



SAN FRANCISCO PERSONAL COMPUTER *eBLUE*
USERS GROUP *NOTES*

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Who We Are, What We Do and How You Can Join the Fun!

The San Francisco PC Users Group, founded in 1982, serves as a regional volunteer forum for the exchange of ideas, industry insights and solutions to problems, etc. related to using personal computers having the Intel x86 or compatible processor.

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Annual membership in The San Francisco PC Users Group includes, among other benefits, monthly meetings, a one year subscription to *Blue Notes*, and Internet access. Cost: \$25 for individuals, \$30 for families and \$50 for businesses. E-mail our Membership Registrar, membership@mail.sfpcug.org, or attend a monthly meeting (see details inside and calendar). An application form can be found on the last page of this issue. Once completed, mail it with your payment to the SFPCUG Membership Director, 3145 Geary Blvd., Box 284, San Francisco, CA 94118-3300

Internet Services for All Members

Internet access is a major incentive for SFPCUG membership. Visit our web site: <http://www.sfpcug.org> where you will find, information about *Blue Notes*, the club's dial-up Internet services, activities of our various Special Interest Groups. etc. PPP accounts are available - e-mail: help@mail.sfpcug.org or contact our WebMaster at webmaster@mail.sfpcug.org or 415-665-3599.

The Internet SIG offers access to a shared account for experimenting with Web technology, including CGI scripting. Contact the WebMaster for details.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Users gather in SIGs to explore and solve specific problems related to software and/or hardware. The Calendar will list dates and venues. If a SIG addressing your interest(s) does not exist, call 415-665-3599 or 415-346-2644 to organize one.

Write a Review on New Software and it's Yours, Free!!

Vendors frequently offer new software or books to the SFPCUG so that an interested member can give it a test run and keep the product in exchange for a published review in *Blue Notes*. Our Product Review Coordinator can arrange to obtain software you want to review. Guidelines for reviews appear regularly in *Blue Notes*, or ask the Product Review Coordinator for a copy.

Steering Committee Meetings

The SFPCUG Steering Committee Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the upstairs meeting room of Round Table Pizza on Geary Blvd. and 16th Ave.

The SFPCUG Steering Committee discusses issues of immediate importance to the Group and makes plans for future activities. Steering Committee meetings are open to all SFPCUG members. Any Group member having attended two of four preceding Steering Committee meetings is eligible to vote.

General meetings

General meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Doors open at 6:15 PM for SIGs and the general meeting begins at 7PM and end by 9PM

First time guests are admitted free, repeat guests are asked for a donation of \$4.

Location: Meetings now take place in the auditorium of the Community College District Office, 33 Gough Street, (a half-block south of Market Street) San Francisco, CA There is ample free parking in front of the building. Civic Center BART and MUNI is ½ a block away.

The latest information on programs and location for upcoming general and steering committee meetings is available on our web site <http://www.sfpcug.org>. Always check for late breaking news.

Publication in Blue Notes

Follow the structure of a previous article in *Blue Notes*.

- * **Name/version of the subject program/book.** What does the program do and on what operating platform (s)? Does it satisfactorily fill a genuine need, e.g. task, entertainment, utility, etc.?
- * **Reviewer:** name and email address.
Name and reputation of the company distributing the product. Available mail address and phone number(s)
- * **At A Glance:** A 1-to 4 rating (worst to best)
- * **Price:** MSRP, retail or street
- * **System Requirements:** (self-explanatory)
- * **Pros:** Ease of use, learning, etc? Documentation: comprehensive, intelligible? Support? Does it deliver as advertised? If a book, is the author's style smooth or challenging? Is the Index useful?
- * **Cons:** Shortfalls, if any
- * The body of your review
- * Graphics welcome and requested if possible

When addressing technical, complex issues, endeavor to be as comprehensive and street-level clear as possible.

- * Use one space between sentences, two carriage returns at the end of each paragraph
- * Re-read your work carefully, objectively, checking word, sentence and logic flow to ensure you say precisely what you mean to say, clearly
- * Do not use indents or tabs
- * Spell-check your work

Procedure for submitting articles for publication.

Save your article as a pure ASCII file with line breaks, and a **.TXT** extension. You may alternately save your files in Rich Text Format (**.RTF** extension) then send them to bluenotes@mail.sfpcug.org. Should special formatting be necessary, forward a hard copy to the Editor. Contact *Blue Notes* staff by e-mail, bluenotes@mail.sfpcug.org.

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EDITORS' NOTE

Better late than never. Procrastination and laissez faire took over these past few months but we do not want to have the last of 2001 not be published even if it is a few months late. So here it is with our new Graphics Editor's work. We hope you like it and keep it as a memory of a wonderful year end get together with good friends, good eats and good products.

Welcome to the final edition of Blue Notes for 2001. We have enjoyed bringing you uptodate info on the PC world and look forward to more of the same in 2002.

What will 2002 bring? I have seen a palm pilot which produces color graphics. That's news to me. More interplay between TV and PC. More competition to Microsoft from open source. Microsoft may even end its antitrust charges from the federal and several state governments. Stay tuned..

Let's all give a heartfelt thanks to Butler Crittenden for the Holiday Party and Auction on December 18th. I know I had a great time. It seems like there was a large increase in the amount

of good serviceable used equipment at this auction - more than I have ever seen. That bodes well for future auctions.

If you wish to contact us, feel free to do so at bluenotes@sfpug.org, and Happy New Year.

From The DealsGuy for December 2001

by Bob Click
Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

***My Thoughts**

Some asked if I would have anything to say about the Sept. 11 tragedy. Just about everything has already been said, but here are some disturbing observations.

At least three local people were arrested at various times and thrown in jail with intense questioning, then transported to Washington, DC for further questioning by the FBI. After three weeks of humiliating jail and questioning, all three were released because they had done nothing wrong. One was a doctor whose computers were also seized and his office shut down, putting his staff out of work. The FBI's questions for these men were justifiable, but the answers were simple enough that I thought it could have been handled differently. All said they understood and were not resentful. What else can profiled people say?

A local storeowner with a thriving business was interviewed saying people won't buy from him any more. He may have to close. He's really an American citizen just trying to live the American dreams.

Worse yet, on the news recently, a man was driving down the highway when all of a sudden a bullet shattered the rear window of his car, narrowly missing his small child strapped into the infant seat. His "look" apparently profiled him for somebody. He is also just an American citizen living and working in Orlando.

Nationally, since the tragedy, over 550 people have been arrested (or detained), hate mail has increased dramatically, even to profiled people actually born in USA. I read that at least 500 incidents have been reported against profiled people. Three were shot dead while others were stabbed, beaten and assaulted. Certain schools, mosques and businesses have been attacked, or received bomb threats.

I know some walk among us that hate Americans, but shouldn't we give a profiled person the benefit of the doubt first. Keep a sharp eye peeled for sure, but be careful how you judge people. Hate shouldn't corrupt "us" as it has our enemies. During World War II, my family was of German heritage, but fortunately, we were never threatened, and the neighbors all remained good friends.

***In Keeping With The Rise In Patriotism**

I included this item because it promotes buy-American. Their Web site is also pro-union, so if you dislike trade unions, please keep an open mind or skip it. In some states, the terms American- and Union- "made" are somewhat taken for granted. In other states, such as Florida, many flaunt that term. I, for one, am all for making "American" jobs, especially "union" jobs. To assist in finding American-made products, a new Web site is up and running. Check out

[\[http://www.buyunionnow.com\]](http://www.buyunionnow.com) for a guide on some products. Since it is new, there are only 500 items in 23 product categories. They can use help for finding more American-made products to feature. Some large products may be a problem with shipping directly to the consumer, but they are working on all that. I assume, at this point, that price is not the factor, just American-made, but I hope to see this Web site grow. Its getting harder and harder to buy "American" with so many companies deserting the USA looking for very cheap labor.

***Icon See It Now**

Aha-Soft's "ArtIcons Pro 3.0" is called "graphics editing" software. Here is their description: "Use this powerful utility to find and extract, edit, import and export icons and manage icon libraries. ArtIcons contains a variety of paint tools to let you create and edit icons with image formats in either standard or custom sizes, in color depths up to 32-bit True Color. You can import icons from image, cursor and library files, and even from executables. ArtIcons allows you to arrange icons into libraries. It is the first such software to support Windows XP icon format." [\[http://www.aha-soft.com\]](http://www.aha-soft.com).

PC User Group members can register ArtIcons Pro for \$19.95 instead of \$29.95 and save \$10 (\$14.95 extra for a CD). Here is a link to register: [\[http://www.regsoft.net/purchase.php3?productid=41421&pc=6U47X\]](http://www.regsoft.net/purchase.php3?productid=41421&pc=6U47X). Password is "PCGROUP."

***Ashampoo Isn't What You Think It is**

Actually, Ashampoo sells a variety of products listed here (nothing to do with your hair), but please visit [\[http://www.ashampoo.com/products\]](http://www.ashampoo.com/products) for all the info since this month's column is lengthy. Here's the lineup:

Ashampoo MP3 Studio Deluxe - \$29.95

Ashampoo CD Recording Studio 2.0 - \$19.95

Audio CD MP3 Studio 2000 - \$19.95

Ashampoo MP3 Check & Convert - \$9.95

Ashampoo WinOptimizer 2000 - \$19.95

Ashampoo Powerup Deluxe 2000 - \$19.95

Ashampoo Uninstaller 2000 - \$19.95

Ashampoo Power Encrypt Deluxe - \$19.95

A DealsGuy discount runs from now until December 31, 2001 and all user group members entering the voucher code "gcc156786" (typed in the "coupon" field) will receive 15% discount on all Ashampoo products in their new Element 5 shop! Go to

[\[http://www.ashampoo.com/products\]](http://www.ashampoo.com/products) to buy Ashampoo products.

Thanks to Bill Wilkinson of Keowee Computer Club for sending this one, originally an offer for their group.

***Interested In New Web Development Software?**

I asked about discount for my readers when this came in from Olson Software. Here's their description for HyperTest Studio: "WYSIWYG Web site authoring tool. The WYSIWYG and HTML Code editors work together to ease page creation. Frame, ImageMap, and Cascading Style Sheet editors help you create attractive, functional sites. Site and link management tools let you manage projects of any size effectively. Integrated site management and editor features make creating your content as simple as drag and drop. Use Topic Styles for consistency. Tutorials help you learn quickly."

Prices are as follows:

Standard Edition (MSRP - \$99) - Includes everything you need to create stunning Web sites.

Professional Edition (MSRP - \$199) - In addition to Standard Edition functionality, build HTML Help, WinHelp, and printed documentation.

Enterprise Edition (MSRP - \$499) - In addition to Professional Edition functionality, lets multiple users work together on a single Web site or Help file.

DealsGuy readers get 10% discount. There are three ways to order requiring this code: "hts:bc159."

1: Directly within the product. If you have downloaded the product, you can click the Purchase button on the startup dialog to be led through a wizard to securely purchase on-line. Entered the code in the comments and feedback field."

2: Via their Web site, [<http://www.olsonsoft.com/purchase.htm>]. The code is added in the Comments to Vendor field.

3: Via fax/mail - make sure the code is added to the order form at [<http://www.olsonsoft.com/orderform.htm>], and that it is faxed to 1-646-359-3962. If you have a problem, call them at 1-646-359-1408.

Links:

Web site URL: [<http://www.olsonsoft.com>]

E-mail: support@olsonsoft.com

Download: [<http://www.olsonsoft.com/downloads/htsstd40.exe>].

***Just In From APCUG, Act Fast!**

RoadWired, a maker of computer cases and travel accessories for portable electronics, has become a sponsor for the APCUG fall Comdex event. An announcement was sent to all user groups, but I'm reminding my readers to check this deal. Visit [<http://www.roadwired.com>] for more information.

Some items on their Web site are already discounted 60%, but you get 20% discount on everything, including discounted items. Enter APCUG code number "1002128563" in the "coupons" box at checkout. This is only good on ONE order per member and this offer expires 11/31/01. By the time you read this, it will be too late for their other rewards.

***Show Me The Way To Go Home**

It's been a while since I've heard from Andy Sturdevant at DeLorme. I assume all users groups received this same announcement. I'll list the products below:

AO-6010-101 - DeLorme Topo USA 3.0 (CD-ROM version) - special price - \$69.95

AO-6011-101 - DeLorme Topo USA 3.0 (DVD version) - special price - 69.95

AO-6429-101 - Street Atlas USA Deluxe (CD-ROM) - special price - \$39.95

AO-5801-101 - Solus Pro 3.0 (CD-ROM) (mapping for the Palm)

S&H is \$5.00 and the priority code is "4041." If your group didn't get the order forms, your vendor coordinator should call Andy. Ordering may work on the Web site using the code. [<http://www.delorme.com>].

***Firewall Just For The Taking**

I read a very good review for Tiny Personal Firewall in Virtual RAM, newsletter for PC Rams Computer Club, and it looked pretty good according to their testing. They say it doesn't host any annoying ads. They used "Port Detective," which I'm not familiar with, to give it a good test and it passed with flying colors. The review author, Stephen Bigelow said this product has features he really likes. TPF is free for personal use and can be downloaded at [<http://www.cnet.com>]. Search for Tiny Personal Firewall.

***FYI:** I should soon have an announcement for the new USB 2.0 Pockey drives (20 gig shirt pocket size), which will be true plug-n-play. They also have a new cable, for those of us whose old Pockey drives would not work with a Toshiba or NEC laptop. The cable is available as a retrofit. [<http://www.pockeydrives.com>].

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click [Bobclick@mindspring.com]. Visit my Web site at [<http://www.dealsguy.com>] for past columns. Also, I keep adding interesting articles (taken from user group newsletters) to my "Articles of Interest" page for viewing or downloading.



*HOLIDAY
AUCTION
2001*



HOLIDAY AUCTION 2001



MINUTES STEERING COMMITTEE - OCTOBER

The San Francisco PC Users Group Steering Committee meeting of October 2, 2001 was held at Round Table Pizza, 16th and Geary.

Present were Butler Crittenden, Judy Gaer, Harold Charns, David Ross, David Caldwell, Ron Feiertag, Dave Hart, and Joseph Puig III.

The meeting was called to order at 19:05, chaired by club president Butler Crittenden. The minutes of the September 2001 meeting were distributed. Then a motion was made and seconded that they be approved as presented, which then passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's report – The Treasurer said we have a substantial balance. We had two new memberships and one renewal. Network Associates refunded our payment for our domain name, which Harold will pay by credit card and the club will repay him.

The Vice-President was not present but our Butler stated the Don was doing a great job at the Tech Bench. Don is currently on his way to the Philippines.

The President's report – Butler stated that Pierre Hahn was also doing a good job of helping at the computer show Tech Bench. Emails will go out this month to ask for auction donations. November 9th Butler will be going to COMDEX and the APCUG meetings before and during COMDEX.

The Webmaster's report – Joseph suggested that account changes go to systemadministrator@SFPCUG.org instead of Webmaster. Discussion of junk email in Japanese ensued. Butler stated that sometimes he receives bounced mail from active members in the club email system. Joseph said there is a limit of 2 MB mail on the server. The conclusion

of the discussion was that if people don't use their accounts they should be deleted. The fourth Tuesday meeting will happen this month.

The Membership Committee – (See Treasurer's report)

The Blue Notes Editors' report – They were not at the meeting. Mention was made that they are close to completion but need our president's report and Ron's column and proofreading.

The Product Review report was that there is nothing new.

The Program Chair report is that October is Aladdin Systems (StuffIt). November is Bob Schneider on web sites. If Zone Alarm wants they may share November with Bob Schneider. December is the holiday auction and party. There was some discussion about whether we wanted to do the auction this year since we have an adequate balance, but the conclusion was that we did.

Old Business – BC still needs more support. Microsoft promised product for volunteers at Office XP event. We have not received it yet. Butler asked that someone who attends the Windows XP presentation ask about this. We have all the pieces for the charity computer, except for the monitor. It just needs to be assembled and tested. David Caldwell said he might have a monitor to donate.

New Business – none

After a motion that the meeting be adjourned was made, seconded, and passed, with no abstentions, Butler adjourned the meeting at 19:52 hours.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Gaer, Secretary

MINUTES STEERING COMMITTEE - NOVEMBER

The San Francisco PC Users Group Steering Committee meeting of November 6, 2001 was held at Round Table Pizza, 16th and Geary.

Present were Butler Crittenden, Judy Gaer, Harold Charns, Pierre Hahn, David Ross, and David Caldwell.

The meeting was called to order at 19:04, chaired by club president Butler Crittenden. The minutes of the October 2001 meeting were distributed. Then a motion was made and seconded that they be approved as presented.

The Treasurer's report – The Treasurer said we continue to have a good balance. We had one new membership and four renewals. Network Associates has now been paid for 10 years of SFpcUG.org.

The Vice-President's report - Don was out of the country.

The President's report – Butler states that we have permission to use the LAN at 33 Gough Street for the internet at our meetings and he is hoping it will be up and running by the November meeting. We also still need to sign up at 33 Gough for meetings next year. David will get the form and either fill it out or get Butler to fill it out. The tech bench at the computer show is temporarily out of business. We now have a working processor/server thanks to Tom, Butler and Pierre, with a temporary operating system. Butler will look into getting a donation of XP at Comdex. A motion was proposed and passed to relocate the server at Butler's and install 2 new phone lines and 3 high-speed modems and DSL, or a special communications board to handle incoming calls. Harold will investigate this. It passed unanimously.

The Webmaster's report – The Webmaster was not present. (See above for server info) The 4th Tuesday meeting will happen this month.

The Membership Committee – (See Treasurers report)

The Blue Notes Editors' report – Blue Notes is out but is not yet on the web. It will be posted soon.

The Product Review report was that Yves Barbero is working on Photoshop 6, and no one is actively soliciting. Carol has 1-2 new items and we are awaiting Quicken 2002.

The Program Chair report is that November is Bob Schneider on web sites. December is the holiday auction and party. January is open, we are still hoping for Zone alarm. February is techbargains.com, hard drives and more, plus shopping wisely with Norman Fong. March is still open.

Old Business – BC still needs more support. The charity computer is done. Some small expenses were incurred. It still needs a monitor and David said he has one. It also needs a mouse and Harold said he will donate one.

New Business – Harold asked if anyone thought it would be helpful to print out a list of who and how many people are at the meetings. Butler said he thought it would be helpful to him at least.

After a motion that the meeting be adjourned was made, seconded, and passed, with no abstentions, Butler adjourned the meeting at 19:57 hours.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Gaer, Secretary

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24 hour recording for meeting information 415-346-2644

**San Francisco PC Users Group
Application/Renewal/Address Change**

Name: _____
(Please type or print legibly.)

Date: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: (____) _____

Work phone: (____) _____

City, State, Zip: _____

FAX phone: (____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please check: __ Renewal member # _____ __ New Member

Check type of membership:

please send your check to:

- Individual \$25
- Family \$30
- Business \$50
- Outside US \$25

SF PC Users Group
Attn: Membership Director
3145 Geary Blvd, Box 284
San Francisco, CA 94118-3300

Please be patient it may take up to 3 weeks to enable the account

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ (Please do not mail cash.)