'Members Helping Members"

December 2020

Volume 38, Issue 09



During this season, my wish for you:

May your home be filled with togetherness, your heart be filled with love, and your soul be filled with song.

May you celebrate the beauty that lies within you and surrounds you May you see great possibility through every doorway, and every smile. May your memories spark thoughts of happy times and lessons have learned.

May you appreciate life for all that is has giving you and that it has in store for your future.

-Lisa Desatnik

"Members Helping Members" (since 1983)

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2020-2021

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Lake County Area

Computer Enthusiasts

c/o Group Ambassador

"J.J." Johnson

News Journal

The LCACE News Journal is published eleven times annually. Members are encouraged to submit contributions which will be acknowledged in this newsletter. Send articles to <u>editor@lcace.org</u> Permission is granted to reproduce any or all parts of this newsletter in other User Group publications, provided that credit is given to LCACE and the individual author (s). Logo designed on an Atari Stacy Laptop in 1989 by Dwight Johnson Jr.

Membership

LCACE membership is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are \$20.00 per individual/family. Applications for membership may be obtained at the monthly meeting, by request on the club hotline, and are now available on our web site at <u>http://www.lcace.org</u>.

Meetings

LCACE meetings are usually held on Saturdays at the Grayslake Area Public Library, 100 Library Lane, Grayslake, Illinois. The meeting room opens at noon and the formal meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend!

Newsletter Submissions

Club members are welcome to submit classified ads, reviews, tips and other articles for publication, to our newsletter editor in Microsoft Word format (.doc). **Publication deadline is the 20th of the month for all ads and articles.** Please do not use tabs or special formatting.

Newsletter Advertising

Ad rates per issue: Full page - \$25, Half page - \$15, Quarter page - \$10, Business Card - \$5. Discounts are available on advance purchase of multiple issues. Please send camera-ready copy and payment to the club address by the 15th of the month preceding publication. For more information on ad pricing, please call our Hotline. Ads are **FREE** to all paid members.

Notice

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Hello, all....

Happy Holidays to everyone! Please enjoy them safely!

(I recently sent out an article that explains how important duration of contact with a person infected with COVID can be, especially in an indoor setting. In a worst-case scenario – small room, no outside ventilation, with a mask – it can take as little as three minutes for someone to breathe in enough infectious droplets suspended in the air to become infected. At a family and/or friends gathering to celebrate the holidays – typically involving hours of eating, drinking and socializing indoors – the potential for one participant unaware that he or she has COVID to infect many of the attendees must be considered.)

Moving from the specific to the general, there is both good news and bad news for the U.S., regarding COVID. Several different vaccines are well along the approval cycle and could presumably be available for broad distribution during the first half of 2021. We don't yet know how effective they will be for everyone, although in controlled test environments the various manufacturers are claiming a high success rate. Further, we don't yet know how long the immunity from these shots will last. But things are definitely looking up on the vaccine front!

On the other hand, the head of the CDC, Dr. Robert Redfield, just publicly acknowledged that U.S. deaths from COVID, now at 270,000, could reach 450,000 by the end of February. That seems almost unbelievable to me, but if you do the math it does compute. The end of February is 86 days from now; for his projection to come true, we would have to see an average of 2,093 deaths per day across the U.S. Yesterday (December 3rd) the U.S. had 2,857 COVID deaths; that's 36% higher than the daily rate in Redfield's projection! Hospitals are filling up and most experts expect to see a spike in new cases from Thanksgiving travel and socialization and from the major holidays in December and

January. Not pretty!

Looking ahead, I expect that we will be meeting virtually at least through the first quarter of 2021, and perhaps longer. During this same time period, it is unlikely to be safe for us to meet in person for any length of time with friends and family members who do not already live in our households, as well. If you have not already acquired a microphone and webcam or have not yet become comfortable with video calling over your smartphone, tablet or computer, I encourage you to do so. Lot's of good webcams (most with built-in microphones) are now available at Amazon.com, at very reasonable prices. (My daughter just bought one for her work-related Zoom calls for under \$30, as an improvement over the video quality of her laptop webcam.) J.J. has been sending out a steady stream of links and announcements related to video-calling tutorials and presentations. Please take advantage of them so that we can see your smiling faces at our future Zoom meetings, and so that you can use the magic of technology to stay in touch with other friends and family!

On the technology front, tech products in general seem to be more available than earlier in the year. It appears the pipeline is filling once more after the unusual demand for computers, webcams and other tech needed to support online learning for students across the country and working from home for many employees whose businesses have closed their offices or who are unable to travel to meet with customers or suppliers. I've already mentioned webcams, but computer and smartphone availability seems better to me as well, and we have been seeing some good prices during recent Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales.

In closing, I want to share a story that illustrates the need for digital afterlife planning, a topic that we discussed in detail several years ago. A single man I knew who lived alone died suddenly two weeks ago. As part of his duties, the executor of his will located his laptop and smartphone – intending to access them for information about his financial affairs. Both devices are password protected and the executor has been unable to find the passwords. There are apparently steps that can be taken to gain access to one or both devices, but life would have been much simpler had the executor been given that information long ago – or at least told where to look. Please take time to step back and review your own situation – as I will be doing – to avoid this type of issue for your family members and/or executor.

Hope to see you all at our December online Holiday Party at 1:00 pm on Saturday, December 12th! (And remember that our January LCACE meeting will be devoted to "show 'n tell" about tech goodies that you received (or bought for yourself) during the holidays.....)

Phil

LockBox

Secure your packages for the Holidays By Jasmine Blue D'Katz

With the holidays approaching, you want to ensure your deliveries from Amazon, USPS and UPS are secure and safe and say Goodbye o Porch Pirates.

Then you might want to try the **LockBox** with the programable lock with a code that you can share with your delivery carrier. I have anchored mine to the driveway next to my side door and a sign on front door to direct the carrier to the location.



The box is also located under my Ring Doorbell and for extra security, I've installed the new Ring Mailbox Sensor so I know then the box has been opened and I will get an text notification on my phone and Alexa devices.

Visit: clevermade.com/lockbox for more info



PrintFriendly

Want to print or PDF a webpage? By Jasmine Blue D'Katz

While attending a weekly episode of "Tech for Seniors", I was introduced to PrintFriendly This FREE app cleans and formats web pages for perfect print experience.

PrintFriendly removes ads, and web page junk, so you save paper and ink with you print. It is free and easy to use. PrintFriendly installs as an extension in you web browser, so with just a click your web page is converted.



Once the page is stripped of all the junk, I can edit the page with just a Click-to-delete any content I do not want to remain on the page. I have the choice to keep or retain any images, and I am now able to change the text size.

The file can be generated as a PDF for archiving, sharing, or saving, PDFs file will include the clickable links and source URLs so you can continue to interact.





Membership Chairperson Report

Members Meeting Attendees: 20

THANKS FOR JOINING

None

THANKS FOR RENEWING None

THANKS FOR VISITING Cynthia Simmons



2020 – 2021 LCACE Dues Suspension

Because of our COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to host our traditional LCACE summer picnic in July. The manager at our State Bank of the Lakes has informed us that their meeting room will not be available for our planned 2020 Holiday Party. As a result, we will not be incurring expenses this fiscal year for these two major events. Given that we currently have a reasonable balance in our treasury and realizing that this pandemic may have created a financial hardship for some of our members, your Board of Directors has voted to suspend dues payment for this fiscal year.

For those who have already paid their 2020 – 2021 dues, thank you! Your payment will be applied to 2021 – 2022 dues. For those who have not, we will look forward to your dues payment for next year in April 2021.





December 12—No Meeting

January 9—Show n' Tell

February 13—TBD

March 13—TBD

Libertyville Civic Center

Some important philosophical questions on life

Why do supermarkets make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?

Why do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke?

Why do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters?

Why do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in our driveways and put our useless junk in the garage?

EVER WONDER... Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?

Why don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavoring, and dish washing liquid made with real lemons?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why isn't there mouse-flavoured cat food?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the

terminal?

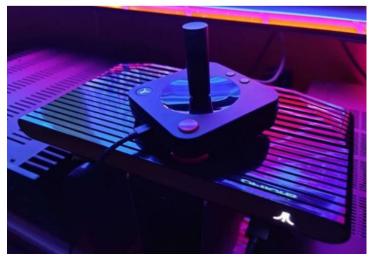
We all need to smile every once in a while.

Atari VCS is coming!

Are you ready?

Atari VCS is coming! Are you ready?

ATARIVCS



Hello backers! We have a quick update before the weekend:

While we are still waiting for some of the joysticks, we now have enough to get things going while we wait for the rest to arrive.

The warehouse will begin the sorting, packing, and shipping of Atari VCS hardware starting next week according to order sequence and regardless of geography. International backers please make sure you have a travel plug or adapter to make the US plug on the Atari VCS work in your country.

Everyone please also note that you will need an internet connection to activate your unit. Finally, watch for the campaign header on the Indiegogo page to switch to "Shipping."

We will of course be in touch with more info and cannot wait for you all to get your Atari VCS units, joysticks and controllers!

Have a great weekend!

-- The Atari VCS Team

Interesting Internet Finds August 2020

Steve Costello scostello (at) sefcug.com

In the course of going through the more than 300 RSS feeds, I often run across things that I think might be of interest to other user group members.

The following are some items I found interesting during the month of July 2020.

Why Video Calls Are So Exhausting (And What You Can Do About It)

https://www.besttechie.com/why-video-callsare-so-exhausting-and-what-you-can-doabout-it/

Attending a lot of video conferences and now exhausted? Check out this post for some ideas on how to cope with that.

How To Enter BIOS In Windows 10

https://www.digitalcitizen.life/how-boot-uefibios-windows-tablets-convertibles

You may never need to know this but if you ever need to access, or change, settings of the BIOS of your Windows 10 device, it is good to know.

3 Different Kindle Homescreens – Which ! s Your Favorite?

https://blog.the-ebookreader.com/2020/07/09/3-different-kindlehomescreens-which-is-your-favorite/

I have been a Kindle user for a long time and did not know this. If you have a newer Kindle, and dislike the default homescreen check out this post for other options.

How To Get In-Ear Headphones To Fit Properly

https://www.techlicious.com/how-to/tips-forgetting-in-ear-headphones-to-fit-properly/

I go through a lot of in-ear headphones, for

some reason, so this is something I deal with frequently. If you have problems getting the earpieces to fit properly, check out this post for some possible solutions.

11 Handy Zoom Hacks To Make Your Digital Life Easier

https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/626634/zoom -meeting-hacks

If you are like me, you are attending more zoom meetings these days. Check out this post to make things easier for yourself. There were some of these hacks I didn't know about before reading this post.

What Is SupportAssist and Should I Let It Run?

https://askleo.com/what-is-supportassist-andshould-i-let-it-run/

If you have a brand name PC that is still under warranty and has this type of application installed, you should read this post. (Note: I have an HP desktop, and follow Leo's advice to keep things going while under warranty.)

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The next series of workshops will be on Home Automation for Seniors – same time, same place on:

September 9, 2020 October 14, 2020 November 11, 2020 December 9, 2020

Week 1 - <u>Why do I need it?</u> Week 2 - <u>Where do I start?</u> Week 3 - <u>Lights, doorbells, locks, and cameras</u> Week 4 - Doing It Myself vs Having It Done

We will begin by explaining why home automation is important to Seniors. What products are on the market, costs, security, and some real-world testimonials. In the second week, we will talk about how to go about planning your home automation project and best practices. In the third week, we will talk about applications using lights, doorbells, locks, and cameras. Lastly, we will talk about the benefits of making it a DIY project or having a professional install.



TechforSeniors Newsletter

www.techforsenior.com



Our Crew

Ron Brown Hewie Poplock Bob Gostischa Ray Baxter Dewey Kloos



MONDAY'S MEETING WILL ONE ONE HOUR LATER IN ARIZONA

Topics we discuss

Windows 10 Apple Computers Chromebooks Cutting the Cord Security Purchase considerations Modems and Routers Starlink



Link to Past Episodes



Join is for an action packed hour on Monday Mornings

Topic: Tech for Seniors with Ron Brown and Hewie Poplock

Time: 09:00 AM Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/526610331

Meeting ID: 526 610 331

The Meeting opens @ 8:30 and starts at 9:00. The meeting is locked @ 9:00 and no further admittance is allowed

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further admittance is allowed



Saving Your Life with Technology, Part 2

Ron Brown, Program Chair, Silvercom Computer & Technology Club

This is a continuation of Mary's story, who is a fictitious senior, widowed and lives in a resort in Mesa, Arizona. She has a fall at night that results in a broken hip from an undiagnosed heart problem. In Part 1 covered the importance of knowing what your heart rate is and the many devices that can monitor and record it. Part 2 focuses on fall detection, emergency notification, and home automation to ensure safety for a senior living alone. Ron will discuss how to set up a home network, the Echo Show, Google Nest, and the new Zoom all-in one home appliance.

"FreeNAS - A Great Choice For A Home Server"

Don Arrowsmith, President, Philadelphia Area Computer Society

This presentation details how Don replaced his aging Windows Home Server 2011 system.

Chromebooks for Geeks

Bill James, Vice President, Computer Club of Oklahoma City

A Chromebook does the things that many people want a computer to do, better and faster than any other laptop, regardless of price. It is the most secure portal to the web that has ever been built because of super-fast updates and sandboxing. A Chromebook can pair with your Android phone and be used for messaging and video calling. It is perfect for anyone who wants to grab a laptop, sign in, and spend an afternoon watching Netflix or shopping online. You can also use it as a terminal to connect to your Windows PC or Mac. Chromebooks are Fun! Learn more from this informative presentation.

Fundamentals of Microsoft 365

Rob Truman, Webmaster, Computer Booters of Sun Lakes

An overview of the many useful apps included in the Microsoft 365 subscription. Rob will also review the various subscription packages available along with what discounts are available. He will also provide a feature comparison of Microsoft 365 to Office 2019 and provide some tips on choosing which one is right for you.

Solve Your Password Management Problems

Kenneth Tubaugh. Educational Services Director & Program Coordinator

Columbus Computer Society

"Password theft is a serious problem. The websites and apps that you use are under attack every day. Security breaches occur, and your passwords are stolen. When you reuse the same passwords everywhere, hackers can easily access your email, bank, and other important accounts."

Stay Safe with a Simple Password Manager. "Security experts recommend that you use a different, randomly generated password for every online account that you create. But how are you supposed to remember and keep up with that many passwords? Bitwarden Password Manager helps you create and manage secure passwords so that you can get back to enjoying your life online."

Keep Your PC Running Like New

Avram Grossman, CTO E-Novativ Author, A PC User's Guide for Avoiding the Grief of Losing Your Information

Many of us in the IT profession seem to have very few problems with our own personal computers and laptops. Yet our clients seem to get a dizzying assortment of computer errors and issues. What is the difference between our computers and the computers our clients use?

As a colleague once said, "Computers don't break themselves, People do it."

• Are you treating your computer with the respect it deserves?

• Do you fear your computer because you don't understand how it works and what it is doing?

• Are you not sure what is the best way to use your computer and do you know how to avoid losing your information?

This presentation will help you understand what the technology is that goes into making your personal computer work. You'll learn some simple steps to improve the way you use your PC. Knowledge is power, and you are the master of your PC.

User Group Relations -- December 2020 Newsletter



Announcing Changes to our Acronis Product Services

To ugr7.com

Holiday Greetings

2020 has been a difficult year for all of us. We wish everyone a great Holiday Season and a much better New Year! We look forward to serving your Acronis Product needs this coming year. Hopefully, 2021 will see an end to the pandemic and an opening to normal life again.

The recently announced Acronis True Image 2021 is an outstanding new product that all users should move to. Click on the button at the top of this newsletter to go to our website and see details about this exciting product.

On a Personal Note

On October 26, I experienced several serious medical conditions that hospitalized me for a month. The most severe was a stroke that left my left side partially paralyzed. I am currently in rehab and hope to regain my mobility. However, at this point, I am limited in what I can do. Unfortunately, this changes what services I can provide.

Effective immediately, I can no longer reply to technical questions. Fortunately, Acronis now offers up to a year of free technical support. You will need to stay more current with your products to obtain this free support. Also, I will no longer be able to do webinars. We will still be able to provide excellent Acronis products at great discounts.

Acronis True Image 2021

For the past several years, Acronis True Image has given us a great backup utility, but we had to look elsewhere for the other key protection, a good antimalware software product. With Acronis True Image 2021, you can now get both critical protection needs in one product. Acronis True Image 2021 now includes a fullfunction top-grade antimalware product along with their award winning backup utility. Now, one product can answer all of your internet protection needs combined. Acronis True Image 2021 comes in four different packages that lets you pick what is best to meet your individual needs -- True Image 2021 (Perpetual License), True Image 2021 Essential (Subscription License), True Image 2021 Advanced (Subscription License), and True Image 2021 Premium (Subscription License). See our <u>website</u> for a complete description of these different packages.

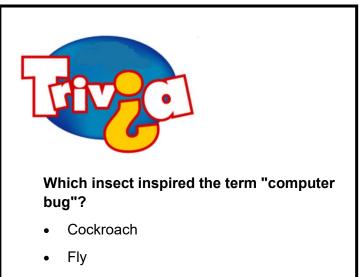
We are an official distributor of Acronis consumer products, focusing mainly on computer user groups members and their friends. We offer special discount prices and add extra support to our customers. Make sure you purchase from us for the best protection of your PC or Mac.

Announcing Acronis True Image

2021 Personal Cyber Protection

Acronis just announced, four new versions of their award winning product: Acronis True Image 2021 (Perpetual License) and Acronis True Image 2021 Essential, Acronis True Image 2020 Advanced, and Acronis True Image 2020 Premium (Subscription Licenses). The following major functions are new in Acronis True Image 2021:





- Beetle
- Moth





Turn your iPhone into a webcam in minutes

By Craig Mason

Zooming with other computer clubs is so informative. This past week, I have learned about a new app that allows me to turn my iPhone into a webcam. I presently have two webcams attached to my desktop, but I have recently created a few presentations where I needed a third camera. Now with the use of Epoc-Cam, I can use my iPhone as an overhead or over the shoulder webcam to enhance my productivity. EpocCam is a FREE download, for Windows PC or a Mac to use the iPhone as a webcam. To use all the features, you can upgrade to the Pro version for \$7.99. You can use EpocCam over WiFi or using a USB connection. After downloading and installing the driver for your computer you are good to go. You can stream from your front or back camera and take advantage of the phone flashlight if so needed. EpocCam can be used with Zoom of Skype as your webcam. The free version is only 640x480 pixels which is a reason to pay the \$7.99 for the EpocCam HD version and get the full 1080 support. EpocCam is also available on Android,



During our October Zoom meeting the following two computer services were mentioned.

White Box Computers

They say they are the place for all your computer repairs & upgrades at nearly half the prices of the competition.

https://whiteboxcomputers.org

847-833-9324

ZYTEK Services

Has been around for over 30 years and offers the best in fast, friendly, high-quality, fair price computer service solutions

847-336-2259





chine.

the moth were the first to literally "debug" a mascribe a computer glitch. The engineers who found the first time anyone used the word "bug" to detion "Hirst actual case of bug being found". This was machines' log book. Grace Hopper added the cap-I he moth was carefully removed and taped to the ty's Mark II computer to a moth trapped in a relay. atter operators traced an error in Harvard Universi-Admiral Grace Hopper, coined the term bug in 1941 literal bug. Computer scientist and U.S. Navy Rear Answer: The tirst "computer bug" was, in tact, a



How-To Geek

There's nothing like a daily dose of information to keep us abreast of the latest computer and technology.

Join the How-To Geek club...



if you are an AmazonSmile customer, you can now support Lake County Honor Flight in the Amazon shopping app on your Android device! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

- 1. If you have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App, open the App on your Android device.
- 2. View Settings and select AmazonSmile.
- 3. Follow the in-App instructions to complete the process.

If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App, update your App. Click here for instructions.



