An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups

Reports

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Third Quarter 2013

Association of Personal Computer User Groups

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From the President

Time is passing quickly and APCUG is moving forward in a successful direction. We are close to launching the new website, the UGLS has been updated and made easier to use, and the Advisors are reaching out to their groups and working hard to answer their needs.

Each quarter when it is time to write the Presidents Message, I give pause to what I should address for a subject. In the middle of the night, it came to me….step up!

The past few weeks have been trying for me personally. There was a medical situation, all taken care of now, that put me on a lot of medications and interfered with my making rational decisions. With as much as he already has on his plate, Vice President, Hewie Poplock, stepped up and took the reins of this organization and handled every situation he encountered. Thank you Hewie for stepping up!

A few months ago, a Past President accepted a position so this organization could share the work load in a more evenly fashion and continue to run smoothly. The transition was easy because he stepped up! Thank you David Steward for stepping up!

Lee Laughner, a beautiful and outstanding woman from AZ. volunteered to help upload information into the new APCUG website. She is enjoying the work she is doing and has been a huge help to the website committee. Again, thank you Lee for stepping up!

All the Directors, Advisors, and Advisor Chair have stepped up during this past six months. Each one in their own way has given of themselves to this organization. They all have stepped up when the need has arisen. The Virtual Technical Conference is one way to measure the success of APCUG. The VTC committee works harder than anyone knows to make this benefit available to all our user groups. They definitely step up!

I guess the bottom line is that we all need to step up and help our local user group any way possible. Volunteering is not always easy or convenient, but the inner satisfaction is worth it. I want to say "Thank you" to all the people who step up!

Marie Vesta, President

Breaking News!
APCUG is Moving Forward!
New Logo & New Tagline!
New Website!

Marie Vesta, President
president@apcug.org

Your APCUG Directors and Advisors have been working for over a year to update this organization. The prospect of rebranding in any way was a difficult, but necessary, decision. Part of our updating was to change our logo. The new one is shown on this issue of Reports. We need to recognize and thank Director Jim Evans for all the work he did to create the logo that now represents APCUG.

An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups is our new tagline. We encompass all technology in addition to computers. We are going to use this new vision to move forward into the future and look at our organization with the enthusiasm and scope that is deserved. We are extremely close to launching APCUG's new website which will add to our new look and mission. We are truly moving forward!

The future of APCUG depends upon our member groups (old and new) being as excited as we are about this bold and much needed decision. We are encouraging all our member groups to join us on various social media platforms:

- ✓ Like us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/APCUG
- ✓ Follow us on Twitter - www.twitter.com/apcug
- ✓ Subscribe to our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/apcugvideos

What about your group? Are you on Social Media? Let APCUG know by sending an email to socialmedia@apcug.org so we can like, follow and subscribe to your group.

All the different formats of the new logo will be available on the website for our group's websites, newsletters, etc.

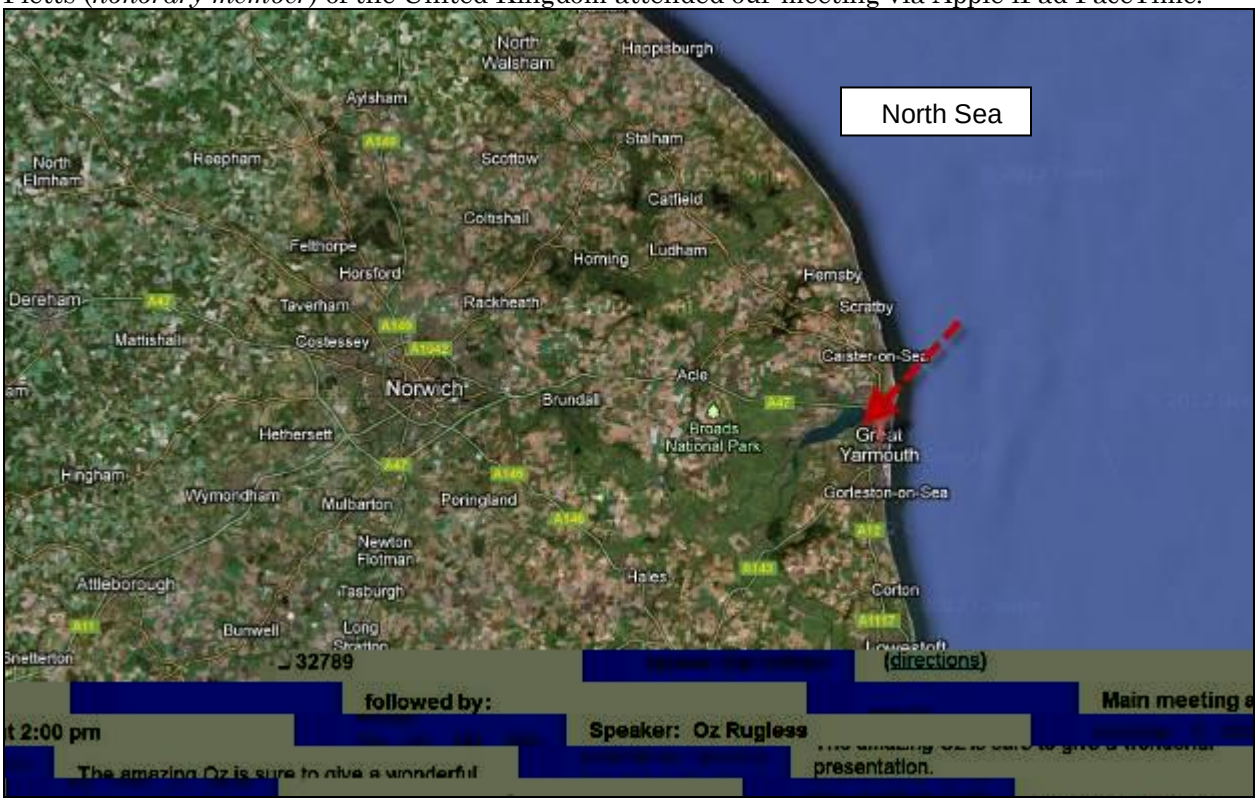
AND, APCUG has just launched its new website! After a year's worth of hard work, some successes, and some failures, it is with excitement that we invite all User Group Members to go to our new website, sign in, look around, and let us know what you think.

The ability to add to a forum, create a blog, upload a newsletter, and check a User Group website are just some of the fantastic things that can be done at the new website. www.apcug.org

Let us know what you think of the new changes, we would love to hear from you.

Region 8 International Meeting
George Holloway, Editor & Webmaster, SWIPCC
Southwest International Personal Computer Club, El Paso, Texas
www.swipcc.org

On Saturday May 18, 2013, the "**I**" in ***International*** met the true International interpretation when David Pletts (*honorary member*) of the United Kingdom attended our meeting via Apple iPad FaceTime.



After introductions, President Doug Agee brought the meeting to order and began the roundtable discussion of Backup Procedures.

David joined in the discussion with lively input; he indicated he would be available for future meetings.

Thank you, David, for taking time to join us.

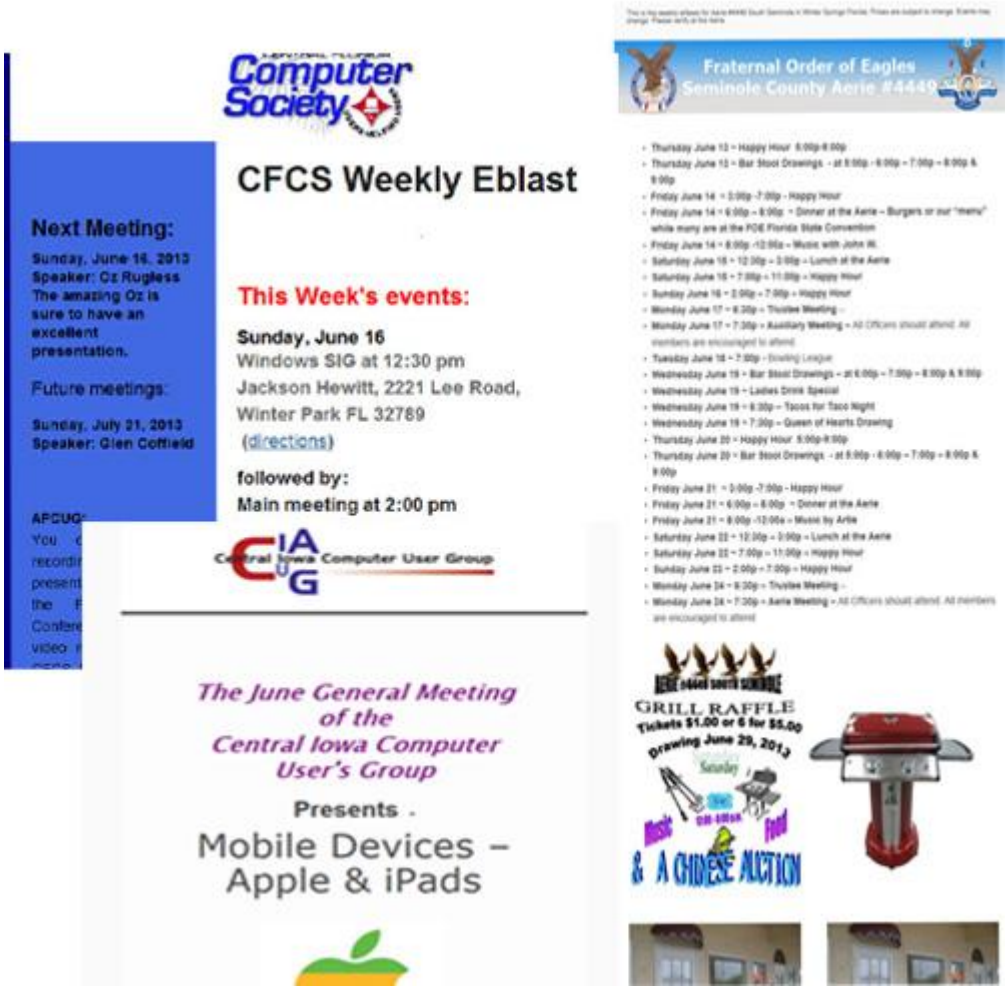
More Report Info

Open rate	65.0%	Click rate	16.8%
List avg	55.6%	List avg	13.0%
Industry avg	19.2%	Industry avg	3.0%

Opened	Clicked	Bounced	Unsubscribed
89	23	1	1

Total opens	Successful deliveries	Clicks per unique opens	Total clicks
789	137 99.3%	25.8%	124
Forwarded	Forward opens	Abuse reports	
0	0	0	

MailChimp Examples



Marketing Your Club

Bill James, Advisor, Region 8
bjames@apcug.org

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Outreach is a great way to get the word out about your group. Cajun Clickers Computer Club, Louisiana, participated in Grandparents Day that was held on May 4, 2013 and hosted by a national organization, "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren," geared towards helping grandparents who find themselves in a situation of having to raise one or more of their grandchildren. As part of their community outreach, the Clickers had an exhibitors table to inform grandparents about the benefits of their club. Merilyn Wilson served as the host for their table.

The Computer Club of Oklahoma City participates in similar events such as Senior Day at the Oklahoma State Fair. They also have attended Oklahoma City Senior Awareness Day. To participate in some of these events there is a minimum exhibitor fee for a booth, but others are free to non-profits. Groups should have brochures, membership forms, and a knowledgeable person on the activities of your club and a little hard candy in a jar to share with your guests. You will get visitors to your club.

Social Media

Social media has become a fixture in our daily lives so creating a Facebook page that features your club is a great way to discuss and promote it. Posting your event calendar, providing teasers of upcoming events using Facebook and other social media will attract visitors to your club. It also can be a fun way for members to interact with one another by discussing a recent club meeting or activity. Don't neglect your website by not keeping it up-to-date. There is nothing more frustrating to a visitor than to find outdated information.

Newsletters

Keeping your membership informed on the activities of the club via a newsletter also encourages membership attendance and new visitors: Newsletters can easily be created using Microsoft Word. There are templates that can be used by just filling in the blanks. Send your newsletter out via email using your club roster to keep the cost down. Use the PUSH articles in your newsletter to help keep your members up-to-date on what's happening in the world of technology.

Dynamic Programming

Nothing can kill a club faster than not having interesting and informative programs. If your club is struggling with programming, APCUG has numerous ways to assist you in getting the programs your club needs. Check out the Webinars, YouTube videos and Speaker Bureau presentations that are available to APCUG member groups and is included as part of your membership. If you have programs that you would like to share with other clubs, contact Judy Taylour, jtaylour@apcug.org or Jim Evans, jevans@apcug.org.

Avast! – Bob Gostischa

www.avast.com

http://bit.ly/sylnuH - Security Seminars Special Purchase Links

Avast offers a 40% discount to members of user groups who have had an Avast presentation. See above URL.

You will find instructions to successfully install avast! 8 and other helpful links and tips at: http://goo.gl/7AhRh

Consumer Camp
Jim Evans, APCUG Director
jevans@apcug.org

Is there a Microsoft Store near you? Have you talked to them about Consumer Camp? It is a program run by Microsoft MVPs at Microsoft Stores to promote Microsoft technologies to consumers. This includes Xbox, Kinect, SkyDrive, Surface, and Windows Phone. Check out http://www.consumercamp.net/. This idea started in Seattle and has been spreading across the country.

Also check Microsoft Store's Meetup page http://microsoft-store.meetup.com/ to see what's going on at the stores.

The Only Stupid Question is the One Not Asked
Wisconsin All-computer Users Group
http://www.wauc.info

Two members from the WAUC Mac SIG recently gave an excellent presentation. The president, Richard Durand, notes: "One way to measure the excellence of a presentation, is by how many questions the members ask, and for this one, there were quite a few."

A recent president's column by Durand covered "computer immersion," that is, just attending meetings and SIGs to be exposed to discussions of computers and eventually becoming comfortable with computer terms and procedures. Once one starts to feel more comfortable with all of this, the next step is to ask questions. To be able to fully understand anything just heard, one has to be able to relate it to the knowledge one already has. And to find out what the relationship might be, one has to ask questions. An advantage an audience has in this is that listening actually happens much faster than speaking. So while a speaker is speaking, one can listen and also actively be thinking of questions to ask.

To get the best results, before asking, decide on the question that is most important to you to find out at the time and try to phrase it as briefly and precisely, as possible. A broad open-ended question is more likely to get a vague answer of "it depends," and more precise questions usually result in a useful answer. Thinking of brief, concise questions will help one learn just as much as receiving the proper answers. If you still can't think of a good question, there is always this old stand-by: re-phrase what you just heard and then ask, "Is that correct?"

And you might do well to remember this old adage: "The only stupid question is the one that is not asked." We're not professionals in this club; there are no grades or degrees such as at a school. We're just average, every-day computer users doing the best we can, not trying to impress anyone. Our slogan is "Members helping Members." So please don't be afraid to ask questions but also be considerate and allow time for other members to ask questions as well. When a question is asked and answered, we all learn. If you keep this in mind, the value of questioning, you'll be surprised how many questions start coming to you.

USER GROUP MEMBER
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Local computer society offers computer classes, electronics recycling
Members of local computer society use their skills to teach others, provide low-cost computers to community
Written by Emily Maddern, Advocate Reporter
Photos by Michael Lehmkuhle, The Advocate
The Advocate & Newark Advocate.com
Media Network of Central Ohio
www.newarkadvocate.com/

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Many people probably have never heard of the Licking County Computer Society or know what it is when they first come across it.

The LCCS was started nearly 30 years ago by a group of people who wanted to learn more about computers and how to use them, to share ideas about usage and discuss new computer trends.

Today, it has grown into something much more: the group recycles computers and other electronics, refurbishes computers to supply community members with low cost systems, and offers classes for senior citizens and residents who want to learn basic or advanced computer skills.

"Everything is computer-related these days. You basically have to have one," said Jim Amore, president of the Licking County Computer Society.

"We have a lot of people who need computers here. It could be single moms going back to college or unemployed people. You can't do a resume or a job search or even apply some places without a computer," he said.

Understanding the need for not only computers but also affordable ones is one of the reasons the group is so committed to refurbishing old models. Many computers that seem worn out or unusable really just need a spring cleaning and a few new parts.

Vicky Atkins, membership chairwoman for LCCS, said she received a refurbished computer from the group about two years ago that was built with parts from about six different computers and it "runs like a dream."

Everett McKee works on a computer during a recycling event sponsored by the Licking County Computer Society

Old hard drives are destroyed to prevent personal data from being stolen.

The Licking County Computer Society sponsored a computer recycling event Friday morning at Holophane on Oakwood Avenue in Newark.

Ron Sherwood, of Granville, left, and Ira LaFollette, III, of Newark, members of the Licking County Computer Society, reclaim parts from a computer dropped off for recycling Friday morning.

Most of the refurbished computers come from the group's recycling events, the most recent of which was conducted this past Friday and Saturday. The event was scheduled to start at 9 a.m. Friday, but when volunteers arrived at the site, computers were already waiting for them.

Members who have experience building computers look over every monitor and computer tower to determine whether it can be refurbished. The group keeps anything fast enough to be re-purposed. Everything else gets loaded onto a pallet to be stored until a Columbus-based company picks them up to be recycled.

Many, if not all, of the volunteers who work on fixing the computers are self-taught, said Everett McKee, a technician who works on the LCCS computers.

"You don't really need to know how computers work to know how to work on them because it's mostly all in the software," he said. "As paradoxical as this sounds, there is no logic in this. You just know how to do it."

Any computer that is designated to be refurbished has its hard drive wiped clean, and those that are designated for recycling have their hard drives destroyed.

Having a computer doesn't do much good for someone who doesn't know how to use it, so the LCCS introduced computer classes.

The group partners with the Licking County Aging Program to offer classes to seniors at Heritage Hall as well as anyone else who is interested at its office at 123 S. Third St., in Newark.

Some of the courses the society will offer this summer discuss exploring the Internet, digital camera basics, navigating Windows 8 and how to use word-processing programs. A full schedule can be found online at www.lccsohio.org. The classes are $20 and are offered two days per week for a three-week period.

"There is just so much knowledge to be gained in this group," Amore said. "With us, you know you have someone to turn to if you have a problem with a computer or program or whatever. Anything you can think of that needs fixed, we can do it."

Reach Out in Your Community for New Members by Using Meetup.com

Hewie Poplock, APCUG Vice President
hpoplock@apcug.org

Recently my computer user group (Central Florida Computer Society) and the Florida Drupal Group had discussions on using Meetup.com. The two groups have different demographics and discussed the issues quite differently. The discussions demonstrated quite emphatically the issues that user groups are having.

Both groups are trying to get new attendees and thus new members. The Drupal Group has no infrastructure and does not have a membership fee or even a treasury. Its membership is a much younger demographic than our computer user group, which is mostly senior citizens. The user group is much like yours, with fewer new members each year, an aging group that always states that we need some younger members.

The Drupal Group is a loosely structured group of Drupal enthusiasts from various areas in Florida such as Orlando, Tampa, Sarasota, Gainesville, Brevard County, and several others. Their discussion was not centered around "should we use meetup.com?", but was centered around "should we have separate accounts throughout the state or one Florida group, and how do we pay for it"?

Our computer user group members are happy with the status quo. Many new ideas are frowned upon. Many members and even officers do not use social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and many of the other very popular internet activities. In fact they adamantly challenge social media use and existence. I think some would be happy if we went back to using MSDOS as an operating system.

If user groups, and that includes my group, are to survive, they need to embrace new technology. This includes how we attract new members. One of those ways includes using meetup.com. In the past we just let the world know that we help people with their computer issues and they showed up at our meetings. The Internet changed all of that, yet we do have a valuable service for people in our communities. Letting people know what we do and where we meet is quite difficult.

Many of our groups have monthly newsletters, but many often only share them with members. Many groups have websites; I have looked at many of these websites and some do not even indicate what city or area they serve. Most aim the sites at the current membership and do not try to attract new members.

It has become difficult to publicize our meetings. Newspapers have fewer personnel and make it almost impossible to list a meeting and few would read it anyway. There is now a service at http://meetup.com which solves the problem. The Florida Drupal people know that; the user group community needs to understand Meetup.com and learn how to use it.

Meetup.com is aimed at two separate groups: the organizers and the audience. For the audience, it is absolutely free. All you have to do is go to the website, search for a topic or just "All Meetups," decide the distance from a determined city, and click. You will get a list of activities that will be daunting. You can narrow your search with a specific term or interest and channel the listing. Once you find an interesting meeting, you can view the details that the organization placed in the listing, see the number of members that have joined the Meetup group, which is not their actual membership number, and possibly a list of the members.

There will be a "Join us" button. When you click it, you will need to create an account by giving your name, your email address (which is not shared), and a password or you can sign up with Facebook. Once you are a Meetup member, you can add your name to other interesting groups and receive reminders when they meet.

Once you discover Meetup.com, you should never be without something interesting to do and you have the opportunity to meet many interesting people with the same or similar interests.

The other part of Meetup.com is the organizer side. There is a fee for this. There are three price plans: $12 a month for six months (a single $72 charge), $15 a month for three months (a single $45 charge), or $19 per month. When considering the price, think of all of the ways you have spent money in the past to publicize your meetings. $12 a month is clearly a bargain, especially if you can grow your group.

Once you set up an organizer account you can add your information for your group and all of its SIGs. Be sure to have at least one co-organizer to help to maintain the information. Be sure to update all of the information each month so that everyone can see what your group is doing. Ask all of the members of your club to be sure to register and to RSVP to meetings so the numbers reflect that you are an active group.

Meetup.com has 14.11 million members, with 131,196 Meetup groups in 196 countries. They promote 395,237 monthly Meetups with 2.68 million monthly RSVPs. Your club certainly should be able to attract additional attendees and new members. Good luck.

"User groups represent the spirit of the frontier, a community getting together to do things that no individual ought to have to do alone. The pioneers of the American west got together for barn raisings, cattle roundups, and the occasional party. The pioneers of new technology get together for installfests, new user training and support, and just plain fun. Being part of a user group is the best way to get more out of your computer, and lets you make friends while you're at it."
— Tim O'Reilly www.oreilly.com

What Works
Gabe Goldberg, Advisor, Region 2
ggoldberg@apcug.org

USER GROUPS PROSPER ON BALANCED DIETS

Among key factors for user group prosperity and survival are volunteers and money. If you recruit volunteers -- start them with small responsibilities -- such as greeter, welcoming members and guests! – they will often grow to be committed workers.

Once you have volunteers, don't take them for granted! Recognize them, give awards/certificates, have a volunteer recognition lunch, show appreciation at meetings, on your website and in your newsletter.

For finances, don't rely on member dues and random small donations; be creative in outreach and fundraising. For example, Louisiana's Cajun Clickers group has sold private-label hot sauce (Yum!) and FPCUG (Fredericksburg PCUG) in Virginia has for some time run non-smoking bingo. Don't miss the easy stuff: become an Amazon affiliate through simple registration, prominently display your shopping URL, and mention it frequently. And especially seek donors/sponsors/advertisers with whom your group may have common interests, whether commercial or simply community support. This article <http://tinyurl.com/b7a4ra6> gives tips for maintaining donor interest and support and <http://tinyurl.com/be4xyzn> outlines recruiting company support.

TABLETS ARE HERE AND NOW

If your group isn't addressing the explosive growth in tablet usage, you're missing a huge opportunity to expand your outreach, community service, and membership. Statistics in this August 2012 Infographic <http://tinyurl.com/aetrzv6> are borne out by attendance at tablet-related meetings. I've seen standing-room-only crowds at multiple tablet presentations. Some groups integrate tablet topics in regular meeting sequences while others form tablet SIGs or spin off independent tablet groups. Interestingly, audiences are greatly diverse, including everyone from people just unwrapping new gadgets, to people who've used them for years. That mix is great because it creates an ideal opportunity for "users helping users". Many "tabletsters" – seniors with their first tech gadgets -- are ideal prospects for long-term user group loyalty and membership, when offered a comfortable setting for learning and enjoying tablet capabilities.

Note that businesses are latching onto the iPad as well. So there's perhaps an opportunity to reach out to potential commercial members or offering paid seminars.

Of course, when offering tablet meetings, ensure adequate Wi-Fi capability so that 20 or 50 or a hundred people don't suddenly overwhelm a network previously adequate for "normal" meeting load.

READY OR NOT, THE "NEW MICROSOFT OFFICE" IS HERE

I recently attended a MicroCenter <http://www.microcenter.com/> class billed as "New Microsoft Office." It covered Office 2013 and Office 365. The former is traditional boxed product (though it may or may not include software, and may just be a Product Key); the latter includes several cloud-based applications.

Office 2013 has the usual confusing variety of product bundles, with interesting attributes of them all supporting just one PC (as opposed to multiple permitted by previous versions) and restricted transfers between systems (improved from initial "no transfers" policy).

Office 365 also comes in various product bundles supporting multiple machines, including mobile devices -- but (perhaps, there's conflicting information) only works when you're online. It also includes SkyDrive, Skype minutes. Word has a reader for offline use.

These are very different ways to buy/use Office, and user group members will likely be confused, so there's a timely opportunity for user groups to learn and communicate the truth -- even if it's evolving – about "New Office."

MAKE USE OF MAKEUSEOF.COM

A great -- and free! -- resource is the MakeUseOf.com website, offering abundant detailed technology tutorials, manuals, and contests. Topics include everything imaginable, from PCs to websites to smartphones to social media to photography. Browse it for user group meeting and newsletter ideas or even specific content to present. MakeUseOf.com has given APCUG permission to use their articles in PUSH, with proper attribution that is included with each article sent to your editor.

MICROSOFT STORES AS RESOURCE

A small tech company you may have heard of -- Microsoft -- is extending its retail store footprint around the US. I've attended several events at various stores and found staffers to be exceptionally friendly, well informed, and interested in community outreach. Stores offer abundant hands-on access to all sorts of hardware/software products. Additionally, they support community groups in various ways – for example, hosting on-site meetings with bonus giveaways and offering speakers for regular user group events. Visit www.microsoftstore.com/ to read about store services and check whether one is near you.

USER GROUP MEETINGS DON'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT

Volunteer jobs -- and Director of Meeting Programs in particular – are only open-ended for people foolish enough not to be able to give them up, share them, or delegate them.

For booking meetings, the job involves having ideas for speakers, collecting ideas, soliciting ideas, browsing for ideas, and then contacting potential speakers, explaining what's needed, setting dates, getting speaker bios and presentation titles/descriptions, and arranging publicity. Once you've done a couple of these it's routine and mechanical. The trick -- which too few people learn/do -- is getting booked far ahead. It's no more effort booking six months out than it is for next week, and having a pipeline eliminates last-minute pressure and fumbles.

This is NOT rocket science -- and it's fun. By booking speakers, you ensure speakers/talks are people/things YOU want to hear. And you make interesting contacts, not to mention supporting your group and community. If you've never been Program Chair, give it a shot. If your group has a successful Program Chair, pitch in with ideas and logistics to build backup and a succession plan for the position.

"Ghosts"

Sam Wexler, Region 1 Advisor
swexler@apcug.org

This is no joke and it really did happen. One morning during the past spring, a high-pitched sound started in one of the rooms in our house that appeared to come from above the ceiling. You could hear it for anywhere from 30 seconds to 5 minutes and then it would stop for 30 seconds to a half hour before starting again. It sounded like the 17-year Cicadas which were scheduled to hit here shortly and was driving us crazy. I Googled various iterations of "high pitched noise" and got four million hits. By the end of the day it was traced to a partially turned-off iPad. If you have a similar story, please send it to swexler@apcug.org so we may publish it in the next Reports.

PEACHPIT USER GROUP PROGRAM MEMBER

Peachpit Press User Group Program
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ANNOUNCING THE APCUG 2013 CONTESTS

Don't miss this great opportunity to get some recognition for your group -- that's what it is all about. If your user group has a great newsletter or website and members who take great digital photos, let's show the world!

If your user group is participating in a community service project, please do not hesitate to enter the Jerry Awards competition. No matter how big or small your group or project, the judges will be looking for how your group uses technology to help in your community.

The contests are open to all current APCUG member groups. All entries must be received by August 26, 2013. Winners will be announced at the 2013 APCUG/DMA-NASAC Ohio Regional Computer Conference on Digital Technology. The conference will be held September 13, 14, and 15 and is being co-hosted by APCUG and the DMA (Dayton Microcomputer Association) and NASAC user groups of Dayton and Xenia, Ohio.

Please get in touch with the Contests Committee if you have any questions: contests@apcug.org

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SAVE THE DATE
VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE
August 3, 2013

If you give presentations to your group and/or other groups and would like to expand your presentations to attendees across the US and Canada, please let Judy Taylour know at jtaylour@apcug.org -- we are always looking to grow the list of volunteers who give presentations at our VTCs.

TREASURER'S REPORT
Second Quarter Summary
Sandy Hart, Treasurer
shart@apcug.org

APCUG Treasurer's Summary Report 2nd Quarter 2013

PayPal Account	April 1, 2013 Balance			1903.37
Membership Renewals		150.00		
Regional Conference Registrations		630.00		780.00
Fees			-58.82	
Transfer from PayPal to Operating Acct			-2000.00	-2058.82
PayPal Balance 6-30-2013				624.55
Bank of America Operating Acct Balance 4-1-13				14770.98
Income:				
Transfer from PayPal		2000.00		
Miscellaneous		0.08		
Membership Renewals		150.00		
	Total Income			2150.08
Expenses:				
Online Services/Hosting			1452.08	
UGLS Software Upgrades			1530.00	
Travel			1581.12	
Insurance			425.00	
Shipping			25.99	
Conference: F2F			3139.83	
			8154.02	-8154.02
Operating Acct 6/30/13 Balance				8767.04
PayPal Balance				624.55
Savings Account Balance				17971.28
CD Balance				101789.80
Net Worth as of 6-30-2013				129152.67

Region 1
CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT
Sam Wexler, Advisor
swexler@apcug.org

CONNECTICUT
BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL MICROCOMPUTER USERS GROUP, INC.
www.bpmug.org

Chromebooks, the $200 Laptop?

This sounds too good to be true, so this subject was the main topic for BPMUG's May meeting. Whether you've heard about them or not, it is compelling to think about buying a laptop for just $200. What's the "catch" that makes them so inexpensive? To answer that, you need to know the history of the Chromebook. The first Chromebook was built by Google as a "proof of concept" and distributed to developers so they could create apps to make it a mainstream device. Now Acer, Samsung, HP and others offer Chromebooks. The hardware is pretty basic. What 's new is the operating system called Chrome OS, designed for the way many of us use computers most: email and Internet. Chrome OS is essentially an Internet browser as an operating system, plus other functions such as file management, web app launcher and simple connectivity to the cloud. Because of the way Chrome OS is designed, it offers many advantages to traditional operating systems: it's faster, it's safer (no need for security software) and it's ultra-portable with great battery life.

NEW YORK
SOUTHERN TIER PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB

Local Businesses Present at Spring Meetings

Three Best Buy representatives presented several topics at their May meeting. All were well prepared, very knowledgeable and their presentation was excellent. Staples provided a presentation on Windows 8 for their June meeting and also had an excellent presentation. You should consider businesses like Best Buy and Staples for presentations at your meetings.

Region 2
DC, DE, MD, NJ, VA
Gabe Goldberg, Advisor
ggoldberg@apcug.org

Region 2 user group leaders: I aim to report more fully on Region 2 user groups and need you to help me do this. If you're not already sending me your newsletter and/or meeting notices, please do so (email address above)! That helps me harvest information, lets me share meeting topics and other information more widely, and reminds me to explore visiting and perhaps speaking at your meetings. If you're not included here -- get aboard next time!

MARYLAND
CAPITAL PC USER GROUP
www.cpcug.org/

CPCUG offers active special interest groups (SIGs) including Seniors, Investment, and Virginia.

CHESAPEAKE PC USERS GROUP
www.chesapeakepcusersgroup.org/

As many groups are doing, Chesapeake PC Users Group has considered renaming/rebranding itself to better reflect current interests and activities. Stay tuned for an article written by a member on the process. I recently enjoyed visiting the group to give an APCUG introduction/update (a lot has changed lately!) and speak on my favorite Windows utilities.

NEW JERSEY
PRINCETON PC USERS GROUP
www.ppcug-nj.org/

PPCUG meetings feature varied topics including John LeMasney speaking on Android Tablets & Phones, describing the many ways he uses his Android phone and tablet to enhance and extend his life, work, and play. He shared favorite applications showing ways in which he uses Android to stay informed, entertained, automated, and happy. And David F. Soll spoke on Microsoft Office 2013, describing new versions of the popular Office Suite. He noted that it includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Access, and more. Available in both "thick client" (or traditional version) and as a hosted "Cloud" version, it is the first time that Office can now be purchased on a lease basis rather than an outright purchase.

VIRGINIA
FREDERICKSBURG PC USERS GROUP
www.fpcug.org/

FPCUG meets annually to renew the group for another year and review the many things that have been accomplished over the past year. This meeting featured a PowerPoint presentation by Treasurer Kay Pollock and narrated by President George Bell. The presentation included donations made to various non-profit organizations, new equipment purchased for use in various SIGs and monthly presentations, and a look at the budget for the coming year. The budget must be approved by a majority of members present which must consist of a quorum according to the by-laws. The proposed budget will have been approved by the Board of Directors prior to the meeting. The meeting also elected officers, a director and a trustee.

A newsletter issue is dedicated to photos recapping the year; I was pleased to see myself pictured receiving an appreciation plaque at the meeting at which I spoke.

At another meeting, Ryan Fitzgerald, an Apple Solutions Consultant demonstrated what Apple means when they say "solutions". Using his iPhone, connected to the projector, he easily progressed from simple slide shows to more elaborate uses including voice recognition techniques where he asked Siri a question and the iPhone, connected to the Internet, immediately brought up the correct answer. He then described other Apple products, such as the iPod, the iPad, and iTunes gift cards that can be useful to anyone. Another meeting featured a new nearby business, Cartridge World, showcasing an on-site owner to help meet customer ink and toner needs. This is a great example of a group partnering with local business to create a win-win partnership.

NORTHERN NECK COMPUTER USERS GROUP
www.nncug.org/pages.asp

An NNCUG meeting featured Richard (Dick) Couch speaking on "The Computer and NASA." Mr. Couch, an electrical engineer and retired Senior Aerospace Technologist, presented an overview of his 41 plus years with the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) from the beginnings of the program until 2003. His career paralleled the development and use of computers in NASA and the world.

The June membership meeting speaker was Brian Riley, discussing new developments in the computer area and covering various topics including demonstrating a set of Bluetooth Speakers coupled with a wireless lanyard microphone, website design changes, and touching on the subject of quantum computing.

OLLI PC USERS GROUP
www.olligmu.org/~opcug/
POTOMAC AREA TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTER SOCIETY
www.patacs.org/

A few years ago, OPCUG and PATACS began meeting jointly, providing brilliant synergy between OPCUG (affiliated with a thousand+ member Lifelong Learning Institute) and PATACS (recently formed by merging two venerable PC groups which originated long before the PC era). These meetings strongly encourage member participation. From the newsletter:

Tell Us About It!

Got a new tech device? Tried a new app or have one that you can't live without? Found a solution to a tech problem?

Help and inform your fellow members by writing a few paragraphs for this newsletter! It doesn't require a lot of writing or a degree in journalism, just a short description of why you wanted it, cost (if any), where you got it, and whether or not it met your needs. Users helping users is what we're all about!

A recent meeting featured the topic "Abandon the Good Ship Windows 8?" presented by Lorrin Garson, a retired PhD chemist who had a long career in technical publishing. His meticulously researched presentations have long been popular with members and he's is a regular columnist for the group's newsletter, educating on technology trends. His talk was described as:

Microsoft Windows 8 has become a controversial operating system, largely because of its new user interface. Windows 8 focuses on the emergence of an operating system suitable for use on a wide variety of hardware platforms—including desktop systems, laptops, tablets, etc. Is Windows 8 a foundering vessel? Is this a propitious time to consider migrating from Windows to another environment? What alternatives are there? What are the pros and cons of operating systems commonly used on home computers? What factors should be considered in switching from one computing realm to another? How much effort and anxiety is there to change?

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apcug
An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups

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Webucator is a global training company; their customers include over 70% of the Fortune 100 companies. They are a Microsoft Certified Partner for Learning Solutions and always give back to user groups by offering free training. Currently, they sponsor over 200 groups and are extending this offer to all APCUG member groups.

Region 3
OH, PA, WV
Robert Lee Vance (Bob), Advisor
bvance@apcug.org

OHIO

DAYTON MICROCOMPUTER ASSOCIATION (DMA)

http://www.dma1.org/

DMA is the oldest club if its kind in southern Ohio. Founded in April 1976, it is also one of the first computer user groups formed in the nation. DMA, originally established by a small band of computer hobbyists, has since become an association for novice and professional users alike.

It is an organization with no special emphasis on any specific hardware platform, operating system, or software application. The group is able to "round out" the membership's knowledge by dealing with all aspects of computing, ranging from presentations of the latest in software and hardware, to ethics and trends in the computing world. DMA provides judges for the Dayton Area Regional Science Day, where it sponsors several awards for computer related projects.

NASAC

www.nasac.org/

Self-described as the friendly little computer club started out as: the Northmont Area Systems of Atari Computers. Then they moved and the name was changed to Nothing Around Springfield About Computers, and now the acronym means Networking Accessing Software And Computers. So, for simplicity, this user group is known as NASAC.

NASAC is a group of highly dedicated computer enthusiasts just like yourself who enjoy seeing new things, helping each other solve problems, and meeting new and interesting people. Guests are always welcome at their monthly meetings which are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month in Xenia, Ohio usually at the public library.

AKRON CANTON PC USERS GROUP (ACPCUG)

www.acpcug.org

ACPCUG has a Beginners SIG one hour before the general meeting where attendees have a question and answer session about the problems they might be having with their computers and find solutions for them. During a past general meeting, Mike Sabol provided the attendees with a presentation about cleaning your computer and performing preventative maintenance.

CANTON ALLIANCE MASSILLON USERS GROUP (CAMUG)

http://camug.apcug.org/

CAMUG recently had a presentation on Computer 101 which focused on general computer maintenance discussing managing startup items using msconfig, scandisk, and defragmenting hard drives. Additional presentations were held on password management and several ways to remember them.

Bernie Newsome the new president of CAMUG has maintained the tradition by having a drawing for a door prize for the members who show up on time for the general meetings.

COLUMBUS COMPUTER SOCIETY (CCS)

www.ccscmh.org

CCS utilized the Speakers Bureau presentation given by Gene Barlow on the topic of Organize, Protect and Share your Hard Drive. During the April general meeting, Graig Wright provided the membership with a presentation about iTunes which is a media player and media library application

developed by Apple Inc. iTunes 11 is the most recent version of iTunes, available for Mac OS X v10.6.8 or later, as well as Windows XP or later. It was released on November 29, 2012, one month later than expected, because of a delay by Apple, which said that it needed extra time to get things right.

GREATER CLEVELAND PCUG (GCPCUG)
www.gcpcug.org

GCPCUG's April presentation was given by Chris Kimmel, a Security Consultant at SecureState, a local Cleveland company. Areas discussed included:

- Chinese / Eastern European / Middle East Hackers – Why are they doing it?
- How much danger is there to the power grid and other systems?
- What about online banking?
- What steps should individuals and companies take?

Office 365 was the subject of the May general meeting. With the latest release of Office 2013, Microsoft now has a subscription model where you pay a monthly or yearly fee for an always updated version of Office. Included are extra goodies like Skype minutes, extra SkyDrive storage and support for a variety of devices and platforms.

Kevin Dutkiewicz, the Head Technician / Systems & Network Admin at Simplex-IT demonstrated the latest features, explained the subscription model and the extra goodies. You may never need to buy a single standalone copy of Office again.

The June general meeting was titled Anatomy of a Malware Attack. The guest speaker was Desiree Schmidtt, an account executive with MRK Technologies who discussed the Anatomy of a Malware Attack and explained what happens.

LICKING COUNTY COMPUTER SOCIETY (LCCS)
www.lccsohio.org/

The Society's May meeting was "Build Your Own Computer." The presentation was offered by teachers and members who have accomplished this feat. First-time visitors were welcome FREE without an invitation. At their monthly meeting, LCCS also has various Help Desk meetings to provide mutual assistance in resolving software/hardware problems and to discuss new developments. Members frequently help each other on an informal basis.

LORAIN COUNTY COMPUTER USER GROUP (LCCUG)
www.lccug.org

LCCUG's speaker for June was Neil Brennan from Amherst, discussing the general field of 3D printing. Since most people have never heard of 3D printing this presentation generated much interest. Mr. Brennan's business involves making 3D business cards. However, as Neil explained, just about anything can be made using 3D printing. Your ideas can be made into reality using his sister company 3D Bakery LLC. Neil's business career began at the age of 12 when he ran a boarding house for vacationer's pets. This business was so successful it helped put him through college. Neil also has another company that he runs called Genius Innovation which deals with bottled water. In a recent Amherst News-Times article he stated that he is a very good planner and was thinking about working for a federal disaster relief agency. However he realized that entrepreneurship was wired into him. Fortunately for us, his business spirit and interest provided for a very interesting experience as we learned all about 3D printing.

The May general meeting was a presentation on newspaper resources in genealogy by guest speaker Dr. Deborah Abbott. Dr. Abbott has many credentials in genealogy. She is also the Trustee of the Cleveland District for OGS, is past president of the African American Genealogical Society, Cleveland, OH, and a retired Professor of Counseling from CCC in Cleveland. She has given many lectures at

national conferences and at a variety of local genealogy societies & libraries from around the country. For more information on Dr. Abbott, visit this website: http://bit.ly/16KrDiM

One of the most overlooked resources in genealogy research is newspapers. We sometimes dismiss them for a variety of reasons, one being that newspapers are not indexed, thus hard to search. Second, we usually don't believe that our ancestors were important enough to be among the news of the day. Well, times have changed and there are many newspapers that have been digitized, thus making our searches much easier. You will be pleasantly surprised at what you can find among the pages of the daily news. Newspapers are more than obituaries and death notices. Finding marriages, birth announcements, military service, etc. can help to enhance your research by bringing a historical context to your family tree. Learn the genealogy clues that can be found in newspapers. Learn where to find them, how to search them and how to make them worth your time. Newspapers are a wonderful source.

Online music, presented by Eric Barnett and Georgina Karim, asked the question -- Is it time to give up on the record store for good? Even if you're in love with strolling among racks and racks of CDs, the smell of vinyl and salespeople who can rattle off the name of every obscure band to ever to pass through town, the future of music undoubtedly lies online. But you don't need to turn to the dark side of piracy (or even paying money, necessarily) to get your music fix on the Web. For their presentation, they rounded up some of their favorite online music sites, each one of which offers something unique in its own right. From Spotify to MySpace Music, they showed the best the web has to offer when it comes to on-line music.

NORTHEAST OHIO PC CLUB (NEOPC)

www.neopc.org

NEOPC general meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Westlake Porter Library in Westlake, Ohio. The general meeting for June was Online Banking with Lata Ojha of Charter One Bank.

The July 2013 general meeting was a Microsoft Office 365/2013 presentation by Keith Mayer a Microsoft MVP.

And in August there will be a printer & ink replacements presentation with David Kluter aka Mr. Inkman.

PENNSYLVANIA

CPUser GROUP (CPU)

http://cpusergroup.apcug.org

The new tag line for the CPUser Group is a Computer & Technology Club. The June meeting covered a presentation on NOAA Radio by James Waltenbaugh. Additionally, Jon Mazur did a presentation on the club's triple boot laptop that runs Apple, Linux, and Windows operating platforms.

The May presentations were on Home Theater and one on losing this generation's photos.

In April an Alleghany County deputy sheriff gave an identity theft presentation.

The CPUsers Group will be taking a summer break during the months of July and August and returning in September with a scheduled presentation by Bob Gosticha representing Avast!

LANCASTER AREA COMPUTER CLUB (LACC)

http://laccpa.wordpress.com/

LACC had their annual picnic on in June and will take a break until September when the next general meeting will be on the 25th at Brethren Village.

LEHIGH VALLEY COMPUTER GROUP (LVCG)

http://sites.google.com/site/lvcgsite/

LVCG's general meeting attendees were treated to a presentation on How To Speed Up Your Computer by removing Start Up items via MSCONFIG. Bill Armstrong, the presenter, said "I've been doing this for a number of years and have been very satisfied with the results."

LVCG has officially established a "Tech Talk" SIG. It's a breakfast get together where many members discussed Hi Tech subjects so the idea was placed before the executive committee and the breakfast Tech Talk SIG was created.

The General Membership meeting location has been changed: starting in April the LVCG they meet at St. Luke's University Health Network's Community Meeting Room in Allentown. At the first meeting at the new location, Bill Armstrong discussed "You Tube Downloaded HD" which saves You Tube videos to your local hard drive.

PHILADELPHIA AREA COMPUTER SOCIETY (PACS)
www.pacsnet.org

A recent PACS general meeting presentation was titled: Don Arrowsmith presents "Sound Advice: Using Audacity." Audacity is a free, open source program for processing sound files. Versions are available for Mac, Linux and Windows machines. Its many features were described and several were detailed such as converting between audio formats, editing sound clips, generating a ring tone file, and more.

Don is a PACS director and past president. He has worked with computers since 1961 and retired from civilian work with the US Navy. His BS degree is from Lehigh University in Electrical Engineering. He has also taught college math and done consulting work. He currently leads PACS' PHP SIG.

Regional User Group information is gleaned from the User Group websites and newsletters. If your club is not recognized please send me updates on your club activities. bvance@apcug.org

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Region 4
AL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN
Judy Taylour, Acting Advisor
jtaylour@apcug.org

GEORGIA
ATLANTA PC USERS GROUP
http://www.meetup.com/Atlanta-PC-Users-Group/
https://www.facebook.com/ATLPCUG

Member Bob Anderson notes on the ATLPCUG Meetup page that "There's been a lot of changes over the years but the sharing of information hasn't changed a bit. Our meetings are a great place to meet up and swap stories."

Their June meeting featured Web Pages You Should Try. Members were asked to bring a short list of web pages they refer to on a daily basis. With this type of sharing, members were able to go home with additions to their own list.

The May Meetup presentation was on New Hardware You Need to Know About and the April Meetup showed members how to set up an UBUNTU Virtual Box on their Windows systems.

You will also find them on Facebook; they no longer have a traditional webpage. Their Facebook page cross-references the June Meetup with this information: "This month's program was a hit with their members. To get a peek at the program and get some new ideas check out the Files listing on our website at **http://www.meetup.com/Atlanta-PC-Users-Group.....**"

MOUNTAIN COMPUTER USER GROUP
www.mcug.org

MCUG's June presentation featured "Getting the Most From Your Web Browser," lead by their past president, Jim Bell. Web browsers are programs we use every day on our computers in order to access the Internet. This presentation explained what browsers are and the differences between popular ones such as Internet Explorer, Firefox and Chrome. Improving your web experience by installing add-ons, implementing security features and using tabbed browsing was explained. Organizing favorites or bookmarks was also demonstrated. The program helped all attendees to start using their computers more effectively.

Their members all get tickets for the monthly door prizes and, if they bring a guest, they receive an extra ticket. Of course, they also sell tickets; the raffle item for May-June was a Kindle eReader.

SOUTH CAROLINA
HILTON HEAD ISLAND COMPUTER CLUBwww.hhicc.org
https://www.facebook.com/HHICC

The Club's website features News Items of Interest to keep their members up-to-date on what is happening in the world of technology. Here are some of the articles members' can click on to read: No Start Button in Windows 8.1, New Gmail look blings up your inbox with tabs, Microsoft to Take Over Best Buy Computer Sections with Windows Stores, Warning! Microsoft does not make unsolicited phone calls, Microsoft Education Initiative for Schools, Buying a New Computer – Does Brand Matter?, Windows 8.1 fixes problems, adds new features, but touch screen is still the focus (hands-on).

Some of the links click through to Cnet, eWeek and other publications. Other articles are written by HHICC members. This might be something you would like to add to your group's website.

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Region 5
Florida
Judy Taylour, Advisor
jtaylour@apcug.org

CENTRAL FLORIDA COMPUTER SOCIETY

www.cfcs.org
http://www.meetup.com/Central-Florida-Computer-Society/

CFCS is unique in that it has a Digital Photo SIG that is open to all APCUG members. Each month Hewie Poplock, Program Chair & SIG Leader, has an online presentation on various things relating to digital photography. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, July 17 at 7:00pm ET. There will be a demonstration of OnOne Software Perfect Photo Suite 7. They were good enough to provide a copy for the demo and provide a license for attendees. One lucky attendee will win the $300 program. For this meeting, Hewie will be using APCUG's new on-line service, AdobeConnect.

You can also subscribe to the monthly Digital Photo SIG newsletter at http://eepurl.com/rDjSP and you will receive information on how to attend the free meeting.

CRYSTAL RIVER USERS GROUP, FLORIDA

www.crug.com
https://www.facebook.com/CrystalRiverComputerUsersGroup?fref=ts

CRUG has a new position, Facebook Administrator and Sabrina Watson will be giving a presentation to the group at their September meeting – they are dark in July and August. CRUG is dedicated to computer education through members helping members. They note on their Facebook page that teachers from the Hernando Computer Club will help put on lots of classes this fall – *user groups helping user groups*. Some of the classes being offered include: Adobe Elements 11 Basic Masking, Facebook, Wordpress.com, PowerPoint, Windows 7 Basic, Adobe Photoshop Elements 11, Windows 8, and Adobe Elements 11 Advanced Masking.

SARASOTA PCUG

www.spcug.org

From SPCUG's president, Mike Hutchinson…."Members Helping Members: In my opinion the June meeting presentation (Protecting Yourself, Your Computer, and Your Identity) was outstanding. Presenter Bob Gostischa agreed to be recorded and we have posted a link to the video on our web site. In my opinion it should be viewed by everyone with a PC." Bob recently completed a tour of groups in Florida and plans to return for another tour in December. http://spcug.org/mtg_history.html

Their July meeting featured an iPad Buffet: There are more than 300,000 applications (apps) available for the iPad, many of them free and most of the others cost from $.99 - $10.00. There are applications for reading books, playing games, taking, editing and sending pictures, listening to music, learning new skills, viewing the news, and much more. SPCUG members Sharon Rump and Bill Crowe talked about and demonstrated many of their favorite applications.

All of APCUG's member groups are unique – Sarasota's refurbishing SIG is on YouTube -- https://www.youtube.com/user/SRQrefurb

Welcome to the Platina Computer Club

They are the latest group to join APCUG. Platina is located in Boynton Beach, Florida; one of the incentives for the group joining APCUG is the Speakers Bureau – they plan on taking advantage of it so the members aren't always giving the presentations.

They offer a free beginners class open to all residents of their active, gated community. Some of the other classes offered only to members are:

- iPad basics and advanced – Facebook, iTunes, Twitter, privacy & safety, etc.; instructor has over 40 years computer experience
- Computer Workshop with an entreprenear, raconteur and first class computer maven (this is their most popular class)
- Internet for beginners taught by one of Platina's most articulate and knowledgeable citizens who shows you how it's done
- Computer Image Editing – taught by a photographer and Photoshop expert. This class uses Adobe Photoshop to restore old photos. They can scan old photos and then students can turn their prints or digital photos into works of art suitable for framing.
- Kindle Basics shows students how to use their eReader.

http://bit.ly/14usCn1

Region 6
KY, IL, IN, MI
Greg West, Advisor
gwest@apcug.org

ILLINOIS

SANDWICH COMPUTER USER GROUP

http://scug-org.weebly.com/

Part of SCUG's April program was devoted to a demonstration of the group's new website put together using Weebly's website builder. May featured an Avast! presentation followed by a demo and discussion on using Avast! at their June meeting. They also discussed e-mail options and answered questions related to e-mail issues.

In their June newsletter they have a long list of discounts for seniors. You might want to let your members know about the discounts - http://www.giftcardgranny.com/blog/senior-discounts/ has 196 discounts for the 55+ group.

LAKE COUNTY AREA COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

http://www.lcace.org/

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

Food, fun, and festivities marked LCACE's gala 30th anniversary party in April. The day began with the election of officers, followed by Show and Tell and Ask the Gurus. There were many door prizes including a Western Digital 2TB USB 3.0 silver My Passport portable hard drive. No party is complete without refreshments; birthday cake and fresh fruit were some of the items on the "goodie" list.

Another recent meeting featured GnuCASH - a free open source program that works with Windows, Linux, and Macs. The checkbook portion of GnuCASH, which is similar to Quicken for Windows, was demonstrated.

MICHIGAN
STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB
http://shcc.apcug.org/

SHCC has a unique way to let members know if a meeting is cancelled due to bad weather, etc. The Computer Club utilizes radio station WWJ - 950 on the AM dial to notify members that a meeting is canceled because of bad weather or for other reasons. The announcement happens along with school closings and other events.

They also have a list of SHCC Lingo on their webpage. From DSL to Network Hub and TCP/IP, the list is a good way for their members to learn the definitions of what is talked about at the meetings.

Region 7
IA, MN, MO, ND, NE, SD, WI
Roger Tesch, Advisor
rtesch@apcug.org

IOWA
CENTRAL IOWA COMPUTER USER GROUP
www.ciacug.org
Does your group take field trips?

CIACUG's board of directors recently invited all members to participate in a field trip to the Ankeny John Deere Plant. The tour was a ride on wagons pulled by garden tractors, so there was no walking or standing. The tour lasted a little over two hours and the driver narrated with head phones provided to each rider. The tour was free but members were encouraged to give a donation to the CIACUG treasury. For those interested, there was also an "afterglow" at the new Ankeny Jethro's BBQ south of Ankeny and near the John Deere Plant. More field trips might be in CIACUG's future!

WISCONSIN
NORTHEAST WISCONSIN PERSONAL COMPUTER USERS GROUP
www.newpcug.org/

At a recent meeting, President Sharon Wichman demonstrated how to sign up on Facebook, start to request your friends and family, set up your security and wall, comment on someone's post, add photos, text or video message someone using Facebook Messenger, etc…..She said she could keep going on, because there is so much to learn in Facebook, but just wanted to get the members started and show the more important things.

Some of the members wanted to know more about editing and converting videos. So, at another meeting, Sharon showed a program that will not only download videos but also trims and converts them. And the program is free for download. Some members already use it but she wanted to make sure everyone is using it to its full potential. What is the program? It's Real Player, of course.

Region 8
AR, KS, LA, OK, TX
Bill James, Advisor
bjames@apcug.org

LOUISIANA
NEW ORLEANS PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB
www.nopc.org
http://www.meetup.com/nopc-club

Ray Paternostro recently give a presentation that explored the world of alternatives to the standard landline phone. VOIP (Voice Over IP, aka Internet phone) telephony has many advantages over traditional phone companies as well as some significant disadvantages. The pros and cons were covered as well as answers to attendees' questions. They also found out what they don't tell you in the commercials about Magic Jack, Ooma, Google Voice and Vonage.

Their June meeting featured Google, Google, Google with Stephen Sabludowsky, local technology advocate, attorney, publisher and Google entrepreneur discussing Google+, Google Drive, Google hangouts and much more. Attendees heard what they mean to them, and how Google can help them do more than search. They also heard how the speaker and NOPC helped make Louisiana technology and economic development history in bringing the Digital Media Law incentive to New Orleans

OKLAHOMA
COMPUTER CLUB OF OKLAHOMA CITY
www.ccokc.org

The SeniorNet Organization just recently provided their club with Windows 8, Adobe Elements, Adobe Premiere, Legacy Genealogy software, Microsoft Office 2010 and 2013 for their Lab computers. In addition to that software, they also have Windows 7. This donation amounts to a several thousand dollar savings to the club if they needed to purchase this software themselves. CCOKC hopes their members will continue their support of SeniorNet. They really help CCOKC by providing the latest in software and technology.

SNUG is a group of computer users age 50 plus. Together they have been exploring and learning about computers and ever-changing technology for 24 years. At their weekly meetings they help each other solve problems and also share the good and bad news about what they do with them. They often have a presentation given by one of their members or a representative from a computer-related company. Joining this group is a great opportunity to become a member of a very friendly and special community that offers benefits not found elsewhere. A one year membership includes membership in both the Computer Club of Oklahoma City (on the local level) and in SeniorNet (on a national or international level).

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Region 9
AZ, CO, NM, NV, UT
Ray Baxter, Advisor
rbaxter@apcug.org

ARIZONA

Please keep in mind that if you are planning to visit any of the clubs in the southwest, particularly Arizona, many do not have meetings during the summer (i.e. very hot) months.

ARIZONA ALLIANCE OF COMPUTER CLUBS (AZacc)

www.azacc.org

AZacc was formed for the purpose of jointly booking outside speakers for computer user group meetings. The intent is for the larger user groups to be able to draw the premier speakers that the smaller groups couldn't independently. User groups line up their meetings as closely as possible to one another, allowing the outside speaker to come to Arizona, stay a while, and meet with several user groups over that time span. It is the hope of AZacc that, by drawing these premier speakers, user groups will be able to increase their membership, thus making both Arizona User Groups and the Alliance stronger.

COLORADO RIVER COMPUTER CLUB (CRCC)

www.crccaz.com

CRCC, Lake Havasu City, publishes a monthly newsletter, typically with helpful computer program tips that come from APCUG. In June David Coutts gave a presentation on the services provided by SuddenLink (formerly NPG Cable).

COMPUTER BOOTERS OF SUN LAKES

www.computerbooters.org

The Booters were entertained at their April meeting by nationally recognized computer expert Carey Holtzman, who later that week spoke in person at the Computer Technology Conference in Scottsdale.

COMPUTER CLUB OF GREEN VALLEY

http://www.ccgvaz.org

The Computer Club of Green Valley at its April meeting had Gary Schwartz give a PowerPoint presentation extolling the benefits of Obi, a device for making phone calls over the internet. He explained how to stop paying the monthly fee for a landline phone while still keeping and using your home phone number.

PAYSON AREA COMPUTER ASSOCIATION

www.pacaonline.apcug.org

Payson began a somewhat less than monthly newsletter (Rim Router) in April when member Carol La Valley was volunteered to be the Editor. Carol utilizes In-Design along with the "Push Articles" provided by APCUG to provide much (but not all) of the content.

PHOENIX PC USERS GROUP

www.phoenixpcug.org

Each month, the Phoenix PC Users Group puts the following message in their newsletter: "We want to increase our membership. If each member brought just one interested guest to a meeting we would accomplish our goal." For those Region 9 clubs that are looking to add to their membership, this is an excellent way to go about it.

PRESCOTT COMPUTER SOCIETY (PCS)
www.prescottcomputersociety.org

PCS is a PC-based computer club with a focus on associated software and smart phones. Additionally, it is cooperating with the Prescott Mac User Group by occasionally offering joint meetings and by establishing a communication link between the Board of Directors of both groups. Typically, hardware and software common to both PC and Apple products are discussed at these meetings.

GRAND COMPUTERS CLUB
www.grandcomputers.org

Grand Computers Club in Surprise has a Social Networking SIG; in May John Nuerenberg gave a presentation on Facebook being the largest social networking program in the world with over one billion users. John commented on the many concerns about the privacy and security of Facebook with his PowerPoint presentation as well as his live demo.

SUNLAND VILLAGE EAST COMPUTER CLUB
www.svecc.org

SVECC, also located in Mesa, holds its regular meetings every Monday September thru April, however, they will continue with "Fix-it Tuesday" where they encourage residents to bring in their laptops and desktops for minor repair, updates, and program installations.

TUCSON COMPUTER SOCIETY
www.aztcs.org

At a recent meeting, TCS provided an overview of what to expect from Windows 8.1, the update to Windows 8 that will first appear on June 26 as a "Preview Release." TCS will not have a meeting in July; they resume their monthly meetings on August 19.

COLORADO

COMPUTER USERS GROUP OF GREELY (CUGG)
www.cugg.org

CUGG had a very special presentation at their June meeting when Mr. G. Hussain Chinoy gave a demonstration of Google Glass, the next generation wearable computer/phone/camera. This was a fantastic presentation that lasted well over an hour with an extended Q&A period.

MILE HIGH COMPUTER RESOURCE ORGANIZATION (MICRO)
www.micro-pc.org

MICRO, Lakewood, always has interesting and informative meetings. In April, President Joe Jimenez presented "Google Voice" and in May, Dale Harrington, Secretary, spoke on "Sharing Files On a Network."

PIKES PEAK COMPUTER APPLICATION SOCIETY (PPCAS)
http://ppcompas.apcug.org/

PPCAS, Colorado Springs has been in existence since 1981, longer than APCUG. I was privileged to attend their June meeting and provide a PowerPoint presentation on "APCUG and Your $50!"

NEVADA

SUN CITY ANTHEM COMPUTER CLUB (SCACC)
www.myscacc.org

SCACC, Henderson has computer classes for its residents most days of the week. The classes cover Photoshop, Excel, and iPhone basics just to name a few.

PAHRUMP NEVADA COMPUTER USER GROUP
http://pahrumpcug.com/

Pahrump Nevada Computer User Group has some very interesting and useful technical articles on their website. My favorite is "25 Worst Passwords of 2012."

Region 9 Group Wins a Year's Membership in APCUG

The group that won the year's membership at the Arizona Computer Technology Conference was the **Sunland Village Computer Club** that meets in Mesa, AZ. They are new to APCUG; their members

enjoy keeping up with the latest technology, computers, laptops, tablets, Smartphones. iPhones and software. This group meets from October to May; beginning June 4 the Computer Club will switch to summer hours, Tuesday & Fridays from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. They have not planned activities or lessons during the summer but will be conducting Q&A sessions so members are asked to bring their questions or problems to the meetings and they will attempt to assist them. Problems with a laptop? Bring them to the lab and see if one of the volunteers can assist with the problem(s).

The club has had Digital Photo SIGs using Picasa and GIMP. Both free programs are used to organize, enhance and share photos. They try to keep informed of the rapidly changing world of Digital Photography and share what they learn. http://www.sunlandvillagecomputerclub.org/

Region 10
California
Cheryl Wester, Advisor
cwester@apcug.org

TEMECULA VALLEY COMPUTER USER GROUP (TVCUG)
www.tvcug.org

TVCUG had a great turnout at their June meeting. They had more than 20 guests. The reason:

publicity. One of the wonderful ladies in the group sent out an email blast in the retirement community where she lives and invited people to attend and learn more about iPads. If you haven't given that a try please do so and you might have the same luck that Temecula did.

SOUTHWEST TECHNOLOGY & COMPUTER CONFERENCE
www.theswcc.org

I just came back from a wonderful conference put on by Judy Taylour and Marian Radcliffe. The Southwest Technology & Computer Conference was held in the beautiful Kellogg West Convention Center @ Cal Poly Pomona. This was a new location and I personally hope we have it there again! It was amazing--excellent food--excellent views--and outstanding meetings. I learned about Windows 8, the iPad, different tablets and even a comparison of a couple of different Smart Phones. We had a session on

making a website using the free version of WordPress and another on what to do when your computer goes bonkers. Had a blast at the vendor expo and even purchased a few goodies. We also had some amazing photos in the photo contest. I wish I had even half the talent that many people seemed to have. Networking and touching base with old friends made it even better. I'm already looking forward to next year. Plan to come and see all the fun you are missing if you didn't attend this year.

GOLDEN GATE COMPUTER SOCIETY

www.ggcs.org
https://www.facebook.com/goldengatecomputersociety
https://twitter.com/GGCSORG
http://www.meetup.com/Golden-Gate-Computer-Society/

GGCS' June meeting featured How to Store and Preserve Media - Creating a Family Video: From Hodgepodge to OMG. Part One of the meeting covered: Your life is stored on media of many types – photo prints, audio cassettes, floppies, flash drives, DVD's, hard drives and more – and it is all degrading, but at different rates. They learned about which media and techniques offer the best solution to preservation.

Part Two covered: Putting together a video from a hodgepodge of videotapes, films, photos, and slides that have been gathering dust for years. But where do you start? This was a conceptual talk for the person who does this rarely, or occasionally. It covered the different tools available, but was not a "how to" talk about any specific program. The speaker was Alan Kolsky, the founder and senior video editor of Digital Video Dimensions of Novato. He has more than 25 years of experience in the fields of photography, videography, film and computer technology as well as extensive musical training.

LAGUNA WOODS PC CLUB

www.thepcclub.org/

Their April meeting featured the Best of Google! They explored some of the best features on Google's website - maps, earth, docs, calendar, books, music, YouTube, Gmail, search??? The best depends on who you ask! Attendees had the opportunity to find out what the presenters said they can't live without.

The May meeting had representatives from a local Microsoft store demonstrating Office 2013, Office 365, Windows 8 tablets, and phones.

MBUG-PC MONTEREY BAY COMPUTER USERS GROUP

www.mbug.org/

Microsoft representative Michael Hanes was their speaker at the June General Meeting, bringing them an update on the latest MS operating system, Windows 8, released last October and now loaded on almost all new PC's. Michael writes, "Windows has been reimagined to be all about you. Put what matters most right on your Start Screen and get instant access to your people, apps, sites, and more, so you can spend less time searching and more time doing."

Sounds too good to be true, right? Are you thinking, "That's not what I read. I heard the new Windows is difficult to learn! Where's my start button? Why can't I get Windows 7?" These and many more comments were explored, demoed and debunked during this lively session. Attendees were asked to bring their questions and their laptops to take advantage of the wireless Internet access.

They also spent some time considering what you need to upgrade to Windows 8 if you have earlier versions of Windows, like XP, in addition to the New Office and Windows Phone. They also had the opportunity to take a look at Microsoft's new device, called Surface, and where it fits into the "tabletsphere."

Michael recently presented these topics at Staples in Seaside in two weekends of open meetings with customers (including interested MBUG members!). This was a special opportunity to meet the rep and ask questions about these new products.

Region 11
AK, HI, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY
Roger Tesch, Advisor
rtesch@apcug.org

IDAHO
Idaho PC Users Group
http://idahopcug.apcug.org/

IPCUG offers two presentations at their meetings. At their June meeting, the opening presentation will be a discussion of the recovery of a Master Boot Record on Windows XP and Windows 7 computers. This can be useful when trying to recover from a boot sector virus or when your computer fails to start a normal boot. The main presentation was a demonstration of several photo editing programs that can be used to crop, correct colors, and clean up photos. The presenters also showed many other tricks that these programs are capable of, but most miss out on. Following the meeting, there was the usual *meeting* after the *meeting* at Denny's for conversation and refreshment; on the Saturday after the meeting they have a breakfast social get together.

WASHINGTON
Olympia Microcomputer User Group
www.omug.org

OMUG hosted Microsoft Specialist LaShandra Hurst at their May meeting. She demonstrated Windows 8 as well as showed their new Surface tablet and Windows phone.

Their social interest group is the Lunch Bunch, a gathering of fellow OMUGers who just want to spend some quality time getting to know each other. They also enjoy the freedom to discuss the world of personal computing, OMUG, world politics and the current plight of the stock market.

OMUG now has a free or fee parts table where members can display computer related items. A+Computers has donated parts to get it started. Members may bring parts for the table too and put a price on an item if they want. Any payments go directly to the person who brought the item. Any items not taken home at the end of the meeting will be collected for next time or be recycled at A+Computers.

10TH ANNIVERSARY
National Cyber Security Awareness Month

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month and all APCUG member groups are encouraged to support NCSAM by becoming a Champion – it's free. Have a security presentation and add it to their calendar. For more info visit
http://www.staysafeonline.org/ncsam/champions/

International
Australia / Canada
Greg West, Advisor
gwest@apcug.org

AUSTRALIA

Melbourne PCUG

http://www.melbpc.org.au/
https://www.facebook.com/pcug.org.au

Melb PC's July monthly meeting presentation was Around Australia with a Bike and Computer by Colin Abbott, a member of the user group for over 19 years. He has had a career mostly involved in outdoor recreation and has also taught computer skills at Swinburne TAFE and done a lot of lecturing and public presenting. Versions of this presentation have been given to three local libraries, several state and national conferences and to friends. This trip was completed two years ago and was some 15 months and 17,000 km long.

From the PCUpdate newsletter editor's June column: The name "Melbourne PC User Group" is looking rather dated and is quite possibly rather nonsensical to anyone under 30. As you'll read in the President's Report, the group is considering a name change, but it's not an easy task.

Coming up with an appropriate name is a matter of not only being clear on what exactly this club is, but also coming to terms with the slippery and ever-evolving terminology of technology, all required to be wrapped up in an understandable, fairly future-proof and appealing name.

Here's an example of the problem with the terminology. What is a tablet? Is it a big smartphone or a shrunken laptop? Is a smartphone a shrunken tablet? Are they all computers, or does that term just apply to desktops and laptops (netbooks/ultrabooks/notebooks)?

All of these devices contain computing hardware, software and interfaces, but the same could also be said of dedicated electronic book readers like the Kindle, gaming machines like the X-Box, devices like ATMs, or even household alarm systems and washing machines.

They are not the focus of this club, so what is? Personal computing devices, their associated hardware, software, peripherals and the broader social implications of their usage are what I would consider the core elements, with the Internet being tightly integrated with all of it.

If we are concerned mainly with the application of technology to tasks we have previously only carried out on a PC, then it is clear that it has broadened out to all of these different devices, particularly as an increasing number of people have no need for a desktop computer with smaller mobile devices managing most of their computing needs.

So what is the over-reaching term for these things? Devices? Gizmos? Digital technology? Are we a club, user group, group of enthusiasts or a network? What will we be in five years?

As per the President's column, members are asked to get their thinking caps on. Here's a name that he thinks might work: Digital Enthusiasts Network, which would give us the acronym DEN, or DENA if we decided to extend our influence and operations nationally – which is very much a possibility in the age of the Internet – or if we wanted to keep our local focus, DENM (Digital Enthusiasts Network of Melbourne), which, assuming the pronunciation is the same as a well-known clothing fabric, might give us a younger image, perhaps.

CANADA
Vernon PC Users Group
http://www.vpcuc.org/

Membership in the club is open to anyone who has an interest in using a personal computer. The level of computer knowledge amongst members typically ranges from nothing to expert. The latter are encouraged at meetings and through an informal "buddy" system to help new users with their computer issues and problems. Every meeting begins with short social interaction followed by a Question and Answer session (T.A.N.D.Q. - There Are No Dumb Questions) to give all members an opportunity to ask questions and hopefully get answers. There are no official special interest groups, but the club does afford a venue and opportunity for those with common computer interests to meet and network.

The club's website features a TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS DIGITAL question on the homepage such as Where are the White Balance settings on a camera? or What were the now defunct companies Wang and AES most known for in the 1970's? When you answer the question another appears. A fun way to test your knowledge of technology. OK – who knows the answer to the Wang and AES question and did you use the products?

APCUG MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS

Throughout this issue of Reports you have had the opportunity to check out various discounts offered to members. Most of the discounts have a special discount code – please check with your officers to make sure your group is a member of the various programs so you can purchase books, etc. at a discounted rate.

If your group isn't enrolled in a particular discount program, have an officer send an e-mail to benefits@apcug.org and they will receive a detailed list of who to contact to become eligible for the discount(s). This information isn't publicized on APCUG's website since these discounts are only for member groups.

In return, the participating sponsors would like user groups to have a link on their webpage to their website; a listing in the club's newsletter is also appreciated.

A couple of the sponsors will provide member groups with one or more books each month – no strings attached. The book sponsors will also donate books to a group as giveaways for a particular meeting – they just need at least two weeks advance notice of the title(s) of the books that match the presentation.

Wiley User Group Program
40% Discount
www.wiley.com

McGraw Hill Review Program
Bettina Faltermeier
bettina_faltermeier@mcgraw-hill.com

DO YOU NEED "NEW" PRESENTATIONS FOR YOUR GROUP?

Check out APCUG's Speakers Bureau (www.apcug.net / Member Benefits tab). You will find almost 100 presentations listed under the below topics:

Back-up	Internet	Refurbishing
Cloud Computing	Linux / Open Source	Security
Digital Photography	Mac	Social Media
Ergonomics	Music / Video	Software
Free Software	Operating Systems	User Groups
General	Preventive Maintenance	Virtual Machines
Hardware	Printers / Printing	Website

APCUG / O'Reilly Quarterly Book Program

Jim Evans, Director
jevans@apcug.org

Last year APCUG partnered with O'Reilly to create a quarterly book program where, once a quarter, member groups who opted in, received two books from O'Reilly and three ebook certificates for O'Reilly ebooks. Groups are free to use the books and certificates as they see fit -- raffle prizes, thank you gifts, volunteer rewards, etc.

Starting in July, the program is changing. Now groups will get three books and two certificates. In addition, groups will be able to choose the books they want from three lists. This quarter, they are: Operating System, Mobile Devices, Website Design and all the books are from the popular Missing Manual series. Each quarter, groups will need to opt-in and choose their books.

Operating System	Mobile Device	Website Design
OS X Mountain Lion	Galaxy S II	CSS3
Windows 7	iPad	Dreamweaver CS6
Windows 8	iPhone	WordPress

Watch for an email from APCUG's Benefits Committee.

Southwest Technology & Computer Conference Celebrates 20th Event at Kellogg West Conference Center @ Cal Poly Pomona

Uniquely located on a wooded hilltop overlooking cereal magnate W.K. Kellogg's former ranch estate, Kellogg West Conference Center & Hotel @ Cal Poly Pomona offered the perfect backdrop for the conference. Great reviews were received from attendees and sponsors.

You gals did a fantastic job as usual putting on the 20th S/W Technology & Computer Conference. The Workshops were great and informative – most of the presenters were good. The Kellogg West Conference Center @ Pomona was a beautiful venue for this conference. The meals were outstanding, now we have to go on a diet! I will be sending out "thank you" emails to the sponsors little by little.
Yomar Cleary, VP, Big Bear Computer Club

Congratulations on completing another super SW Computer Conference.
The Kellogg Conference Center was excellent and worked very well for this event.
Congratulations in finding such an excellent location All in all, I thought the conference was an out-standing event and you and others should be complimented for pulling this event together again. Thank you for including us. Bye.
Gene Barlow, User Group Relations

This year's venue was really fantastic. The facility grounds were just beautiful, the staff was so warm and friendly and the food was the caliber of a 4 star restaurant.
Just can't say enough. You and your team just do an outstanding job. We talk to so many people while attending the conference and the remarks are always so positive about how well done everything is.
The workshops were very good, and well attended for the most part. I came away with some great tips and learned some new tricks. This was my fourth conference, and by far the most enjoyable overall.
Sandi Ybarra, Big Bear Computer Club

Thank you so very much for creating and leading the best Southwest Conference ever! The workshops were outstanding, and the new topics were right up-to-the-minute. Everyone seemed to have a good time, and talked about learning so much.
The new venue, at Kellogg West @ Cal Poly University Pomona, proved to be a happy choice, and a wise one. Everyone I talked to was eager to be here again next year. The food was outstanding -- so much so that I was sure that I had gained some weight enjoying it!
Belva Sullivent, Past President, Computer Club of Redding

I would like to express my appreciation for all the efforts & hard work you put forth to make this year's convention such an outstanding success.
The presentations were well chosen, informative & most interesting.
Kellogg West was a splendid choice. The staff, service, & food were all first class.
The "welcome bag" is always fun & a lovely addition.
Thanks again for a very enjoyable time.
Thoughtfully, Nina VanLeeuwen, TUGNET

I want to thank you for your efforts in coordinating the conference this year. It was extremely informative and it was my time well spent.
Barry Robbins, President, Palmia Computer Club

2013 Regional Computer Conference on Digital Technology
Dayton, Ohio / September 13 – 15, 2013
Co-Hosted by APCUG, the Dayton Microcomputer Association and the NASAC Computer Users Group

The Conference early bird registration is $70.00; you can register by visiting http://apcugregional.eventbrite.com/ This special registration fee ends July 31.

Register now and save $10 over the regular conference attendee price or save $20 by not waiting until the late & on-site registration fee of $90.00.

Additionally, do not wait until the last minute to make your hotel reservations since there are a limited number of rooms in the Conference block. Once the block is filled, reservations for the hotel where the Conference is being held will be taken on a space available basis. You can make your hotel reservations by calling the Holiday Inn Dayton Airport NW @ 937-832-1234 and mention the DMA special rate of $82.00.

Tentative Schedule of events
Friday, September 13
Registration: 3:00 - 6:30 PM
Social Meet and Greet, Holiday Inn: 7:00 PM until ?
Social Meet and Greet Holiday Inn

Saturday, September 14
Registration: 7:00 – 7:50 AM
Keynote: 8:00 – 8:50 AM

The following break-out sessions are scheduled for Saturday (subject to change): Recycle & Repair, Neat Scanning System, Computer Museum, Avast, Skype, Microsoft Windows Server, Team Viewer, Arduino, Intel Advances, iPad Basics for the Beginner, Linux, iPad & Traveling Like a Pro!, Facebook or Instagram, Inventor's Club of Dayton and 3D Printer,

The lunch presentation will be Gene Barlow, User Group Relations, giving a Webinar on Upgrading to a Solid State Drive. Keith Mayer, Microsoft MVP, will be the featured presenter at dinner. His presentation will cover Windows 8.

Sunday, September 15
Breakfast: 9:00 – 9:50 AM

These break-out sessions are scheduled for Sunday (subject to change): Genealogy, Cloud Computing, Python, Drupal and Putting up a Website, Freeware & Shareware, Dayton Diode, Utilities You Can't Live Without, Digital Photography, DayCon Conference and PacketWars.com.

The Grand Prize drawing and Conference wrap-up discussion will be held from 12 noon to 1:00 pm. It's possible that more break-out sessions will be added on Sunday afternoon.

Conference Hotel

The Conference hotel includes an on-site fitness center featuring two treadmills, an elliptical machine, recumbent bike and a 32" flat screen TV for viewing enjoyment. The hotel also features the largest hotel pool in the Dayton area with a 50' long heated indoor pool.

Humpty's Restaurant & Lounge is the perfect place for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The American-style menu offers extensive selections, including guest favorites like fresh salads, succulent steaks and homemade burgers.

While you are attending the conference your significant other might want to take advantage of places to visit that are uniquely Dayton:

America's Packard Museum – The only full-time museum dedicated exclusively to the Packard Motor Car Company, its products and philosophies.
http://www.americaspackardmuseum.org/

Carillon Historical Park that provides a sample of Dayton's rich heritage of creativity and invention. Tour the park's 30 historical buildings while interacting with costumed interpreters. See the original Wright Flyer III, Newcom's Tavern (Dayton's oldest building), Deeds Carillon bell tower, and much more. Carillon Park Rail & Steam Society builds and operates a sub-scale railroad within the park.
http://www.daytonhistory.org/carillon-historical-park/
http://cprss.org/

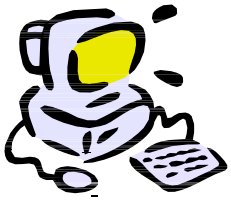
Mendelson's Liquidation Outlet - A packrat's heaven, Mendelson's has over 1 million square feet of warehouse space filled to the ceiling with purchased inventories.
www.meci.com

National Museum of the US Air Force - Three hangers of indoor exhibits include many rare aircraft of historical and technological importance as well as various memorabilia and artifacts relating to the history and development of aviation. The Air Force Museum Theatre, was recently renovated with a giant digital 3Dscreen.
http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/
http://www.airforcemuseum.com/afmf-theatre/

Riverscape Metropark - In the heart of Dayton, at the edge of the Great Miami River, Riverscape has activities for all ages. A unique feature is Dayton Inventor's River Walk, highlighting a few of Dayton's many inventors. It passes through Riverscape, linking 7 invention stations. The most spectacular feature of Riverscape is the Five Rivers Fountain of Lights, created by five water jets straddling the confluence of the Great Miami and Mad Rivers and surrounding a central geyser, creating a 200 foot fountain that shoots for 10 minutes at the top of the hour.
http://www.metroparks.org/Parks/Riverscape/Home.aspx

Wright Memorial - The Wright Memorial on Wright Brothers Hill includes a 17 foot granite obelisk surrounded by 27 landscaped acres. Exhibits in the Interpretive Center focus on the Wright brothers' development of the airplane and their flying school. The memorial overlooks Huffman Prairie Flying Field where Wilbur and Orville conducted tests of their early airplanes.
http://www.aviationtrailinc.org/index_019.htm

User Group Relations
Gene and Linda Barlow
www.ugr.com
gene@ugr.com / linda@ugr.com
UGR offers a ½ price discount on Acronis' Backup Utility, Acronis True Image Home 2013 and Acronis' Partitioning Utility, Acronis Disk Director 11 Home. Visit www.ugr.com to purchase the software at a discounted price of $25/each.



Saturday, December 7 - Sunday, December 15, 2013
FACUG's 4th Technology Conference @ Sea

WOW - What a Value!!

9-day/8-night Caribbean cruise as low as $654.67/person plus receive the FACUG $35/person early-bird conference refund for registrations until August 31. Use your $35 to reduce the cost of your cabin to $619.67/person on Royal Caribbean's 5-Star Independence of the Seas stopping at St. Maarten, St. Kitts, San Juan and Labadee. Cabin rates are below (pp/double occupancy).

Cabin	Cruise fare	+	Port Charges	+	Taxes & fees	= Total/person
Interior N	$343		$200		$111.67	$654.67
Interior M	$352		$200		$111.67	$663.67
Interior L	$360		$200		$111.67	$671.67
Atrium PR	$386		$200		$111.67	$697.67
Interior K	$479		$200		$111.67	$790.67
Oceanview H	$454		$200		$111.67	$765.67
Oceanview G	$589		$200		$111.67	$900.67
Balcony E1	$819		$200		$111.67	$1,130.67

Pre-paid gratuities (if you book "My Time Dining") $93.20/person and travel insurance $59/person ($89/balcony) are additional.

Sailing from Fort Lauderdale, calling on Philipsburg, St. Maarten; Basseterre, St Kitts; San Juan, Puerto Rico and Labadee, Haiti then returning to Fort Lauderdale. This offer is valid for a limited time only. The Technology Conference@ Sea registration fee is $95/person for members of a FACUG or APCUG club ($120 for non-members) and also $95 for the second person in the cabin who need not be a club member. The early-bird refund is $35 per conference attendee. Included in the conference fee are many extra perks including a Welcome Bag full of goodies, two Meet & Greet cocktail parties which are a big hit every year and a few additional surprises.**The $250/person cruise deposit is completely refundable until September 7, 2013 when the balance is due.**

There will be buses from several locations around Palm Beach County to the Port of Fort Lauderdale and back for about $15/person each way. We will look into buses from other points in Florida if there is sufficient demand.

January, 2012 we did 200+ occupied cabins with 400+ people. After the cruise, a survey was taken and 3/4 of the responders, including spouses, rated the event an "A". It was called a great balance between conference time and party time. Ask your friends who were there. If you are interested in sailing with us at the above early-bird rates, you first need to register for the conference by following the directions below and then book your cruise with the booking agent noted below. .

I am including my $190/couple ($95/single) conference registration check refundable until June 1, 2013. Please fill out the following form and place it into an envelope with your check. Mail to: **John Witmer; FACUG Treasurer, 3312 Sheehan Drive, Land O' Lakes, FL 34638-8036**. Once this is done, send an email containing the completed information below to president@facug.org with a cc to treasurer@facug.org to time-stamp your submission, since Royal Caribbean has limited our number of attendees. **Then call booking agent Dean Leblanc (866-606-2067) to book your cruise.**

DATE: _____ COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY CLUB: _____
NAMES OF BOTH PEOPLE: _____
EMAILS: _____
PHONE #: _____
Check #_____Amount _____ - 2013 FACUG CONFERENCE CRUISE
For more cruise information, call booking agent Dean LeBlanc at Cruise Buyers Choice toll-free: 866-606-2067. For more conference information, email facugcruise@ariesmart.com.