



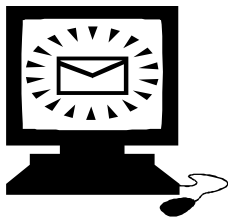
The BYTES of LAS VEGAS

Official Newsletter of the Las Vegas PC Users Group

March 2006
Volume 21
Issue 2



**Supporting your
technology interests**



Join Us and Enjoy

“Trend Micro Antivirus Software”

*Presented By
Mark Lewis*

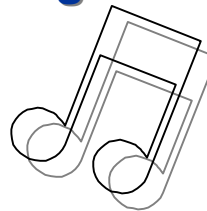
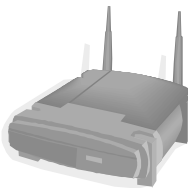


**Wednesday, March 1, 2006
at 6:15PM at the
West Charleston Library Auditorium**

More info inside and at
www.lvpcug.org



?? “In This Issue...”
Contents on Back Cover



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February through December

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The Bytes of Las Vegas is the monthly newsletter of the Las Vegas PC Users Group, an independent, non-profit group. We encourage members to submit articles for publication. Articles must be submitted by the first Wednesday of the month preceding the month of publication. All articles received after that date will be considered for the following month's issue. By submitting articles, the author gives permission for publication in this newsletter and in other user group publications.

Articles may be sent electronically to editor@lvpcug.org. Text may be in ASCII, Rich Text Format, MS Word, MS Publisher, or WordPerfect. Graphics may be sent separately provided they are referenced for proper placement. The Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions, and cannot guarantee publication.

The information contained in this newsletter is believed to be correct and

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Change of address should be sent to the
Membership Chairman:

E-mail: membership@lvpcug.org

Send postal mail or ship to:

LVPCUG

1350 E. Flamingo Rd #188

Las Vegas, NV 89119

Remember, the Postal Service does not forward the Bytes.

Las Vegas PC Users Group

Welcomes

Mark Lewis

Trend Micro Antivirus Software

At our General Meeting • **Free and Open to the Public**
West Charleston Library Auditorium, 6301 West Charleston
March 1, 2006 • 7:00 pm, with pre-program at 6:15 pm



On Wednesday
March 1st, Mark
Lewis of Trend

Micro will present to the Las Vegas PC Users Group members the best methods to keep their computers protected from all the threats that can invade their PCs. Trend Micro is a global leader in anti-virus and Internet security software. Mr. Lewis will discuss how computer users can keep their systems protected with Trend Micro's award-winning PC-cillin Internet Security 2006.

PC-cillin is the easy to use, all-in-one security solution that protects your computer from the most insidious of threats like, viruses, worms, Trojans, spam and even spyware. Plus, with new technologies to protect you against phishing emails and pharming attacks – scams designed to steal financial data, user names and passwords – PC-cillin is the most comprehensive security solution available. Trend Micro's award-winning PC-cillin Internet Security 2006 will be available for purchase after the presentation at a discounted rate for club members.

The Trend Micro web site can be reached at www.trendmicro.com or by typing in www.antivirus.com. The web site also offers a virus information center if you are concerned about any threat, spyware or grayware. The site also offers both a free online antivirus or malware scan. Trend Micro offers the following security precautions for the recent outbreak of WORM_GREW.A (AKA: *Nyxem* and *Blackworm*).

Security Guidance:

“The best defense is for users to run a scan of their systems, to ensure they haven't been infected” says Jeffrey Aboud, Trend Micro's Threat Response Manager. “The attack is hard-coded in the Worm, so if they haven't been infected, then there's no need to worry about the February 3rd attack, as long as they stay clean.” Aboud adds the following advice for users:

Do not open any emails from those you don't know

(Continued on page 6)



Helping Hands (For Members Only) "Users Helping Users"

When you need help with computer related problems, call a **Helping Hand** volunteer. This service is available only to LVPCUG members.

Please be courteous when you call and make sure the time is convenient. Have ready your manuals, questions, etc. and be at your computer. Or, e-mail a description of your problem along with your phone number and best time to contact you.

Beginners & Quicken

Marilyn Mills • 361-6363 • mcmxx@earthlink.net

Communications, Linux/Unix

Rob Winchell • 795-7153 evenings
r_winchell@newsguy.com

Microsoft Access, Databases in General

Donna Sword • 795-2653 evenings
sword_nv@hotmail.com

Microsoft Office, Publisher, Adobe Acrobat

Sharon Fry • SharonFinLV@hotmail.com
290-3518 evenings/weekends

Microsoft Excel, QuickBooks Pro


Debbie Hathaway • debhathaway@juno.com
497-3995 cell

Windows 98, Nero CD Burning Software, Music Match Jukebox, Cool Edit, Digital Music

Rich Vance • 438-3394 • r.p.vance@cox.net

Windows XP, Miscellaneous

263-5910 • fixitgeorge@lvpcug.org

If you feel that you could be a **Helping Hand** in any area, please contact one of the Board Members, or contact the Editor and ask to be added to the list. We can always use more volunteers in this area. "Users Helping Users" is what it's all about! 

LVPCUG Board of Directors 2005-2006

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General Meeting Notes: February 1 2006

Wednesday, February 1, 2005 • West Charleston Library Auditorium
Respectfully Submitted by Richard T. Robusto

West Charleston Library
Auditorium
6301 West Charleston

George Yocum opened the first segment of the meeting at 6:15 PM with an array of interesting web sites. He showed some with delightful pictures of animal pets and other items. He touched upon how to change wallpaper and also programs which allow you to insert photos into pages of text.

He discussed methods of purchasing refurbished laptops which are available at certain Outlet sites. He was deluged with questions about transferring Quicken data to other computers, printers that misalign text, how to change printing colors and many more miscellaneous topics.

As usual George answered all to everyone's satisfaction. He also touched upon the upcoming release of Vista and that efforts will be made to help us all understand the basics of this new product.

After a short break, Dave Whittle presented his "Picks For The Digital Home". He showed many products that would help make life a lot simpler for computer users such as retractable cables for all uses to help eliminate cable clutter. He had 3 main pieces of software that he demonstrated to the group. These were 30-Album Picture Pro DVD Suite,

Door Prize Winners

General Meeting • February 1, 2006

Muvec	
autoProducer 5	8 in 1 Reader/ Writer - Sharon Fry*
- Paul Bartel and Dannie Thomas	
Intervideo	Laptop Leggs - Leland Beel
WinDVD Player 6	
- Loretta Petraroia	CD Holder - John Gleason
Video Express - Raymond Wagner*	Popcorn Gallon Container - Harold Brown and Wayne Scherer
Spyware Killer - Don Sabatine	

PhotoVista Panorama, and muvec autoProducer 5. He went through the main

parts of these programs, enlightening the members with the different possibilities that were available. This included stitching of photos to make panoramic views, correcting exposure problems, and transferring photos into video clips plus adding musical

(Continued on page 6)

Special Magazine Offer for the Las Vegas PC Users Group!

from "Smart Computing® in Plain English"

With your help, the Las Vegas PC Users Group can receive FREE subscriptions to **Smart Computing**, **Computer Power User (CPU)**, **PC Today**, or **CE Tips**. For every five paid subscriptions, our group receives one FREE!

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You must include the **LVPCUG Smart Computing User Group Code** on each subscription card or renewal invoice, or give it when subscribing or renewing by phone at (800) 424-7900. When using the card from the magazine please cross out the existing source code and insert the **User Group Code**. When ordering online, be sure to select our group in the "Give your group credit for your order" drop-down box.

Smart Computing® LVPCUG Codes

Smart Computing
~ 8308 ~

Computer Power User
~ 461 ~

PC Today
~ 252 ~

CE Tips
~ 199 ~

Improve Your PC Skills & Help Your User Group All The Same Time!

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Have you heard...?

COMPUTER
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John Iasiuolo

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5:00-6:00 PM Pacific Time

Visit computeroutlook.com
to listen "live or archive"
and much more!

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Do not open attachments from those you do know, if you weren't expecting an attachment from that person, or if the content of the email seems out of character for that person

Ensure your antivirus definitions are up-to-date. Trend Micro customers should be using OPR 3.180.03 or later

Run a manual scan with your updated Trend Micro product, or with Housecall, Trend Micro's free online virus scanner.

Housecall is available at <http://housecall.trendmicro.com/>

How big is a 300 GB hard disk

By Jim Sanders, Editor, Orange Bytes, North Orange County Computer Club

www.noccc.org / [editor\(at\)noccc.org](mailto:editor(at)noccc.org)

I recently acquired a 300 GB hard disk for \$110 after rebates. When I look at that 3.5 inch hard drive that is one inch high and easily held in my hand, trying to put those 300 Giga bytes of storage in perspective is a little tough. I thought about the first Z80 CPM system I built in 1977 from a Cromemco kit that I had to solder together. It used 8 inch floppy disks that held 128,000 Bytes.


The diskettes were easy to damage and it was a good idea to keep them in storage boxes. I made some good money selling the SRW Computer Products plastic storage boxes at a great ACP Swap Meet discounted price of \$2.00 each. They were designed to hold 10, but you could get 2 or 3 more in if you were careful! I wondered how many floppies that would be, so I

punched the numbers into the calculator. $300,000,000,000\text{B}/128,000\text{B} = 2,343,750$ diskettes. I don't know how to visualize that, but I did calculate that it would take \$468,750.00 worth of those boxes to store them all. I then remembered that the average price at that time was about \$3.50 a diskette. Again the calculator, $2,343,750$ diskettes \times \$3.50 = \$8,203,125.00. Wow! That is a number that I don't want to think about if I am talking about a hobby.

Another way to wrap your mind around huge numbers is to start small, with something that you can relate to, and work your way up. Now we know that one byte equals one character of the alphabet. The common 10 point type has 10 characters per inch. So, if we have 120 characters/bytes in a row, we have one foot.

There are 5,280 feet in a mile. So $5,280 \times 120$ gives the number of character or bytes that would be on a mile long ticket tape that was being printed with 10 point type, an answer of 633,600 bytes. Compared to the 300 Giga bytes on the hard disk, 633,600

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	<i>3400 W. Desert Inn Rd. #4 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102</i>
	<i>Westbound Desert Inn at Polaris</i>
	(702) 362-1784
	FAX (702) 362-7018
Robert Cain	

The BYTES of LAS VEGAS

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bytes is not much. To find out how much, we need to take the 300,000,000,000 byte capacity of the hard disk and divide it by 633,600 bytes in a mile. The answer to that math problem is the equivalent of 473,485 miles of ticker tape.

To put that into perspective, let's take the circumference of the earth (nominally 25,000 miles) and divide that into our answer. So, $473,485 / 25,000 = 18.93$. If we could find a big enough roll of ticker tape, printing all the information on that hard disk would wrap around the equator of the earth 18.93 times. That sounds impressive, but how many people can really visualize that. Besides, I don't know anyone who has a big enough ticker tape printer. Another thought, that ticker tape would be 3,000 miles short of stretching from the Earth to the Moon and back.

But let's try it with regular 8.5 inch x 11 inch paper. Again, standard printing would be 10 point type, 10 bytes per inch, and 6 lines per inch. Most people leave at least a half inch margin all the way around the page. So that means each line will be 7.5 inches, or 75 bytes, and there will be 60 lines per page. So each page will use 75 bytes x 60 lines, or 4,500 bytes. First, let's take 1 of the 300,000 megabytes on the disk and see how many pages that represents. $1,000,000 / 4,500 = 222.2$ pages. We still have 299,999 megabytes left and, using them, the total number of pages comes out

to 66,660,000 pages.

That is also a little hard to imagine, so let's see how many reams of paper that is. Take 66,660,000 pages, divided by 500 sheets per ream = 133,320 reams of paper. Again, a little hard to visualize.

A lot of things have their volume given in cubic feet. That's 12 inches x 12 inches x 12 inches or 1,728 cubic inches, or 1 cubic foot. I measured one case of paper at 11.25x9x17.5 inches, or 1,771 cubic inches. Let's be generous and round that off to one cubic foot. So at 5,000 sheets, or ten reams per case, we divide the 133,320 reams that we came up with by 10 to get 13,332 cases, or that many cubic feet of space.

Stipulating that an average house is 1,400 square feet with eight foot high ceilings, then the average house has 11,200 cubic feet of space, ignoring the walls. If you filled up your house, wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling, with cases of printed paper, you would still have 2,132 cases left over. If you are in better shape than I am, there is still room to get one car in that two car garage. That's $10'x20'x9' = 1,800$ cubic feet, so that still leaves us with 332 cases of paper. We could take all of the junk out of the other half of the garage, lay down a two foot thick layer of paper and put all the junk back in on top of it. That's how much the 300 Giga byte disk holds! So, unless

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Board Minutes January 25 2006

Respectfully Submitted by Richard Robusto, Secretary

Las Vegas PC Users Group

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting*
Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo
Road*
Reader's Services Meeting Room*
January 25, 2006*

Meeting was convened at 6:30 PM.

In Attendance: George Yocum,
Dennis Kemper, Dan Spitz, Phil Barr,
Wendy Jaroslowski, Don Sabatine, Dan
Voglund, Jerry Stoken, Debbie Hathaway,
Ceazar Dennis and Richard Robusto.

Old Business: A motion to approve
the December minutes of the Board of
Directors meeting was made by Wendy
Jaroslowski and seconded by Jerry Stoken.
It passed unanimously.

*** New Business:*** Phil Barr reported
on phone calls. He referred the information
to the necessary people. Referred to Donna
Sword was the request to pay our \$50.00
dues to APCUG. It was agreed that the
swap meet would go as planned sometime
in May. Dennis Kemper will take care of
the details with Broadacres for rental of
space. There was quite a discussion about
the status of the Bytes. The opinions

generated by the members seems to be that
it would be a lot easier to produce a smaller
version of the current Bytes. This would
allow easier preparation and remove some
of the missed deadlines that we currently
experience.

Suggestions were made but no action
was taken towards this. The next item
focused on SIGs and how to improve and
generate more interest so as to attract more
members. It was decided to schedule future
meetings to investigate ways that this could
be accomplished.

Membership: Dan Spitz reported
that our current membership is 309. Dan
sent out a very concise report with
recommendations on improving the Bytes
and getting it to the members early enough
to help the attendance at the general
meeting.

Finance: Jerry Stoken distributed a
very thorough report of Cash Flow from
April 1, 2005 through January 1, 2006. A
motion to accept this was made by Dennis
Kemper and seconded by Don Sabatine.
The subject of preparing a budget came up,
with many ideas proposed. Debbie
Hathaway volunteered to work on this and
help will also be forthcoming from Dennis

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The BYTES of LAS VEGAS

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Kemper, Jerry Stoken and George Yocum. We will aim to have this set up by March 1, 2006.

***Program:** The program for February will be George Yocum doing the pre-opening and the main speaker will be Dave Whittle from "Picks of the Digital Home" In March we will have the focus on Trend Micro.

***Publicity:** It was agreed to have nominations for Board members at the February meeting. Dan Voglund has the nomination committee in place and will solicit for nominations.

A motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM was made by Dan Voglund.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard T. Robusto, Secretary

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you are planning on taking out a home improvement loan, don't buy that 400 Giga byte disk.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

**LAS VEGAS
PC USERS GROUP
Classified (Line) Ads**

FOR SALE
2—256 MB memory sticks (ram)
DDR 266 Both for \$40 obo
Alan Davis 376-1381 / 838-7932

FOR SALE
HP 5P Laser Jet Printer
Uses HP c3903A laser cartridge
\$75 with partial cartridge
2 Used LCD projectors
800 x 600
Both work \$40 each
Donna Sword 521-8457

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New Federal Website

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director;
Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont, TX; Radio & TV Show Host

New Federal Website Provides Users with Internet Safety and Security Information

WEBSITES:

<http://www.onguardonline.gov>

<http://www.onguardonline.gov/quiz>

<http://www.onguardonline.gov/stopthinklick.html>

<http://onguardonline.gov/filecomplaint.html>

<http://onguardonline.gov/tutorials>

The media has recently been rife with stories about internet scams, frauds, identity theft, pedophiles, and other malevolent occurrences that have happened on the internet. While there are many online resources providing informational websites to help prevent us from falling prey to internet victimization, a consortium of federal agencies has created “OnGuard Online” at www.onguardonline.gov. This consortium consists of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), United States Postal Inspection Service, the Department of Commerce (DOC), and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Materials are provided on this website to

inform and educate the computer user about several of the most nefarious threats that commonly assail us as we enjoy the abundance of the internet. Topics currently covered are spyware, identity theft, phishing, spam scams, online shopping, P2P (Peer-to-Peer) file sharing, and VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol – internet telephony). There are also a series of online quizzes (www.onguardonline.gov/quiz) where the user can test his knowledge on the

security risks associated with these topics. A series of videos and tutorials on related topics, such as “Viruses and Worms”, and “Protect Your Privacy, Family, and PC” are also available at this site (onguardonline.gov/tutorials). For those who have been victimized by internet miscreants, a resource is available to show the user where and how to file complaints with the appropriate federal and other agencies at onguardonline.gov/filecomplaint.html.

Spyware is defined at this site as “... software installed on your computer without your consent to monitor or control your computer use.” Spyware can be used to steal your identity or capture your usernames, passwords, and account numbers (keyloggers); compile personal

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surfing profiles for directed advertising or other purpose (some forms of tracking cookies); display unwanted pop-up ads, which may be pornographic (ad-ware), redirect the browser to other sites (browser hijacking); install unwanted links on the desktop or in the “favorites” or bookmarks; and a variety of other unwanted and possibly dangerous web related items. OnGuard Online provides links and information on removing spyware, and protecting your computer from spyware.

Identity theft is a scourge that may impact as many as 10 million Americans each year, according to some sources. The incidence of identity theft through internet tricks, such as “Phishing” (typically emails directing the user to an authentic looking but counterfeit website soliciting credit card information, PIN numbers, etc.); “Pharming” (changing data files or “hosts” on the computer to redirect intentional visits to financial or commercial sites to counterfeit sites where valuable personal information is illicitly obtained) accounts for an increasingly significant portion of identity theft.

OnGuard Online provides information on how to protect yourself from Phishing scams, and how to protect your identity while online, as well as instructions on dealing with identity theft if victimized.

Some internet security companies report that the amount of spam, or unsolicited

commercial email, can easily amount to 60 to 80 percent of all emails sent. According to this website, details are provided on the major spam scams currently in circulation. The top 10 spam scams are: The “Nigerian” Email Scam (may also appear to be from Russia, Columbia, England, or other sources); Phishing; Work-at-Home Scams; Weight Loss Claims; Foreign Lotteries (Congratulations, you are a winner in the Spanish

/ British / Canadian Lottery!); Cure-All Products; Check Overpayment Scams (I have a large cashier’s check – cash it, keep some, and wire me the difference); Pay-in-Advance Credit Offers; Debt Relief; and Investment Schemes (buy this penny stock – it will quintuple in a few days). Sadly, many gullible internet users still fall for these scams enriching the crooks, and typically receiving nothing worthwhile in return.

Millions of internet users shopped online during the holiday season, and still continue to do so at online retailers, or popular auction sites such as Ebay. While most online shoppers have been successful, and had few problems, there are also thousands who have been victimized to some degree by internet crooks. This site explains a series of safe shopping tips, including “Know who you’re dealing with; Know exactly what you’re buying; Know what it will cost (including shipping, taxes, and other charges); Pay by credit or charge card; Check out the terms of the deal; and Print and save

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records of your online transactions.”

“Peer-to-peer (P2P) file-sharing allows users to share files online through an informal network of computers running the same software.” People, especially children and college students, use these P2P networks to exchange software, music, videos, and other files. While there is much material that can legitimately be exchanged, P2P is also often a source of spyware, viruses, and illicit and illegal copies of pirated software, music, and other intellectual property. This site lists many of the risks common with these P2P services, and how to safely utilize such services.

You have likely seen the ads on TV, as well as displays at the electronics and mass merchandising stores for “VoIP”, services that allow the broadband internet user to make local and long distance phone calls over the internet for a flat monthly fee. While expanding on popularity, the path has been bumpy, as some subscribers have been dissatisfied with the service. Issues and service such as “911” calls, while addressed in regulations, are still not universally implemented on many VoIP systems. The OnGuard Online website also explains what many local VoIP users painfully found out during the recent spate of hurricanes and other storms, that if there is no power, or internet service is otherwise inaccessible, the VoIP services generally do not function, leaving the user without phone service.

The OnGuard Online site “Stop – Think – Click: 7 Practices for Safer Computing” (onguardonline.gov/stopthinkclick.html) reiterates the oft stated common sense warnings that all computer users should be aware of, and implement:

1. Protect your personal information. It's valuable.
2. Know who you're dealing with.
3. Use anti-virus software and a firewall, and update both regularly.
4. Make sure your operating system and Web browser are set up properly and update them regularly.
5. Protect your passwords.
6. Back up important files.
7. Learn who to contact if something goes wrong online.

If the information on the OnGuard Online websites is utilized, we will all have a safer and more enjoyable internet experience.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.



Life should be as easy as sitting on a beach but sometimes it is like walking on the sand. Your feet get wet and the waves sometimes blindside you. If you would like to have the best of both worlds joy and work, volunteer to help with the various User Group Activities. Contact Donna Sword at program (at)lvpcug.org or 795-2653.



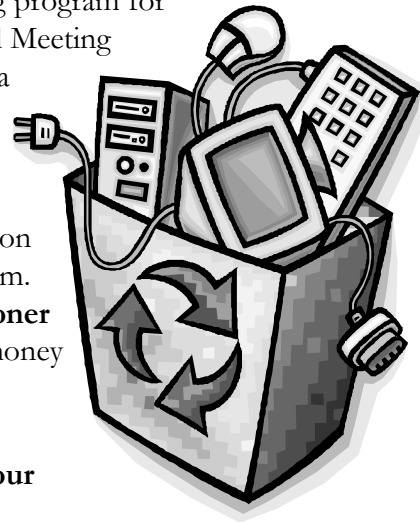
Computer User Group
Webpages
<http://www.orcopug.org/>
<http://www.melbpc.org.au/>
<http://www.cpcug.org/>

You can help LVPCUG and our planet at the same time!

As you may already know, LVPCUG has a recycling program for most of your inkjet cartridges. If you follow the Board Meeting Minutes, you know that this program has grown to be a significant source of income for the Group, thanks to your support.

Thanks to the efforts of Donna Sword, our past President, we have expanded our program in conjunction with **Funding Factory**, a “Recycle & Redeem” program. Now, we can accept **ANY inkjet cartridges, laser toner cartridges and cell phones** for recycling—and earn money and more!

Collect these items from your family, friends, and neighbors to **support your LVPCUG while helping our planet's environment.** ©



March 2006 – Las Vegas PC Users Group – Meetings & Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb. 26	27	28	Mar. 1	2	3	4
			6:15p-8:30p General Meeting Diane Whittle	-- Grounding Day --		12:00p-4:00p Systems & Apps. Review 6:00p-8:00p Saturday Night Bites & Bytes
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			6:30p-8:30p Databases	6:30p-8:30p Windows Developers		9:30a-11:00a Genealogy 1:00p-3:00p Using Office Suites 3:30p-5:30p Multimedia Lab
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
12:00p-2:00p Digital Imaging Techniques	6:30p-8:30p Mobile Computing				-- St. Patrick's Day --	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1:00p-3:30p Linux/Open Source 4:00p-6:00p Newbie (New Users)	7:00p-9:00p Internet SIG		6:30p-8:30p Board of Directors Meeting			9:15a-3:00p How-To Workshop 3:00p-5:00p Wireless Networking
26	27	28	29	30	31	Apr. 1
						12:00p-4:00p Systems & Apps. Review 6:00p-8:00p Saturday Night Bites & Bytes

Visit www.lvpcug.org and <http://jimy.calendars.net/lvpcug> for the latest scheduling updates.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Meetings

Note: Times and locations are subject to change. If you are planning to attend a particular SIG (Special Interest Group) meeting, it is best to **e-mail or call ahead to confirm** that the meeting will take place as listed here. When possible, schedule changes are also posted at www.lvpcug.org on the front page.

In addition, if you are interested in a SIG not listed here or if you would like to start a SIG, please contact **SIG Coordinator, Wendy Jaroslowski**, phone **702-339-3812** or e-mail her at sig-coordinator@lvpcug.org.

The SIGs are one of your benefits of membership!

General Meeting

First Wednesday 6:15 PM

West Charleston Library, Auditorium
6301 W. Charleston (west of Jones)

*Information Line (702)263-5910
or www.lvpcug.org*

This monthly general meeting covers topics of interest to all members and guests. The typical meeting includes a beginners/Q&A session of approximately forty-five minutes. This is followed by an update of relevant activities, including SIGs. Each meeting has a feature presentation, usually by a major computer related vendor. See page 3 for information on the next General Meeting.

Remember...

**All of the LVPCUG
meetings are FREE and
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
Tell all your family,
friends & neighbors!**

Board of Directors Meeting

(president@lvpcug.org for confirmation)

Fourth Wednesday..... 6:30 PM

Clark County Library,
Reader Services Meeting Room
1401 E. Flamingo (east of Maryland Pkwy)

President, Officers, Board Members

Open to members and others. The Board of Directors discusses organizational LVPCUG issues relative to meetings, programs, communications, education, public information and finances.

Databases

Second Wednesday..... 6:30 PM

Las Vegas Area Council. BSA 7220 S.
Paradise Road (Warm Springs Road and
Paradise)

*Leader: Donna Sword (702)795-2653
Email: program@lvpcug.org*

Databases are not as scary as they sound! Beginners to advanced users, and even non-users are welcome to attend. Essentials of good database design are discussed and presented with popular database management tools such as Microsoft Access, Excel & more.

Digital Imaging Techniques

Second Sunday 12:00–2:00 PM

Nevada Power Building, Wengert Room
6226 W. Sahara (west of Jones)

Leader: Howard Mark (702)256-3662
Email: hmark@earthlink.net

If you take photographs using a film or digital camera, this SIG will look for ways to use software such as Photoshop and Photoshop Elements, Photosuite, PhotoDeluxe and others, to learn how to scan, edit, correct or manipulate images. If you would like to copy your image onto a floppy disk or CD, you're welcome to bring it to the meeting.

Genealogy

Second Saturday..... 9:30AM

Family History Center, 9th/10th & Clark

Leader: Val Sharp (702)453-4037
Email: sharpvd@yahoo.com.

This SIG covers searching the Internet for information on family members, overcoming brick walls, genealogy publications, and genealogy software evaluations.

How-To Workshop

Fourth Saturday 9:15 AM

Paseo Verde Library, in Henderson
Green Valley Pkwy (south of I-215)

Leader: Dennis Kemper (702)458-0654
Email: director@lvpcug.org

Hands-on computer workshop, covering a variety of software programs and hardware questions. You are encouraged to bring your computer, or at least a disk with the problem or demo to share. If you have a specific program or problem please call in advance to ensure we will have someone available to assist with your specific problem.

Internet SIG

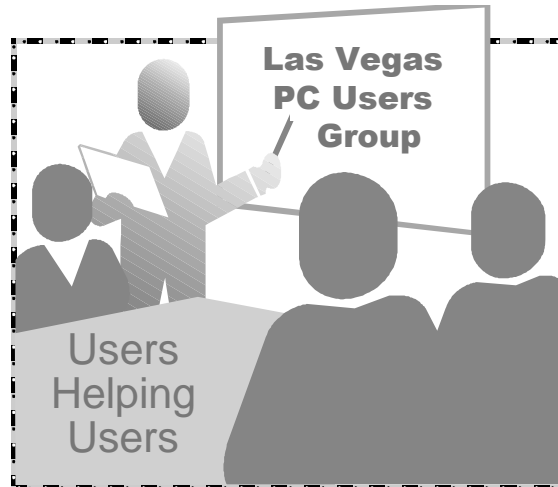
Third Monday 7:00 PM

Nevada Power Building, Wengert Room
6226 W. Sahara (west of Jones)

SIG LEADER NEEDED

Contact SIG Coordinator at (702)339-3812
Email: sig-coordinator@lvcpug.org

Covers use of the Internet: how to access the service, Internet access providers, hooking up, surfing the Internet, how to find information, the use of Internet utilities to find information, and software packages supporting the Internet.



Linux/Open Source

Third Sunday 1:00–3:00 PM

Nevada Power Building, Wengert Room
6226 W. Sahara (west of Jones)

Leader: Joseph Mottola (702)310-9980
Email: mottola@softcom.net

A free operating system that is an alternative to Microsoft windows operating systems. The many flavors of this operating system and applications will be covered and explored.

(Continued on page 18)

Mobile Computing

Second Monday..... 6:30–8:30 PM

Location Pending – contact Leader for notification of latest information

Contact SIG Coordinator at (702)339-3812
Email: sig-coordinator@lvcpug.org

Exchange of information regarding the use of personal digital assistant devices using Microsoft's Pocket PC software and others.

Multimedia Lab (fmr Digital Music)

Second Saturday..... 3:30–5:30 PM

Nevada Power Building, Wengert Room
6226 W. Sahara (west of Jones)

***** SIG CO-LEADER NEEDED *****

Contact SIG Coordinator at (702)339-3812
Email: sig-coordinator@lvcpug.org

Topics to be covered include – but are not limited to – downloading MP3 music, converting audio CDs to MP3; organizing and playing an MP3 music library with software programs such as Music Match Jukebox, WinAmp, Sonique, etc; making audio CDs on a CD-RW drive; digital recording from external sources; and editing digital music. This group has also begun to venture into digital video.

Novice (New) Users

Third Sunday 4:00–6:00 PM

Nevada Power Building, Wengert Room
6226 W. Sahara (west of Jones)

Co-Leader: Charles Frederick (702)452-9440
Email: cifgrf4041@yahoo.com

Topics of interest to the beginning computer user, explained in simple easy-to-understand terms. Each session is complete; beginners are welcome to start attending meetings at any time.

Saturday Night Bites & Bytes

First Saturday..... 6:00 PM

***** LOCATION(S) NEEDED *****

***** SIG LEADER NEEDED *****

Contact SIG Coordinator at (702)339-3812
Email: sig-coordinator@lvcpug.org

(Request notification of each meeting's location by e-mail to director@lvcpug.org)

A time to have a bite to eat and socialize with other users, and enjoy presentations and discussions that cover a variety of general topics of interest to PC users. All discussions are based on member input.

Systems/Applications Review

First Saturday..... Noon– 4 PM

Nevada Power Building, Wengert Room
6226 W. Sahara (west of Jones)

SIG Leader - Linda DiGiovanni 395-6676
Email: Lindigiovanni@spinfinder.com

A meeting focusing on the Windows environment. Members helping members in the exchange and sharing of knowledge and information.



Using Office Suites

Second Saturday..... 1:00–3:00 PM

Nevada Power Bldg. Wengert Room
6226 W. Sahara (near Jones)

Leader: Wendy Jaroslowski (702)339-3812
Email: sig-coordinator@lvpcug.org

Leader: Sharon Fry (702)562-2028
Email: SharonFinLV@hotmail.com

The Using Office Suites SIG centers around discussions and presentations of techniques applicable to “office” or “productivity” software applications. These include word processing, spreadsheets, personal information managers, presentations.

We demonstrate usually with Microsoft Office products (Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint), but we also explore other products with similar functionality, such as OpenOffice and WordPerfect Office. Most information applies to any applications of this genre.

This is an open group driven by member input, so if you run across a problem that you need help with, e-mail the Leaders or bring in a CD or diskette, and the entire group will assist in finding a solution to the problem. Each meeting will usually center around a specific feature of a particular program. Any related programs or add-ins will also be explored. Tools and texts that are available will also be introduced.

Windows Developers

Second Thursday..... 6:30–8:30 PM

Sahara West Library, Board Room 2nd Flr.
9600 West Sahara (west of Fort Apache)

Leader: Richard Rosenheim (702)897-1117
Email: windev@lvpcug.org


The Windows Developers SIG is a forum for those who develop programs and applications targeted to run in a Windows environment. The SIG addresses topics relating to Windows development issues and languages. While the primary focus is on Visual Basic, attention is also given to database design and programming, web programming, and program algorithms. In addition, any other area of interest to the membership (such as Windows API, Visual Basic, C++, Delphi, Java and ActiveX programming , etc. can be addressed.)

Wireless Networking

Fourth Saturday..... 3:00–5:00 PM

Paseo Verde Library, in Henderson
Green Valley Pkwy (south of I-215)

Leader: Harold Rozinski (702)870-8946
Email: wirelesssig@yahoo.com

Covers the basics of wireless networking, wireless network criteria and expectations. Discuss the benefits and pitfalls of wireless technologies; introduction to wireless networks in the home, business and traveling (hotspots); site survey for location rules, regulations. 



Thanks to **www.ViaWest.net** for the
Las Vegas PC Users Group web site.
See us at **www.lvpcug.org**

Other User Groups in Las Vegas and Surrounding Area

Association of Information Technology Professionals (A.I.T.P.) - Monthly dinner meetings at Palace Station the fourth Wednesday of each month (except July and August) . Social hour begins at 5.45 p.m., dinner at 6:15 p.m. speaker at 7:00 p.m. Reservations, or additional information, contact Roberta Weller at 702-233-1225, rweller326@earthlink.net.

Commodore Users Group - Meets on the first & third Saturday of the month. Al Jackson ajax@wizard.com 702-645-2402

Kingman Arizona CUG
www.kingmanarizonacug.com
Email: rbth1@hotmail.com

L.V. Netware User Group - Meets second Tuesday of month. Roland Hughes 702-455- 4273 rolandh@co.clark.nv.us

Las Vegas Linux Users Group Meetings first Saturday of each month at Century 23 Computers from 11:00 am - 3:30 pm. It is located at 4101 Meadows Lane Las Vegas, NV 89107. (Across from Meadows Mall). About once every quarter we have a Sunday meeting for those that can't make the Saturday meetings. Please check our calendar each month in case the meeting day changes. www.lvlug.org


Meadview (AZ) PC User Group - Meets first Thursday of month. Chuck Shull 928-564-2782 Railrider86@citlink.net

Pahrump NV Computer UG - Meets first Monday of month at 1pm in the Pahrump Moose Lodge. Don Norvell 775-727-1246 DonNorvell@air-internet.com

Southern Nevada Amiga Group
Ron Gatreks 702-645-4610
captg@skylink.net

Southern Nevada Users Group - Meets second Monday of month. David Gaberel 702-658-6462 davegaberel@sierranv.net

Sun City MacDonald Ranch Computer Users Group – Members are residents of Sun City MacDonald Ranch. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:00AM in the Community Club House. Contact Ms. Sam Giordano at samespin1@cox.net.

Sun City Summerlin Computer Users Group
Meets first Thursday of Month. For more information call 615-5735. You must live in Sun City Summerlin in order to join this organization. 

Las Vegas PC Users Group General Meeting

First Wednesday of each month
February thru December

6:15 pm at West Charleston Library
W. Charleston at Torrey Pines

Guests Welcome Anytime!

The Mouse from Hell Hardware Review...or Sort of

By Ann Moore, Topeka PC Users Club

Personal Computer Newsletter, February 2006

www.topekapcusersclub.org commuter(at)cox.net

Several months ago, I sent the following e-mail to “Answerperson” concerning a tragedy in my life:

“Dear Answerperson,

When I started my computer this morning, my mouse showed no sign of life. Its heart (red light) did not flicker nor did it feel warm to my touch. It was stone cold dead. I tried to revive it by performing an uninstall-reinstall, to no avail. A check of outlets and wiring found them intact. How do I determine the cause of death? There were no early signs of malfunction. If it were an animal, I could have a necropsy performed. Must I disassemble it to determine the cause of death? I cringe at the thought of disemboweling my friend. My mouse was not extraordinary in any way – it was not wireless nor was it ergonomic, just a simple mouse that I loved and cherished. Every day for four year, I held this inanimate object in my hand, caressed it, and knew every curve and indentation intimately. We were as one.

it to rest, but where? Is there a cemetery for computer mice? Should I have it cremated or do I put it in a box and bury it in my backyard under the lilac bush? What will become of my dear friend? Is there a computer mouse heaven? This has never happened to me before and I am devastated. Please no cards or flowers. There will be a memorial fund set up in the name of “Ann’s Mouse” and donations may be sent to [commuter\(at\)cox.net](mailto:commuter(at)cox.net)”

Answerperson offered his deepest sympathy and suggested that I put my sorrow behind me, go on with my computing and find a new mouse. I visited Best buy in search of a replacement and found no sympathy there. Their only concern was to sell me a very expensive replacement. In my vulnerable state, if the clerk had shown a little compassion, I might have purchased a more expensive model but because his attitude was cold and unfeeling, I left the store with one of their cheapest models. There is an old adage: “You get what you pay for,” and

I have accepted the fact that I must now lay

(Continued on page 22)

March 2006

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(Continued from page 21)

that is exactly what I got – in spades.

I doted on my new mouse, showering it with an abundance of TLC. I never mistreated it by applying any unnecessary pressure, jerking or pulling. In spite of all my efforts to maintain a close personal relationship, it soon became apparent that we were not compatible. The erratic behavior of the mouse became noticeable following surgery on my right shoulder. I was forced to change the mouse settings to accommodate my left hand and the mouse began to balk at every command. Although I moved it around very slowly, it would take off and race around the screen leaving me breathless in my attempt to keep up with it.

In October, I purchased a new LDS 19-inch monitor and the mouse went ballistic. It refused to leave the confines of its colorful, soft pad. Trying to reach the far corners of my monitor with my cursor became almost impossible. The mouse resisted my every effort to control its actions. Every day was a tug-of-war and I was losing my patience. I had serious work to do and no time to play games. I needed a good reliable mouse. I decided that this obnoxious, malevolent, detestable little rodent had to be eradicated. It was time to go cordless.

Completing a jubilant trip to Best Buy, I

came home with a Logitech cordless mouse. I could hardly wait to start using it. What a difference a cord makes! This Logitech moves like a dream and is a pleasure to work with. It takes me everywhere I went to go. Truly, a match made in heaven. I am certain that I have found a new reliable friend.

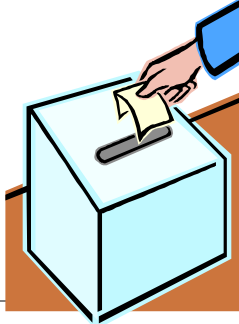
What do I do with this evil, malicious, wicked little devil that made my life a living hell? No sad songs or mourning for this monster. I had visions of snipping off its tail to make it impotent, then dropping it on the floor and stomping it to death. I even considered calling “The Terminator.” What I will do is wrap it up in colorful paper and donate it to the club for a prize at the next Christmas party. I am hoping it will fall into a strong masculine hand that will teach this contemptible, spiteful, despicable creature how to behave in the presence of a lady.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.



**Las Vegas PC Users Group
Official Ballot for
Election of Officers**

For Fiscal Year May 1, 2006 to April 30, 2007



President *(choose one)*

- Dennis Kemper
- _____

Vice President *(choose one)*

- George Yokum
- _____

Executive Director *(choose one)*

- Harold Rozinski
- _____

Treasurer *(choose one)*

- Jerry Stoken
- _____

Secretary *(choose one)*

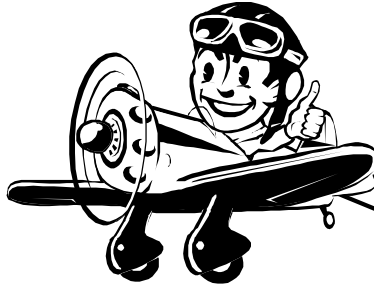
- Richard Robusto
- _____

Ballots will be collected and tallied at the General Meeting on March 1, 2006.

If you are unable to attend the March General Meeting, please mail your ballot to arrive on or before Tuesday, February 28, 2005 as per the following instructions:

1. Insert completed Ballot into an envelope to ensure confidentiality.
2. Put ballot envelope inside a second envelope. Mark the outer envelope "BALLOT" and put your LVPCUG Member Number after your name in your return address. Mail to:

LVPCUG – Elections
1350 E. Flamingo Rd #188
Las Vegas, NV 89119
3. Members must be in good standing to be eligible to vote and will be verified against the membership database.
4. Mailed ballots will be opened during the March General Meeting.



April—Smart Computing Magazine
May—Gene Barlow with new Products

Come to our
Meetings!

LVPCUG Board of Directors Meetings
4th Wednesday of month, 6:30 pm
Clark County Library



Advertising Information

Classified (Line) Ads

Members of the Las Vegas
PC Users Group are entitled
to **FREE non-commercial:**

- Three Classified ads per year
- Maximum of 5 lines per ad

**Non-members and additional
member classified ads:**

- \$ 2.50 for up to 3 lines
- \$0.75 for each additional line

Frequency Discounts

- 10% for 3 consecutive ads
- 15% for 6 consecutive ads
- 20% for 12 consecutive ads

Commercial (Display) Ads

Price includes free **COLOR** ad on the LVPCUG website!
Sizes and prices (per issue of the Bytes):

Full Page.....	6" wide x 7.5" deep	\$50.00
Two-Thirds Page	6" wide x 5" deep	\$36.00
Half Page	6" wide x 3.75" deep	\$29.00
One-Third Page.....	4" wide x 3.75" deep	\$20.00
Quarter Page.....	4" wide x 2.75" deep	\$16.00
Business Card.....	4" wide x 2" deep	\$10.00

Horizontal dimensions shown; vertical ads also available

Premium Positions Charge (if available):

Inside Front or Inside Back Cover.....	Additional \$25.00
Center Page, Left or Right.....	Additional \$50.00

Advertising Terms

Advertiser provides ready-to-publish advertisement.

All ads must be paid in advance with checks
made payable to **Las Vegas PC Users Group**

For more information, e-mail advertising@lvpcug.org or call 702-263-5910

Who, me? Yes, you!

You, too, can do a Product Review

Have you recently...

- Read a computer book that was especially well written and helpful?
- Played a computer game that you think is really challenging?
- Found a computer show or program that's quite informative?
- Taken a course that you really enjoyed?
- Got a new piece of equipment that you feel comfortable recommending to others?
- Tried a new or unique software program that solves a problem?

Why not take some time and share your thoughts with fellow LVPCUG members?

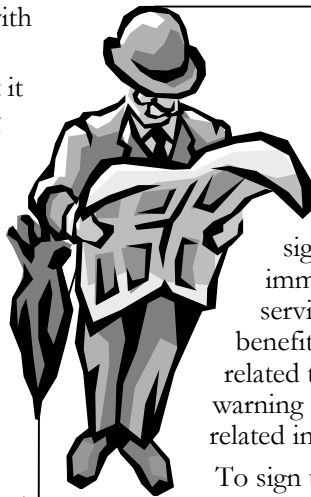
Consider the following to help arrange your thoughts and ideas:

- Identify the item specifically with name, version and the vendor.
- Describe its purpose and what it does – its objective and selling points or features.
- Tell us its price and where fellow members can find it.
- State any requirements, and if it is for a novice, intermediate, or advanced user.
- Tell us why you selected it.
- Tell us about the original installation or your first impressions.
- Describe your experience – what you liked, didn't like, etc.
- Any unexpected result, or any outstanding feature or function?
- Any improvement recommendations?

- Make your concluding comments and recommendation. Add a rating, if you like.

Don't worry about your writing skill or grammar, or length of review. That's why we have an Editor. Just write down your thoughts, put them aside for a day or two, then read them and make sure that you said what you intended and that it all makes sense, then e-mail it to editor@lvpcug.org

Let's get into the habit of sharing our experiences with fellow members. After all, isn't that one of the reasons we all joined LVPCUG in the first place—to **share** our experiences, **broaden** our horizons and knowledge, and **take advantage** of our pool of **expertise** (that's **all of us**)—giving and getting help, **Users Helping Users?** ☺



Subscribe to NewsBytes

In addition to the regular monthly publication of Bytes, members are also invited to sign up for **NewsBytes**, a more immediate publication. It is an e-mail service geared to members who will benefit from time-sensitive information related to Internet topics, including early warning of viruses, Trojan horses and related information.

To sign up for **NewsBytes** send a message to lvpcug-subscribe@yahoo.com. For access to past **NewsBytes** or to change your settings, including your e-mail address, or to join, go to the site at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lvpcug> and registering there.

Another LVPCUG Member Benefit!

LVPCUG Membership Benefits

The Las Vegas PC Users Group welcomes new members anytime. The only criteria for membership is an interest in computers! The Las Vegas PC Users Group is an exciting non-profit organization of novices, experts, computer professionals and casual users that began in the 1980's.

Membership includes a subscription to "**The BYTES of Las Vegas**", and full access to the web site. Full members may purchase hardware, software, and books made available by the manufacturers and various vendors at discounted prices.

A **General Meeting** is held the first Wednesday of each month Feb.-Dec. in the Auditorium of the West Charleston Library at 6301 W. Charleston. The pre-meeting at **6:15 PM is a computer fundamentals** presentation with general questions and answers. At **7 PM, the General Meeting** starts with a presenter on a topic of broader interest, followed by questions and answers about the presentation. Each meeting concludes with **door prize drawings**.


What areas are you most interested in? We have **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** that focus on various areas of computing such as help for novice users, office software, databases, programming, digital imaging, wireless networking, etc. They meet on a regular basis in a variety of meeting formats—such as workshops, discussions and classes—to share information on diverse topics. We even have a **Saturday Night "Bites & Bytes"** that shares dinner and computer expertise. And, **all of our meetings are free and open to the public.**

Helping Hands are there when you need them. A group of members with experience in particular fields has volunteered to help user group members one-on-one. When you need computing assistance, you can contact a Helping Hands volunteer.

Visit our web site at **www.lvpcug.org** Members can get answers to questions, and find out when and where the Special Interest Groups are meeting. There are links to other interesting sites as well.

Interested in using the **Las Vegas PC Users Group Web Board**? This is a private Board for our group and will be a source for help, information, etc. on a timely basis. Also there are chat capabilities for SIG information. Please contact Rob Winchell at president@lvpcug.org, Dennis Kemper at director@lvpcug.org, or Donna Sword at program@lvpcug.org for registration on the Web Board.

Free and discounted advertising is available to members in the "**The Bytes of Las Vegas**". See details in this issue.

LVPCUG Members can also take advantage of **several opportunities for savings of time and money** from various suppliers and vendors throughout the year. For example, Hal-PC has just offered an **online 7x24 training offer for over 100 courses**, including A+, MCSE, Oracle, and more. (Must be a member to take advantage of this \$200 offer.) Please contact Rob Winchell for details at president@lvpcug.org. 

"Users Helping Users"



Las Vegas PC Users Group Membership Application

(PLEASE PRINT)

Date: _____ New Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Been a Member Before? YES NO

It is LVPCUG policy to keep your information confidential. However, for contact regarding SIGs and meetings, may we release the following to other Members?

Your phone # _____ and/or Your e-mail address _____

Would you prefer to receive the newsletter via the web site (downloading PDF file) instead of a printed copy in the mail? YES NO

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (optional but helpful):

How did you hear about the LVPCUG? _____

What type of computer user are you? (Circle all that apply)

Novice Programmer Consultant Trainer Work Related Home User

Other (please specify) _____

Please put an "X" in front of the **items you use and have some knowledge of**, and put an "O" in front of those subjects **you would like to learn more about**.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| _____ Programming | _____ Art & Design | _____ BBS/Telecommunications |
| _____ Networking | _____ Desktop Publishing | _____ Windows |
| _____ Word Processing | _____ Multimedia | _____ Databases |
| _____ Operating Systems | _____ General Computer | _____ Spreadsheets/Accounting |
| _____ Hardware | _____ Other: _____ | |

Bring completed application and check for \$30 Annual Membership Dues to our General Meeting, or mail to:



**Membership Chairperson
Las Vegas PC Users Group
1350 E. Flamingo Road #188
Las Vegas, NV 89119**



Las Vegas PC Users Group, Inc.

www.lvpcug.org

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Las Vegas, NV 89119

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Charter
Member of
The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups

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 **User Group Network**

