

CNY Weather Station Website

Tony Taurisano has been interested in keeping track of weather since he was a youngster. He kept stats of the conditions at his house for years as he grew up. Upon moving from Utica to Westmoreland his interest grew as he was amazed at the difference in weather conditions between the two communities.

Tony purchased his first weather station in 1997, but it was in the early days of computers so it only kept track of local conditions. In 2002, broadband was available and Tony connected to a weather site — www.weatherunderground.com — and has been sending data there ever since.

In 2005 he moved to a new location and started the first version of his website [www.cnyweather.com], mainly for himself. He started sending data to WKTV in 2006 as part of their sky watchers. Tony added a webcam in 2007 which WKTV shows in their weather reports. A second webcam overlooks his backyard and deer can be seen during the fall and winter.

“I’ve learned a lot over the years as far as how to use the many scripts and code I have. I also am part owner of Speedy Awards and Engraving [Crossroads Plaza, 8411 Seneca Turnpike, New Hartford], that keeps me busy during the day and I tweak my website at night.” Tony Taurisano

WEBSITE DRAWING

Each month we will pose a question, the answer of which will be found on our website [www.mvpcug.com]. [Sometimes on the first page, but not limited to that page, so look around.]

You have until the day of the next meeting to send in your answer. Type the answer and your name into an email and send it to mvpcug@mvpcug.com. A drawing will be held at the main meeting. You need not be present to enter but will be responsible for picking up your prize if your name is drawn. All members are eligible for this prize so send in your entry.

This month’s question — John Vincent Atanasoff, a math and physics professor at Iowa State University in the 1930s, developed the idea for a calculating machine that would use binary arithmetic and electronic switching devices. Where was he born?

Tuesday, October 2nd — 6 - 8:30PM
New Hartford Library
Meeting Open to the Public - Free



explorer

The MVPCUG EXPLORER is published monthly from September through June by the Mohawk Valley Personal Computer User Group, Inc. (MVPCUG), PO Box 586, Marcy NY 13403-0586.

Opinions expressed herein are the writers and are not reflective of the MVPCUG, nor are they considered substantiated by inclusion in this newsletter. All articles are copyrighted by their respective authors but may be reprinted by other User Groups provided credit is given to the author and this publication.

The MVPCUG was founded in 1981 by individuals interested in IBM compatible computers. This non-profit organization consists of volunteers whose expertise range from novice to professional.

Regular meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm, usually at the New Hartford Library, 2 Library Lane, New Hartford. A typical agenda consists of discussion of business affairs and a demonstration of computer related products. Meetings are open to the public.

Membership fee for an individual is \$25.

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President

Jerry Finkelstein. 797-5296
..... president@mvpcug.com

Vice President

Lisa Britt. vicepresident@mvpcug.com

Treasurer

Bill Gorrell. 853-3256
..... treasurer@mvpcug.com

Secretary

Joe Penabad. secretary@mvpcug.com

Directors-at-Large

Jim Pease ['12]. director1@mvpcug.com
Jerry Grega ['13]. director2@mvpcug.com
David Hartnett ['14]. director3@mvpcug.com

Program Chair

David Hartnett. program@mvpcug.com

Our internet presence is at

<http://www.mvpcug.com>

Web Master

Lisa Britt. webmaster@mvpcug.com

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Jerry Finkelstein. president@mvpcug.com
Donna Gorrell. editor@mvpcug.com
John Hunter. johnhunter@mvpcug.com

Meeting Agenda	
5:30.	Meet and Greet
6:00.	Business Meeting
6:30.	Program, Part 1
7:10.	Break
7:20.	Program, Part 2
8:15.	Drawing for Prizes
8:30.	Adjournment

Editorial notes . . .

After Jerry announced that he bought an iPhone I felt that I couldn't be left behind. No, I didn't buy a smartphone – the one I have only makes phone calls, I don't even text!



I did buy an iPad and a new laptop computer with Windows7, home premium. So now both Jerry and I have advanced into the status of updated computing.

I am still installing programs on my laptop and trying to learn how to use Windows7. One of the things I do not like is that there are no games. I like solitaire and spider and now I have to download them??? They are not the same as what I have on XP and I really just want the old ones. Can't do it.

The iPad is also something that I am attempting to learn how to use effectively. I did download Sherlock, a game of logic that I really like [but it doesn't work like the XP version]. One of these days I am going to be able to use it for genealogy if I can Logmein to work. I can do email and it synced with my Google calendar. Stay tuned for more adventures and info – good + bad.

Stay connected . . . to the MVPCUG
Mohawk Valley PC User Group, Inc.
\$25 for initial sign-up - or renewal

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ NY
Zip _____ Phone _____
E-mail _____

Please mail this application with a check payable to MVPCUG to
M V P C U G
PO Box 586
Marcy NY 13403-0586

Minutes of September 4, 2012
—Joe Penabad, Secretary

BUSINESS MEETING

The MVPCUG General Meeting, with 23 attendees, was called to order by President Jerry Finkelstein at 6:00 PM in the SAMMON Room of the New Hartford Library on 04 September 2012.

Bill Gorrell presented the Treasurer’s report for the period of 01 June 2012 through 31 August 2012. As noted in the June 2012 Explorer, contact Bill Gorrell for specific details.

Jerry F., as he editorialized in the 09/2012 Explorer, is satisfied with his smartphone purchase; a minor regret is the small size of the device, making it difficult to read the screen. An animated discussion followed re: pros and cons of other communication gadgets. Donna Gorrell’s choice is Wi-Fi and iPad 3; however, in the Adirondacks, with no available phone lines another member used the smartphone plugged into a laptop USB port for Internet access.

PROGRAM

Jerry F. introduced the panel of GURUs, Dr. Gerard Thomas Capraro, Josh Glassberg and Wesley Dean to the MVPCUG audience. The three wise men responded with thoughtful good humor for the next hour to a wide variety of computer/computer-related questions ranging from the ordinary to the extraordinary to the philosophical from energized members who voiced their opinions and experiences, making the “Ask the Gurus” night valuable.

A major advisory emphasized by the three Gurus and participating audience members is that when on the Internet, be cautious of the web sites visited, particularly noting the addresses. Those that end with a dot (eg. xxxx.com.) are not legitimate web sites. An enthusiastic, informative discussion of the characteristics of various web services, their advantages/disadvantages and the vulnerability of those with wireless connections that may be affected by external computer operations closed out the hour.

The MVPCUG extends their sincere appreciation to the Gurus for sharing their expertise with the MVPCUG attendees.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- 4 GB Flash Drive..... Ed Sajdzikowski
- Copy Paper..... Bill Gorrell
- Markers..... Fred Cole
- Memo Cube..... Bob Angelhow
- Pencils..... Joe Penabad

[Donated by Rod St. Clair]

- Printer Paper..... Ed Sajdzikowski

[Donated by Jerry Finkelstein]

- Note Paper..... Jim Pease

Everyone was reminded that club T-shirts are available at \$10.00 each or by entering the website quiz and trying for a free one. In the September quiz, only three correct answers were submitted and by random selection, the winner is Nelson Robinson.

The meeting adjourned by Jerry F. at 8:25 PM.
Respectfully submitted, Joe Penabad, Secretary ◆



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Joe Penabad will not be able to continue as secretary at the present time due to several health issues. Until he is back on his feet, I will fill in. Please direct your questions or comments to me at editor@mvpcg.com.

Dave Askew has once again volunteered to head our annual Food & Toy Drive in November and December. Remember to bring non-perishable food and new toys to those meetings and receive extra door prize tickets.

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

Election Buzz

We are now inundated with political TV commercials that bash one side or the other and offer support for various causes supported by one candidate or the other. Have you ever wondered who pays for all this advertising? If so, click on www.opensecrets.org.

This website tracks the money various companies and individuals give to candidates and causes. For example, in Congressional District 22, Richard Hanna has received \$778,867 to Dan Lamb's \$152,559. In NY 24, Syracuse area, incumbent Ann Marie Buerkle has received \$1,125,181, Dan Maffei \$1,140,914 and Ursula Rosum \$1,805. The website compiled these numbers as of September 10th.

Similarly contributions from interest groups stagger the imagination. In Finance/Insurance/Real Estate, contributions total of \$372,005,818 with an approximate breakdown of 30% for Democrats and 50% for Republicans. The Health industry so far brings \$147,136,594 to the party, again with Republicans receiving more contributions than Democrats. And this does not count the super PACS. The smart thing to do is turn off the TV until November 7th.

What to do if the TV is Off

READ. Want to know what books are hot? Several websites provide book lists featuring newly published authors. Mostly these are opinion blogs, and like bellybuttons, everyone has one. Nevertheless, click on www.shelf-awareness.com and find lists of books for the general reader and lists for the book trade. At my visit, shelf-awareness compiles two lists a week that feature the best 25 books of the week chosen by industry experts (?). An unfinished autobiography by Christopher Hitchens, *Mortality*, leads the list.

The novel *The Yellow Birds* by Kevin Powers, chronicles the lives of two young soldiers in Iraq as they don body armor and Goopacks and walk the streets of Tal Afar. Whether they live or die is not a matter of training or technology but luck.

For something a bit brighter, try *A Dance Through Time: Images of Western Social Dancing from the Middle Ages to Modern Times* by Jeremy Barlow.

The site provides reviews and blogs about literary topics that are updated frequently. TV ads be damned.

Book Club members may access a list developed for book clubs looking for something to read. The list appears as an Excel file or plain text. The list arranges the selections by month through December 2012 and includes some of the following.

Audio books such as *Abraham Lincoln* by Seth Grahame-Smith; Fiction such as *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks; and Non-Fiction such as *Blood, Bones & Butter* by Gabrielle Hamilton. Happy reading during the next month.

Coupons

If you have any unused coupon, even expired ones, and want to do something nice, you may donate these coupons to military families overseas.

www.couponstotroops.com started in 2009 to help spread awareness that U.S. families stationed abroad can use coupons, even ones that are expired. The goal is to help these families save money in base commissaries that have agreements with stateside manufacturers and distributors.

You may adopt a family individually or join an adopt-a-base program. You will not win a contest or get instant gratification, but it is a nice thing to do for the families of those who are serving our country.

Make Money Off Your Neighbor?

Several websites have launched that allow you to rent unused tools and other stuff to your neighbors. According to AARP magazine, www.SnapGoods.com and www.Rentalic.com let individuals rent power tools, party items such as punch bowls, and even automobiles to people who need such items on a one time basis. You set the fees and each website gets a cut of the daily rate. What ever happened to helping someone out just because it makes you feel good?

Your Government at Work: Drought Monitor

A partnership between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the National Drought Mitigation Center and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration developed an interactive map that provides a graphic picture of drought in the US. This site is www.drought.unl.edu.

In addition to the maps, national and state, the site provides a written summary of the week to date as well as a year-to-date. For example, recent rains in the Finger Lakes and the Mohawk Valley have improved the rating from Moderate Drought to Abnormally Dry. Look at the map and see climate change at work.

Until next time . . .



Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that many Yahoo email accounts have been hacked? It is possible that your password has been stolen if you have a Yahoo account. Spammers are using your address list to send email to all your contacts using your name. If you try to log into your account and receive “wrong password” error, it means the hacker changed your password. First of all contact the email service and if you wish, ask that they restore your account or create a new one. I had a yahoo account but I deleted all the names in my address book some time ago so that spammers would not have the list of my contacts. I have yet to figure out how to delete the account, but I do not use it. Yahoo isn't the only email provider that is being hacked, but it is the only one that I know about first hand.

. . . that a monthly clean up should be scheduled for your computer? Last month I gave suggestions as to what to do on a weekly basis. Monthly you should check for application updates, run Windows update, check for driver updates, clean the exterior of your desktop or laptop PC, blow dust out of fans and keyboard, and wipe down the monitor with a microfiber cloth. Do not use anything that might damage your computer. There are sprays to clean your monitor which are meant to be sprayed on a cloth and then wiped on—do not spray directly. And do not use a regular window cleaner on your screen. If you haven't looked at the fan on your laptop, it's time to turn the laptop over and check for lint, dust, etc. It's amazing how much can accumulate in a short time.

A daily routine can help keep your computer healthy. Run antivirus, delete unnecessary email, and backup your files.

. . . that Dunham Public Library runs computer classes? Beginning in September, topics will include Website Building Basics, Internet Security, Windows7 Overview and others. Dunham Library also will be sponsoring a genealogy group to assist researchers in family history inquiries. The group will meet the 3rd Saturday of the month, starting in October. Check with the library for specifics as to dates and times.

. . . that Kirkland Library offers computer classes? Check with your local library for more info. ♦

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

To this we've come: Our digital technology is defining our relationships with others, with our work, with ourselves. Like some science fiction movie it's gotten into our heads and is taking charge of how we think, how we communicate, how we talk, if we talk at all.

Three people walked into the restaurant – mother, father, adult daughter – working their cell phones, ordered, ate their meals, left after having dessert, still working their phones. All the while not one of them looked up or talked to one another. They didn't seem mad or particularly upset, they did look intensely engaged with whatever they were doing using their phones. Hungry. Their eyes never left the tiny screens, even when they were ordering their meals or eating or paying the bill. Suddenly, I felt a bit scared. Zombies, I thought. They'll be coming after me next.

There are names for people obsessed with digital devices. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the big book on psychiatric disorders, will be listing these addicted zombies as “Internet Use Disorder.” It's official, maybe even honorable. After all, you're not a junkie, you've got a psychiatric disease.





A recent *Time* magazine (August 27th) detailed studies on how people from all over the globe use their digital devices. One article discussed how local and federal government “snoop on your digital life.” Just because you are paranoid doesn't mean they are not after you. You will be amazed how wireless technology has already changed your life. The articles are quite informative, you might want to look them up on line or at your local library.

Have you noticed that nowadays people are talking less to one another? They are not using their phones, they're twittering and texting. They're not even emailing as they once did. Instead of phoning, they text. We're more connected than ever but I miss the sound of the voice. With all the texting that goes on I wonder if I'll remember what you sound like the next time we meet. ♦

explorer

Weather Station Website
Tuesday ♦ October 2 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ New Hartford Library



what's.com/ing ~ Apple Month ~ October 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	3	4	5	6
7	8 	9 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 	October 8 - Columbus Day October 24 - United Nation's Day		