

The Key Word

The June, 24th Meeting will be held at the Keowee Activity Center at 1:30 PM.

Keowee Computer Club
Of
Oconee County., SC

'users
helping
users'

The Prez Sez!



It seems like every time I turn around these days, it is time for another Prez Sez! Time really flies when you're having fun!

We had a very active Forum on May 27th with questions being answered by Roger Dilling, Ron Farren, Rick Hughes, Jim Jacques and Bill Wilkinson as the mystery guest from the audience. . Rather than trying to reconstruct the entire Q&A in the Key Word, the panel members have posted the answers in various yahoo group messages.

At our June 2nd Executive Committee Meeting we spent considerable time brainstorming future meeting programs but we still request each of you to tell us what programs you would like. For the June Meeting, Dianne Smith and Richard Webster will present and discuss several photo album programs.

In July we will start devoting about 20 minutes to a small facet of "Back to Basics" in addition to the regular planned program. We have sketched out programs for July, August and September but will keep you in suspense for a while.

June Meeting : Organizing Photos— Dianne Smith, Richard Webster—Comparison of software packages including Photoshop Album

July Meeting: Designing Greeting Cards and other Stuff— Dianne Smith

DUES ARE (PAST) DUE!

Yes, it is (past) that time again.

Please make your check for \$10 payable to:

Keowee Computer Club

**Mail it to:
Claire Macholl**

11 Skipper Lane

Even though dues were payable in April, we are just approaching the 50% payment level. Please remember to bring cash, a check, or come to the June Meeting with a good friend who will loan you the \$10.

I'll close with a few "haiku error messages".

*"First snow, then silence.
This thousand dollar screen dies
so beautifully."*

*"Having been erased,
the document you're seeking
must now be retyped."*

*"The Web site you seek
cannot be located but
endless others exist."*

Happy Computing.. *Ben Turetzky*

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FlipAlbum Suite 5.....from E Book Systems

By Bill Wilkinson

The trouble with taking pictures is that afterward you have to do something with them.

With my film camera this was no problem. I simply had them developed, took a quick look. Mentioned to my wife, "We ought to put these in an album or something, sometime." Then they went in a drawer where, as far as I know, they still reside.

With a digital camera to make life simpler, the process becomes more complex. First I load them on to my hard drive. Then try to decide whether to print or file. I also am nagged by the knowledge that I could improve many of them by judicious use of a graphics editor. While I ponder these considerations, they take up space on my drive until I either accidentally delete them or possibly transfer them to a C/D which goes in the same drawer with the old photos.

Enter FlipAlbum Suite, v.5.0. With Flip Album, I can simply point at the folder of pictures and automatically all of the shots are compiled into a virtual album, one picture to a page. The 3-D album looks just like the one I always intended to make. It has hard, cloth-bound covers, pages that flip open at a touch, a table of contents, an index in the back and a full set of thumbnails. The number of pages actually increases as photos are added and the pages audibly "flip" when opened! Another click and the whole thing is ready for transfer to a self-opening C/D which automatically displays the album even on a machine without the software.

Now they are ready to be put in a drawer!

If, however, you are compelled to greater effort, FlipAlbum is flexible. The thumbnails allow rapid resorting and deletion of shots. Pictures can be resized on the page and can be dragged and dropped or copied and pasted from page to page. Several shots can be combined on a page, or a single shot can be expanded over a two-page "centerfold". Covers, backs, spines and page backgrounds can be customized with color, clipart or your own Jpegs, borders and titles can be added, and MP3, .wav, or .mid music can be included as background. Pictures can be viewed in full-screen and as slide shows. There even is an integrated link to a web page where the photos can uploaded free of charge.



If you want to carry this even further, there is an "edit" mode where the pictures can be cropped, cloned, hued, brightened, and so on. No, it isn't a Photoshop, but the range of tools compares favorably to many of the less expensive stand-alone, editing programs.

The C/D feature available in the "Suite" version is clever. As I mentioned, if a single album is burned, the C/D opens it automatically. If you choose to combine several albums on a C/D, it then opens to a virtual bookcase with each album "shelved" with its own colored cover embossed with a title. The C/D's also will play on most DVD players for viewing on your TV. If you elect to go with the considerably cheaper "basic" program, without this feature, there is a free "viewer" which can be packaged with your photos to allow third party viewing.

I spilled Spot remover on my dog. Now he's gone.

My neighbor has a circular driveway. He can't get out..... Hitchcock

(Continued on page 5)

Photoshop Elements Tip #1

By Rick Hughes

Before attempting any work with Elements, you should calibrate your monitor. This insures that the monitor displays the colors accurately and that it is compatible with your printer and scanner. The procedure on page 32 of the User Manual leaves a little to be desired. Below we will walk through each screen of the adjustment process.

After the monitor has been on for at least thirty minutes got to:

Start > Control Panel > Adobe Gamma (If Adobe Gamma is not on the control panel Photoshop Elements will have to be reinstalled.)

Screen 1: This asks if you wish to use the Wizard or the control panel. Choose Wizard

Screen 2: This requests that you load a monitor profile. The ICC and ICM files are defaults for the various types of monitors. They basically get your monitor's colors into the ball park. Your monitor documentation should help in the selection.

Screen 3: Adjust your monitor's brightness and contrast. These controls are somewhere near the front of the monitor. Consult the monitor's documentation if their location isn't obvious. Follow the screen's instructions. The usual result is Contrast = 100%, Brightness = 35%

Screen 4: Choose your monitor's phosphors. The answer is most likely either Trinitron or P22-EBU. Two very thin lines are visible on the screen a quarter of the way from the top and bottom of the screen for Trinitron monitors.

Screen 5: Gamma adjust. Adjust the slider until the gray center box fades into the patterned frame. This is easier to do if you squint while adjusting. If your monitor has a slight color cast, you can adjust the three separate colors by clicking the "View Single Gamma" check box.



Sample picture to be used during series. [Download](#) and save

Screen 6: Adjust the "White Point". The white point is the spot where the red, green and blue phosphors at full intensity make white. You can manually adjust it but I suggest you accept the default unless your grays look a little yellow or blue.

Screen 7: Take the default "Adjusted White Point – Same as Hardware"

Screen 8: Completed. You can click the "Before" and "After" radio buttons to display the screen using the before or after values.

Screen 9: Save As. Save your new ICC profile with a unique name. You don't want to write on a supplied ICC file since you may need the original sometime in the future.

When the system is booted Adobe Gamma will be executed to load the ICC profile you created.

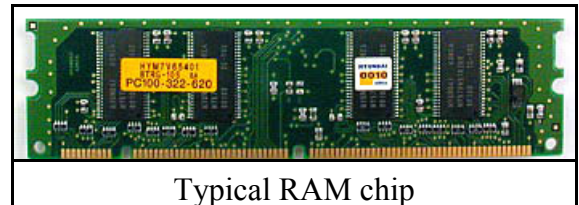
Ed. Note: This is the first in a series of articles which Rick has agreed to write sharing his expertise in Photoshop and Elements. Many of the techniques he will be discussing, such as this first one, will apply to other graphic programs as well.

If you have a subject you would like to see covered, drop him an Email!

Newbies Corner! **Ramming your Hard Drive!**

One of the areas of greatest confusion among newbies, and many old-timers, is the relationship between “memory” (Random Access Memory) and hard drive storage. Frequently heard are comments such as, “my new computer has 120GB of memory”, or “I had to delete some programs because I was running out of memory”. No. You have 120GB of hard drive storage and deleting “Doom” and “Solitaire” will not cure your memory problem.

Memory (RAM) consists of semiconductor chips that hold information the computer (CPU) can access directly and manipulate. With it, data can be accessed quickly because it exists on electronically charged points instead of a physical disk. But because the information only exists due to the constant electric charges, it disappears whenever it loses power, such as when the computer reboots or is turned off. Ram typically comes in relatively small units of 64MB, 128MB, 256MB, and 512MB (1GB = 1024MB).



A hard drive is an electro-mechanical device that acts as storage for all of your programs and data. It is much slower than RAM, but retains its contents when power is removed and has far greater capacity. Think of the hard drive simply as a very large floppy or C/D disk. If you copy something on to a floppy and put it in a drawer, you don't expect the computer to know what is on it. The hard drive happens to reside in the same tin box as the computer, but it works the same way as the floppy. The computer neither knows nor cares what or how much is stored on the hard drive; it cannot use it until it is transferred from the drive into RAM (The amount and condition of data stored on the drive **will** effect how fast it is transferred to RAM).

OK, so we are clear, RAM and hard drives are entirely different entities serving different functions.

If only life and computers were that simple! Memory is relatively limited. What happens when it is all used up? The computer does not simply stop. No, it makes room for new data by transferring some older data from memory to a special file on the hard drive called “virtual memory”. Great solution, but what if the computer now needs the info in virtual memory? It has to download something else to the hard drive and retrieve the first bit. Remember that compared to RAM the drive is very sloooooooow; too much reliance on virtual memory and your machine changes from Jet to horse and buggy.

That is why you frequently see the advice that the easiest way to increase machine speed is to add memory. If you are struggling along on 64MB, or even 128MB, think about adding some RAM. It is inexpensive and easy to do. Go to www.crucial.com to check prices. They even have an interactive program to identify exactly the RAM you need.

How ram works: <http://computer.howstuffworks.com/ram2.htm>

DELTA Magazine Warehouse

1-800-SAVE-SAVE

Delta offers great prices on both new and renewal subscriptions to most any (not just computer) magazine, AND gives the Club a rebate. Please check them out and mention the club's name so we get our cut!

PC Mag—\$25/22 issues

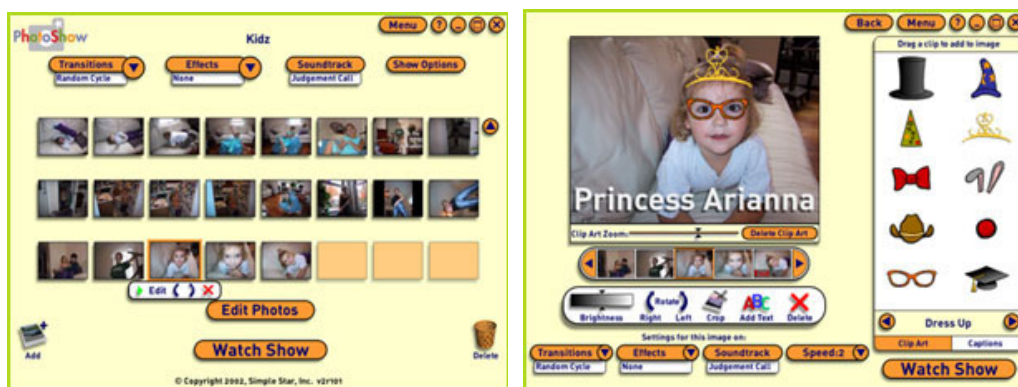
Time—\$38/54 issues

Dell Xword—\$14/12 issues

PhotoShow^{2.1} By Richard Webster

I am always on the lookout for creative ways to share digital photographs. While searching for a slide show program with more flexibility than Adobe Photoshop Album, I happened on PhotoShow. I found the program very intuitive to use and it performed flawlessly.

You simply select the photos you would like in your slide show and then drag and drop them in the desired order. The naming and adding of captions to each slide is quick and easy. You can select sound tracks, transitions, time for each slide, and photo effects. You can also add fun animated clip art.

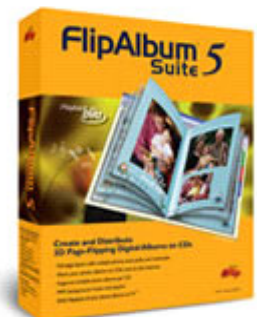


Once completed there are a number of publishing options. You can burn a CD which will play on anyone's computer or you can upload it to their website or your own web site. You can also burn a CD for viewing on a TV via a DVD player. The caveat here is that not all DVD players have the ability to play this type of media. It worked fine on mine and the quality is quite good. You can also make your slide show your screen saver.

PhotoShow is currently only available via download from www.simplestar.com. You can try it free for 15 days and if you want to purchase, the price is \$29.99. Future plans call for a retail version through Broderbund.

FlipAlbum (Continued from page 2)

FlipAlbum 5.0, without the C/D burning feature, can be downloaded at <http://www.flipalbum.com> for only \$20. The full "Suite" can be downloaded for \$60, but can be found for less online. Discounts are available for upgrades. A trial version can be downloaded at the home site or at <http://www.flipcity.com/> where you also can download the free viewer and a number of demo albums. For registered users there also is a clipart library, a number of user manuals, and a user forum. At <http://www.fliplibrary.com> there are thousands (literally) of albums for viewing.



Convert your old LP's and 78's to MP3!

By Bruce Fries

With a good sound recording and editing program you can take those old scratchy LPs and 78s and record them through your sound card, filter out all those clicks and pops, and then burn the music to an audio CD or store it as an MP3 file. The following process also works for recording audio from other external sources, such as cassette tapes and microphones. Use a shareware program like CoolEdit 2000 (www.cooledit.com).

Connect Your PC to Your Stereo The first step is to connect an adapter cable from the tape out (or record) jack of your stereo receiver to the line input of your sound card. These cables can be purchased from most consumer electronics stores, such as Radio Shack or Best Buy. Newer turntables with line-out jacks can be connected directly to the sound card.



Set the Sampling Rate and Resolution The next step is to create a new file in the sound-editing program. If you intend to create an audio CD, you must choose a sample rate of 44,100, two channels (stereo) and a resolution of 16 bits. This will create a file that takes up approximately 10MB of space for every minute recorded, so you will need plenty of free disk space. For voice or music to be embedded in a Web page, you can use a lower sample rate, a single channel and 8 bit resolution to create a much smaller file.

Set the Recording Level Now play part of the track and use the Volume Control program to set your recording levels. In Windows, the first screen of the Volume Control program is for playback levels. To get to the Recording Level screen, choose Properties from the Options menu and select the checkbox for Recording. Make sure the checkbox for the Line-In volume control is also selected. Click OK and the Record Level screen will appear. Set the Monitor Record Level option in your recording program to On, and, as the track plays, adjust the slider for Line-In so the level meter shows a strong signal, but not so strong as any peaks cause the meter to go into the red area.

Record the Audio Lift the stylus and queue up the beginning of the track. Click the Record button in your recording program and then lower the needle. Make sure no other programs are running while you record. When the track is finished, *click* the Stop button and lift up the stylus.

Remove Clicks, Pops or Hiss Play back the track to hear how it sounds. Trim off any silence at the beginning and ends of the track. If you have an audio clean-up plug-in, use it to automatically remove any clicks, pops and hiss. If you don't have an audio clean-up plug-in, you can zoom in to each click or pop, select an adjacent cycle of the waveform at the zero crossing points, copy it to the clipboard, and then paste it over the cycle that contains the click. Listen to the track again and *run* the hiss removal if necessary.

Normalize the Volume Normalize the track to adjust the volume up or down so that all tracks will play at a similar level. A value of 97% usually works well if your software normalizes by peak level. More advanced programs, such as CoolEdit Pro, can normalize by average levels, which is much more accurate. At this point, you may want to add a fade-in or fade-out. Some CD recording programs, such as Nero (www.nero.com) can automatically cross fade tracks as the CD is recorded.

(Continued on page 7)

Watch out for FIZZER – Another Dangerous Computer Worm

The Fizzer worm may reach epidemic proportions if more of us do not protect our computers. It immediately disables any antivirus and firewall protection installed on the infected computer. It is polymorphic, in that the code can mutate, generating different digital signatures possibly capable of sneaking by recently updated antivirus software. Fizzer is also capable of “dropping” varying code on infected computers, causing a variety of problems. Antivirus publishers have found that some of the malicious code is itself “buggy”, and capable of crashing a computer.

Fizzer arrives with a “spoofed” or forged “From:” address, concealing the real source of the infection. Since the real sender is difficult to identify, those whose computer is infected likely will not inform the owner of the infected computer. The subject line and message are variable, as are the names and file types of the dangerous payload. The payload will carry any one of the common executable file extensions such as .exe, .com, .scr, and .pif. The filenames selected by Fizzer are often the names of legitimate files found on the infected computer. The message bearing the payload may also appear as a “FWD:” (forwarded message) from an acquaintance, as the worm may hijack both the “TO:” and “FROM:” addresses from the infected address book.

Most of the antivirus websites have a free utility available for download, which can detect and kill most versions of Fizzer. I strongly recommend that one of the free online virus scans be run frequently to detect and kill anything that may have slipped by the antivirus software installed on your computer. Many of these free utilities are listed on my website at

www.mycomputershow.com

This article was excerpted from a review written by Ira Wilsker and is brought to you by the Editorial Board of APCUG.

Convert LP's *(Continued from page 6)*

Save to a WAV or MP3 File If you intend to record the track to an audio CD, save it to a PCM format WAV file (PC) or an AIFF file (Mac). Save the file to MP3 format if you want to play it from your computer or on a portable player.

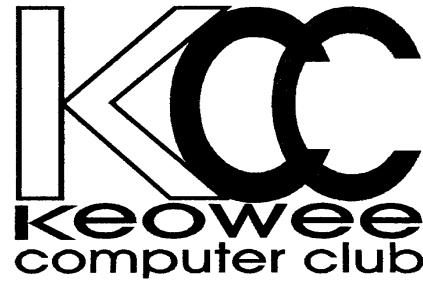
Record an Audio CD Now you can use a CD-Recordable drive to create a Red Book audio CD that can be played in most CD players. Avoid using CDRW media because it will not be compatible with most CD players. It pays to experiment with a short clip before you record and cleanup an entire album. Find out which settings work best for different types of recordings and write these down for future reference. Many of these old 78s and LPs are irreplaceable, so it pays to preserve them in a digital format. If you ever have recorded a cassette or reel-to-reel tape, you should be comfortable with this process and delighted with the ability to improve the quality of the audio.

Bruce Fries is a writer, technology consultant and entrepreneur who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is an associate of the Audio Engineering Society and the founder of TeamCorn Books, a customer-focused publishing company that combines the best of traditional print publishing with new media, such as e-books and the Internet. Reprinted from the

The Last Thing!

The Washington Post recently published a contest for readers in which they were asked to supply alternate meanings for various words. The following were some of the winning entries:

- Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
- Carcinoma (n.), a valley in California, notable for its heavy smog.
- Willy-nilly (adj), impotent
- Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.
- Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightie.
- Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.
- Coffee (n.), a person who is coughed upon.
- Flatulence (n.) the emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
- Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.
- Rectitude (n.), the formal, dignified demeanor assumed by a Proctologist immediately before he examines you.
- Circumvent (n.), the opening in the front of boxer shorts.
- Frisbeetarianism (n.), The belief that, when you die, your soul goes up on the roof and gets stuck there.



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