

## Candy, Pens, And A Raffle –

A view from inside the Western Mac User Group Booth at MacWorld-SF  
By Veda Lewis

[Note: As you know, Veda also belongs to and is a Board Member of the North Coast Mac Users Group a.k.a. NCMUG, so she did double-duty for NCMUG and SVCG on her reporting and observations —.ed]

The North Coast Mac Users Group (NCMUG) board and volunteers put together a professional-looking table for little cash. Kudos to David Wysocki for his simple, but elegant pipe clamp and black painted pipe arrangement, which held the NCMUG banners just high enough to draw in MacWorld attendees to the user group assemblage tucked in the corner of South Hall across from the Internet Café and the Apple Solutions Experts. Drawn in, no doubt, by the words “user group”, many people stopped by to ask about how to find a group in their area. The Apple User Group guide station was just down the aisle, so we were able to send them there to access the user group database. User group volunteers provided information and tours throughout the show.

The casual observer might say that the candy bowl was critical in getting some people to stop by the booth. Passers-by happily collected the free sugar. Many took handfuls instead of the polite one or two pieces of the neatly wrapped morsels placed in a glass bowl. I

[WrapUp Table cont'd on Pg. 7](#)

## President's Column

by Veda Lewis

### SVCG Club booth a success-

Kudos all around for volunteers who took shifts at SVCG's booth at the MacWorld Expo last month in San Francisco... Wendy Kruljac, T McClure, Beth Pickering, JuandaLee DeShazer, Linda Kane and her son Daniel, Kathy Aanestad and me.

Thanks also to Melba Neuman who would have been there, but came down with that awful cold that is making the rounds. We met at least 9 potential members from Sonoma, one who came to our January meeting after learning about the club at MacWorld and became a member. Welcome Ronald Calvin! The club will be applying to do this again next January. Let's put a club banner on our wish list for this year. It would help the booth stand out. You can read more about the entire booth experience at <http://www.mugcenter.com/specialreports/wrmugboothsf02/wrmugboothsf02.html>, where the article I wrote for the user group page appears.



Fearless leader, exhausted, lying on floor!

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## Sonoma Valley Computer Group

### OFFICERS FOR 2002

<b>President</b>	<b>Veda Lewis</b> lap@vom.com
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### BOARD MEETINGS

Usually following General Meeting. Open to all members. Call 935-6690 for further information.

### MEMBERSHIPS

S.V.C.G. Annual Membership: \$20.  
S.V.C.G. Family/Couple membership: \$30 (residing at same address). Membership renewals are due and payable at the beginning of each year.

### GENERAL MEETINGS

S.V.C.G. meets second Saturday of each month at Sonoma Public Library, 755 West Napa Street; hours: 9:30AM to 11AM unless otherwise notified. Meetings free; guests welcome.

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### ONLINE NEWSLETTER:

<http://www.vom.com/svcg/index.html>

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### MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 649  
El Verano, CA 95433

## Books Online

I subscribe to Book Club online. (<http://mpbc.booksonline.com>) Every month, I receive an email message referring to new releases, etc. As you can see, all of the following books are bi-platform.

### Genealogy Online, 6/e (147645)

By Elizabeth Powell Crowe  
Elizabeth Powell Crowe has been pursuing genealogy for more than 20 years, and has been with the online genealogy revolution every step of the way. In this latest edition of her classic book, she details the techniques and tips you can use to research your roots and build a family tree using the Internet. SC. 432 pages. Publisher's Price: \$24.99  
Member's Price: \$19.99

### How to Do Everything with Adobe Acrobat 5.0 (144741) By Doug Sahlin

You've seen how useful and flexible Adobe Acrobat documents can be. With this book you'll discover how easy it can be to create and distribute your own Acrobat electronic documents in PDF format! SC. 528 pages. Publisher's Price: \$24.99  
Member's Price: \$19.99

### CD and DVD Recording For Dummies (147702) By Mark L. Chambers

Today's computers can produce everything from great-sounding CDs to DVD discs that you can play on your home DVD player — and those are just a couple of possibilities. Here's the book that reveals how to take full advantage of these capabilities, guiding you through choosing and using hardware and software, understanding formats and acronyms, even getting the most out of older equipment! SC. 250 pages. Publisher's Price: \$21.99  
Member's Price: \$17.50

### Digital Photography For Graphic Designers: From Photo Shoots to Image Output (153940) By Lee Varis

This book brings designers into a world previously inhabited solely by photographers. You'll learn how to shoot your own digital stock photography; manage color on the computer and the final print; tap into creative techniques available on a digital camera; use digital photography to save time and enhance presentation; and much more. SC. 192 pages. \$40.00, Member's Price: \$29.99

## Donating Unused Computer Equipment

The URL listed is for the Computer Recycling Center. All of the info needed (and then some) is listed on the site. <http://www.crc.org/>

Thanks to Wayne Till for that tip.

## SVCG UG Benefits

As a benefit to being a member of the Sonoma Valley Computer Group, O'Reilly Press is giving you a 20% discount on all their books and software! For more information, please contact Kathy Aanestad at 935-6690 or email at 'aanestad@wco.com'.

In addition to the O'Reilly Press offer, SVCG belongs to the Apple User Group program whereby members can purchase Apple products at a savings. Contact Kathy Aanestad for user ID and password in order to access their online site. We need members to help with finding contacts for PC user group offers so that they can be included in the newsletter postings. ☺



Kathy and David

## User Group University-

In conjunction with MacWorld, Apple Computer sponsors an event called User Group University. User Group leaders pay their way and take part in a full day of networking and lectures geared toward improving the success and effectiveness of user groups. This year's best presentations, in my opinion, were on marketing your user group and encouraging young people to join the group. I have lots of notes that I'll be sharing with the board when we meet this month to discuss ways to market the group and get more young people involved. The overall message, however, was around person-to-person activities and incorporating fun into the group!

A pair of college students from Emory

University did a great job of getting to the heart of inviting and keeping youth in a user group. They said... Be honest, Use humor, Don't talk down to younger people, Entertain, Keep it inexpensive, Keep it relevant.

These kids talked about simple ways to structure meetings and events as social events, allowing for person-to-person exchange that goes a long way toward busting stereotypes. What type of stereotypes? How about "Young people know everything about computers.", and "Older people don't know anything about computers."

One of the best suggestions was inviting students to come to the club to show what they have been doing with their computers. Since we have a lot of members who work with digital images, we are looking at contacting the high school to extend an invitation to a few students to do a show and tell. At the same time, we invite a couple of club members to do the same (exchange is important). Hopefully our guests will invite guests. If it is interesting and relevant, maybe they'll come back.

**Christopher Sarson**, who spoke on marketing your user group, should know a bit about marketing. He was involved with the pro-



Veda Lewis, Kathy Aanestad, Wendy Kruljac, Beth Pickering

duction of the Masterpiece Theatre on public television. He

**How do you attract youth to your user group?**  
Be honest, Use humor, Don't talk down to younger people, Entertain, Keep it inexpensive, Keep it relevant

shared his view on the importance of learning how people in the community are using their computers, and building relationships with them. He follows the direction of business guru Tom Peters, who says "Reinvent or die".

Kathy Aanestad contributed photographs of the event. Some of them appear on Apple's web site.

## Club focus-

Reinvent yourself or die. Well, this club is reinventing itself and is ripe for growth. There are so many Valley residents that do not know about us because most of us are too busy to do any marketing, or so we think. I invite you to share your ideas on reinventing the club and marketing ourselves during the discussion period at our meetings. This is your club.

We had a guest from a local business sit in on January's meeting, Joan Riebli. After we chatted for a few minutes, I learned that Joan runs Movie Merchants video rental and has a small cybercafe in the store. News to me. I will be investigating and writing an article about it for the next newsletter.

I'm involved with a big effort at work to prepare an overview of some complicated processes for folks who are involved in a small part of the big operation. My colleagues came up with a good statement to guide their development. Since a complex project development process is at the heart of it, the group leader suggested that everyone ask "What does the project need?" at each stage of

their work. This focus helped us determine the most important items to discuss at each stage. In comparison, "What does the computer user community need?". That phrase could help guide us.

Over the years, we've had members move out of the valley. Some have kept up membership to receive the newsletter for awhile (like our good friends Marge Moench, Nancy Lee Mohler, and Bill Somogyi). I was initially surprised, however, it made me think about why one would want to keep in touch. The newsletter is a connection to the Sonoma Valley computer user community. Although Kathy does a great job, more community information in the newsletter would better serve our customers. Our customers are first—our members, and second—the larger community. So, think about it "What does the computer user community need?" We need to know what's happening in the valley. Let's spend the next year finding out and sharing what we find.

## Elections-

It is almost that time again. Time to think about nominating club officers. If you are interested in running, you just need to be a member in good standing, honest and true, committed to attending board meetings and having some fun this coming year. I plan to run for President for a third term. My platform is (did you guess?) to reinvent the club to meet the needs of our customers, the Valley's computer user community. Board members yes, bored members, no. Happy computing.

—Veda Lewis

## WIRELESS HARMLESS, MORE OR LESS?

There is continuing debate over the question of whether the electromagnetic fields used in wireless technologies cause health risks in humans. Ever since the FCC started to auction off sections of the electromagnetic spectrum in the mid 1990s, the number of devices using radio frequencies has risen exponentially. The Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association said more than 129 million people in the United States currently own mobile phones. Fears of possible health risks associated with electromagnetic fields led the World Health Organization to establish the international EMF project in 1996, one of the objectives of which is to establish international standards for exposure to radio frequencies. The project will not be complete until 2005, and other studies into the effects of electromagnetic fields have turned up conflicting evidence. Anti-wireless activists say people should use caution until there are conclusive answers on the issue and recommend that people stick to conventional communications devices until that time. The FCC does not have any plans at the moment to alter its exposure guidelines, which are established by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements.

(Wired News, 22 January 2002)

## SETTLEMENT WITH MICROSOFT OPPOSED BY TOP ECONOMISTS

Nobel Laureates Kenneth J. Arrow and Joseph Stiglitz submitted briefs to U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, urging that she throw out the antitrust settlement between Microsoft and the Bush administration. Arrow wrote that the deal "is missing forward-looking remedies that address such efforts by Microsoft to protect and enhance its existing market power by using its illegally maintained monopoly." A consumer group consortium also filed a statement of opposition on Jan. 25, declaring the proposed settlement insufficient. Supporters of the settlement include the Association for

Competitive Technology, partly backed by Microsoft, which argues that any remedy should protect consumers rather than serve competing companies. Stiglitz and former Clinton administration economic policy expert Jason Furman wrote that the agreement needs "far stronger remedies" if illegal practices are to be curbed. Today is the last day that public comments about the deal can be filed before Kollar-Kotelly decides whether the settlement is in the public interest. (Wall Street Journal, 28 January 2002)

## RAISE OUR TECH IQ

More Americans believe they are computer literate than they really are, concluded a recent poll by Gallup and the International Technology Education Association. Roughly three-fourths of all respondents said they can understand and use the technology to a "somewhat or great extent." But Gerard Salinger of the National Science Foundation said the approximation is overestimated and that most people are not as computer capable as they would like to believe. The report calls for better technological education in both schools and the workplace. It recommends that technology content be infused more widely in kindergarten through high school. "We need to include subject matter beyond



News cont'd on Pg. 11

## Sonoma Valley Computer Group Membership Application/Renewal Form

### New Applicant

Use information below

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send  \$20 (individual)  \$30 (family) check to:  
Sonoma Valley Computer Group  
POB 649  
El Verano, CA 95433

### Renewal (expiration date on label)

Use the name and address label on Page 12

Platform:  Mac  PC  WinNT  
Operating System:  OS 8x  Win3  Unix  
 OS 9x  Win95  Linux  
 OS X  Win98  WinME

Computer Model: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about SVCG?

class  club member  
 newspaper  newsletter

User Level:  Novice  Intermediate  
 Advanced  Expert



Club president, Veda Lewis, gives a summary of January's MacWorld Expo held in San Francisco. In this instance, she's showing Apple's latest iMac. Other club members, such as Beth Pickering, spoke about how many vendors there were that sold Windows and Mac products. See Beth's review on pagePg. 6



Veda and JuandaLee



Veda checking out a new program



Veda and Wendy Kruljac

# Members Helping Members



Tickets... waiting in line for breakfast

*Time to renew your membership!*

# Computer Haiku

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In Japan, they have replaced the impersonal and unhelpful Microsoft error messages with Haiku poems. Haiku poetry has strict rules about its construction.

Each poem has just three lines and a total of 17 syllables; five in the first line, seven in the second line and five in the third. Haiku used to communicate a timeless message, often achieving a wistful, yearning and powerful insight through extreme brevity—the essence of Zen:

Your file was too big  
It might have been so useful  
But now it is gone

The web site you seek  
Cannot be located, but  
Countless more exist

Chaos reigns within  
Reflect, repent and reboot  
Order shall return

Program aborting;  
Close all that you have worked on  
You ask far too much

Windows NT crashed  
I am the Blue Screen of Death  
No-one hears your screams

Yesterday it worked  
Today it is not working  
Windows is like that

First snow, the silence  
This thousand-dollar screen dies  
So beautifully

With searching comes loss  
and the presence of absence;  
My Novel' not found

The Tao that is seen  
Is not the True Tao - until  
You bring fresh toner

Stay the patient course  
Of little worth is your ire  
The network is down

A crash reduces  
Your expensive computer  
To a simple stone

Three things are certain;  
Death, taxes and lost data  
Guess which has occurred

You step in the stream  
But the water has moved on  
This page is not here

Out of memory  
We wish to hold the whole sky  
But we never will

Having been erased  
The document you're seeking  
Must now be retyped

Serious error  
All shortcuts have disappeared  
Screen. Mind. Both are blank.

[Thanks to Jackie Smith for emailing these haiku to us. — Ed.]

## Confessions of A PC Person At MacWorld

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by Beth Pickering

I was going to MacWorld—something I had never considered doing before, but our computer group had a table there and help was needed to staff it. I wanted to support SVCG & getting in would be free so I volunteered to work all the time slots. I was assigned a specific 2 hour slot, but planned to arrive early & stay late “just in case” there wouldn’t be much for me to see. This, after all, was MacWorld and I’m a PC person.

Club member JuandaLee rode in with me but we had to separate to pick up our badges. Hers was even on a different floor. After a long wait to get my badge, I sped to our table. Once there I settled down to help fold brochures even though Veda was encouraging me to look around. There couldn’t be much for me to

see. This, after all, was MacWorld and I’m a PC person.

Juanda still hadn’t made it to our table. Perhaps she had a problem or was even waiting for me. I went looking for her. There sure was a lot of literature to pick up & some of it said PC. I got a free bag from one of the booths and started filling it. Both the North and South Halls had exhibits and the connecting corridor was full of racks of free magazines—including PC ones. I noticed a couple of booths that could help Juanda’s Mac “talk” to a PC. The one I got materials from installed on a PC and not a Mac. I might be a PC person, but this MacWorld thing was getting interesting.

Giving up trying to find Juanda, I returned to our table and found her there. After lunch I showed her the 2 booths and then started exploring on my own. Many of the software booths had sit-down demo areas as well as hands on availability. Often their programs had a PC version and the tech people would also answer PC questions. What a good place to learn about programs. I discovered booths (i.e. data recovery, printers, cameras and furniture) that work with all computers and wished I had started exploring earlier. I could only glance at the booths now. I would have to come back. This MacWorld thing had tons of information even if I am a PC person

I went back on Friday to talk to the exhibitors and sit in on their demos. I didn’t have time to see all the booths in depth, but what I saw was very informative. I got 2 free T-shirts and won 2 programs. I can even exchange one of them for a PC version. Cannon has a camera that hooks directly into a printer—no computer involved. I found more PC items, including an “Expert Guide” to Windows XP. I attended a demo on a VirtualPC program that lets you run several versions of Windows on a Mac—two or more can even be open at the same time. You can virtually turn a Mac into a PC whenever you want and have the best of both worlds! I’m definitely coming back next year. This, after all, is MacWorld and I’m a computer person. a

thought to myself, "Didn't these people eat breakfast?" After the candy bowl, their eyes then fixed on the raffle and lastly, the club brochure. It was a behavior repeated throughout the day. Macadamia nuts from the Maui Mac Users were particularly popular. NCMUG president Lorene Romero stressed about the details, but the bases were covered and the members were in motion.

## **SVCG-**

Although I helped with the NCMUG table, most of my attention was focused on my 'other' club. As president of the Sonoma Valley Computer Group (SVCG), I filled in to meet-and-greet and oversee our volunteers. We are a small, but energetic group who gratefully took advantage of the opportunity to be at MacWorld for a day. Kudos to our newsletter editor and club mentor Kathy Aanestad for making it happen. When I was skeptical about getting enough volunteers (before even asking), she plowed forward and the members responded. She also produced a spiffy brochure, which the club really needed.

## **Boot it up-**

Tuesday had begun like a car starting up before you've put the key in the ignition. Without warning, there were people stopping by, many not speaking, just whisking up a free pen or asking about the software raffle. "Do I have to be present to win?" one fellow asked. "Yes." I said. His face wrinkled, "Oh, okay, I won't be here then." He took his free pen and disappeared into the crowd.

"Is this club from Sonoma?" a woman inquired. "No, Sonoma, wit an "M"." I explained. "Oh, that's too far." she sighed, dropping a business card in the raffle box.

After about an hour, the pens were gone and we started seeing fellow Sonomans stop by the booth. JuandaLee started to keep count. She was thrilled to report that nine potential members, who had not previously known about our group, planned to check out a future meeting. (One of these people came to our next meeting and became a member—Ronald Kalvin.) The

city of Sonoma only has about 9,000 residents, so that means that we reached one-tenth percent of our most local residents. It's a small world. Our newsletters and brochures were well received.

"I used to belong to BMUG." said a tall bearded techie, "Are they here?" As most know, the Berkeley MUG crashed and burned, but has apparently continued in some form. At least that's what the fellow from the Stanford/Palo Alto group (SMUG) told me. I referred the inquiry to the SMUG booth behind us. Several San Francisco Bay Area people reported that groups they belonged to were no more. The user group paradigm is definitely changing, but that's another article.

## **NCMUG-**

NCMUG signed up new members and sold font and shareware CD's like mad. Wayne had to burn more font CD's because they sold out the first day. Julie was too sick with bronchitis to be there, but came to volunteer anyway. We sent her home.

## **Many faces-**

Over the next several days, the picture changed, with other groups taking a spot for a day or two, while NCMUG had their table every day. There were a couple of digital video user groups. The Los Angeles Final Cut Pro Users Group and Mac Filmmakers from Silicon Valley seemed to have a steady stream of interested people stopping by. Also showing were Diablo Valley, MacNexus, student user groups from Emory University and Boston College, and Maui Mac Users Society.

The overall crowds at the show thinned after the first day, but the flow at the User Group booth was pretty steady. A nearby table was a home base of sorts for volunteers during the show. We would gather 'off-duty' for rest, food, and conversation, while watching the email/surfing action at the hardwired iMac/wireless Airport network in the Internet Café or our volunteers continuing the meet-and-greet ritual.

By 3:30 on Friday, the last day of the

Expo, the take-down workers had begun to check in. Their manager used a free table at our booth to sign up workers as they appeared. There was quite a contrast between these workers, eager to begin the big job of breaking down the big exhibits, and the exhibitors, weary from four days of talking. At 4:00, we began to pack out our boxes. The carpets were already being rolled up and chairs carted away on rolling dollies. A caravan of sorts, toting bags, boxes, and banners, we made our way streetside to meet the San Francisco traffic and say goodbye. Thanks to everyone for a job very well done. Thanks to IDG for donating the booth!

It was a great experience. If you are doing a club booth in the future, be sure you bring enough pens and candy, lots of candy. aWIRELESS HARMLESS, MORE OR LESS?

## **MW Discounts**

Here are the companies that I know have discounts along with info that might be necessary to get the discounts. Some of the discounts may have ended with Macworld. There may be more available-companies are adding "/macworld" or "/macworld2002" to their URL for discounts. [Most of these companies serve both Mac and Windows users.—ed]

Anthro (booth #2317) - furniture - 38% off thru 2-28-2002 ...www.anthro.com

Miramar Systems (booth #1643) - software for PC-to-MAC connectivity, installs on PC - www.miramarsys.com - codeword for discount "Todd"

Symantec (booth #727) - Norton Software www.symantecstore.com/macworld

Waves in Motion - partner with Filemaker & in their booth #717 ...www.wmotion.com/macworldsf2002

Neon Software has educational pricing - www.neon.com a

—Beth Pickering

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

# Photo Restoration with Barbara Heiman

“Santa Rosa Junior College teaches more Photoshop than any other educational institute or training facility in the country,” according to Adobe and Barbara Heiman is one of their finest instructors.

According to Barbara, the college offers several sections of Photoshop. Advanced Photoshop, a technical 4 unit class is offered online which includes 130 pages of notes and materials. Then there is Photoshop for the Web, a class titled Photo Restoration with Photoshop which is currently taught by Barbara here in Sonoma, Mondays from 5pm-9pm, 8 lectures plus lab hours, using K. Eisman’s book, *Photoshop Restoration and Retouching*. Check your SRJC catalog for more classes, times, and locations.

Barbara states that there are **three kinds of images to restore**.

- 1) special photo which is without a negative, torn, scratched, faded. With this image, you want to fix the tone, color, and damage.
- 2) a photo which some of it is good, some parts aren’t or you want to crop and/or include someone or something else.
- 3) only photo available (no negative)

Some advice for the care and handling of your photos that you do have:

## A) Things that are harmful to photos:

1. foreign substances like water, ink, grease, food
2. non-archival holders can damage photos
3. acid from wrong kind of paper (non-archival inkjet paper)
4. light, heat, silverfish, dust

## B. Good photo maintenance practices:

1. before scanning, clean photo with soft, fine brush or cloth to gently remove dust
2. flatbed scanner window should be free of dust
3. avoid using kleenex and paper towels; they are abrasive and can scratch
4. soft t-shirts are excellent for using as cleaning rags. Either use dry clean rag or use a tiny bit of distilled water on rag for cleaning

## C. Scanning an Image— How do you scan an image?

1. scan for archival purposes. Scan at high resolution Ex: 300 ppi. These files are large, use lots of RAM and take up a lot of hard drive space. Photoshop wants as much RAM (memory) as it can get!! The reason you want to have enough pixels in your image (scan at high resolution) is so that there is enough information and definition to manipulate. To get this higher resolution (pixel data) at scanning time, you either increase the magnification (instead of scanning at 100%, scan at 200%) or increase the dpi (from 72 dpi to 200 dpi)

Once you’ve scanned your image, import it into Photoshop (unless you have a plugin that will allow scanning directly within Photoshop), use the **INFO palette** to check image detail. Write down the steps you took so you know what you did if you need to redo the photo in the future.

So to get the most out of an image, you want to clean the image first before scanning, get a good scan of the image, then bring the image into Photoshop to clean it up some more (i.e., fix tone, color, scratches, etc.).

Barbara used the example of a man standing beside his new car with the streetside as the background. To enhance the image and focus attention on the man and his car, she suggested using two layers of the same image, one on top of the other. Use Radial blur on the top layer. Apply a mask to hide the forefront image (the man and his car), blur the background stuff. The background is now blurred and the man and his car ‘pop’ as they remain in focus and the center of your attention.

“Set goals when you restore,” suggested Barbara. Two examples” 1) get rid of telephone lines and 2) to see more detail in shadow areas.

Another tip that Barbara talked about was when you take important family photos and scan them, save the original file, don’t work on it, make a copy of the file and do your restorations on the copy/copies. Once the photos (files) are restored/manipulated, print them out and

create a photo album and/or burn to CD.

It is important to remember that regular inkjet inks and papers are NOT archival. If you want to keep these images around for a long time to come, you’ll have to either print them out on inkjet archival paper with archival inks, send the files online to places (like Kodak.com, ofoto.com, or shutterfly.com) and have them print the images out, or resave your images that were burned to CD every so many years. It’s not really known yet about the longevity of CD storage, so the rule of thumb is backup important CD data every fifteen years. CDs are a good form of backup.

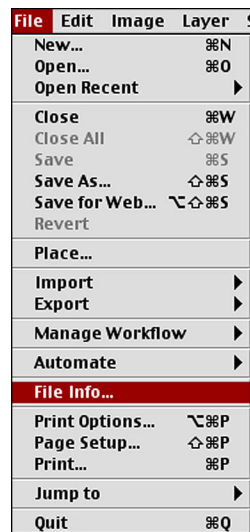


Figure 1. File > File Info

An excellent way to archive information with your .jpg, .tif, or .psd file formats is to fill out pertinent information in the ‘caption’ box.

To get to the Caption dialog box, Go to FILE > File Info ... The three dots after File Info indicate there are more choices. Click once on File Info. (See. Figure 1.)



Figure 2. Caption Info Box

After clicking on File Info..., the File Info box opens up with choices to make in the drop-down box next to Section. Select Caption.

(See Figure 2.) Enter all the pertinent info about the image. The info you enter there is now saved with your file.

Barbara answered questions from the audience.

1) How do you get your images? You can scan, download, someone sends you an image over the web, get it from CD, or digital camera.

2) What do we do with images? Output to desk, wall, photo album, poster, CD, web.

3) What is **Photoshop Elements**? Photoshop Elements is the 'baby sister' of Adobe's Photoshop with less bells and whistles. This program allows you to perform more simplified tasks such as simple image adjustments or getting rid of 'red eye'. Photoshop Elements is an excellent program for most users and the price is right. You can buy it for around \$69-\$99.

Thanks to Barbara Heiman for a most informative presentation.

—Kathy Aanestad

## Best Way to Print DigiPhotos?

**Q:** Hi everybody, I have an Olympus C-3030 zoom camera which I take high-res SHQ photos with. I recently purchased an Epson S890 color printer. Now when I take my pictures, my camera takes RGB jpegs which I later convert into CMYK tiffs. I also reduce the size of the image, which is about 17 by 22, to 300 dpi, making the photo about 5 x 7. I then import my tiff's into QuarkXPress and print from there.

But the pictures don't look that good, they don't look like photo quality. I do know that my camera at its current settings can indeed make photo-quality prints with high-end printers like an Iris, but I can't figure out what I'm doing wrong with my Epson.

I am using glossy photo paper and I'm making sure that my printer settings match my paper type. I'm also making sure that my tiffs are imported into my Quark page as 100%. Are there any suggestions anyone might have to produce better-looking photos? Josh

**A1:** Why are you converting them to CMYK? The inkjet printer is an RGB printer. It's converting them back! Leave them in RGB. Use PhotoShop or Graphic Converter or Photo Elements for printing digital photos. You'll have better luck. Besides, PS has some nice built in templates for printing wallet sized, proof sized, etc. I use an Olympus 3000 and can

get photo-quality on the HP1220cse, although I prefer to upload them to ofoto.com to get real prints on heavy kodak paper. — Marilee

**A2:** This may have nothing to do with your quality problem but you seem confused about image size vs. resolution. Size in the height and width expressed in pixels or inches. Resolution is dots per inch. If you are using Photoshop/Image/Image Size you will see a check box called Resample. If you leave that box unchecked and change the resolution the size will change, and visa versa. If you have it checked and change the resolution the software will resample and make a new image that is the same size but at the new resolution.

For printing on an inkjet the resolution should be 220 dpi or better, but you probably will not be able to see a difference above 220.

**A3:** The originals are probably in jpg format. It is a loosey format, each time you save it, it is recompressed, losing more detail. Here is what I do if I want to print 2 or 3 pictures on a 8-1/2 X 11 photo paper.

Open photo in Graphic Converter. View at about 50% (if I am going to print 4 per page I view at 33%). Then go under Picture - Size - Burn in. This makes that size view 100%. I then do a select all or I select the part of the picture I want to print and under Edit menu - select COPY.

You can then close the picture in Graphic Converter - it will ask to save changes - click NO. You don't want to save any changes to your original photos. DO NOT SAVE THE CHANGES.

I then paste this into a MS Word document. I paste the other 2 or 3 pictures into the Word document. You can move them to fit on the Word page and resize them if they are too big. I normally don't make them any bigger in Word, only smaller. If they are too small in the Word document, I reopen the photo in Graphic Converter and burn it in at a larger size. Copy and paste again.

I then print the Word document on my Epson 700 using the option for photo paper. The reason I do this is so I can print 2, 3 or 4 pictures on the same piece of paper. —Fred

**A4:** the biggest problem is the CMYK conversion - Epson printers really whack out with CMYK files. But another possibility might be your ColorSync settings and your monitor. Use either Apple's "Default Calibrator" or Adobe's "Adobe Gamma" controls to calibrate your screen, or at least get it close. Then make sure you've got the correct devices selected in the Monitor control panel (Colorsync control panel on pre OS9). If this doesn't help, I would give the ColorSync setting in the Epson print dialog box a try. It's under the Advanced options, to the right, near the bottom. I find that the Standard Epson/Perceptual setting works better than no setting at all - the colors are richer and truer to the original image.

One thing to keep in mind - if printing out of Photoshop, make sure you aren't using the Photoshop Colorsync correction as well (this would overcorrect the image). With PS5, there's a check box at the bottom of the print dialog, with PS6, you need to select "same as source."

One last thought - is the paper right side up? (sorry - couldn't resist). — Anne

**A5:** Ditch the color conversion and Quark step. You're printing out photos, not making a magazine: Photoshop is the tool for this job. I get good results by popping my 3MPdigidigcam JPEGs into Photoshop, NOT doing any color conversions (which \*discards some color information\*), adjust Levels, adjust Image size, and print out.

I have a Epson 740 (\_not\_ an expensive printer) and am somewhat picky about color and I get good prints about 95% of the time.

ColorSync is not much of a color matching system and I don't depend on it. Color matching is a very difficult process to perform exactly and requires hardware calibrators to do properly. Just fiddle with the colors in Photoshop until you get a satisfactory color conversion suite and then use

it for your digicam photo printouts. — Lew

**A6:** Upload your JPEGs to ofoto.com and let them print them as genuine photographic prints. — Matt

**A7:** I get all my prints from ofoto.com They have a software that lets you upload all your digiphotos at once, arrange them in convenient online photo album, archive your full sizes digital files for free and let you create and send slideshows.... but most importantly, they have the best prints I've seen from a Lab in a while, be it from film or digital files. They use Kodak processing, but that had nothing to do with the Kodak processing quality you have from your local lab when you give them film.

I used to be super - happy with ofoto for my film services, I love them even more now that I have a digital camera. At \$0.49/photo, some of you might think it's a little pricy but well worth it. — Zoe

**A8:** Get rid of the CMYK change as the others say. I use an Epson 750 Stylus Photo printer to print my Canon A50 images, which are only 1280 X 960 jpegs out of the camera. First, change the resolution, bump it up from 72dpi to 300dpi. Save it. This is if you are using Adobe Photoshop or Adobe Photoshop Elements.

Second, scale the overall size down to the size you want to print, under Image Size. Keep it proportional. Save it.

Third, do any correcting necessary to get the image to what the scene looked like, such as increasing Contrast and Brightness. You can also increase Contrast using the Curve feature by clicking on the center of the diagonal line and dragging it upward to the left slightly. Not too much though.

Fourth, use Unsharp Masking after making other corrections. About 70% is average, some use up to 150%. Too much Unsharp Masking adjustment will put a white halo around edges. Look at the image carefully as changes are made before clicking OK. Sharpen it just enough to give it pop.

Fifth, in Epson's printing software set it to Photo Paper, or Glossy Photo Quality, and 1440 or 2880, whichever is your printer's

best output. I get bad results with the digital photo setting. There are too many digital cameras with all kinds of print quality for that setting to work. Most digital cameras take dark images, the user has to brighten them using Contrast and Brightness controls and/or Levels.

You can kill a digital photo by over-correcting it. By the same token, you can rescue a badly under-exposed digital image that would be a throw-away from a negative. I have been very happy with the Canon A50 Zoom and the Epson 750 output. Most prints are 6X8. They look photographic. They don't have to be perfect. If I think I can make them better I try again. Usually it is a waste of time and materials.

And I mention this last in hopes you will remember it. When you upload the images and open them -- immediately Save each one as a TIFF or .psd Photoshop format before editing. Make a copy and test your editing on that one. Save the original as a TIFF etc. for archiving.

A program well worth its cost is Genuine Fractals, which lets you save archived images as small as 5x7 (small megabyte sizes) and later enlarge them up to 11X14, or larger, without loss of color, detail, and sharpness. It works on the pixel depth, not the overall size, and does not add pixels that were not in the original, which Photoshop does. — Jim

**A9:** Another program well worth it for printing snapshots is "Test Strip 3". A dozen or so easy mouse clicks, sharpen it, print it. Works with both Photoshop and Graphic Converter. —Charlene

**A10:** I just can't understand your problem. I started using a Kodak 3500 with the dock Kodak offers to simplify downloading the pictures and at first used the Kodak software. My results amazed me from the get go. I always shoot at the highest resolution possible. I am using an HP932C which I recently purchased. I chose to go with HP because I have seen too many complaints about Epson's head clogging. To make a long story longer... I found that it was necessary to make sure

that I do both the page set up under the file menu and then use the highest quality settings under the HP print menu. I use either Kodak 8 1/2 x 11 Ultima glossy or HP 4 x 6 Premium papers.

The only problems that I have experienced relates to cropping and brightness/contrast adjustments. If I crop, the file size changes along with the dpi, so I was glad to get Adobe's PhotoDeluxe to work with. For a beginner with no Photoshop experience this app is terrifically easy to use and I am finding that it is inspiring me to experiment with the array of features. I picked up Photoshop 5.5 on eBay a few months ago and have been too intimidated to use it so far, but this experience with PhotoDeluxe makes me think that I'd like to learn.

Bottom line for me seems to be that the only problems I have run into have been when the original shoot was poorly exposed. Otherwise, my results even at 8 x 10 have looked as good as most lab prints that I have seen. I do wonder how long they will last?? So far, the old KISS principal has worked well for me. Good luck, — Gene

**A11:** Unless you are taking it to a printshop there is no need to convert to CMYK. Since your monitor is RGB, the photos will look more vibrant, when you convert to CMYK it will look more muddy and dull. Don't jump between RGB to CMYK and back to RGB, you will damage or lose information in the conversion process. Very good info in all the post. I have a Nikon 990 and a Epson Photo 1270 printer and I get lab quality print outs all the time. — Cal

**A12:** disposable printers that burn ink because u have to recalibrate and unclog then all the time. And then they screw u with the expensive cartridges. And then you spend bucks on that glossy paper that your Epson seems to only screw up on. You wanna save money and have perfect prints? Spend your money on Kodak prints from such places as ofoto.com or shutterfly.com and be blown away from the quality. I have a Nikon 950. I capture images in 1600x1200 under jpeg compression, manipulate color/brightness/contrast/crop/rotate and upload the images in jpeg up to ofoto.com (there is no upload limit). I can order their standard 4x6 prints which are \$0.49 (I usual-

ly get free prints by signing people up [10 free prints for each new sign up, but max 100]) or order LARGE 16x20 prints that still contain all the details to make you cheer. Just try it, you'll throw your Epson away, they shatter well on concrete, I've tried it, believe me. BTW, I am not affiliated with anyone. I'm just a poor radiology resident in Miami that definitely has an eye for imaging. — Mal Khontent

**A13:** I also use Quark Xpress to print my pictures from (I have a template (picture box) made up for almost any application). I have no trouble. My pictures come out beautiful. I use an Epson 777. If you reduce to 300 dpi while still a JPEG that would be your problem. I make TIFFs full size on Photoshop then make a JPEG to print. There is no need to reduce the size of the original picture, just scale it down in the picture box on Quark. My camera is an Olympus C2500L. — Loren

**A14:** First of all, I use Ofoto.com for anything I want prints of that I want to keep for any amount of time and have been more than happy with the results. While I have and do sometimes print to photo paper on my Epson 740 inkjet - I wouldn't put this prints in my photo album. Why? BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT ARCHIVAL.

An important point people are missing here is that, with the switch to digital photography is this notion that it's \*cheaper\* because you can print your own prints from your sub-\$100 inkjet and have them be just as good as the ones from your local Wal-Mart processor. Not so. UNLESS you buy archival paper and special archival non-fading inks for your specific printer, whatever comes off your inkjet won't likely last very long. It will fade, dull, yellow, smear (if it's not water proof), etc.. Ofoto.com (and similar competitors) print photographic prints — meaning chemically produced on real photographic paper.

Don't get me wrong, today's inkjets do an amazing job of reproducing color and continuous tone images. But using the standard cartridges and paper that 99% of consumers buy, you shouldn't trust valued photos to be around 5 years from now. A dye-sub system would be much better - but

are still way out of the consumer price-range. I have noticed more drug-stores and others with the Kodak and similar "Image Stations" (where you can scan prints, make enlargements, etc. on your own) now offering flash card and smart media card readers so you can take your memory card in and make instant prints - but they seem to be pricey-er than Ofoto. Ofoto DOES need to drop the prices by about 50% in order to increase their business. While I like it because I don't HAVE to print EVERY photo I take, STILL if you have 20 photos you want double prints of, it will cost you \$20. They are making a killing right now, but have fewer customers. Even though you don't have the expense of buying film and processing, the printing expense still doesn't match up to traditional photography. And consumers aren't going to flock to it unless it does. — Victoria

**A15:** Wal-Mart accepts both jpg and tiff formats. BTW, you don't need to take a CD, compact flash/smart media card to them. Just upload the images to them and then go pick them up. I went to www.walmart.com and then to the photo center. Apparently, you can also create an online album for friends and families to view your photos and order copies for themselves. The 4x6's are only \$0.26 each. Apparently, all Walmart photocenters have this capability. — Wanita

**A16:** I agree that important images should be printed on real photo paper for archival (well, relatively archival...) purposes. I have had good results from Ofoto, but it's far quicker to use a local photo store. Here in Columbus, we have a local chain named Cord Camera that does really fine digital printing for the same price as prints from negatives. I sent out 4x6 prints as my Christmas card, and got 100 prints for \$26...and I got them the next day!

I didn't know that Wal-Mart does digital photo printing (but it doesn't surprise me—they would sell slaves if they knew they could get away with it and make a buck on 'em)...I'm philosophically opposed to Wal-Mart, the Microsoft of mass merchandising. (But that argument's for another day...) Anyway, check for local photo dealers who will do photo printing.

The results can be quite good. There is a lot of good information on this thread! — Orion

**A17:** I have an Olympus 490Z camera and use their Camedia software and templates to print out thumbnails, 8x10, and various combinations such as 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 16, 24 (well you get the idea) per sheet ... using an Epson Photo Stylus printer and Epson Photo paper with EXCELLENT results. No problem. Often, I will use Photoshop to tweak images and print either from PS or Quark with no problem. I love the Camedia software that comes with the Olympus camera. So easy to use. You can even print out your sheets with the date(s) the images were taken. This is very cool, although, as with previous comments, this is NOT an archival method. — Kathy

## TypeStyler

On the third Saturday of the month, February 16<sup>th</sup>, our sister computer user group, GSAUG, will have a representative from TypeStyler there. The program is cross platform (currently Mac, Windows is in the works), 10:00 a.m. at the Adult Learning Center, 115 Petaluma Boulevard South, between C and D Streets. It's part of the Petaluma Adult School and is located in an old auto dealership so there is plenty of parking. TypeStyler is a fabulous text manipulation program with lots of special effects, curves, and shapes that are impossible to achieve with Photoshop... and it's easy to use. You will probably get a good deal on software prices, so treat yourself to a fun program. —Kathy

Point Click Shoot



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math and science so that people do not think of technology as science but as fundamental social questions," insisted Columbia University's provost and dean of faculties, Jonathan Cole, who co-authored the report. (Medill News Service, 18 January 2002)



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Next Meeting: Saturday, 2/9/2002

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Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00a.m.

Topic: ***Email and Bookmarks***. We'll  
explore different email and browser programs.