

Mohawk Valley Braille Transcribers

The Mohawk Valley Braille Transcribers is a non-profit volunteer organization affiliated with the CABVI whose primary purpose is to make Braille textbooks for elementary through high school students. Most of the members are certified by the Library of Congress. For further information: <http://tinyurl.com/743fwq5>.

Janet Burt, Pie Edwards, Jane Gwise, and Nancy Hester's presentation will consist of a short history of Braille and its production. They will then demonstrate the use of computers and Braille printers in present day production. There are several computers that some of us will be able to try.

We are fortunate to be able to watch the transcribers in action at their location. Directions: Take the East-West Arterial (5s) to the Turner Street exit. It is the large blue building in the former parking lot for the Charlestown Mall. If you enter 2200 Dwyer in Google Map search it will show you the wrong place. Bing.com is closer but still not correct. It is at 2200 Dwyer Ave between Turner St and Pitcher St. Driveway is on Dwyer Ave. The Post Office is almost across the street.

WEBSITE QUIZ

Each month we will pose a question, the answer of which will be found on our website - <http://mvpcug.com/newsletter.htm>. [Look on the left side of page for link to the answer.]

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 win but will be responsible for picking up your prize if your name is drawn. All members are eligible for this prize so send in your entry today.

This month's question — What happened on 4 June 1991?

Tuesday, June 5th — 6 - 8:30PM
MV Braille Transcribers-CABVI 2200 Dwyer Ave, Utica
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 . . .



Hope you all have a very happy summer. The newsletter will return at the end of August as our first meeting in the Fall will be held on Sept 4, the day after Labor Day.

While some of us will be taking a break, Jerry Grega has volunteered to lead a Special Interest Group that will be meeting in July and August, at the New Hartford Library, same day and time as regular meetings.

Last month there were no correct answers to the web quiz so we could not give away a T-shirt. Everyone has a chance to enter this month and hopefully there will be some winning entries. These shirts are good quality, tan with our MVPCUG Logo in green on the front. If you are interested in purchasing one or more, contact Bill at treasurer@mvpcug.com. We will be selling the shirts for \$10 each. We currently have sizes large and extra large.

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 May 1, 2012
—Joe Penabad, Secretary

BUSINESS MEETING

The MVPCUG General Meeting, with 30 attendees, was called to order by President Jerry Finkelstein at 6:05 PM in the SAMMON Room of the New Hartford Library on 05/01/2012.

Bill Gorrell’s Treasurers report for the period 04/01/2012 to 04/30/2012 included: Income from 9 membership renewals of \$225, door prize tickets of \$2.00 and bank interest of \$0.63, for a net income of \$227.63; Expenses for Newsletter printing of \$70, Newsletter stamps for two months \$90.00, and door prizes \$11.94, for net expenses of \$171.94. The report was accepted with no corrections.

There will be no Newsletters for July and August. Keep informed of club activities via MVPCUG.com. Jerry F. alerted us to a recent book, *I Know Who You Are And I Saw What You Did*, that may be of interest to club members.

Jerry F. solicited question/problems from the audience who accommodated with a multitude: 1) After purchasing an external hard drive, how does the user get updates automatically from the computer, 2) Using Firebox, how do you avoid being kicked off due to timing out, 3) A variety of printer problems, 4) Inbox problem: How to eliminate unwanted add-ons. The audience responded with numerous suggestions. One general recommendation was that if you have a problem, access Google, then search for a specific forum (eg. printer forum). This path for researching a problem may be faster than e-mailing the manufacturer's web site.

PROGRAM

Dr. Gerard Capraro introduced his two associates from Capraro Technologies Inc., Joshua Glassberg and Varian Bohling, System Analysts, to speak about Windows 7 and 8. Joshua took us on a brief tour of Windows' history, starting with 95, 98, XP, NT and 2000 (phased out in 2005).

With four versions of Windows 7, Dr. Capraro's System Analysts filled the evening with information few of us knew we did not know. They noted that computers in the last few years are moving to multi-cores, allowing for quicker turn-on times and more advanced features; furthermore, users are

trending away from desktops toward laptops.

Varian previewed the many novel features expected to be available in Windows 8; consequently, consumers will be left with the choice of staying with Windows 7 or moving on to Windows 8.

The MVPCUG extended their appreciation to Joshua Glassberg and Varian Bohling for sharing their creative time and knowledge of the world of Windows in a palatable manner with the MVPCUG.

DOOR PRIZES

[furnished with club funds]

- 8 GB Flash Drive..... Rod St.Clair
- 5 X 7 Photo Paper..... Bill Gorrell
- Memo Pads..... Joe Madeira
- Staples Pens..... Bill Wilson
- Copy Paper..... Kay Janowsky

[Donated by Joe Madeira]

- Everyday PhotoPaper..... Donna Gorrell

[Donated by Rod St. Clair]

- Copy Paper..... Bo Wozniak

[Donated by Fr John LaVoe]

- 20 CD cases..... Jerry Finkelstein

There were no winning entries in the Web Contest.

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry F.
Respectfully submitted, J. Penabad, Secretary



NOTICE

Jerry Grega [director2@mvpcug.com] will conduct Special Interest Group meetings in July and August. He plans to discuss computer security and how to clean, restore, and stabilize your computer. Details can be found at www.mvpcug.com/tidbits.htm under June 2012 Links.

The meetings will be held at the New Hartford Library, Sammon room on July 3 and August 7, starting at 6pm.

All members are invited to attend these special meetings.

Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

Equal Pay

Republicans and Liberals argue about whether or not women are paid as much as men in the workplace and whether such a pay disparity is important for the welfare of the country. According to www.nationalpartnership.org, no argument should exist on either count.

The website quotes U.S. Census Bureau 2010 data that proves women make less than men in every state. National figures indicate that women are paid just 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. In a report titled "State Median Annual Earnings Ratio for Full-time, Workers," the earnings by gender comparison ranks states in percentage order of pay disparity from least to most.

In Washington D.C. women make 91 cents for every dollar earned by men. In New York State women make 83 cents for every dollar earned by men. [New York ranks 4th] In Wyoming, women earn just 64 cents for every dollar earned by men. It seems that we should tell our daughters to stay in New York or move to Washington D.C. and to stay away from Louisiana and Wyoming, ranked 50 and 51 respectively.

To read the report click on www.nationalpartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=issues_work_epd_map.

Emotional Comparisons

The Huffington Post [www.huffingtonpost.com] recently published a list of "America's Saddest Cities" In spite of nearly continuous sunshine, St Petersburg, Fl led the list as the country's saddest city. This list used suicide rates and percent of households using anti-depressants as well as rates of individuals reporting feeling "blue" all or most of the time.

In comparison New York City ranked 39th and Buffalo ranked 37th on the top 100 sad cities list. To see the complete list click on www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/30/americas-saddest-cities/

The happiest city proved to be Honolulu, Hi.

American History Made Accessible

Lovers of history will soon have a new resource to browse through. The New York Public Library

announced a project that will digitize more than 11,000 manuscripts and 35,000 document pages to the online digital library. The documents will come from the Thomas Addis Emmet Collection and the Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature. The library owns both collections.

The Emmet collection includes a copy of the Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson. The Berg collection contains documents such as Walt Whitman's correspondence to Union soldiers during the Civil War and an original pencil map of Walden Pond drawn by Thoreau.

Digitizing collections featuring hand-written documents from Benjamin Franklin and Mark Twain provides opportunities for amateurs as well as scholars to access this material easily. To access the article click on www.nypl.org/press-release/2012/04/05/new-york-public-library-digitizes-early-american-history.

Rural Life Where You May Not Expect It

Although most of us live in cities or large towns, much of our area is considered rural. For those who live in rural America as well as those interested in rural life should click on www.dailyyonder.com.

This Internet site focuses on news and commentary featuring reports from rural bloggers, rural news correspondents and striking photography from all over the United States submitted by website viewers.

At my visit, the homepage featured an article about Texas-Mexican dance halls, *salones*, that prospered right after World War II. Another article headlined an end to child farm work rules promulgated by the U.S. Labor Department. And a third article featured news about the Senate passed Postal Service overhaul bill which will provide for postal employee buyouts paid for by Post Office pension overpayment money as well as a provision to disallow any rural post office closings for the next two years. Enjoy.

Just Because You're Paranoid Doesn't Mean They Aren't Out To Get You Category

www.alternet.com published an article titled "13 Ways You Can Be Tracked By the US Government." The article argues that privacy erosion tied to technology now circumscribes some constitutional freedoms. For the article click on www.alternet.com/rights/154931/.

Have a nice Summer. Until next time . . .



Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that your browser has a history? All browsers keep a record of the sites you have visited, the cookies you have accepted and the information that you filled out on forms. I like the way Firefox handles my forms so that I do not have to reenter all the information each time, but as for history and cookies – well, not so much. Temporary files and history can become space hogs too and if you are running low on disc space you want to get rid of excess baggage.

In Internet Explorer9, select the *Tools* button, click *Internet Options*. Then click the *Delete* button under *Browsing History*. Here is the list of items that IE9 saves. Place a check mark in the boxes of those items you want to delete. Click the *Delete* button.

In Firefox, select the *Tools* menu and click *Clear Recent History* [CTRL-SHIFT-DEL]. Firefox provides a time range to choose from. Click on the *Details* button to see the list of what will be deleted. You can place a check mark in one or all of the choices there. I delete *Browsing & Download History*, *Cookies* and *Cache*, but keep *Form & Search History*, *Active Logins* and *Site Preferences*. After you've made your choices, click the *Clear Now* button.

. . . that the letter “J” that appears in some email is not a virus or a cute symbol denoting something special? It merely represents a smiley emoticon that can not be displayed. This usually occurs in Gmail or on smartphones.

. . . that you can increase or decrease web pages so they are more readable? For mouse users, hold down the CTRL key while rolling the scroll wheel up or down to zoom in or out. Keyboard users can hold down the CTRL key and use + or - keys to do the same thing.



. . . that you could use keyboard shortcuts in Gmail so that you hands never need touch a mouse? Go to <http://support.google.com/mail/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=6594> or <http://tinyurl.com/7xyp9oe> for the list of shortcuts. You must enable them first by turning them on in Gmail settings or by going to <http://mail.google.com/mail/?kbd=1>. ♦

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

This is the last issue of our Newsletter before we break for the summer. We will be back in the Fall, our first meeting given over to Guru Night where every single one of your PC questions, as is usual, will be answered. Right? Of course, right! We may not be holding general meetings over the course of the summer but there's no vacation from your PC, your tablets, your e-readers, your smart phones. Notice how all these mobile devices are looking more and more alike; the new Windows 8 should feel right at home. We'll all get with it eventually but at times I do get nostalgic for the click-click sound of the old-time IBM keyboard.





I wonder what the PC environment will look like in the Fall. More of the same with a bit more or a bit less of this or that? Monochrome e-readers seem to be on the decline: only 2 million units were shipped during the first quarter of 2012, compared with 9 million last year. Don't think people are giving up on the reader, they're going for the color tablets. The PC magazines are all hawking the death of the desktop, they're telling us that the all-in-ones will be supplanting the traditional tower. Well, maybe yes, maybe no. There are still a lot of desktop buyers out there, resisters, nay-sayers to “progress.” Lots of letters to the editors are demanding the capacity and performance of a tower. The new Ultrabooks, so thin and sexy, and so expensive, are the new kids on the block. Does any member of our club feel the got-to-have need for this lightweight laptop? Let's see how long this very new thing lasts. The privacy watch remains vigilant. Trouble is, I think, not too many people care about privacy issues. I get a lot of So what if I'm tracked? I'm not planning to run for President! Or, I like those ads streamed just for me.

You can tell who will be doing the upgrades this summer. They're the ones who hold their smartphones in their hand, texting. All the time. If the phone is not in their hand, it is nearby, ever ready for the new text. No summer vacation for these social networkers. Summer means more time for more texting. 3000 messages a week. Then there are the old fogies who are still on Windows 98. They may go for an upgrade. Maybe. What's new in your PC future? ♦

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Tuesday ♦ June 5 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ CABVI @ 2200 Dwyer Ave, Utica



what's.com/ing		~ Dairy Month ~			June 2012	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		June 14 - Flag Day June 17 - Father's Day June 20 - First Day of Summer June 28 - Paul Bunyan Day			1	2
3	4	5 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM 2200 Dwyer Ave	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 	15	16
17 	18	19	20 	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 	29	30