



MotherBoard



Volume 16, Issue 2

February 3, 1999

This Month at NOPCC

Hold on 'Lizabeth.

this is a big one!

Microsoft Office 2000

**Don't miss this
one, Ethel.**

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President's Monthly Message

We've heard so many tales of terror concerning the looming Y2K apocalypse, I just can't help but add another log to the fire. Unlike all the hypothetical scenarios that are being cooked up in the feverish brains of cybersooths, this is a millennial horror story that is guaranteed to take place: It is already upon us, and it already affects you if you engage in "webcasting" music.

As audio streaming becomes more and more widespread, and the quality of web-routed audio continues to improve, record companies have become increasingly alarmed that you will no longer feel the need to purchase the millions of compact disks which they manufacture and distribute. The recording industry is just one of many that are facing the terror of technological innovation and implementation gone rampant. The challenge is twofold: (1) how to redefine legal rights in a way that will extend the earning capacity of any given recording; (2) how to enforce whatever definition is given to those rights; and how to achieve both of these goals in a multi-media cyber-environment that is capable of rapidly and frequently changing the scope and nature of its reach. Staring the record manufacturers in the face is the ugly specter of the world's

massive army of copy machines mindlessly flaunting the copyright protection to which book publishers had been accustomed for well over a century.

While you (and everybody else) weren't looking, the record industry solved one-half of its dilemma. Congress recently enacted the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, which creates a new musical licensing scheme exclusively for webcasters. It applies to anyone sending a sound recording of a musical performance over the Internet. The main objective of the DMCA is to prevent the unauthorized distribution and copying of sound recordings in ways that deprive the copyright holder of compensation.

Instead of negotiating with the copyright holder of each sound recording, you may register for a statutory license as long as you meet certain conditions. For example, you cannot play more than three songs from a particular album, and no more than two of the songs consecutively. There are also provisions for archived programming; looped programming; advance announcements concerning your music webcast; scheduled retransmissions; song, artist and album identification and various good-faith actions which you are required to

(Continued on Page 6.)

A Gist of the Board Meeting

As of January 13, Club membership was 219, still declining moderately. Club fund balance was \$6642, up again.

The Board authorized \$100 for publicizing the February 3 general meeting featuring Microsoft's presentation. For attendees of the Microsoft meeting, to encourage sign-up of new members and renewals, a special drawing will be held exclusively for new members and renewing members. Edi-

tor Ed Jatho volunteered to set up and print posters publicizing the Microsoft meeting.

Tom Ford and Don Herrmann were named a committee of two to investigate member badge ID technology and report their recommendations.

The Prez missed this one because he was sick. Get well David. We missed you. Rescue us from Iron Hand Zeke...

Ed Jatho

SIGnificant News

Gary Shurman reports the renewed NOPCC FoxPro SIG met for the first time on Wednesday, Jan. 13, with five members in attendance. The FoxPro SIG will meet twice each month, on second and fourth Wednesdays, at the office of Software and Stuff on Metairie Road, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The agenda for the next two meetings will be to view the Visual FoxPro video, Volume 1, followed by hands on entry of the examples and discussion.

You don't have to go hungry to the FoxPro SIG meetings: For those who RSVP by either phone or e-mail <gshurman@software-stuff.com> prior to the meetings, the SIG will order pizza.

New member Chris Lagarde <clag2884@bigfoot.com> is an "ACT!" consultant and is organizing an ACT! SIG for users of this contact management system. See Chris's article in this issue of the MotherBoard. At the initial meeting of the NOPCC ACT! SIG on Thursday, Feb. 11, Chris reports that he will cover Advanced Searches (also known as advanced queries) including date range lookups, birthdays, and Boolean searches. The NOPCC ACT! SIG will meet on the second Thursday of every month (except March) in the Conference Room at McCann Electronics. Chris says to bring your laptops (if you have one) and your questions!

Chris is also graciously donating TalkWorks PRO professional voice and fax messaging (including Winfax 9.0) to the Club for use as a prize.

If you would like some help on getting your computer to do what you want it to do, try the popular NOCK SIG. This friendly, relaxed group meets at Albert Fox's residence, 1430 Broadway, in the University section of New Orleans. Meetings are generally on the first Monday and third Wednesday each month.

A lot of members have been asking for a Club activity that will help them with quick answers on using common applications on their computer in a sit-down environment at a real computer keyboard and mouse. Well, this is your place! Get in touch with Albert Fox <albert@sstar.com> (861-1630) or Virginia Kieran <vbk01@gnofn.org> or just drop in to the meetings.

Virginia reports that the NOCK SIG has the instructional "Windows 95 Simplified" and a video "Introduction to Windows 95" which should make learning extra things on a PC easier. They use videos and hands-on keyboard tutoring for learning to use applications and integrating functions, such as getting documents from e-mail that have to be read with Word Perfect, through the various steps until the message is printed out.

Virginia said a number of people she talked to said they wanted to learn; all they have to do is come and do. And by doing, learn. February meeting dates for the NOCK SIG are Monday Feb. 1, and Wednesday Feb. 17 (yes, that is Ash Wednesday).

Donald McCune

Corel Word Perfect Suite 8, Official Guide

Physically, this paperbound book is 9" high, 7" wide, and 2.25" thick, weighing in at 3.5 lbs. It has 800 pages of text, including lots of explanatory screenshots, exact screen icons, and other graphics. The font and typesetting make it easy to read. Illustrations that need to have labels indicating what is what are clearly labeled: 350 of the pages are devoted to the word processing portion of the suit; 200 pages deal with Quatro Pro (the spreadsheet); 90 pages on Presentations (a slide show). The remaining pages concern themselves with an Introduction, a Suite Overview, Internet features (how to create web pages using WordPerfect [AKA "publish" to the web], a little about the custom version of Netscape Navigator that comes with the WordPerfect Suite), and Corel Tools (DAD-Desktop Application Director; Perfect Script Macros, Settings Editor, Envoy, Address Book, & Searcher). The Table of Contents is given to you twice: once as a broad quick reference, and then immediately followed by a very detailed listing. The Index at the back of the book is quite comprehensive and frequently has the same item listed under more than one entry (sort of a cross reference) so if you do not guess the actual "Corel" term but think of a synonym, chances are you will find it. For the most part the screenshot or illustration that the text refers to is actually found on the same page as the text! - not three or four pages away in one direction

or the other.

If you can read and follow directions, you cannot go wrong with this book. The author gives you "click by click" instructions via text, peppered with clear screenshots of what you should be seeing as you click along. Of course, the impatient person who "sort of" knows what they are doing will mess up because they will not follow the directions, they will "scan and skip" instructions "selectively", ultimately resulting in frustrating ineffectiveness. The author also demonstrates how to compose something in one component of the Suite and then "integrate" that something in a different "thing" being composed in a different component of the Suite. Now in plain English: How to create a spreadsheet in Quatro, then bring the spreadsheet into the newsletter you are composing in the WordPerfect word processor. He shows you how to bring in a "live" spreadsheet (so if you edit the spreadsheet inside of the word processor it actually brings up the spreadsheet program), or how to bring in what is essentially a "picture" of a static spreadsheet. This book will not turn you into a macro programming guru, nor will it transform you into a formula spouting spreadsheet wizard. What it will do is tell you how to use the software.

Tom Stirewalt



COMDEX 1998 Review



This series of short reports is prepared in grateful response to the often asked question from clients, business friends, radio show listeners, vendors and employees: "What did you see interesting at COMDEX this year?" Here are a few of the many impressions of interest.

The McCann Electronics Company Goals in attending this show were to: Confirm our relations with present suppliers, search for profitable options and computer add-on related applications, discover new service opportunities and to better understand emerging technology.

The 1998 COMDEX included over 2400 exhibit booths with over 220,000 people in attendance. It was reported to have covered 2 million square feet of convention hall space. Our most important reason for attending COMDEX is information.

Sony won my "Best Booth of COMDEX" this year. The working models and practical application of their Memory Stick, Mavica Camera, Digital Handycam, MiniDisc Deck, IC Chip Recorder, Digital Studio, i.Link and Entertainment Robots were overwhelming. Literally every product on display contained either or both a Memory Stick socket or an i.Link socket. Sony booth workers created a warm welcome by showing the various models of the Mavica Cameras and taking pictures of attendees, removing the floppy disk, inserting it into a printer and handing back a high quality full color photo in a few seconds. The Sony workers would then present to the attendees the floppy containing the easily readable .jpg image as an added souvenir. The super slim Sony THREE pound Color Pentium 233 Computer satisfied weight concerns that were once the handicap of portable computers. This Sony Computer Model VAIO 505 Pentium 233 machine runs cool all over the cabinet (no hot spots), has a fine S-VGA display, a practical keyboard and a three hour battery for under two grand. Sony.com doesn't presently come close to creating the excitement of the new inventions this company showed at COMDEX but visit anyway, just for a glimpse.

The re-invention of writing paper would relate to most of us. Xerox.com contains a link to the COMDEX Keynote address presented by their CEO and a Chief Scientist. The essence of the presentation introduces Xerox ideas of tomorrow's technologies. GLYPHS: A self-describing document. They describe GLYPHS as an encoding of digital data on paper that can act as a portal to a computer. SMART STAPLES: Visualize a self identifying document imbedded with a "smart staple" - 39 bits of data pointing to a http address. Consider this as a use. A paper document with a "smart staple" just needs to be swiped by the monitor to bring up the digital version. ELECTRIC PAPER: A re-writable document. Tiny imbedded magnetic balls turn from black to white and are re-writable by using an electric

charge. From billboard signs to FAX's to the quest for a paperless office, this new idea in paper reminds one of a thin flexible Etch-A-Sketch.

HiFD declares itself as the next generation floppy drive. The HiFD is an inventive creation of Sony, Fuji, Teac and Alps. It is a 3.5" 200MB high-capacity drive with speeds capable of video playback, but with downward compatibility to read a common 1.4 4MB floppy. Every PC sold since the early 80's has included a 3.5" floppy. This HiFD product goes beyond the popular Iomega Zip drive with its floppy ability and beyond the LS120 Imation competition with a 200MB capacity. The HiFD is two specialized read/write mechanisms in one drive. (Ed Note: This technology could expand capacity and enhance high resolution picture storage if installed into the Sony Mavica Cameras previously mentioned.)

USB (Universal Serial Bus) interface devices are now becoming widely available. The ease of accessory installation without the hassle of memory address and interrupt limitations is welcomed by all. Mice, keyboards, sound systems, scanners, monitors, cameras, parallel printer adapters and modems were the most popular devices shown. The USB connectors are normally found on the rear of most new computers, but we found new models are adding a front USB port for user convenience.

The Philips COMDEX booth was in hot competition for our "Best Booth of COMDEX". The presentation of their ingenuity in technology spanned an area about 200' X 100' and included displays of Philips HDTV, WebTV, DVD, CD, CD-RW, Smart Card, speech and lighting products. Norelco and Consumer products each had their own display areas. The Philips 42" Flat Screen and the Philips 64" HDTV are certainly state of the art. Speech processing software products showed the depth of the computer industry Philips influences. The Philips Mobile Personal Computer named the NINO is a substantive competitor to the popular Palm Pilot and runs the familiar Windows CE OS.

Plextor presented their CD-R industry speed champion PlexWriter. It is a CD-R Drive with an 8X write and a 20X read specification.

AMI2000 Corporation showed a hardware BIOS correction for the Year 2000 problem. It is an inexpensive ISA card that may be installed on motherboards where BIOS updates are not available. Whenever DOS/Win based appli-

Annual Jazz Service

Sunday, February 14, 1999

Olympia Brass Band and Dr. White
St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church
 (@ Broadway)

COMDEX 1998 Review (Continued)

configuration ease during initial assembly. The concept of removable rails adds to assembly time and drives technicians crazy trying to secure the correct rails during upgrades. As recently with the CD-RW drives, the emerging addition of DVD Drives will soon become a popular and attractive computer upgrade.

ATI has recently become a pacesetter in PC Video. Video cards configured with 32MB of memory are sometimes matching or exceeding total system memory. Full motion MPEG video, DVD Playback, TV tuner accessories, and CAD/CAM applications are no longer pushing the technology envelope with maximum resolutions of 1920 X 1440. Games drove this technology in the early days of GUI. The important success of new video card systems are found in the science of developing modern chip set technology and supporting them with well written video drivers. Chipsets are well recognized and the creative technical people are often present at these shows. ATI brings technical support people to COMDEX.

Kodak must fear the film business is going to be declining because of Digital Cameras. The size and overwhelming intensity of the Kodak presentation spared no expense. They were handing out small camera carrying cases to the attendees and showed off five models of Digital Cameras each targeted to somewhat different markets. Kodak's image

file storage method is a small removable Picture Card available in both 4 and 8 MB sizes. Their overall marketing program covers every element of home picture capturing, sorting, storage, reconstruction, archiving and retrieval.

Computer security devices were found in two unanticipated displays. LG Electronics showed an Iris Recognition Security System based on the fact that the human iris stabilizes within one year of birth and remains stable throughout one's lifetime. The LG demonstration allowed an attendee to sit at a test computer connected camera, look into the capture image lens, then walk over to a door and look into an identification sensor. Only if your iris was found in the test computer database would the door open. The second location of an exciting mainstream ready security device was found at the Mitsubishi display. This device seems to be much more practical for office use or in a semi-secure environment that demands closely held access, usually accomplished with passwords. The active area of this device is about postage stamp size and identifies a fingerprint. This fingerprint recognition security chip could become a standard if it was to be built into the left side of a computer keyboard. It could also benefit the population that continually forget their computer passwords.

Seagate introduced a Travan Network Series (NS) small server tape drive. The 20 Gig Hornet NS drive is an inexpensive solution for small to mid-range servers. With a maximum capacity of 20 Gigabytes on a single tape, backup speeds fly along at 120 Mbytes per minute. The new tape drive will soon be available in both ATAPI & SCSI formats.

Speech Recognition Software is becoming closer to reality. Many years and many failed demonstrations have hardened us to being pessimistic about the ability of a computer to translate the spoken word into a printable document. Dragon Naturally Speaking deserves high grades for accuracy. Anticipate about three hours of training (they call it enrollment) before expecting results with minimum errors. The down side is not so much in training the computer, but in training ourselves to dictate to it in correct English. The effort includes mentally constructing a document on the fly, including the elements of ending each sentence and declaring each new paragraph. As in most disciplines, it does have long range rewards such as the ability to free oneself from a high percentage of typing. It has been tested successfully at speeds of up to 160 words per minute. The ability to correct an entire phrase rather than individual words is an outstanding feature of this program. The software product named Naturally Speaking also features a unique hardware accessory. It is a small handheld digital voice recorder with a capacity of up to 80 minutes of speech. It is designed for the speech recognition software and includes a linking driver to download the transcription. It will sort up to 99 individual

Reviews?



SOFTWARE

Spell Catcher – Jim Lightfoot III, **OVERDUE !!!**

Smart Sketch – “EasyArt” program for refreshingly simple precision drawing. Microsoft Office compatible. Still Available.

BOOKS

Java Beans Programming – This issue, Page 6.

Corel Word Perfect Suite 8 – This issue, Page 2

Did You Know!

Statistics show that passwords used daily by computer users can be guessed with out much more knowledge than the users address, parents & children names, birthdays and home towns. Think about that? How secure is your password and authentication phrase if the password is your street name and the authenticating phrase is your mother's maiden name? Also, what good is a password that you tell everyone? Think.

Ed Jatho

COMDEX 1998 Review (Continued)

recorded messages. You can select the recorded messages you

wish sent to the computer and they can be placed in a Word Processing or ACT! format.

Keystone Learning Systems is a publisher of some of the best computer based training (CBT) on CD's and Video Tape training in the marketplace. During these past few years we have tried many different video tape software training. We have been stuck with some and have returned others

timely. Keystone introduced fresh video sets at COMDEX on CISCO and Oracle8 training. When you investigate the level of the instructors that present the Keystone tapes, you soon realize the other companies are often using a pair of cute talking heads to deliver a canned message.

Hitachi PC Corporation revealed DVD-RAM mass storage Library Systems with data capacities of up to 390 Gigabyte. The Hitachi XEON based PC Server family and the Hitachi Server Management Software are client-server reflections of their expertise in the mainframe industry. Check out www.hitachipc.com.

Tektronix, known for great test equipment and innovation, is also an industry leader in Color Laser Printers. They showed an entry level Laser Model 740 Laser Printer for under \$1,500.00 that will print in black on white but, with the addition of three color toner cartridges for about \$500.00, will become a quality Color Laser printer. Another Tektronix benefit is their lower than most of the industry statistics in "cost per page". This model Tektronix printer uses a Panasonic engine with modified electronics.

The Phoenix Technologies exhibit was stacked with flyers explaining the latest technology advances in BIOS configurations. The issue of Year 2000 BIOS protection and cost effective solutions to many other problems were addressed. Looking close, I asked one of the attendants why there was so

much literature on Award BIOS systems in the Phoenix booth. The explanation is that the two companies are in the process of merging. That will simplify our work dealing with only two companies. Primarily AMI and Award/Phoenix for mainstream BIOS issues.

Fujitsu has recently become known in the industry as the best looking of the new breed of flat panel Television Screens. Their leadership continues in this speciality. They are also creating a place in the hard drive industry. The display and catalog only shows about fifteen models and is not as in depth as some of the more established hard drive makers, but the fifteen models represent a range from tiny portable 12.5mm drives to the 18.2 Gig Enterprise Ultra SCSI2 (LVD) drives. The Fujitsu advanced hard drive warranty is called "Absolutely No Excuses" and we have tested it to be

authentic on a few incidents where they cross shipped the replacement overnight on their nickel as promised.

Creative Technology has always been known as the Sound Blaster people. Their 1998 COMDEX display showed considerable diversification. The Sound Blaster Live! sound card is 32-bit, 48kHz audio and supports up to eight speakers. The Live! MIDI playback specs list a 576 - voice music synthesizer and Digital I/O. Creative now also has PCI Sound Cards, 16 Meg AGP and PCI Video Cards, USB Video Blaster Cameras, CD-ROM's, PC-DVD Drives and an expanding line of Speaker Systems.

Have you ever seen a \$10,000.00 Ink Jet Printer? Thought they were getting cheaper? Visiting the Epson Stylus Pro 5000 with an attached RS-5000 Fiery Server reveals the ability of the format. Epson, of course, also showed off their vast line of desktop scanners, digital cameras, state of the art multimedia projectors and slightly less expensive printers.

Symantec showed their full suite of software including the popular Norton Utilities and Anti-Virus. The most useful addition was the Ghost software now known, since Symantec recently purchased it, as Norton Ghost. This software has my vote for the most useful speciality application of, at least, this year. If you manage, upgrade, repair or administer servers, this clone and restoration product is a major time saver. At another COMDEX booth, the software service reference leader MicroHouse, showed a Ghost competitor named ImageCast IC3. MicroHouse sells the most in depth and expansive service information for computer hardware servicers. From the CD's that arrive quarterly, a servicer can find the jumper configurations and pictured layouts for almost every hard drive, motherboard and internal computer card ever made.

Toshiba has been the reigning innovation leader in portable computers. Their leading technology screens and batteries are legendary. Included in this booth display are found the newest innovation in desktop cases with removable sides and tops. Slide-out motherboard replacement and easy accessibility to components during upgrades has been well thought out. These may be the most serviceable desktops and mini-tower computers ever.

There were three of us from this company that attended COMDEX '98. This series of notes helps us gather the information in an orderly fashion and sharing it with you is a pleasure. As you have the opportunity to attend other trade shows and find emerging electronics products and timely information, please take the effort to record your impressions and return this privilege.

Jerry McCann



Too Much of the '90's ? President's Message

MORE SIGNS YOU HAVE HAD TOO MUCH OF THE 90s

1. Your daughter sells Girl Scout cookies via her web site.
2. When every commercial on television has a web-site address at the bottom of the screen.
3. You cannot remember when the only choices you had in coffee were regular and decaf.
4. You e-mail your son in his room to tell him that dinner is ready and he emails you back "What's for dinner."
5. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.
6. You own a sport utility vehicle and you live where it doesn't even snow.
7. You buy a computer and a week later it is out of date.
8. The concept of using real money, instead of credit or debit, to make a purchase is foreign to you.
9. You can't change your hairstyle until your favorite television personality does.
10. On Friday you know there are only two working days left until Monday.
11. You have to go back to the office to finish working after your OWN holiday party.

Jackie Elliott

(Continued from Page 1.)

take to defeat violation of the DMCA and to encourage compliance.

Speaking of compliance-- it still remains to be seen if (more likely WHEN) the record industry will come up with the technology to prevent or report non-compliance of the DMCA. In the meantime, webcasters can register for the statutory license immediately through a filing with the U.S. Copyright Office and a \$20 filing fee. However, royalty rates for the statutory license have not yet been set; once they are, those rates will apply to all webcasting that took place since October 28, 1998, the date that the DMCA went into effect. Failing to register for a statutory license raises the risk that the webcaster can be sued for copyright infringement, the penalties for which can be stiff.

Yours in the new millennium,

David Freedman

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Java Beans Programming, A Book Review

The publication "Java Beans Programming" is an excellent source for any programmer, especially those with some background in various syntax. The system design or layout of the publication is excellent and can walk even a novice to a certain success of sorts. I have read most of the book now and have played with the code. The results are excellent and with a little effort tremendous success can be made. I am in the middle of a huge system that will run activeX forms and forms in the browser. I have used a small test set of the Java and will eventually integrate this into my system use. The organization of the book is the best I have seen. Whether literate or not in syntax anyone can use the book to become ef-

fective in some manner. The dividing up of the different categories or steps of programming and then defining what each means is done with ease. Then after defining the categories, the publication shows the syntax of how to accomplish the method in code. This is something lacking in most modern day publications. The book leaves nothing to the imagination and actually steps the programmer into success, however mere. If more publications would follow this format, they would certainly find greater success, as well.

Gordon Rush

Grush@worldnet.att.com

NOPCC Directory



<i>Job Title</i>	<i>Official E-Mail</i>	<i>Personal E-Mail</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
Elected Officers			
President, David Freedman	president@nopc.org	david@wwoz.com	482-7070
Vice President, Zeke Zimmerman	vp@nopc.org	zim.family@sstar.com	456-2991
Secretary, Donald McCune	secretary@nopc.org	dcm01@gnofn.org	288-1852
Treasurer, Tom Ford	treasurer@nopc.org	103116.550@compuserve.com	643-3172
Dir. At Large, Ed Jatho	editor@nopc.org	ejatho@bellsouth.net	834-4386
Dir. At Large, John Souvestre		johns@sstar.com	888-3348
Dir. At Large, Ray Paternostro		ray.paternostro@sstar.com	737-9099
Standing Committees			
BBS SysOp, Lanny Goldfinch	sysop@nopc.org	lanny@nopc.org	482-5066
Newsletter Editor, Ed Jatho	editor@nopc.org	ejatho@bellsouth.net	834-4386
Asst. Editor, Tom Gregory		tomg@sstar.com	391-0064
SIG Coordinator, Donald McCune	sig@nopc.org	dcm01@gnofn.org	288-1852
Web Master, Manuel Dennis III	manuel_dennis@nopc.org	md3@gs.verio.net	835-7656
Membership	(Open)		
Publicity, Jackie Elliott		jte01@gnofn.org	
Public Relations	(Open)		
Special Interest Groups			
Communications, Marc Lewis		marc.lewis@sstar.com	837-7272
Internet, Ray Paternostro		ray.paternostro@sstar.com	737-9099
Visual Basic, Manuel Dennis III	md3@nopc.org	md3@gs.verio.net	835-7656
Win.Apps.Dev., M. Dennis III	md3@nopc.org	md3@gs.verio.net	835-7656
NOCK, Albert Fox		albert@sstar.com	861-1630
FoxPro, Gary Shurman		gshurman@software-stuff.com	838-9999
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February 1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Nock SIG at Albert Fox's home. 6:30	2	3 General Meeting at J.D. Meisler	4	5	6 Living at home w/ Electronics 1280am at 10:00 AM
7	8 VBLG, 6:30 WAD Sig 8:30 McCann's Conference Rm.	9	10 FOXPro SIG at Software & tuff. BoD Meeting McCann's 6:30	11 ACT! SIG at McCann Electronics. 6:30	12	13 Living at home w/ Electronics 1280am at 10:00 AM
14	15 VBLG, 6:30 WAD Sig 8:30 McCann's Conference Rm.	16 Mardi Gras!	17 Nock SIG at Albert Fox's home. 6:30	18	19 Newsletter Final Deadline.	20 Living at home w/ Electronics 1280am at 10:00 AM
21	22 VBLG, 6:30 McCann's Conference Rm.	23 Newsletter Lick & Stick at McCann's	24 FOX Pro SIG at Software & Stuff. COMM SIG McCann's	25 Internet SIG, McCann's 6:30	26	27 Living at home w/ Electronics 1280am at 10:00 AM
28						

NOPCC is a private non-profit organization Chartered under the State of Louisiana. Its purpose is to provide an open forum for discussion and education of the membership in the use and application of PCs and peripheral equipment and software. Annual Dues Schedule: Regular Member, \$40/yr.; Family Membership, \$60/yr.; and Students (under 21) , \$20/yr.

New Orleans Personal Computer Club
P. O. Box 8364
Metairie, Louisiana 70011

