



Member of
The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups

RAM PAGES

The Official Newsletter of the Fresno PC Users Group

Volume 25 Issue 8

November 2005

Fresno Personal Computer Users' Group

November General Meeting Monday, November 7, 2005 at 7:30 PM



Users' Group Relations Product Line

Presented by: Gene Barlow



A New Product -- Optimal Desktop Pro 4.0

Optimal Desktop let's you store everything in a structure of cabinets, drawers and sections. With Optimal Desktop you can define your own news feeds, search for your RSS headlines, internet bookmarks, files and emails in one place and choose from hundreds of online feeds organized in easy to navigate categories. Along with other new programs (Invisus).

Say goodbye to desktop clutter
and hard-to-manage favorites!



Organize
favorites &
shortcuts
with a
powerful
drag &
drop
tabbed
interface!

Get the Optimal Desktop Now!

Bill's Tricks & Tips.....	3
November's Raffle	4
Software—yours for a review	5
Microsoft Publisher 2003 Review	6
Disk of the Month.....	8
F.P.C.U.G. Board Minutes	12

December Swap Meet
All of us have stuff
around our PC's that's to
good to throw away, but
no longer use. Here is a
chance to sell at Decem-
ber's Meeting. Must be
in working condition.

CALENDAR FOR THE
FRESNO PC USERS GROUP

November, 2005

Saturday, Nov. 5th, Photo Sig - 10:30 p.m. CompUSA

Monday, Nov. 7th, General Meeting—7:30 p.m.
Gene Barlow - New Product Line and Computer
Backup Review

Monday, Nov.14th—Board of Directors Meeting

Future Meetings...

January 9th —PhotoShop 101
Feb. 6th — Election
March 6th —to be announced



Fresno PC Users
Group
General Meetings

Meetings are held at the Hope Lutheran Community Center, 364 E. Barstow. The meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are open to the public (dates listed in text below). Guests are welcome. Members and guests are eligible to win prizes at the end of the meetings.

If you have suggestions for program topics or would like to submit a donation toward the silent auction, please contact the Program Coordinator Don Cummins voice-mail at 496.3974 or send e-mail to: cumminsag@yahoo.com

December, 2005

Saturday, Dec. 3rd, Photo Sig - 10:30 p.m. CompUSA

Monday, Dec. 5th, General Meeting—7:30 p.m.

Potluck & Swap Meet

Monday, December 12th —Board of Directors Meeting

Bill Meyers, F.P.C.U.G. Member

Remove Program From Add/Remove Programs

If you have uninstalled a program but it remains on the list in Add/Remove Programs, you can manually remove it by navigating to: HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE > SOFTWARE > Microsoft > Windows > CurrentVersion > Uninstall.

You'll see a list of all the programs available in your Add/Remove Programs Control Panel. You can simply select an entry from the list on the left, press the Delete key, and confirm to remove it. Close the Registry Editor and restart Windows; the item will be gone from your Add/Remove Programs list.

Remotely Control Your Computer

Have you ever needed to operate a PC when you're not sitting in front of that particular computer? You can, using free software called VNC (Virtual Network Computing). Once you install the VNC server on a computer, you can control it from any other computer on the LAN (local-area network). If you have a full-time Internet connection, you can even access that PC from any other computer on the Internet. You can use VNC to adjust the computer in the den from your office or to retrieve an important file from your home computer when you're out of town. The two computers don't even need to run the same operating system: You can access your Windows PC from a Mac, Linux PC, or even a PDA. Download the free software from [RealVNC](#).

Stop Highlighting New Programs

In Windows XP, after you install a new program, it is highlighted in your start menu and a little bubble window will show up telling you there is no software. It's a waste because you just installed it - of course you know there is new software. You can disable this feature easily:

1. To do this Click Start, right-click at the top of the Start menu where your name is displayed, and then click Properties.



2. In the Taskbar and Start Menu Properties dialog box, on the Start Menu tab, click Customize.

3. Click the Advanced tab, and then clear the Highlight newly installed programs check box.

4. Click OK, and then click OK again.

Pause on Restarts

If you need to turn your PC off and then turn it back on again, it is best to wait at least 30 seconds before hitting the power button again. The reason for this is to allow your hard drives time to spin down and park their read/write heads before they receive their wake-up jolt. Doing so will increase the lifespan of your hard drives.

On the general subject of powering on and off, it is best to leave your PC on for longer time periods. If you need to use your PC several times throughout the day, leave it on all day rather than turning it on and off each time. This will avoid the cooldown/heating of the PC's hardware and prolong the lifespan.

Keep It Simple

When you're having PC problems, start with the easiest procedures first, such as rebooting your system (which is handy for clearing out memory and resetting drivers) or checking for loose cable connections. If the most likely or easiest procedures don't work, then isolate and test other probable causes.

THE FORUM

Do you have a computer question that you need help with before the next User meeting. Log on to the forum and ask a fellow member. www.fresnocomputerusers.org click on The Forum

Advice For eBay Buyers

Shopping on eBay isn't the tactile affair that grocery shopping is, but the fact that you can't thump a Web picture of a melon doesn't mean you should shy away from buying online. Make sure you read the item's description very carefully. If something doesn't look right, ask the seller about it. If the item description includes subjective phrases, such as "minor dings and scratches," don't hesitate to send the seller a request for some elaboration. The seller will often even send you additional pictures of the area in question.

Dial-Up Access While Traveling

If your current ISP does not offer dial-up access, and you know that you need it before your trip, you can subscribe to an inexpensive, or even free, dial-up account. For example, you can sign up for NetZero's (www.netzero.net) free access, which provides 10 hours of use per month and 2MB of email storage. Another option is the Catalog.com (www.catalog.com) Travel & Backup Plan, which offers 10 hours of dial-up service for \$3.49 per month. Other services with nationwide coverage include AT&T Worldnet (www.att.net), MSN (join.msn.com), and Earthlink (\$9.95 per month; www.earthlink.net).

Remove Hidden Data

Microsoft's Remove Hidden Data add-in will clean out any invisible data that is hiding in Office documents. There are different versions of the tool depending on your version of Office. The easiest way to find the right one is to go to the Microsoft Office site (office.microsoft.com) and enter remove hidden data in the search box. Just download the small EXE file and run it to install. Select File and then Remove Hidden Data from the menu of an Office application. It will prompt you for a new file name. Be sure to send out the new file and not the original.

Airport/Travel Security For Your Laptop

Before packing up your laptop and other electronics equipment, make a list of their serial numbers and keep it with you in case you need to claim something at lost-and-found or identify stolen property. Tape a business card onto the bottom of your laptop, and mark the laptop case with a piece of tape or other identifying mark that will make it easy to spot from a distance (and to set it apart from the inevitable sea of similar cases at the airport. These precautions may not thwart thieves, but they can make a difference when someone absentmindedly grabs your computer instead of theirs at the security checkpoint

November's Raffle



Taking great pictures is a snap with this Vivitar ViviCam 3345 digital camera. Features include 1.3

Megapixels and a maximum 1280 x 1024 resolution. The ViviCam 3345 has 8 MB internal memory with an SD memory card slot for expansion! Stock up today!

Features/Specifications:

- Vivitar V3345 8MB Multi-Mode Digital Camera
- General Features:
- Sensor: 1.3 Megapixel, 24-bit color
- Camera modes: digital still, movie, PC/web camera
- 8 MB built-in SDRAM memory
- Uses SD or MMC memory cards up to 256 MB
- Still Image File format: JPG
- File Format: AVI (motion JPEG, no audio)
- Video Frame rate: up to 8 fps
- Image Resolutions:
- 1280 x 1024 (1.3 MP Native resolution)
- 1600 x 1200 (2 MP - using hardware interpolation)
- 640 x 480
- Video Resolution: 320 x 240
- Lens and Optics Specifications:
- Focus Free operation
- Aperture: F/2.8
- Focal length: 8.8 mm
- Lens construction: glass
- Range of Focus: 39-inches to infinity
- Optical viewfinder

Software—yours for a review

TRI VISTA

Has developed Tri Vista Suite into six easy-to-use software products to give digital imaging consumers the ability to display and share their digital photos in fun, new ways. To learn more about any of these software products, go to www.trivista.com.



This program is now waiting for a member to download and do a review that will be placed on the website. Please contact Donald L. Cummins at cumminsag@yahoo.com for the website and the key to open the full suite. After doing the review, the program is yours to keep.

Contact Donald L. Cummins at cumminsag@yahoo.com

Review for Microsoft Office Publisher 2003 With Digital Imaging

*Software Review by
Jo Townley, FPCUG Member*

The name of the test program is Microsoft Office Publisher 2003 with Digital Imaging.

According to its advertising blurb, it helps you create impressive marketing materials for print, Web and e-mail. Powerful design and photo-editing tools help make it easy to create, design and publish with impact.

The program was created to run on a PC with Pentium 500 MHz or higher processor, Pentium III recommended. It requires Windows 2000 with Service Pack 3 or later or Microsoft Windows XP or later operating system. It needs 128 MB of RAM or above, and 500 MB total available hard-disk space for installation. Optional installation files cache is recommended and requires an additional 200 MB of available hard-disk space. Super VGA (800 x 600) or higher resolution monitor is recommended

The computer on which the program was tested is a Pentium IV, with 1504 MG memory and a 40-gig hard disk. We are using Windows XP Pro with Service Pack 2.

One manual comes with the program: Microsoft Digital Image Pro 10 User's Manual. It is quite an extensive 159-page manual, which seems to cover the Digital Imaging part of the program quite adequately. It has both table of contents and index and both seem complete and the text of the manual is well-illustrated and easy to follow.

This program is very impressive for its ease of use, if nothing else. I was able to produce a 6-page demonstration pamphlet in almost no time, with pictures and text. The pictures were from my own files and I was able to access my picture files with no trouble. I obviously didn't take advantage of a lot of the more esoteric features; however I did a creditable job in the time I gave myself. With just a little more practice

and review of the easily understandable and easy-to-follow instructions included in the program, I can do better. The included suggestions for using this program inspired me to try my hand at a project I hadn't even considered before.

The Digital Imaging part of the program was quite delightful. I took a recent photo of a friend and quite improved her looks and age and whitened her teeth in the bargain. With the point and click kind of step by step instructions, it was really easy. I even helped her husband out a little with a red-eye correction. I also eliminated a background distraction on her husband's picture that seemed to be emanating from his ear.

The video tutorials were a real help. In fact, in enhancing my friend's picture, it was necessary for me to go back to the tutorial to refresh my memory about eliminating wrinkles. Not that she had all that many, but....

I would highly recommend this program to an experienced user as well as a relative novice like myself. I have a Publisher 2000 program and must say this new one is a wonderful improvement.

There doesn't seem to be any mention of technical support, free or otherwise. Since I seldom use the technical support on any program, this would not deter me from buying this one. The Publishing portion of the program is pretty straightforward and the Digital Imaging portion is well documented and easily understood. In my experience any technical support I need is a result of operator trouble.

This program was manufactured by Microsoft Corporation, One Microsoft Way, Richmond, WA 98052-6399.

Tony Turano is our This Year's Nominating Committee Chairman.

If you would like to become an vital part of FPCUG. WE NEED YOU!!!!

Contact Tony at acturano@yahoo.com

This year's positions are President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and two Board of Directors.



Nikon 990 Camera

- . Nikon Wide Angle Lens
- . Nikon Lens Filters
- . Nikon Camera & Flash Holder
- . Nikon Case
- . Nikon Books, etc.
- . Computer Tranfer for Flash Cards
- . Viking (2) 128 mb Flash Cards
- . 12 Batteries & Charger
- . Anti-X-Ray Case for Flash Cards

Camera and equipment are in like new condition

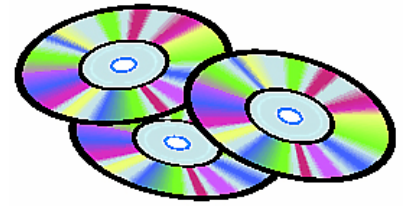
Mike (559) 877-3448

\$350.00

FPCUG Library

CD of the Month

File descriptions for November 2005



By Dean Mason and Monica Braun, Librarians of the FPCUG

Asterisk Key shows [passwords](#) hidden under asterisks.

Browser Hijack retaliator--As soon as an application attempts to modify those settings, you will be alerted by popup dialog and have the option to allow or block the change. The program also provides access to cookie and [cache](#) deletion.

BFU is a [scripting](#) program that can execute a series of preset commands like a Windows [batch file](#), aimed at uninstalled programs that are hard to remove, uninstall improperly or simply unwanted. [Scripts](#) are plaintext and can be written with Notepad, and the command syntax is very transparent.

BFU is very complete and powerful, has a small memory footprint and has no uninstaller.

CDCheckis --an application checks your [CDs](#) (or some other media) and tells you which files are corrupted. **Crazy Browser** is a powerful Web browser. It provides many features that make surfing the web more comfortable and less confusing. [Web pages](#) are organized on tabs to prevent your screen from getting cluttered.

FastStone Image Viewer 2.20 --A free image browser, viewer, converter and editor that supports all major [graphic](#) formats. Other features include a batch image converter / resizer, a Full Screen [image viewer](#) with Select-Zoom support, a clear magnifier and a slideshow with 150+ transitional effects.

Karen's Cookie Viewer--Discover the information that [web sites](#) store on your computer. This Power Tool automatically scans your

computer, looking for "cookies" created by [Microsoft's](#) Internet Explorer, [Netscape's](#) Navigator and Mozilla Project's FireFox web browsers. It can then display the data stored in each one. It can also delete any unwanted cookies stored by these browsers

MAME stands for Multiple Arcade Machine Emulator. When used in conjunction with an arcade game's data files (ROMs), MAME will more or less faithfully reproduce that game on a PC.

Mozilla Thunderbird is a redesign of the Mozilla mail component. Our goal is to produce a cross platform stand alone mail application using the XUL user interface language. Our intended customer is someone who uses Mozilla Firebird (or another stand alone browser) as their primary browser and wants a mail client based on mozilla that "plays nice" with the browser.

[AOL](#) has released a new prototype of [Netscape Browser](#). This new version is almost identical to the first prototype, but it's based on Mozilla Firefox 1.0 rather than 0.9.3.

PCMark05 is the latest version of the PC performance benchmark program from Futuremark Corporation.

Portable Firefox is a fully functional package of Firefox optimized for use on a USB key drive.

Quintessential Player brings a huge arsenal of quality features, and uses simplicity as its decoy. It is truly the most unique player available. Supports MP3, CD Audio, Ogg Vorbis, WAV, VQF, MP+, Windows Media, and [streaming audio](#) including SHOUTcast.

Either for security reasons or just because you don't like it. Simply **remove Netmeeting** from your computer



FPCUG Library CD of the Month— Continued

Remover--Removal tool detects and removes many worms, trojans and backdoors: Mytob, Mydoom, Beagle, Netsky, Sasser, Blaster Zafi, Mabutu, Startpage and many others

If you are looking for a tool to [remove spam](#) from your inbox, look no further. **Spamfighter** is the tool you are looking for. Simple, reliable, and efficient. Spamfighter is using the power of more than 450,000 people that instantly report if they receive a [spam mail](#).

SIW is a system information tool, that gathers detailed information about your system properties and settings. It includes detailed specs for CPU, [Network](#), TCP/IP, Memory, Hardware, Users, Network Shares, and more, as well as real-time monitors for CPU, Memory and network traffic. SIW also displays currently active network connections, installed codecs, connected MS SQL and Oracle database servers (if any) and more. A standalone tool that does not require installation.

With **WindowsGuard 2005** you can password protect your programs, windows and [web pages](#) in one easy to use program.

Yahoo! Messenger 7.0.0.426--[Instant messaging](#) allows you to quickly exchange messages with your online friends. Unlike e-mail, [instant messages](#) appear as soon they're sent. By downloading the Yahoo! Messenger application to your [computer](#), you can send instant messages.

Other features include voice chat, [file trans-](#)

[fer](#), mail and stock quote alerts, sports scores, news, and much more.

The Usual files each month

AVG free anti-virus

Ad-Aware--Removes spyware

EMS Freesurfer--At last - a free popup stopper that *really works*. Free Surfer mk II and its intelligent fs-20 engine does not in any way interfere with opening new windows ('Natural' mode). For internet heavy users there are still the old 'one browser mode' (Strict mode), where you control all the opening popups by pressing Ctrl or Shift.

Smart Pop Up Blocker--This is a better pop up blocker than free surfer

Spybot -- Search & Destroy can detect and remove spyware of different kinds from your computer.

Visual Basic Run Time—

[Visual Basic 6](#) Runtime Files are required by many programs that were written in Visual Basic. This is actually quite common and programmers leave the files out because it adds 2 megs to a download and you only need download it once. We've provided the file here in case you get can't find COMCT232.OCX or a similar error.

Please Welcome

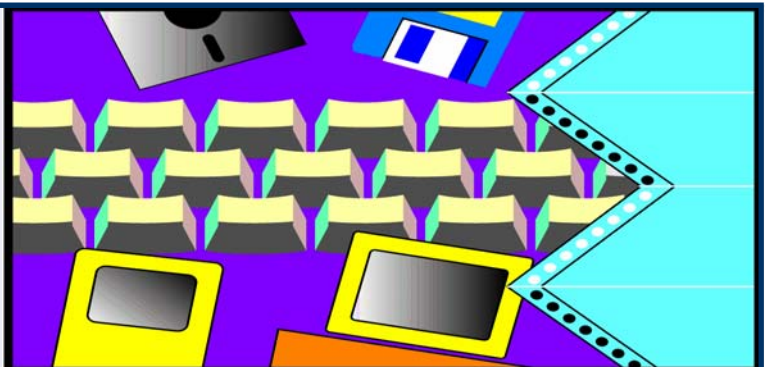
Our New Members:

Ron Hall

**Thank you for renewing
your membership:**

Alicia King Padget

David A. Smith



Sanity Savers

Sanity Savers are members who have volunteered to help other members with their computing problems. SIG leaders also are a valuable information resource.

Do not expect long term counseling, house calls, or to get pirated copies of software recommended to you. Also do not expect any of the volunteers to help you if you are not the legitimate owner of a software package.

If you have any experience in an area of computing, feel free to add your name to the Sanity Savers' list. You do not need to be an expert to be listed as a Sanity Saver — patience and willingness to help count for a lot.

DOS	Dean Mason & Krikor Geyoghlian
Desktop Publishing, Graphics, Adobe Acrobat	-Susy Ball
Excel	-Krikor Geyoghlian
General Computing	-Bill Myers
Internet Help	-Dean Mason
Audio Help	-Robert Caraway
Linux	-Ben Lutes
Lotus 1-2-3	Krikor Geyoghlian
Medical	-Cecil Bullard
MS Word	-Krikor Geyoghlian
Office 97/2000/XP	-Krikor Geyoghlian & Laura Barnard
Windows 3.x	-Krikor Geyoghlian



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FPCUG Supporting Business



The Fresno PC Users Group (FPCUG) is a non-profit organization run by and for users of IBM compatible computers. The only membership eligibility requirement is an interest in computers.

Information and messages ----- www.fresnocomputerusers.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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First Vice-President ----- Dean Mason
Second Vice-President ----- Stan Barnes
Secretary ----- Jo Townley
Treasurer ----- Wilda Moller
Director-At-Large
 Regles Bellamy ----- Monica Braun
 Bill Myers ----- Don Cummins

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APCUG Representative ----- Don Cummins
Co-Membership ----- Krikor Geyoghlian & Ben Fulk
Co-Librarians ----- Dean Mason & Monica Braun
Program Coordinator/Vendor Liaison ----- Don Cummins
Publicity Chairperson ----- Krikor Geyoghlian
Co-Publications ----- Susy Ball & Nancy Mason
Review Coordinator ----- Don Cummins
SIG Coordinator ----- Dean Mason
WebMaster ----- Chris Myers
Welcoming Committee Coordinator ----- DonTownley

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP LEADERS

Novice SIG ----- Bill Myers
Troubleshooting Windows 3.1/95/98 SIG ----- Bill Myers
Digital Photo SIG ----- Laura Barnard, Jo Townley & Nancy Mason

Board of Directors E-Mail Addresses

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2nd Vice President (2004-2006)
 Stanley Barnes vicepresident2@fresnocomputerusers.org
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 (3) (2005-2007) Monica Braun directorlarge3@fresnocomputerusers.org
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FPCUG Board of Directors Meeting

Fresno PC Users Group
Board of Directors Meeting
October 10, 2005

The theme of the November Ram Pages will be suggestions for gifts of \$50.00 or less and where to buy them.

The Program for November will be a presentation by Gene Barlow, always a pleasure. The December program will be the annual pot luck as well as a swap meet. The swap meet will give members a chance to sell or give away computer related items which are cluttering up their houses. This not only gives them a chance to exchange clutter, it may make room for more "goodies". Sellers may donate 10% of their proceeds to the Group, if they choose to do so.

Future programs were discussed, along with suggestions for making them more interactive and fun for the members.

The raffle for November will be a digital camera, to be furnished by Bill Myers.

The door prize(s) has not been decided upon so will be a surprise to us all.

Members and Board of Directors are encouraged to contact Tony Turano by e-mail to nominate a candidate for the upcoming elections. We need a new president, secretary and two directors.

It was suggested that we raffle off another computer. It was taken under advisement until we can research the cost of the computer and how many tickets must be sold to recover the expense.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jo Townley
Secretary

ADVERTISING IN THE RAM PAGES

Commercial Ads must be supplied camera ready by the first of the month.

Member Ads are free to members of the Fresno PC Users Group. They may submit noncommercial classified ads for computer related items at no charge. Ads should not exceed 75 words in length.

Further information is available on our Web site:

www.fresnocomputerusers.org

Supporting Business Members

These area businesses support the Fresno PC Users Group through their business membership. We encourage you to patronize them and mention reading about them here.

Computer Age Consulting
www.dougbetts.com

Clovis323-2000

The A Drive
www.theadrive.com

Fresno222-5842



Please note the types of membership available:

- Individual \$30.00
- Additional Adult (same household) \$22.50
- Junior (Under 18) \$15.00
- Supporting Business \$120.00

Benefits include the general meeting—usually on the first Monday of each month — Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that meet on schedules of their own, this newsletter, special offers and discounts, the Software Library available at the General Meetings, and more.

Info is available on-line at:

<http://www.fresnocomputerusers.org>
 or at the General Meeting.

COMPUSA

**Thank you
 for hosting our
 SIGs!**



Member of
**The Association of
 Personal Computer User Groups**

To find out more information about APCUG.

See: <http://www.apcug.net>
 Don Cummins (APCUG rep)
cumminsag@yahoo.com

RAM Pages Newsletter Staff

For information, compliments, and complaints concerning the **RAM Pages**, please see Web:

www.fresnocomputerusers.org

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Despite their titles, FPCUG copy editors do not check the final *RAM Pages* before printing. Articles that are reprinted by permission are not edited by the Fresno PCUG staff. This publication was prepared on an "MSI-MS-StarForceGeForce4MX 440 with NVIDIA graphics card and Windows XP installed. Office XP, PageMaker 7, Photoshop CS, and Photoshop Elements 3. It was set up for distribution with Adobe Acrobat 7.

Directors to Meet

The Board Meeting of the FPCUG will usually be held on the 2nd Monday of every month at 7:00 PM. Board meetings are open to any FPCUG member. (see calendar on back page for specific date) This month's will be at Hope Lutheran Community Center Fresno, CA 93727

RAM Pages is the monthly newsletter of the Fresno PC Users Group, a nonprofit corporation chartered by the State of California. Each FPCUG member receives a subscription as a benefit of membership. A membership application and renewal form is printed on the last inside page.

Subscription Problems? Please inform the membership director Krikor Geyoghlian at 434.0941, if you miss your issue or have any changes or corrections in your address AND/OR email..

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The Fresno PC Users Group is an independent, non-profit users group and is not affiliated in any way with any vendor or equipment manufacturer.

Vendor Notice. Only review products that have been obtained by the product review coordinator and **received through the FPCUG address** shall be considered the responsibility of the FPCUG, unless otherwise indicated by the Board of Directors and with the full knowledge of the review coordinator.

Active SIGs

If you are a PC Users Group Member, join a Special Interest Group — a great way to share information with others having similar interests. Special Interest Groups are subgroups within the Fresno PC Users Group that meet on their own schedules to discuss specific topics. Bring items to share, programs, hints, and blank disks.

E-mail SIG Leaders ahead to verify meeting times and locations. (some SIGs listed may be forming or temporarily dormant).

For more information about SIGs, special request for a SIG, or starting up your own, contact FPCUG First Vice-President Dean Mason's email at vicepresident1@fresnocomputerusers.org

SIG	Leader/Host	E-mail	Meets
Digital	Nancy Mason	applelady@sti.net	1ST Saturday of the month at 10:30 AM
Photo	Jo Townley	donnjo@juno.com	at CompUSA on N. Blackstone.
SIG			

CompUSA is located in the River Park Shopping Center, just north of Herndon and Hwy 41 at 7502 N. Blackstone

CURRENTLY NOVICE AND WINDOWS 3.1, 95,98, & 2000 SIGs ON HIATUS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.