Social Networking

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Who said being a networking professional has to be all work? In addition to providing networking professionals with opportunities to improve their skills and increase their knowledge, Novell User Group International (NUI) understands the importance of relaxing and getting away from the pressure of work. This article features three events, each held by a Novell User Group, that enable user group members to relax, socialize, and have fun—all in the name of work.

PNUG GOLF CLASSIC

Members of the Phoenix Novell User Group (PNUG), vendors, and other enthusiasts enjoy an annual golf tournament, giving participants a chance to decompress from the workplace for a few hours. The golf tournament was first held in 1989 with a group of 16 people. Today, the golf tournament has grown to nearly 150 participants each year.

After enjoying a delightful breakfast in the open air, participants team up for a shotgun start and scramble play. PNUG’s sponsors (Novell, A Ilero, A ttachmate, Bryan Vincent A ssociates, Hall Kinion, Romanoff Technologies, Compaq, Computer A ssociates, New H orizons Learning Center, and XIO tech Corp.) donate a variety of exciting prizes. Participants can win these prizes at different holes throughout the course. Everyone leaves the tournament with an armload of gifts.

Each of the last two years has also included an exciting raffle event: A Ilero has graciously donated a complete set of Ping golf clubs, which retail for nearly U.S. $2,000. A good part of the proceeds from this raffle is given to a local charity. For example, proceeds have recently been given to homes for battered women, a school for homeless children, and a home for children with terminal illnesses.

PNUG also invites the Billy Casper Youth Foundation to sponsor a “hole-in-one” contest. Proceeds from this contest benefit underprivileged kids in a variety of different ways, from dental care to sports camps.

The 11th Annual PNUG Golf Classic will be held on November 9, 2000, at Coyote Lakes Golf Course, one of the finest desert golf courses in Phoenix’s West Valley. (For more information, see the PNUG web site at www.pnug.org/conf/conf.htm.)

CDNUG RIVER CRUISE

The Fourth Annual Great River Expo, Millennium Edition, was held on July 7, 2000. This annual river cruise along the Hudson is a great way for the Capital District Network Users Group (CDNUG) in Albany, New York, to do some personal networking.

At this year’s river cruise, people on board had a great time eating, dancing, and generally making merry. A local disc jockey was on board to keep people laughing and dancing, while a smorgasbord of wonderful food and beverages was served throughout the evening.

This year’s river cruise was sponsored by A mazon.com, Data Systems Network Corp., Hewlett-Packard, IKON Office Solutions, Technology Services, NUI and Novell, and Panduit. The door prizes and awards presentation were big hits. Outgoing President M ichael Schwab presented two awards: The first was the Presenter of the Year Award, which was given to Jim Burghart of IKON Office Systems—Technology Services for his presentation on BorderManager. The second award was the traditional presentation of a gavel to incoming President Scott Brennan. (For more information about the cruise, visit www.cdnug.org/cruise.htm.)

SNENU G HOLIDAY PARTY

The members of the Southern New England Network Users Group (SNENUG) know that their group has an important technical role, but they also know that the social aspect of their group is important. For example, at monthly meetings, SNENUG members take a break between group business and the guest speaker so they can socialize with each other. After every meeting, members usually continue their discussions in the parking lot. Being able to share time with people who face the same challenges that you do in your job is invaluable.

The largest meeting of the year is SNENU G’s annual holiday party in December. To keep costs down and to allow members to meet at the regular meeting place, SNENUG uses a caterer to bring in holiday fare. Because the holiday party is always well-attended, getting a vendor to sponsor the event is easy. For example, Intel sponsored last year’s event.

Part of the spirit of the holiday season is gathering with friends and family. SNENUG likes to think that that spirit has developed among SNENUG members. After all, the reason the holiday party is so popular is because members can socialize with each other. Of course, the great food also helps!

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