

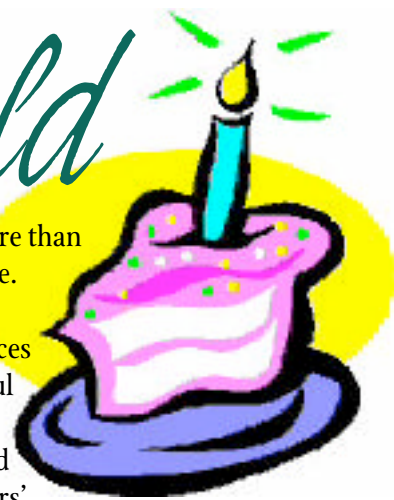
# California Computer Care

News,  
Views,  
Tips and  
Cool Techniques  
for CCC Members

August 1999  
Vol. II, No. 5

We  
speak  
Geek,  
so you  
don't  
have to.

## One Year Old



Thank you! California Computer Care is one year old. This has come about because of your support. Thank you all!

The first year is always the toughest year for a new business. CCC has weathered its first year and I'm looking forward to growing with new services in the second.

**Changes.** Demand for CCC services has been overwhelming! I am looking into hiring an assistant and, if the right person is found, increasing the number of service calls possible each week. Until then, I will be restricting new memberships in favor of existing members. Please bear with me through these growing pains.

Open hours are also changing. Mondays, I get, by far, the most phone messages. So, I will now officially be in my office on Mondays, from 9 am to 8 pm (barring emergencies), to receive your calls. Weekday working hours are now 9 am to 8 pm, Saturdays, 9 am to 6 pm. Sundays, closed, except by special appointment.

One of the hardest things to estimate for a new business is overhead and I'm afraid

that I came more than a bit short there. Add to this increased gas prices (I drive an awful lot!), four telephone lines and seven computers' worth of electricity (boy, does that dial on the electric meter spin!). It adds up to increased costs that I didn't foresee.

Unfortunately, this means service prices need to go up. Below is a listing of prices old and new. Member benefits will not change. You still get the first half hour free on every Service Call, a 10% discount on all services, 30 minutes of free phone calls each month and unlimited free email help. Also, members save money by not having to pay full hour minimums, as non-members do. Instead, you are billed for the actual time on site (rounded to the nearest tenth of an hour). Please contact me if you have any question or suggestions.

*Thanks, again!*

### California Computer Care Services and Pricing (per hour)

New Prices Effective October 1, 1999

Service	Old Price	New Price
On-site Consulting, Repair, Installation, Upgrades	\$50.00	\$55.00
Phone and Email support (non-members)	\$50.00	\$55.00
• Members receive ½ hour free phone support and unlimited free email support each month.		
On-site Training	\$35.00	\$40.00
Research (non-members \$35.00/hour)	\$20.00	\$25.00
Purchase assistance (non-members \$35.00/hour)	\$20.00	\$25.00
Equipment transportation (non-members \$35.00/hour)	FREE	FREE
Oversize Printing (full color, up to 17"x22")	Quote	Quote

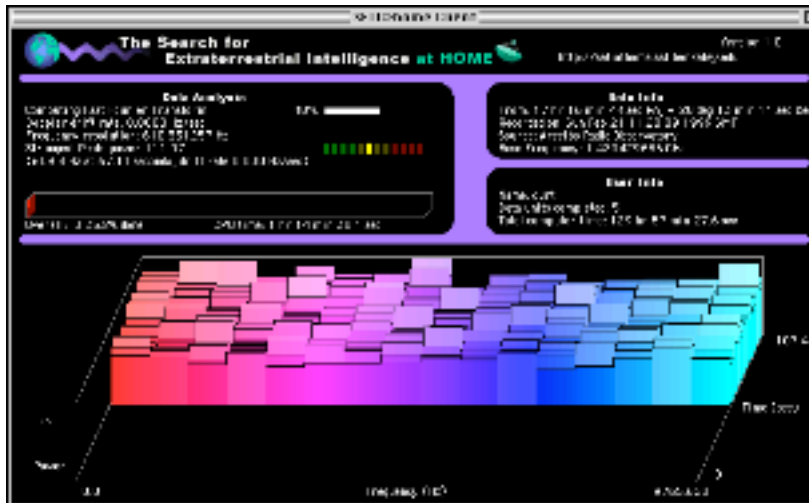
## Help ET Phone You

Here's your chance to help out in what may be the most important question of our age: *Are We Alone?* The SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) project hopes to answer this question.

Thirty years ago astronomer Frank Drake devised a formula for estimating the number of other civilizations in our galaxy. By his figures, there should be millions! But, how to know?

**ET Phone Us!** Radio, TV and wireless telephone transmissions pass through space very easily. Planet Earth has been broadcasting our presence to the universe since the 1920's; SETI's hope is that other civilizations on other worlds would do the same (unintentionally or intentionally). If so, wouldn't it be great to eavesdrop on some alien day trader's stock tips or the Bug Eyed Monster version of *I Love Lucy*?

The problem is that there are billions of stars to check and while radio telescopes are able to gather huge chunks of data, there isn't enough computer time to analyze it. Here's where we can help. Join the *SETI@Home* project by downloading the free software from



<http://www.setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu>.

When you run this application, you will be analyzing radio signals from far off stars, looking for signs of intelligent life. If you like, the *SETI@Home* software can run automatically as a screen saver when your Mac is idle putting its power to use when you are not actively working. I very much enjoy seeing the *Star Trek* inspired graphics as my main Mac, George III, creates colorful graphs of the radio signals being analyzed.

## August Tip —

Most of us own ZIP drives, they're the most popular way to back up our precious files. Well, Iomega (the maker of ZIP and its big brother Jaz, drives) has created a new backup utility that makes backing up your most important files painless and automatic. They call it *QuikSync* and, glory be, it's FREE! Here's how it works:

- 1) After installing the software, you pop in a ZIP or Jaz disk and assign it as the *QuikSync* disk.
- 2) Create a new folder, title it any name you like and fill it with files that you want to be sure to back up (Quicken accounts, your new novel, school work, genealogies, etc.).
- 3) Tell *QuikSync* to use this folder.

Now, *QuikSync* will check this folder every 10 minutes for new files and saved changes. If something is added or changed, *QuikSync* backs up the changes. So, no matter what happens, you can't lose more than 10 minutes of work! What a relief!

Get *QuikSync* for FREE at: <http://www.iomega.com/software/index.html>.

California Computer Care

P.O. Box 9445

Santa Rosa, CA 95405

(800) 540-8989

Like an  
auto club  
for your  
computer.