S. government almost lost the 1960 census data when they couldn't find a computer to run custom-built software. The resulting Ker-flooy sparked the current interest in digital archiving. You can benefit from the mistakes others have made.

Refresh your media. Migrate your software. Think ahead 100 years. Children yet unborn will thank you.

*Susan Ives is a past president of*

*Alamo PC, leaves the genealogy in her family to her brother He posts the family data at [www.konschak.org](http://www.konschak.org). ♦*



## **Hardware SIG Report**

By **Paula Van Berkom**, LACS

**Charlie Semple** conducted the Hardware SIG on July 15 at the Citibank (formerly Cal-Fed) building with 10 members attending.

**Charles Mahan** brought a PC in which he had installed a new hard drive. Upon booting the system it displayed the message: "Failure fixed disk 0."

**Charlie Semple** explained to us about Master and Slave drives, and about where the red stripes on the ribbon go, #1 pin etc.. We went step by step through the setup mode (hit F2, while booting up), how to select auto detect on all drives, so it will recognize all. To hold the screen, while booting, hold the Pause/Break key.

**Fred Kong** brought a PC and installed a CDROM drive. We could not get it to work, because it needed the software CD. We learned about Basic Input Output System (BIOS). ♦

## Did You Know?

By **Bob Elgines**, Editor, Colorado River Computer Club, Lake Havasu City. ,

### AUDIO OR SOUND PROBLEMS?

Double click on the little Speaker Icon located on the right Task-Bar! Up pops an Audio Mixer allowing you to set all level inputs and the volume output. Make sure they are set between mid and full range. Some programs will set the Wave level to zero and all of a sudden your sound doesn't work. Also you can go to Options, then Properties and select record. Here you can adjust record levels and what to record from such as CD, Mike, etc., by selecting which one is active.

### MEMORY

How much Memory or RAM (Random Access Memory) is needed? This depends on your OS (Operating System).

Is there something wrong with this picture? Yes, the new OS can do more, but less of the old routines. Also programmers

### OS MEMORY CHART

<u>OS</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED MIN MEMORY</u>	<u>DATA BUS</u>	<u>HD FORMAT</u>
MS DOS	1980	640 K to 1 MB	8	na
WIN 1.0	1990	640 K to 1 MB	8/16	FAT16
Win 2.0	1991	640 K to 1 MB	16	FAT16
WIN 3.0	1992	2 to 4 MB	16	FAT16
WIN 3.1	1993	4 to 8 MB	16	FAT16
WIN NT	1993	8 to 16 MB	16/32	NTFS
WIN 3.11	1994	8 to 16 MB	16/32	FAT16
WIN 95a	1995	16 to 32 MB	32	FAT16
WIN 95b	1996	16 to 32 MB	32	FAT32
WIN NT4	1996	32 to 64 MB	32	NTFS
WIN 95c	1997	32 to 64 MB	32	FAT32
WIN 98	1998	64 to 128 MB	32	FAT32
WIN 98SE	1999	64 to 128 MB	32	FAT32
WIN ME	2000	128 to 256 MB	32	FAT32
WIN 2000	2000	128 to 256 MB	32	NTFS
WIN XP	2001/02	256 to 512 MB	32	NTFS

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have gotten very sloppy and, of course, that is why more errors are generated. Their feelings are probably, "Well, memory is cheap, who cares!" I believe XP has finally improved as a working OS without too many blue screens of death.

**WHAT SPEED CD-ROM SHOULD I BUY?**

This is a good question since most CD disks operate slower than 16X (1X is the original speed of an Audio CD of 150 bits/sec of data transfer, therefore a 2X is 300 bits/sec, etc.). The biggest problem today is the delay in the Start Time in reading data from a CD. If you time it, most take 8 to 9 seconds to start; if it is longer than 10 seconds problems will occur with programs and windows trying to transfer data. A long delay could destroy a CD-R disk while you are recording by letting your CD-R (Recorder) Read Buffer go dry (new CD-RW drives and software have protection for this), because with an empty buffer your CD-R will quit writing and then you just produce a coaster (bad CD). So anything above a 16X doesn't mean much, just a sales thing, but you need a Multi-Read CD-ROM or DVD that will read all types of CDs, CD-Rs, CD-RWs (Read/Write CD-Rs).

**DETERMINING MEMORY & VERSION OF DIRECT X**

How do you read what version of DirectX is installed in your system, and how much memory is on your video (or display) card used to drive your monitor? These are some

questions asked when installing certain types of programs. For Windows '98, go to Start/Run and type in DXDIAG, then click on OK. For all Windows, go to Programs/Accessories/System Tools, then click on Tools/DirectX. Here you can find out all kinds of information. Don't you wish you knew this before you purchased your machine. The latest DirectX Driver is version 9 (nine), but beware, some video programs will not operate. Click on the DISPLAY tab and read your Video Card memory. You should have at least 2 MB; some new programs require 4 MB minimum. Of course you can have more and what this means is larger blocks of video can be transferred without interrupts, giving you better looking video output and larger screen operation. I recommend a minimum of 8 MB for 15 inch monitors and a minimum of 16 MB for larger ones.

Most video cards now start with 64 MB of DDR RAM.

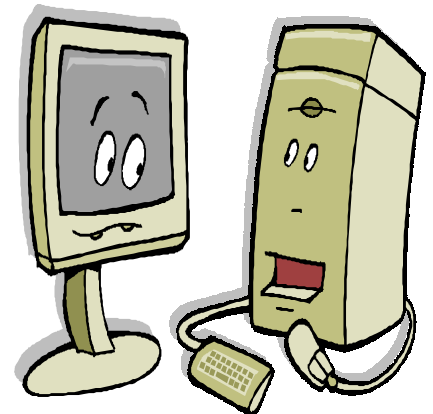
**TASK BAR ICONS**

How do I get rid of those icons on the right task bar? Most of these icons have a little program running in the background and use up valuable memory resources. The Speaker & Monitor icon do not use up any memory resources, but most of the others do. To get rid of them temporarily do a right mouse click and select Close, but to get rid of them for good in Windows go to Start then Run. Type in MSCONFIG and click on OK. Now go to the tab on top and click on Start-Up. This brings up a list of all

those icons. Do not uncheck the following four items: Taskbar Display Controls, ScanRegistry, SystemTray, and LoadPowerProfile. After unchecking the ones you don't want to come up on startup, click on Apply, then OK. You can restart Windows now or wait until later. If you use a CD-R this is very important. Also if you are going to defrag your hard drive some of these items should be turned off (or closed, along with your screen saver) or the Defrag Program will keep starting over and over and never complete the job.

This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which LACS is a member.

**Bob Elgines**, is Editor, of newsletter of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, computer club and can be contacted at [elginesz@redrivernet.com](mailto:elginesz@redrivernet.com) ♦



## Tips 'N Tricks

Compiled by **Charlotte Semple**, LACS President

### GOT THE PDF BLUES?

Do you often become annoyed when trying to read a Portable Document Format (PDF) file on a web page, and Adobe Acrobat Reader 5 insists on opening in your browser? Another thing, does it bother you that a small Acrobat applet loads into memory, taking up system resources, and the applet does not unload when you close the reader?

**The Fix:** First, launch the Acrobat Reader from your start menu. Select Edit, Preferences, Choose Options, and uncheck Display PDF in Browser. Now, when you select a PDF file while browsing, you'll see a File Download box. The reader starts automatically when you choose 'Open'.

To unload the applet, when you close the reader integrated with your browser, press Ctrl-Alt-Delete, choosing AcroRd32, and click End Task in Windows XP and Windows 2000, choose the processes tab in Task Manager, then select AcoRd32.exe and click End Process.

### HAVE A CRISIS WITH PORT IDENTITY?

Have you looked at all those little icons on the back of your modem, router, sound card, or graphics board, finding it almost impossible to identify the ports they represent?

**The Fix:** Before installing any

board or device that cables plug into, while you can see the port icons, stick a round Avery label above the port with its ID. Also, carefully wrap all the cables with mailing labels with their IDs written on them.

### DIALOG BOX DILEMMAS?

Does it bug you when every Microsoft program automatically tries to save every file you create in the My Documents folder? It's often a folder that you never use, and the last place you look for a misplaced file.

Microsoft Office apps don't let you add or remove items from the left panel of the Open and Save dialog boxes, and you are stuck with History, My Documents, Favorites, and My Network Places shortcuts there. Also these dialog boxes are postage stamp size!

**The Fix:** Start with FileBox Extender, a \$20.00 utility that adds two buttons to file-open and file-save dialog boxes that show your favorites and recent folders. The program also resizes those small Microsoft Windows dialog boxes.

### TWEAK UI

If you use Window XP, grab a free copy of Tweak UI. This permits you to add up to five favorites to Common Dialog box panels. Choose Common Dialogs, click Custom Places bar, and select an option from each drop-down menu.

### IS YOUR PC LOUD?

Grinding hard disks, whining fans, and clattering cases?

**The Fix:** First, turn off your PC. Remove the case cover, turn the system back on and, using

a paper towel tube, isolate the source of the noise. If your hard drive chatters, make sure the screws attaching it to the PC case are tight, and examine the bracket holding the drive to confirm that it's tightly connected to the PC. Check the gap around the case cover for vibrations. If you find any, wedge in a piece of cardboard. Carefully lubricate the cooling fan by removing the sticker covering the lube hole and drip one drop of oil into the hole. Wipe off any excess oil and recover the hole with a piece of tape. Don't forget to turn your PC off before replacing the cover.

### MENUS PLEASE!

Office 2000 and Office XP hide menu options when they are not used for awhile. This is one of their features. How would you like to see all your menu options without having to make an extra click?

**The Fix:** In Word, click any empty spot on the toolbar, choose Customize, Options, and check Always show full menus.

### FOGGY CLEARTYPE SETTINGS

After upgrading your system to Windows XP, and acquiring an LCD monitor, and looking forward to seeing crisp, sharp fonts on the screen, but XP seems to ignore your new hardware leaving you with a somewhat foggy view?

**The Fix:** Right click anywhere on the desktop, choose Properties, select the Appearance tab, and click the Effects button. Make sure that the "Use the following method to

smooth edges of screen fonts“ option is checked, and choose ClearType from the drop-down menu. This Fix is ideal for setting your notebook's fonts as well. ♦

## FireWire Vs. USB 2.0

By **Cade Metz**, Manatee Computer News

Shopping for a new DVD burner, external hard drive, or scanner (or just about any computer peripheral, for that matter) just got more complicated. This is due to the emergence of USB 2.0, a high-speed connection technology that is competing with FireWire as a way to connect peripherals to your computer. Both are rated at comparable speeds — 480 megabits per second (Mbps) for USB 2.0 and 400 Mbps for FireWire. So which one should you use? We'll give you the answer to this and other burning questions about the two interfaces.. Is upgrading your desktop from USB 1.1 to USB 2.0 with an add-in card worth the extra cost? Will a FireWire card deliver faster speeds for your peripherals? Or is a combo card your best bet? Which interface is faster for external hard drives, and which plays back video the best?

### CHOICES

Life used to be simpler. Macs had fast FireWire ports that could handle the fun stuff like camcorders, which need speedy data transfers; PC users, however, were limited to

much slower USB ports that poked along at 12 Mbps and could handle only run-of-the-mill gadgets like mice, printers, and scanners. But FireWire has crossed the divide, available via add-on cards for desktops, PC Cards for notebooks, and built-in ports with some new PCs. And the latest version of USB-USB 2.0-pumps up transfer speeds significantly, making it a viable competitor to FireWire (though you still can't buy a USB 2.0 camcorder).

### DECISIONS

Deciding which standard to use depends largely on the peripheral you want to connect. In many cases, the peripheral will make the decision for you, since most devices have only one type of port. But you may have a choice, as interface options broaden and multiconnection devices become more popular. So we ran tests to determine the best interface for many types of peripherals. We timed external hard drives, printers, scanners, DVD burners, and CD-RW drives over both USB 2.0 and FireWire. The results are surprising.

Though USB 2.0 is rated at a higher throughput speed, FireWire delivered faster performance on external hard drives when connected to a desktop. Still, an upgrade from a USB 1.1 to a USB 2.0 external hard drive is definitely worthwhile.. And since nearly all new mainstream desktop PCs have USB 2.0 ports, USB hard drives will be the market winners.

### PERFORMANCE

For CD-RWs, test results were

a mixed bag, although USB 2.0 showed a slight edge. For printing and most scanning work, USB 1.1 is fast enough for most users. We also compared the performance of USB 1.1 against USB 2.0 peripherals. Our tests showed that USB 2.0 was generally only 2 to 13 times as fast as USB 1.1 - not the promised 40 times as fast. But even a doubling in performance is obviously significant. Once you've chosen a peripheral, it's time to upgrade your computer, which likely has USB 1.1 ports. We expect to see notebooks move to USB 2.0 with the debut of the Intel Odem and Montero chipsets in the first half of 2003. FireWire is built-in only on some high-end PCs, all Apple systems, and most Sony computers. In this story, we explore five types of devices that add high-speed ports to your desktop or notebook: FireWire add-in cards, USB 2.0 add-in cards, combo cards, hubs, and PC Cards. We also list a handful of the many products available.

### CONCLUSIONS

Over the next few years, both high-speed data-transfer standards will continue to coexist. This may complicate your buying decisions but will also improve the ties that bind your PC and its peripherals. If you want to be the first on your block with a FireWire-enabled PC, you have a few options: Buy a new motherboard, buy a new computer, or-the cheapest and easiest answer- buy an upgrade card.

We didn't see much variation in

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

**(FIRE WIRE VS USB)***(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)*

performance among these three-port PCI cards, but the products include very different cables, drivers, and software.

*Reprinted from Manatee Computer News, March 2003, monthly publication of the Manatee PC Users Group, Inc., Bradenton, Florida ♦*

**Meeting Reporter STILL Needed**

Volunteers are needed to write a brief report each month on the LACS general meeting. It's easy and help in formatting and editing will be provided. **Volunteer now** by sending an e-mail to: editor@lacspc.org or call Dick Smith at (323) 294-3441 and leave a message. ♦

**HELP WANTED**

LACS still does not have a Secretary or Treasurer.

**Stephanie Nordlinger, Patsy Bellah and Charlotte Semple** "pitch in" but along with other things they do, covering these jobs is a challenge.

Consider if you can tackle one of these jobs. Contact any of the board members or officers if you will volunteer. ♦

**Beginners SIG Report**

By **Paula Van Berkomp**, LACS

In **Dorothy Miliman's** absence, **Paula Van Berkomp** conducted the Beginners SIG on July 22 at the Citibank (formerly CalFed) with 14 members in attendance. We learned the meaning of terms like: *application, program, making backups, hard drive crash, move and copy files and applications*. Drive C: is the main physical drive; some other drives may only be logical drives, but there are often other physical drives for Floppies or CD's. An external hard drive is a good way of backing up your system. The Web site <http://www.tigerdirect.com/> has good buys on external hard drives. They use a USB or Firewire port and best performance will be obtained using a 7200 RPM drive. If a notebook (2 1/2") drive is used, they are usually slower at 4000+ rpm. Both work well.

**Charlie Semple** showed us how to look at a hard drive's properties and to perform a defrag, clean disk, check disk and to schedule these tasks.

**Todd Martin** showed us how to create a start up disk by going to Start/Settings/Control Panel/Add/Remove Programs/Startup Disk. He explained the difference between a Boot disk, a Rescue Disk, a Startup Disk and a Restore.

The Startup Disk has basic drivers, to start the system and usually to enable CD-ROM drives, while a Boot Disk only

has Command Com, 2 hidden files and produces a DOS prompt only.

**Todd** also showed us how to start the system from the Startup Disk; he explained DOS and the root directory. He also reminded us of one of his e-mails where he gave us the URL to download the Windows ME Defrag.exe file, which is much faster than the regular Defrag that comes with Windows98. Find and rename the old Defrag.exe file (just change the extension from .exe to .old) and copy the new one to the Windows directory. The reason for the change, rather than deleting it, is so that, if somehow things don't "work out," you can always go back and delete the newer file and rename the old back to its original name. (Right click the file name to do this and choose Rename. Then change the extension and hit the Enter key.) It was a very interesting eve-

**NOTICE**

The columns, reviews and other expressions of opinion in *User Friendly* are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Los Angeles Computer Society. LACS became a California non-profit corporation on July 17, 1991. ♦

We're on the WEB!  
[www.lacspc.org](http://www.lacspc.org)

**Membership Information**

Annual membership dues:  
 Regular – U.S. \$ 36  
 Foreign 45  
 Family/Associate 12  
 Students 18  
 Contributing 50  
 Other ?  
 Benefactor 100  
 Patron 250  
 Angel (individual) or  
 Corporate \$1000 (or more).

Subscription to *User Friendly* is included with membership. Non-member subscription is \$30.

Contributing and higher categories of members may attend all SIG meetings without charge, including those where a contribution is normally expected. A corporate membership includes ten individual memberships including free SIG attendance. Associate

members are people who live in the same household or work for the same company as a regular member; they do not receive their own subscriptions to *User Friendly*. Students must prove full-time status. If you have a question, please call our Voice Mail at 310-289-7177.

In addition to LACS monthly general meetings, members enjoy these special benefits:

- ◇ Monthly Journal *User Friendly*. We publish your submissions! Free classified ads to buy or sell your computer items.
- ◇ Eligibility to win our presenters' door prizes.
- ◇ Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to solve your problems.
- ◇ Occasional swap meets and information on trade shows.
- ◇ Product discounts, special offers and group purchases.
- ◇ Free software and computer

books (if you review them for *User Friendly*).

- ◇ Network with people sharing your interests.
- ◇ Members and Quick Consultants to call when you need help.
- ◇ Rewards for Recruiting Members: LACS will give you three extra entries for drawings for each new member you sign up. You may use any or all of them at any meeting within six months. While you may not win two prizes at one meeting, if your name is drawn twice, you may swap the first prize for the second one if you wish.
- ◇ Members receive LACS announcements and members' Q & A info via LACS e-mail lists. Send requests for subscription changes with your e-mail address to: [changes.form@lacspc.org](mailto:changes.form@lacspc.org) ◇

# LACS

## Membership Application

Please return this form with applicable fees to:

Los Angeles Computer Society, 10410 Palms Blvd., PMB 13, LOS ANGELES CA 90034-4873

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Renew       Regular - \$36.00       Associate - \$12.00       Student - \$18.00  
 New       Contributor - \$50.00       Benefactor - \$100.00

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I think I am a:

Beginner     Intermediate     Advanced     Programmer     Professional     Hobbyist

I am willing to : (at least one, Please)

Serve on a Committee     Assist the Editor     Help at the Meetings     Join a SIG     Other \_\_\_\_\_

# User Friendly

Los Angeles Computer Society  
 10410 Palms Blvd. PMB 13  
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Voicemail: 310-289-7177

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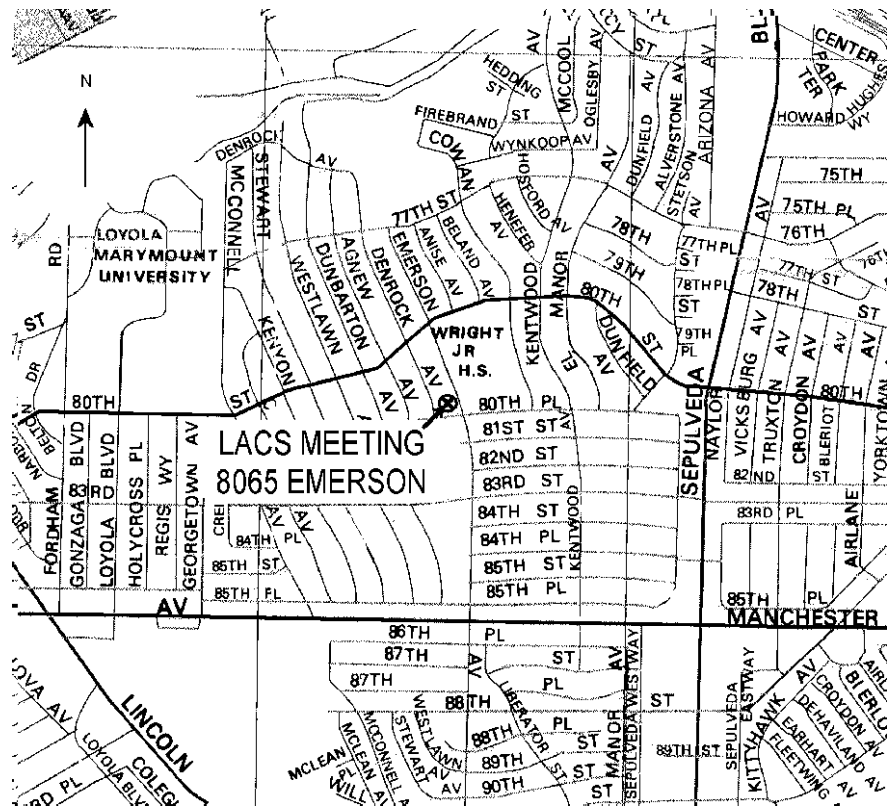
## DIRECTIONS TO GENERAL MEETING

*From the North:* Take Sepulveda Blvd. SOUTH to W. 80th St. Turn WEST/right and go about one mile to Emerson Ave. Turn SOUTH/left and go one long block to W. 80th Place. Fellowship Hall is on the Northwest corner of Emerson and W. 80th Place.

*From the South, East or West:* Take Manchester Ave. to Emerson Ave. Turn North and go about eight blocks to W. 80th Place. Fellowship Hall is on the Northwest corner of Emerson and W. 80th Place. There is plenty of street parking and a small parking lot West of the church. ♦

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