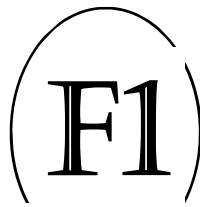


Beginners to Intermediate Users
Learning keeps the brain active



Friends Helping Friends
Expertise comes Incrementally



Helen Long
Editor

INFORMER



An informal, helpful newsletter of the
Ventura PC Users Group
Web: www.cipcug.org/vbpcug email: vbpcug@yahoo.com

Volume 14 No. 12

MERRY CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 12, 2009
Come one! Come all!



Cathy Villa

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I certainly hope all of you had a great Thanksgiving. Mine was wonderful. It was nice to have the family together and eat a great meal. Before we know it, it will be time for Christmas. Did I really say that out loud?

Our meeting last month was fabulous. Marcie's workshop on Excel was very informative. Eventually I will get the hang of it. I think I just need to start working with it and it will become easier. She will be giving us more Excel info in January. Then Tanner gave us great information on burning CDs and DVDs. It is nice when we all come away from the meeting learning something.

In December we will have our Christmas Party. There will be our usual Questions and Answers session followed by our program, which will be eating. The club will provide the food. All you need to bring is your appetite and some questions for us.

This will be the last message from me as President. As of January 2010, I am stepping down from this position. We are still in need of someone to replace me. Also Sinc Wall has resigned from his position in charge of Programs. Please make it your New Year's Resolution to help support your computer club by volunteering to help us out. These are two really important but not necessarily hard jobs. Don't let the club start to go down hill.

I will miss the December meeting, so I am wishing every one a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

November Q&A

Q: I'm not able to open the Works spreadsheets on my new computer, which has Excel.

A: You should be able to open it if you download the free program at www.OpenOffice.org.

Q: Sometimes my network signal is lost and it picks up a neighbor's signal. Is there anything I do to boost our signal?

A: First, try elevating the router so it's not going through so much furniture. If that doesn't solve it, get either an external antennae that screws into the computer back or a directional antennae and point it toward the router.

Q: I'm switching from dial-up to DSL. Any suggestions?

A: No problems with: AT&T and DSL Extreme. You might contact AARP to see if they have one at lower cost.

Q: When trying to look at pictures from my camera on my computer, it won't let me do it even though I try the two possible ways.

A: See if your camera manual is any help...Delete the program and reinstall, as it may be corrupt...See if the manufacturer has updated the drivers and you need it...Try it on your Asus to see if it is a camera problem or the disc.//

Marcie Malony

DECEMBER PROGRAM

We are getting the Christmas Season off to an early start. We will have our usual Q & A session but no workshop. Then we will have an hour of food and conversation. It will be great because we don't always have time to just sit and chat with each other. Be sure to come and enjoy the food and the company. and lets celebrate the holidays!

DUES ARE DUE

Once more, our dues are due! It is \$15 for a single member and \$18 for a family member. Even if you are only renewing, it would be a good idea to fill out the application on the back page of the newsletter so that we can update our records.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Q: Several weeks ago I did something, hoping to speed up my computer, but apparently unchecked some programs (I forget where I went) that I should n't have. Since then I'm unable to update my AVG by getting a message saying that access is forbidden to the Update Manager. When I try to download version 9, a message says there is no internet connection (There is), error code Ox#001C04E. Also, I tried to backdate to a time before I messed up and the computer will not let me backdate either. **Help!**

Marcie Malony

ANOTHER VIRUS

You will receive an e-mail from UPS/Fed Ex Service along with a packet number. It will say that they were unable to deliver a package sent to you on such-and-such a date. It then asks you to print out the invoice copy attached. **DON'T TRY TO PRINT THIS. IT LAUNCHES THE VIRUS!** Pass this warning on to all your PC operators at work and home. This virus has caused Millions of dollars in damage in the past few days. Snopes confirms that it is real. //

<http://www.snopes.com/computer/virus/ups.asp>

**Marsha Barnden, MSN, RNC
Audrey Barnden**

TANNER BURKE NERO CD BURNER

Tanner started out by giving us a few statistics about burning CD's. The CD's we buy today will burn at between 24x and 52x. The 24x will give you a more steady run with fewer errors. The 52x will burn faster but the speed is not as consistent and errors can occur.

CD-R can only be written on once, but it can be left open to add more info on the disk that has not yet been written. CDRW can be written to and completely erased. Audio (Music) cannot have multi-sessions. CD's that have © (copy-write protection) you will not be able to copy them.

DVD + R is used for video as it is more compatible for most home DVD players

DVD - R is used more for data.

DVD + RW can have multi-sessions.

When you bring up the Nero program, the left side of the program is where you check the speed and multi-session (if applicable).

With CD - R you cannot wipe the disc clean to re-use. With the CD - RW you can wipe the disc clean and put something else on it, but you cannot erase just a portion of the disc. You can add additional data if you have checked that function before burning.

SUSAN VINCENT'S SHORTCUTS

Susan did such a good job of assembling this program and I thought I would make a suggestion to you. I have a list of the Newsletters that we ran her shortcuts. You could look them up and make copies of page 3 and keep them at hand to help you learn what they are. They are a wonderful assistance to your everyday computer usage.

July 11 CTRL +
Aug 8 WINKEY +
Sep 12 ALT + and (CTRL + ALT + DEL)
Ocr 10 FUNCTION KEYS

If you haven't saved all your newsletters, you can pick up any back issues on the club's Web Site. (<http://cipcug.org/vbpcug/nl.html>).

Helen

SMART COMPUTING - FALL

Q: When trying to play a video on YOU TUBE or view an electronic Greeting Card, I get a message telling me to upgrade to the most recent Flash Player. I have upgraded, but they still won't play. What can I do?

A: Flash Player not have installed correctly. Start with a clean slate by uninstalling Adobe Flash Player using the **Add Or Remove** program utility. Click **Start** and then **Control Panel**. In XP Click the **Add or Remove Programs** icon. **Highlight** the **Adobe Flash Player**, and then click the **Remove** button. Next visit **thetiny-url.com/larz99** (no dash after tiny—it should be all one word) and download the **Adobe Player Removal** tool and run it. Now, simply reinstall the Adobe Flash Player from **get.adobe.com/flashplayer** and try viewing videos or greeting cards to see if the issue is resolved.

Q: I'm running out of **USB** ports on my computer and wanted to install an add-on card. A friend mentioned that a new type of USB standard was going to be available soon, so I should wait. Is he right, or should I grab a **USB 2.0 card**? I thought about FireWire, but he said it's slower than the new USB.

A: Your friend is correct that the new USB standard will be much faster than the current specification. The current version of the **USB 2.0** tops out at approximately **480Mbps** (megabits per second) , while the **USB 3.0** should be able to transfer data at **5Gbps** (gigabits per second).

Normally, We'd say that this large performance increase is well worth waiting for. However, at this time it's unknown when you'll actually be able to buy a USB 3.0 adapter card, nor any devices that can take advantage of the increase in transfer rates. An additional factor is that new technologies often involve a premium in price.

FireWire interfaces are currently faster than USB 2.0. **FireWire 800** transfers data at rates up to 800Mbps. Not all peripherals support FireWire, however, and the cards are a bit more expensive to add to your system. FireWire also uses less of your computer's CPU when transferring data; however most modern computers are so powerful that you won't notice the difference.

Our recommendation is to buy USB 2.0 card. You should be able to find a four-port card for under \$20. When USB 3.0 cards are released at an affordable price, you can either add it to your system or install it in place of the USB 2.0 card. The USB 3.0 interface is backward-compatible with older devices, albeit at the slower USB 1.0 or 2.0 speeds.

NEED VOLUNTEERS!

We have two very important items to settle this month. Cathy Villa will no longer be available as President of the Club and Sinc Wall will not be available as our Program Chairman.

Cathy will be spreading her wings to other ventures, however she values her membership and we will still see or hear from her from time to time.

Sinc Wall has been a strong supporter of VBPCUG since it began 14 years ago and is one of our few founding members. He has filled many positions including President, Vice President, and Program Chairman, and feels it is time for him to step aside.

Neither job will take up a lot of preparation time, and please don't sit back and say "I don't know that much about computers". The jobs you will be taking on are not computer oriented. This is a learning club and we are all simply trying to share information with each other. Please, someone step forward to fill these important positions.

**BACK UP, BACK UP, BACK UP ... AND THEN TEST
THE BACKUP TO BE SURE IT WORKED!
IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME!**

Contributors to Newsletter 2008/2009

I really appreciate the people who take the time to send me information. It's a big plate full when you expect one person to come up with all the articles. This is a good start, it is your newsletter, please contribute.

Cathy seems to be the only person contributing interesting articles. Surely some of you have had the pleasure of an "aha" so that's the way you do it. Please share those moments. Maybe it will help someone else with the same problem.

Contributors 2008-2009

Audrey Barnden	George Koerlin
Joann Briggs	Marcie Malony
Doris Chaison	Sinclair Wall
Wanda Cochee-LeBlanc	Cathy Villa

**VBPCUG Financial Report
10/20/09 – 11/21/09**

Balance 10/20/09	\$524.66
Income	
Refreshments	\$12.00
Membership	\$78.00
Expenses	
Refreshments	\$5.00
Wireless Antenna	\$76.11
Juno	<u>\$17.94</u>
Balance 11/21/09	\$515.61

WE NOW HAVE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

You will notice the Wireless Antenna for \$76.11. We now have access to high speed Internet Connection thanks to Marcie Malony. The wireless Antenna connects to her high speed service, and we have paid our last snail mail Juno invoice. A big thanks to Marcie for sharing her Internet with us and to Jim Burke who put it all together for us.

Editors Comments

This newsletter is a collaboration of the efforts of many people. We welcome any articles pertaining to the computer world. Your input might help some body solve a problem, so please feel free to submit articles or experiences. Please just E-mail them to me at **helen@cipcug.org**, and because I don't always recognize everyone's name in our club, please show the **subject VBPCUG**

VBPCUG Mailing Address
217 Tulip Court, Ventura, CA 93004
Membership Information

Membership dues are \$15.00 single, \$18.00 per year family. Membership terms are from January 1st. Dues will be prorated at the rate of @1.25 per month.

F1 The Informer, is published monthly by Ventura's Beginner's PC User's Group.

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors or contributors, and do not necessarily represent those of the VBPCUG, its officers or members as a whole. The information is believed to be correct and we hope informative and useful: however, no guarantee, expressed or implied, is made by VBPCUG, its officers, editorial staff or contributors.

VBPCUG does not endorse or recommend any specific hardware or software products or manufactures.

The Ventura Beginner's PC User's Group meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Buena Ventura Mobile Home Estates Clubhouse at 11405 Darling Road, Ventura, CA from 10:00 A.M. until Noon. All are Welcome.//



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INK CARTRIDGES

Don't forget, we are still collecting ink cartridges, so don't throw those empty cartridges out. Bring them in so we can earn some money from them. They help to provide those munchies and coffee at break time.

HAVE YOU RUN YOUR ANTI-SPYWARE PROGRAM LATELY ?

**VBPCUG MEMBERSHIP
NEW & RE-NEW 2009-2010**

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please Print the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Single \$15.00 Family \$18.00

WE DO NOT SHARE OUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION WITH ANY OTHER CLUB OR ORGANIZATION.

Yes, I do want to re-new

No, I do not want to re-new

Yes, I am a new User

Phone (Home): _____)
(Work): _____

E-Mail address: _____

User level: Novice _____
Intermediate: _____
Advanced: _____

Can you help the club as a volunteer? If so, what would you be interested in working on?