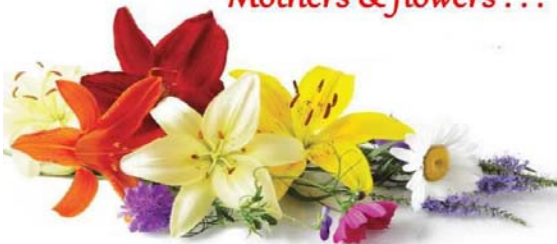


**Michael Haman**, the home installation manager at The Big Apple on Seneca Turnpike, will be with us once again to show us some of the things we can do with our computers and TVs.

- ! Do you have a Smart TV? Do you know what it can and cannot do?
- ! Would you like to see a movie or program that is streamed to your computer on your big screen TV?
- ! Do you know what cables are necessary to hook up TVs with computers?
- ! Can you access the Internet from your TV?
- ! Do you know what Roku is?

May is for . . .

Mothers & flowers . . .



Michael will be bringing all the necessary equipment to our meeting in order to be able to show us the answers to those questions.

Have questions of your own? Bring them along and see if Mike can help you out.

**Tuesday, May 6, 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 was held in the Sammon Room of the New Hartford Library. President Jerry Finkelstein, with 20 Members in attendance, called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

**BUSINESS**

Bill Gorrell presented the Treasurer’s Report for the period of 3-1-2014 thru 3-31-2014, details are available from Bill G. or the Secretary.

Bill G. reported he had received a premium due bill from the Insurance Company for liability insurance, with a substantial increase in the fee. Discussion indicated that the NH Library does not require Insurance for the use of the Sammon Room as in our previous meeting locations. After some discussion, the membership present decided the policy should be terminated.

Jerry F. reported the resignation of Jerry Grega due to personal reasons and the appointment of Dee Pfohl to replace Jerry. Welcome on Board Dee.

An animated question and answer period followed with such queries as: the use of XP PRO, attempting to make files private, and the advantages of the forthcoming Windows 8.1 update revisions release.

**PROGRAM**

Our featured speaker, Ermelindo Laracuate, Jr, [known to his intimates as “Junior”] was introduced by Jerry F. speaking on his role with the New York State Police Force, as an Investigator in the Computer Crime Unit, with 31 years of experience in the Department. He was transferred from duty in the streets of New York City and grown accustomed to the cornfields of Upstate New York to pursue high tech Computer Crime.

He presented a video on the role of the CCU [Computer CrimeUnit] where it indicated 90% of the crimes investigated involved child pornography. Junior spoke about the Empire State incident where innocent by-standers were killed and wounded while other bystanders were taking photos on their electronic devices. “Twitter messages” were being passed along about the location of police stationed in the vicinity. He commented about that even the bad guys love to take photos of their possessions, their money and contraband. At the end, Junior gave us an idea of the laboratory facilities they use and some of

the Investigative operations they use.

He had a very good sense of humor considering his assignments and when answering some of the audience questions. Junior provided us with a very informative and entertaining insight into the operations, difficulties and some of the resources available to combat the unlawful side of humanity, and we were fortunate to have been able to hear him without being taken away for active duty.

**DOOR PRIZES**

[furnished with club funds]

- 16 GB Flash Drive..... Jerry Finkelstein
- Copy Paper. .... Bill Gorrell
- Photo Paper 4x6. .... Bo Wozniak
- 20 Pens. .... Donna Gorrell
- Memo Cube..... Rod St. Clair
- Pentel Pens. .... Fred Cole
- Sharpie Markers. .... Bill Wilson

[Donated by Rod St. Clair]

- Copy paper. .... Bo Wozniak

Meeting was adjourned about 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Joe Penabad, secretary



**EDITOR'S NOTES:**

If you attend the meeting on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, mention the secret word “Explorer” to Bo Wozniak and he'll give you an extra door prize ticket.



Speaking of Bo . . . do you know that he arrives early to every meeting so he can be there to meet and greet you, along with helping to set up the tables and chairs? A smile and a thank you next time you see him would be a good thing.

Officers of the club as well as other members of the Board of Directors serve as volunteers and most of you never know the work that goes on behind the scenes to keep this club alive and thriving. Thanks to all of them. A special thanks to Rodney St. Clair for his help in attaining some of our program speakers. Every little bit helps. Think of what you might do to help our club.

## 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!

\* \* \* \* \*

### **MALWARE**

The word “malware” is short for “malicious software.” Many people use the word “virus” to indicate any type of harmful software, but a virus is actually just a specific type of malware. The word “malware” encompasses all harmful software, including all the ones listed below.

### **VIRUS**

A virus is a type of malware that copies itself by infecting other files, just as viruses in the real world infect biological cells and use those biological cells to reproduce copies of themselves.

A virus can do many different things — watch in the background and steal your passwords, display advertisements, or just crash your computer — but the key thing that makes it a virus is how it spreads. When you run a virus, it will infect programs on your computer. When you run the program on another computer, the virus will infect programs on that computer, and so on. For example, a virus might infect program files on a USB stick. When the programs on that USB stick are run on another computer, the virus runs on the other computer and infects more program files. The virus will continue to spread in this way.

### **WORM**

A worm is similar to a virus, but it spreads a different way. Rather than infecting files and relying on human activity to move those files around and run them on different systems, a worm spreads over computer networks on its own accord.

For example, the Blaster and Sasser worms spread very quickly in the days of Windows XP because Windows XP did not come properly secured and exposed system services to the Internet. The worm

accessed these system services over the Internet, exploited a vulnerability, and infected the computer. The worm then used the new infected computer to continue replicating itself. Such worms are less common now that Windows is properly firewalled by default, but worms can also spread in other ways — for example, by mass-emailing themselves to every email address in an affected user's address book.

Like a virus, a worm can do any number of other harmful things once it infects a computer. The key thing that makes it a worm is simply how it copies and spreads itself.

### **TROJAN**

A Trojan Horse, more commonly referred to as simply a “trojan”, is a non-replicating malware application that masquerades as a useful application but instead allows unauthorized access to a user's system. A Trojan horse, or Trojan, is a type of malware that disguises itself as a legitimate file. When you download and run the program, the Trojan horse will run in the background, allowing third-parties to access your computer. Trojans can do this for any number of reasons — to monitor activity on your computer, or to join your computer to a botnet. Trojans may also be used to open the floodgates and download many other types of malware onto your computer.

The key thing that makes this type of malware a Trojan is how it arrives. It pretends to be a useful program and, when run, it hides in the background and gives malicious people access to your computer. It isn't obsessed with copying itself into other files or spreading over the network, as viruses and worms are. For example, a piece of pirated software on an unscrupulous website may actually contain a Trojan.

### **SPYWARE**

Spyware is a type of malicious software that spies on you without your knowledge. It collects a variety of different types of data, depending on the piece of spyware. Different types of malware can function as spyware — there may be malicious spyware included in Trojans that spies on your keystrokes to steal financial data, for example.

More “legitimate” spyware may be bundled along with free software and simply monitor your web browsing habits, uploading this data to advertising servers so the software's creator can make money from selling their knowledge of your activities. ◆

## Surfin' the 'Net

— John Hunter



### Mea Culpa

John LaVoe, one of our members and a long time friend of mine, contacted me recently to tell me that in my February column I mistakenly attributed a quote to Jimmy Durante that was really said by William Bendix on his radio and TV show *The Life of Riley*. I remember this program well when it appeared on network radio in the 1940s and television in the 1950s.

One fact I learned from the Wikipedia listing was that Jackie Gleason originally appeared as Riley during the first TV season. To visit the info click on [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Life\\_Of\\_Riley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Life_Of_Riley). John also has an extensive list of other long forgotten phrases such as: "Plunk your magic twanger, Froggy." Buster Brown, and "Say kids, what time is it?" "It's Howdy Doody Time". Thank you, John, for your correction.

### Buying Albany

It is no secret that money in politics biases votes of state politicians in favor of the biggest contributors to their campaigns. The energy lobby energetically patrols the halls of state government in an effort to encourage favorable legislation for this industry. Think hydro-fracturing as one example or energy pipelines as another.

To see the extent of this lobby's influence, click on [www.dirtyenergymoney.com.ny/All/2012](http://www.dirtyenergymoney.com.ny/All/2012). This site provides the names of senators and assemblymen who received donations from energy companies and from individuals representing those companies in 2012, the last year for which data is available.

In addition to New York recipients of energy money, the site provides this information for politicians from Alaska, California, Colorado, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas as well. Just think, it's only May and the 2014 election season is yet to begin. Good Luck.

### Other Fun Facts

Most people visit [www.dailykos.com](http://www.dailykos.com) for news with a liberal bent. But politics is not the only reason to visit the site. Click on [www.dailykos.com/story/1214/02/02/1270828/-when-did-your-county-s-population-peak-this-map-shows-you?det](http://www.dailykos.com/story/1214/02/02/1270828/-when-did-your-county-s-population-peak-this-map-shows-you?det). Population in some counties in the US peaked in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Some county populations have yet to peak. For example, McHenry

County, North Dakota's population peaked in 1910. Essex County, Vermont peaked in 1890. In New York Oneida County's population peaked in 1970, and Lewis County's population peaked in 1880. Yates County, New York where I live is still growing, albeit very slowly. This is Census data put to use. Somebody thinks this is important.

To view the data just place the cursor over the county on the interactive map and up comes the peak population date. For the pedantically inclined, this is a wonderful goldmine of obscure information. Enjoy.

### Speaking of State Profiles . . .

The Center For Disease Control, [www.cdc.gov/adhd](http://www.cdc.gov/adhd), published comparison data for ADHD reporting for New York State and the nation for years 2003 to 2011. For all years covered by the data, cases of ADHD reported and in treatment in New York were lower than reported cases nationally.

The data did report increases, however. In 2003 New York reported 6.3% of children 4-17 diagnosed with ADHD, In 2011 that number increased to 9.9% for New York children.

Nationally, the rate also increased. In 2003 the rate was 7.8%, and for 2011 the national rate was 11%. In terms of children treated with medication, in 2007 nationally the rate was 4.8% while in New York the rate was 3.9%. In 2011 the national treatment rate was 1% higher than New York at 6.1% of children taking medication.

### All You Need to Know About Religions Found in a Spreadsheet

If you never took a Comparative Religion course and have desire to learn the salient points of all religions, click on [www.religionfacts.com/big\\_religion\\_chart.htm](http://www.religionfacts.com/big_religion_chart.htm). This site puts facts about all religious sects in a spreadsheet format that allows a quick comparison of religions from Aladura to Zoroastrianism. For some reason, printing the 13 page file is not encouraged. But for \$4.99 the information can be downloaded. For this money you get an 8 ½ by 11 page formatted for binder. And for \$11.99 you get the expanded 110 page version.

I converted the 13 page file to a pdf file and printed the whole thing. Admittedly, I'm going to need strong glasses to read the text since the pdf compressed the total file from 110 pages to six. Oh well. I saved lots of money.

Until next time . . .



## ? Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that I/O means Input/Output in computerese? This term is used for all the ways you can move data into or out of a computer. Serial and parallel ports were the interfaces used back in the early days of computing. In use today is the Universal Serial Bus [USB]. These are the ports that we use to connect flash drives and various cards to our computers in order to transfer data to another computer or drive for safe keeping [you've heard of backing up, right?].

Another method of transfer allows us to show the video onto a large display. We do this at club meetings, projecting the computer's image onto the pull down screen by means of a cable. A High Definition Multimedia Interface [HDMI] port is what we use at home to project a program from our computer onto the large screen of our TV.

. . . that you could customize the notification area of your taskbar? The notification area — also known as the system tray — has become such a mess over time that Windows hides most notification icons by default. However, you can customize which icons will and won't be shown. You can do this by dragging and dropping the notification area icons between the hidden area and the main taskbar and they'll be made always-visible or always-hidden. An easier and more efficient way is to right-click the taskbar, choose Properties and then you can perform more detailed customizations to the entire taskbar.

. . . that in Windows 8 you no longer have to run the MSConfig program to change startup items? Startup items now show up in a tab on Task Manager. Simply press Ctrl + Alt + Del and select Task Manager. Click the "More details" tab at the bottom and find the Startup tab at the top.

. . . that right-clicking on the lower left of the screen—whether you're in the Win 8 Start screen or in the desktop—brings up the Quick Access Menu? This gives you a direct line to many key system management chores, including Disk Management, Task or Device Manager, and Control Panel.

. . . that if you hold down the ALT key and type 155 it makes the ø sign when you release the alt key? Old trick learned from Kay – it works! ◆

## Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

All during mid-April the media – hard copy newspapers, radio, TV, the on line bloggers and news outlets, have been telling us about a programming mistake from *two years ago*, that forced "countless websites to make fixes to protect the sensitive personal information of consumers." It appears clear. "They" make the fixes. And what "we," the consumers, do to protect our own information is to change our password on the faulty site. Problem: changing the password does no good unless the site has been fixed. Hundreds of thousands of sites have been compromised, not all of them have been fixed. C'mon guys, it's been two years.

The coding flaw is called Heartbleed. Up to two thirds of all websites "could" be affected, some of your favorites have been affected: Google, Facebook, and Yahoo said they were affected and they did fix their systems. They advise that now that the fixes are in place you do your part and *change your password*. Amazon, Walgreens, Nordstrom and Target all said they were not affected. Some "experts" suggest you change your password anyway. It's good for your security health to change your passwords now and then.

Since the alert about Heartbleed the experts are telling us again about the do's and don'ts of coming up with a tough but memorable password.

I know two people who still have the word "password" as a password, I know one person whose password (she has one password to all her sites) is her cat's name and the date of her (the owner's) birth! We know better, of course. Take the threat of the Heartbleed Flaw. It's serious enough to claim major attention from all the media, yet I don't know anyone who's changed their passwords to once affected sites. And most of those I spoke to don't plan to either. The warning is clear. If you've logged in to a vulnerable site (Google? Facebook?) there's a decent chance that someone stole your password. We know better, of course. ◆



# 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.

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

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what's.coming ~ National Bike Month ~ May 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	May 1 - May Day - Law Day May 4 - International Firefighter's Day May 5 - Cinco de Mayo May 26 - Memorial Day		1	2	3	
4 	5	6 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	7	8 V - E Day	9	10
11 	12	13 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	14	15	16	17 
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 	27	28	29	30	31