



MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

Picnic This Month! Saturday, May 14th, networking beginning around 2:00 PM, eat around 5:00 PM.

Lane Garret's home
8502 E. Cactus Wren Road
Scottsdale, AZ

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Vaughn Treude

This month, as we always do in May, we will be holding our annual picnic in lieu of our regular monthly meeting. Once again it will be held in Lane Garret's back yard. Lane lives in a nice, well-established part of Scottsdale, not far from the Pavillions shopping center on the 101 freeway. His yard is spacious with lots of good shade trees (a necessity for this area in May!) Many thanks to Lane for letting us use it again. His yard is certainly much more hospitable (and much more centrally located) than mine is! The picnic will be held on Saturday, May 14th. Networking begins at 2 PM and we'll probably eat around 5. The meal will be a barbecue, with the group providing meat (such as burgers and brats), buns, and soda and water, as well as paper plates and plasticware. Anything else you want to eat or drink you have to bring yourself. Traditionally we've also done the potluck thing,

with each person bringing a hot dish, a salad, a dessert, or whatever. It's also a good idea to bring a folding chair as we often run out of seats. Spouses and families are definitely invited, or bring a guest that you might want to introduce to the PACN.

Directions: From Indian Bend Road and Pima Road, go west one block. Take the first left onto 86th Street south to Cactus Wren Road. The place is on the northwest corner of 85th Street.

Next week I'm going to be a special awards judge at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF.) I'm not saying I'm a science wizard, but it wasn't easy for them to find judges that could work during a weekday. But I feel I'm qualified because I was one of those nerdy kids who did science projects every year, even when I wasn't required to do them! The fair is taking place at the Phoenix Civic Plaza Convention Center. Judging is on Tuesday and Wednesday and the fair is open to the public on Thursday, May 12th from 9 AM to 9PM and Friday, May 13th from 9AM to noon. There will be fourteen categories of projects: behavioral sciences, biochemistry, botany, chemistry, computer science, earth science, engineering, environmental sciences, medicine and health, microbiology, physics, space science, and zoology. My kid insists that he wants to go see it, which is a good sign. :-). Hopefully some of you will be able to stop by.

I was going to report on a new version of Linux I was trying (Xandros, which I believe is now owned by Corel) which appears to be a really good, user-friendly version.

Unfortunately the installation on my notebook got messed up somehow and wouldn't boot! Whether I messed up the multi-boot settings (I have 5 operating systems on this thing) or whether it somehow happened when I upgraded Windows 2000, I don't know.

There's yet another version of Linux called Ubuntu which is getting raves throughout the Linux community. I've downloaded that but haven't tried it yet. It's supposed to be based on Debian, the "purest" (most dedicatedly open-source) of the Linux distributions. I hope to have tried it by next month so I can write about my experiences.

I'm also trying the ".Net" version of Visual Basic, which I'm using for a new contract. There have been some major changes to VB; it took me two days to upgrade the code from VB6. (The reason I upgraded was because the existing code was VB6 but I only had VB5, and upgrading to .Net was cheaper.) In general I think most of the changes were for the better, and will make the language more robust – but I'll know much better about that a month from now.

See you all at the picnic!

Vaughn

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by Clark Jones

I just glanced at last May's edition of *The Advisor* to get Lane's address, since Vaughn

hadn't included it in his message, and I noticed that last year's had "no message submitted", so our current President has a better record than his predecessor on that count! (Maybe it was the fact that when I sent Vaughn a reminder, I suggested that I could probably find some words from "Dubya" that would fit the title "President's Message".)

I have another change in the Linux world to report: I've used the Mandrake version of Linux for many years, and they've just recently merged with another company and become Mandriva (pronounced "man-dree-vah"). I haven't tried their new offerings yet.

A few months ago I sprung for a full copy of Adobe Photoshop CS. Now I'm going to have to decide whether to "upgrade" to CS 2. Since I'm starting to think of ways to make my photo stuff pay for itself, I'll probably go ahead and do it.

Something that came out within the past couple of days is that North Korea may be about to test a nuclear weapon. It seems to me that this could be a real problem to us. Once they have them, they may use them. There's a pretty good chance that Japan could continue to have the dubious honor of being the only country to have ever been on the receiving end of a nuke – there are still a lot of hard feelings between the Koreans and the Japanese. Or they could use it against South Korea. Either way, what do you think the odds are of China taking our side? It would sure be disruptive of our supply lines for manufactured goods... I certainly hope that a peaceful resolution can be obtained.

See you at the picnic!

Clark

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