

## Rachael Witter, Chief Meteorologist at WUTR, will present “Weather You Can Count On”



Rachael is from York, NY, a small town just south of Rochester. Lake effect snow is what got her interested in weather, so she is excited to be back in an area that lives and breathes winter! Rachael has several years forecasting all kinds of weather all over the country.

She graduated with a degree in meteorology from Iowa State University. She headed out to the Midwest in hopes of seeing a tornado in her four years there, but still hasn't seen one in person. She started her career at KLKN in Lincoln, NE. There, she covered numerous severe weather outbreaks and led team coverage in the field during winter storms. She has also spent time in SC and CA.



Rachael loves the outdoors. She's looking forward to getting her kayak in all the area lakes and rivers, and doing some snowshoeing in the winter. She's run four half marathons and can't wait to run the Boilermaker. She enjoys playing video games, drinking coffee, watching home improvement shows on TV and even hopes to flip a house someday!

**Tuesday, January 6, 2015 — 6 - 8:30 PM**

**New Hartford Library**

**Meeting Open to the Public — Free — Bring a friend**

**MINUTES**

— Joe Penabad, Secretary



The MVPCUG General Meeting was held in the Sammon Room of the New Hartford Library. President Jerry Finkelstein with 17 members in attendance called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM on December 2, 2014.

**BUSINESS**

Pres. Finkelstein opened with the announcement that due to NH Library budget curtailments for the coming year some evening hours may be cut.

Bill Gorrell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period of 11/01/2014 thru 11/31/2014, details are available from Bill G. or the Secretary. There were three membership renewals in the month of Nov.

The budget was unanimously approved, as was the slate of officers.

Members were reminded that in case of bad weather causing a meeting to be canceled, an email will be sent to all members, a notice will be posted on our website and WKTV will be notified.

**PROGRAM**

Bill and Donna Gorrell offered some hints and tips using Windows7 and 8.1. Donna offered several tips to navigate through fonts. Go to *ControlPanel*, then *Fonts*. Right click to preview the various fonts.

Donna said that to print a page from Reader, click *current page* to print that one page, or put in the page numbers manually [ex. Put 4-6 to print pages 4, 5, and 6, or 4,6 to print only pages 4 and 6]. A member asked how to print two sided copies. To do so, click *Properties, Features* and *2-Sided Printing*. This will only work if your printer is capable of doing this, not all printers are. If your printer isn’t you can print one side, then flip the piece of paper, put it back into the printer and print the next page.

Bill suggested going to [www.techrepublic.com/](http://www.techrepublic.com/) for instructions on how to set up separate icons for sleep, update and restart, shut down, hibernate or you can use the power button in 8.1 in the upper right corner of the start screen.

If you hit Enter on the start screen, 8.1 will automatically bring up the program that is in the top left corner. By clicking the down arrow in the bottom left side you can get another view of all the apps and programs on your computer. You can organize these by category, name, date installed and most used. It

will default to most used. From here, you can delete programs that you don’t use. If you click on the up arrow on the bottom left side, it will return to your normal screen.

These are just some of the tips that were shared.

**DOOR PRIZES**

**[furnished with club funds]**

- \$25 Best Buy Gift Card..... Nelson Robinson
- \$25 Staples Gift Card. .... Kay Janowsky
- 6 HCMI Cable..... Rod St. Clair
- 32 GB Flash Drive..... Jerry Grega
- 12 AA Battery Package..... Bill Gorrell
- HP Photo Paper..... Jerry Finkelstein
- Pental Pens. .... Rod St. Clair
- Bic Pens. .... Joe Penabad
- Sharpie Pens. .... Jerry Finkelstein

**[Donated by Rod St. Clair]**

- Ream of paper..... Don Jennings

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry Finkelstein at 8:00 PM. Joe Penabad, secretary



**EDITOR’S NOTES:**

Congratulations to the officers and new director at large. The slate was elected unanimously.



Jerry Grega reported that 75 lbs of food was collected and all items were given to the Veterans Food Pantry. Great job everyone! And thanks to Jerry for coordinating it all.

Bet you didn’t know that the largest national park in the continental United States is the Adirondack Park located in northern New York. The park encompasses a staggering 6.1 million acres and is about the size of the state of Vermont and larger than the national parks of the Grand Canyon, Great Smoky Mountains, Yellowstone, Glacier, and Yosemite combined together.

Talk of preserving the land began shortly after the American Civil War and by the 1880s had gained enough momentum that legislation was put into motion securing huge swathes of upstate New York to protect the dense forests from logging. Later legislation would boost the size of the protected area from the original 2.8 million acres to its present size. And now you know.

## Random Access — Donna Gorrell

Jason Fitzpatrick who writes for How-To-Geek.com is the author of the glossary on that site. I've captured his info and offer it to you — both experienced and novice users will gain some knowledge as we go along. Enjoy and Learn!

\* \* \* \* \*

### Iteration

An Iteration is single repetition of code, sequence of instructions, or sequence of events in a program.

### Munging

Munging is the practice of deliberately altering one's e-mail address in order to prevent the address from being culled from forums, etc. by bots and added to spam mailing lists.

Two examples of a Munged e-mail address are changing editor@mvpcug.com to: editor[at]mvpcug(dot)com OR e-d-i-t-o-r@m-v-p-c-u-g.c-o-m

### Geotagging

Geotagging refers to the addition of geographical information such as latitude, longitude, altitude, bearing, and sometimes other types of information to images taken with a digital camera or mobile phone.

### Three Finger Salute

Three Finger Salute is a slang term for the well-known Ctrl-Alt-Delete function that many of us might have used more times than we wanted to over the years. Using the combined keys takes you to Task Manager.

### Buffer

A buffer is a portion of physical memory storage set aside to temporarily store data while it is being moved and/or processed in some fashion. While buffers are used silently all around us as computers move data back and forth [such as when you spool up a giant set of playlists to copy over to your MP3 player], sometimes the buffers are readily apparent. When you're waiting for a YouTube video to load, for example, your web browser is trying to decode enough of the video and store it in a buffer so that any latency or other data transfer issues will be smoothed

over before the buffered video catches up. Buffers are different from caches, which are usually used for data that will be read over and over, whereas a buffer usually operates on a first in, first out basis.

### Cache

A cache is a hardware component that stores frequently used pieces of data for more rapid access.

### Frames Per Second (FPS)

Within the context of video gaming, frames per second [FPS] refers to the speed at which the screen image is refreshed. The more frames that can be fully rendered per second, the more fluid the game play appears to the player. When frame rates drop below 30 FPS in an action heavy game [such as a first person shoot like Halo or Call of Duty], the action appears choppy to the human eye. For most games 30-60 FPS is considered acceptable, but increasingly powerful hardware and sophisticated games have pushed the envelope to above 100 FPS, a rate of refresh which provides extremely fluid and smooth in-game movement.

### Power Supply Unit

The Power Supply Unit [PSU] is one of the most critical components of a computer system. The PSU is responsible for converting the mains AC [the power from the outlet] into low-voltage and properly regulated DC power for the hardware components of the computer can safely utilize. Manufacturing defects in a Power Supply Unit can have catastrophic consequences for the attached hardware.

Modern Power Supply Units adhere to the ATX standard developed by Intel in the 1990s and include positive rails—PSU power leads are referred to as rails—in 3.3V, 5V, and 12V packages to supply power to various components like the motherboard, video card, and drives.

The two most important numbers consumers need to be aware of when shopping for a PSU are the power rating [denoted in wattage, such as 600w] which indicates how much of a load the PSU can handle and the efficiency rating [denoted by percentage, such as 85%, or by a PLUS certification] which indicates how efficiently the PSU converts AC power to DC power. For more information about power ratings and efficiency, check out: What Exactly Does the Wattage Rating on a Power Supply Unit Mean? [<http://tinyurl.com/mvf4ztf>]. ♦

## Surfin' the 'Net

— John Hunter



**H**appy New Year. The Supreme Court may get to rule on another type of Constitution breaking lawsuit regarding free speech. The non-profit organization, **Public Citizen**, reported in December that Murray Energy has sued them using the Citizens United ruling to claim damages resulting from an invasion of privacy. Apparently Public Citizen aired radio ads about other law suits Murray Energy filed to block new worker safety and clean air protections.

Murray Energy claims that the Citizens United court ruling that gave corporations free speech rights of individuals in regard to campaign finance also protects corporations' privacy rights which are the same rights now guaranteed to individuals. The company claims it "suffered mental anguish and emotional distress," from the airing of those ads. To read more about the issue click on <http://tinyurl.com/pewp5dk>.

### New Energy Tool for Homeowners

Homeowners are now able to use a new tool to improve home energy savings that will also lower greenhouse gas emissions which increase climate change. The new tool may be accessed at [www.energystar.gov/homeadvisor](http://www.energystar.gov/homeadvisor). This tool offers suggestions homeowners may use to generate energy savings. These tips include installing a programmable thermostat, replacing incandescent light bulbs with LED bulbs, and purchasing energy star certified electronics. All these suggestions have been published before, but this website brings the ideas all together in one place. Another example of your tax dollars at work.

### A Wonderful Idea

As some of you may know, my wife used a wheelchair for several months while waiting for a knee replacement. It was a hassle to get out the chair, push it to the car, have my wife hoist herself into the car and then collapse the chair and put it in the trunk. And then do the reverse at the end of the ride. For those not as lucky as my wife who now does not need the chair, a new invention provides nearly effortless transportation for those not wishing to be dependent on others.

At present, wheelchair bound paraplegics need to purchase a \$100 K custom van equipped with a lift to get around. Now, however, a new electric vehicle

takes the inconvenience out of auto travel for the disabled. The new vehicle looks like a small Smart for Two car named the Kenguru. The Kenguru is the only car built from the wheels up for wheelchair bound people. The car costs about \$20,000 and gets about 60 miles on an overnight charge.

Easy wheelchair entry comes from a combination rear door-ramp that allows the wheelchair to roll right in. For more information visit [//tinyurl.com/kdkf4yt](http://tinyurl.com/kdkf4yt).

### Did You Know?

Night vision goggles have a green display because the human eye can distinguish between more shades of green than any other color. More minutia is available at [www.howtogeek.com](http://www.howtogeek.com).

### Too Much Too Soon?

A pilot education project in California has kindergarten students reading and writing academic vocabulary. The National Council for Literacy Education publishes a twice-weekly rss feed that features new ideas in literacy education. This particular story features kindergarten students reading and writing in complete sentences using advanced vocabulary. For more info about this site visit [www.smartbrief.com/newsNCLE/index.jsp](http://www.smartbrief.com/newsNCLE/index.jsp). This site will take you to NCLE, and for the kindergarten story visit <http://tinyurl.com/mbsd5uo>.

### Another World Activity

An interesting event occurred the week of December 5-12, 2014. The event was World Soils Day, The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in conjunction with the US Department of Agriculture sponsored this activity to increase a connection of soils to food, water, climate, biodiversity and life itself.

Soil is the basis for food, feed, fuel and fibre production. Soil is also the reservoir of one quarter of the world's biodiversity. The topic may not be the most exciting to think about, but try and survive without soil. To reach the interactive site click on [www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/world-soil-day/](http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/world-soil-day/).

### Fun Diversion

The USDA now provides armchair travelers with an up close and personal look at Appalachian waters called Watchable Waters of Southern Appalachia. To view click on <http://tinyurl.com/kkex862>.

For more follow me on my blog at [chronicle-express.com](http://chronicle-express.com); look for Blogs, click on *Community*. New every week.

Until next time . . .







## Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . If you click on Firefox’s New Tab page you will find native ads, but they’re actually not so bad. They’re unobtrusive, clearly labeled, and only collect user information in “aggregate form, meaning no data is personally identifiable.” And the ads reduce Mozilla’s overwhelming reliance on Google—which definitely does collect personally identifiable data—for revenue, which is nothing but a good thing for the future of the browser. Even so, not everyone wants to see them. And Firefox makes it easy to disable the New Tab page ads.

Just open a new tab, then click the gear cog in the upper right-hand corner of the page. Three options appear in a drop-down menu: Enhanced, Classic, and Blank. The new ads will only appear if you’re using the Enhanced option, which is enabled by default.

Selecting Classic will force the New Tab page to only display sites from your browsing history, while Blank is, a blank page. No aggregate data is collected once you disable the Enhanced tiles, either.

. . . The Start button is back, but the Start menu isn’t. You still need to go through a multi-click process involving the charm bar if you want to shut down your PC—unless you know about the Start button’s secret menu.

Right-clicking the Start button that appears when you hover your mouse cursor in the lower-left corner of the screen brings up a lot of powerful options, including quick links to things like Disk Management and Command Prompt tools.

The menu itself isn’t new to Windows 8.1. What’s new is the addition of a Shut Down option. Hovering over it for a second gives you options to shut down or restart your PC.

. . . The Taskbar Properties option is another old friend with a subtle new look. Windows 8.1 lets you boot directly to the desktop on start up, but Microsoft clearly doesn’t really want you to do it, since the option is buried in this obscure corner of the OS.

. . . If a website asks you to download a “codec,” “player,” or “browser update” to play a video, run the other way! You don’t actually need to download this sort of thing — the website is trying to infect your computer with malware. ◆



## Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

The votes are in and the Oscar winners for best Holiday Gadgets of 2014, according to the techies at Slate, are:

For best smartphone, hands down, the accolades go to the iPhone 6. Did anyone have any doubts? It’s the most impressive, considered to be the most elegant, powerful and thoughtfully designed smartphone on the market. There’s a nod to the others, the Samsungs, the Motorolas, LGs, etc., they’re getting better all the time but so is the iPhone whose hardware and software still work together more seamlessly than those of its competitors. The iPhone 6 Plus, also a great phone, was considered oversized, unwieldy, unsatisfying. I tried it myself and it is bulky to carry around and doesn’t feel all that comfortable in the hand. Back to the 6, it’s thin and light and the display is sharper than its predecessors. Donna, are you tempted to step up?

The best tablet for play was another Apple product, the iPad Air. Again, the display is sharper and brighter. And the whole thing works faster than the previous iPads. The best tablet for work was the Microsoft Surface Pro 3. They called the Type Cover keyboard “ingenious.” If you are interested in replacing your work laptop with a tablet, this is the one recommended. There was one complaint about this “best designed tablet”. It doesn’t come with the Office Suite; you have to get it on your own. The whole thing will cost you well over \$1000.00.

The best e-reader was considered to be the Amazon Kindle Voyage, it’s ultra thin and boasts a razor sharp display. According to Slate, “it offers the best reading experience you can get anywhere”. Unless, of course, you’re reading the “real” book with real pages and real print, the stuff that comes from trees and ink and . . .



Happy birthday to Facebook, it’s turned ten years old. It’s got 8000 employees and 1.35 billion users. According to a recent Time magazine article, Zuckerberg plans to get every human online. Happy birthday Zuckerberg; he’s turned 30. ◆

# explorer

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The MVPCUG was founded in 1981 by individuals interested in IBM compatible computers and consists of volunteers whose expertise range from novice to professional.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm, usually at the New Hartford Library, 2 Library Lane, New Hartford.

Meetings are open to the public. Membership fee is \$25.

Stay connected . . . to the M V P C U G

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what's.coming		~ National Soup Month ~			January 2015	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 1 - Tournament of Roses Parade January 19 - Martin Luther King Day January 25 - 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Macintosh Computer January 27 - Holocaust Memorial Day				1 	2	3
4	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	31