



## Winter 2019

## Association of Personal Computer User Groups

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### A word from the President of APCUG



As we are beginning a new year, we are looking forward to working with our member groups to better meet their needs. We have updated our Speakers Bureau offerings with new presentations. What would you like to see us offer this year to help you do a better job of meeting your member's needs?

We have more information-packed Virtual Technology Conferences planned for this year. Check out our web site for the dates. We plan on increasing our presence on Facebook and other social media sites. Please follow us on Facebook to keep abreast of all the news and technology happening around us

APCUG offers many benefits and they are updated often. Check our website out to see all of them. If APCUG can help you and your group in any way, please feel free to contact your Regional Advisor or anyone else on either Board. All our email addresses are in Reports and on the website at [www.apcug2.org](http://www.apcug2.org).

I look forward to you participating in the Roundtable at the February 9 VTC, Track 2, Session 3. We are using Zoom and will be able to see each other and learn about program ideas, successes and lessons learned. This will be your opportunity to let us know how APCUG can help you help your members get the most out of your group

See you at the VTC

David Williams

## APCUG FINANCIAL SUMMARY

**Ray Baxter, Treasurer**

[rbaxter \(at\) apcug.org](mailto:rbaxter@apcug.org)



### FINANCIAL SUMMARY DECEMBER 2018

<b>PayPal</b>	Balance	11/30/2018	\$1,597.75
	Membership Dues		1,200.00
	PayPal Fees		\$ (33.80)
	Balance	12/31/2018	<u>\$ 2,763.95</u>
<b>Bank of America</b>	Balance Checking	11/30/2018	\$ 3,257.15
	Membership Dues		1,900.00
	Reversal bad image on check (recredited January 2019)		(50.00)
<u>Expenses</u>			
Bank Fee	Bank Adjustment		(37.00)
Advisor Travel	Jere Minich		229.42
OSHC	E-Novative		85.00
OSHC	Zoom		106.58
Total Expenses			<u>\$ 384.00</u>
Checking Account	Balance	12/31/2018	\$ 4,723.15
Savings Account	Balance	12/31/2018	23,450.10
Certificate of Deposit	Balance	12/31/2018	82,114.40
Total Bank of America			<u>\$110,287.65</u>
Total Bank Balances			<u><u>\$113,051.60</u></u>

### MEMBERSHIP

**Lee Laughner, Chair**

[l laughner \(at\) apcug.org](mailto:l laughner@apcug.org)



Thank you to all of the groups that renewed their membership. We appreciate your group belonging to APCUG and hope you are taking advantage of the many benefits APCUG offers.

## **JERE'S TECH TIPS / APPLE TECH TIPS ON [www.apcug2.org](http://www.apcug2.org)**

**Jere Minich, Advisor, Region 5**

**HOW TO LOCK YOUR WINDOWS 10 PC REMOTELY** - Android and Apple have long given people a way to track and disable your gadgets remotely. Microsoft has also joined the club by letting you track and lock your Windows PC using the "Find My Device" on Windows 10.

Find My Device uses your device's location data to help you find it when it's lost or stolen. You can use the same service to make sure that the device is locked so that no one can use it, and also to display information about how people can return it to you.

The device needs to meet a couple of requirements to use the feature. Read this How-To Geek post to find out how to enable "Find My Device" (with screenshots). <http://bit.ly/2BcaUMm>

**CAN ANYONE REALLY TRACK MY PHONE'S PRECISE LOCATION?** – It's the year 2019, and everyone willingly carries a tracking device in their pockets. People can have their precise locations tracked in real time by the government, advertising companies, and even rogue bounty hunters. It sounds like dystopian fiction—but it's a reality.

We like debunking sensationalist stories, but this latest controversy is true. Your phone's precise location can be tracked in several different ways.

Go to this How-To-Geek web page and find out how Family, Advertisers, Government and Rogue Bounty Hunters can track your location. <http://bit.ly/2QXWaWs>

**15 SECRET TRICKS AND TIPS INSIDE iOS 12** - Many are big, flashy, in-your-face features. Just as many are little hidden tricks that only a true iOS aficionado will find fascinating. Apple released iOS 12 in September 2018, and it has since gone through several dot revs (as of this writing, we're at 12.1.2). That's plenty of time to have figured it all out, right?

Anyone can with iOS gets a pretty simple operating system, so it's easy to get going. But with each new version there comes new innovation and new options.

Since iOS 12 works on iPhones from the 5s on up, the iPod touch, and iPads going back to 2013's iPad Air, that's a lot of devices that can take advantage of Apple's latest mobile software upgrades. The new stuff featured in this article are the items that should push you from casual user to power user in no time. Show your friends and relatives and you'll soon be their iPhone guru (for better or worse). Read more at this PCMag article: <http://bit.ly/2CWdaHW>

## **PENGUIN PLATFORM**

**"Free" John Kennedy, Advisor Regions 3 and 6**

**THE MANY NEW FEATURES & IMPROVEMENTS OF THE LINUX 5.0 KERNEL** - Linus Torvalds just released Linux 5.0-rc1, what was formerly known as Linux 4.21 in late-December. While the bumping was rather arbitrary as opposed to a major change necessitating the big version bump, this next version of the Linux kernel does come with some exciting changes and new features (of course, our Twitter followers already have known Linux was thinking of the 5.0 re-brand from 4.21). The merge window is now closed so we have a firm look at what's new for this next kernel version. As is standard practice, there will be seven to eight weekly release candidates before Linux 5.0 is officially ready for release around the end of February or early March.

Read more of Michael Larabel's (Phoronox) original feature overview of the new material to find in this kernel at: <http://bit.ly/2GgiARr>

**5 EASY TIPS FOR LINUX WEB BROWSER SECURITY** - In this article, you'll find a few basic tips, for users of all sorts, to help decrease the chances that your data will end up in the hands of the wrong people. It will be demonstrated on the Firefox web browser, but many of these tips cross the application threshold and can be applied to any flavor of web browser. Read more at this Linux.com article: <http://bit.ly/2PWUb8L>

**WHAT IS OPEN SOURCE?** - Have you ever wondered just what is open source? Jack Wallen from TechRepublic explains the concept, why it's important, and what you can do to help the cause. <https://tek.io/2Q5RWje>

## CHROMEBOOK TIPS & TRICKS

Judy Tylour with input from Hewie Poplock, <http://cb4s.net/>

**CHROMEBOOKS SHOW THEY'RE READY FOR PRIME TIME AT CES 2019** – Google was as visible as any company at CES in 2019, with loads of promotion, integrations with other companies and product announcements of its own. Its Chrome operating system got some love, too, featured in a handful of new laptops and convertibles from Acer, Asus and HP.

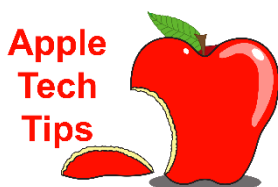
Marking one of the most significant milestones for the operating system in years, AMD announced that it has retooled two of its A-series processors to run Chrome OS. This will give Intel some real competition in the low-price Chromebook market for the first time -- and offer consumers more choices, and perhaps lower prices, for Chromebooks in 2019. Read more of this CNet news report: <https://cnet.co/2FYui3P>

**15-MINUTE CHROMEBOOK TUNE-UP** – As far as computers go, Chromebooks are almost shockingly low-maintenance. Google's Chrome OS operating system updates itself silently and automatically — as do most of the core apps associated with the platform — and it doesn't get gunked up and slowed down over time, as traditional operating systems tend to do. There's no antivirus software to fret over, either, and little in the way of complicated settings or compatibility concerns. By and large, things “just work” — like, for real.

But hey, you're a proactive person. You like knowing your tech is always in tip-top shape. Plus, you have impeccable tastes in tech-related reading material (clearly).

JR Raphael, COMPUTERWORLD Contributing Editor, shares a little secret with you: Despite Chrome OS's minimal-upkeep nature, there are some things you can do to clean up your Chromebook, clear out its clutter, and keep it primed for optimal productivity (and/or procrastination — equally important, as far as JR is concerned). And they don't take long at all to power through.

Take a few minutes now to go through these steps, then rest easy all year knowing your Chromebook is running at its best and ready to handle whatever tasks (and maybe even soft objects) you throw its way. <http://bit.ly/2TS1Wen>





**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018 CONTEST WINNERS  
AND  
2018 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

**Digital Photo Contest**

**Animals - 1<sup>st</sup> Place**



George Skarbek, MelbPC – Meerkat on Guard

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**



Bill Schmidt, CCOKC - Squirrel

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**



Charles Mason, STUG - Lunch

**Architecture - 1<sup>st</sup> Place**



John Krout, PATACS - USMC Memorial – Iwo Jima

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**



Charles Mason, STUG - Jamaica Bridge

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**



Bill Schmidt, CCOKC - Monticello

**Landscape - 1<sup>st</sup> Place**



June Ranney, CCOKC – Half Dome

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**



John Krout, PATACS – Canaan Valley Sunset

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**



Paul Baecker, SHCC – Blue Water

## People - 1<sup>st</sup> Place



Larry Klees, NOCCC - Helping

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Place



Bill Schmidt, CCOKC - Mountain Man

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Place



Charles Mason, STUG - Hunsader Farm

## Newsletter Contest

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Ron Ingraham, Editor



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Jerry Heaton, Editor



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Deb Meisels, Editor



Nuance's Dragon Speaking

## Website Contest

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Bob Dealmedia, Webmaster



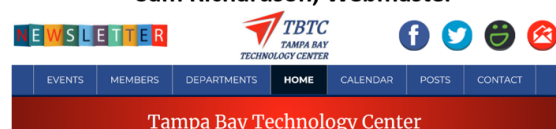
### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Rosemary Lloyd, Webmaster



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Sam Richardson, Webmaster



## Volunteer of the Year



Dwight "J.J." Johnson  
Founder / Membership Chair  
Lake County Area Computer  
Enthusiasts

You will find all the entries at  
[www.apcug2.org](http://www.apcug2.org).

## **REGION 1 CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT**

**Sam Wexler, Advisor**

[swexler \(at\) apcug.org](mailto:swexler(at)apcug.org)



**Danbury Area Computer Society  
Danbury, Connecticut**

### *Mini Tech Talks:*

Retro AI by Sean Henderson

SDR Radio Demos by Jon Gatrell

For their December meeting, they did more monthly tech talks: two 20-25-minute mini-talks about different tech topics. They featured Retro AI & Software Defined Radio “Radio Demos”.

SDR: Jon Gatrell showed several different Software Defined Radio products and showing several different applications you can do with SDR. Jon is the co-founder of the Danbury Hackerspace.

RETRO AI: Sean Henderson talked about Command-line AI programs and their descendants inspired by Dr. Joseph Weizenbaum’s famous ELIZA program developed in the 1960s. Modern uses were also discussed. There was some discussion of AIML and they had demos of various ELIZA implementations.

Attendees who brought laptops were able to follow along if they were running Ubuntu or Ubuntu on Windows Subsystem Layer (WSL). If opting for using Ubuntu on WSL, setting up the latter was done before attending the presentation/workshop.

Sean is a Microsoft Certified Professional with specific expertise in Microsoft SQL Server, Adobe ColdFusion and Microsoft Power BI. He helped build the first social professional business graph application prior to LinkedIn and further developed a Web application that helps protect over 50+ NASDAQ companies from adverse trading activity. From 2017-2018 Sean was an analyst on the Business Intelligence team for a large worldwide manufacturing firm headquartered in Connecticut, helping them develop self-service analytics across all business functions and leveraging their ERP investment.

If you’ve ever wanted to speak in front of a group this is a great way to get some experience. You can talk about a project you’re working on, a cool technology, or almost anything tech-related.

**Westchester PC User Group  
White Plains, NY**

**Allan & Heather Turnbull:  
Digital Camera Shopping**

Allan and Heather Turnbull took their membership on a digital camera shopping tour at their holiday General Meeting. Just in time for the holiday gift season, they discussed digital cameras from phones to DSLRs (digital single lens reflex). Besides discussing what’s available, what’s new, and what’s intriguing,

they shared their personal experiences on what cameras would be a perfect gift! Their presentation also touched briefly on the history of cameras.

WPCUG members Allan and Heather Turnbull are steeped in photography and run their digital photography workshop each month. Allan retired from MTA and is a longtime photography enthusiast. Heather is an art school graduate, who later worked at MetLife in its graphics department. Back in the day, they remember bringing their kids to an Apple computer club where they used early Macintosh computers and its predecessor—the Lisa.

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**REGION 2**  
**DC, DE, MD, NC, NJ, PA, VA,**  
**Gabe Goldberg, Advisor**  
[ggoldberg \(at\) apcug.org](mailto:ggoldberg@apcug.org)



**NEW JERSEY**

**Brookdale Computer Users Group (BCUG)** [www.bcug.com](http://www.bcug.com) [www.facebook.com/BCUGNJ](https://www.facebook.com/BCUGNJ)  
[www.meetup.com/Brookdale-Computer-Users-Group/](https://www.meetup.com/Brookdale-Computer-Users-Group/)

For the main meeting, Bob Gostischa spoke on “Updated tips for staying safe online, preventing ransomware & identity theft.” He presented updated information on why and how things that are connected to the Internet need to be secured and protected. He noted that it isn’t important what you use to get to the Internet but it’s important to use the right tools, exercise caution while connected, and avoid the dangers found there. He covered computers (Windows and Mac), tablets, smartphones and the IoT (Internet of Things).

In addition, multiple SIGs offered...

QuickBooks -- instruction on QuickBooks accounting software for small businesses.

Linux -- discussed a Linux distribution, and demonstrated and reviewed Linux Mint 19, Tara.

MacWaves -- A look at new iPhones, plus running macOS Mojave on unsupported MacBook Pro and Keeper, password management app.

Excel -- News briefing on Excel JavaScript; Connecting Excel to an external database (Intermediate); Graphing comments on a secondary axis.

Graphics -- software and techniques used to create “Mystic India” and a tour of <http://360fusion.net> with technique insights.



PC Roundtable -- Sharing PC Knowledge and experience to solve problems.

Windows -- Continuation of Windows 10 settings.

**Princeton PC Users Group (PPCUG)** [www.ppcug-nj.org/](http://www.ppcug-nj.org/) [goo.gl/dSJ574](https://goo.gl/dSJ574) (Facebook)

Doug Dixon returned to discuss and demo this season's harvest of cool holiday tech. People enjoyed fun ideas for grown-ups and kids, including a heads-up on the latest new product concepts and technology, and recent advancements to promising gadgets discussed in previous years.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**CPUUser Group a Computer & Technology Club** [www.cpusergroup.org/](http://www.cpusergroup.org/)

[www.facebook.com/cpug.cpusergroup](https://www.facebook.com/cpug.cpusergroup)

The main presentation was "How to Protect Yourself from Ransomware." In a world of Cryptocurrency and cybercriminals, Ransomware is running rampant and infections can cost anywhere from several hundred to several thousands of dollars. Once a system is infected with Ransomware, all your files become encrypted, making them unusable. Cybercriminals then demand you pay a ransom to unlock your files! If your system is not patched properly, you can become infected with Ransomware simply by having your computer connected to the Internet. Don't become a victim - learn simple steps to prevent getting infected with Ransomware from Allegheny County Sheriff Jason Tarap. The "Other Presentation" featured Michael Ceschini speaking on Pencil2D; the Beginners Presentation was "How to Add or Delete Profiles (user accounts) and make a MrFixIt account".

Another talk described how Lumis Corp. is passionate about providing next-generation learning systems to improve patient care, aiming to ensure that educational tools preparing clinicians support their life-critical operations. Lumis provides illuminating healthcare education through hands-on, simulation-based training that utilizes augmented reality and automated instruction for individualized, 24/7, on-demand learning. CEO Doug Nelson spoke about and demonstrated his "Body Explorer"

**Philadelphia Area Computer Society** <https://pacsnet.org/>

NOON VIDEOS focused on Cyber Security with three videos: Governments Don't Understand Cyber Warfare, A Vision of Crimes in the Future, and Your Human Firewall – The Answer to the Cyber Security Problem.

Another month's Noon Video was "HAL's Legacy: 2001's Computer as Dream and Reality." 2018 is the 50th anniversary of the release of 2001: A Space Odyssey. One of the central characters in the movie was the supercomputer HAL, the most powerful computer imagined at that time. Possessed with knowledge superior to that of a human, HAL controlled the spaceship, found solutions to the most complex problems, played chess with the astronauts, and served them continuously. Then something went wrong. Why? Was it a bug in the system, or a problem intrinsic to AI? This is the core question. 50 years later, we might frame the questions differently: Would it be possible to design a computer today that could reach or outreach HAL's capabilities? Can today's software do what HAL did? What are the ethical questions and dangers of AI in such a context?

Yet another month's Noon Video -- somewhat scary -- was tech companies and psychology: "A funny look at the unintended consequences of technology;" "Technology that knows what you're feeling;" "How tech companies deceive you into giving up your data and privacy;" and "How Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google manipulate our emotions".

## MARYLAND

**Chesapeake PC Users Group (CPCUG)** [www.chesapeakepcusersgroup.org/](http://www.chesapeakepcusersgroup.org/)

[www.chesapeakepcusersgroup.org/SIG.html#MSCUG](http://www.chesapeakepcusersgroup.org/SIG.html#MSCUG) [mscug@chesapeakepcusersgroup.org](mailto:mscug@chesapeakepcusersgroup.org)

A General Meeting featured the always-timely (if not pressing!) topic of "Customer Support: Internet Service Providers, Operating System Software (Windows 10), Programs and Apps" -- discussing problems and solutions.

Another meeting featured me, speaking on "What's a Router and Why Would I Want On," covering router selection, installation, configuration, maintenance, and debugging.

## VIRGINIA

**Fredericksburg PC Users Group (FPCUG)** [www.fpcug.org](http://www.fpcug.org) [goo.gl/Vt3nK9](https://goo.gl/Vt3nK9) (Facebook)

[www.meetup.com/FredericksburgPC-Users/](http://www.meetup.com/FredericksburgPC-Users/)

A General Meeting featured two TED Talks, Scientists Dario Gil, Vice President of Science and Solutions at IBM and Leo Kouwenhoven, Professor of Physics at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, discuss the advent of quantum computers. Quantum computing relies on the theory of superposition. Superposition is a fundamental theory in physics where any two (or more) quantum states can be added together ("superposed") and the result will be another valid quantum state. The theory allows electrons to circle different atoms at the same time. Computer processors and computer code work with only two valid states, on (1) or off (0): quantum theory can change that. Quantum computing is in its infancy but scientists are creating quantum computers that are over a million of times faster than current supercomputers or, that operate as quickly and efficiently as nature, using quantum mechanics. As usual, the public was invited and refreshments were served. In addition, the club features monthly Windows 10 Workshops, Experimac Workshops, and Windows All Workshops.

Another meeting featured the Commonwealth Governors School Robotics Team, again demonstrating robots they constructed. The team is sustained by its members: they develop marketing strategies to obtain financing so that they can finance the design, construction, and programming of robots for regional, state, and national events. Members participate in a variety of activities throughout the year such as presentations to sponsors (e.g., the FPCUG), and other schools. The public was invited and refreshments were served.

The Windows All group covered a broad spectrum:

- How to repair or reinstall Windows Photo Viewer.

- How to control when Picasa (Google's picture program) scans folders.

- How to turn on Wi-Fi, if placed in sleep mode by other software.

- Getting telephone support for HP products from HP.

Q & A on any problems involving computer repairs.

The Experimac Workshop addressed two downloads recommended by a member:

Snapseed by Google LLC <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/snapseed/id439438619?mt=8>

Adobe Photoshop Fix by Adobe <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/adobe-photoshop-fix/id1033713849?mt=8>

Another Experimac Workshop covered the "Adobe Photoshop Fix" App. Since this App applies to both iPhone and Android phones, it was beneficial to anyone wanting to check out phone editing options.

At member request, a membership list was distributed -- that's sways handy for contacting colleagues between meetings; consider doing this for your group!

### **Greenspring Village Computer Club (GSCC) [www.gs-cc.net/](http://www.gs-cc.net/)**

GSCC announced the new club website being up and running and invited members to try it and report feedback.

A meeting featured Michele Leith, Office of the Virginia Attorney General, providing a presentation on Street Smart Seniors. She covered such items as predators, common frauds and scams, online/social media precautions, Internet financial safety and what one can do to avoid problems.

### **Northern Neck Computer Users Group (NNCUG) [www.nncug.net/](http://www.nncug.net/)**

A meeting covered "Antennas Today - Uses and Purposes" -- don't think they're an obsolete technology. Another meeting addressed "Gadgets" -- as inclusive a topic as there might be.

Genealogy SIG Meets bi-monthly 2nd Thursday, covered "Using Quick and Dirty Trees to identify Ancestry DNA matches."

### **Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society (PATACS) [www.patacs.org/](http://www.patacs.org/http://patacs.org/nlpdf/1411posts.pdf) <http://patacs.org/nlpdf/1411posts.pdf>**

IT Consultant Gary Vaughan presented "WordPress Websites for All," noting that WordPress is a great way to create a personal blog or website for family, community group, or small business. After his presentation, Gary offered to pro bono consult with people for 10 - 15 minutes to help them understand basics entailed in their particular application.

Roger Fujii explained features and choices available with today's modern LED lighting.

Amanda Lazar, an Assistant Professor in the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, who researches areas of Human-Computer Interaction and Health, presented "The Role of Technology in Understanding Perspectives on Aging and Health." She noted that technology for aging is often approached as a solution for cognitive or physical impairment which can consider health conditions as problems while neglecting positive aspects of older adulthood. She described ways technology can enrich the experience of growing older.

PATACS President Paul Howard spoke on "What Channel is That On?" He asked, "What channel do you watch for your favorite TV shows?" and answered his own question: Chances are, it isn't what you think, and there's a very good chance it's moving. This will make space for wireless carriers to send

more data, video and other information to your cell phone, tablet, and for innovative technologies to emerge. Learn about the FCC Spectrum Auction and its impact on your local TV stations. But that's not all. Religious institutions, theater groups, and organizations like OLLI are estimated to be hit in the pocketbook to the tune of \$300 million.

PATACS' December meeting combined the twice-yearly PC Clinic for hands-on consulting and problem-fixing, with a fascinating review of technological advances stimulated by the Civil War. This unfortunate conflict has been described as the first "modern" war, occurring between what most economic historians call the first and second Industrial Revolutions. As such, it both stimulated new techniques in existing technologies and led to creation of new ones that have continued being enhanced into the 21st century. These included the obvious advances in weapons technologies, including small arms, artillery, naval weaponry, etc. In addition, areas such as medicine, aerial reconnaissance, photography, transportation, and communication were influenced.

**Washington Apple Pi (WAP)** [www.wap.org](http://www.wap.org) <https://www.meetup.com/Waporg/>

A General Meeting featured a University of Maryland professor who studies technology and aging, plus a visit by the second recipient of the Pi Scholarship at George Mason University.

The Afternoon Learners SIG (ALSIG) met at an Ethiopian Restaurant in Silver Spring, MD. Most people found it in a culinary and tech success! A smaller group met early for lunch downstairs and then recessed upstairs for the 10-12 folks who came and plenty good Wi-Fi. Along with my usual fair, and Dale Hrabak's great work making a clip from the July meeting to use, one of our local Apple home professionals came, Stephen Grall, Technology Consultant, and did a helpful Q&A. The group watched David Pogue's the latest video, about using AI to create art and music:

<https://www.cbs.com/shows/cbs-sunday-morning/video/vKlwlGDkFLCT7LqIObYc25T25JVtFGw/the-computer-as-artist-ai-art-and-music/> and another Pogue clip, not on tech but an eco subject:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/piling-up-drowning-in-a-sea-of-plastic/>

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## **REGIONS 3 and 6** **IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, NE, ND, OH, SD, TN, WI**

**John Kennedy, Advisor**

[jkennedy \(at\) apcug.org](mailto:jkennedy@apcug.org)



In general the clubs in these two regions take part in a variety of program topics. Over the past few months most of them held their annual election of officers and meet for some kind of Holiday meal activity (some even included the traditional Ugly Sweater contest). I've seen an increase in programs around the regions concerning the small board Raspberry Pi computers and what they do. There was also a number of groups putting on programs on how to create and maintain websites with WordPress.

I was very pleased to see that many of the clubs took part in the CyberSecurity awareness month by scheduling a very good program entitled “If it’s connected, it must be protected” given by Bob Gosticha. Each of the clubs got a personal presentation even though Bob was in his home in New Mexico. He was able to do many more presentations (26) by the use of the Zoom communication software. Many groups got their first Zoom experience thanks to Bob.

And another group of clubs took advantage of the APCUG benefit of the discounted CaptureWizPro software and made it into a demonstration/program. I hope that many individual club members took advantage of the discount and purchased the software.

Now here are some individual groups and the interesting programs they’ve provided their members:

### **Sterling Heights (Michigan) Computer Club**

One very popular program that everyone should put on next year’s schedule of programs, sometime before December (November or October), is one that would help your members with the upcoming holiday shopping season. Their program topic was “What’s Hot for the Holidays”. Many of your members would really appreciate a program next fall to help them know what’s out there, what’s good, and what are people wanting.

### **Central Kentucky Computer Society**

Just about every program or tool that we use on our computers has its own “privacy settings.” It’s not always in your best interest to go with the default selections for them. CKCS members got to hear a presentation called “Saying NO to the default Privacy Settings.” You need to take the time to look at all the different privacy settings and decide for yourself how you want them configured. This program was a real help for members to know what settings are on the computer and what options they have for each, along with recommended settings to use.

They also because another APCUG member club to give a Zoom presentation a try. If you haven’t given Zoom a try with your club, just check with your Regional Advisor for help.

### **Wisconsin All-Computer Users Club**

Wanting to find out just how much we’ve changed the way we’ve done things; the Wisconsin group had a program on “How Technology and the Internet are changing the way we do things.”

You’ve probably seen the usual list of technology-related SIGs that focus on a specific device or tool. But the Wisconsin group has been offering a special SIG for anyone that has a question about anything. The unique SIG is called the “Q&A SIG” where anyone can come to ask anything and hopefully get the answers they need.

### **Plateau (Tennessee) PC Users Group**

Many times clubs present a topic and then that’s the last time it’s discussed. We often forget that as we gain new members, those members might not have been exposed to previous topics. The Plateau group presented a “Facebook for Beginners” that hopefully brought new ideas to new members and was a review for older members.

### **Computers Are Easy Users Group (Illinois)**

More and more groups are realizing there is another operating system in addition to the ones everyone has heard about (Windows and Mac OS) and are including presentations at club meetings as has CAEUG



with their programs on the Linux operating system. Linux is a free system that works great on old and new computers.

### **Kentucky-Indiana PC User Group**

Another idea for a program before the month of November is helping your members “Prep for Black Friday.” The Kentucky-Indiana group did just that to help members know what to expect, what’s probably going to be the big sellers, and where/how to go about getting what you want.

They also had a great program to help their members understand what this “Streaming” stuff is all about. They talked about the many different services and what they offered and how to use them.

### **Lake County (Illinois) Area Computer Enthusiasts**

We never can let down our guard on the Internet and especially with regards to today’s social presence everywhere. The LCACE had a presentation on “Social Networks and Privacy” to help their members better understand how to survive in keeping their private things private while sharing so much with others (including strangers).

### **Madison (Wisconsin) PC Users Group**

Geographic Information System (GIS) technology is used locally and around the world to present data and mapping to individuals, governments, businesses, and organizations in innovative ways. This includes involving the public in redistricting, planning disaster response and recovery efforts, envisioning communities of the future, making cities smarter, protecting environmental resources, and collaborating with others. The club put on a presentation for GIS Day, which is held on November 14, to explore some of the ways that GIS is making a difference in our society.

### **Dayton (Ohio) Microcomputer Association**

The Dayton Microcomputer Association has a unique presentation they give each year on Election night. Much like the “State of the Union” the President might give, or the “State of the State” your Governor might give; their members got to hear the “State of the Club” to review what has taken place the past year, what the status of things are at the moment, and what the future might bring. A very good idea for every club to consider.

*Practical Security Against State-Sponsored Shenanigans.* That was the title of another DMA program. We are very aware of the “cyberwar” that we’re fighting on somewhat of a daily basis. We buy programs to try and protect us from these attacks. Would you be surprised that the knowledge exists to win this battle right now, but the information security industry doesn't like the idea. Neither does the rest of the computing industry, for that matter. The status quo guarantees a permanent stream of new sales to “keep up” with the bad guys. Are we ready to let those sales lag in exchange for actual security in a stronger global economy? The members of DMA were presented ideas to consider regarding practical security methods.

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**REGION 5**  
**AL, FL, GA, SC**  
**Jere Minich, Advisor**  
[jminich \(at\) apcug.org](mailto:jminich(at)apcug.org)



### **PC Rams Computer Club**

Let's take a look at their Web page.

Join us at our next meeting: Feb 5th, 2019 at 2:30 PM

Our new Vice President, Peter Mokover, will give the second of two presentations on Computer Security and Privacy. You will learn all about physical security, passwords, navigating the web and privacy settings. You can't afford to miss these presentations!

The following categories exist on that web page navigation Bar.

Home, About Us, Our Blog, Blog-old Events, Contact Us, Links, Our Gallery.

Some really Great Pictures in Our Gallery. Events tells about the next meeting, on Feb. 9, 2019.

About Us – gives a history of the PC Rams – first organizational meeting on April 26, 1989. It also Welcomes anyone to attend their Monthly meetings, first Tuesday of the month, Sept through June.

The PC Rams is a Computer and Internet forum, for the mutual benefit and enjoyment of its members, provides:

- an educational forum to exchange information on Personal Computing, Internet Technology and related technology subjects,
- the sharing of information with the members and the community at large,
- support and encouragement of technology education in the community.

An important key on their web site is the meeting location is highly visible on every page.

### **South Walton Computer and Technology Club**

About the Computer and Technology Club

Early in 1995 we were looking for a place to meet. The Hilton Hotel became our temporary home. A great place to meet, but a little pricy so they found a new place, the Faith Assembly Church which was a great place to meet and was centrally located. With an anonymous member donating a projector we were on our way.

The presentation format stimulated questions and we established a basic format which was refined over time. The first part of our meetings are devoted to questions and answers, the second half a major presentation by one of the members on a new software system or hardware device. Today we largely address the ever-changing technologies and serve the needs of local and winter guests during the fall and winter months.

South Walton Club has over the years sponsored a free one-day Technology Conference at the local Northwest Florida State College. Usually held each year in January.

The club has members from all over the panhandle of Florida and also lower Alabama.

### **Lake-Sumter Computer Society**

LSCS was started on April 3, 1989. The user group meets twice monthly at the Lake-Sumter State College. This user group has donated in excess of \$30k over the years to the college for Scholarships to students entering the Computer Technology field.

A major change last year was adding presentations on Apple and Android portable devices, including both tablets and smart phones. Presentations were also added on Microsoft's new operating system, Windows 10 and social media.

Guest speakers and presentations come from the Best Buy Electronics store, Social Security Administration, local County Sheriff Cyber Crime Watch, Office Depot, local Libraries, and the owners/operators from different commercial web sites.

Members continue to give presentations and share their skills in a variety of different subjects.

Scrapbooking, making Cards, photography, saving and classifying photos, and basic operations of the Windows Operating System.

Students enrolled at the college are always invited to attend LSCS meeting at no cost or obligation.

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## **REGION 8**

**AR, KS, LA, MO, MS, OK, TX**

**Bill James, Advisor**

[bjames \(at\) apcug.org](mailto:bjames@apcug.org)



### **Ramblings from Your Region 8 Advisor**

Greetings and best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year. Thank you for renewing your membership in APCUG for 2019. If you saw any of the news coverage of this year's CES it showed that 2019 will be an exciting year for technology. Your group will be in the forefront in helping your members adapt to the rapidly changing world of technology. Home Automation is becoming increasingly popular and finding its way as an everyday appliance/gadget to keep our lives organized, efficient and entertaining. The tech giants Amazon, Google, Apple, and Microsoft all have digital assistants to manage almost every aspect of our lives. The convenience of having an Amazon Echo or Google Home to be able to control your lights and thermostats with the sound of your voice is simply amazing. As one growing up with Dick Tracy, Star Trek and the Jetson's, these devices have turned fantasy into reality. Technology is moving at a rapid pace.

With the holidays just ending perhaps some of your members received one or more new gadgets as gifts. Now that they have them, they may be perplexed on how to use them. Here lies an opportunity for your group to provide some assistance. There are a gazillion YouTube videos that offer tutorials on how to set up and use these devices. These videos can be a stepping stone for a program on a particular device and a program leader can use them to prepare a presentation. YouTube videos are not just for entertainment, although there is a huge selection of movies and music, they are full of instructional videos. You can pick and choose the videos that are appropriate and provide the most benefit to your group.

Lastly, always remember that APCUG is here to assist your group to be successful. Please share your newsletters with me. I love to get news about your group and what you are doing to help your members. The ICON group in Springfield MO is one group that consistently sends me their newsletters. It contains PUSH articles that are shared with all newsletter editors that are members of APCUG in addition to Notes from their most recent meetings and original articles. Newsletters are a great way to keep your members informed of your programs, SIGs, etc. and can help improve club attendance. If your club does not have a newsletter, here is an idea to quickly get a newsletter prepared and distributed by using a free online program called MailChimp. [www.mailchimp.com](http://www.mailchimp.com) You sign up, create a mailing list of your members, compose your newsletter and distribute it through email. That's it.

Have you forwarded the recent MailChimp message about the February 9 VTC to your members and encouraged them to attend one or more of the sessions? I hope to see you at the Roundtable where you will be able to share your thoughts and hear from others on programs ideas, successes and lessons learned. You will also have the opportunity to let us know how we at APCUG can help you help your

members get the most out of your user group! *Bill*

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**REGION 9**  
**AZ, CO, NM, NV, UT**  
**Judy Taylour, Advisor**  
[jtaylour \(at\) apcug.org](mailto:jtaylour@apcug.org)



## ARIZONA

### Golden Vista Resort Computer Club

<https://goldenvistaresort.com/clubs/computer-club/>

They meet on Wednesday mornings where they have a special speaker or a “mini-class.” A short business meeting is held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday prior to the speaker/mini-class. The classes are free to members unless there is an outside instructor who charges a fee. Some of their upcoming classes include: Copy vs Print vs Scan, iPad apps, iOS – Phone 12.1 update, iPad roundtable, Android roundtable, Can I get rid of e-mail spam, plus an open night for everyone and one-on-one help.

*Welcome!*

### Payson Computer Meet-Up Club

<http://paysoncomputerclub.org>

## Payson Computer Meet-Up Club

The Payson Computer Meet-Up Club gets together on the 4th Monday of the month at the Payson Public Library Community Room. Their January presentation was given by local businessmen BJ Bollier (Compass Bank) and Matt Crespino (State Farm Insurance). All about insurance? Banking online? No, they will lead a discussion on America’s newest fun hobby – flying a Drone! The different types and best drones for a beginner, what is involved in flying a drone, and what you need to do if you live near an airport are just a few of the topics that were discussed.

This is a free club open to all residents of the Rim Country. They have group discussions during a question and answer period about today’s technology and related topics, and as time permits, there may be presentations in person or via Skype or YouTube. Attendees are encouraged to bring their laptops and tablets with them so specific questions about their operation can be better understood and explained. If you are unable to attend a meeting or have a question between meetings, feel free to post your question on their Q&A page.

Found on the Q&A page: Welcome to the Question & Answer Page

This is the place to ask questions, give answers, or make comments about your computer or computer-related technology. When asking questions, please give as much detail as possible, including operating system and version and specific error messages.



**RULES:** This is a family-oriented website, so please keep your questions, responses, and comments suitable to that environment. To post a question, response, or comment, you must register\*\* first with a name and valid email address. Registration is free. The club does not share your information with anyone. Spam or other attempts to market items or services are not tolerated; offenders will be black-listed. Payson Computer Meet-Up Club reserves all rights to moderate, edit, or delete posts.

## SuperCom Computer Club

<https://www.supercomcc.org>

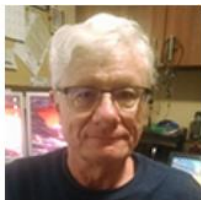


A big thank you to the SuperCom volunteers who reconstructed Lab 2 and painted and carpeted Lab 1 prior to the start of their season. Lab 2 will be used for classes where members bring their own personal computer. Not only have they gotten great new looking Labs, but Rick Heesen and Jim Mills put in countless hours to rewire all the cable from the main input to the Labs, install wireless antennas throughout the main building so that SIG groups can have better access to the internet and classes using downloads have a high quality of speed. Their summer planning and fall work has been a tremendous help to SuperCom!



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## Meet Jay Melnick, the new Region 9 Advisor



Jay is a native of Denver, Colorado and presently resides in Green Valley, AZ where he is a member of the GVR (Green Valley Recreation) Computer Club. He is a past program director and instructor.

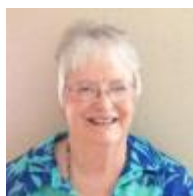
His background in computing started in high school and college but really took off in the mid- 80's when he started a multi-line BBS, "The Colorado SnoBank," which eventually morphed into TravelBank Systems and ColoRadio, which still has an online presence. Jay likes to say that "he started on the Information super highway when it was still a dirt road."

He has been a member of the Desert Creek HOA for five years where he serves as treasurer; his career path was in communication: advertising, marketing and journalism.

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**REGION 10  
California  
Judy Taylour, Advisor**

[jtaylour \(at\) apcug.org](mailto:jtaylour@apcug.org)



**Computer Club of Rossmoor**

<http://www.carossmoorcomputerclub.com/>



Rossmoor has some interesting January and February Flash Classes for members. The idea behind the Flash Classes is that they are over in a Flash. The classes focus on a single topic and will generally last 30 minutes plus some practice time. Back-in-the-day, the Temecula group had short-time SIGs that were over after a few meetings. Classes are held in their newly remodeled Computer Center. Some of the

classes being offered are:

Discover the features of Apple's newly-released operating system for Mac.

Dark Mode	Desktop Stacks	Finder's Gallery view
Marking up Screenshots	Continuity Camera	Enhancements to Quick Look
Some IOS apps: News, Stocks, Voice Memos		And more!

Have a Gmail Account? You can use Cloud Print to print a document on any web-connected printer.

What is Google Cloud Print	Is my printer compatible	How do I set it up
Is it safe and secure?	What apps/devices can I print from	Should I share my printer

Libre Office Write is a FREE alternative to Microsoft Word

What is Libre Office	Notepad, Wordpad, and Pages	Overview of Libre Office Writer
Comparison to Microsoft Word	Compatibility with Microsoft Office	How to download and install

Learn to manage and protect your privacy in Windows 10

Windows Privacy	Apps Privacy	Cortana privacy
Location	Lock Screen	Notifications
Telemetry	Software to consider	

Did you get any ideas for a presentation? I did, Judy

Their February meeting will feature *SurveyMonkey-ing Around* with president Rhona Lishinsky explaining everything you need to know about setting up a customized survey. Members are invited to join a fun session as they collectively create a survey that will let attendees evaluate the success of this very TechTogether! As with all TechTogethers, attendees are encouraged to talk about their own experiences and perspectives while mingling with other participants.

GGCS has a Keynote for iPhone interest group that meets at the San Rafael Public Library once a month in conjunction with the library's Tech Zone. Users learn to develop short Keynote presentations for their iPhones. Keynote for iPhone is a program that allows you to put pictures and voice together to make a presentation capturing memories for example, sharing an experience or telling somebody how to do something.

GGCS' November meeting covered *Learning Google Apps for personal use*. The Google apps suite has useful features such as Google calendar, collaborative documents & spreadsheets, video chat (hangouts), task management (keep) and more. The presentation was by Linda Siegel, co-founder of Technology 4 Life.

Another meeting featured Chris and Jim Guld of GeeksonTour.com and inveterate RV travelers. They joined GGCS with a live interactive webinar using Zoom. They guided attendees on how to combine photos and videos from smartphones and cameras, and how to share the results with friends using Google Photos or Microsoft Photos. Chris and Jim explained the importance of planning a trip with respect to mapping and GPS software to secure a location for your photos. Photos, movies, and videos from your various sources are then uploaded to one folder, say, Google Photos in the Cloud and, after editing, downloaded and shared with a link with friends on YouTube, Web Albums, Blogging, or Facebook. The Geeks who Teach are currently touring New Zealand and will be giving a presentation at APCUG's May 4 VTC.



Jim & Chris Guld did their GM presentation via live video.

## SLO Bytes PC Users Group

<http://www.slobytes.org>

SLO Bytes meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month and has two presentations at each meeting separated by a coffee, cookie and conversation break. Session 1 is from 12:45 – 2p and Session 2 begins at 2:30.

Session 1 of their November meeting featured Alan Raul showing a video on The Town that Facebook Built – How the headquarters of the world's largest social network went from a Harvard dorm to the vast site it occupies today. They looked at Shopping at Amazon in San Francisco and the Office 365 Training Center. He mentioned that Apple was offering an iPad for \$250 and showed various Black Friday websites. He also covered Windows 10 'included' software: Paint, Paint 3D, Photos, Snip & Sketch, Photos, Groove, Windows Media Player, etc.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> session was Ralph Sutter talking about and demonstrating Irfanview, a freeware graphics viewer for Windows, as well as VLC, Internet Radio and Pandora.

Since 2005, Ralph, Editor / Webmaster, has been uploading each PUSH article sent to editors to use in their newsletter to the group's website. It was a trip down memory lane looking at the July 2005 articles. My Omega hard drive goes back to May 2003 for the PUSH articles. In August 2003 I started sending a cover e-mail with the articles and in mid-2004 added the number of words for each article. Editors requested the number count so they could quickly find an article with less than 500 words if they only

had space for a short article. Editors have received at least 100 articles each year and many years have received well over 100 articles or over 1500 articles.

### **Adventures in Linux-land**

By Siles Bazerman, APCUG Representative, Orange County IBM PC Users' Group, California

### **How To Record Your Cassette Music to a CD!**

By Bob Elgines, CRCC Editor

### **Freecycle Network Offers Never-Ending Garage Sale (And It's All Free!)**

By Gabe Goldberg, APCUG Advisor and Columnist, AARP Computers and Technology Website

### **Search Engine Tips and Tricks**

By Richard Johnson, TUGNET, Granada Hills CA

### **HandiApped Independence: Part 1**

by Frank Petrie

Frank Petrie, Freelance writer, Macsimum News contributor, Curmudgeon

### **Computer Hysteria: Crash!**

by Berry F. Phillips, Member of the Computer Club of Oklahoma City and a regular writer for the CCOKC website and the eMonitor

### **Another Silent Attack on Our Computers**

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont, Texas' Radio Show Host; Police Officer

### **Simple Password Practices Keep PC and Online Data Secure**

By Gabe Goldberg, APCUG Advisor and Columnist, AARP Computers and Technology Website

### **Tech News**

Sue Crane, Vice President & Editor, Big Bear Computer Club, California

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## **2019 Board of Advisors**



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Region 1  
CT,MA,ME,NH,  
NY,RI,VT



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**Bill James**  
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**Jay Melnick**  
Advisor  
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**Judy Taylour**  
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OR,WA,WY  
International  
Australia &  
Canada

**REGION 11 and INTERNATIONAL  
AK, HI, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY  
AUSTRALIA & CANADA  
Judy Taylour, Advisor**

[jtaylour \(at\) apcug.org](mailto:jtaylour@apcug.org)



**REGION 11**

**HAWAII**



[www.the-tug.org](http://www.the-tug.org)

The TUG's November meeting focused on how to remove personal information from Office documents, the Focused Ad Tracker feature in Win 10 and how to override it and basic Windows tips such as how-to show & hide desktop icons, the SmartScreen filter and how to disable it (not recommended). Their December newsletter had an article by past-pres Lou Torraca on the 12 winners of the Consumer Electronics Show Innovation Awards 2019.

Editor Jim Fromm let members know, via e-mail, about his new router purchase. "I wanted to pass this info along in case some of you have reached the same conclusion – namely, it's time for a new wireless router. My old wireless router was about 6 years old. I've noticed the decrease in range and performance lately so I went hunting for a new one. I settled on the Linksys EA7300, AC1750Max-Stream model. Dual Band, 2.4 and 5. GHz.

Looking at Linksys the price was \$139, Amazon was \$129 and Walmart on-line was \$97.96. Guess where I purchased it? This is the first time I've used Walmart on-line. I also ordered a Logitech K520 cordless keyboard and mouse. Logitech wanted \$69. Walmart had it for \$36.65. Shipping and tax totaled \$13.18. Ordered 12/30 and they arrived 01/04.

So, instead of automatically ordering on Amazon I'm first going to do some price checking at Walmart on items I need to purchase on-line. I don't have Amazon Prime.

Don't hold my feet to the fire on the prices I show above, they may have been on special, although I didn't see any indication of that."

**IDAHO**





At ITUG's December meeting, attendees had a discussion on various phishing scams involving email and Facebook, removing apps from Android-based phones, and sharing photos. There was a question on replacing the clock battery in an older PC with several suggestions on how to do it. A member brought up his experience with the now active Google FI network as an alternative less expensive cell service and also mentioned the FreedomPop website for nearly free sim

cards and cellular service.

Then it was on to pizza and other goodies and the passing around of the Christmas card basket for members to take a card from. This was followed by member Clint Tinsley giving a presentation on his experience with the Cloud-ready Chrome OS package (a free download from [www.neverware.com](http://www.neverware.com)). He covered issues with the download and installation, how you can run Linux on top of the Chromium OS install, how touch screens are supported, getting apps that run in the Chrome browser from the app store, and much more. A full pdf of his presentation was included with the January newsletter. At the conclusion of his presentation a drawing was held for the night's door prize – a full copy of the Family Tree Maker program. A lot of learning, good food and it's off to 2019, their 35<sup>th</sup> year.

## WASHINGTON

**Komputer Enthusiasts of Greater Seattle** <http://www.kegs.org/>

KEGS has a unique way for visitors to access the various pages on their website.



It's nice to see they are using the Speakers Bureau for interactive webinars and/or VTC YouTube videos: Jere Minich, *Tech Tips*; BobG for October's NCSAM program – *If It's Connected, It Needs to be Protected*; Acronis 2019 Update with Gene Barlow; and Hewie Poplock's *Cut the Cord--Firing Your Cable Company*. They also had a meeting at their Microsoft store and one on *Living Computers: Museum + Labs, Seattle*.



In President Ron Cowger's letter to members, he mentioned that Andy Peck gave a helpful presentation on the Ashampoo software development company and their many software utilities and tools. He did a great job discussing several of the different utilities and even gave KEGs several activation numbers for some of the utilities for their use as door prizes. (Note from Judy: Ashampoo was very supportive of the Southwest

Tech conference in San Diego; for many years they gave a license number to each attendee for one of their programs. The downside was that it took time to create individual certificates with a different license number for each certificate. :-)

He also encouraged members to use smile.amazon.com when shopping at Amazon and designate KEGS (spelled out) as their Smile beneficiary. As of October, they had earned a little over \$100. He suggested they add the URL to their Favorites or Bookmarks.

KEGs has an Early Bird renewal opportunity for members; those renewing by December 31 receive the designation of an Early Bird member. This designation gets them an additional, free drawing ticket each month when they sign in at the General Meetings.

## INTERNATIONAL

### AUSTRALIA



<http://www.brisbug.asn.au/>

Brisbug is a small, friendly group meeting to talk computers and other technology. They welcome new members and invite prospective members to come to a meeting to see if the club will meet their needs. Brisbug has meetings that are suitable for seniors, beginners and advanced users. The Q&A session is always interesting with tips and tricks for beginners as well as more experienced computer users. Their motto is Members Helping Members and they offer hands-on computer help and technology support.

### 2019 Board of Directors



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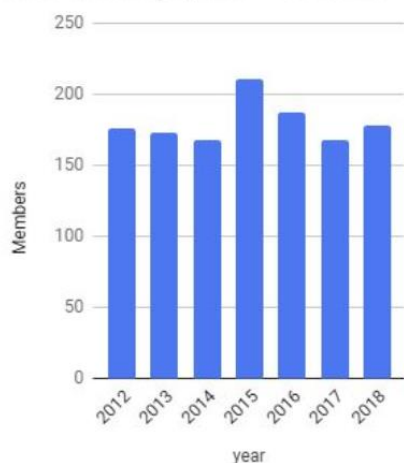
**Maria Vesta**

## CANADA

### Victoria Computer Club

[www.victoriacomputerclub.org](http://www.victoriacomputerclub.org)

Memberships, Jan 1 of Years



VCC's AGM (Annual General Meeting) is in January and one of the reports given at the meeting is about membership numbers. This is the graph of their members from 2012 to 2018.

President Dorothy Cushway recently gave a presentation on *Decluttering Your Data* highlighting what a person should do with all the Technology devices and data they have. She recommended creating an inventory of what you have and what accounts you have. To see the presentation click on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y8ey6lhu>

VP George Bowden gave a presentation on *Google through the looking glass* - To watch DottoTech's YouTube channel, you should be logged in and subscribe; his presentation showed attendees how to do that. See the presentation at: <https://tinyurl.com/ybtgog8p>

George gave a presentation in December on *Creative LED photography*. LED Christmas tree lights offer creative opportunities to photographers. Sweeping over a string of lights with a camera set to long shutter speeds and low ISO settings results in interesting effects. LEDs on house power strobe at 60 pulses per second, resulting in "string of pearls" effects. Try circular motions at arms-length, and panning. You never know what you are going to get until you look at the camera's display of the photo after you take it.

The Creative LED photography album was taken at VC's Camera group photoshoot on December 27. Photos were edited in Google Photos, adding maximum pop and lowering light levels. Check out the album at: <http://bit.ly/2UatM5Q>

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## GABE GOLDBERG'S

### Tips & Tricks for Member Groups

#### Practice Best Practices

Meetings are disrupted by audience chatter and ringing phones. It's worth reminding attendees every meeting to silence phones and not have private conversations. Similarly, as meetings end, request that people take their trash with them. Don't leave the room looking like a dump if you hope to keep using it for meetings.

Unless you meet in a very small room ask presenters to repeat questions so that all attendees hear them. If you use an audience microphone, REMIND PEOPLE to wait for the mic before speaking. It's astonishing how frequently people -- though they see a mic circulating -- can't resist speaking immediately. If the mic is directional, ensure it's held close to speaker's mouth.

If your website doesn't highlight where you meet -- with directions! -- and how to contact group leaders -- you're missing outreach opportunities. People may come across your website while searching for tech resources/help/meetings -- but if you're clandestine, they'll never find you. Too many groups cater only to members -- giving sketchy meeting details ("Everyone knows where we meet!") and no contact information ("Everyone knows who we are!"). No they don't, and no they don't. Even if you meet in a gated/closed community, don't keep your group secret -- a local store or service provider might find your website and offer presentations, partnerships, discounts, etc.

**Get the word out about meetings.** Notify local stores -- Micro Center, Apple stores, small retail outlets-- of presentations. Offer to distribute THEIR events schedules if they'll make yours available to customers. Look at your local Patch.com newsletter and read <https://patch.com/us/across-america/how-become-patch-contributor> to see how to place news about your group with them.

**Plan for contingencies.** What will you do if a speaker cancels at last minute -- or just doesn't show up? (Hint: be ready to show a recorded presentation from APCUG's Virtual Technology Conferences or have a non-time-sensitive member presentation ready to use). How do you handle snow disruptions? (Hint: Publicize that you cancel when schools or local government buildings close). How can you let people know if a meeting must cancel for unanticipated reason? (Hint: Accept registrations so you have a list to notify). What else can go wrong? (Hint: brainstorm potential events and actions to take).

**Publicly thank volunteers** and acknowledge member accomplishments. It takes many people to run a successful organization -- some of whom work behind the scenes and are known to only a few colleagues. Highlight their accomplishments at meetings and in newsletter and on the website to members and publicize relevant member accomplishments and honors -- it's often pleasantly surprising realizing the sort of people in your midst.

If You've Ever Had Remote Presentations, This Will Look Familiar

<https://marketoologist.com/2018/10/transformation.html>

Don't Let This Be Your Board or Planning Meeting

<https://marketoologist.com/2018/07/innovationmindsets.html>

In fact, if your group needs a new initiative, consider starting a Future SIG (special interest group). It's too easy to get bogged down in current technologies, good-old-days war stories and reminiscing, and burning problems -- at the expense of whatever technologies are just around the corner. Processor evolution, 5G cellular service, quantum computing, etc. are in the news but now broadly understood -- so help members learn about them. Even here-and-now subjects like blockchain, crypto currencies, cloud computing, etc. are often more marketing noise than substance -- so tech groups can help people make sense of what's around them.

### **Don't Be Shy**

Help your community learn about and find your group. If there's a local government or community newspaper/newsletter, offer to write an article about your group's mission/activities/resources. Here's an article I wrote for the Fairfax County Golden Gazette monthly seniors-oriented newsletter:

<https://tinyurl.com/yazh4f3o>

## **DO YOU CELEBRATE YOUR VOLUNTEERS?**

**National Volunteer Week, April 7 – 13, 2019**

Volunteers are the backbone of our groups. Without them we would have a difficult time getting anything done. Do you take time to say thank you? At a meeting, in the newsletter, on your website.... Do you give them Certificates of Appreciation, have a special celebration at a meeting, lunch, etc. The Sarasota Technology User Group recently had their volunteer thank you celebration. How do you recognize your volunteers? Please let me know, thanks – Judy ([jtaylor \(at\) apcug.org](mailto:jtaylor@apcug.org))

### **STUG THANKS ITS VOLUNTEERS**

**Hewie Poplock, Chromebook Evangelist**

**Central Florida Computer Society and Sarasota Technology User Group**

Like most computer/technology user groups and other non-profits, fraternal groups, veteran groups, etc., the Sarasota (FL) Technology User Group relies upon its volunteers to succeed. Once a year STUG holds a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon for all those who help the organization. It is held at a local restaurant in their events room. The recent event began with some social time, some remarks from Ann Ross, the President and Bill Crowe, the event organizer. Then there was a delicious meal, with a choice of Chicken Marsala or Shrimp Fettucine with Pasta, plus several sides & salads. The food finale was a decorated cake for dessert. Following the dinner, there was a “thrilling” game of Jeopardy. Question topics came from the history of the group, as well as technology topics. It was lots of fun. Your volunteers are so important to your groups. Be sure to thank them as often as you can and in any way that you can.





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**VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE**  
**VTC**  
**February 9, 2019**

<b>Eastern</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Mountain</b>	<b>Pacific</b>	<b>Track 1</b>	<b>Track 2</b>
1:00pm- 1:50pm	12 noon 12:50pm	11:00am 11:50am	10:00am 10:50am	3 mini- presentations Jere Minich*	Unusual Sources on the Web for Family History Research Jeri Steele
2:00pm- 2:50pm	1:00pm 1:50pm	12 noon 12:50pm	11:00am 11:50am	Staying Connected While You Travel Ron Brown	The future of Windows Michael Shalkey
3:00pm 3:50pm	2:00pm 2:50pm	1:00pm 1:50pm	12 noon 12:50pm	Join us on Track 2	Let's Talk Roundtable**

\*3 Mini-presentations: Microsoft Security Center Windows 10, New Privacy Updates Windows 10, Password Managers for all devices

\*\*Let's talk! Share your thoughts and hear from others on programs ideas, successes and lessons learned. Let us know how we at APCUG can help you help your members get the most out of our user groups! We'll use Zoom and be able to see each other.

Do you have a presentation you would like to share with APCUG member groups? Think about volunteering to give it via a VTC. Contact Judy Tylour @ jtylour (at) apcug.org

**SAVE THE DATES**

**May 4**

**August 17**

**November 2**

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Check **APCUG'S SPEAKERS BUREAU** <http://apcug2.org/> on the Member Benefits tab. You will find almost 100 presentations listed under the below topics. Fill in the Request for a Speaker form and the presenter will contact you.

Groups	Free Software	Linux/Open Source	Social Media
Back-up	General	Operating Systems	Software
Cloud Computing	Hardware	Preventive Maintenance	User Groups
Digital Photography	Home Automation	Printers/Printing	Utilities
Email	iDevices/MAC	Security	Virtual Machines

Having problems finding presenters? Select a presentation, complete the Speakers Bureau form, and the presenter will contact you to set up the meeting. Your members not only have the opportunity to learn about something new but can ask questions via live Q&A with the presenter.



## MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS

The Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) is an International, platform-independent, volunteer-run, nonprofit organization devoted to helping member User Groups offer enhanced services to their members. Listed below are some of the membership benefits. You will find detailed information at: [www.apcug2.org](http://www.apcug2.org)

**Speakers Bureau** – Complete a Speakers Bureau request form to have a SB member give an interactive webinar presentation to your group via Zoom, Skype, etc. There are over 100 presentations listed.

**Virtual Technology Conferences – Free Online Presentations** held quarterly (February, May, August and November). Your members can attend the VTC presentations from the comfort of their own home. APCUG uses Zoom which is very easy to use.

**PUSH Newsletter Articles** – Your group's editor receives articles he/she can use in your group's newsletter. Articles are written by other group officers, members, sponsors, etc. APCUG has also received permission from many bloggers to use their articles in their newsletters.

**Discounts and Special Offers** – Your group will occasionally receive information regarding sponsor discounts and/or special offers that can be passed on to your members.

**User Group Newsletters Online** – Is your editor looking for ideas for your newsletter? There are links to many APCUG-member group newsletters that contain program ideas, fundraising ideas and more.

**Website Hosting** – For groups that are unable to find, or afford, online space locally, APCUG will host their website. Send an e-mail to [ols@apcug.org](mailto:ols@apcug.org) for information about this benefit.

**UGLS -- Neighbors to Help Out** – Use the UGLS to communicate with groups within driving distance of your club – share presenters, help each other out, cross-advertise, put a vendor speaking tour together, etc. Everyone Benefits.

**APCUG Website** – Find out what is happening with APCUG! [www.apcug2.org](http://www.apcug2.org)

**Help for your User Group** – Information for program chairs, growing your group, newsletter & PR guidelines etc. from various sources including past conferences and regional events.

**Newsletter, Website and Digital Photo Contests** – Held annually, members of your group are invited to enter the digital photo contest and groups may enter their newsletter and/or website in those contests.

**Don Singleton Volunteer of the Year Award (VOTY)** – Volunteers are the background of APCUG and its member groups -- submit one of your members for the annual VOTY award.

**NOOZ e-mail sent to your group's officers** – Advisors periodically send a NOOZ e-mail to all officers listed in the UGLS. This e-mail contains information on what is happening with APCUG, VTC information, etc.

**Quarterly Reports -- Ideas for your group** – Reports, APCUG’s official communication, is sent to all officers listed in the database. It contains info on what is happening in each region, program ideas, tips and tricks, and more.

**Solutions to Your Problems -- Your Region Advisor** – The people who keep APCUG functioning are one of the greatest assets that member groups have going for them. They have been there and done that. If they don’t have a solution, he/she will forward the request for help to all the Advisors and Directors – someone will be sure to have a solution

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## ARTICLE DEADLINES

Issue	Published
Q1	JAN 20
Q2	APR 20
Q3	JUL 20
Q4	OCT 20

Unless indicated otherwise by the author, all articles published in REPORTS may be reprinted.

Member group editors should give proper credit to the authors. All articles submitted for publication in REPORTS are subject to editing. Each issue of REPORTS focuses on member group management issues, program ideas, achievements and events from the 9 APCUG Regions, and updates from APCUG directors, advisors, and committee chairs.

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## An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups

### COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

#### Committee and Chair

Alliances: David Steward  
Benefits: Judy Taylour  
By-Laws: David Steward  
Contests: Bill James  
DS VOTY: Judy Taylour  
Elections: John Kennedy  
Marketing: David Williams  
Membership: Lee Laughner  
OLS: David Williams  
Policy & Procedures: David Steward  
Publications: Lee Laughner  
PUSH: Judy Taylour  
Social Media: David Williams  
Speakers Bureau: Sam Wexler  
UGLS:  
Website:  
VTC: Judy Taylour

#### 2019 Committee Members

Sam Wexler  
Gabe Goldberg, Bill James  
  
Ray Baxter, John Kennedy  
  
Ray Baxter  
Bill James  
Ray Baxter  
Francis Chao  
  
Diane Serek, Judy Taylour  
Gabe Goldberg, Jere Minich  
  
Lee Laughner, Judy Taylour  
John Kennedy, Jere Minich, Judy Taylour  
Francis Chao, John Kennedy, Jere Minich, David Williams



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# An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups

## APCUG COMMUNICATIONS

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Secretary  
BoA Chair  
Membership  
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Ray Baxter, Treasurer

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Lee Laughner  
Marie Vesta

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Vice Chair  
Secretary  
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Region 9 (AZ, CO, NM, NV, UT) Jay Melnick  
Region 10 (CA) Judy Taylour  
Region 11 (AK, HI, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY) Judy Taylour  
International Region, Judy Taylour

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