



Social Networking



Not since the industrial revolution has anything had such a profound effect on society as social networking. In 2011, among various social networking sites, the monthly unique visitors were 750,000 for Facebook, 250,000 for Twitter, and 110,000 for LinkedIn. Many more sites include MySpace, Google Plus+, Foursquare, Instagram, etc. In 2011, time spent on social networking sites accounted for 1 in every 6 minutes spent on the Internet. Social networking is now used by many employers and employees as well as sales prospecting.

Colin Douglas from Madison-Oneida BOCES will be giving an overview of Facebook, Twitter, Foursquare and Instagram. Colin has a BS in Technology Education and ME in Curriculum and Instruction with over five years teaching experience.

Please join us for this informative evening regarding social networking.



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

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 — What was the name of the first successful high-level programming language which became commercially available in 1957? One of the developers was John Backus, born 3 December 1924.

Tuesday, December 4th — 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.

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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 . . .



As I write this it is hard to believe that the holidays are just around the corner—it's warm and so unlike weather we should be having. Oh, that it could stay this way until Spring!

Now might be a good time to get that shopping done. New products are coming out just in time for Christmas, and many of us are toying with the idea of smart phones or tablets or even new touch controlled computers.

Of course, my theory is that as soon as I purchase something it will be out-of-date. Or worse yet, something better will come along.

My advice has always been wait until the bugs are ironed out. So much so that I still haven't started working with my new computer running Windows7. I've decided to end the year's newsletters using XP and start fresh in 2013 with Win7. I have time to practice and work out some bugs as our first meeting won't be until 8 Jan.

Please remember food and toys when you attend our December meeting. A very happy holiday season to all!

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 November 6, 2012
—Joe Penabad, Secretary

BUSINESS MEETING

The MVPCUG General Meeting, with 23 members in attendance, was called to order by President Jerry Finkelstein at 6:05 PM in the SAMMON Room of the New Hartford Library on 6 November 2012.

Bill Gorrell gave the treasurer’s report; details can be obtained from him or the secretary. Bill also showed us the website www.customguide.com where you can download guide sheets for various programs. You must register but there is no fee.

Jerry reminded us to bring food and toys to the next meeting. Also, that we do not have a firm commitment for the room for January. Since the first Tuesday is Jan 1 we will not be holding a meeting on our regular date. Jerry is checking with the library to see if we can meet on the second Tuesday, Jan 8.

There was a question about TimeWarner’s new policy about modems. You can keep what you have and pay a monthly fee or you can buy a modem of your own. Some of the modems they offer will not work with phones. Stu said he uses a Linksys modem and has no problems. It would be a good idea to check it all out before making a purchase to make sure the modem you buy will work with phones hooked into TimeWarner’s system.

At the end of the meeting, Dave Askew reported that there were 38 items of food and 4 toys donated this evening. Thank you—and let’s bring more next month.

PROGRAM

Christopher Slobodian, along with Rich and Chase gave an excellent presentation about adroid smartphones. They represent Verizon’s Wireless Workshop Program. Chris showed us his Droid Razzr phone that he hooked up to a monitor so we could actually see his demonstration on a large scale. Workshops are offered in several local stores or online. Check www.verizonwireless.com/workshops for information.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- 8 GB Micro SD card. Lisa Britt
- 8 GB Flash Drive. Kay Janowsky
- 16 GB Flash Drive. Bill Gorrell
- Sharpie Markers. Dave Askew
- Copy Paper. Vivian Burth
- MV T-shirt. David Hartnett
- Stickies note pads. Lou Barile

WINNER OF WEB CONTEST

- MV T-shirt. Bill Wilson

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.
Respectfully submitted, Donna Gorrell



**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

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

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

Christmas Shopping

As we all prepare for the holidays, finding the appropriate presents at an affordable price becomes more important than ever.

Sometimes, apps allow us to purchase presents frugally and help others at the same time.

Click on www.socialvest.us to shop and at the same time to earn money for your favorite causes. The app works for Chrome and Firefox browsers and alerts you when you open a partner site. The homepage reports that you may join using Facebook and/or email so signing up is easy.

Retailers such as Macy's, The Gap and Barnes and Noble participate with more than 600 other top merchants. Every purchase deposits a percentage of the sale into your personal giving account. Thus, as you holiday shop, you can support your favorite charities at the same time.



Other Helpful Shopping Sites

Click on www.priceblink.com, a free browser add-on that alerts you automatically for lower prices on other shopping sites. Retailers such as Sears, Amazon, Ebay and Buy dot Com all subscribe. The site also provides coupons and works on all major browsers, except for Opera.

Some sites work on smartphones as well as computers. One such site is www.ebay.com. This site offers great deals on your computer, tablet and smartphone. and you can follow auction items you are interested in or you can scan a barcode to see if the item you're looking at is cheaper in the store or on Ebay. This app works on Android, Apple, Blackberry and Windows Explorer systems.

How Shopping is Like Politics

If you ever wondered whether the numbers of happy shoppers [voters] support a particular product or site are really accurate, check out www.bundle.com. Just like political polling, website data may push a commercial bias to improve sales [such as wine rating sites that accept advertising from the wineries they rate]. The homepage promises to provide accurate, unbiased data concerning retailers and web endorsements.

The site aggregates data concerning the buying habits of shoppers and promises to give you the

straight numbers regarding shoppers' demographics, data about whether shoppers really make purchases and data concerning how much shoppers spend per trip. The site also helps you decide which restaurant to choose by analyzing restaurant reviews. Additionally, the site also rates bars, shoe stores and even indicates what types of people patronize the establishments; for example, foodies or single women between 25 and 39.

More Helpful Free Government Apps

Travel during the holidays may be treacherous. To insure that your car and your children are safe should an accident occur, visit www.safercar.gov. The homepage provides icons for information regarding child safety, 5 Star safety ratings, ratings of child car seats and related ease-of-use ratings and a list of safety recalls by type and manufacturer.

The site also provides a child safety seat inspection site locator as well as lists of child restraints recalls, vehicle recalls and tire safety issues by manufacturer and by date. The site updates information daily.

Congress

Congress returns to action after the elections to pass legislation [?] in a lame duck session before the January Inauguration. Among the many bills to be considered is the Farm Bill. To follow the status of pending legislation, visit www.openCongress.org/bill/.

This site provides the status of introduced bills coupled with news and blogs concerning these bills to encourage political participation and government openness. The Sunlight Foundation operates this site in a non-partisan manner. The site also tracks political contributions from all organizations that buy advertising. Using internet data the site creates searchable data bases that provide tools for public analysis.

Space Chat

Four or five decades ago, we eagerly snapped up every piece of information we could find concerning the space program including manned flights and robot probes to the end of our solar system. Today, there seems to be less interest in space. But, visit www.baselinemag.com/innovation/slideshows/15-fun-facts-about-nasas-mission-to-mars-15/ and you will find out all sorts of interesting facts concerning the Curiosity Mars mission and other missions.

Please bring food and toys to the meeting. This may be a tough Christmas for many. Happy Holidays.

Until next time . . .



Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that you could have fun and learn something too? Six IQ tests are just a mouse-click away, patiently waiting to torment you. Test No. 1 consists of 33 fill-ins such as “26 L of the A.” You would naturally type in “letters of the alphabet.” Piece of cake, right? [ha, ha] Tests 2 through 5 consist of the same type tests, each one being progressively more difficult. Be prepared to be humbled —very humbled. <http://intelligence-test.net>.

. . . that Easter Eggs are not just for the holiday? Computer programmers are not dry as bones and boring as cactus. The fact is, sometimes they will just outright surprise you. Buried within many software applications are delightful, little, hidden, amusing tidbits called “Easter Eggs.” Some are ordinary and others will amaze you. Several seasons of “Lost” have eggs. Learn where to find them at: www.eeggs.com.

. . . that around the first of December NORAD starts tracking Santa Claus? The North American Aerospace Defense Command tracks Santa’s path around the world at <http://www.noradsanta.org/> and for those of you who might be more interested in what NORAD does the rest of the year, check www.norad.mil. On 16 October NORAD intercepted a helicopter over Williamsburg, VA. The offending helicopter was escorted to and landed at Wakefield Municipal Airport, VA. Pilots flying in the vicinity of Williamsburg should check the FAA notice at <http://tfr.faa.gov>.

. . . that kids of all ages can find something at the North Pole? Check out www.northpole.com for fun, learning, crafts, recipes and more. The recipe for Twice Baked Potato casserole sounds yummy and I have a similar recipe to Mommy’s Holiday Delight Fruit Salad that is really good all year long using a variety of Jell-O and fruits. Check out Mrs. Claus’ Cookbook. Tell the kids to visit the Elf Clubhouse for fun and games. They can also go to various areas in the Reindeer Barn and either read the stories themselves or have them read aloud. The Toy Shop takes you to Amazon.com with a list of toys from the categories you’ve selected. ♦



Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

How stupid can you get? Plenty stupid, apparently. One way of being stupid is opening email from strangers. I know, we’re always being told *not* to open this or that email, you’re inviting bad stuff into your computer. Everybody in the Club knows this, right? I’ve mentioned this bit of advice to our members throughout the years. Well, guess what? I didn’t pay attention to my own advice and opened an email from a stranger, a Brit, living in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (is there another Rio de Janeiro we don’t know about?) and he works for some bank in Ghana. Sound familiar? It seems that some guy with the bank died without a will (there are no relatives), leaving millions of dollars to me *if* I enter into some business deal with this Brit in Rio. The email goes on and on, I didn’t get to read it all. Why bother? I remembered this exact kind of offer from years ago and I had thought it was a thing of the past. I mentioned this to Donna and, of course, I got a royal chewing out from her for being so stupid as to open it up in the first place.

I do back up files. Not exactly, and this is where how stupid can you get comes in—I usually save to a thumb drive, not to the C drive in the computer. Most of the stuff I use the computer for, and save, is on eight (eight!) different thumb drives. I’ve made copies of most of these files and they’re on other thumb drives. Do I trust the thumb drives? I know people, club members, who’ve had drives that failed. Still, my sense of security is pretty much intact. I’m not quite ready for the clouds. Stupid?

Do you have a How Stupid Can You Get story? Let’s hear it. We’ll publish it. How about General Allen sending 20–30 thousand documents and emails to the now infamous Tampa socialite? It astounds me how someone can send out all that (and read everything that’s coming in) and still be in command of the war in Afghanistan. It was the emails that brought down the head of the CIA, General Petraeus. A lot of these emails were of the “flirtatious” kind. Smart? How stupid can you get! And remember, *everything* you do with your smartphone, *every stroke*, is being recorded, saved, and may be surrendered to some authority or other. Be smart. Don’t be stupid. ♦

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Social Networking

Tuesday ♦ December 4 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ New Hartford Library

Happy Holidays!



what's.com/ing ~ Safe Toys & Gifts Month ~ December 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 7 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day December 9 - Hanukkah December 22 - First Day of Winter December 25 - Christmas / December 31 - New Year's Eve						1
2	3	4 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	5	6	7	8
9 	10	11 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 
23	24 	25 	26	27	28	29
	30	31				