



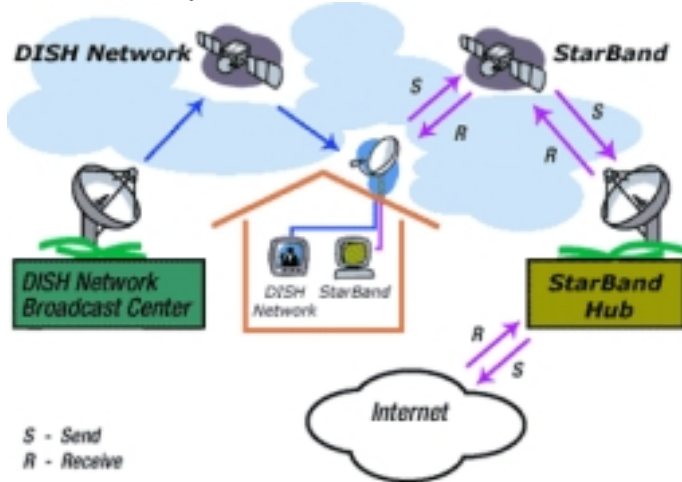
StarBand

Satellite Internet / TV

Rod Grimes Presentation

January 11th

High speed Access. Ten to Twenty times faster than your Modem.



With no special phone lines or terrestrial ISP required, StarBand service is the logical solution for millions of people across the continental United States who have been unable to get broadband Internet service until now!

- Works with your existing computer
- Works anywhere in the continental US
- Phone lines not required
- Always on
- Lightning fast
- Check your email in a flash
- Experience multicast capability.

The future of the Internet is now!

Add Dish Networks Satellite TV America's Top 150 Programming Package to your high-speed Internet.

Continued on page 5

CD-R/RW's

(Recordable & ReWriteable) & WebExpress 3.0

Randall Whittle Presentation,
January 24th

MicroVision Development (www.mvd.com), a market leader in graphical labeling software, will be featuring some award-winning products presented by Randal Whittle.

Have you been interested in writeable CD drives but weren't quite ready to make the leap? Randy will discuss CD-R/RW (CD Recordable & Re-Writeable) Concepts, Tips, How-to's, and pitfalls to avoid. He'll show you how simple, powerful, and easy it really is. Writeable CD's are destined to be your next portable storage medium.

Why not make it now? Just think of the possibilities:

Easily create universally-readable disks to share with others (not everyone has a Zip or Jaz drive—but Everyone has a CD drive!).

Create your own Music CD compilations, playable in standard CD Players in your home, car, or portable device!

Transfer your old recordings to CD!

Make room on your hard drive by offloading lesser-used data to CD's.

Back up your Software CD's to keep safely at home and travel with your duplicates.

Fast, inexpensive Hard Drive Backups, readable without any special drives or equipment (unlike tape or removable drives)

Bootable CD's capable of holding far more than that boot floppy, making disaster recovery much easier with all the tools you want at your fingertips.

Long-term archival on durable, optical media! (Other media only last about 5 years—CD's can last 100 years!).

Save (and share!) your collection of digital photos & images to safe, optical-based CD's.

Make your own CD-Video disks, rather than watching your videotapes deteriorate.

You can even treat your CD-R/RW Drive like a giant floppy/removable drive!

And when you make these customized CD's, MicroVision Development has the solutions for protecting and identifying them. "SureThing CD Labeler" 2.0 is the market leader for making CD Labels (all the rest license a reduced version of this software!). Create professional looking labels for CDs (and other media: Zip, Jaz, Videotapes, etc.) and jewel. The unique SmartDesign feature provides hundreds of backgrounds with coordinated templates and text layouts geared towards common CD uses such as music CDs, data back-ups, image collections and more. SureThing even lets you "Scan and Print" original CD's & their Jewel Box art—its built right-in! SureThing CD labeler also comes with 10,000 clipart images, a CD label applicator, free labels and is the Only software that works with all brands of CD labels from any manufacturer. See for yourself why ZDNet gave SureThing CD Labeler 5 Stars and said, 'This powerful program is so easy to use it's almost amazing.'

MicroVision's companion product, SureThing Office Labeler, redefines the label utility category. Design eye catching labels, business cards, name tags and much more in less time than you thought possible. Any sheet of labels, from any manufacturer, in any kind of layout—it's a snap for SureThing Office Labeler, which supports them all. SmartDesigns make attractive label layouts effortless. And if you have a partially-used sheet of labels? No problem—Office Labeler gives you the freedom to pick and choose which labels on the sheet to print on! Long lists of name tags? Again, no problem—

database/merging support is built right in.

Interested in getting on the Web? Whether it's a simple page or a full site, find out why John C. Dvorak called WebExpress 3.0 "the single best web page layout and development tool I've seen" and PC Magazine called it a "smooth and elegantly designed editor." It supports all the latest Web bells and whistles including multimedia, sound, video and more. Plus, capture valuable visitor information with interactive forms—effortlessly! Dvorak said it best: "It kicks the stuffing out of FrontPage. I consider WebExpress the bargain of the decade." WebExpress 3.0: Web site development for the rest of us!

Need more CD Labels? We'll have plenty of those at very special User Group-only prices!

The guest presenter will be Randy Whittle, speaking on behalf of MicroVision Development. Randy has been enthusiastically received at user groups around the country, considered to be one of the most entertaining and dynamic speakers in the user group community. He holds an MBA from the University of Southern California and works as a Marketing Strategy Consultant, in helping companies identify how their business and the economy will be changed by electronic commerce.

Randy learned very early the importance of feature-rich and easy-to-use software when, without the budget to hire outside resources, he was put in charge of designing marketing materials for a small startup company. He later became the founding Director of the Electronic Commerce Program at the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business, where he developed an innovative graduate-level curriculum for business students—the first of its kind as required course curriculum for MBA's at a major business school. During his tenure at USC, Randy was quoted by Family Money Magazine and arranged for USC to host a week-long symposium of industry leaders.

Randy and his wife Vicki are the proud parents of two young children, MacLean and Brittany, and make their home in a suburb near Los Angeles. You will come away from this meeting entertained and informed, and find yourself months later still talking about that great presentation at your User Group meeting. Randy will provide time for an open Q&A period and will bring valuable door prizes, informative handouts, and special user group pricing for those wishing to purchase these outstanding products at the Meeting. See you then!

Langalist Tidbits

*Submitted by Dennis Atherton
DAtherton@affinitygroup.com*

Time To Change Search Engines?

The world of online searching has undergone enormous upheaval in the last year or so; if you haven't updated your search techniques, you're probably missing a lot. And what better time to change your search behavior than the new year?

I used to be a huge fan of Altavista's search because its Boolean capabilities were (at one time) unmatched. Then Altavista sort of drove itself into the weeds when it— along with many other search engines— tried to become an all-purpose "web portal" instead of just being a great search engine. AltaVista became harder and slower to use; and newer, more focused search engines left it in the dust.

I moved on to the "FAST Search" at <http://www.alltheweb.com/>; it's a hugely comprehensive listing of sites (almost 600 million URLs!) coupled with a lightning-fast engine and a minimalist, uncluttered front end.

More recently, I've also found myself using <http://www.NorthernLight.Com> because of the excellent job it does in rank-ordering its results. However, it's starting to show some clutter in the way it presents results.

I tried Google (<http://www.google.com>) when it first appeared, and initially came away underwhelmed: It's a search engine that determines relevancy (in part) by the number of other sites that link to a given page; recursively also factoring in the relevancy of the sites providing the links. The assumption is that the more good sites that link to a given page, the better that page must be. The obvious problem with this approach is that a stellar but largely unknown web site may fare poorly

in the Google ratings, while a lower-quality but better-known site will rise to the top. Still, while the top-ranked results in a Google search may not always be the very best sites on a topic, they're almost always at least very good sites. Plus, the Google approach tends to be self-correcting over time" Cream really does rise to the top. I now find myself using Google more and more for my initial searches, and falling back to Alltheweb or NorthernLight for finer or alternate searches. But Google is good enough that it often gets the job done with the very first search, thus eliminating the need for secondary searches.

But my preferences and search-needs may or may not match yours, so I asked for YOUR input, and, man, did I get answers: In the current "Explorer" column on the WinMag.Com site, I'll present what some of your fellow readers have to say about their favorite search tools, along with easy one-click access to the various engines and tools so you can test drive them for yourself. They're all well worth a click— and you just might find a search engine that fits your needs far better than what you're now using! Check out the column; it should be posted (by the time you read this) under the "Explorer" heading on <http://www.winmag.com/columns/> . If you arrive early, you'll see the previous column "What Do You Do With Old AOL CDs?" In that case, just try again a little later. If you want to try a direct link, once the column is posted, it should be at <http://www.winmag.com/columns/explorer/2000/27.htm> . (If you arrive early, the link won't work.)

Another "Missing Manual"

There is a book about Windows Me: The Missing Manual, which is part of a whole "Missing Manual" series. It's the newest addition: "Windows 2000 Pro: The Missing Manual," by Sharon Crawford. (see <http://www.langa.com/newsletters/2000/2000-12-18.htm#4>)

Here's the blurb:

Windows 2000 Pro combines the friendly interface of Windows 98 with the famous stability of Windows NT. Windows 2000, the successor to NT, introduces many technologies that weren't available in NT, including Plug-and-Play, support for USB devices, power management features, and more. It's 25% faster than Windows 98 and three times as stable. Unfortunately, despite all the enhancements, Microsoft forgot to address one of NT's most glaring omissions: Windows 2000 doesn't include a printed user's manual.

Getting started. The early chapters cover using menus, finding lost files, reducing window clutter, and taming the wild Start menu.

What's what. A complete guide, this book explains the purpose of every Control Panel item, accessory program, and maintenance tool. Mastering the network. Special chapters help you navigate the corporate network, dial in from the road, and even set up your own small-office (peer-to-peer) network, step by step.

Understanding security. User accounts, file encryption, and the NTFS file system keep your private files private, while still offering network access to coworkers you specify.

Flying the Net. This book demystifies the rich Internet suite of Windows 2000 Pro: its email, newsgroup, Web-browsing, and video conferencing programs.

Windows 2000 Pro: The Missing Manual isn't for system administrators or OS theory geeks; it's for the novice or budding power user who wants to master the machine and get down to work. Windows 2000 Pro: The Missing Manual is the crystal-clear, jargon-free book that should have been in the box. It's a 450-page tome that lists for \$19.95. You can get the book at your local library or bookstore, or order via

this link (and get 20% of the cover price): <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0596000103/langacom>

There is a list of about 30 other books— all good reading and excellent references— over at <http://www.langa.com/books.htm> . Check 'em out! Either way, thank you, and good luck!

Another Way To Get At Windows Update

In a recent issue, we covered some workarounds to try if you're unable to access Microsoft's "Windows Update" site:

Some people get erroneous error messages stating that "Your organization has decided to provide software updates internally rather than through Windows Update. To download updates for your Windows computer, please see your Network Administrator." Or "Windows Update was disabled by your System Administrator." (See <http://www.langa.com/newsletters/2000/2000-12-21.htm#2>)

Reader Kenneth Harris found a simpler fix than the one listed in the Microsoft Knowledgebase:

Fred— This problem happened to me also, and without any reason. I did refer to the Microsoft Knowledge Base articles, but while they gave possible explanations and cures, they didn't work for me. Finally, some kind person in a Windows newsgroup gave me this solution

Use Start/Run and enter this:

```
regsvr32 wupdinfo.dll
```

Note there is a space between the 32 and the w

Worked like a charm—haven't had the problem since!

Reader's Sites

Here's another eclectic sample of reader sites— some professional, some very personal: View A Randomly-Chosen Reader Site From Among the Hundreds Listed http://www.langa.com/cgi-local/rand_link.pl or Manually Browse All Posted-to-Date Sites Starting At <http://www.langa.com/readersites.htm>

Give it a try for your product, service, web site or organization. It costs less than you think and you'll like the results!

Quick Reader Tip

Ever have a "Duh!" moment? I sure have. For example, I was surprised a few months ago when I was told that if you enter any word in the IE address bar and then hit Ctrl-Enter, IE will automatically prepend the "http://www." and append the ".com" for you. Note that this is different from the search function, where you enter any word and hit enter. Rather than searching for sites, this Ctrl-Enter trick is simply a way to rapidly complete URLs. I never knew that. Duh! This week, Diana Hudson offers another little time-saver:

Do you know that a shortcut to change the size of your browser's font without going through clicking View, text size and so on? If you are using a mouse with roller in the middle, press "ctrl" and roll the mouse roller up or down and your browser's font will change almost instantly.

Just For Grins

When it comes to verbiage, less often is more:

Pythagorean theorem: 24 words

The Lord's Prayer: 66 words

Archimedes' Principle: 67 words

10 Commandments: 179 words.

Lincoln's Gettysburg address: 286 words.

U.S. Declaration of Independence: 1,300 words

U.S. Government regulations on the sale of cabbage: 26,911 words.

StarBand demo (continued)

The Starband system consists of a 24x36-inch satellite dish mounted on your roof, chimney or on a pole in the yard. The dish must have a clear unobstructed view of the southern sky. Two standard coaxial cables connect the dish to a PC in your home, which is either pre-equipped with Starband transmit/receive cards or connected to an external Starband satellite modem.

The Starband's system both sends requests to the Internet and receives the requested Internet content via a Ku-band satellite in geostationary orbit approximately 22,300 miles above the equator.

The satellite, in turn, communicates with Starband's hub facility, which has a direct connection to the Internet. The result is two-way satellite Internet service that provides high-speed, always-on access on par with other broadband technologies, such as cable modems and DSL. Best of all, no telephone connection is needed, no terrestrial Internet account is required, and the service is available in any location that enjoys a clear view of the satellite.

The Starband satellite dish is also capable of receiving EchoStar's DISH Network™ 500-channel satellite television programming. By taking advantage of this capability, a single antenna can provide two-way satellite Internet service, as well as receive DISH Network satellite television programming from two EchoStar satellites.

MarketPro Computer Show

<http://www.marketpro.com/ca/index.html>

The next swapmeet is January 27th, from 10-5, at Oxnard Community Center.

Take Hwy. 101 to Vineyard exit.

Turn West to 'H' St.

'H' St. changes into Hobson Way.

The Community Center is located on 800 Hobson between 8th St. and 9th St.

Need Help?

Dennis Atherton

hardware - any, networking , WIN95 setups
[mailto: dennis.atherton@yahoo.com](mailto:dennis.atherton@yahoo.com) 7-11 evenings

Steve Carter

OS/2 - [mailto: scarter@vnet.com](mailto:scarter@vnet.com) 805-598-8455 til 9 pm

Barbara Cott desktop publishing, Excel, Photoshop, web pages
[mailto: bobbie@wgn.net](mailto:bobbie@wgn.net) 805-581-2495 weekends

Howard Engel

Word 6, programming in PASCAL or ADA
[mailto: engelh@gte.net](mailto:engelh@gte.net) 805-523-7602 9 am - 10 pm

Will Fiske

Win95/3.11/3.1, DOS 6.2 and down to 5

[mailto: wfiske@juno.com](mailto:wfiske@juno.com) after 6 pm

Roger Freeman

online researching
[mailto: update1@ez2.net](mailto:update1@ez2.net) 805-579-8426 before 10

Spencer Hartman Digital Research DOS 6, Novell DOS 7.0 WordPerfect 6.1 for DOS, batch files
805-522-7212 if no answer, lv msg 10 am - 10 pm

Gordon Huff modems, Telix, FDISK

[mailto: wa6fmx@worldnet.att.net](mailto:wa6fmx@worldnet.att.net) 805-499-3494

Lucy Lediaev Basic Windows & Office, Basic HTML & graphics concepts

[mailto: lucyl@cnmnetwork.com](mailto:lucyl@cnmnetwork.com) evenings 6-9:30 pm & wknds

David Ringwood

hardware - [mailto: jolyon@mail.westworld.com](mailto:jolyon@mail.westworld.com)

Oliver Stockton

MS Word , Wndows 95, Beginners
[mailto: SimiClown@aol.com](mailto:SimiClown@aol.com) 805-581-2991 24 hours / 7 days

Robert Sully

Hardware Questions, OS's (Win95 and OS/2)
BASIC Programming, Beginning Visual Basic
[mailto: rcs@malibyte.com](mailto:rcs@malibyte.com)

Dee Tillman

Office 97 Word & Excel, WordPerfect, Commodore, Apple II
[mailto: dtillman@juno.com](mailto:dtillman@juno.com) 805-526-1395, after 4

Gaylord Trubey

DOS internet, WIN 3.x, WIN 95, software hardware
[mailto: gaylordt@juno.com](mailto:gaylordt@juno.com) 805-526-2077

Dick Uhlman

XTree (1-3), Windows, DOS Excel
[mailto: computerwizard@juno.com](mailto:computerwizard@juno.com)
805-583-2174 & 805-583-2804 5pm - 8pm

Karleen Volz

BASIC questions, DOS WIN 3.11, WIN 95 WIN NT,
basic hardware questions
[mailto: kvolz@juno.com](mailto:kvolz@juno.com) 7pm - 9:30pm & weekends

Simi Valley Computer User Group is a non-profit special interest group for the benefit of anyone interested in learning more about computers and how to use them. Meetings are held twice a month. The General Meeting meets at 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month, the Hardware / Software Meeting is held at the same time on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The meetings are held at the Simi Valley Public Library, in the Community Room.

If you need further information about the meetings, call Barbara Cott at 805-581-2495. Further information can be found at <http://www.svcug.org> or send email to [mailto: info@svcug.org](mailto:info@svcug.org). Visitors are welcome to come and see what our group is all about without obligation to join. However, if you find our meetings to be beneficial to you, we hope you will join and support our group. Dues are \$24 per year or \$13 for 6 months.

It has to say this: Simi Valley Computer User Group (SVCUG), consisting of its officers and membership, is not affiliated with any computer hardware or software manufacturers. Articles contained in this publication may not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of SVCUG. SVCUG makes no warranty of the suitability or inability to use any product or service.

Ad Rates

Small member ads are free.

(business card size)

1/4 page - \$25/mo

1/2 page - \$50/month

full page - \$100/month.

Send your camera ready art to Editor at

[mailto: bobbie@wgn.net](mailto:bobbie@wgn.net).

Membership Rates

\$24/year or \$13/6 months.

Includes user group pricing, expert computer Q&A, newsletter (mailed/online),

BBS, email address, raffle.

For membership information,

email Howard Engel, Treasurer

[mailto: engelh@gte.net](mailto:engelh@gte.net)

Local Computer User Groups

Appleholics Anonymous

Chuck Baca 805-650-7503 / Tony Pizza 805-482-3453
2nd Sat 9:30 am
3169 Telegraph Road. Ventura

Conejo Valley Genealogical Society

Albert Richardson, Chairman (NEW)
(805) 492-2029
<mailto:bf140@gte.net>

CVMUG (Mac club)

Susie Herrera 805-484-2259
<mailto:sherrera@vcnet.com>
General Meeting: 1st Thursday, 7 pm
Novice SIG: 4th Monday/Internet SIG: Quarterly
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Camarillo

Commodore 64/128 Users

Loyd Couch: 805-483-9200
BBS: 805-382-1125
General Meetings: 1st Sat., 10 am
Cal Fed Bank, 430 Arneill Road, Camarillo
Tech Meeting: 2nd Sat, 10 am
Boys-Girls Club, 126 E. 7th Street, Oxnard

Channel Islands PC Group

Toby Scott, 805-981-1212
Website: <http://www.cipcug.org>
General Meeting: 1st Sat, 9 am Camarillo Airport
OS/2 Corner: 2nd Sat, 9:30 am

Channel Island Linux User Group

1st and 3rd Friday, 6 pm
Ventura County Community College
New Science Building, Room 231 (SCI 231)
<http://trixie.kosman.via.ayuda.com/cilug/>

Gold Coast CUE of Ventura County

Tim Rainville, 805-525-3873
<mailto:rainvilt@vcss.k12.ca.us>
Days vary, 4 pm
Camarillo area or local school

Leisure Village Club

Neil Iven, 805-383-0016 <mailto:lniven1@juno.com>
1st Friday, 10am Camarillo / 1st Monday, MAC group
2nd Friday, Communications
3rd Wednesday, Novice

Simi Conejo Linux User Group

Website: <http://Valleywww.psilord.com/sclug>
Meets every other Saturday at 6 pm
InstallFests start at 2 p.m
Nortel office, south of the 118 Freeway
4100 Guardian Street, Simi Valley
<mailto:sclug@sclug.org>.

Channel Islands Linux Users Group

Meets alternate Fridays
Ventura College, Science Building.
Contact Bob Thompson
<mailto:bobnmerilyn@alum.mit.edu>

MacValley Users Group

Daphne Gruberman (818) 998-7025
1st Wednesday
Wilkinson Senior Center
8956 Vanalden Street, Northridge

Simi Valley Computer User Group

Barbara Cott 805-581-2495 bobbie@wgn.net
Website: <http://www.svcug.org>
Main meeting: 2nd Thurs 7:30 pm
Hardware/Software Meeting: 4th Wed, 7:30 pm
Simi Valley Library

Thousand Oaks

Personal Computer Club

Stuart Dreifus 805-495-6957
<http://www.topcc.org>
Website: <http://topcc.org>
4th Thurs: 6:30pm Jan-Oct
3rd Thurs: 6:30 Nov-Dec
Goebbel Sr Ctr or T.O. Library

TUGNET

Website: <http://www.tugnet.org>
meets every Tues, 7pm
Granada Pavilion
11128 Balboa, Granada Hills.

Ventura Beginners PC Users' Group

Howard Wilson
805-647-0360
3rd Sat, 10 am
Club House
BenaVentura Mobile Home Estate
11407 Darling Road

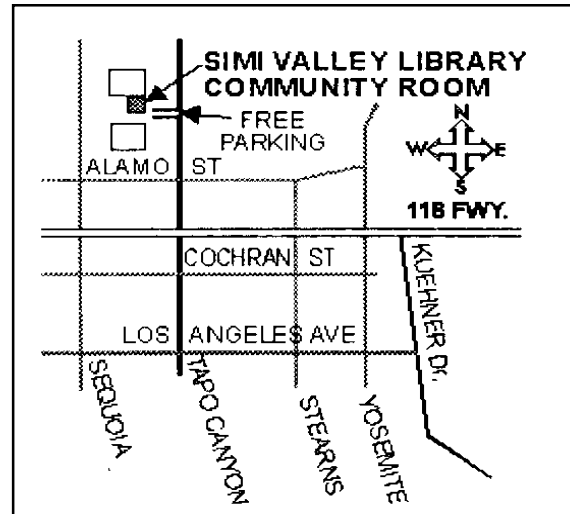


<http://www.wgn.net>

Ask for User Group Rate

User Group Officers

President	Barbara Cott	mailto: bobbie@wgn.net
Vice President	Gaylord Trubey	mailto: gaylordt@juno.com
Vice President	Roger Freeman	mailto: update1@ez2.net
Treasurer	Howard Engel	mailto: engelh@gte.net
Secretary	Marika Panczel	mailto: marika@svcug.org



Simi Valley Computer User Group

2718 Kadota Street
Simi Valley, CA 93063

January Meetings

Thursday January 11th
STARBAND
Inkjet Refills

Wednesday, January 24th
CD-R / RW's
WebExpress Pro