



MID VALLEY IBMCC VOICE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

?As I write this letter, Y2K is less than 6 months away. (poetic, eh?) Although our meetings are not yet fully planned, I anticipate that there will be much talk about the forthcoming Y2K experience. I hear much in the news about things that are being done to rectify the anticipated problems. In addition, I am receiving all kinds of software offers to "fix" the Y2K problems that my computer and software supposedly have. I'm sure that you have already heard that, if your computer is an older 486, 386, etc., you are going to experience problems. My brother, who works on company computers, tells me that they are being discarded en.masse. With motherboards and memory being so cheap, it's sad to realize that people just don't understand that they can upgrade their computers for a nominal cost and go on computing. This may be an option that you are facing. I've tried to keep my computer up to date over the years and, only last year, did I fully replace the entire case as I went to the newer Pentium II board. Now, I find that I could use a comparable AMD chip in a motherboard that would fit into my old case for hundreds of dollars less than the cost of my total Pentium II replacement system. This may be an option for you. Naturally you will have to consider the fact that your modem, hard drive, and video card may need upgrading as well. If too many of those peripheral components are outdated, a new

computer may be your only answer. We have had meetings on networking computers and you just may find that keeping the old machine with partial upgrades is esirable.

I suggest you give it some thought. I am currently working on building a second computer out of older components for my wife. She wants to do email and some word processing. It doesn't require a powerful computer to do those chores and an older machine can do them quite efficiently. If your modem is a 33.6kb speed, you will have satisfactory performance doing email. Even a 500 meg hard drive can still be useful if you are doing little more than email and word processing. By networking your old computer to a newer, more powerful machine, you can also retain the ability to do much more with the older computer. Give it some thought. I look forward to seeing you all in the Fall.

sincerely,

Gene Hansen, president

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The next meeting will be September 21, 1999 at HCCC in the usual location.(Room 403 at 0730pm). Emphasis will be on basics for beginners and other questions that may be asked. In order for us to serve your needs, we need to hear from you.

FUTURE PLANS

There really are no specific plans at this moment; however, it might be interesting during the next few months to invite some representatives of the various Internet providers to our meetings and let us know what they have to offer. This would, at the very least, give us information on which to make an informed decision. Choosing the IP that best suits ones needs is an important decision. The meetings for the next two months will be October 19th and November 16th.

TECHNICAL CORNER

by George White

.As usual we will continue to try to provide information that will make life in the computer world a little more palatable; and perhaps at the same time, enjoyable and productive.

SHARING PRINTERS

A previous meeting related to networking computers utilizing the peer-to-peer method that is a part of WIN 95/98. Perhaps you have a network of two or more computers(A & B) at home and would like to share a printer by both computers. Suppose computer A has a printer connected to its parallel port and you would like to print from computer B, thus eliminating the necessity of transferring the file and then printing from computer A. On computer A, double click "My Computer"; double click the "Printers" folder; highlight by one left click the printer you wish to share; one right click presents a drop down menu; select the last choice,"properties". In the printer property dialog box now presented, open the sharing tab. Select the "Shared As" choice. If the "Share Name" box is empty,

type in an appropriate name. Click Apply and OK at the bottom. Reboot computer A so the changes will take effect. Now go to computer B and double click the "Network Neighborhood" icon; double click "Entire Network"; double click "Computer A" etc. until you see the icon representing the printer attached to computer A. Double click the printer icon and you will be presented with a dialog box asking you if you want Windows to set up this printer and continue this operation. Click "Yes". Windows will install the printer. It may be necessary to supply the Windows 95/98 disk. Reboot the system and you should now be able to use the printer at computer B.

WIN 98 CALCULATOR

Do you get tired of looking for the old pocket calculator, or have the batteries died? Don't write off calculator that is a part of Win98. Go to Start; Programs; Accessories; Calculator; Voila –a full blown calculator. If you have just completed a calculation using the Win98 calculator, the result of which you would like to insert into another equation? Don't waste time writing it down. Store it in memory, so you can insert it into the next equation at the click of a button. With the number you'd like to store in memory displayed, click the MS button. An M appears in the gray box above all the "M" buttons. Now go ahead with the other calculations, and when you need to insert the stored number into your equation, press the MR button. To clear a number in memory, press the MC button. Press MS to overwrite the number in memory with the currently displayed number. To add the currently displayed number to the one in memory, press the M+ button, then press the MR button to display the result. With the Calculator on the Desk Top, press View; Scientific. Not sure what each of these buttons

does? All you have to do is ask. Right click any button and click What's This, and below its description you will see a keyboard equivalent. If you desire you can print a list of all the Calculator keyboard equivalents to use as a reference. Open Calculator and select Help, Help Topics. On the Contents tab, select Tricks and Tips, then select Use Keyboard Equivalents Of Calculator buttons. Inside the Help window, select Options, Print with Print The Current Page selected, Click OK. (Adjust your printer options if necessary). Click OK one more time, and there's your list. (By the way, you can use this command-options, Print-to print any Win98 Help topic.)

WINDOWS 95/88 TIPS

by Gerald Orendorf

WINDOWS STARTUP DISK

When you installed WINDOWS 98 you were given the option of creating a Startup Disk. You may have decided not to at the time with the thought that you would do it later. Well, it's later. If you don't have a Startup Disk, make one now. This disk is a big help if you ever have trouble starting Windows 98. It boots your system and also provides some utilities that you can use to help diagnose the problem. With a blank, formatted disk, open the Control Panel (Start, Settings, Control panel) and double click Add/Remove Programs. Select the Startup Disk tab, click the Create Disk button, and follow as Windows 98 walks you through the disk creation process. When it finishes, label the disk and store it in a safe place. You never know when you may need it.

VERSION CONTROL

Windows 98 has a File Version Control

Manager. Have you ever had a program refuse to run because you get a message about a file is needed that has a later version than the one presently in use. If the program did run OK because the version needed used to be available; you may have loaded a program that replaced the needed file with an older version. Old DOS programs are very sneaky this way. Many of them do not give you a choice, but simply install themselves, without regard to the harm done to later vintage programs. The older program will probably run with the newer version file, while the newer program will not run with the older version file. Well, you may have a way without re-installing the newer program. Go to Start, Programs, Accessories, System Tools, System Information, Tools, Version Conflict Manager. Behold, a table that has saved most, if not all of the replaced files with all their related version information. Follow the directions given and restore the file needed. If you cause more problems than benefits, you can undo the swap, since the file you are replacing will be saved as the original was.

CUSTOM SOUND SCHEMES

Do you wish you could enjoy the sound schemes that others do? You too can enjoy one of those provided by Windows 98. Make sure they are installed by checking the Sound Properties dialog box. (Start, Settings, Control Panel, Sound) If they aren't there, install as follows; Start, Settings, Control Panel, double click Add/Remove Programs. Click the Windows Setup tab and wait while Windows checks your system for installed components, select Multimedia, click Details. Select the box next to Multimedia Sound Schemes, click OK twice, then insert the installation CD when asked. You can now select a scheme within the Schemes list, and click OK. If you

want to stop a particular sound, in Control Panel, double click Sounds, select a scheme that you want without sounds. Below this list, under Name, select None. Click Yes to confirm. These steps can be repeated for other events. To save these changes, click Save As, type the name of the current sound scheme, then click OK twice. Otherwise simply click OK. It is possible to replace any unwanted sound with the sound of your choice. The end result is your own custom sound scheme. Open the Sounds Properties dialog box and select the sound scheme you wish to edit. One at a time select an event, then click the down arrow under Name and select the sound of your choice. If necessary click Browse, navigate to the desired *.wav file's location (be it a folder or floppy drive), and click OK. When you are finished be sure to save as shown above. You now have your own custom Sound Scheme.

PC POSTAGE IS HERE

There are two companies; E-Stamp and Stamps.com that are in the business of on line postage. (You purchase postage electronically and then print the stamps containing digital barcodes on labels or on envelopes using an ink jet or laser printer.) Well , the UPS finally said yes. PC postage is available through E-Stamp, and Stamps.com will begin offering the service this month.

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