

ELECTRONICS

Michael Haman, the home installation manager at *The Big Apple* on Seneca Turnpike, will be with us once again to show us some of the things we can do with our computers and TVs.

- ✓ Chrome Cast / Amazon Fire, what they are?
- ✓ What are Ultra HD or 4K TVs?
- ✓ Have you heard of a Quantum Dot?

Michael will have the answers to these questions and possibly many other things.



HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY



Tuesday, February 3, 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. Treasurer Bill Gorrell with 14 members in attendance called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM on Jan 6 2015.

BUSINESS

Bill Gorrell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period of 12-01-2014 thru 12-31-2014, details are available from Bill G. or the Secretary. It was noted the year 2014 ended with a balance \$200 higher than the previous year! Good job, Bill!

Bill G. opened the meeting by asking for any member to volunteer to do the audit of the Club finances for the year 2014. Please call him if you desire to volunteer. He also inquired if any members has ideas for subjects for future programs that they would like to have presented or to be a presenter. Bill G. eagerly awaits your call.

While waiting for our Speaker an interesting informative query and response discussion followed:

1] The “NoMoRobo.com” website was described as useful for eliminating bothersome vendor solicitation phone calls while legitimate calls are processed thru, the service is free. See Bill G. for details. 2] “PatchMyPC.net” is another interesting site, it can check 30-40 programs for the latest updates. 3] Someone suggested that the MapQuest web site is available if you are traveling to assist you in finding local area gas prices. 4] The latest in criminal activity was discussed, where a magnet with a chip can be placed on your car, to notify a potential intruder that you are leaving your home and it’s available to be broken into. 5] A site of interest is ocgov.net, [Oneida County] which provides a way to get property assessment values in an area. 6] For those with poor eye sight, an easy way to increase the size of the type on the screen is to hold down the Control key on the key board and at the same time roll the scroll wheel on the mouse.

PROGRAM

The program for the evening, “Weather You Can Count On” was presented by Ms. Rachael Witter, Chief Meteorologist @ WUTR. She began by stating that outside of work her presentation audience are usually groups of 2nd grade school children, so

hopefully we did not disappoint her. She noted her choice of Iowa State was based on her desire to observe/be involved with tornadoes. Unfortunately, Iowa weather remained calm during her four year collegiate career. However, her first employment out of school brought her to Lincoln, NE, where one day she was fortunate to observe nine tornadoes in one afternoon.

The art of forecasting the weather is rather complicated. To prepare for her 6:00 or 11:00 PM TV presentation she begins at least 2.5 hours before, looking at the different levels of the atmosphere that are not influenced by the current temperature.

Rachael described several weather models available, such as the NAM [North American Mesoscale] model with an 84 hour forecast. Another is the GFS [Global Forecasting System] model with a course resolution and a 384 hour span [she noted it has not been too accurate lately]. There is also a European version that is updated 2 times a day with somewhat accurate predictions.

Rachael described some of the many challenges associated with the art of weather forecasting, such as, the effect on the listening audience reaction if the forecast is not correct. Meanwhile, the meteorologist has the task of merging all of these weather models predictions and integrating them into a forecast. She was very animated and showed her vivid interest in her chosen profession.

A question and answer period followed:

Q. What do the different weather terms: watch, advisory and warning mean?

A. Watch - implies conditions are favorable for an event to follow; Advisory - implies less of a severe version of a warning; Warning - the possibility that an event will occur.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- 16 GB Micro SD Card..... Steve Gorrell
- HDMI Cable. Nelson Robinson
- 12 AA Battery Package..... Rod St Clair
- Car to USB Power Adapter..... Rachael Witter
- 12 BIC Pens. Neville Hendrikson
- 24 BIC Pencils..... Rod St. Clair
- 3 Roll Tape. Bill Gorrell

[Donated by Rod St. Clair]

- 6' HDMI Cable. Jerry Grega
 - CD Cases. Stuart Culp
- The meeting was adjourned by Bill Gorrell at 8:00 PM. Joe Penabad, secretary



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!

* * * * *

Sniffing

Sniffing [aka Network Analyzing] is the process of intercepting and analyzing packets of data as they are being transmitted over a network. Sniffing can be done for legitimate purposes or as a way of stealing data from a network. Packets of data can be analyzed in real time or stored for inspection at a later time if desired. This is the digital equivalent of eaves-dropping on a conversation or telephone call; all unencrypted traffic on the network is visible to anyone with access to the network and appropriate tools to examine the packets of data passing by.

Vulnerability to data sniffing is the primary reason for using websites with HTTPS encryption and employing tactics like routing Wi-Fi traffic while traveling through an encrypted tunnel.

Uplink

An Uplink is a communications link that transmits signals from an Earth-based station to a satellite or airborne platform. An Uplink is also a communications link from a mobile device to a cell tower.

Downlink

A Downlink is a transmission from a satellite to an Earth-based station or a transmission from a cell tower to a mobile phone or device.

Status Bar

A status bar is a line of information, typically displayed at the bottom of a window in a graphical user interface. Although status bars have been around for decades, the most common place a typical computer user encounters a status bar is within a web browser. When hovering over a link, such as this to the front page of How-To Geek, most web browsers will display the actual address, howtogeek.com, in the status bar at the bottom of the window.

Solid State Drive [SSD]

A solid state drive [SSD] is an electronic storage medium that uses flash memory instead of magnetic platters to store data. Solid state drives have several advantages over traditional magnetic-media hard drives, including access speeds [reading and writing is instantaneous as the seek-on-disk action which is an element of platter-based disks has been removed] and power consumption [SSDs consume very little energy as they have no moving parts].

The principle disadvantage SSDs have in their competition against traditional hard drives is cost.

Widget

Historically, the term “widget” was used to denote a part or piece of machine that was unidentified [or did not, for the purposes, need to be identified]. In modern computer-slanted usage, a widget is a small interface display designed to clearly convey information to the user.

Examples of widgets include simple toggles on smartphone and tablet interfaces such as a widget to enable the LED flashlight on a smartphone. The widget in question then isn't a static icon, but an interactive icon that changes from a dim light bulb when the flashlight is off to a lit bulb when the flashlight is on. More advanced widgets display weather, social media updates, and other more complex information.

While widgets are most popular on the mobile interfaces of phones and tablets, they are also found desktop computers, usually in a side bar, displaying similar information [such as resource usage stats, weather, and other information relevant to the user].

Jabber [XMPP]

Jabber, later renamed the Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol [XMPP], is an open standard for instant messaging. XMPP was developed in the late 1990s and released for public use in 1999. Since then it has become the most popular instant messaging framework around, with everyone from small companies and universities deploying private Jabber servers to adoption by Google as the driving protocol for their enormous Google Talk system.

XMPP is favored by organizations large and small because the standard is decentralized, open, well established, can be isolated from the greater internet for secure intranet use, and is highly flexible and adaptable to the needs of individual organizations. ♦

Surfin' the 'Net

— John Hunter



Did you know... That French author Honore' de Balzac drank 50 cups of coffee a day to inspire his writing muse?

That Charles Dickens spent many of his days viewing corpses in a morgue?

That Truman Capote wrote most of his works while lying on his sofa?

All authors have quirks; some quirks are just more interesting than others. Ernest Hemingway started sharpening pencils each morning while waiting for his creative juices to flow. On some mornings Hemingway had to sharpen 100+ pencils before he wrote a word. For more literary factoids visit <http://tinyurl.com/ovd5b4e>.

A Pin Prick for Public Safety

The US Court of Appeals for the Southern District of New York recently upheld the requirement that school children be vaccinated to attend public school. The court ruled further that the requirement did not violate parents' religious freedom rights. Unless the Supreme Court decides to hear this case, school districts may bar unvaccinated students from school during epidemics. To read more visit <http://tinyurl.com/mntkacz>.

Possible Trial Site for Jesus

Archaeologists frequently use *The Bible* as a tool in discovering sites for further study. The Old Testament as well as the New Testament have identified sites of interest to modern scholars. One site recently discovered is King Herod's palace. Aside from the obvious interest generated by the historical King Herod, the site may be the location used by Roman Governor Pontius Pilot to conduct the trial of Jesus.

For some Christians, finding the trial site is very important. This site is located in the Old City located not far from the Via Dolorosa walked by Jesus on the way to his crucifixion. Although the site is open to the public, scholars commit only to saying that this is the possible site of the trial. To read more about this find visit <http://tinyurl.com/ptt2f8q>.

A more complete report of this story appeared in the Washington Post and can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/kc3229m/>.

European Space Agency To Help Rhinos

Rhino deaths by poaching occurred 1004 times in 2013. To help wildlife rangers fight this problem, 3 science students from the UK propose that park officials use space telescopes to spot illegal hunters. Locating a high-resolution telescope in an unmanned space vehicle could be the solution to the poaching problem. To find out more about this visit <http://tinyurl.com/o3kfsjp>. When the page appears, click on Space Solutions University Challenge 2014.

Exxon Pays Stiff Fracking Fine

Hydro-fracturing or fracking doesn't affect many people in Oneida county. But here in the Finger Lakes, fracking is contentious. Exxon Corp recently paid a fine for dirtying West Virginia's waterways. This is just another example of drilling mistakes that energy producers never talk about when trying to expand operations. The company now finds itself about \$5.3 million less profitable for violating the clean water act. For more click on <http://tinyurl.com/pytvaqc>.

High School Diploma Affects Health

You all know about the importance of a high school diploma: more money- more happiness- prettier girl friends [well, maybe not prettier girl friends]. As is the case with other predictors, high school graduation may predict how healthy you may become. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, NCES, high school graduation and racial ethnicity affect people's health. For more information about health predictors click on <http://tinyurl.com/kbhgg5h>.

Job Rate Up, Pres Gets No Credit

CNN recently reported that the jobless rate is 5.8%, gasoline is below \$50 a barrel, the economy is improving and President Obama gets no credit. It's too bad that Democrats abandoned Obama during the election because if they had embraced his record, the Dems might have won. For more numbers visit www.cnn.com/2014/12/05/politics/obama-economy/.

Follow me on my blog at chronicle-express.com; look for Blogs, click on *Community*. New every week.

Until next time . . .





Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that you could stop Internet Explorer from suggesting sites? IE by default suggests addresses based on the partial address you type in. To turn this off, open the *Internet Options* dialog, go to the *Content* tab and click *Settings* button in the *Auto Complete* section. Uncheck *Suggesting URLs*, then click OK.

. . . that you can run older programs in Windows8? Win8 has a feature that might get older programs running automatically. Compatibility Mode is easy to use — try installing your XP era software in the normal way. If that doesn't work, try Win8's *Program Compatibility Assistant* by right clicking the old software's icon, select *Troubleshoot compatibility*, then follow the on-screen instructions. And if that doesn't work, go to Microsoft's support page and follow the instructions, "Make older programs compatible with this version of Windows."

<http://tinyurl.com/l9smc97> If all else fails, use a third party virtual machine such as Oracle's VirtualBox [virtualbox.org/]. Download and install VirtualBox on your Win8 PC. Next, install your copy of XP inside the virtual machine. Finally, install your old software in the virtualized XP setup.

. . . that you could create toolbar shortcuts for your taskbar? If you typically open folders to access frequently needed files, you can create a quick-access toolbar within your taskbar. For example, I often need to open various files when preparing the newsletter. Instead of creating a desktop shortcut for each one, I created a toolbar with shortcuts to their folders.

Right-click on a blank area of the taskbar. Select the *Toolbars* menu and then *New toolbar*. An Explorer-like window opens to let you choose a folder. Press OK, and the new toolbar appears on the taskbar immediately left of the notification area next to the *System Tray* on the Desktop. Click the double arrows, and a list of the folders' contents opens.

By default, Win7 and Win8 offer a handful of pre-made toolbars such as *Address*, *Links*, and *Desktop*. [None is active until you place a check next to it.] However, add them sparingly — they do soak up the taskbar's limited space. For example, the *Address bar*, duplicates the address bar found in your browser, isn't really worth the space it commands. ♦



Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

I was watching C-Span on a recent weekend, weekends is when you can watch all day long discussions, interviews, news about [mostly] nonfiction books. The presentations can get long, over an hour, and if the topic under discussion isn't quite to your interest, you just might find your attention slipping away. You might fall asleep. You might just change the channel.

This one time a New York Congressman was presenting his book. A fictional work, it was a parody of the inner workings of Congress. It's gotten good reviews so we'll probably see it soon at our local movie house. What really caught my attention was that the Congressman wrote the whole novel, well over 200 pages, on his cell phone. He's a busy man he said, being a Congressman and all, and the only time he had to write was on planes, trains, buses, It was an iPhone, of course, he didn't use Seri, he used his fingers to tap out the whole thing, editing included. My response was, "Wow!"

I was really impressed. But then I thought of a buddy of mine who uses his iPhone to write memoirs of his life in Utica in the 40s. Some of it has been published. And then there are those who use their cell phones to blog and blog about what they had for dinner, about their new cat and how cute he is, about their rope bridge crossing in Peru, and on and on and on enough to make it into a novel. I've gotten email long enough to be a chapter in a book on surgery. The things people write about! And they'll go about it at length. On their cell phone!

So, go with what you got. The latest gadget offerings leave the traditional PC behind. ♦

Editor's Note:

On Wednesday, January 21 Microsoft announced the new operating system, Windows10. Look for a new browser called *Spartan*; and voice recognition in the form of *Cortana*. Use of *OneNote* will be heavy. Windows10 is expected to run on PCs, tablets, and phones. And best of all, Windows10 will offer a free update from both Windows8 and Windows7. Microsoft expects this new system to hit the market this Fall.

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.

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\$25 for initial sign-up - or renewal

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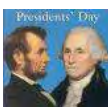


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what's.coming ~ American Heart Month ~ February 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Super Bowl XLIX	2 	3 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	4	5	6	7
8 	9	10 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	11	12	13	14 
15	16 	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 	24	25	26	27	28 
February 2 - Groundhog Day February 12 - Lincoln's Birthday February 22 - Washington's Birthday		February 4 - Facebook's Birthday February 14 - Valentine's Day February 23 - Curling is Cool Day		February 8, 1910 - Boy Scouts of America incorporated February 16 - President's Day February 28 - National Tooth Fairy Day		