

Penabad: *Minutes*. page 2
Random Access. page 3
Hunter: *Surfin' the 'Net*. page 4
Finkelstein: *Byting Remarks*. page 5
Gorrell: *DYK*. page 5
Club Info-Calendar. page 6

The Future of Libraries

On March 4th **Kathryn McCauley**, Technology Librarian for the MidYork Library System, will present the following:

- ✓ Future of Libraries: eBooks, technology, and book-less libraries
- ✓ What are some radical library ideas around the world?
- ✓ What is happening closer to home



Kathryn McCauley is currently the Technology Librarian for the MidYork Library System. Before her current position, she was a Broadband Technology Opportunity Program [BTOP] Librarian at MidYork and trained a wide range of digital literacy classes. Kathryn received a MSLIS from Syracuse University and an AB in History and Science from Harvard College.

Tuesday, March 4, 2014 — 6 - 8:30 PM
New Hartford Library
Meeting Open to the Public — Free — Bring a friend

MINUTES

— Joe Penabad, Secretary



The MVPCUG General Meeting of February 4, 2014 was held at the New Hartford Library. President Jerry Finkelstein with 27 in attendance, called to order the meeting at 6:01 PM.

BUSINESS MEETING

Bill Gorrell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period of 01/01/2014 to 01/31/2014, details are available from Bill G. or the Secretary. Bill G. stated the club is starting the New Year in the black, thanks Bill and everyone else.

Bill G. announced he purchased a new projector for the club from Best Buy, for \$479 (best deal he could find), he now awaits approval from the Board for official agreement of the purchase.

The last Club T-shirt was auctioned off for \$10.00.

PROGRAM

Jerry F. announced that due to an emergency in the Fulton, NY area, our guest speaker for the evening Ermelindo Laraculente was unavailable (hopefully, he will be available on a future date.) His expertise (which was the topic for the evening) was needed in a real time situation.

Jerry F. suggested that the topic of discussion for the meeting as an alternate should be favorite web sites visited by members, this had been previously discussed as a potential topic for a future General Meeting.

The discussion on “member favorite web-sites” was interesting and extremely animated:

EXPEDIA.COM: several members use it to compare airline line prices, travel times, and in particular best days to travel for prices, stops (layovers), etc.

OD.COM: the differences between the on-line version and the street paper were discussed, including the additional \$0.99 charge for the on-line subscription that gives access to the OD’s archives.

TIMEWARNER.COM: The web site was discussed and it was suggested to call them directly to get the plans being offered and that price negotiations are available for different plans and be aware that some are good for a year only.

YOUTUBE.COM: Was suggested by Jerry F., which is free. It seemed almost everyone in the audience was familiar with it.

PANDORA: Was described by Jim Pease, he has generated a Personalized Radio Station, configuring the music he enjoys and it’s free. With a subscription many more songs are made available.

UTICAAMRADIO.COM: Was a web-site suggested by Lou Barile.

CNET.COM: Another Jim Pease favorite, again free. Looking for good free web-sites check with Jim. Donna Gorrell suggested that we always be aware of which boxes you check, so there a limit to what the download will do, also she cautioned to avoid downloading from a secondary site, use the primary source only.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- 20 Bic Pens. Gary Vickler
- 4 X 6 Photo Paper. Bill Gorrell
- Printer Paper.. Stu Culp
- Sharpie Markers.. Kay Janowsky
- Uni-Ball Pens.. Ed Sajdzikowski
- 16 GB Flash Drive.. Jerry Finkelstein

[Donated by Rod St. Clair]

- Computer Paper. Lou Barile

Meeting was adjourned about 8:10 PM.
Respectfully submitted by Joe Penabad. ♦

EDITOR’S NOTES:

Last month we all watched the winter Olympics held in Sochi, Russia. Remsen native Erin Hamlin won a bronze medal. She made history as this was the first medal ever for USA in singles luge competition.



This month [March 7-16th], there will be the Paralympic games — also in Sochi. The sport to watch is curling as Jimmy Joseph of New Hartford will be part of the USA team vying for a medal.

Jimmy does most of his regular curling at the Utica Curling Club, located at 8300 Clark Mills Rd, Whitesboro. He curls in regular leagues as well as the wheelchair league.

It’s nice to know that our area is being represented at the Olympics with two local athletes.

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!

* * * * *

TCP/IP (Ed. Note: tcp/ip info from wikipedia)

The Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) is one of the core protocols of the Internet protocol suite (IP), and is so common that the entire suite is often called TCP/IP. TCP provides reliable, ordered, error-checked delivery of a stream of octets [8 bits] between programs running on computers connected to a local area network, intranet or the public Internet. It resides at the transport layer.

Web browsers use TCP when they connect to servers on the World Wide Web, and it is used to deliver email and transfer files from one location to another.

ISP

An ISP, or Internet Service Provider, is the company that provides internet access between the greater internet infrastructure and the end consumer. In other words, the company you pay to provide “the last mile” of connectivity to your home is your Internet Service Provider. In addition to providing simple TCP/IP network connectivity, most ISPs also offer an array of peripheral services including email hosting, small personal web hosting, and increasingly—phone and premium television access.

IP ADDRESS

An IP address, or Internet Protocol address, is the unique numeric identifier attached to all devices on an IP-based network. Every client, server, and network device is assigned a unique IP address to ensure that it can send and receive data on the network without interfering or colliding with another networked device.

IP addresses are written in dotted decimal notation and, under the current IPv4 set, appear as X.X.X.X—the IP address, for example, of Google's search portal page is 74.125.225.224. Each segment of that IP indicates either the greater network the search portal server exists on, the subnet it belongs to, and the specific host (or machine) it is. IP addresses then, function much like mailing addresses where in each segment of your mailing address

gets the postman closer to your home until he successfully delivers the mail—the network is analogous to your city/state, the subnet to your neighborhood, and the host to your street address.

The Internet Protocol v4 addressing scheme was deployed in the 1980s. Explosive growth in global internet usage has strained the IPv4 naming system and during the mid-1990s IPv6 (capable of assigning trillions more addresses than IPv4) was proposed and adopted. Since the early 2000s an increasing number of organizations are using IPv6 addressing.

LOCALHOST

Localhost is the standard networking convention for the local computer. Any time a computer needs to refer to itself for testing purposes or to direct TCP/IP-based commands back to itself, it can use “localhost” or the loopback address “127.0.0.1”—an IP reserved specifically for the localhost.

One common use of the localhost function outside of diagnostic purposes is as an efficient way to access TCP/IP enabled services on the local machine without the overhead of communicating through the local router or greater internet. For example, if you are running a web server or a content service (like the content-server for ebook manager Calibre) on your local computer, you could access it via web browser with the address <http://localhost:8080>.

BROWSER ENGINE

The browser (rendering) engine is the software component within a given web browser that renders the HTML code of fetched web pages into a human-readable interface. Competing browser companies will frequently tout the benefits of their rendering engine over a competitor's.

Although there appears to be dozens of various browsers on the market, behind their customized GUIs and other superficial tweaks, the majority of them share common browser engines. The Trident browser engine powers Internet Explorer and dozens of other Windows-based applications that need to call web-browser like functionality. WebKit is the browser engine that underlies both Google's Chrome and Apple's Safari browsers. Gecko is the Mozilla Firefox Engine and also powers the SeaMonkey browser.

One of the benefits of the browser engine remaining essentially separate from the actual browser GUI is that it is very easy to take the browser engine and incorporate it into other applications. Thunderbird, for example, the email suite published by the Mozilla foundation, uses the Gecko engine to render HTML-based emails. ◆

Surfin' the 'Net

— John Hunter



Magazine editors know that lists and numbers sell copies. Leads such as “10 reasons for a happy marriage” is a popular example. And, in this era of employee anger, lists of good and poor companies to work for abound. **24/7wallst** at <http://tinyurl.com/mddtn2a> compiled one of the latest lists of america’s worst companies to work for. 24/7wallst reviewed employee comments recorded at www.glassdoor.com and found that low wages, poor or non existent fringe benefits and weak company management comprised the greatest employee complaints. At my visit, *Glassdoor* featured employee reviews of Raytheon, Northrop Grumman and SAIC. Employees reviewed these companies positively.

In the **24/7wallst.com** article, however, employees rated their companies negatively. Rated retail companies include Dillard’s Inc, Sears and Kmart [Sears Holding Co], Dollar General Corp and RadioShack. Other poor companies to work for include ADT Corp, NCR, and DISH Network. The lowest rated companies received the poorest CEO ratings as well with ratings below 40% being the norm. For example only 23% of Dillard’s employees approved of the performance of their CEO.

Another employee criticism comes from the fact that many companies refuse to invest in their stores. This feeling shows strongly in Sears and Kmart employee evaluations. Visit one of these stores to see why the lack of investment hurts morale. Thank goodness retirement protects me from all this anxiety.

Rome Lab Makes the News

We know that the Air Force’s Rome Lab conducts super secret research that almost never makes news. Recently, however, the Department of Defense released a report about a new supercomputer designed at Rome Labs. To read the report click on <http://science.dodlive.mil/2013/12/22/the-condor-supercomputer/>

The computer, named the Condor computing cluster, derives from a lowly common source: Playstation 3s. The Rome Lab geeks strung together 1,716 Playstation 3s, 156 general purpose graphics processing units and 84 dual Xeon processors. To connect all these components, the lab ran over 2 miles of cable. With all components connected, Condor produces 500 trillion floating operations per second. Holy guacamole, Bat Man!

The Science.dodlive.mil page provides a limited

text and a short video report. The operational speed of this computer coupled with off-the-shelf components makes this a very cost-effective addition to defense intelligence analysis. Way To Go, Rome Lab!

I believe that several years ago a US university computer science lab constructed a supercomputer using about 1700 Apple computers to produce a similar result. Science marches on.

Build a Better Mousetrap

Manufacturing funding presents the biggest problem faced by inventors anxious to market new products. Short of appearing on TVs Shark Tank, an inventor now has an alternate source of start-up funding. To learn how you can invest in a novel idea, click on www.kickstarter.com. This website specializes in crowdsourcing financing. In other words, aspiring entrepreneurs can apply to the website and present a product directly to investors. Since kickstart’s goal is to promote good ideas, investors do not profit from the investment. Rather, the inventors provide a gift or other incentive to invest.

At my visit, the site featured “Silic: a shirt that cleans itself.” To visit, type kickstarter.com/projects and find a list of current projects to invest in. Similar to Ebay the site lists a project for a specific time period and investors commit specific amounts of cash. At my visit, 2,540 backers pledged \$176,215 with 23 days to go during the 55 day listing period. The amount pledged by backers appears above the photos of the shirt, and investments start at \$10.

The silic t-shirt self cleans using hydrophobic nanotechnology. The ultra soft, breathable fabric stops stains from sweat and liquids. A prospective investor sees pictures of the shirt repelling liquids and by scrolling down reads the technical specs.

Find the Date

Ever wonder how long the eggs in the supermarket cooler have spent in storage since the chickens laid them? The USDA comes to the rescue on this one. Visit www.flicker.com/photos/usdagov/11517637936/ The site provides a photo of the Egg Stamp Pocket Guide that translates the numbers written on the egg crates into specific dates. The guide provides the expiration date or Best By Date, the packaging date and the plant code where the eggs came from. The calendar includes a perpetual date Julian calendar and a leap year calendar. All you need to do is print it off and put it in your wallet. Happy shopping.

Until next time . . .





Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that windows has a calculator? Not only for simple math, but it does so much more. Open Calculator by pressing windowkey and typing *calcu*. If you need to, continue to type the full name. Windows should open the start menu and point to the calculator. Open it and select View. Near the bottom are several choices to explore. Unit conversion [Ctrl+U] will give you many different choices, but I was mainly interested in grams to ounces. Just put in the amount of grams and it automatically translates that into ounces—or whatever you have chosen.

Next in the list is Date Calculation [Ctrl+E]. My genealogy program has a date calculator built in but if it didn't, this would be the thing to use. I entered my birth date and March 1st and found that as of right now I am 27,964 days old. I'll let you go to the calculator and figure out how many years.

. . . that there are ten things you need to know about Window8.1? The How-to-Geek website has an article outlining those things. Go to:

<http://www.howtogeek.com/180155/10-things-you-need-to-know-about-windows-8.1/> [or] <http://tinyurl.com/ntflu2k>.

. . . that there are tips and tricks to using CCleaner? Go to:

<http://www.howtogeek.com/113382/how-to-use-ccleaner-like-a-pro-9-tips-tricks/> [or] <http://tinyurl.com/7jgcenb> for a complete list of how to use this application.

. . . that long file names could be 'too long'? Way back in the dark ages of DOS, a file name could only consist of 8 letters and a three letter extension. Not so these days. The limit is 260 characters. But, that limit includes not only the file name, but the path to it. The path to what I am now writing is:

C:\Users\Donna\Data\MVPCUG\Newsletter\Articles\DidYouKnow\DYK2014\DYKMar 2014.wpd — whew! 75 characters.

. . . that the continuous groove on the side of an LP record is approximately 1,500 feet (460 meters) in length? The microscopic (but also continuous) data track on a Compact Disc is approximately 3.34 miles (5.38 kilometers) long. ♦



Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

The headline of a recent USA TODAY article screamed, "The end is near for Windows XP." We start mourning on April 8th, that's the date when Microsoft will officially cease to support the system. No more patches or system updates, no more calling up technical assistance. The company has been telling us for years that it will be abandoning us. Well, the date is upon us when Microsoft gives up its kid.

Your machine is not going to blow up or anything like that, you have options. You can upgrade to Windows 8.1 (8.1 Pro?). But not everyone will be able to do that, your PC will need to meet minimum system requirements. There are lots of other considerations if you're thinking of upgrading. Some programs you have working on XP may not work on the new system. Of course, you can retire your old buddy of a machine and buy a new one.

Retire? Really? I don't think anyone is planning a big sendoff with a fountain pen gift for lifetime achievement. Fountain pen? What's that? Went the way of the typewriter. On April 8th I won't think of "retirement." I'll think of extinction. Another case of technical extinction even as we celebrate the new technical marvels, We're already showing off the PC that won't be on your table or desk but on your wrist or in your glasses. Think of it. We will be wearing our PC (not just carrying it around in our pocket). For some, I'm sure, it will become a fashion statement.

In short time we will buy the new PC computer. There's no support for the old guy. As usual, we've put him aside and made him irrelevant. We take pictures of the new and pass them around to family and friends. No pictures of the old ones. We throw the old ones into dumpsters. But if you care they become your doorstops.

XP? It's part of the story that begins, "Once upon a time . . ." ♦

Editor's Note: Even though Microsoft will end support for XP this does not mean you have to stop using it or upgrade. If it works for you, keep using it. The hackers will be busy trying to screw up 7 + 8 or whatever new one comes our way. It's all about the money.

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.

Opinions expressed herein are the writers and are not reflective of the MVPCUG, nor are they considered substantiated by inclusion in this newsletter. All articles are copyrighted by their respective authors but may be reprinted by other User Groups provided credit is given to the author and this publication.

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.

Stay connected . . . to the M V P C U G

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

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President

Jerry Finkelstein 797-5296
..... president@mvpcug.com

Vice President

Lisa Britt vicepresident@mvpcug.com

Treasurer

Bill Gorrell 853-3256
..... treasurer@mvpcug.com

Secretary

Joe Penabad secretary@mvpcug.com

Directors-at-Large

Vivian Burth ['14]. director3@mvpcug.com
Jim Pease ['15]. director1@mvpcug.com
Jerry Grega ['16]. director2@mvpcug.com






Our internet presence is at
<http://www.mvpcug.com>

Web Master

Lisa Britt webmaster@mvpcug.com

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Jerry Finkelstein president@mvpcug.com
Donna Gorrell editor@mvpcug.com
John Hunter johnhunter@mvpcug.com

what's.coming ~ Trisomy Awareness Month ~ March 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 11 - Johnny Appleseed Day March 13, 1942 - US K9 Corps began March 20 - Vernal Equinox [Spring] March 29 - Knights of Columbus Founders Day						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	Trisomy link: tinyurl.com/krs96ag