

On the Docket for the

General Meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Creative Labs:

More than sound cards...

ZEN Vision, MicroPhoto, more...

For many years Creative Labs was famous as the creator of the Sound Blaster™ audio cards. Now they have expanded to include a whole range of cutting-edge multimedia products, including MP3 and Video players with replaceable batteries.

Sound and Photos

The Zen Vision is a 30 gigabyte portable device, smaller than a pocket mystery book, which can clearly display photos and play and store music and videos.



The very sharp OLED (Organic Light-Emitting Diode) screen is 3.7 inches, and the Zen Vision can read directly from Compaq flash camera cards without a computer. A whole library of books from Shakespeare to the Da Vinci Code will fit in your pocket with room to spare. Well, while you are at it, you can load 4,000 songs and listen all day. The removable battery is rated for 15 hours. (Does anyone over the age of 15 actually have 4,000 songs?) At three minutes per song that adds up to 200 hours of music without repeating a single song. No problem—just take along a spare battery or two. Unlike some portable music systems, Zen Vision uses batteries that can be changed by the user. Oh by the way, that is 4,000 tunes in the shirt pocket device. The Zen Vision holds enough to start a radio station.

Not having 4,000 tunes myself, what interests me is the photo display and portable storage in this and other Zen devices. Once I got serious about digital photography I found that I was taking many more photos than I did with film. Well, why not? Once you bought the

camera and the memory card, the electrons were free. Ah—but here is the rub: when traveling it is easy to buy more film, but not necessarily more memory cards. So I carried a laptop and downloaded the cards. That works, but one of the Creative's photo gadgets can store and show a lot of images in a very small, lightweight package. The Zen Vision has a 30 GIG hard drive with a screen. I consider it essential that you can view the transferred photo before deleting the image from the card. You can plug in a compact flash card directly without a computer. This is preferable to using a cable to transfer files from the camera to the Zen or a laptop because it saves the camera battery and is faster.

As if this were not enough, Zen Vision has a built-in radio so that you can record Brian Lehrer, or the Personal Computer Show live. Leave voice memos to yourself, watch 120 hours of videos, or about 15,000 WMA's (Windows Media Audio), make slide shows, and transfer tunes from many online music stores. No, you can't carry the kitchen sink, but you can include good photos of many of them.

Either the Zen Vision or the smaller palm-sized models can become very effective portable photo albums. Aside from proud parents' photos, there are many business or professional uses for this feature. Photographers, designers, architects, and salesmen can always have their portfolio in their pockets.

more...

We need to put up and take down the chairs ourselves. Please plan to come early or stay after the meeting to help!

Inside NYPC

Gotham New York
Personal Computer Corp

Volume 13 issue 8
September 2006

General Meeting Info

When: Wednesday, September 20th, 2006

Where: Judson Memorial Church
Meeting Hall, 239 Thompson St,
Southern Edge of Washington
Square Park (bet W 4 & 3 Sts)

Schedule: 6:00pm Doors open
6:30pm Q&A, Announcements
7:00pm Presentation

Subway: N,R to 8th St; A,C,E,FV to W
4th St; or 1,2,9 to Christopher
St/Sheridan Sq(*check with
MTA*)

Path: Take 33rd St line to 9th St Sta

NYPC's General Meetings are free and open to the public. To check on the NYPC General Meeting or get up-to-the-minute details on speakers, go to our website, www.nypc.org.

NOTE Different Location:

- This location is wheelchair accessible.
- We normally meet in PS 41, but the Board of Ed is holding citywide parent-teacher conferences at this time.

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AwardWinning Products

Creative Lab products have been collecting rewards: CES best in show for 2006 for ZEN Vision:M; Australian *PC World* Top Buy Award for Zen MicroPhoto, and more. *PC Magazine*, August 22, 2006, gave the Zen MicroPhoto and the Zen V Plus a rating of 4 out of a possible 5 points.

Many Products PLUS A Drawing

Pamela Szabo will be our speaker. I have heard from Pam every couple of weeks and each time she has more goodies to show. These include the Zen Vision, Zen Vision:M, Zen MicroPhoto and Zen V Plus. She also plans to bring her laptop with the Audigy 2 PCMCIA and the Live Motion Webcam.

Pam is bringing two X-Fi Extreme Music sound cards to raffle at the meeting. One raffle will be open to all comers, and the second raffle will be reserved for people who join or renew their membership. If you have renewed within the past month (Aug. 20-Sept. 20), you will be eligible for this special limited raffle. Pam will also have a bag of Goodies with some smaller items and T-Shirts.

I get lost trying to keep track of all of Creative's many products, but you can learn more at their website, <http://www.creative.com>. By William Ginsberg, program@nypc.org



The NYPC Raffle

The drawing for the NYPC raffle prizes was held at the July General Meeting. There was much excitement as the winning tickets were drawn by our speaker, Jim Duboise from Tekserve.

And the winners were:

- Grand Prize: Compaq Presario V200Z Laptop
Dan Morgan
- Second Prize: \$99 Gift Certificate Towards ANY NYPC class
- Third Prize: PC Tune-Up at our Tune and Teach Clinic

Congratulations to all the winners!

Many Thanks!

Many thanks are due to all who helped make the raffle a successful fund-raising event:

- All the SIG Chairs who promoted the raffle at their meetings
- All the NYPC members who sold—and—bought tickets
- All the nonmembers who purchased tickets, perhaps learning about NYPC for the first time

Thanks, Fred!

Thanks to Fred Kahn—especially Fred Kahn—who had the idea for the raffle and pushed for it with confidence that it would succeed.

It was Fred who purchased the laptop, single-handedly designed, printed, and assembled the raffle books, and painstakingly kept precise records of ticket and books sold. Fred put an immense effort into this raffle—and it paid off for NYPC.

When you see him at a SIG or Committee Meeting or General Meeting, go up to him and say,

Thanks, Fred!

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