

Mastering Smart Phones

Christopher Slobodian will be showing us how to master our smartphones. Christopher is from Syracuse and is a device expert with Verizon Wireless. He received an associates degree in computer electronics and went on to get a bachelors degree in information system security.

After working as an in store technician for over five years, Chris was given the opportunity to join Verizon's Wireless Workshop Program when it launched. As a device expert, he instructs customers in two hour workshops on how to use their smartphones and tablets. This workshop program is extremely valuable to Verizon customers that want to make that transition to a smartphone and get the hands on training that they need to make the most out of their device.

WEBSITE DRAWING

Each month we 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 — On 6 Nov 1980 Microsoft signed a contract with IBM to provide an operating system for their new computer [IBM PC] — what was it called?

ANNUAL FOOD & TOY DRIVE

Once again **Dave Askew** has volunteered to lead the annual Food & Toy Drive.

Each year we ask you to bring a new toy and/or non-perishable food to the November and December meetings.

In return for your generosity you will receive one extra door prize ticket for any amount of food and one for any amount of toys. Together with your regular member ticket, you could receive up to three tickets for chances to win door prizes. Extra prizes have been added.



Please remember those less fortunate than yourself and bring all the food and/or toys that you can.

THANK YOU

Tuesday, November 6th — 6 - 8:30PM
New Hartford Library
Meeting Open to the Public - Free



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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.

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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 . . .



This past month has been a busy one as we are getting ready to close up the cottage for winter so I haven't had time to work with the iPad or Windows 7. Hopefully once things settle down around here I will be able to concentrate on how to use these new toys. I also have been downloading some hints and tips for iPad and heard of a great book for genealogists who want to get the most use from the iPad. Now need to find the time to study these.

One thing I have learned is that Windows7 does have games installed. Bob Angelhow told me at last month's meeting that he has Windows7 and how to find the games. Yes, Microsoft has hidden them somewhat, but here is Bob's secret: Go to Start, click Programs, then Accessories and then find a list of games. He says that I can make a shortcut for my desktop. Thanks Bob, that is indeed "member helping member" and that is what this club is all about.

Speaking of helping out – how about offering to serve as an officer or director of the club?

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 October 2, 2012
—Joe Penabad, Secretary

BUSINESS MEETING

The MVPCUG General Meeting, with 24 members in attendance, was called to order by President Jerry Finkelstein at 6:00 PM in the SAMMON Room of the New Hartford Library on 2 October 2012.

Jerry made several announcements regarding upcoming business. Election of officers is scheduled for December and nominations will be taken starting now. A slate of officers will be published in this month’s newsletter, but nominations will be accepted until the actual election. Send nominations to editor@mvpcug.com.

A budget for 2013 must also be approved in December. The Board of Directors submits the budget for your approval – this is also published in the newsletter.

Once again, Dave Askew has agreed to coordinate our annual Food & Toy Drive. Please bring non-perishable food and new toys to the November and December meetings. Extra door prize tickets will be given for food and toy donations – one each.

Bill Gorrell gave the Treasurers report for the period covering 1 Sept to 30 Sept 2012. Details of the report are available from Bill or the secretary.

PROGRAM

Tony Taurisano showed us his weather station website at www.CNYWeather.com and told us how he got interested in his hobby of weather watching.

His web cam appears on WKTV weather and the temperature from his location is shown on their weather map under Westmoreland [which is where Tony’s weather station is located].

Besides showing all the various information that can be found on his own website, Tony also showed us how to find other weather stations around the state, and he graciously answered a plethora of questions from the members in attendance.

More information and forecasting can be found at weatherunderground.com. Another site for weather forecasting which the Utica OD uses is www.accuweather.com.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- 8 GB Flash Drive..... Jerry Grega
- Highlighter pens. Nick Dudish
- 5 X 7 Photo Paper..... Nelson Robinson
- Copy Paper. Lou Barile
- Pens. Bill Gorrell

[Donated by Lou Barile]

Teach Yourself Facebook. Kay Janowsky

Website Contest Winner

MVPCUG T-shirt. Don Pianka

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Gorrell



Voting will take place at the December meeting. If you would like to run or would like to nominate someone for an office, please contact mvpcug@mvpcug.com

**2013
PROPOSED SLATE**

- President. Jerry Finklestein
- Vice President. Lisa Britt
- Secretary. open
- Treasurer. Bill Gorrell
- Director..... Jim Pease

**2013
PROPOSED BUDGET**

Income:
 Membership dues. \$1675
 Interest from bank account. 7
 From savings..... 99
 Total Income..... \$1781

Expenses:
 Newsletter, inclusive. \$970
 Insurance..... 395
 Door Prizes. 150
 Equipment/misc..... 100
 Website hosting..... 110
 PO Box rent..... 56
 Total Expenses..... \$1781

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

It's That Time Again!

As I write this column in early October, the first email from www.bfads.com, Black Friday Ads, hit my inbox. This website arose five or six years ago with pirated ads from major retailers listing Black Friday promotions. The first year or two, retailers fought to prevent www.bfads.com from publishing black Friday ads early. Now, however, retailers cooperate with the website to create even more traffic on this best of all shopping days.

This year, the site promises to send daily updates listing current holiday sales and special deals. The site even promotes a contest to design a bfads t-shirt to be given away to a few lucky people.

So, if you want to be the first to know about sales at Walmart, Sears, Target, CVS, and all the other big retailers, sign-up for the hot poop.

More Holiday Shopping Sites to Visit

Those of you who twitter can sign-up for tweets at blackfriday.fm. Type this into your browser and up comes a list of black Friday contacts you can follow such as store opening times, friends' shopping activities and so forth. Retailers have already connected to this twitter site just to make things easier for you to spend money.

If you wish to avoid Black Friday completely, visit cybermonday.com and cybermonday2012.com. Cyber Monday promotes deals all year long so you can visit as you read this and find 20% price reductions on appliances at Sears, hp, Bloomingdales, and at my visit, Apple i5 smartphones starting at \$199.

On that Monday, the site touts hourly deals and lists of "green" products and "a new comparison shopping engine."

Happy shopping season.

Yet Another Smartphone App

At a time when many people criticize the size of our national government, along comes something that's really useful developed by federal agencies partnering with the private sector. Click on www.LookTel.com and up pops a website with an amazingly useful app: LookTel Money Reader and LookTel Recognizer. These apps are available for download for the iPhone, iPad 2, iPod Touch and Mac computers. Android apps are in development.

The apps assist blind and vision impaired individuals identify currency, cans, merchandise, landmarks and storefronts by scanning the item or scene with a smartphone. This company works with the visually impaired community to identify solutions to problems that effect disabled individuals in their daily lives.

For these particular apps, LookTel partnered with three government agencies: National Institute of Health, National Eye Institute, and the Veterans Administration. Smartphones rock! And you thought all your tax dollars have been wasted.

Sick Kids

Click on www.panna.org/kids and the website of the Pesticide Action Network, North America comes up. This organization tracks the use of pesticides worldwide and links harmful effects pesticides have on children, adults and the environment. The group just released a study which argues that indiscriminate pesticide use causes increases of childhood cancers, learning disabilities and asthma. Download the "Generation in Jeopardy" to check out the problem.

More Kids

Click on www.safercar.gov and access useful information that will keep kids safe in cars. The site provides NITSA crash test, roll over and safety feature data so people are able to compare vehicles considered for purchase. Click on a picture of a child in a car seat and up comes suggestions for choosing the proper car seat for your child. Since car crashes are the biggest killers of children ages one to twelve, car seat safety is a big concern. The site also provides a list of recalled car seats as well. Careful driving also helps.

Educational Computer Games

American Public Media produces a free web game that allows players to create their own federal budgets based on data and information from the Congressional Budget Office. The game is sort of a real life SimCity. Click on www.wilsoncenter.org/budget-hero-game and up comes the homepage with a briefing book that allows you to control where your tax dollars go. To begin, a page appears that offers specific info for you to work with. The game is aimed at students in grades 7-12, but adults will find this game compelling as well. You can play the game on a Christmas tablet. Hint!

Remember to bring toys and food to the next meeting.

Until next time . . .



Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that Task Manager does more than ending programs that aren't working? *How To Geek* lists 8 things of which Windows7 Task Manager is capable. Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/cfbchrr> to view screen captures as well as explanations.

. . . that you can create a shortcut that lets a Standard user run an application as Administrator? *How To Geek* gives complete instructions along with screen shots. Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/czxmnew>

. . . that the *How To Geek* has 5 ways to quickly launch programs? Get the complete info at: <http://tinyurl.com/chbdpud>.

. . . that *Launchy* [<http://www.launchy.net/>] is one of the most popular launcher applications for Windows, and it's free? After installing it, press Alt+Space anywhere in Windows and the *Launchy* window will appear [you can change this shortcut in preferences.] Type a search and press Enter to launch an application, open a file, or visit a website. It's smarter than the Start menu in several ways – for example, typing ffx into *Launchy* will match *Firefox*. It also includes other features, such as a quick calculator and plug-ins for searching your bookmarks.

. . . that Vista and Windows7 have hidden some files? In Windows XP you could go to any folder and click on Tools|Folder Options, then the *Tab View*. This is where you could check or uncheck various options, such as the setting for hidden files. If you want this option in either Vista or 7, open Windows Explorer, go to Tools|Folder Options under the File menu. You may need to hold down the Alt key as Microsoft disables this menu by default. Once you open the Folder Options menu, select View, then click Advanced Setting menu. Find the setting that controls how Windows handles hidden files and folders. Enable the *Show Hidden Files, Folders and Drives option*.

. . . that you could set the File Association for certain files [such as .jpg] to open in the program of your choice? In Windows Explorer, find the file you want, right click on it, select *Open With* and check the box of the program you want. ♦

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

Time was when most families shared just one phone. The social network really started way back then when



the kids in that family discovered that phone and claimed it for their own. That phone, centrally located in the house or rented flat, it seemed, was their lifeline to the world of their friends. They dialed, then they pushed keys. It became lighter, not as bulky. It was streamlined with all kinds of color. Just one look and you could tell it

was a princess, and soon there was more than just one Princess in the family.



Still, people were talking to each other. They called to keep in contact, to say hello and what are you doing tonight, and to say we're on our way, we should be there in an hour if the weather holds out. They called to make appointments, to pay bills. These days we email, text, twitter and use Facebook for a lot of stuff we used to talk about on the phone. These days most people in a family have a phone of his/her own; contact with others seems to be made every minute of their lives. And talk is increasingly irrelevant. People don't seem to need the sound of other people's voices. Great for the deaf.

And as the future centers more on tablets and mobile phones there will be even less talk. Health records are going electronic, the technology is allowing us to



access those records without talk. We can now make or change doctor's appointments with our smartphones, no need to talk to receptionists, secretaries, nurses. The phones talk to each other. You can comparison shop in the aisle of one store and buy the item you want right then and there from another store. People are giving up their old land line phone. It's much smarter to go with the new mobile. You don't have to talk so much. ♦

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Mastering Smart Phones Tuesday ♦ November 6 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ New Hartford Library



what's.com/ing ~ Good Nutrition Month ~ November 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 4 - Daylight Savings Ends November 6 - Election Day November 11 - Veteran's Day [Armistice Day] November 22 - Thanksgiving Day				1	2	3
4 CHANGE YOUR CLOCK  CHANGE YOUR BATTERY	5	6 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	