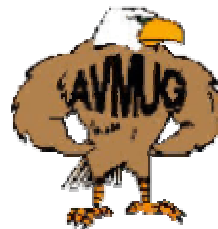


AVMUG

NEWSLETTER

Antelope Valley Microcomputer Users Group

Vol. 12 December, 2005



DECEMBER, 2005



***** ATTENTION *****

*****NEXT GENERAL MEETING*****

Would you like your 2006 "Dues" back?
WILL BE OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
PARTY AND POTLUCK, IT WILL BE
HELD ON "WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER
21st 2005.

Ky will be the person coordinating
the potluck, or contributions being
brought that night. Questions please
contact Ky at this e-mail addy:

webmaster@avmug.av.org

"AVMUG HELD CAPTIVE"

"See inside the Newsletter"

Each year the food gets better and
all agree this is an event not to be
missed!

"Mynee & Moe Club Talk"

Mynee: Hey Moe, don't forget to renew your club dues at AVMUG's December 21st Potluck Party, and the dues are still only \$25.

Moe: Yea yea, I know, but I plan to get more geek stuff for my \$25 because, I'm feeling lucky.

Mynee: Do you think you'll win more door prizes?

Moe: Haven't you heard - if you renew your membership by or at the December meeting's drawing, you get a special door prize ticket - two members will each win a \$25 gift card and one of them will be mine.

Mynee: I haven't won for a while so I may win the other one - Good luck to us both! :-)

Here is how to get your "2006" Dues back. Sign up early and get the extra ticket, if your number is drawn, a Gift Card for \$ 25.00 is yours. \$25.00 Dues - \$25.00 Gift Card = \$0.00 Dues for 2006.



Now is the time to dig out all that excess software / hardware and bring it to the December Meeting to be share with your club members.

There will be Selling, Trade; Give-Away Tables set up for anyone who is willing to participate.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER December Meeting

I hope everyone remembers the annual AVMUG party next week! It's a good time for everyone to meet, share some good food and have some great conversation. Make plans to be at the Senior Center next Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 PM. The club will provide drinks, cups and plates. Bring your favorite, "goodies" to share and invite some friends, spouses & significant others.

We will also have a trading area set up if you want to sell, swap or give away some of your unneeded computer & "Tech" items. The club will also be giving away a whole bunch of goodies, so make sure you are also here to claim your share! Finally, we will have a special give away! **Everyone who renews their membership for 2006 on or before the meeting next Wednesday will be eligible for a drawing. The prizes will be two \$25 dollar gift certificates to local computer stores.**

JANUARY Meeting

Our January meeting will be held one week earlier than usual due to the annual Senior Center floor polishing. It will be January 11 for this month only. The program for this month will be on digital photography. Back in October, the Digital Photo Guy gave an excellent presentation on digital photography in general. This meeting will be focused on getting pictures out of your digital camera, into the computer, and getting prints on paper. If you are lucky enough to get a new digital camera for Christmas, be sure to make it to the January meeting so you can get some practical advice on using it!



"AVMUG & COMMUNITY HELD CAPTIVE !!!"



Lee Otsubo Photo courtesy of Images by Santana
 On the evening of October, 19th, 2005 the Lancaster Photography Association, and guests from the surrounding community were captivated by “THE DIGITAL PHOTO GUY, as he presented an Educational workshop on the Digital Camera.

Mr. Lee Otsubo, (aka Digital Photo Guy) Covered a large range of information on the digital camera and the workings thereof. Highlights from the program are provided below. AVMUG members who missed the program may get additional information from Ed Groth, Newsletter Editor/ Treasurer at this email address: [ED Groth, Guy24kt@verizon.net](mailto:ED.Groth,Guy24kt@verizon.net)



Lee Otsubo with AVMUG VP **Kevin Hirschbuehler**, Photo courtesy of Images by Santana
Special Guest Presenter: Lee Otsubo, The Digital Photo Guy
Digital Cameras: Hints, Tips & Tricks Workshop Summary
Different Type of Cameras for Different Types of Camera Users
Low-midrange to mid-range, 1-3 megapixel, minimal controls, \$100-\$200
Mid-range to high-midrange, 3-4 megapixel, good set of controls, short zoom
High-midrange to Prosumer, 6+ megapixel, all the bells & whistles for controls, large integrated or interchangeable lens
Camera Consumers – 3 Types of Buyers
Point & Shoot – Low-midrange level camera buyers
Real Life – mid-high midrange level camera buyers

Enthusiast – high mid-range to Prosumer level camera buyers
How Many Megapixels?

A megapixel is a measure of the camera’s ability to capture detail, also known as resolution. In general, the more megapixels, the more detail can be captured in an image. However, most consumers will never need more than 3-5 megapixels to capture good quality images for printing 4X6 prints, the most common printed photo size in the U.S.

www.thedigitalphotoguy.com
 Reference sites for software, on-line learning and music for slideshows:
 PhotoRescue www.datarescue.com ,
 ZA Digital Image Recovery www.z-a-recovery.com, PC
 Inspector www.pcinspector.de, DCE
 AutoEnhance
www.mediachance.com,
 PixPrint www.gosunshine.com
 On-line Photoshop Elements 3 classes: Eclectic Academy
www.eclecticacademy.com
 Free music for slideshows:
www.freeplaymusic.com
 The Digital Photo Guy (TDPG) presents digital camera and photography workshops to over

10,000 enthusiasts each year. Participants range from timeshare resort guests thru senior center members. TDPG has taught everyone from 92-year old grandparents to 13-year olds. He is able to connect with total novices all the way thru to award-winning photojournalists. If your group, club or organization needs a dynamic, knowledgeable and entertaining speaker on one of the hottest "must-have" gadgets today, contact Digital Photo Guy, Inc at www.thedigitalphotoguy.com. The Digital Photo Guy is sponsored by Smart Computing, the first choice of every digital camera and PC enthusiast for fast, clear, concise answers to the most perplexing digital camera and PC questions. www.smartcomputing.com

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Lee Otsubo, The Digital Photo Guy

AVMUG & LPA - October 19, 2005



Consumers Trust Each Other More Than Advertising.

Among one of the many benefits of belonging to a User Group is the ability to talk with members who use a program or product you are interested in purchasing, or to have it demonstrated by a vendor or group member at a meeting. User Group members are not hesitant to share their computer knowledge with even total strangers and are often asked by friends and relatives for advice regarding computer-related purchases. The below information, taken in part from an e-mail from Andy Marken, Marken Communication, affirms that User Group members are influential in the electronics industry.

The "2005 Consumer-Generated Media (CGM) and Engagement Study" a new study of consumer behavior by Intelliseek Inc., reports that consumers are 50 percent more likely to be influenced by word-of-mouth recommendations from their peers than by radio/TV ads.

Consumer trust toward traditional advertising is being challenged by growing confidence in consumer-generated-media (CGM), and the recommendations of other consumers.

The research also finds important correlations between consumers who regularly skip over or delete television or online ads and those who create, and absorb consumer-generated media (defined as experiences, opinions and advice posted on the Internet by consumers for others to read and share). "Active ad skippers" are 25 percent more likely to create and respond to Internet message boards, forums and blogs.

Intelliseek CEO Mike Nazzaro said "The advertising landscape is... forcing marketers to broaden and redefine the concepts of media, influence and audience reach. If consumer-generated media is the most effective and trusted form of advertising, it's critical that marketers begin to measure, manage and influence it..."

Key findings from the analysis:

- Word-of-mouth behavior among "familiar" trumps all forms of advertising and is more trusted than news or "expert commentary."
- Positive word-of-mouth from a personal acquaintance carries just as much impact as negative word-of-mouth.
- Consumers are on track to post close to 2 billion comments on the Internet by the end of 2005.
- Key industries susceptible to GCM influence are health/medical, auto, electronics, video games and music.



SHORTCUT TIP FROM WORLDSTART.COM

Keyboard Font Size Shortcuts

Over the years I've run into a couple of different keyboard shortcuts for changing font size and I thought it might be of interest to my readers who love a good keyboard shortcut.

To be exact, I have two different sets of key combinations for increasing and decreasing font size.

This first set will increase or decrease font by the increments listed in the font size list on the toolbar.

Ctrl + Shift + > which will increase font to the next size in the drop-down list.
Ctrl + Shift + < which will decrease font to the previous size in the drop-down list.

Another set of key combinations will increase or decrease font size one point at a time.

Ctrl + [will decrease font size by one point.

Ctrl +] will increase font size by one point.

This is one of those things that can be used by carefully pressing the keys one increment at a time or you could just "go crazy" and hold the keys down letting the font size rapidly change until your desired size.

Also, I should mention that you can use this to set font size before you start typing or on text you've already typed and highlighted.

Combine this with keyboard highlighting (using the shift key with directional keys like the arrows) and you've got some quick and easy mouse-less font sizing right at your fingertips.

-Steve



AMAMD'A COOL WEBSITE FROM WORLDSTART.COM

Acronym Finder_

Welcome to Acronym Finder, a searchable database of over 2,446,000 acronyms conveniently online. This site is not a dictionary, or a thesaurus. It is completely devoted to acronyms!

Specifically what you will find in the database is "abbreviations, acronyms, and initialisms and we make no distinction between them in our database or on our site. We are more interested in defining "acronyms" for you than we are in trying to properly distinguish between abbreviations, acronyms, and initialisms".

So you want to know what an acronym is. To get more information on acronyms, as well as some interesting information all around, check out the About section. The About section includes an important search tip on when to include a period in your search.

The search engine itself is very easy to use. There is a drop down box with the options "exact acronym", "acronym begins with", and "reverse lookup (keywords)". What does that all mean? Well you can either look up the acronym you are searching for directly, or you can search by letter or keyword. Choose the option you want to search with, then type in what you are searching for in the blank field (the

acronym, letter, or keyword) and click Find. It searches and then lists your results.

Did it not find an acronym you tried? Well if you know what the acronym stands for and it isn't in the search engine then you can add it and it will be reviewed for submission into the search engine. To add an acronym, please click the link "Submit New Definition" underneath the search area. Fill out the form with as much of the information as you can and then click submit, the folks running the website will then review and decide whether to add it or not.

For fun you can click the link "Fun Stuff" and head over to the Systematic Buzz Phrase Projector. This is a neat page that allows you to make up random acronyms. Don't submit them to the acronym finder or look for them. They aren't real acronyms, they are just for fun! You can either click the Again button for a completely random one, or you can enter a three digit number. If you look in the table below you can see how the numbers correlate to the search.

With such a large database you can find everything from computer terms to military terms and a whole lot more. It's great to find a site just devoted to keeping up with Acronyms.
<http://www.acronymfinder.com/>



QUESTION FROM THE EDITOR:

WHAT DO YOU WANT IN THE NEWSLETTER? WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ ABOUT EACH MONTH? DO YOU WANT MORE TIPS ON HOW TO DO THINGS, OR WHAT? IT IS YOUR NEWSLETTER LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU WANT IN IT ?



Be sure to attend the December meeting! AVMUG is committed to keeping you up-to-date on the latest information to keep your computer safe and working properly!



Board of Directors:

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Disclaimer:

"By following any of our tips, advice, or recommendations (for software, hardware or otherwise), you agree not to hold AVMUG or any of its **MEMBERS responsible** for any problems that may arise in following said advice. All of our tips, recommendations, and information are intended for you to use at your own Risk. Although all information given is proposed to be accurate at the time of publication, we make no guarantee; either expressed or implied that the Information in this newsletter is totally error free and 100% accurate".

To Join AVMUG, Please fill in appropriate blanks,
and mail it (or bring it to a meeting) along with your check to:
AVMUG, PO Box 2942, Lancaster, CA 93539-2942

Name: _____
Membership Includes Immediate Family

Names: _____
if you would like name tags for family members please include their names.

E-Mail Address: _____
if you want to receive our newsletter.

Phone #: _____
(optional)

How did you hear about us? _____
(optional)

PC Computer Information

Operating system: _____

How do you connect to the WWW?

Dial UP ___ DSL ___ Satellite ___ Other ___

Annual Dues are: \$25.00. Please mail a check to:

Antelope Valley Microcomputer Users Group

P.O. Box 2942

Lancaster, CA. 93539-2942

Bring a Friend!!