

## Cyber Security

Bernard Hyman, Oneida County assistant District Attorney, will present information regarding cyber security.

He will inform us about cyber crime that is happening in our own community. After learning about security measures, hopefully, we will be able to protect our computers, and ourselves from the malicious hackers and scammers that are invading our privacy via the World Wide Web of the Internet.



Don't forget, this is our "Once in a Blue Moon" meeting—two in the same month. Because of the library's schedule we are unable to use the room in February so we will have two meetings in January instead. We will meet again March 6<sup>th</sup> and will then be back on our normal schedule [the first Tuesday of the month].

**Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> — 6 - 8:30PM**  
**New Hartford Library - Sammon Room**  
**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 . . .

Dunham Public Library offers many classes throughout the year and they have a schedule online. Go to [www.whitesborolib.org](http://www.whitesborolib.org) and look on the left side of the page for Calendar of Events. Clicking on that will bring up a list of all the classes.



Most of these are free and cover many aspects dealing with computers. If you want to know how to use Excel 2010, this is the place to go, starting March 20<sup>th</sup>. Word 2010 basics start February 29<sup>th</sup>. Scroll through the list to see all the classes at Dunham. Or check your local library's website to find out what they offer.

Dunham is also offering Heritage Quest online, but apparently only to card holders from that library as my card number was refused. This database is wonderful for genealogists. I have access through a North Country library, but if you are interested, check with Dunham to see if they will honor any Mid-York card [they should] or if they will issue you a card from their library. You can also access some of Ancestry.com files, but only in library, not online. You can bring and use your own computer.

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 January 3, 2011

—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 01/03/2012.

Bill Gorrell's Treasurers report for the period 12/01/2011 to 12/31/2011, included income of 8 membership renewals, bank interest, and expenses for newsletter printing, mailing labels and door prizes, for a net income of \$105.44 was accepted.

Club membership, as of 12/31/2011, was 72, with 14 members yet to renew for 2011.

A Q & A period followed re: Computer operational problems. One soliciting a spectrum of responses was: Is there a way to reverse the coloring of a down loaded manufacturer's 127-page operational manual that comes up with white lettering on a black background, to keep printing costs down by not using up too many print cartridges? Stay tuned 'til next month for a report on the most effective among the numerous solutions suggestion!

Jerry F. reminded the audience that the February General Meeting will convene on 31 January 2012.

### PROGRAM

Jerry Grega, MVPCUG Director-at-Large, focused his topic on Networking 101 when he began his scheduled address at 6:20 PM. He defined Networking as two or more computers/devices linked together by wire, wireless or cables, providing a frame work in order to exchange data between/among said computers/devices. The network model contains 7 layers, each layer performs a specific function to be recognized when data is sent from one device to another. Jerry G. went through a description of layers 1-3, and touched briefly on the other layers. He graciously answered questions from the audience at the conclusion.

The MVPCUG thanked Jerry G. for sharing with the computer group his personal work experience and the mysteries of Networking.

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry F. at 7:20 PM. ◆

### DOOR PRIZES

#### [furnished with club funds]

4 GB Flash Drive..... Jerry Finkelstein  
 5 X 7 Photo Paper..... Rod St. Clair  
 Memo Cube note paper..... Don Pianka  
 Printer Paper..... Bill Gorrell  
 Cisco Network Book..... Steve Gorrell  
 Network Cable..... Fred Cole

#### [Donated by Jerry Finkelstein]

10 CD Cases with CDs..... Bill Brunnett

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

10 CD Cases..... Ann Brunnett

#### [Donated by Bill Brunnett]

Copy Paper..... Stu Culp

#### Editor's Note:

Rick Broida of *PC World* posed the question, "Have you been hearing beeps from your PC, and wondering what they mean?" He also answered it.

He says those beeps come from your computer's BIOS [software built into the motherboard], and they're a way of communicating with you. "Beep codes" vary from BIOS to BIOS, usually one quick beep means that everything is working fine. If you hear two long beeps followed by three short ones, that could mean that the system failed its keyboard-controller interface test. One long followed by two shorts means some kind of video failure. This reminds me of the ships blowing master salutes [one long-two short, etc.] along the St. Lawrence River.

Rick says that if you hear anything other than a single startup beep, you should check your system manual, which should list the various beep codes. Failing that, an Internet search from a PC that isn't beeping cryptically should produce the information you need, though most listings are divided by BIOS manufacturer [AMI, Award, etc.]. To learn who made yours, check your manual, call the seller of the PC, or carefully pop the hood [(if it's a desktop) and try a visual inspection: Most BIOS chips have the manufacturer's name printed clearly on top. Figuring out what the BIOS beeps mean can assist you in your troubleshooting efforts. ◆

## Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

### February Blahs

**C**old weather and snow give me the winter blahs. If you, too, are afflicted with this calendar disease go to [www.Iwastesomuchtime.com](http://www.Iwastesomuchtime.com) for laughs. At my visit, the homepage featured a series of screens with the following gems: the Cookie Monster wearing a smoking jacket remarking, “I don’t always change my browser settings, but when I do, I enable cookies.” Or, a castaway on a beach with a soccer ball in the foreground with the comment, “Still a better love story than Twilight.”

Finally, the frame that says, “The chances of you dying on the way to pick up your lottery tickets are greater than your chances of winning.” This site changes daily so you can amuse yourself without repetition. Enjoy.

### New Computer Term

Computer terminology multiplies faster than a pair of rabbits. One of the newer terms is Hashtag. The definition of #hashtag can be found at [www.twitter.pbworks.com/w/page/1779812/hashtags](http://www.twitter.pbworks.com/w/page/1779812/hashtags). This function developed as a way to create “groupings” on Twitter to avoid the change to the basic service. To create a hashtag, simply type the number symbol [#] in front of a word. This creates a category that can be tracked in real-time. For those of you who don’t tweet, the preceding factoid constitutes a useless bit of information. For those of you who do tweet, this allows you to expand your communications with people who care about what you do.

### Students Better Watch Out

According to Education Week, [www.edweek.org/](http://www.edweek.org/) students applying to college need to worry about the increasing number of colleges that check out their social-networking pages online. Admissions officials now use Facebook and other sites to learn more about applicants. Use of this online check has quadrupled over the past year according to Kaplan Test Prep. So, if you know a scholar who is looking for a college, have the scholar delete any pages that show underage drinking, plagiarism in essays and vulgar blogs and/or nudity.

### Education Stats

Everybody knows that people in the US had a better education 30 years ago than today. Right?

Maybe not. According to the National Center for Education Statistics education today may not be so bad. For instance, in 2009, 69 percent of young adults ages 18 and 19 were enrolled in school compared to 46 percent of 18 and 19 year olds enrolled in 1980.

Furthermore, 52 percent of 20 and 21 year-olds were enrolled compared to 31 percent in 1980. Finally, 30 percent of 22-to 24-year-olds were in school in 2009 compared with 16 percent in 1980. The full report can be downloaded at [www.nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2012026](http://www.nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2012026). The report also notes a substantial decrease in the percentage of people ages 20 to 24 who were householders, i.e., owned or rented their own housing. The percentage decreased by half over the 30 year comparison, no doubt a consequence of poor economic conditions today.

### New York Climate Change Predicted

According to the recently released New York State Energy Research and Development Agency (NYSERDA) report, climate change has negative and positive results. Vineyards should benefit from warmer weather. Apple growers will see McIntosh and Empire apple yields decrease as will milk production.

Invasive insects, weeds and other pests will increase. And Adirondack and Catskill spruce-fir forests should disappear. Brook trout and Atlantic Salmon should decrease as well. But Bass fishermen will find fish more abundant.

Other trends indicate that coastline sea levels have risen on foot since 1900, and average yearly temperatures have risen 2.4 degrees since 1970. A 60 page summary of the report is found at [www.nyserda.org/programs/environment/emep/climate\\_change\\_newyork\\_impacts.asp](http://www.nyserda.org/programs/environment/emep/climate_change_newyork_impacts.asp).

### What Politicians are Saying

The Sunlight Foundation, a non-profit that tracks all things related to government, provides a website that compares Republican and Democrat frequency of use of words and phrases such as “global warming” and “climate change.” At my visit, Democrats referred to global warming 51% while Republicans referred to the phrase 44%. A graph tracks usage by month and year. To find out more, click on [www.capitolwords.org](http://www.capitolwords.org). What words politicians use mirrors what politicians feel is important.

Until next time . . .



## Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that there are a great many sources on the web? Of course you did, but here are a few to check:  
[www.cnet.com](http://www.cnet.com) - An “everything you want to know about technology” website. Great if you are looking to purchase something and don’t know what to do. An amazing website!  
[www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) - Adobe website  
[www.elementsvillage.com/forums/index.php](http://www.elementsvillage.com/forums/index.php) - Wonderful message board.  
[www.designer-info.com/Writing/bmp\\_tiff\\_jpeg\\_gif.htm](http://www.designer-info.com/Writing/bmp_tiff_jpeg_gif.htm) - Info on TIFF, JPEG, etc.  
[www.loc.gov/preserv/care/photolea.html](http://www.loc.gov/preserv/care/photolea.html) - Library of Congress information on the “Care, Handling, and Storage of Photographs,” with a table of photographic processes.  
[www.knaw.nl/ecpa/sepia/](http://www.knaw.nl/ecpa/sepia/) - Safeguarding European Photographic Images for Access website. There is a lot of information about scanning, preservation and the history of photographs.

### DIGITAL COLLECTIONS:

[www.loc.gov/pictures](http://www.loc.gov/pictures) - Library of Congress “Prints & Photographs Online Catalog”  
[www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org) - Internet Archive is currently scanning books for free viewing on the web. The Library of Congress, Cornell Library, National Library of Scotland and Allen County Public Library are a few of the organizations involved.  
[www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/1158\\_lafayette/](http://www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/1158_lafayette/) - Victoria and Albert Museum. This site has photographic collections from the Lafayette studio, located in Dublin and open from about 1897 to 1925.  
[www.acpl.lib.in.us/database/index/acpl\\_digital\\_library.html](http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/database/index/acpl_digital_library.html) - Allen County Public Library Community Album

### OTHER STUFF:

[web.forret.com/tools/megapixel.asp?](http://web.forret.com/tools/megapixel.asp?) - Megapixel calculator.  
[www.vividlight.com](http://www.vividlight.com) - Vivid Light Photography, a monthly online photo magazine.  
[www.lightimpressionsdirect.com](http://www.lightimpressionsdirect.com) - Light Impressions online catalog for archival supplies.  
[www.cgsociety.org](http://www.cgsociety.org) - The Computer Graphics Society, a Society of Digital Artists, has a fun site if you are interested in digital art. Some of the latest Photoshop techniques are explored in the forums on this site. ♦

## Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

When was the last time you wrote a letter? I don’t mean a thank you note or a note on your door saying, “Be back soon.” I don’t mean a cover letter for some job application or a long or short note saying something like, “Enclosed you will find . . .” You know what I mean, a *letter*. Most of you, I think, are old enough to remember letters. Letters sent to and from friends, members of the family, sometimes over great distances. We told our stories in letters. It’s the kind of thing you used to do, write letters, before the days of email, long before the days of Facebook and texting.

We don’t write letters anymore. Does anyone keep a diary or a journal anymore, written in longhand? Other than celebrities, does anyone keep notes on what happens in his/her life so that later on they can be used as source material for the writing of a memoir? Who wants to write a memoir anyway? But you save pictures. Lots and lots of pictures are saved on your cell phone, on your computer, up in the clouds. Too many to get into your scrapbook. How many of those pictures on your cell phone end up in your scrapbook, anyway? In time a lot of that stuff gets lost.



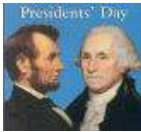
Think of the future historian, the genealogist tracking down the stories of your family. The remaining members of the family, those who are old enough to remember the old days – memory is not a reliable resource – will come to your assistance. But unlike the old days, there are no letters. There are no journals. Maybe some pictures will be pulled down from out in the clouds. The stories, your stories, are gone. Maybe it’s not all that bad. Maybe somebody backed up all their messaging and made hard copies just in case the new technology won’t read the old files. In any case, the job of the historian is getting harder. It was easier for him in the days of Washington, Jefferson and Adams. In those days everybody was writing everybody, everybody kept journals. You can read them even now, hundreds of years later. I’ve just read letters from soldiers in the Civil War. Will anyone be reading your text messages one hundred years from now? Fifty? ♦



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**Cyber Security**  
**Tuesday ♦ January 31 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ New Hartford Library**



what's.com/ing ~ Heart Month ~ February 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2 - Groundhog Day February 14 - Valentine's Day February 20 - President's Day			1	2 	3	4
5	6	7 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 	15	16	17	18
19	20 	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	February 21- Mardi Gras February 22 - Ash Wednesday February 29 - Leap Day		