



# RAM PAGES

The Official Newsletter of the Fresno PC Users Group

Volume 25 Issue 6

September 2005

2nd  
Monday

## September's General Meeting

# Monday, September 12th, 7:30 p.m.



### Presentation-in-a Box

### What to Look for when buying a new computer

At the present time, it is still being updated by Intel. It is to be on what a person should be thinking about what they will need in a new computer if they are going to replace their present computer within the next year.

### September's Raffle



### Plus the latest Updates



Professional

### What's Inside

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# CALENDAR FOR THE FRESNO PC USERS GROUP

## September, 2005

**Saturday, September 10th Photo Sig - 10:30 p.m.  
CompUSA**

**Monday, September 12th General Meeting— 7:30 p.m.  
Intel Program-in-a-box Buying a New Computer  
Hope Lutheran Community Center**

**Monday, September 19th  
Board of Directors Meeting—**

## October, 2005

**Saturday, October 1st Photo Sig - 10:30 p.m.  
CompUSA**

**Monday, October 3rd General Meeting— 7:30 p.m.  
Ink Dot Lady Ink, Paper and Training CDs**

**Monday, September 19th Board of Directors Meeting—7:00  
pm. Hope Lutheran Community Center**

### **Future Meetings.....**

**November 7th—Gene Barlow - New Product Line and Computer Backup  
Review**

**December 5th —Pot Luck Dinner**

### **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](mailto:cumminsag@yahoo.com)

**Our Webpage  
[www.fresnocomputerusers.org](http://www.fresnocomputerusers.org)**

# Bill's

# Tricks

and

# Tips

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

## Identify Your Processes

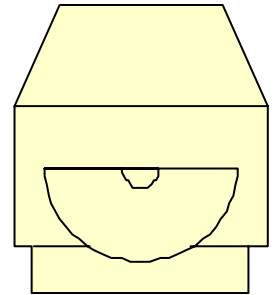
You can see what's currently running on your system by launching the Task Manager by pressing Ctrl-Alt-Del. In Windows 98 and Me, you will see a simple list of active applications. Windows XP and 2000 will also list all active processes along with their memory usage and CPU time. Don't worry if the System Idle process seems to be hogging the CPU; all unused CPU cycles are assigned to this process.

To identify cryptic processes with names like csrss.exe, you can get help on the Internet. There are a number of Web sites that list and identify those names, one of which is [AnswersThatWork.com](http://AnswersThatWork.com): Task List Programs.

I might also mention, though, that we recently reviewed WinTasks Pro 5. This program will identify processes for you right in line with your process list. It is quite convenient, and the number of other operations you can do with the utility are quite useful.

## Avoid Ejecting CD After Writing

Many times after writing a CD-R or CD-RW, Windows will mindlessly eject the CD whether you actually want to remove the disc or not. This is a stupid feature, in my opinion. But, it can be turned off. Most 3rd party CD burning clients have an option in their preferences to turn this off. Or in Windows XP, go to My Computer, right-click on your CD writer drive, choose Properties, Recording and uncheck "Automatically Eject the CD After Writing". If the option is grayed out, it is because you do not have Windows CC writing enabled on the drive and are likely using a 3rd party program such as Nero.



## Full Screen Surfing

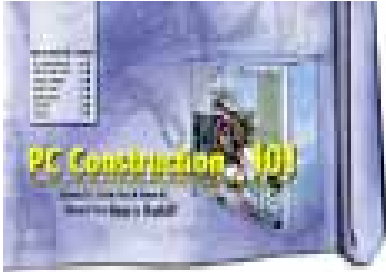


This is a very simple tip, but one almost all of our PCs have and most of us forget is there. It's full screen web surfing. When you're surfing the web in your browser, just press F11 and all of the bars disappear and your full screen will show the site you are visiting, with just a little nav bar at the top so you can get around. Press F11 again to go back to normal viewing.

Start saving screen space for the web, not the toolbars!

# PC Construction 101

## When It's Time For A New PC, Should You Buy Or Build?



It's that time again. Your computer is crashing constantly; is reluctant to run new software; and suddenly isn't compatible with the latest must-have, life-changing widgets. Your buddies keep bragging about how they converted their kid's graduation pictures into a video slide show that they instantly sent to their relatives, and the ads from various computer manufacturers are beckoning with their siren calls of effortless speed and tantalizing new technology.

It's time to buy a new PC.

If you have much more money than time and computing experience, the answer is obvious: look for the biggest price in a PC ad and place an order or head to a local retailer and point at what you want. But you've been reading *Smart Computing*, and maybe even more advanced magazines, such as *CPU*, and know your way around a computer pretty well. Perhaps money is extremely tight and you're willing to invest the time it takes to learn about building a system in order to keep costs down. Or maybe you keep up with technology news like some people track sports scores and have an excellent idea of what components your dream machine would include. In all these situations, putting together a system on your own becomes a seductive option, but there are many facts to consider before making the decision whether to buy or build.

### ■ Degree Of Difficulty

The perceived difficulty of building a PC from scratch is perhaps the biggest factor that prevents most PC users from trying it. It does seem intimidating to the uninitiated, fitting all those seemingly unrelated parts together to create a complex machine. But as you'll discover elsewhere in this issue, the actual process of building a PC is relatively straightforward.

When it comes to building a computer, the hardest thing by far is researching and selecting components. There are thousands of parts from hundreds of manufacturers to consider, and choosing involves much more than simply selecting the fastest components that fit within your budget and placing orders. You have to consider everything from basic compatibility issues to potential performance bottlenecks. To make matters worse, the only easy way to obtain the majority of components necessary to build a system is to shop online. Many online retailers cater to expert PC users who know precisely what they want, offering very little discussion of what components work well with one another. If you're going to build a computer, be prepared to read plenty of reviews and invest time in learning about the roles the individual components serve.



Unfortunately, getting exactly what you need when purchasing a prebuilt PC requires heaps of information, as well. If you don't educate yourself about various components before purchasing a PC you make it easy for an unscrupulous salesperson to take advantage of you. We've seen it happen countless times at a variety of retail outlets. People come in not knowing precisely what they want; even though it turns out they need a basic machine at a reasonable price, they walk out of the store with a ludicrously overpowered and expensive system. Unless you absolutely trust your local retailers, don't mistakenly think that buying a prebuilt PC takes any less research than piecing together components.

## ■ Price

Although many people think they can get a much better deal building on their own than buying a prebuilt model, overall cost depends entirely on the type of system you build. Assembling a PC that uses only the newest and fastest hardware usually is more expensive than buying a similarly equipped prebuilt PC, simply because the big manufacturers can take advantage of the economy of scale by buying parts in bulk. In some cases, the latest and greatest components are only available to these OEMs (original equipment manufacturers; companies such as Dell, HP, Gateway, and others) for a few weeks or months after they first appear. And don't forget that prebuilt PCs come with OSES (operating systems) and other bundled software that would quickly add up if you purchased them separately.

One trick experts use to save a significant amount of money is purchasing individual components intended for OEM use, but this has some serious drawbacks. OEM hardware (also called white box, bulk, or tray parts) is the same equipment big computer manufacturers use to create their systems and is much less expensive than boxed, retail versions of the same parts. That's because the OEM stuff comes with a very restricted warranty (typically measured in days instead of years), offers little or no technical support, and usually doesn't have all of the cables, screws, and other components you need to attach it to a PC. If you see a price that seems ridiculously low while shopping, always find out if it's OEM (or refurbished) equipment before pouncing on the deal.

When buying a PC to replace an older system (especially an older system that you've already upgraded in a few areas), it is possible to save a substantial amount of money by recycling components. Good candidates for migration include hard drives, CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drives, CD-R (CD-recordable) or CD-RW (CD-rewriteable) drives, sound cards, NICs (network interface cards), speakers, monitors, floppy diskette drives, and even cases. Sometimes it also is possible to bring old RAM along for the ride, as well, although most motherboard upgrades will require all new memory modules. If you're buying a first PC, consider sinking as much money as possible into the monitor because a good display can last 10 years or more and you can switch it to any system you buy or build in the future.

If you want to retain your old machine as a second computer, you can save money by migrating its fastest components to the new PC and replacing them with the cheapest substitutes you can find. For example, instead of buying a 48X CD-ROM drive for the new com-



***Dell offers inexpensive prebuilt PCs but doesn't offer as many component choices as you'll have if you decide to build your own.***



puter, you could put the 32X drive from your old machine in there and put a 16X or slower drive where the 32X formerly was. By “down-grading” the old computer’s components, you can save hundreds of dollars and still have two functioning PCs when you’re done. Networking is another option to look into, as you can share applications, drives, printers, Internet connections, and other devices across a network to avoid unnecessary duplication.

Finally, don’t forget about taxes and shipping. If a manufacturer has a retail store in your state (such as Gateway with its Gateway Country stores), you’ll have to pay both shipping and sales tax on any purchases. Taxes really add up when buying something as expensive as a PC, and sometimes it’s cheaper to deal with the shipping costs you must pay when ordering components online from an out-of-state company. Purchasing multiple components from a single company can considerably reduce shipping costs, and always be on the lookout for free shipping promotions.

## ■ Component Selection

Speaking of components, it is next to impossible to buy a prebuilt PC that comes with every piece of hardware you desire at a reasonable price. Buying retail is synonymous with compromise, even if the manufacturer offers extensive customization options. Big PC makers get all their parts from a limited number of manufacturers in order to cut down on costs, and most rely on generic components for their base systems that they’ll swap for premium hardware only for a substantial upgrade fee. Big manufacturers also sometimes buy components, such as video cards or motherboards, labeled like retail components that lack some of the features you’d get if you bought a similar product off of the shelf.

Getting exactly what you want is perhaps the best reason to build instead of buying a prebuilt computer. It is a fact that certain CPUs work best if you use them in conjunction with certain motherboards and memory chips, but computer manufacturers frequently opt for inexpensive combos instead of those that complement one another. A few manufacturers, such as Alienware (<http://www.alienware.com/>), Falcon Northwest (<http://www.falcon-nw.com/>), and Voodoo Computers (<http://www.voodoo-pc.com/>), that focus solely on performance charge much more for their systems than you would pay if building one by hand using the same parts. Of course, they also offer an incredible level of technical support and other services that you won’t get when purchasing components one by one, and their components are hand-selected for quality and performance.



***For the ultimate in customization on a prebuilt system, Falcon Northwest and Alienware are tough to beat, but expect to pay a hefty fee for all that convenience.***

## ■ Warranties, Returns & Technical Support

One of the nice things about a prebuilt computer is that manufacturers warranty the entire system. If something goes wrong, you dial a single phone number for help, regardless of the hardware or software that is causing trouble, provided it came with the system. Most



manufacturers are very good about swapping out components if they are under warranty, and some even ship the replacement part before requiring you to send the damaged component back so there is as little downtime as possible.

Return policies for prebuilt PCs also tend to be generous, whether you're dealing directly with the manufacturer or with a local retailer. One of our writers has purchased three notebook computers at Best Buy in the past that all exhibited problems within the first few weeks of use, and the return process was painless for each one. Check return policies closely before buying any computer, however, as some manufacturers and retailers charge restocking fees that can amount to several hundred dollars and also require that you pay for all shipping costs out of pocket. We'll discuss the return policies of several leading online retailers in "A Buyer's Market" on page 50 of this issue.

Dealing with warranties, returns, and technical support is perhaps the biggest downside to building a PC yourself, especially if you purchase a lot of components from online stores. Local retailers usually are reasonable or even generous regarding returns, but online stores almost universally charge restocking fees (15% on average) and require customers to cough up the money for return shipping and insurance. Add it all up and returning a defective \$40 CD-ROM drive can cost \$15 to \$20, cutting into any bargains you may have found.



The alternative is to deal directly with the hardware manufacturer for repairs or a replacement, but they also generally make you pay for shipping. Another problem is that if you build a computer and it refuses to work, rooting out the trouble can require making phone calls and sending e-mail messages to several different manufacturers, and few are willing to provide assistance for any hardware or software other than their own. If the motherboard is conflicting with the sound card, for example, a prebuilt computer manufacturer could resolve the problem in minutes but contacting the separate manufacturers of the problematic devices might never yield the information you need. Factor in the hassle of having to deal with separate warranties for each component in the system, and buying a ready-made PC suddenly becomes an attractive option to anyone not interested in dealing with these problems.

The majority of retailers and manufacturers offer extended warranties these days, but such plans aren't always prudent buys. Many retailers use them to squeeze a hefty premium out of unsuspecting buyers, knowing that modern electronics equipment is more reliable than ever and failures are unlikely. If you decide an extended warranty is right for you, read the fine print carefully and don't rely on the word of the salesperson. He can say anything he likes to get you to buy a warranty, but once you've signed you're bound by the terms on the document and any promises the salesperson made outside that agreement are worthless. Be on the lookout for one-shot repair or replacement extended warranties that only cover the first failure of the product and not subsequent problems. When buying a notebook computer, ask a manager if burned-out pixels on the screen are covered by the warranty and get the answer in writing. Screen defects are by far the most common problem with new notebooks; some stores consider them to be cosmetic and therefore outside the bounds of the warranty.



## ■ Other Considerations

There are many other intangible benefits you can gain from either buying or building that are impossible to quantify but important nonetheless. When it comes to building a PC, the knowledge and experience you gain from putting it together are invaluable in the long haul, as you will have a thorough understanding of what makes your system tick. Just the research required to compare component specifications and prices can turn a newbie into an expert, and this least expensive aspect of building a PC has the biggest potential to save you time and money in the long run. The more you research, the more you save.

Something else to consider is time. If you need a computer right away, going to the local electronics store and picking one up is the fastest way to get one, and ordering a complete system online runs a close second. Gathering all the parts to assemble a dream system from the ground up can take weeks or even months, depending on the backorder status of popular products. This unfortunately can lead to situations where you can't test the first parts that arrive because they rely on a component that is on backorder, and by the time the requisite part arrives, the return period for the original part has expired. You can reduce the chance of this happening by purchasing components that rely on one another (a motherboard, CPU, and memory, for example) from the same source.

## ■ Mix & Match

Building and buying PCs aren't mutually exclusive, and we've often found that using a combination of the two is the best compromise. For example, if an online shop is offering a substantial savings on a component that you really want, such as a powerful video card, sometimes it is possible to save a bundle by ordering a prebuilt PC with the cheapest video card available and immediately replacing it with your custom card. You can often get premium components separately for half of the price (or less) that it would cost to upgrade a prebuilt system with an identical part. Memory is an especially good thing to order separately if possible, as most PC manufacturers charge an exorbitant price for it and it is easy to install even for novices. Don't be afraid to upgrade a brand-new computer. ■



## An Update from Last Months Newsletter

*Ivan Raicevich, F.P.C.U.G. Member*

Dear FPCUG members,

I thought this might be of interest since the info originated in our prior Newsletter email. I tried to take advantage of the availability of the program, but ran into a problem. If you will read the emails between myself and Mr. Elgines,

. . . Ivan Raicevich

Dear Mr. Elgines,

I am a member of the Fresno PC Users Group. In our last monthly newsletter, your article "How to Record Your Cassette Music To A CD" was featured.

I have a rather large collection of cassettes and wanted to record them on CD's but didn't know how to accomplish the task. Your article excited my desire to capture the cassette music to CD's.

I have Musicmatch Plus and acquired the cables necessary to connect to my Kenwood Double



Cassette Deck to my computer. I followed your directions implicitly. I completed the process of activating Musicmatch Jukebox, I accomplished all of your instructions relative to WAV, Line In, Fadeout and unchecking items, having clicked OK. Next you mentioned, on the bottom left click the the red **Record** button (I assume within Musicmatch Jukebox). I am **unable to find such a button!!** So, I am unable to record the tapes to my computer.

Can you assist me in solving my problem? Your attention is sincerely appreciated . . . .

Ivan Raicevich

**Robert Elgines wrote:**

After writing article MusicMatch cancelled out the record portion from their free software download!

Sorry, but now you have to purchase or use another program. Might try a Google search for a another free-bee program!

Bob,

Thank you for replying to my inquiry. At least I know now that I wasn't losing my mind in not being able to find the "record" button in the MusicMatch program. I have acquired "**Sound Forge**" which has a much broader content than the MusicMatch program, and allows for removal of scratches and pops in vinyls too, with complete control for sound control, volume, balancing and breakoff. Sounds like the program you reviewed *was* just fine for general recording of cassettes to CD's. Too bad they closed the cassette deck door on the program . . . Obliged for your efforts.

Sincerely, Ivan



Product Review Offer  
From Acoustica

CD LABEL MAKER SOFTWARE

**TO: FRESNO PC USERS GROUP**  
**From: "David Raimondo"**  
**Subject: Would you be interested in trying out Acoustica CD Label Maker Software?**

**Would you be interested in trying out Acoustica CD Label Maker Software?  
If so, I will email you the download link and the registration code.**

**Let me know and I will contact David.**

**Donald L. Cummins**

# Check Out These Web Sites

## Cool Links

### **Pizza Delivered Fast When On The Road**

<http://local.google.com/> - Here's a handy tool when you are traveling on the road and have access to an Internet connection. Let's say you are in your hotel room and would like to have some pizza delivered. Simply go to this site, type in "pizza delivery," and enter the town and state in which you are lodging. The resulting page provides a listing of pizza delivery restaurants along with phone numbers, addresses, and a map showing the pizza restaurant locations within the local area. Pretty amazing!

### **Slurpee Celebrates 40 Years Of Brain Freezes**

<http://slurpee.com/> - This year marks the 40th anniversary of 7-Eleven's Slurpee drink. Yes, the king of all brain freeze concoctions was introduced back in 1965 by the 7-Eleven convenience store chain. Today more than 13 million Slurpee drinks are consumed each month. Did you know that residents of Manitoba, Canada, consume more Slurpee beverages than any other city on earth? For more mind boggling Slurpee-related trivia and to waste hours upon hours of your life playing the mesmerizing Slurpeedrop Game, head over to this site.

### **New Animated Disney Film Released This Month**

<http://disney.go.com/disneypictures/valiant/> - From the producer of *Shrek* and *Shrek 2* comes the new Disney animated film, *Valiant*. The movie is loosely based on the true story of carrier pigeons used by the United Kingdom during World War II to communicate with the Allied troops and the French Resistance. Valiant, a comically clumsy pigeon who sneaks his way into the Royal Pigeon Service, is assigned one of the most important jobs of the war -- carrying essential messages just prior to the D-Day invasion. See this site for trailer and clips, photos, games, and downloads.

### **Hurricane Season Is Back**

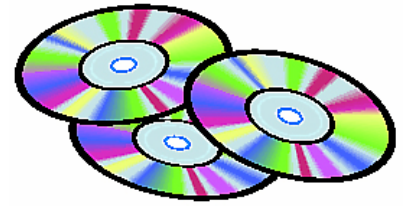
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/index.shtml> - Tropical storm season is back once again. The National Hurricane Center's Tropical Prediction website includes links to the latest satellite imagery, an archived history of the most destructive hurricanes of yesteryear, links to your closest National Doppler Radar Site, and the official list of Worldwide Tropical Cyclone Names. (Some unique names are found here.) Batten down the hatches!

### **Livestrong Wristbands Support Cancer Research**

<http://nike.com/wearyellow/main.html> - Last month Lance Armstrong won a record-breaking seventh Tour de France. What makes this feat even more amazing is that he did so as a cancer survivor. Lance's deep resolve has provided inspiration to those affected by cancer around the world. The Lance Armstrong Foundation's mission is to inspire and empower people with cancer to live strong. Learn more about the power of yellow and what you can do to support cancer research awareness.

# FPCUG Library

## CD of the Month



File descriptions for September 2005

By Dean Mason and Monica Braun, Librarians of the FPCUG

**7-Zip...** is a file archiver with high compression ratio.

**Adobe Reader SpeedUp...** is a simple application that was created to help make the loading time of Adobe's Acrobat/Reader software bearable for everyday use. AR SpeedUp only needs to be used once (a process taking only a few seconds) and then your 'Reader will be transformed forever.

**Asynx Planetarium v1.3...** is a small but very helpful [software](#), perfect for beginners and people who like to get a quick overview on what is going on today's night sky.

**Browser Hijack Retaliator 1.1...**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.

**Ethereal is...** used by network professionals around the world for troubleshooting, analysis, software and protocol development, and education.

**HD\_Speed 1.4.2.50...**Measures both sustained and burst [data transfer](#) rates of your [hard disks](#), [cd/dvd-roms](#) and floppy. Realtime graphical display.

**High Definition Picture Album - FREE ...**For Personal Use - to handle all your picture needs:

- organize and manage pictures on multiple [hard drives](#) and even across the [network](#)
- acquire pictures from any [digital camera](#), scanner or webcam
- resize, rotate, crop, edit and enhance pictures (jpg, gif, bmp, png, tiff)
- adjust brightness, contrast, colors
- sharpen, smooth, grayscale, apply color filters, red eye removal
- add text, add watermarks, sign or copyright pictures
- create multimedia picture albums, panorama views, [screensavers](#), DVD slide shows
- email, ftp, archive, burn to CD and DVD and print (including proofs) with just one click

Fully Automated Process - all your pictures are processed automatically no matter where they are:

Multimedia Picture Albums, DVD Slide Shows and Screensavers.

**IEWindows...**Open IE Windows FullScreen on Launch

**JR Directory Printer Utility...** allows you to print a listing of every file contained within a directory and/or subdirectory(ies).

**Free virtual ruler for your computer screen....**This Screen Ruler is a great tool that allows you to accurately measure anything on your screen. This is especially useful



when measuring graphics, web page browser sizes or whatever. Screen Ruler can display Pixels, Inches, Picas or Centimeters

**Maxthon...** is a multi-tabbed browser based on the IE core (IE5.x or above required). It can open multiple web pages within one browser window, and uses little system resources.

**Media Portal...** turns your [PC](#) in a very advanced Multi MediaCenter / HTPC.

It allows you to listen to your favorite music & radio, watch your video's and DVD's, view, schedule and record live TV and much more. You get Media Portal for free/nothing/nada/noppes and best of all it is opensource. This means anyone can help developing Media Portal or tweak it for their own needs!

**"nLite"**...is a GUI for permanent Windows component removal by your choice.

**Pdf995 is a printer driver that works with any Postscript to PDF converter...**

Pdf995 makes it easy and affordable to create professional-quality documents in the popular [PDF](#) file format.

**PowerPoint Viewer 97 for PowerPoint 97, 2000, and 2002 Users...**With this release, the Microsoft PowerPoint Viewer 97 supports PowerPoint 95, 97 and certain aspects of PowerPoint 2000 and 2002 files. This viewer allows people who use PowerPoint to share their presentations with people who do not have PowerPoint installed on their computers.

**Process Explorer 9.11...**Ever wondered which program has a particular file or directory open? Now you can find out. Process Explorer shows you information about which handles and DLLs processes have opened or loaded.

**SE Backup...** - Do you need to backup your [datas](#) at work or at home? Do you know you could lose all of your important things if you don't regularly save and keep a copy of them in a safe place? Don't you want to spend a lot of money buying expensive hardware?

**Winamp...** is an audio player that can handle audio CDs, MP3 audio files, and streaming audio broadcasts. It combines extensive functionality with an intuitive interface.

**XP-AntiSpy....** is a little [utility](#) that let's you disable some built-in update and authentication 'features' in [WindowsXP](#). For example, there's a service running in the background wich is called 'Automatic Updates'. I don't know what this service transfers from my machine to other machines on [the internet](#), especially the MS ones. So I play it safe and disable such functions.

- email, ftp, archive, burn to CD and DVD and print (including proofs) with just one click

Fully Automated Process - all your pictures are processed automatically no matter where they are:

Multimedia Picture Albums, DVD Slide Shows and Screensavers.

Please Welcome

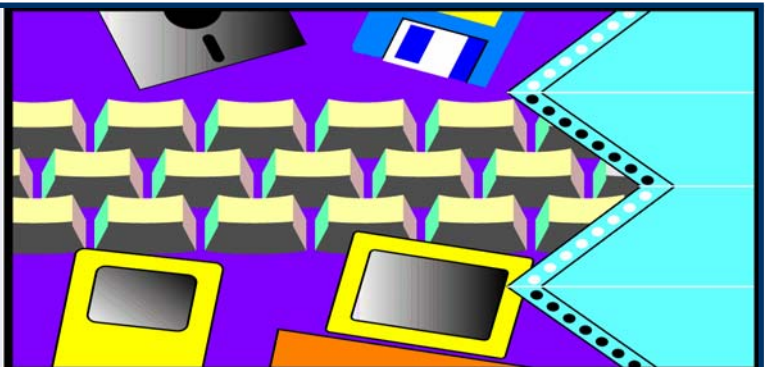
***Our New Members:***

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



## Contact Information

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**Monica Braun** ...Plyn2wnn@sbcglobal.net  
**Cecil Bullard** .... 221.1491 ....NA  
**Robert Caraway** www.866djtunes.com  
**Don Cummins** ..cumminsag@yahoo.com  
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**Don Townley**... .... donnjo@juno.com  
**Jo Townley**..... donnjo@juno.com  
**David Van Dyne** .....  
 vdtoxic@sbcglobal.net



## THE A DRIVE Computer & Internet Services

Looking to Buy a New Computer  
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*Scanners – Cameras – Monitors – Printers – Computer Parts*

*Laptops – Drives – Everything for your Computer*

Internet Service for \$12.95/month

5X Faster \$14.95

**Sign up Online At [www.theadrive.com](http://www.theadrive.com)  
 or Phone: 559-269-4287**



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](http://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

### COORDINATORS

**APCUG Representative** - - - - - Don Cummins  
**Co-Membership** - - - - - Krikor Geyoghlian & Ben Fulk  
**Co-Librarians** - - - - - Dean Mason & Monica Braun  
**Program Coordinator/Vendor Liaison** - - - - - Don Cummins  
**Publicity Chairperson** - - - - - KrikorGeyoghlian  
**Co-Publications** - - - - - Susy Ball & Nancy Mason  
**Review Coordinator** - - - - - Don Cummins  
**SIG Coordinator** - - - - - RobRhodes  
**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

**President** (2004-2006) Laura Ryals Barnard [president@fresnocomputerusers.org](mailto:president@fresnocomputerusers.org)  
**1st Vice President** (2005-2007) Dean Mason [vicepresident1@fresnocomputerusers.org](mailto:vicepresident1@fresnocomputerusers.org)  
**2nd Vice President** (2004-2006)  
 Stanley Barnes [vicepresident2@fresnocomputerusers.org](mailto:vicepresident2@fresnocomputerusers.org)  
**Secretary** (2004-2006) Jo Townley [secretary@fresnocomputerusers.org](mailto:secretary@fresnocomputerusers.org)  
**Treasurer** (2005-2007) Wilda Moller [treasurer@fresnocomputerusers.org](mailto:treasurer@fresnocomputerusers.org)  
**Directors-at-Large**  
 (1) (2005-2007) Regles Bellamy [directorlage1@fresnocomputerusers.org](mailto:directorlage1@fresnocomputerusers.org)  
 (2) (2004-2006) Don Cummins [directorlarge2@fresnocomputerusers.org](mailto:directorlarge2@fresnocomputerusers.org)  
 (3) (2005-2007) Monica Braun [directorlarge3@fresnocomputerusers.org](mailto:directorlarge3@fresnocomputerusers.org)  
 (4) (2004-2006) Bill Myers [directorlarge4@fresnocomputerusers.org](mailto:directorlarge4@fresnocomputerusers.org)



# FPCUG Board of Directors Meeting

August 8, 2005



The Board of Directors encourages all members to attend board meetings, which are held the first Monday after the general meeting. It will give you a better idea of what we do as well as give you an opportunity to voice your opinions and concerns. A copy of the agenda may be obtained by e-mail by contacting President Laura Barnard her address is [president@fresnocomputerusers.org](mailto:president@fresnocomputerusers.org).

Besides the usual business of reviewing and approving the minutes and treasurer's report, the board addressed the following issues:

**Program for September:** Intel is the subject of September's program. This is a demo in a box furnished by Intel and will be conducted by Bill Myers.

**Newsletter:** The newsletter is being published by a committee and they are working on September's issue. We are including as regular features the treasurer's reports as well as a synopsis of action taken by the board at the latest board meeting.

**Thumb Drives:** We decided to order 10 thumb drives to be used as prizes and/or rewards for various actions by the members, to be decided by the board on an individual basis.

**Fresno PC Users Group Forum:** The Forum, which can be accessed through the Fresno PC Users Group Web Site, should be up and running shortly. An announcement in the newsletter will give us a definite date. The membership will be able to ask a question on the forum and whoever has the answer may answer through the forum. There will be 3 categories to start: General, Hardware and Software. Categories will be added as needed. The questions must, of course, be computer-related.

**Group Computer:** The board previously decided to ask Monica Braun to be the keeper of the Group laptop. She will use it for library purposes, as well as have it available for Group use when necessary. After a new battery is installed as well as Windows XP operating system, Monica will take physical possession of it.

**Survey:** The board reviewed the collated results of the survey taken in February. There were several issues to be addressed, and we have already complied with some of the requests and will certainly take into account as many of the membership's comments and concerns as possible.

## 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](http://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](http://www.dougbetts.com)

Clovis .....323-2000

**The A Drive**  
[www.theadrive.com](http://www.theadrive.com)

Fresno .....222-5842



*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](mailto:cumminsag@yahoo.com)



**List of Programs Ready for Review  
Members Only of the  
Fresno Personal Computer Users' Group (FPCUG)  
www.fresnocomputerusers.org  
August, 2005**



These products are now available which may become yours\* for doing the review. If you would like something (program/book/hardware) that is not included on the current program list, submit your request to Donald L. Cummins at [cumminsag@yahoo.com](mailto:cumminsag@yahoo.com) and allow at least four weeks processing your request. Visit the company website and check out the product before you submit your order to make sure it is the correct product! The review will need to be completed within 60 days after receiving the product. There is a contract you will need to fill out before physically taking the material. The review will be published in the RAM PAGES or presented at a general (monthly) meeting of Fresno Personal Computer Users' Group. The review will be forwarded to the company and possibly to bookstores that may use it in their promotions.

**\*Note: Some items may have to be returned to the provider or some may have a discounted price for doing the review. Please Keep This In Mind.**

Type of Product B=Book H=Hardware S=Software	Name of Program	Retail Price	Vendor Name and Website [always check the website to see if this is the product you want to review]	See Foot-note # 1 at bottom of Page	Type of Program
B	Home Networking Annoyances	\$24.95	O'Reilly Media www.o'reilly.com		Home Networking
B	Internet Annoyances	\$24.95	O'Reilly Media www.o'reilly.com		Internet
B	PC Hardware Annoyances	\$24.95	O'Reilly Media www.o'reilly.com		PC Hardware
B	Excel Annoyances	\$24.95	O'Reilly Media www.o'reilly.com		Excel Spreadsheet
B	Mastering Internet Video	\$44.99	Addison-Wesley www.awprofessional.com		Video
S	SolidCapture	\$29.95	VoyagerSoft LLC www.SolidCapture.com	A	Screen Capture
B	iPod and iTunes Garage	\$24.99	Prentice-Hall www.phptr.com/garageseries		Music
B	Point and Click Linux	\$24.99	Prentice-Hall www.pointandclicklinux.com	L	Linux
S	Allume Aquazone	\$19.99	Allume www.allume.com	B	Screen Saver

**Foot Note # 1 System Requirements**

A –Compatible with Windows95/98/ME/2000/XP/2003

B –Compatible with Windows 98/MC/2000/XP/2003

L – Compatible with Linux

[always check the website and program for up to date requirements]



## RAM Pages Newsletter Staff

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

[www.fresnocomputerusers.org](http://www.fresnocomputerusers.org)

### Co-Editors/Co-Layout Editors:

Nancy Mason & Susy Ball

### Copy Editors:

Jo Townley and Mike Ball

### Production Advisors:

Susy Ball & Nancy Mason

### Graphics:

Publication Committee

### Circulation:

Jo Townley

### Review Coordinator:

Don Cummins

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## Mailing Address

### Contact:

### Editor, RAM Pages

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Suite 105-321 Fresno, CA 93710**

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## Directors to Meet

The Board Meeting of the FPCUG will usually be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:vicepresident1@fresnocomputerusers.org)**

SIG	Leader/Host	E-mail	Meets
Digital	Nancy Mason	<a href="mailto:applelady@sti.net">applelady@sti.net</a>	1ST Saturday of the month at 10:30 AM
Photo	Jo Townley	<a href="mailto:donnjo@juno.com">donnjo@juno.com</a>	at <b>CompUSA</b> on N. Blackstone.
SIG	Laura Barnard	<a href="mailto:lgrbarnard@yahoo.com">lgrbarnard@yahoo.com</a>	

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.**