

SPAUG

PrintScreen



Post Office Box 3738, Stanford, CA 94309-3738
Vol. XVII No. 10 - Newsletter of the Stanford / Palo Alto Users Group for PC
A Non-Profit / Educational Organization - <http://www.mediacity.com/~spaug>

Jim Dinkey - Notes From the Prez

Our speaker this month is Seth Shostak, head of the SETI Institute (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence), and he will take us on a virtual tour of the computing facilities of the SETI project. Seth is an astronomer, not a computer person, but his views are eclectic to demonstrate where computers fit into his research projects.

The November speaker will be a representative of Alta Vista who will discuss the business model and the opportunities that they have been pursuing.

We are going to have our elections again in November as a result of the changes in our by-laws. There are a number of positions that need to be filled if they are not, the function will cease; and we all will be the poorer.

It takes a lot of effort and diverse skills to keep the Club going in a meaningful manner.

Ron Nicholas, with a wedding coming up, has decided to step down from the Secretary position which means that the review of the Random Access must either be pass on to another volunteer or not be included in PrintScreen. He has done a super job of recording the Random Access and then taking the time to transcribe the resulting tape and transmit the results for the benefit of the newsletter. If no one volunteers to do this important function, there will be no review for those who could not make it to the

meetings. Further, Ron has been handling the publicity for the Club and finding out that the newspapers are prone to just ignore his efforts. You are invited to call me at 493-9307 if you are willing to aid the Club in this endeavor.

John Sleeman wants to transition,

Meeting Agenda.

- 7:15 "Boot up"
- 7:30 Announcements.
- 7:35 Guests introduction.
- 7:40 Random Access (Crosstalk)
- 7:50 Break
- 8:00 LECTURER
- 9:15 SIG Reports
- 9:20 Raffle
- 9:30 Adjourn

General Meeting @ Elks Lodge - Wed. Oct 27 @ 7:15 PM
4249 El Camino Real - Palo Alto (directions on page 4)

SETI - the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence.

Seth Shostek of the SETI Institute is this month's speaker. Here are some excerpts from their brochure.

"Could there be intelligent beings elsewhere in the cosmos?"

The world's most comprehensive SETI effort is Project Phoenix, run by the SETI Institute. It searches for signals using mammoth radio telescopes, giant antennas designed for astronomical research. The telescopes are systematically aimed at nearby Sun-like stars in the hope of detecting transmissions from inhabited planets. By the end of the century Phoenix will have scrutinized about 1000 star systems, all within 200 light years of earth.

Telescopes used in the search include the 210 ft Parkes antenna in Australia, the 140 ft telescope in Green Bank W Virginia, and the 1000 ft Arecibo radio/radar telescope in Puerto Rico.

What would happen if we were to detect a signal? Astronomers would work quickly to determine that the transmission is really extraterrestrial. If the broadcast were truly from other beings, the world would quickly be notified. A prompt announcement ensures that astronomers around the world could place the signal under 24-hour scrutiny.

Since the 1993 budget cutting act that eliminated NASA's funding for SETI, the Institute's search has been completely financed by private donations.

If you are interested in obtaining additional information on these efforts, or more facts about Project Phoenix, please write, or check out our Web site.

The SETI Institute,
2035 Landings Drive,
Mountain View,
CA 94043.

On the Web at: WWW.SETI.ORG

Email: info@seti.org

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Meeting will have the election. The existing staff is interested in continuing on, except for the Recording Secretary. A candidate is needed who will publish the

Planning Meeting Minutes, similar to what you are reading now. Nominations will be accepted for all offices at the General Meeting.

Web Guru's: The co-webmaster Stan Hutchings is gathering sufficient files and programs to use in a C-DOM. Twenty C-DOM's will be produced for the Club members' purchase. Contained therein will be files too large for the conventional 1.44M floppy diskette or which take many hours of downloading even at the highest modem speeds. He could use suggestions for types and names of programs interest. They must be shareware, or freeware.

Membership: Maintaining the membership list is being assumed by Robert Page.

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Future Meetings

- Oct 27 Seth Shostak – SETI at Arecibo
- Nov 17 (3rd Wed.) Alta Vista.
- Jan 26 eBay Corporation.

Questions and Answers

<i>Name</i>	<i>Area Of Expertise</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>e-mail</i>
Jim Balley	DOS, Quick Books 6, Quicken 98	650 494 0631	9AM - 9PM	Jimby@pobox.com
Jim Dinkey	Win NT/Win 98	650 493 9307	9AM - 9PM	jimdinkey@jimdinkey.com
Bill Goldmacker	DOS	650 691 0911	6PM - 9PM	gold@svpal.org
Robert Mitchell	AOL, ZIP managers, Win 95/98, MS Picture It 99	650 941 5792	4:30PM-9PM	Rfmitch702@aol.com
John Sleeman	Fortran, UNIX, MS Publisher	650 326 5603	9AM - 8PM	sleemanj@earthlink.net
Walt Varner	All PC areas: Software and Hardware incl. Win 95	408 739 3488	9AM - 9PM	walt2222@aol.com

Arlan Kertz - "SPAUG 501(c)"

This is to remind you that SPAUG is a non profit organization registered with the IRS under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). In this regard, your dues (except for \$12 for the newsletter) are deductible. Also, any additional cash and or other non-business assets donated to SPAUG are also deductible.

Elks Lodge, 4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94306-4496

The Elks Lodge is at 4249 El Camino Real on the North side of the street, between Charleston and San Antonio Road, but very close to Charleston. It is next to Ricky's Hyatt House, which is on the corner.

Park your car in the parking lot at the front of the lodge, and proceed to the center door. This is a keycarded door so we will have someone at the door to let you in. Proceed to the Lodge Room straight ahead, and to the left.

If you cannot get in the center door because you are late, press the new wireless doorbell that will be in place for each SPAUG meeting, and someone will come and let you in.

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Editor: The Editor has requested a fully updated membership list each month not just the individual member changes. The mailing list would be eased when making the address labels. A Coeditor has come forward in the spirit of Robert Mitchell. Welcome to the inner working of the Club!

Adjournment was at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Nicholas (ron1nick@juno.com)

Random Access

Summary from the September meeting.

Q1. I don't know how to get the picture on the screen that is on a website, and print it, other than a screen print which doesn't seem to work?

FB1. Push the print button?

Q1a. And it prints the contents of the screen?

FB2. It prints; does not print the screen but the whole frame you are dealing with.

FB3. In Netscape - it is file print.

FB4. Or the old stand by, hit Print Screen; bring up WRITE, press CNTRL-V to put all stuff into a WRITE doc and the print it.

FB5. Or use that screen shop program from Parsons Tech.

FB6. Or use PRINTSCR, a public domain program depending on what you want to pay for.

FB7. Or save to file first? That might work, but in some cases it doesn't work.

Planning Meeting

Planning meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month, usually at Beverly Altman's home at 7:15pm. All members are welcome, and encouraged, to attend. Please phone Jim Dinkey or Bev Altman to confirm venue.

Next meeting: November 3rd, 1999 at 7:15.

Other Meetings.

Sunday 24 October at 3pm

The Los Altos Hills Historical Society presents a talk on history in the making.

Oliver Dyla (a Gunn High School student) will speak on "How to make your computer faster".

Mr. Dyla has an extensive computer background and is CEO of his own company, Techno Inside. He will explain, with charts and graphics, what is coming in the year 2000, and how our own computers will work faster. All are welcome.

The venue is: Los Altos Hills Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road.

FB8. Another approach is described in the SJ Mercury News Computing Section's Q&A for October 10, 1999.

Q2. I've got some MIME files in AOL, and want to know how to read them.

FB1. In AOL type keyword MIME and follow directions.

FB2. I did and got gibberish and locked up my computer.

FB3. Eudora's claim to fame is that it translates all file extensions.

FB4. Also when Netscape senses a MIME file and there is none available, it raises the question if you want to download the decoder of MIME, and Netscape will do it for you. The file will then be read.

FB5. Another program, Fast Code will also work.

Q3. I've been playing with Linux Caldera 2.2 a dual booter. I am now finished with it and want to take it off. Only I can't. The normal un-install does not remove it. Even FDISK to reformat the hard drive is ineffective.

FB1. Jim Dinkey has run into a similar Linux removal problem and made a removal disk. He will look for it.

Paraphrased by Ron Nicholas

Thanks.

We should like to express our continuing gratitude to the Elks Lodge for the use of their room.

Tech Support.

Don't overlook the list of members (on page 4) who are willing to offer help and advice on their areas of expertise. It's free so there are no guarantees! However, it provides one-on-one help, and more time than the ten minutes of Random Access at the General meetings.

If you have questions on subjects not listed, try calling Jim Dinkey. If he can't help, he may know who can.

Jim also maintains a laboratory in his home which is available to SPAUG members when intractable problems arise. Call (650) 493-9307. This service is also available to non-members, but at the cost of a suitable donation to the Club's coffers. (That alone should be an inducement to join - any appropriate contribution would be more than the annual membership, but less than you would pay a commercial outfit. Tell your friends.)

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BSOD – by John Buck.

In a surprise announcement today, Microsoft President Steve Ballmer revealed that the Redmond-based company will allow computer resellers and end-users to customize the appearance of the Blue Screen of Death (BSOD), the screen that displays when the Windows operating system crashes.

The move comes as the result of numerous focus groups and customer surveys done by Microsoft. Thousands of Microsoft customers were asked, "What do you spend the most time doing on your computer?"

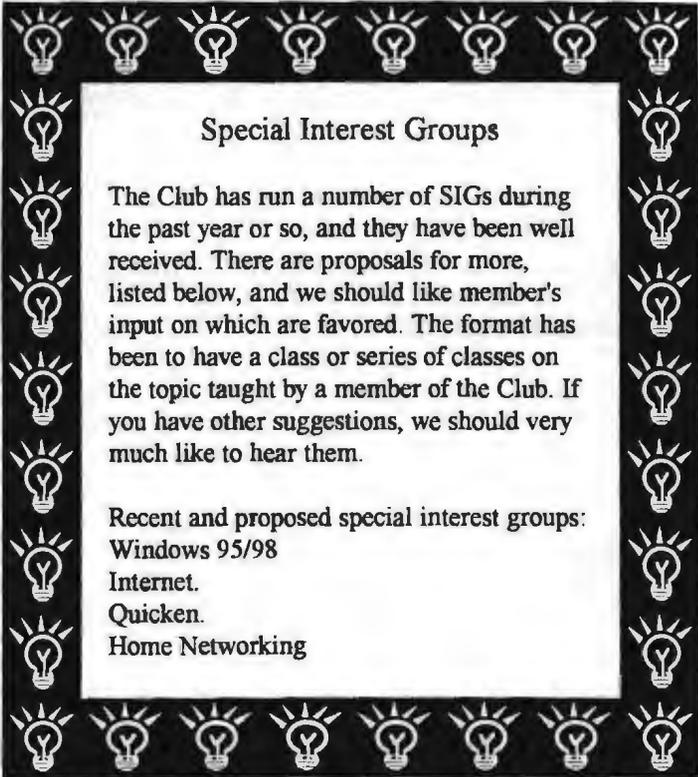
A surprising number of respondents said, "Staring at a Blue Screen of Death." At 54 percent, it was the top answer, beating the second place answer "Downloading XXXScans" by an easy 12 points.

"We immediately recognized this as a great opportunity for ourselves, our channel partners, and especially our customers," explained the excited Ballmer to a room full of reporters.

Immense video displays were used to show images of the new customizable BSOD screen side-by-side with the older static version. Users can select

from a collection of "BSOD Themes," allowing them to instead have a Mauve Screen of Death or even a Paisley Screen of Death. Graphics and multimedia content can now be incorporated into the screen, making the BSOD the perfect conduit for delivering product information and entertainment to Windows users.

The BSOD is by far the most recognized feature of the Windows operating system, and



Special Interest Groups

The Club has run a number of SIGs during the past year or so, and they have been well received. There are proposals for more, listed below, and we should like member's input on which are favored. The format has been to have a class or series of classes on the topic taught by a member of the Club. If you have other suggestions, we should very much like to hear them.

Recent and proposed special interest groups:
Windows 95/98
Internet.
Quicken.
Home Networking

as a result, Microsoft has historically insisted on total control over its look and feel. This recent departure from that policy reflects Microsoft's recognition of the Windows desktop itself as the "ultimate information portal." By default, the new BSOD will be configured to show a random selection of Microsoft product information whenever the system crashes. Microsoft channel partners can negotiate with Microsoft for the right to customize the BSOD on systems they ship.

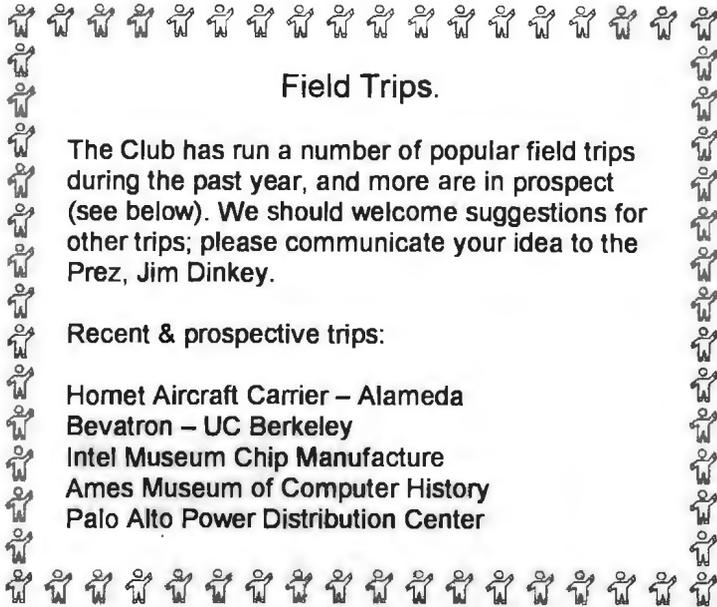
Major computer resellers such as Compaq, Gateway, and Dell are already lining up for premier placement on the new and improved BSOD.

Ballmer concluded by getting a dig in against the Open Source community. "This just goes to show that Microsoft continues to innovate at a much faster pace than open source. I have yet to see any evidence that Linux even has a BSOD, let alone a customizable one."

Editor's Corner.

I have been editing the newsletter for over a year, and it's been fun. However, now it is time to pass the baton to someone new, and so we are grateful to Robert Mitchell for agreeing to share the task, with a view eventually to taking it over. Perhaps by then we shall have someone else willing to help Robert. Volunteers?

This month's speaker will talk about the work of the SETI Institute. I hear that PC owners around the country are participating in their efforts by



Field Trips.

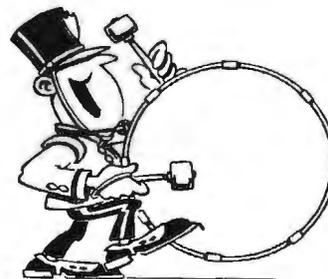
The Club has run a number of popular field trips during the past year, and more are in prospect (see below). We should welcome suggestions for other trips; please communicate your idea to the Prez, Jim Dinkey.

Recent & prospective trips:

- Homet Aircraft Carrier – Alameda
- Bevatron – UC Berkeley
- Intel Museum Chip Manufacture
- Ames Museum of Computer History
- Palo Alto Power Distribution Center

downloading special programs and a portion of the recordings from the radio telescopes, and running the programs in the background to search for possible signals. Maybe some Club members would like to join the effort.

We hope you will post the enclosed flyer where it will catch the public eye. Suggestion – if you have posted last month's flyer, take it down and post this one in a different place.



Stanford/Palo Alto Users Group for PC (SPAUG) annual membership dues are \$35, payable to SPAUG, at PO Box 3738, Stanford CA 94309-3738.

Please include your name and address, and optionally an e-mail address and any special interest group (SIG) you want more information about.

Questions? Call Beverly Altman (650) 329-8252 or Jim Dinkey (650) 493-9307.

The SPAUG Web Page

available at

<http://www.mediacity.com/~spaug>

sponsored by

MediaCity
500 Logue Ave
Mtn View, CA 94043
(650) 321-6800

PPP/T1/Frame Relay/ISDN

General Meeting
Oct 27, 7:15PM
at Elks Lodge,
4249 El Camino
Palo Alto



Contacts

Jim Dinkey
jimdinkey@jimdinkey.com
President (650) 493-9307

Walter Varner
walt2222@aol.com
Treasurer (408) 739-3488

Ron Nietrojas
ronnick@juno.com
Secretary (650) 985-2648

Beverly Altman
bevaltman@aol.com
Membership (650) 329-8252

Kendric Smith
kendric@leland.stanford.edu
WebMaster (650) 493-7210

Stan Hutchings
stan.hutchings@LMCO.com
Co-WebMaster

Allan Kertz
Accountant (650) 368-9348
akertz@seller.com

John C Sleeman
sleemanj@earthlink.net
Newsletter (650) 326-5803

Listserver

spaug-list@lists.jspchannel.com

Any member on the spaug-list can send messages to all other members on the list automatically by sending e-mail to this address. This list is intended for announcements of interest to all SPAUG members. Please avoid excessive or trivial announcements, since some members are paying for connect time. Additions or corrections can be sent to: spaug@mediacity.com

SPAUG,
PO Box 3738,
Stanford,
CA 94309-3738

