Stranded Alaskan Snowmobiler Saved By iPhone's Emergency SOS Via Satellite Feature

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Apple's new iPhone 14 offers a feature called Emergency SOS via Satellite. It automatically calls Apple's Emergency Response Center when cell phone or WI-FI service is unavailable and a 911 call is placed. A snowmobiler stranded in a remote area of Alaska is the first person to use this service according to the Apple Emergency Response Center.
Courtesy: Apple

In early December, the Alaska Department of Public Safety issued a **brief report** about a man stranded on a snowmobile in a remote part of the state.

The man pulled out his iPhone 14 and used the Emergency SOS via Satellite feature to call for help. The Emergency SOS via Satellite service is automatically triggered on all iPhone 14 models when an attempt is made to call 911, and cell service or Wi-Fi is unavailable.

This was apparently the first time the iPhone's satellite phone feature was used to rescue a stranded individual.

From the Alaska Department of Public Safety report (according to **9to5Mac):**
"*On December 1, 2022, at around 2:00 am, the Alaska State Troopers were notified that an adult male traveling via snowmachine from Noorvik to Kotzebue had activated an Apple*

iPhone Emergency SOS via satellite on his iPhone after becoming stranded. Working with local search and rescue teams, the Apple Emergency Response Center, and the Northwest Arctic Borough Search and Rescue Coordinator, the NWAB SAR deployed four volunteer searchers to the Nimiuk Point area directly to GPS coordinates provided by the Apple Emergency Response Center. The adult male was located and transported to Kotzebue by the volunteer search team. There were no injuries reported to Tropers."

MacRumors **reports:** "Apple's Emergency Response Center worked with local search and rescue teams and the Northwest Arctic Borough Search and Rescue Coordinator to send out volunteer searchers directly to the GPS coordinates relayed to Apple using the emergency function. The man was rescued successfully, and there were no injuries. However, the area where he was located is remote and on the fringes of where satellite connectivity is available. Apple says satellite connectivity might not work in places above 62° latitude, such as northern parts of Canada and Alaska, and Noorvik and Kotzebue are close to 69° latitude."

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 editor@lcace.org 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 **http://www.lcace.org**.

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

PRESIDENTIAL PRATTLE
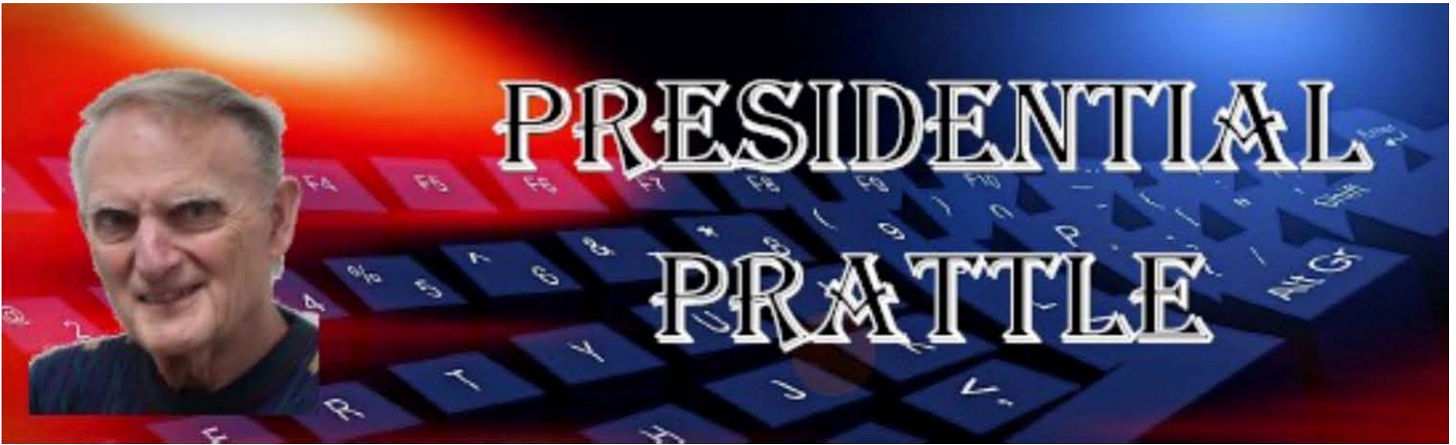
Linda Busch kindly stepped up to be Secretary for our June meeting, because Bobby Jacobs was unavailable thru her usual Zoom connection.
Thanks, Linda!

Our June presentation was a video, "Backups in a Busy World" by Mark Schulman of the Central Florida Computer Society. This is the kind of info that every computer/tablet/phone user needs to have. Whether it's just a few pictures on your flip phone, or your business documents for your small business, if it's YOUR data, you will very likely want to insure that it never goes away, regardless of the kind of hardware upon which it is stored. In case you want to review that video, here is a link to it: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFw6kiH52TM&t=893s

July 8 indoor picnic

I couldn't scare up any games or other similar types of entertainment for the picnic, but that may have resulted in a better event! People actually talked to each other! Who'da thought that would happen? Besides, lotsa people brought lotsa of different dishes, and Liz Barnett came through with much protein and other picnic essentials. Being inside, no one passed out from the heat, and there were no reports of ants attacking attendees. It was GREAT!

I'm looking forward to the August 12 meeting, where we will learn about some Android applications.

My best to all,

Les Larkin

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Business Insider **reports** *authorities located the man at Nimiuk Point and was taken to Kotzebue by the rescue team at 6 am 9to5Mac writes the emergency satellite service is available in iPhone 14 models because of a new radio chip included in those phones.*

Garmin, a long–time maker of smartwatches and exercise apps, launched a similar service in 2011 called inReach Messenger.

As of October 2022, Garmin reported that its emergency service had helped 10,000 people who needed immediate assistance.

Garmin says its service is often used to help other folks who don't own the device make the emergency call. In addition, Garmin lists the top five reasons people have used its emergency service over the past eleven years:

1. Injury
2. Medical issue
3. Vehicle accident
4. Stranded/Stuck
5. A vehicle problem

The top five incidents requesting emergency help from Garmin:

1. Hiking/Backpacking
2. Driving
3. Motorcycling
4. Climbing/Mountain climbing
5. Boating

Live Package Tracking Comes to Gmail

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society
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Gmail users anxiously awaiting a package's delivery may smile when they hear about this late-2022 feature.

"Mashable" reports, "Gmail will initially ask users in a pop-up at the top of the inbox if they wish to opt-in to receive tracking updates before enabling package monitoring. Users can choose whether to click "Allow" or "Immediately now" based on their preferences."

If users opt in, a small green label with the estimated package delivery day will automatically appear under the sender's name and subject line in the Gmail inbox. "Mashable" reports that a small truck icon and the order's progress status are shown after the estimated delivery date.

Most major freight delivery companies are expected to provide the new feature. However, according to Tom's Guide, the user must have an order confirmation with a tracking number for Google to offer live tracking in its Gmail service.

Of course, you must be using the Gmail app for this to work. This feature won't be available if you're viewing your Gmail account messages using a different email app (such as Apple Mail, Outlook, Thunderbird, Postbox, or Canary Mail).

Tech Magazines, now Websites

By Dick Maybach
Brookdale Computer User Group
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When PCs arrived in the 80s, bookstores were full of hobbyist magazines, such as PC Magazine, PC World, and Dr. Dobbs Journal. Now, most PC users consider their devices to be appliances rather than hobby equipment, and magazines have disappeared. However, a few enthusiasts remain, as do publications that support them, but most now as websites. These are not where you go to find problem solutions but to learn about new developments and tutorials. Here are a few examples.

PC Magazine appeared once or twice a month in my mailbox, and I would read every page. It now is a website, **https://www.pcmag.com/**, that covers Macs and PCs.
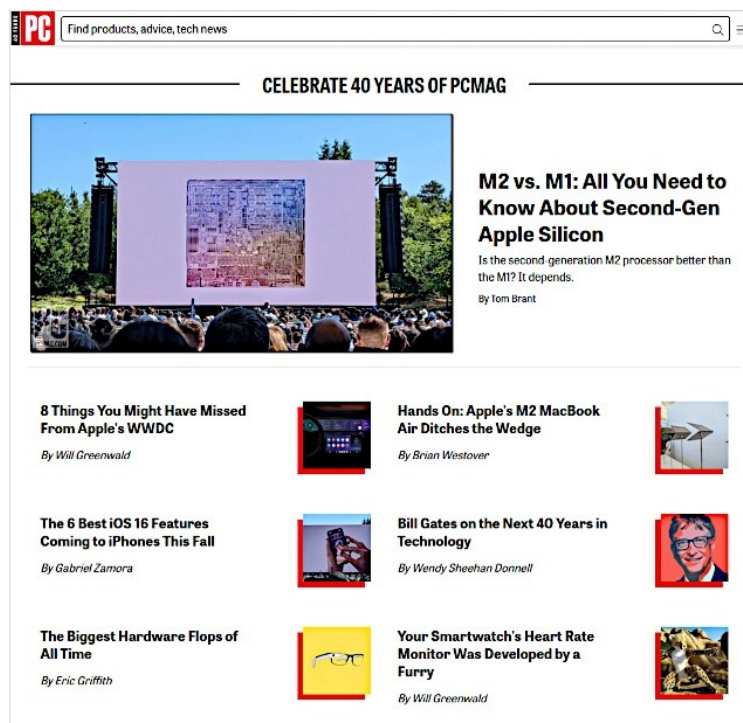
The website covers more topics than its print predecessor and includes product, advice, and tech news reports. There is a search feature to help you find past articles that interest you. As with all websites, the content evolves continually, so if you see something interesting, you may wish to save the article or its URL. In addition, you can subscribe to special-topic newsletters (what's new, lab reports, tips, tricks, etc.), apparently at no cost.

**PC World is also still alive and well, https://www.pcworld.com/.**
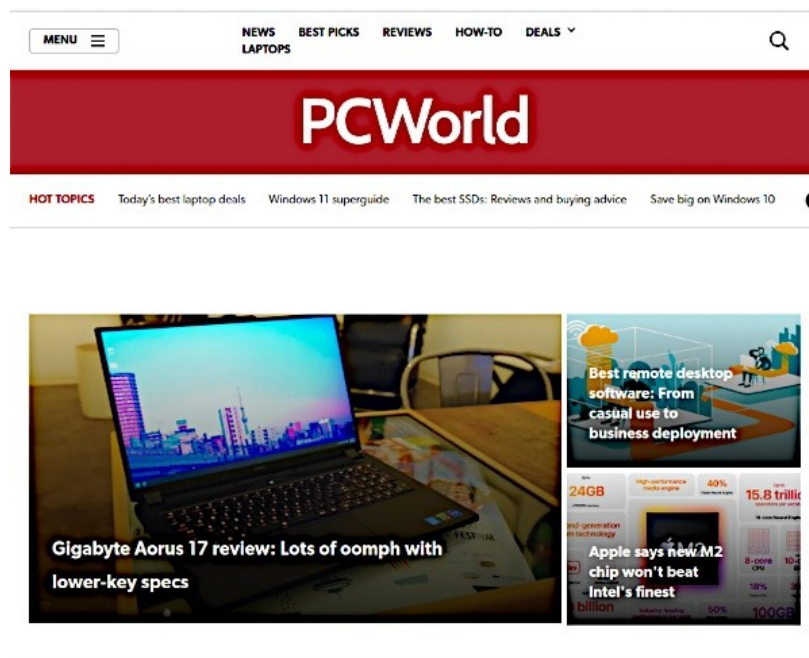
The topics are less wide-ranging than those on the PC Magazine site and are mainly limited to PCs. However, they also have free newsletters, and you can subscribe to their digital magazine for about $20 per year to relive the print magazine experience.

Another old favorite was ComputerWorld, https://www.computerworld.com/.

They, too, have free newsletters on specific topics, and the site is searchable.

See Tom's Hardware, https://www.tomshardware.com/, for information on PC compo-
nents. Unfortunately, this never appeared in print and is formatted as a traditional website rather
than a periodical
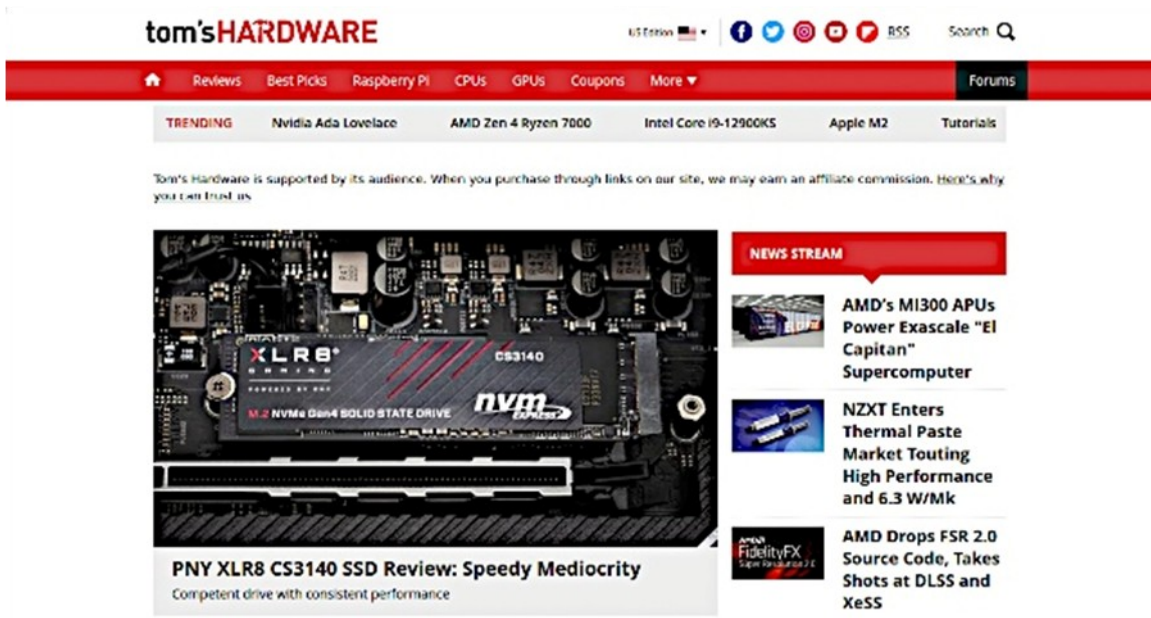
You'll find detailed reviews of motherboards, CPUs, monitors, storage devices, other peripherals,
and complete computers here. There are also tutorials on building and testing PCs and forums
where you can ask questions and exchange views. Although the name implies this is a one-person
project, a sizable staff supports the site.

If you're looking for tutorials or help to solve PC problems, check **Computer Hope, https://
www.computerhope.com/tips/index.htm.** Unfortunately, this, too, has existed only as a
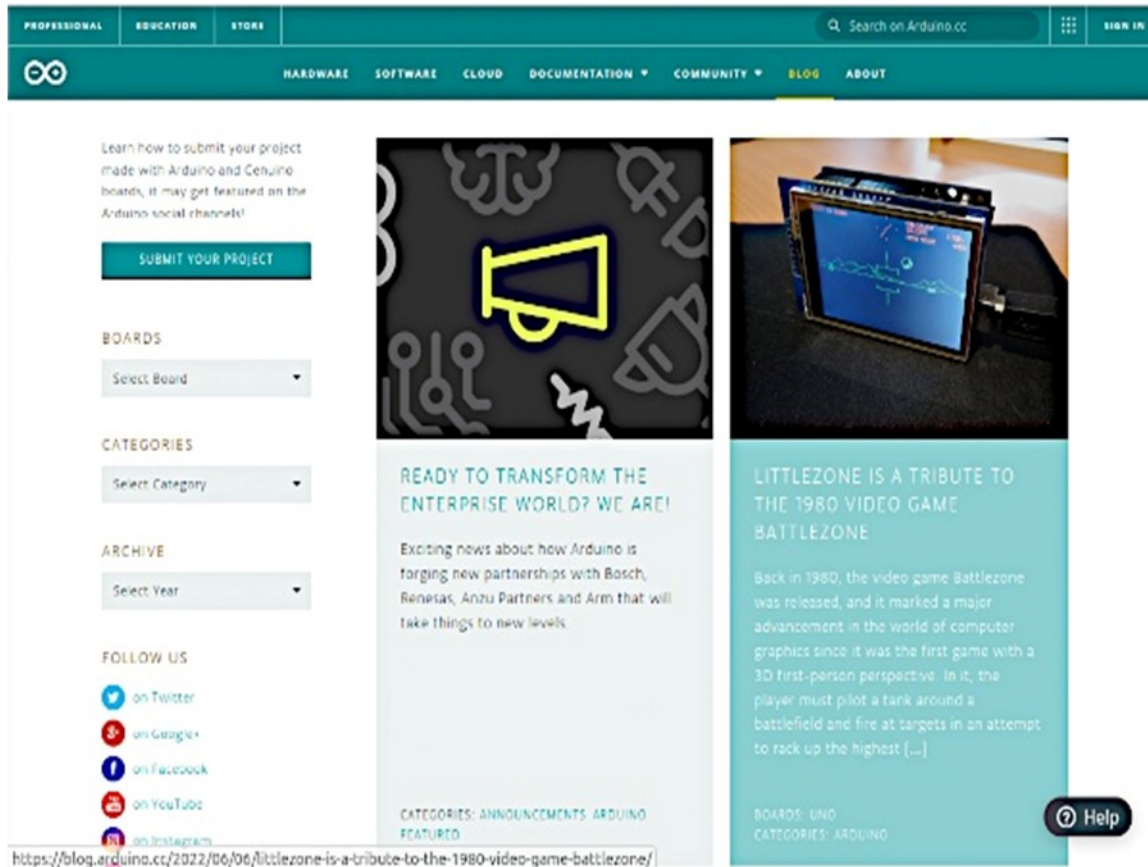website.

If you need information or help on specific topics, this may be a better site than the general-information ones above. In addition, its coverage includes Linux, while the first three above appear to be limited to Windows and Macs.

Full Circle Magazine, http://fullcirclemagazine.org/**,** is a 60 to 70-page monthly publication covering primarily Ubuntu Linux, although much of the material has a wider scope.
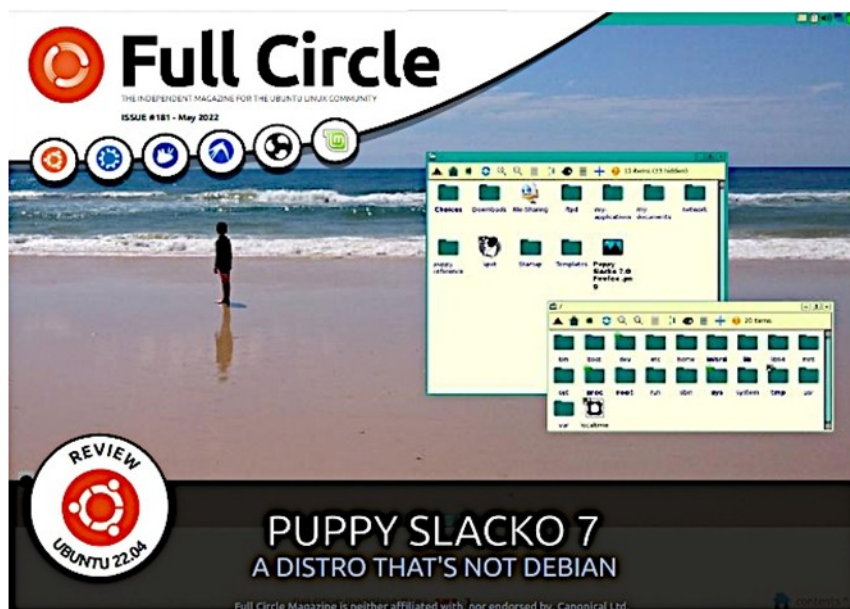
Unlike the sites discussed above, this magazine began publication in 2007 and continues today. You can read or download the issues online as PDFs or EPUB files. The monthly issues cover Ubuntu primarily, but there are also special issues on such topics as the Python language and LibreOffice. But, like print magazines, once an issue is published, it doesn't change.

Raspberry Pi users have MagPi, https://magpi.raspberrypi.com/, a 100-page monthly, available as a download or in print.

The first issue was published in 2012. Like Full Circle, you can read and download the issues for free, although they request a donation. Many articles describe hardware and software projects, often with a link to step-by-step instructions. This is an essential resource if you are working with a Raspberry Pi.

Arduino users should check the blog on the **Arduino website, https://blog.arduino.cc/**

This blog, not a magazine, is made of short articles describing Arduino projects with links to more complete descriptions. Since the content changes continually, you'll want to record the URLs of those that interest you.

This has been a sampling of some resources available to those interested in PCs, and many more may suit you better. With the decline of printed publications, it's easy to use the Internet only to find solutions to specific problems, which can narrow our focus. However, in the early days of PCs, print magazines continually exposed us to new products and ideas, which websites like those discussed here can do today. PCs are wonderful aids for exploring and growth; losing this resource would be a shame.

Simplify your life with these smartphone apps

Visit *play.google.com* or open your iTunes application and search within the App Store to download these.

App name	How it works
Flashlight	Turns your screen into a flashlight
Google Maps	Provides maps and directions using GPS
Dragon Dictation*	Lets you send texts and emails without typing
GasBuddy	Finds cheap fuel in your area
FaceTime*	Allows video chats with friends and family
TripIt	Organizes flights, hotel reservations, and more
Laser Level	Helps hang pictures straight
Lose It	Lets you create and follow a diet plan
RedLaser	Compares prices by scanning bar codes while you shop
The Weather Channel	Keeps up with local weather
iPharmacy Drug Guide & Pill ID	Identifies your pills and finds lowest drug prices
Tip Calculator	Computes your tip and splits the bill among friends

*iPhone only

Members Helping Members

Just think you could have submitted a paragraph or two that would help your fellow Members

LCACE

YouTube

Free Online Classes for Older Adults!
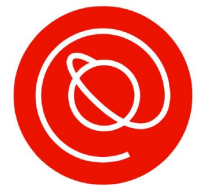
Senior Planet from AARP is a nonprofit that helps older adults use technology to learn digital skills, stay active, and meet new friends.

🌐 **www.seniorplanet.org**   📞 **888-713-3495**

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SENIOR PLANET
FROM AARP

August 12, 2023

Membership Chairperson Report

Attendees = 48

Computer Services

Desktops, Laptops, All-in-Ones and more

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

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL *Annual Dues* **2022-2024**

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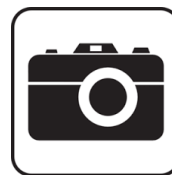
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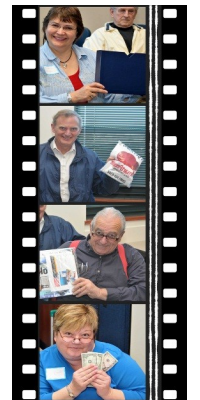
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