

Mobile Broadband Solutions

Lynne Rosati, Data Representative for Verizon Wireless and **Pat Passalacqua**, store manager for Seneca Turnpike will be presenting information on Verizon Wireless, Mobile Broadband Solutions, Email Solutions and other new and upcoming technology.



They will explain the Air Card and the new Wi Fi Technology, including the new Mi-Fi that acts like a router to your wireless air card.

Lynne Rosati is a part of the Verizon Wireless Data Solutions Team of Central NY and has 13 years experience in the Wireless Industry. Pat Passalacqua is a part of the Verizon Wireless Retail Team of Central NY and has 3 years of experience in the Wireless Industry.



Once again winter is upon us and bad weather may force school closure.

If the school is closed, we cannot hold a meeting. Please check our website — mvpcug.com for notification of meeting cancellation, and/or listen to the radio for school closings. www.wktv.com also has a listing of school closings.

Proposed Slate of Officers - 2010

President.....	Jerry Finkelstein
Vice President.....	Lisa Britt
Treasurer.....	Bill Gorrell
Secretary.....	Helen Russell
Director-at-large [2012].....	Jim Pease
Director-at-large [2010].....	Donna Gorrell

Tuesday, December 1, 2009 - 6PM
Whitesboro High School cafeteria



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.

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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 Whitesboro High School, Route 291, Marcy NY. A typical agenda consists of discussion of business affairs and a demonstration of computer related products. Meetings are open to the public.

Initial membership fee for an individual is \$25. Annual renewal dues are \$20.

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

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Patricia Bruno..... director3@mvpcug.com

Directors-at-Large

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['10]..... director2@mvpcug.com
Patricia Bruno ['11]..... director3@mvpcug.com

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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 . . . ☹ ☹ ☹

Use Caution When Searching Google, Yahoo, and Bing



Susan Bradley of www.Windowssecrets.com says that all these search engines might lead you to a site that has malicious software included in their sponsored links. If you search for malwarebytes [an anti-malware utility] you might get more than you bargain for. She states that, "The three largest search sites—Google, Yahoo, and Bing—regularly sell security-related keywords to criminals looking to trick you into downloading and installing fake anti-malware products. The crooks then steal your personal information or hold your system for ransom before letting you remove their malware from your machine." When malicious ads—or "malvertisements"—enter the rotation on these sites, your system may become infected if you merely view the page; especially if your versions of media players based on Java, Flash, or QuickTime are out-of-date.

Before you click on a sponsored link, check it out to make sure it is legitimate. Check the URL via a service such as hpHosts, <http://hosts-file.net/> which tracks domain names that researchers have reported as malicious.

Be careful when you search and be suspicious of sponsored links. Too many of them are fictitious—and dangerous.

Stay connected . . . to the MVPCUG
Mohawk Valley PC User Group, Inc.
\$25 for initial sign-up - \$20 for 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 November 3, 2009
— HRussell, Secretary

The MVPCUG general meeting was held at the Whitesboro HS cafeteria. President **Jerry Finkelstein** called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. There were 35 persons in attendance.

BUSINESS MEETING

Jerry started the meeting by announcing to everyone that attends the general meeting must sign the attendance sheet that is on the table upon entering. This includes whether you are a member or not, no exceptions.

The program “Food and Toys for tots” will not be handled by Dave Askew this year due to illness. Several members will help out in delivering the items to the proper locations. Also, there will be a December collection for food and toys. We all wish Dave a speedy recovery.



Jerry then asked Bill to give a treasury report covering for the month of 10/01/09 to 10/31/09, to the attending members. Those that are interested in the full treasury report can check either with the secretary or Bill Gorrell.

Next Jerry said that Lisa is working on the website and if any member has any comments to make to let Lisa or Jerry know.

Jerry also reminded that at next month’s meeting there will be a vote for approval on the budget for next year 2010. Also, voting will take place on the slate of officers for 2010. Anyone that wishes to run for office please submit your name at the December meeting. The current slate of Officers and the proposed budget are listed in the November newsletter and on the website.

Patty Bruno passed a survey sign up sheet to the members indicating what programs that they would like to have at future meetings.

Patty announced that in December the program will consist of Verizon, talking about Air Card and Wi Fi Card. In January the program will be “Girls night out.” Three girls that will participate are, Donna,

Lisa and Patty. They will show and answer on “how to do it” with your computer.

Jerry announced that if for any reason the Whitesboro school is closed for our monthly meeting, you will be notified.

Next Jerry held a Q & A session and asked if any member had any questions. Three members responded.

PROGRAM

Patty, our Program Chair, introduced Al Fasoldt as the guest speaker for tonight. Al spoke and gave a demo on M/S newest version of Windows 7. He took us step by step on various aspects by showing us how much better and improved this new version is as compared to Vista. Al explained that if you get Windows 7, do not get the Basic version but rather try to get the Home Premium version- it’s much better. Al gave a three-page handout on tips that he found useful and effective in using windows-7. After his presentation he was deluged with questions from the members. We all enjoyed this timely program and look forward in seeing Al Fasoldt again.

Jerry announced at the end of meeting that we received 44 parcels of food and 10 toys.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- Flash Drive 4gb. George Pupura
- Photo Paper. Rod St.Clair
- DVD-R 50Pk. Don Pianka
- CD-R - 50 Pk. Tony Ciancio
- Kaspersky Internet Security. Don Pianka

[Donated by Sams Club]

- Book- Google Docs. Jim Schmandt
- Book- Photo Shop cs4. Fred Schmandt

[Donated by Rod St. Clair]

- Paper, 8-1/2X11. Lou Barile
- Streets USA - CD. Bill Wilson
- Road Trips - CD. Brenda Kopp

[Donated by Ann + Bill Burnett]

- Flash Drive 4gb. Jim Pease

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.
Helen Russell, secretary



Things I Wonder About . . .

—by Kay Janowsky

There are lots of puzzling things related to my computer that I wonder about. The computer is a source of some of my great joys, and some of my great frustrations. I am sure many will relate to those feelings. Here goes with some of the things I ponder, as I sit and stare at my monitor.

At our September meeting, Nick Dudish told us a story of how he forgot the password to open his computer. A young neighbor man came over and zip, zip, zip, he bypassed the password by repeatedly hitting one of the F keys. How do we find out tricks like that, and how can we prevent someone we don't want messing with our computer from knowing it too?

My young yuppie nephew visited us at our cottage this summer. He used my computer to check something, and commented that it is very slow. I had noticed the same thing. The computer is a fairly new Dell, with lots of memory and a huge hard drive, so it is up to date. I regularly run the defrag program. He told me Microsoft/Vista loads up the computer with lots of things we never need or use, and I need to delete a whole mess of things that run in the background without me even knowing about them. He said if he had time during the week he was with us, he would do it for me, but time ran out and it didn't get done. I looked at the list of running programs but most of them are Greek to me and I am afraid to eliminate things for fear I will get rid of a crucial file or program that might disable my computer, so I continue with the computer running on slow.

I wonder what iPhones, Blackberrys, and Bluetooth are. I sort of know what they do, but have no idea how to even begin to use these beloved gadgets. I feel like the modern electronic world is leaving me in the dust.

I wonder why my computer sometimes freezes up for no known reason. I thought Vista was not supposed to do that.

Then there's Facebook. I have a lot of fun on Facebook, getting in touch with old friends, hearing what people are doing in their daily lives, and in general, keeping track of my relatives and friends. Then recently, out of nowhere, a picture of my husband's former boss showed up with a suggestion I

invite him to be my friend. Another time a picture of my old college boyfriend, who I have had no contact with for 40 some years, appeared, with the same suggestion. Neither are in my address book or anywhere else on my computer. How does Facebook know there might be a connection? It is almost scary how they can network.

I wonder about malware and spyware, and anti-virus programs. Will they really protect me, how often should I run them, and which are the best? I downloaded something called Cyber Defender Registry Cleaner. "They" said it is free, and it scanned my computer and told me I have 1428 errors slowing down my computer. But when I click on "Fix It", it takes me to a screen that tells me to send \$39.98 for a one year license before it will fix these 1428 errors slowing down my computer. What's free about that, I ask you?

And then there's Google. How in the world does Google know to search the entire web in seconds and come up with thousands of sites on a particular subject? It boggles my mind. And who pays for all this? How do they make money? I understand that the first few sites are offered at the beginning as a form of advertisement, but that can't possibly be enough to keep this mammoth program with all its offerings going. I use Gmail, which is part of Google. It seems like Gmail knows what I am writing. Here's an example. We are having some work done on a shower in our bathroom at camp. Recently I emailed the contractor with a question. When he replied, over on the side of his email there are sites to click on concerning tubs at discounts, Jacuzzis, bathroom faucets, and luxury faucets. If I get an email about going to the Outer Banks, there might be recommended sites on the edge about motels on the Outer Banks, travel maps, lighthouses, or surf boards. I guess places pay to have their product listed, but again, is that enough? And who recruits all these places? How do they get all this stuff together so the search engine can locate it and report in a matter of seconds? We in the club know some of the many other magical things Google does, because of the presentation last year by Beverly Choltco-Devlin on the many uses of Google. I know there are other search engines working hard to compete with Google too.

Speaking of amazing programs, I believe Skype

[continued on page 5]

Things I Wonder About . . . [cont. from page 4]

qualifies. I had heard one could talk on the phone and actually see the other person on the computer, but didn't realize how cheap and easy it is to accomplish this, until again, a relative showed me this summer. I have a camera and web cam built into my Dell laptop, but had never done anything with it. She had me download Skype at www.skype.com, which only took a minute or so. Now I talk with my sister in Florida and keep up with a young relative born this past July, as his mom holds him up to the computer. Skype has some pay features, but talking to anyone in this country and seeing them at the same time, is all I need.

My brother in law is a big Mac fan. Every time I verbalize a frustration with my computer, he smugly tells me if I had a Mac I wouldn't have that problem. I know members of our club are firmly in favor of Windows, but what about Macs? Do they really not crash, get no viruses, or spam?

Finally, there's the frustration of always being behind the newest and best. We buy a new computer, thrilled with the added speed, memory and features, and by the following week it is outdated. I know this is true also of TVs, cars, cameras, and most all appliances, but it IS frustrating to think we have the latest and immediately learn we don't!

Internet connections . . . what is best? Several companies court us to get their service. And the wireless world is just great. I can use the laptop anywhere in my house, and if my neighbor has an unsecured network, and it seems there is always one around, I can get online using his.

So, this gives me plenty to ponder about. Hopefully some club members will respond with an article of solutions or other "ponderable" things with these darn computers. ♦

Screen Print & Capture 32 3.5

—by Jim Pease

While surfing the web, many times I want to copy a portion of my screen and save it as a .jpg file. Usually you can use "save as" to accomplish this, however there are web pages that do not allow the "save as" option. Some photo sharing sites and art display sites are this way. Screen Print & Capture 32 was the answer to my problem. It is downloadable for free from CNET at the following link:

http://download.cnet.com/Screen-Print-Capture-32/3000-2384_4-10135610.html?tag=mncol;lst

- OR -

<http://tinyurl.com/yl98zuy>

The publisher, *Provtech* gives the following description:

"Screen Print & Capture 32 allows you to print the full desktop, active window, predefined area, or user-selected area of the screen with a single key press. You can add user-defined headers and footers with date and time stamps, resize the printed image, convert to grayscale or negative image, and fade or resize the image to reduce toner or ink usage. You can capture screen images and save them to a user-selected local or network folder in either GIF, BMP, JPEG, or PNG formats with user-configurable file naming. You can use it to capture an area of the screen to your clipboard and paste it directly into your documents. Screen Print & Capture 32 can be set up to be completely transparent to the end user."

It is available for the following operating systems: Windows Me, Windows XP, Windows 2000, Windows NT, Windows 98 and rated 4 of 5 stars by CNET editors and users. ♦

Our annual Food and Toy drive will be held at the December meeting. Please bring non-perishable food items or new toys.



You will be given one raffle ticket for items of food and one for items of toys, plus your regular membership ticket for a possible total of 3 tickets. Please help make it a Merry Christmas for all.

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

How Heavy Should You Be?

What is your ideal “healthy” weight? This number is usually called the body mass index, a number that scales people’s weight to their height. Belgian Adolphe Quetelet developed this index between 1830 and 1850 and BMI charts used to hang prominently in all doctors’ offices.

Why the body mass index becomes important rests on the fact that with the holiday season we will all overeat and thus place additional strains on our bodies.

Do you know your body mass index? No? Then click on www.unr.edu/nevadanews/ and type in body mass index in the articles search for last 90 days and you will find your “healthy weight” calculation.

The calculation assumes a height of 5 ft 9 in and 175 lbs for men and 5 ft 125 lbs for women. Add 5 pounds for each additional inch of height. My calculation found that I need to lose 40+ pounds, and this does not factor in the probable holiday weight gain. Sob! Sob! Sob!

To find another simple BMI formula, google “body mass index” and you will find The Official Body Weight Calculator at www.FindMyBMI.com. This formula lowered my BMI slightly, but I still have to lose weight. Sob! Sob!

Protecting Kids on the Internet

Kids love the Internet. But how do we insure that they visit appropriate sites? Have them use www.KidRex.org. KidRex is a child-safe search engine powered by Google Custom Search. The engine searches for kid-related webpages from across the web. At my visit I typed in dinosaurs and found myself at www.kidsdinosaurs.com. This site provides more information than you will want to know about dinosaurs. Trust me. But at least the searches are safe. The site also provides tips for child- safe web searches on other search engines. Click- on in safety.

Want to Find Out How Effectively Your State Manages Its Schools?

All states are under the gun to improve school governance. How is New York doing in this regard, especially with all the budget cuts schools have absorbed? To find out click on americanprogress.org/issues/2009/11/leaders_laggards/. Once at the site you will find an interactive map that

indicates how all 50 states scored on topics including: finance; staffing-hiring & evaluation; staffing-removing ineffective teachers; data; pipeline to post-secondary; and technology. Scores are provided for each category and an overall score is computed as well. You will be happy to know that New York State scored a B. No state scored an A. Three states and the District of Columbia scored an F. At least New Yorkers are getting decent school governance for their tax dollars. Visit the site for more interesting factoids.

Pray With the President

Want to help the president guide the country during this time of crisis? Click on www.presidentialprayerteam.com/. This site provides topics for prayer, the presidential daily schedule, devotionals, and adopt a troop. You will be able to pray for/with the president and an individual soldier of your choosing as well.

If you want to honor the fallen, visit www.militarycity.com/valor/honor.html. At my visit, six fallen soldiers were listed. On the left of the page, you may search by month and year for the listing of the dead. This list covers only Iraq War casualties. The web site presents a sobering picture at a time when those of us at home are busy getting ready for Christmas/ Chanukah, having just celebrated Thanksgiving. We must remember just how fortunate we are here at home.

News and More News

We are all familiar with online versions of *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and the *Huffington Post* blog. Another news outlet in the investigative news genre worth visiting is www.rawstory.com. This site will appeal to those who are looking for a liberal antidote to *The Drudge Report* and *Fox News*. This site and www.mediamatters.com aggressively work to keep conservative news and opinion outlets on their toes and their facts straight.

Gift Ideas

If you run out of ideas for the person who has everything, click on www.zerotoys.com. This site offers many science-like toys that include a handheld device that shoots smoke-like circles up to 14 feet. Or, you may wish to purchase a detailed scale model of the Starship Enterprise. Or, how about a battery operated Star Wars lightsaber (wave 1)? Just the ticket for kids of all ages.

Until next time . . . HAPPY HOLIDAYS. ♦

Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that you should be careful never to store anything on your Desktop that isn't a shortcut? Storing notes or files on the desktop can be handy, but if you need to do a System Restore the files on the desktop will not survive. Make a folder for these notes or files and put a shortcut to that folder on your desktop if you want easy access to them.

. . . that in Windows7 there is no Quick Launch toolbar available? A workaround is to create a folder in the root of C:\ [you might name it QuickLaunch] and put links there to all the programs you would normally put in the Quick Launch. Then right-click the taskbar, choose Toolbars, New Toolbar and direct it to the folder in C:\. You can move this toolbar over against the Start Menu so it's in the same position as the Quick Launch.

. . . that Windows 7 makes it a snap to "pin" frequently used programs to the taskbar. These programs are automatically assigned a number and corresponding Windows-key shortcut. Just press Windows-1 to launch the first pinned program [the one closest to the Start button], Windows-2 to launch the next one, and so on. This takes the place of the Quick Launch, allowing you to have up to 9 programs. Still not as easy as one click on the Quick Launch toolbar. Personally, I hate the Windows key. I often hit it accidentally and wish I could disable the darn thing.

. . . that Windows 7 lets you assign a quick-launch hotkey to any installed program. Just right-click the program's icon, choose Properties, and then click the Shortcut tab. Click once in the Shortcut key field, then press the hotkey combo you want to assign [Ctrl-Shift-H, for instance]. Click OK. Still not as easy as one click from the toolbar. Oh well.

. . . that in Windows7 there is no "Classic View"? There is no workaround so you'll just have to get used to the way Microsoft has designed the Start menu.

. . . that you'll have to wait until next month for more hints and tips about Windows 7? Check back to find out more shortcuts. ♦

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

Once again the news media is announcing that "print is dead." *The Colbert Report* did a number on it the other night, funny but a bit scary too as even the newspapers and news magazines are reporting declining circulation, efforts to maintain operations by cutting staff, cutting the size of paper, reducing the number of pages, and offering electronic editions of the paper/magazine.

Quite often the electronic edition gives you much more bang for your buck. Right now, most of the online papers/magazines are free and they come with much more content than their print counterpart. They offer lots archival material, new up to the minute news, extended articles, columns, podcasts, sound bites, videos, pictures, more pictures. And blogs. Loads of blogs. See for yourself. Just go to your favorite mainstream paper or magazine. *Newsweek*. *Time*. Go to *The New York Times*. *The New York Post*. *The O.D.* They're all online for no cost. Free. I also get to *The New Yorker*, for their cartoons, of course.

But oh those blogs. We do have to be careful about them, they can be quite slanted to the point of extreme bias, they can entertain personal fantasy as if it were everybody's reality. They'll be the first to tell you about the latest swine flu conspiracy theory. Still, keep looking, there's much of value there too.

I'd like to see someone blogging away on our website. You've probably read Kay's article in this month's newsletter, it's a beauty. Isn't that the kind of stuff you'd like to see on a regular basis? She seems to be a natural born writer and she writes about material we at the Club find engaging, interesting, fun to read. Let's get an email campaign going to get her to write regularly. A blog will do just fine. Forget *The New Yorker*. We've got Kay. ♦

Proposed Budget for 2010	
Membership 90 @ \$20.	\$1800
Interest.	6
Fund balance.	294
Total Income.	\$2100
Newsletter.	\$1400
Insurance.	325
Equip/Misc.	100
Program.	100
Office supplies/postage.	25
Door prizes.	150
Total Expense.	\$2100





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Mobile Broadband Solutions

Tuesday ♦ December 1, 2009 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ Whitesboro High School



Happy Holidays

what's.com/ing				December 2009		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 7 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day		1 Monthly General Meeting 6:00 PM Whitesboro HS	2	3	4	5
Dec 12 - Hanukkah begins						
6	7	8 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	9	10	11	12 
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 	22	23	24	25 	26
27	28	29	30	31 	Dec 21 - Winter begins Dec 25 - Christmas Day	