



Quill & Disk

SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CHAPTER

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Wonders of WebWorks Publisher 2003

Inside this issue:

June Meeting	1
Schedule of area STC chapter meetings	1
Election candidates	2
Conferences on a shoe-string budget	2
Notices	3
Classes	
Sites To See	

Quadralay's own Andrew VanConas, VP of Services, will give a demonstration of WebWorks Publisher 2000 for our June meeting.

About the Presentation

WebWorks Publisher 2003 is the only way to produce multiple formats efficiently. "Write once, publish anywhere" is a model that not only serves as a philosophy of efficiency, but also acts as a method to universally control content revisions and preserve look and feel.

In this session, we will introduce WebWorks Publisher 2003 and all of its new features, as well as focus on

single-source publishing technical documentation from FrameMaker and MS Word to output print, Internet, and numerous online help formats, using WebWorks Publisher 2003.

About The Speaker

Andrew VanConas is a key member of the WebWorks Team. His primary focus is on helping WebWorks Publisher users derive the maximum value and productivity improvement in their customized online publishing projects.

With more than 14 years of experience in technical writing and online help system

delivery, Andrew is a recognized expert in ePublishing techniques, tools and best practices.

During his career, he has implemented numerous HTML-based help and online documentation systems for companies such as Raytheon, QAD, Agilent, Compaq and Dell, handling extremely challenging and complex large-scale projects such as a single-source system with over 25 FrameMaker books that had to be published to print, pdf, intranet and Web site as

See "Meeting," page 4

Quote of the Month

"If you make people think they're thinking, they'll love you; But if you really make them think, they'll hate you."

- Don Marquis (1878 - 1937)

STC Meetings: Go Early, Go Often

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- No July meeting
- No August meeting
- September 22

Meeting are held the fourth Monday of each month at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 700 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia.

The Los Angeles Chapter has moved next season's meetings to the second Tuesday of each month to avoid conflicts with other chapters and related associations.

As a handy reference for you, here is a general meeting schedule for some

area STC chapters.

Inland Empire and Orange County chapters:

3rd Thursday of the month

San Gabriel Valley chapter:

4th Monday of the month

San Fernando Valley chapter:

3rd Tuesday of the month

San Diego chapter: 2nd Wednesday of the month

Santa Barbara chapter:

4th Thursday of the month

Attending an STC Conference on a Shoestring Budget

By Kathy Bine
Washington, DC Chapter

Let's face it--companies are reducing their training budgets. During these austere times, the technical writer must get more creative than ever to participate in the annual conference. An informal survey of attendees at the 50th Annual Conference in Dallas showed that many people paid their own way to the conference. There are numerous ways to reduce the cost to attend the conference.

The most important tactic: start early. Ask your boss as soon as possible, explaining how the knowledge you gain will change his or her life. Explain how you plan to shop early for tickets and hotels, and even propose a presentation which, if accepted, will further reduce expenses! Present a list of the expenses if you made no effort to cut costs, and the expense you anticipate after all your cost-cutting.

If your manager is still uncertain,

consider offering to pay for the airplane ticket if the company pays for the hotel and registration.

Here are ideas for cost-effective transportation, lodging, registration, and meals, and desperate measures if you cannot attend at all.

- Shop for your plane ticket early.
- Ask friends and family members for rides to the airport, or split the cab fare with a fellow STC member.
- Avoid renting a car.
- Stay at a budget hotel, or share hotel room costs with a friend from your chapter.
- Propose a presentation to give at the conference for a registration discount. August is the deadline for proposals.
- Register a day or two before the early registration period ends to get the best price, and keep your cash in hand longer.

See "Shoestring," page 4

The Envelope, Please...

One important agenda item for the chapter's June meeting is an election of chapter officers.

The candidates are:

President: **Barry Dixon**

1st Vice President-Programs: **Cindy Kight**

2nd Vice President-Membership: **Charly Sanders**

Secretary/Treasurer: **Open**

It's not too late to throw your hat in the ring for an open position! Contact outgoing President Kathy Broman at kabroman@aol.com if interested.



SGV STC Council



Kathy Broman, President

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Lynn Sexton, 1st VP - Programs

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Charly A. Sanders, 2nd VP

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Notices

Dum, Dum, Dum, Dum...

Congratulations are in order to former SGV STC member and VP of Programs (now a member of Orange County chapter), Maria Christophel. Maria married Thomas Barich in Laguna Woods, California on June 21. Best wishes from the chapter!

Nano Nano

Nano what?

Nanotechnology—the study of near-microscopic robotics—now has its own convention right here in Pasadena. The Caltech/MIT Enterprise Forum presents the Nano Republic Conference 2003, a one-day event featuring world-class speakers and highlighting California-wide nanotechnology efforts.

The conference is on July 10 at the Pasadena Convention Center. Registration is \$295. For details and to register, go to:

www.nanorepublic.com



Classes

Region 8 Conference:

So Go Already!

We dedicated this space in last month's newsletter to promote the Region 8 conference in Las Vegas, but we feel it merits another mention.

The conference is July 20-22 at the Imperial Palace. It's only \$205 for STC members; an all-day workshops is only an additional \$120. For information, or to register, go to:

www.stcregion8conference.org

UC Riverside Extension

Summer Quarter Class

Instruction on using RoboHelp HTML to create Microsoft HTML Help, the standard for Windows XP, Windows 2000 and Windows NT 5.

July 12-Aug. 9 Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon. \$310. To register, call (909) 787-4111 or go to:

www.ucrextension.net



Sites to See

Dallas Conference Session Materials Posted

Many presenters from the annual conference last May have generously posted their presentations and supplemental materials to the STC Web site. (Note: The page requires you to log in to the STC Web site.)

www.stc.org/50thConferencesMaterials.asp

Shopping Abley

With such a soft economy and job market, saving money may not just be a good idea—it's a necessity. One particular site is a gold mine for bargain-hunters, especially for computers and peripherals, electronic devices, and writable media such as CD-Rs:

www.ableshoppers.com

Not Pretty, But Helpful

Craig's List started in the Bay Area as an interactive bulletin board community. It's now in several cities, and has an active job board for writing editing in L.A.:

losangeles.craigslist.org/wri

June Tech Tip: Tips for Getting Started With XML

Need to get started with XML and structure, and need some examples?

Check out the examples that install with XML-related products. For example, TurboXML ships with DocBook, SMIL, UML, ChemicalML, and many other samples.

Also, check <http://msdn.microsoft.com/code/default.aspx> for code samples.

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"Shoestring," from page 2

- Go for one day, rather than the entire conference for lower registration fees.
- Attend all the free events, including the receptions and vendor exhibition.
- Bring your own breakfasts and snacks.
- Pick conference lunches and dinners to attend.

If all else fails...

- Arrange for an attendee to buy and ship to you the Proceedings on CD-ROM (\$20 plus about 80 cents postage).
- Write to the presenters whose sessions appear interesting and ask them for their materials (free!)
- Download the presentation from the conference Web site. These often represent the handouts that speakers provided, and are

"Meeting," from page 1

well as incorporated into an online help system using WebWorks Help. Andrew's expertise covers a variety of ePublishing systems, with a specialization in WebWorks Publisher for more than 8 years. Today, Andrew regularly presents and teaches WebWorks Publisher to users throughout the US. Additionally, Andrew is responsible for Quadralay's enterprise solutions WebWorks.

About The Location

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Monday, June 23 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 700 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia.

For reservations, please email lynnksexton@earthlink.net. (However, walk-ins are always welcome!)

The cost is \$15 for STC members, and \$17 for non-members. A delicious buffet dinner will be served, and the hotel provides free parking. Payment will be accepted at the door in the form of check or cash payable to SGV STC.

Directions:

To get to the hotel, take the 210 (Foothill Freeway) and exit at Huntington Drive. Turn left from the off-ramp and look for the hotel a few blocks down to your right (on the south side of Huntington Drive).

The hotel phone number is (626) 357-5211.

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