



Congratulations ed Rubin and Leisure bytes

Winners of an APCUG Fall 2003 Jerry Award

Each year the APCUG holds a contest for the best newsletters produced by their member groups. They have several categories including small groups, medium groups and large groups. Our LWPC Users Group is included in the large group. This year editor, Ed Rubin, submitted LEISURE BYTES and it won **third place** in the large group category. The other winners in this group were the Melbourne P C Users Group in Melbourne, Australia, **first place** and the North Orange County P C Users Group in California, **second place**. If you are interested in the complete results of this competition the web site is: www.apcug.org.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Better Visibility / Hearing in Our Learning Center

Conducting classes to help our members learn about computers has always been a fundamental activity of the PC Club. For the students, a clear view of the teaching screen and being able to hear the instructor are fundamental needs for a good learning experience.

When we moved into our new and larger Learning Center facility in 2002, we expanded the class size to twenty students. While the room was larger, it was not designed as a classroom and the visibility and acoustics were limited. To help, we installed a larger screen, but the computer towers on the desktops and the necessary close proximity of desks continued to limit student visibility. To help everyone hear the instructor, we installed a portable microphone, but the sound delivery was not well distributed.

In 2003 your PC Club acted to improve these conditions. A high quality 4500 lumen projector was purchased giving a 30% brighter image. Additionally, the projector was mounted to the ceiling, freeing floor space and allowing a more open arrangement of student desks. With more space between desks, we were able to move the student computer towers off the desktops onto the floor. At the same time, the teacher's station was moved from the side to the front of the room, with all controls consolidated at that point. Finally, new speakers were installed in the ceiling for better sound distribution. Together, these changes have significantly improved student visibility of the teaching screen, improved the quality of the sound, and provided more space for each student.

All of these improvements were funded out of the PC Club treasury. Club funds come from membership fees, class enrollment fees, and donations for services. All of these funds are returned to members (and the community) through new computers and software, computer maintenance and daily operating expenses, and facility improvements like the ones described above.

I hope all of you will take the opportunity to stop by the Learning Center and take a look at these improvements. Better yet, I hope you will take one of our classes or attend a Special Interest Group (SIG) session to upgrade and expand your skills. You may take a look at the class offerings and SIGs on our web page at <http://www.lwpcug.com>, or get further information in our Leisure Bytes, in our email announcements, or by calling Kaye Hammerman at 859-1301.

Roger

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