

Latest 'n Greatest Products

The "Geek Squad" from Best Buy will be visiting with the newest products on the market just in time for Christmas giving.



Are you wondering what Tablet to buy?

Is someone on your list going to get a Smartphone?

Will Windows 8 be coming down your chimney this year?

The Geeks will be bringing products to show us and explain how each works. Mark your calendar for December 3 and bring a friend.

WEBSITE DRAWING

Each month we pose a question, the answer of which is found on our website www.mvpcug.com.

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 so send in your entry.

This month's question — When was the computer language ADA developed?

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.



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

THANK YOU

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



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 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 . . .



The Board of Directors has made the decision to email the newsletter rather than send it by Post Office service. This will save the club over \$800 a year. The Board would like approval to purchase a new projector and this is reflected in the revised budget on page 3. They increased the amount for door prizes and in future years this amount will increase since the purchase of a projector is a one time deal. Our current projector will not be able to show Windows8 as the resolution is lower than what Win8 will handle.

A .pdf copy of the newsletter is available on our website and we will email .pdf copies to each member who gives us their email address. To view the file you will need to download Acrobat Reader, which is free. You will be able to print a copy yourself and can do so in color or grayscale as you choose. You can also print the entire newsletter or just the pages you want. Instructions will be given at the December meeting.

Three toys and 39 food items were donated last month, let's make it double that this month. Thanks!

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 5 November 2013
 — Joe Penabad, Secretary

BUSINESS MEETING

The MVPCUG General Meeting, with 17 attendees, was called to order by President Jerry Finkelstein at 6:02 PM in the SAMMON Room of the New Hartford Library on 11/05/2013.

President Jerry Finkelstein, opened the meeting by reminding the members about bringing food and toys to the next meeting. He also reminded us that we will be voting on the 2014 budget and electing officers next month.



Bill Gorrell presented the Treasurer’s report for the period October 1, 2013 to October 31, 2013. Details of the report may be obtained from him or the Secretary. Bill also read the web question of the month and held the drawing for the T-shirt.

There was some discussion about the newsletter being online rather than in print. No decision was reached.

Jerry Grega announced that there would be a Fair in Liverpool on November 19 from noon to 11pm and if anyone was interested they might want to carpool: contact Jerry for details.

In the Question and Answer section, Kay Janowsky said she lost her Igoogle home page and wanted to know if there is any way she can get something similar. Several solutions were offered and Kay says she will look into them and see which would serve her best.

Rodney St. Clair gave us an update on his monitor problem. He did call Dell and they told him the monitor was “self testing” by showing all the colors. He wanted to know how to stop that from occurring. The tech told him they could do it but would cost about \$200. Rodney declined their offer.

PROGRAM

John Andrzejek, a managing director at Oracle Corporation, gave a very interesting presentation. He spoke about how various companies gather data from social networking and showed several videos. John added humor to his rather serious message of how social networking can be influential in the marketing world. He gave each attendee a coffee mug or insulated travel mug at the end of his presentation. And he brought food to donate because he noticed

that we were having a food drive. John is not only thoughtful, kind and generous; he is also a wonderful speaker.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- 16 GB Flash Drive..... Rod St. Clair
- 8 GB Flash Drive..... Lou Barile
- 8 1/2 X 11 Photo Paper. Richard Harris
- Blue Pens. Nelson Robinson
- Gel Pens. Anthony Ciancio
- Pencils..... Bill Gorrell
- Copy Paper..... Kay Janowsky

[Donated by Rod St. Clair]

- Copy Paper..... Anthony Ciancio

Website Contest Winner

- MVPCUG T-shirt..... Jerry Grega

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry F. at 8:17 PM

Donna Gorrell, acting secretary. ♦

Please note the Board of Directors has revised the budget to reflect change in newsletter delivery.

2014 PROPOSED BUDGET Revised	
Income:	
Membership dues.....	\$1375
Interest from bank account.....	3
Total Income.....	\$1378
Expenses:	
Projector.....	\$500
Insurance.....	400
Door Prizes.....	220
Equipment/Misc.....	200
PO Box rent.....	58
Total Expenses.....	\$1378

2014 PROPOSED BUDGET	
Income:	
Membership dues.....	\$1375
Interest from bank account.....	3
From savings.....	165
Total Income.....	\$1543
Expenses:	
Newsletter, inclusive.....	\$825
Insurance.....	400
Door Prizes.....	150
Equipment/Misc.....	100
PO Box rent.....	58
Total Expenses.....	\$1543

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

Merry Christmas

For those who think there is nothing better in life than reading technical/informational blogs, Daily Tekk gifts the following: “The 100 Best, Most Interesting Blogs and Websites of 2013.” To find out what you may have missed, click on www.dailytekk.com/2013/01/14/the-100-best-most-interesting-blogs-and-websites-of-2013/.

There are 19 categories and no category contains more than 5 links except for the last category. According to the blog and website compiler, in March of 2012 the Internet contained 644,275,754 active websites. The writer says this is only the second annual list. Sites which appeared last year cannot appear again. Nevertheless, limiting the sites to 100 constitutes a herculean task.

Categories such as *Cool* contain sites as Climbur for big ideas delivered to an inbox; moddea, a visual catalogue of every day modern objects; and SoulPancake, Art, culture, science, philosophy, spirituality and humor. The *Viral* category contains such sites as BuzzFeed, What’s Trending,- See it first. For the rest of the list, visit the site. Happy Holiday reading.



Ignoble Awards

The Fall of each year brings the Nobel Prize awards given by the Swedish Academy for superlative research in Physics, Medicine, Chemistry and so on. During the same season, the magazine *Annals of Improbable Research* awards the Ig Noble Prize for Research Awards. This award event features real Nobel Laureates handing out real awards to real scientists who have published real papers about really strange research projects. The magazine awarded prizes in 10 different categories in 2013.

Among this year’s winners, the Joint Biology and Astronomy award went to Marie Drake, Emily Baird, Marcus Byrne, Clark Scholtz and Eric J. Warrant for a paper titled, “Dung Beetles Use the Milky Way for Orientation.” The creatures use the stars to navigate home. “E. T. Phone home, perhaps?”

The magazine awarded the Archeology Prize to Brian Crandall (USA) and Peter Stahl (Canada and USA) for research titled “Human Digestive Effects on a Micromammalian Skeleton.” This project entailed parboiling a dead shrew and then swallowing the

shrew without chewing and then carefully examining everything excreted during subsequent days- all to see which bones would dissolve inside the human digestive system and which would not. Yuk! That is some price to pay for knowledge.

The Peace Prize award went to Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko for making it a crime to applaud in public and the Belarus State Police for arresting a one-armed man for applauding. For more captivating scientific awards visit www.improbable.com/ig/winners/#ig2013.

Holiday Food Treats

If parboiled shrew doesn’t tickle your gustatory fancy, the Sierra Club recently published a list of what they call “the Best Eco-Spreads.” These spreads exude eco-goodness and provide eaters with the knowledge that their bodies as well as the environment appreciate these food choices. Click on www.sierraclub.org/sierra/201305/enjoy-eco-schmears.aspx The featured spreads include a Honey Almond Butter made from almonds, sugar, honey, sea salt, and palm oil. That use of palm oil is controversial seems not an issue with the Sierra Club. According to the club, this spread goes perfectly with rice cakes to bananas. At \$9 for 16 ounces it is pricey.

Another recommended spread is Carrot Cashew Miso Spread made from carrots, cashews and a cup of vegetable stock, pureed in a food processor and hit with 2 tablespoons of light miso. Garnish with sesame seeds and spread on crackers or a sandwich. This will keep in the fridge for four days. A nice appetizer for Christmas dinner perhaps?

Is Your High Schooler Getting an iPad for Christmas?

[Www.AppoLearning.com](http://www.AppoLearning.com) offers a number of handy apps for high school iPad owners. One free app is Campuseek which provides specific information about individual colleges and allows students to compare colleges side by side. This app augments a visit to the particular college and allows students to organize campus photos and record audio from tours.

At \$4.99 per download the Complete Class Organizer proves easy to use. In use classes appear by semester and space to enter grades and computer averages. Class note taking is a plus as well.

Happy Holidays

Don’t forget to bring toys and food for the needy.

Until next time . . .



Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that Jump Lists on the Start menu give you quick access to the things you use most often? They can include recently opened items, frequently opened items, tasks, or websites, in addition to any items that you've pinned.

On the taskbar, Jump Lists appear for programs that you've pinned to the taskbar and programs that are currently running. On the Start menu, Jump Lists appear for programs that you've pinned to the Start menu and programs that you've opened recently. [Jump Lists don't appear in All Programs on the Start menu.]

You'll always see the same items in the Jump List for a program, regardless of whether you view the list on the Start menu or the taskbar.

In addition to any pinned or currently open items, Jump Lists on the taskbar contain several commands that you can use to close an item or unpin the program from the taskbar.

You can drag an item from a Jump List to copy it to another location. For example, you can drag a document from a Jump List to an e-mail message if you want to send it to someone.

To pin a program to a Taskbar:

If the program is running, right-click the program's button on the taskbar [or drag the button toward the desktop] to open the program's Jump List, and then click Pin this program to taskbar. If the program isn't running, click Start, find the program's icon, right-click the icon, and then click Pin to Taskbar.

You can also pin a program by dragging the program's shortcut from the desktop or Start menu to the taskbar. Additionally, if you drag the shortcut of a file, folder, or website to the taskbar, and the associated program isn't already pinned there, then that program is pinned to the taskbar and the item is pinned to the program's Jump List.

To remove a pinned program from the taskbar, open the program's Jump List, and then click Unpin this program from taskbar.

You can pin a program from the Start menu to the taskbar, but not from the taskbar to the Start menu.

To pin [or unpin] an item to a Jump List:

Click Start, and then open the program's Jump List. Point to the item, click the pushpin icon, and then click Pin [-or- Unpin] to this list. ♦

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

John Andrzejek, the presenter for our November meeting, did a great job telling us about "modern marketing strategies and their relationship to social media." He described how companies "listen in" to prospective customers' social network cell phone use for its commercial benefits. I thought it was a lot like spying. Not so, said some of our members, read the small print of your contract. Your permission was granted. Or else all of the social media is in the public domain anyway so permission need not be granted. One of our members thought it wasn't exactly spying, it was more like eavesdropping. It seems to me "listening in" without you knowing about it is the same as "snooping around." There's something snoopy about it. And snoopiness is not far from spying.

All sorts of spying stuff is available for the ordinary citizen, more by the day. iPhone users can get the iPhone Spy Stick. It downloads Web histories, emails and text messages, even the deleted ones. Mobile Spy lets you follow (whoever it is you're spying on), in real time, their online activity and geographical location. No more telling your spouse that you're working late at the office. A lot of parents must love this stuff. I know a Helicopter Mom who thinks it's her parental right to know where her child is and what she's doing, at all times, including knowing about all of her Internet communications. Her child? She's 19 years old. Hyper vigilant parent? What do you think? There's certainly not much faith in the child. It's not a way to learn not to pry. Not to snoop, Not to spy.

But maybe that is not the point. Maybe the point is to be okay with snooping. Everybody is doing it. Google just got the word that it is okay to digitize all the books in the world, regardless of copyright. Facebook just changed its privacy policy again. It's still able to use the postings and the personal information of 1.2 billion accounts for advertising purposes. Do Facebook members care?

But we do care about hackers. And the security of our computers, especially the government kind. As of mid-November, activist hackers accessed government computers at several agencies for nearly a year. And it's still going on. Systems breached were at the Army, Department of Energy, Department of Health and Human Services agencies. Stolen: personal information on thousands of employees and their family members, bank accounts. Don't they know they should never use any word found in a dictionary as a password? We all know that, don't we? ♦

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Latest 'n Greatest Products
Tuesday ♦ December 3 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ New Hartford Library



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



what's.com/ing ~ Safe Toys + Gifts Month ~ December 2013						
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  Merry Christmas	26	27	28
29	30	31 	December 7 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day December 10 - Human Rights Day December 21 - Winter begins December 25 - Christmas			