

Networking 101

Jerry Grega, a director-at-large, will present the basics of Networking. He is highly qualified and will be able to show us how to set up a network as well as answer any questions.

The Board of Directors is in the process of working out the details of a new contest open to all members. Each month a question will be posed in the newsletter; the answer will be found on our web site www.mvpcug.com. After looking at our site and finding the answer, all you need to do is send an email with your answer and your name to mvpcug@mvpcug.com. All correct entries will be taken to the meeting and a drawing will be held. You do not have to be in attendance to win. If your name is drawn, you will be notified and will be responsible for picking up your prize.

A sample question from the December web page might have been, "Who discovered the first computer bug?" A clue to the answer could have been found on the first page about half way down, right after the info on the meeting subject. If you followed the link for **Computer Pioneer Grace Hopper is Born** you would have found the following:

December 9, 1906

Grace Murray Hopper, one of the first women to work on the computer, is born in New York City. Hopper, a rear admiral in U.S. Navy, did significant work on the Harvard Mark II, where she discovered the first computer bug – a moth – and coined the term to mean a problem with a program. Hopper went on to develop the first compiler, A-0, and the programming language COBOL. She died on January 1, 1992. Grace Hopper was honored by having the most modern ship in the U.S. Navy named after her, the U.S.S. Hopper, launched in mid 1997.

A qualifying answer would have been **Hopper**; no need to go into details.

Tuesday, January 3rd — 6 - 8:30PM
New Hartford Library
Meeting Open to the Public - Free



explorer

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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.

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 Gega [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 . . .

There are a number of scams going around and it might be a good idea to read about some of them. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/72y6zpl>; a Softpedia website and read about the latest scam regarding tech support. Also continue to scroll and read the comments from other users to gain some insight about what the scammers try to get you to do. NEVER give out your social security number, your medicare number or bank account number to anyone. Originally I found this site from looking up a number that was given to me by Dave Askew. The site I first found was <http://800notes.com/Phone.aspx/1-855-791-1190>. On that page there is a note to contact the FTC at 877-566-7226 and also go to www.IC3.gov to report any scams online.



We'll be having two meetings in January, on the 3rd and the 31st. Please mark your calendars so that you won't miss the "February" meeting that will be held Jan 31.

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 December 6, 2011
 —Joe Penabad, Secretary

BUSINESS MEETING

The MVPCUG General Meeting, with 35 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 12/06/11.

Bill Gorrell’s Treasurers report, for the period 11/01/2011 to 11/30/2011, including 9 membership renewals, 3 extra door prize tickets and bank interest on savings for a net income of \$93.27, and was accepted.

The proposed budget and slate of officers for the year 2012 was presented as is and both were accepted with one dissenting vote on the budget.

Donna submitted six new designs created by Patty Bruno for the club logo. Club members were asked to indicate their preference on a ballot of all six new designs plus the current logo.

A lively Q & A period followed re: problems various members encountered, eg. [1] the availability of hard drive memory back-up on-line, [2] the retention of a newly installed wall paper picture after the computer is shut down, [3] down loading certain e-mails. Experienced audience member addressed all problems with solutions.

Jerry F. urged everyone to make the following changes on their calendar: the next computer meeting will be on 03 January 2012; the February MVPCUG meeting will be on 31 January 2012.

PROGRAM

At 6:30 PM, David Hartnett introduced our scheduled speaker, Fritz Meeusen, from the Mid-York Library System, who spoke on the processes of Digital Photo Editing. Fritz provided the audience with informative handouts: “Photo Editing Basics” used in an introductory course taught under the Broad Band Technology Opportunity Program and “Photoshop Basics” geared to professional use. Fritz recommended several free, less complex programs: Paint.Net, www.dotpdn.com/downloads/pdn.html and Gimp: www.gimp.org/downloads/. Along with general editing advice, Fritz demonstrated some of the specific editing features available with these programs; cropping, touch-up, brightness control, layering, etc.

The MVPCUG applauded Fritz Meeusen for his

informative and enthusiastic presentation. Contact him at FMEEUSEN@MidYork.org.

* Secretary Note: To find out about free computer courses at your local library, either contact www.MidYork.org to get to the 43 libraries in our surrounding area or go directly to your local library web site using their proper name or go to www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=Mybtop for the current calendar.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- 4 GB Flash Drive..... Gerald Olmstead
 - 8 GB Flash Drive..... Ann Brunnett
 - 4 X 6 Photo Paper..... Jerry Finkelstein
 - Memo pad..... Steve Gorrell
 - Memo pad..... Richard Lapera
- [Donated by Jerry Grega]**
- Network Cable. Elizabeth Brewer
- [Donated by Rod St. Clair]**
- LINKSYS wireless access point..... Stu Culp
- [Donated by Donna Gorrell]**
- 8 ½ x 11 Copy Paper. Gerald Olmstead
 - Note pater..... Steve Gorrell

Food and Toy Drive contributions:
 112 food items and 9 toys

The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.
 Respectfully submitted, Joe Penabad, Secretary ♦

Editor’s Note:

Thanks to all of you who brought in toys and/or food. We had a very good response this year and thanks to Dave Askew for coordinating the holiday drives. An impressive total of 149 items of food and 16 toys were collected at the last two meetings!

Extra tickets are given for the receipt of the food and/or toys in November and December, but did you know that you can receive an extra ticket any month?

You could purchase extra tickets for \$1 each, and thus help build our door prize fund.

Another way to gain an extra ticket is to bring a usable computer related item for use as a door prize. Items must be in working order but need not be expensive.

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

Help Planning Retirement

David Hartnett passed along a free retirement planning website that offers to help the still employed develop a financial plan. For those interested, www.Etrade.com/quickplan offers these services. The homepage indicates a four step approach for the plan: step 1, describe where you are in life—age 20-29, 30-39 . . . retired. Then follow the tabs for deciding how much to save and where to put the money.

Step 2, determine how you wish to live. Step 3, calculates the amount of money you will have depending on the amount saved multiplied by the number of years you save it. Step 4, print out the plan to act on it. This plan is offered by Etrade.com, a web financial concern that advertises low cost stock trades. For those already retired, this may be less useful than for those people just starting out.

Test the Speed of Your Broadband

The FCC released a free Beta test for PCs and mobile devices that allows consumers to check how fast the broadband connection used really is. The FCC's purpose for developing this software is the hope that consumers will be able to make more informed choices regarding selection of service providers.

Click on www.broadband.gov and download the test. The website notes that the test requires Java and provides a link to download Java if you don't already have it. Experience has shown that advertised broadband speed is rarely possible to achieve. So this test may help in negotiations with your ISP for a free service call or reduced bill. Good Luck.

Tattoo Art?

Many people today sport tattoos located on various body parts. For a view of the good, the bad, the ugly, the funny and the just plain weird tattoos, click on www.wtfatoos.com. While some of the artwork may be appealing, this is not a site for small children regardless of how innocent some of the tattoos appear.

Kid Safe Science Site

Kids love video and this site provides short videos that will appeal to kids of all ages.

Www.thekidshouldseethis.com lists some really fun science "Off-the-grid-for-little-kids videos and other

smart stuff." The mother of a three-year-old and her child create and run this site. At my visit, there was a short video of a levitating frog, accompanied by a text explanation of why levitation is possible. Hint: electromagnets and magnetic fields.

Another video for kids comes from NASA and was shot in HD using a special low light camera located on the International Space Station. Spectacular! If possible view this in HD. You don't have to be a kid to enjoy this. There is so much more on this site to see that space limitations must stop the description.

More New York Trivia

Mary Messere seems to be a very busy person. In last month's column I mentioned [historystarproductions](http://www.historystarproductions.com) with info about Oneida County. This month Mary returns with historic places at: <http://tinyurl.com/7d3vvvgb>. At my visit, Mary offered a story about the geographical center of New York State: Pratts Hollow.

Although most people think Syracuse sits at the center of New York State, the distinction really goes to Pratts Hollow in Madison County. Visit the site and get enough arcane information to win the trivia contest at the next party you attend. Thanks Donna for the tip.

Buyer's Remorse

Most of us have made impulse purchases and have usually regretted it. Instead of silently kicking yourself for your impulses, click on www.spendster.org. The National Endowment for Financial Education (nefe.org), a non-profit charged with educating Americans on a broad range of financial topics developed Spendster as a teaching tool. The site sells "misery loves company" stories that illustrate that you are not the only one to make a foolish purchase.

The homepage lists a who's who of financial gurus including Jean Chatzky, **Today Show**, to **NPR Marketplace** to Ellen Breslau, editor of **Woman's Day**. All seem to agree that if you bare your soul, you will find solace reading the pathetic stories told by others. In addition to the community *mea culpas*, the site also offers a number of other services.

Links provide retirement planning, high school financial planning courses, resources for college and university, and community financial planning kits. This site will point you to answers for all your financial questions.

Happy New Year!

Until next time . . .



Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that you can add new fonts or remove ones you don't want? A Web search for fonts will yield lots of sites where you can preview and download fonts at no cost. Avoid sites that bombard you with pop-ups or ask you to install other software before downloading. Here's how to do it using free fonts available in PCWorld's Downloads library at <http://tinyurl.com/3ppqkaa>. You can search for fonts by name, see collections that the editors have assembled, and check the latest additions to the fonts collection. Preview the font by clicking the font name. Once you've found a font you want, click *Download Now*. Save the .zip file to your PC. Unzip the folder. The font files [which will typically be in the .ttf, .otf, or .fon format] will appear. Downloading fonts from other websites typically works in a similar fashion.

To install fonts in Windows 7 and Vista right-click the unzipped font file. Click *Install*. Windows will take care of the rest.

If a font isn't as great as you thought it would be, or you'd like to clear out some fonts that you don't use you can uninstall. If you followed the installation procedure above, all of your fonts will be in the Fonts folder. To open the Fonts folder in Windows 7, open the Control Panel, click *Appearance and Personalization*, then select *Preview, delete, or show and hide fonts*. To open the Fonts folder in Vista, open Control Panel, click *Appearance and Personalization*, and choose *Install or remove a font*. Right-click the font you want to remove, and click *Delete*.

In the Fonts folder, you can preview the fonts you have installed; just double-click a font's icon.

If you download a font to use in a certain program and you have that application open during the font installation, the program might not register the font right away. If this happens, restart the application.

. . . that when two full moons appear in one month, the second moon is known as a 'Blue Moon'? Well, we are going to have a 'Blue Moon' meeting. Due to the library's scheduling we can not hold a meeting in February, but we have secured January 31 for our "February" meeting instead of Feb 7. Our newsletter for February will arrive in time for the rescheduled meeting. ♦

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

The ads for Christmas gifts this past year promoted lots of merchandise for the technical geek, TVs, cameras to "artfully capture memories," tablets and readers, smart phones, basic laptops, games and more games, gadgets to outfit everyone.

Smart phones got smarter. Although there is some serious competition, the Apple iPhone is still the benchmark by which other smart phones are measured. The reviews on cameras usually point out the differences between the camera phones, always good for documenting your grandchild eating dog food out of the dog food bowl and other family howlers and the images from a "real" camera, images of showcase quality. The cameras come fully automatic, they could also be controlled manually. They're for the beginner, the hobbyist, the professional. They don't come cheap. Touch-up software, like the ones we heard about at our last general meeting, were also reviewed for Christmas giving; they can get to be a bit expensive.

Lots of shoppers had fun shopping from their home on their tablets. Tablets like the new Kindle Fire, the Nook and the iPad now have software that allows sending personalized gifts to other owners of these tablets. You are not just shopping online, you are *sending* the gift. We all know about price tracking sites. They've been around for years. It's always nice to know where you can get a product for a few dollars less. Then there are price-alert sites like www.FreePriceAlerts.com that inform you by email when the price drops. There is Decide.com, a site [or an app on a mobile device] that tells you whether there will be an even better price soon. We are dealing with what and where to buy and also when to buy.

A recent article addressed the volatility in consumer electronic prices. Companies are constantly changing prices to meet changing demand. With the new sites and apps literally in our hands we can certainly shop smarter. ♦

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Networking 101
Tuesday ♦ January 3 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ New Hartford Library



what's.com/ing ~ Get Organized Month ~ January 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2	3 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	11 	12	13	14
15	16 	17 	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Monthly [Feb] General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	January 1 - New Year's Day January 11 - Amelia Earhart Day January 16 - Martin Luther King Day January 17 - Ben Franklin's Birthday			