

# *User Friendly*



## **March 2003**

### **Next Meeting**

**March 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Herbert Sax Presents  
TurboTax**

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## Palmia Computer Club



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### User Friendly

a publication for members of the Palmia Computer Club & the Palmia Community.

**Published monthly, January through June, September and October. Combined issues are published July/August and November/December.**

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### Guidelines

Articles (1) must be submitted to the Managing Editor no later than the 10th day prior to the month of publication; (2) should be no longer than 1,000 to 1,500 words (approximately three columns), although longer articles may be published; (3) may be edited by staff for clarity, spelling and grammar, and should be relevant to its readers. The choice of articles to be included in any issue is solely the prerogative of the Editorial Staff.

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## Computer Club Special Interest Groups

**SIGs meet from 3:30 to 5:00 P.M. on the specified Fridays unless noted otherwise:**

- 1st Friday** - Computer Hardware ..... Richard Jenkins  
(*Notice: New SIG Leader*)
- 2nd Friday** - Email and the Internet ..... Jerry Moore
- 3rd Friday** - MS Office (Word, Excel) ..... Barry Robbins  
(*Notice: Special Time 4 to 5:30 P.M.*)
- 4th Friday** - Photo Editing & Scanning ..... Don Yenche

*There is also a "HELP" SIG! This SIG is intended for beginners to answer your basic questions relating to computers (This is not a class). It meets on the first, third and fourth Mondays of each month at 10:00 A.M. The SIG leader is Joe Lebovitz.*

## Contacting Board Members and Officers

All Board members and officers are available for help or information via their email addresses as follows:

**Barry Robbins**, President - drdisk@cox.net  
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## Please Help

Your User Friendly newsletter needs a back-up, or co-editor, to Ali Tabikh who is not in good health. This fine publication must continue to serve everyone. So many members rely on it to stay up-to-date on computer developments. This is a learning opportunity for someone willing to help as well as a fine way to help the Club. **Please call Ali at 699-1962 or Herbert Sax at 455-1315.**

The Palmia Computer Club meets in the Palmia Ballroom the second Wednesday of each month, except July and August, at 7:30 p.m. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. for Q&A and socializing. For visitors from outside our Palmia community the address is: 21455 Monterey, Mission Viejo, CA 92692. The parking lot is just past the gate on the left side of Monterey. Telephone: 949-472-5075

# From the President's Desk

By Barry Robbins

We were treated to a great presentation from Ken Rockwell award winning photographer who presented "Digital Photography and Your Computer". Our next meeting will feature our own Herb Sax giving us a presentation on Turbo Tax. This is a well known software program for preparing your 2002 income tax return. Be sure to arrive early for a good seat. A question and answer period will follow Herb's presentation.

We are still looking for one or two volunteers to assist Ali Tabikh with the preparation of the User Friendly. If you would be willing to help Ali with the newsletter, he can be reached at 699-1962. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Also, Jerry Moore is looking for someone to help him with our award winning webpage. If you would like to learn how to create and maintain a webpage, please call Jerry at 588-6229, or send him an email at: jerryamoore@cox.net. I am sure that he will be grateful for your help.

We have some exciting programs lined up for the next few months. In April I will be doing a demonstration on ViaVoice, "The software where you talk and it types." This is a great program for those who do not type well. You can even surf the Internet with ViaVoice. In May we will have an "Ask the Experts" session where you can ask our resident panel of experts and I am sure they will be able to help you. In June we are planning a social. More information will follow in future issues.

Just a reminder that we have SIG groups meeting on Fridays at 3:30 PM with the exception of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday where we start at 4:00 PM. We also have a SIG on Monday mornings at 10:00 AM with the exception of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday.

Classes on Windows and Microsoft Office will be starting on March 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested, please put your name on the sign up sheet in the Computer Club folder, or contact our education chairperson, Sandi Hapner at 581-1465.

If you have Cox internet and are renting your modem, it may behoove you to purchase one. Modems from Cox are about \$100, but you can get one at most of the computer stores for about

\$50. If you purchase a non Motorola modem, you will need to call Cox to have it initialized. For some reason, the instructions do not tell you that. I spent an hour trying to get mine to work until I called tech support from the modem manufacturer who informed me that I needed to call Cox. After about 15 minutes, Cox had me back on the internet.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. The meeting will start promptly at 7:30 PM.

For an outline of Ken's presentation, you can log on to <<http://www.kenrockwell.com/tech/digital.htm>>. Or you can log on to <[www.kenrockwell.com](http://www.kenrockwell.com)>, click *HOW TO*, then click *WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY*. This will give you Ken's notes which you can print.

## TURBO-TAX AN ENCORE PERFORMANCE

Each year at this time our thoughts turn to the dreaded preparation of INCOME TAXES. Our Computer Club has again imposed on our Master Association Treasurer, Herbert Sax to demonstrate the renowned computer tax program TurboTax. Last year Herb demonstrated the ease of tax preparation that even a novice can accomplish. He will walk us through this program, preparing a tax return in front of our eyes. After the demonstration, you might very well feel competent enough to do your own taxes via this user friendly tax program. The street cost for the program is only \$29 after rebates. There is an extra charge for the state tax module. The program will perform electronic filing or print out the necessary forms for mailing into the respective tax offices.

***Learn more about this program at the March computer club meeting on Wednesday, March 12 at 7:30 PM. don't miss this opportunity to receive an insight into TurboTax.***

# Ants in My Hub

By Paul Lujan by way of an e-mail forward

*I decided to publish this article not only for its amusing story, but it wouldn't be so funny if it happened to you as it did to me. The Editor*

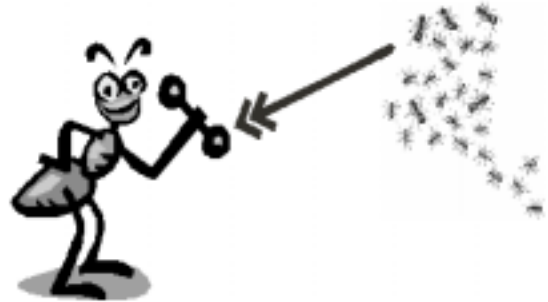
So, last night, I come home after a 4-1/2 hour drive back from LA, and sit down in front of the computer to check my mail. My connection is, for lack of a better word, ass-slow. I go to look at the hub to see if everyone else is having this problem.

Nope, Mike and David's activity lights are busily flickering; it's only me who has been screwed. I reach down to fiddle with the connection, and notice that the hub is covered with ants (as well as my hand, after the fiddling). "That's odd," I think to myself, "what would ants want with our hub?" But I'm way too tired to deal with it at the time, so instead I go to sleep.

I wake up this morning, and decide to investigate further. Yep, the hub is definitely swarming with ants. And it doesn't look like the ants are just going over it to somewhere else (especially since there aren't any tasty ant treats anywhere nearby); they're clearly going into and out of the hub. Some of the ants going in are even carrying little white pellets. "Is that food?" I wonder. "Where is it coming from?"

I unplug the hub and pick it up, and then kill all of the ants that come out of it. And kill some more ants. And kill some more ants. This goes on for a while. I begin to think that the little white pellets look an awful lot like eggs. I shake the hub, and it sounds like someone has poured a handful of coarse sand into it. "That's odd," I think to myself, "I could have sworn this hub didn't come with the sand option." I initially thought that there were just some ants here, but it's pretty clear I've got more on my hands now.

So, I decide to take a closer look at the hub. Unfortunately, the hub boasts a screwless construction, but I know that my screwdrivers can be used for more than merely removing screws, so I start prying. As I do so, a bunch of ants and eggs, as well as what look like larvae (basically, they look like slightly-smaller-than-normal ants, but a very pale brown instead of black) continue to fall out into the sink, (since I've become clever enough to do this over the sink).



ENLARGEMENT OF ANT  
CARRYING AWAY DATA PACKETS

I finally get the thing open, and see a bunch of eggs lying on the circuit board, but less than I would have expected if there's really a colony set up here. So, I figure that they're probably under the circuit board, and set to work unscrewing the circuit board to take it out of the box.

Jackpot! (That is, if my goal were to win an ant colony, which it really wasn't.) The entire bottom of the box is coated with eggs, and I see a large ant which I can only assume is the queen. I terminate the queen with extreme prejudice, and then wash out the box (it's made of metal, so I figure it'll be okay.)

The circuit board, on the other hand, I can't just wash off (since I hold hopes of saving the hub, not really wanting to have to drop \$30 on a new one), and there are lots of eggs wedged in small places, like between the link lights or between the chips connected to the ports, where they'll be really hard to get out of. So, I set the circuit board aside for the moment to take a shower.

When I come back, I notice that the ants have actually done me a favor! (Suckers!) In their futile attempts to save the colony, they've picked up the eggs themselves to scurry around like maniacs, solving my problem. I pick off the ants, and then vigorously shake the board to try to dislodge anything still stuck in the ports, and much to my surprise another queen falls out. (I've read that Argentine ants can have more than one queen per

## **Ants, continued from page 4**

colony, but this is still a surprise, especially since I thought I had already gotten almost everything.) I dispose of her, too, clean up the remaining ants, and figure I might as well try putting the hub back together. Not that I can completely undo my prying, but hey, that's cosmetic anyway.

Much to my surprise, it actually works! And my performance is back from miserable to normal. Ants 0, Me 1.

Man, I hate ants. If I could choose one genus to completely wipe off the Earth, assuming that it wouldn't, like, destroy the ecosystem. But really, what depends on ants? Anteaters? Well, they're not doing a very good job, are they?, Well, okay, I suppose I should probably choose something like mosquitoes, since even though they're less personally annoying to me, they still have the whole large-scale disease-spreading thing. But I'd expect some serious compensation from the WHO for not choosing ants!

*Paul Lujan. Article reproduction coordinated by Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group.*

*This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization to which this user group belongs.*

## **COMPUTER CLASSES**

Spring is almost here and time to think about brushing up on our computer skills.

Classes will begin on March 15, 2003 and run through April 12, 2003. This is a total of five weeks of instruction. We are hoping to offer a variety of subjects from a class in Windows which will be a follow-up to Basic Computing to Microsoft Office which will include intermediate Word and Excel. Enrollment is therefore vital. It tells us what you are interested in learning.

Sign-up sheets are located in the Computer Folder at the Clubhouse or you may call me at 581-1465 or E-mail <[sjhap@cox.net](mailto:sjhap@cox.net)>.

Hope to see you on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March.

Sandi Hapner  
Education Coordinator

## **Use Your CD Drive More Productively**

By Ira Wilsker

Almost all newer computers come with a CD-RW drive, a CD drive that can write and rewrite compatible CD discs. For older computers, with a standard CD reader (play only, not write), the addition of a CD "burner" is a very popular and fairly inexpensive upgrade. A simple review of the Sunday sale books for the major electronics and office supply stores shows an abundance of CD-RW drives for between \$30 and \$100, often after rebate.

These drives are typically easy to install, and may possibly be installed in addition to the existing CD reader (good for copying CDs), or as a simple replacement. If internal installation is not desired, there are several external CD-RW drives, advertised weekly, that connect to an available USB or firewire port. The external drives, typically the USB models, are also often a good choice for older notebook computers where internal installation is difficult or impossible. The Sunday ads often show the external USB drives for under \$100, after rebates.

Almost all CD-RW drives, whether factory installed, or after-market add-on, come with some CD burning software. The most widely distributed CD software provided with the drives is from Adaptec, or Adaptec's successor, Roxio. (Adaptec sold their CD writing software division to Roxio). Another common software package included with some drives is from Nero, while other drives come with a variety of lesser-known software titles.

As the price of blank CD discs plunges, often "free after rebate", burning (writing to) CDs has become very popular. Still, many PC (and Mac) users are not using their equipment to its potential; large numbers of users still only use their CD-RW drives in read mode to install other software, and not to burn discs.

As had been stated many times here in previous columns, the three most important words in computing are "Backup, Backup, and Backup". Remember that "Murphy's First Law of Computing" states that A properly backed-up hard drive

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## **CD Drives, continued from page 5**

will never fail; a hard drive that has not been recently backed up will always fail at the most inopportune time. All too many users who have ready access to CD-RW drives have lost all of their important files to viruses or hard drive failures, despite the ease and low expense of copying important files to CD discs.

The common blank discs hold from 660 to 700 megabytes of data, and are very inexpensive. Other than some time, there is no great investment to back up critical files at a minimum, or even better, entire hard drives.

There are a variety of excellent utilities available to back up hard drives. Some CD-RW drives come with a "lite" or "limited" version of popular backup programs. While minimally functional, these "lite" versions often lack useful functions such as compression (getting more data on a CD disc than its native capacity), or incremental backup (only backing up new files or files modified since the previous backup). I have been using "BackUp MyPC" from Stomp Software (<[www.stompinc.com](http://www.stompinc.com)>), which was formerly known as Backup Exec, by Veritas (Seagate). This program is probably one of the most full featured backup programs, and easy to use. BackUp MyPC can back up to almost any type of device from CD-RW drives, tape drives, Jazz and Zip drives, and other devices.

Some competing products are Roxio's Go Back, Norton's Ghost, and NTI's BackUp Now (which I have also used). Since almost all computers can utilize some form of CD writer, and blank discs are cheap, there is absolutely no reason NOT to have at least critical data files backed up. The cliché "ounce of prevention..." is most apropos here. With over one in five PCs currently infected with at least one variety of the Klez worm, several versions of which are capable of destroying critical files on a hard drive, backups are imperative. The appearance and rapid spread of other destructive worms and viruses, such as the new "Hunch" worm which explicitly destroys the files in the Windows, My Programs, and My Documents directories, emphasizes the need for backing up hard

drives. Still, probably the most damage is done by the old-fashioned hard drive crash.

Remember Murphy's law, and always have a reasonably current backup of critical files. For long-term archival purposes, better quality CD discs are advertised as having a 100-year archival life.

There are other popular uses of CD burners. One of the most popular and most controversial uses is burning music to blank CD discs. Often in the popular MP3 format, or in native commercial

music CD format, studies show that this is the most popular use of CD burners. Provided that copyright laws are rigidly obeyed, and we all know that they always are (snicker), homemade music CDs are very widely created and used. Online music or swap services, ranging from

the now defunct Napster, to the very much alive and controversial KazAa and Morpheus, as well as the legitimate commercial music sites such as Sony, are popular sources of such music.

Another popular use is copying entire CD discs. Generally, it is considered "ok" to make a single archival backup of commercial CDs, provided that the copy is only used as a backup, and properly disposed of (destroyed) when the original software is no longer needed. With some software CDs, and an increasing number of commercial music CDs, this archival backup is becoming more difficult to create as sophisticated copy protection is being utilized more commonly.

Many use their CD drives, often with rewriteable CD-RW discs, as an additional, but removable adjunct to their hard drive. This allows archival and portable storage of massive amounts of data, at minimal expense. CDs are often ideal for moving large files between computers.

There are several other uses for the CD-RW drives now so common in our machines. Many other CD drive utilities are readily available for download, such as from <[www.tucows.com](http://www.tucows.com)>. Use the drives as they can be used, but make absolutely sure that critical data is frequently backed up.

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**Remember that "Murphy's First Law of Computing" states that "A properly backed-up hard drive will never fail; a hard drive that has not been recently backed up will always fail at the most inopportune time."**

# Are You a Savvy e-Mail Sender?

By Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

*Bass explores ways to send better e-mail, not waste your recipient's time, and make sure your mail's read.*

Washington is considering legislation that will force you to get a license before you can send e-mail. No, don't worry, you'll still be able to receive e-mail without any restrictions.

Sure I'm kidding. But it's no joke: People send out lots of e-mail, with much of it needlessly long, valueless, bandwidth-hogging, inaccurate, and, of course, dumb. (Did I miss anything? Right-e-mails full of Fwd: Fwd: Fwd: and >>.)

Over the years, I've collected e-mail tips: ways to help you create e-mail that not only doesn't annoy others, but actually makes your e-mail worth reading.

**Think in Paragraphs:** You'd be surprised how many e-mails have one, long paragraph. Oddly enough, you may be using paragraphs but your e-mail program may be missing the hard carriage returns. Suggestion: send yourself, or a buddy, an e-mail and see how it looks. If necessary, add two "returns" between paragraphs when creating the e-mail.

**Write Short:** Keep your sentences short and limit yourself to three short paragraphs. Go beyond the Bass Int'l. limit of, say, four paragraphs, there's a good chance it won't be read.

**No Subject? Adios:** Here's my steadfast rule: If I don't know you very well and your message has a blank subject line, it goes into the trash. The reason is there's a strong possibility a virus or worm is attached.

**Use Smart Subjects:** Say the right thing in the subject line and your recipient gets fair warning what to expect in the message. For instance, even before I started using Yahoo groups, I started my message subject with "PIBMUG." For one thing, it helps AOL and Hotmail users, the people who get tons of spam, sort out real messages. (Others thought PIBMUG messages were spam, but that's another story.)

More important, it makes applying rules or filters to e-mail easy. For example, after a Home Office column hits the newsstand, I sometimes receive 100 messages a day. That's in addition to the usual stuff from PR flaks and PIBMUG correspon-

dence. So I've encouraged everyone who sends me jokes to start the subject line with "jokes" enabling me to separate them from business messages.

**"Fwd Fwd Fwd":** Of course if you get lots of e-mail, your threshold for junk isn't very high and subjects can give strong clues for what to delete right off the bat. For instance, if I see more than two "Fwd: Fwd:" in the subject, it's immediately sent to the trash. Adios.

**That's Not Funny:** Make sure you at least read the joke before sending it. That's a great technique for determining if it's really funny. No, really, people often send me lame jokes that are excruciatingly bad. Keep a mental note of the type of joke you send and match it up with their response (or non-response). You may notice you rarely hear back when you send a text joke but often get an "LOL" from a cartoon.

Want to see if people are reading your mail? Flood them with lame jokes; I mean fifth generation forwards of ribald stories or cartoons that weren't funny when they first ran in Playboy 20 years ago. Then slip in a legit e-mail and see if you get a response.

And if you're still going to send jokes, remove the millions of ">>>" brackets. The damn things make everything difficult to read.

**No Reply Needed:** I send dozens of e-mails each day with an explicit message that the recipient needn't reply. That's only polite because many times the e-mail's just an FYI. So right above the message, I type, "This is just an FYI so no reply is necessary or expected. -Steve."

**Who Are You?** Many users haven't changed the "Reply to" name in their e-mail program, and it drives me crazy trying to figure out who's writing. For instance, one person uses a period; that's right, a dot as his name. So when I look at the e-mail header, I haven't a clue (and still don't) who he is. Another person didn't know what to use so she stuck "Netscape" into the field, figuring well, something needed to go there. Head for your e-mail program's Options and poke around until you find a spot that asks for a "Reply with" or "Real

## **e-Mail, continued from page 7**

Name” and put in your name.

**Mail List Netiquette:** Many of you subscribe to interactive mail lists. I’m on many, and I moderate quite a few, including my broadband and CD-ROM yahoo groups. When you reply to a message on this sort of list, it’s essentially the same as sending e-mail, but with added restrictions.

Here are a few list rules to consider adhering to and maybe applying to your e-mails.

**Don’t Waste Bandwidth:** So many messages, so little time, right? Well, avoid responses that the entire list won’t find useful and feel obligated to at least glance at. So don’t reply to the entire list with “thanks,” “good idea,” or “I’ll try it!” Instead, reply to the sender. Look carefully and you’ll probably see the sender’s e-mail address near the top of the message.

**Good one, Steve!** In case you weren’t clear about Wasting Bandwidth, consider this: When replying to messages, do it only when you have something substantive to say. Sorry, “Good one, Steve” does not qualify as substantive.

**Snip, Snip:** When replying, it takes a few seconds to snip extraneous junk and leave only essential portions of the previous message. No matter what you do, get rid of the tag line - the info about subscribing and unsubscribing from the previous message.

**Keep Snipping:** Did I explain that it’s best to quote only those brief portions of the previous message, and only items that are necessary to make your point? Good. I’m not kidding.

**Avoid HTML:** Stick with straight text when replying or sending messages on lists. Not everyone’s e-mail program can read all your fancy fonts and formatting.

**Keep Files to Yourself:** Attachments are usually frowned upon on mail lists to avoid any chance of getting a virus.

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*Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World and runs the Pasadena IBM Users Group. He’s also a founding member of APCUG. Check PCW’s current edition at <[www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp)>; sign up for the Steve Bass online newsletter at <[www.pcworld.com/bass\\_letter](http://www.pcworld.com/bass_letter)>.*

## **IF IN DOUBT - DELETE**

By Don Yenche

Many of us use Microsoft Outlook Express for our mail service. There is always the fear of receiving a virus from some unscrupulous person via mail. Most of the viruses come from these bad guys as an attachment. Antivirus programs may stop viruses before they cause damage to our computers.

Here is a suggestion on how to avoid potential problems in Outlook Express. Set your system to shut off the preview panel. This way you can delete mail immediately if you do not recognize the sender or are offended by the subject line. The preview panel can be turned off by following these easy steps:

1. Open Outlook Express
2. Go to the Inbox
3. Click on the View drop down menu
4. Select Layout
5. Look for the setting for the Preview Panel
6. Turn this feature to the off mode

You will now be able to see an indicator if the letter has an attachment. Additionally, you can view the sender, the subject and the date and time the mail was sent. The letter will not be previewed until you double click on that letter. The good thing about this arrangement is you can delete that letter without even viewing its contents.

Yes, attachments can be the most dangerous carrier of viruses particularly those with .exe extensions. Microsoft makes attempts to control the script viruses. Script viruses, when opened in the preview pane, can cause minor havoc too. Microsoft provides upgrade protection against these types of viruses. You can avail yourself of the upgrades by upgrading your Internet Explorer Web browser. When you do that you are automatically upgrading your Outlook Express. The latest version of IE is by going to <[www.microsoft.com/](http://www.microsoft.com/)> and clicking on downloads. That will take you to the download page for “IE6.”

The best advice again is: if you question the sender - DELETE THE LETTER.

# Answers To Questions

By Jerry Moore

## Question

What is an IRQ and a com port? What are their functions and how do they relate to each other?

## Answer

IRQ is an abbreviation for **I**nterrupt **R**equest **L**ine. These are computer hardware lines of communication in which devices installed in your computer such as a modem, sound cards, network cards, mouse or printer “interrupt” the microprocessor to tell it to stop what it is doing and process a special request.

The microprocessor is a high-speed device that is designed to do only one thing at a time. However, most of us use our computers in ways that require the processor to at least appear to be doing many things at once. For example, you may be editing a document in Word while downloading a file from the Internet and listening to a CD all at the same time. The processor is able to do this by sharing its time among the various programs it is running and the different devices that need its attention. It only appears that the processor is doing many things at once because of the blindingly high speed that it is able to switch between tasks.

When a device has data to transfer, it generates an interrupt that says “I need your attention now, please”. The processor then stops what it is doing and deals with the device that requested its attention. It actually can handle many such requests at a time, using a priority level for each to decide which to handle first.

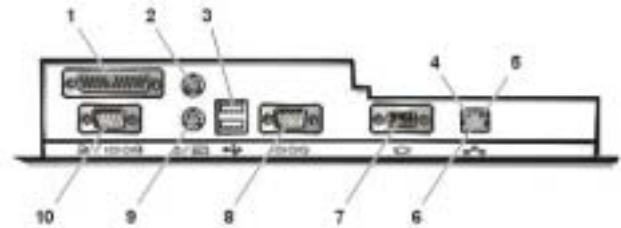
When installing a new device in your computer, an IRQ conflict may be introduced if more than one device is trying to use the same IRQ communication line at the same time. With the introduction of the Microsoft Plug-and-Play specification and the widespread use of USB ports, most but not all of these conflicts have been eliminated.

A com port is an internal or external connection point on your computer that allows a device to communicate with the microprocessor by sending data back and forth in a serial fashion. Your computer will also have a parallel port, which is typically used for a printer or scanner.

Below is an example of the input/output ports found on a typical present day computer.

1-Printer 2-Mouse 3-USB 6-Network 7-Video 8&10-Com Ports 9-Keyboard

Most devices that you add to your computer will come pre-configured to use a default IRQ line, but will allow you to change this line assignment by setting hardware jumpers which are small connectors on the device.



## Tips and Tidbits

By Barry Robbins

### Viewing JPEG Files

If you're like many of us, you have by now quite a collection of JPEG files—digital photos, scanned photos, and downloaded pictures. There should be an easy way to view all these pictures—and there is. All you have to do is get a copy of Vallen JPegger. Vallen JPegger does JPEG, BMP, and about 38 other picture formats.

Vallen JPegger is freeware and you can get it from the following URL: <http://www.vallen.de/freeware/index.html>.

### The Netscape 6 Sidebar

The Netscape 6 sidebar offers a number of useful tools, but it is often in the way when you need more desk space for your web pages. What we do is simply click the small handles that appear at the right side of the sidebar. This causes the sidebar to disappear off the left side of the screen. To restore it, you just click the same handle again.

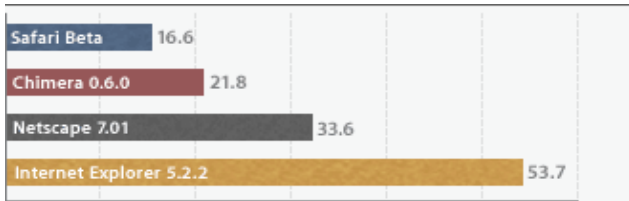
### Hubble Photographs

If you're at all interested in astronomy, you may want to download some of the photos taken by the Hubble Space Telescope. Some of the pictures are amazing and you'll probably find it easy to hang around the Hubble site for hours. Visit [www.hubblesite.org/newscenter/archive/](http://www.hubblesite.org/newscenter/archive/). *If you see a pop-up window that says "Image formats", choose Print Layout.*

# Web Surfer

By Jerry Moore

Apple has announced a new web browser named Safari. Not only is this browser faster than Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator, but also it incorporates many new features to make your web browsing a far more pleasant experience.



If you are running Mac OS X, you can download a free beta release copy of this browser from <http://www.apple.com/safari/download/>

The software from [www.musicmatch.com](http://www.musicmatch.com) continues to get better and better with each new release.



Creating custom music CDs is easier than ever with a simple point and click user interface. There are great new features for printing CD labels and jewel case inserts and an excellent web site containing step by step tutorials for just about any task you might want to perform with your music collection.

Although the recording industry has succeeded in putting Napster out of business, there are nevertheless many file sharing peer-to-peer networks still



in operation. One of my favorites is [www.winmx.com](http://www.winmx.com)

You can search by artist, song name, genre or even year of recording. One nice feature of this software is that it keeps a record of your prior searches and partial downloads so if a download stops before it has completed, the process will resume the next time you connect to the service.

Are you curious about all the different home models and floor plans available here in Palmia? Then visit [www.karenwinn.com](http://www.karenwinn.com) and click on floor plans.

Village	Model Number	Bed	Bath	Square Ft
Courts 1	Plan 1	3	2	991
Courts 1	Plan 2	3	2	979
Courts 1	Plan 3	3	2	1418
Courts 1	Plan 4	3	2.5	1247
Courts 2	Plan 1	3	2	1084
Courts 2	Plan 2	3	2	1011
Courts 2	Plan 3	3	2	989
Heights	Plan 1	3	2	1796
Heights	Plan 2	3	2	1929
Heights	Plan 3	4	2.5	2473
Heights	Plan 4	3	2.5	2194
Heights	Plan 5	3	2	1700
Turlock	Model 1001	3	2	900
Turlock	Plan 101	3	2	1011
Turlock	Model 1005	3	2	1084
Turlock	Model 1011	3	2.5	1069
Turlock	Model 1012	3	2.5	1088

Most of us are now using color ink jet printers and experience sticker shock when we see the high prices for replacement ink cartridges. The helpful people at [www.kalvins.com](http://www.kalvins.com) have come to the rescue with both do it yourself refill kits and a service that will refill your empty cartridges for you.



One of the things I really like about this company is that each refill kit comes with an instructional CD-ROM that contains movie files showing

**Web Surfer, continued from page 10**

you the step-by-step procedure for refilling cartridges from just about every major printer manufacturer.

Last, but not least, if you like the outdoors, please pay a visit to <[www.goodtime.net/li000193.htm](http://www.goodtime.net/li000193.htm)>. This website lists over 100 hiking and walking trails right here in Orange County.

So till next month, happy (and safe) surfing!

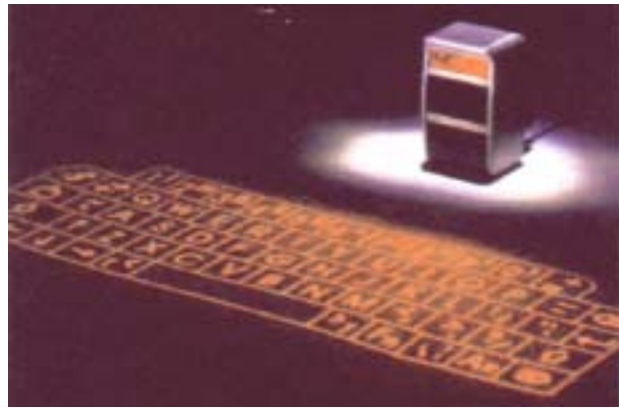
## Words to Remember

Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius — and a lot of courage — to move in the opposite direction.

*Albert Einstein*

## Tech Mart

Meet the keyboard of the future ...



Meet the keyboard of the future: VKB Inc.'s nifty Virtual Keyboard beams a QWERTY onto the workspace in front of you. Break the light beam and the device registers your keystroke. Licensee Siemens will offer it as a chewing-gum-pack-size PDA accessory early next year, but the technology's greatest promise will come when it's integrated into PDAs and cellphones. Price: \$150.

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## Help Line

Subject	Person to Call	Tel/Email
PC-General	Barry Robbins	699-0572
Windows	Jerry Moore	<a href="mailto:jerryamoore@cox.net">jerryamoore@cox.net</a>
MS Word	Barry Robbins	699-0572
Excel/Access	Barry Robbins	699-0572
Quicken	Hal Zeschmann	830-9882
Internet	Jerry Moore	<a href="mailto:jerryamoore@cox.net">jerryamoore@cox.net</a>
Photo Editing	Don Yench	457-1081
Graphics	Ali Tabikh	699-1962

# Enhancing Computer Efficiency

## Update The BIOS

*Excerpts from Smart Computing, April 2003 issue*

The computer's BIOS (Basic Input/Output System) is a memory chip located on the motherboard. It contains all the instructions the computer uses to perform its most low-level duties, such as detecting drives, determining the transfer rate speeds of drives, determining the type of interface your video card uses, and handling other crucial tasks. If the BIOS is outdated, your PC is inefficient, you may not be able to use some advanced features of your installed hardware, and your new hardware products may refuse to work at all. Updating the BIOS increases the PC's overall speed and compatibility, ensuring that your hardware runs as well as it can on your system.

It's possible to update modern BIOS via a software patch using a process known as flashing. To do so, download the latest BIOS update, place (or extract) the update files on a floppy diskette, and

boot your PC with the newly created BIOS upgrade floppy inserted in the floppy drive. The computer then boots using the update floppy, and the BIOS update program automatically clears the old version of the BIOS and installs the new version. It works this way regardless of the OS (operating system) you use, and all you need to do is contact the computer or motherboard manufacturer to determine what version of the BIOS your computer uses, what the latest version is, and where to download the update.

It should take less than 10 minutes to install a new BIOS and enjoy the greater functionality it provides. If things go wrong during the update process (for example, if power is lost or the update file is corrupt), however, your computer may not boot. If this happens, you'll have to buy and install a new motherboard or have the manufacturer fix the problem. Be careful when patching the BIOS and follow all instructions from the manufacturer.

### Proposed by-law amendment

It is proposed by the Palmia Computer Club Board that in order to have our by-laws in compliance with the Rules and Regulations of the Palmia Master Association, we delete Article IV, Section A, subsection 2. The section that we are proposing to delete reads as follows:

*2. Associate Member. Non-residents of Palmia are eligible for non-voting membership under qualifications established by the Executive Committee.*

We will vote on this by-law amendment at our March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

If you have any questions you can contact PCC President, Barry Robbins or PCC Vice President, Doug Harley.

### Be a User Friendly Pro-Active Friend

- ◆ Write articles to publish
- ◆ Send clippings of general interest
- ◆ Let us know what you like to read
- ◆ Leave material at the Clubhouse

## Andy Rooney On Prisoners

Did you know that it costs forty-thousand dollars a year to house each prisoner? Jeez, for forty-thousand bucks apiece, I'll take a few prisoners into my house. I live in Los Angeles .

I already have bars on the windows. I don't think we should give free room and board to criminals. I think they should have to run twelve hours a day on a treadmill and generate electricity. And if they don't want to run, they can rest in the chair that's hooked up to the generator.

