GSCC

APRIL 2014 Newsletter

Glendora Seniors Computer Club

A Friendly Seniors Group Serving All Computer Skill Levels

General Meetings: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month at 1:00 p.m.
Board Meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m.

Volume 19 Issue 4

April 15th, Tax Day

Know your Cell Phone

Check out the things that you can do with it:

Emergency

The Emergency Number worldwide for Mobile is **112**. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an Emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you, and interestingly, this number 112 can be dialed even if the keypad is locked. Try it out.

Hidden Battery Power

Imagine your cell battery is very low. To activate, press the keys *3370#. Your cell phone will restart with this reserve, and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will get charged when you charge your cell phone next time.

How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone?

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following Digits on your phone: ***#06#** . A 15-digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. If your phone is stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset, so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either. If everybody does this, there would be no point in people stealing mobile phones.

PROGRAMS BY: **Program Chai: Annemarie Hunt**
(All programs subject to change)

April 9th

Apps? What are they?
With Jim Glass

April 23rd

Internet Connections
with Geeks on Tour

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<u>ComputerClassesfor2014</u>

Winter/springSessions

Note: All classes are held in the Elm Room of the La Fetra Center

Minimum enrollment required – 5 students for each class offering

All class fees are due at time of registration Paid by check

All classes are taught in English

April 3 through May 8 – Ipad for seniors

The ipad is a user friendly, portable multimedia device with endless capabilities. Use it to surf the Internet, write e-mails, jot down notes and maintain your calendar. But these are by far not the only things you can do with the ipad. This practical tablet computer also comes with built-in apps (applications) that allow you to listen to music, take pictures and make video calls. In the Apple App Store you can choose from hundreds of thousands of apps to add extra functionality to your iPad.

Navigate the screens

Go through the settings screens

☐ Connect to a Wi-Fi or mobile data network

☐ Surf the Internet and use e-mail

☐ Use built-in applications

☐ Download apps from the App Store

☐ Work with photos, video and music

When: April 3 through May 8 – 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Registration: at least one week prior to start of class $40.00 paid by check at time of registration

Limited to 12 students.

You will need a home PC or Mac with an internet connection. The classroom is equipped with PC's for class. The instructor will provide all other learning materials

Windows 7 for beginners. May 15th —July 3rd

General Meeting minutes
March 12, 2014

President Barbara Denny welcomed members and guests.

Program

A 50-Minute Webinar by Geeks on Tour: Picasa and Greeting Cards by Laura Baker www.Laurasendscards.com a web site where for a small fee you can send greeting cards anywhere in the World.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1) Upcoming Programs:

March 26th - Dropbox/Intro Tutorial, Google Drive Intro, Comparison of the Two

2) Classes

iPad Class Starts on April 3rd and ends May 8th. Thursdays, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

The Beginners Class for Windows 7, starts on May 15th and runs thru July 3rd.

3) Computer Guys tomorrow (Thurs)

4) Do Not use XP after April 4th – no support after that date!

BREAK:

Q & A Ell Fullmer asked that questions be submitted **in writing at the beginning of the meeting** and answered questions from members including the following topics:

1) Publisher tool bar

2) Membership on Excel

3) XP after April 4th – no support; turn off wireless connections.

4) Lennox another OS

Other - **The 50/50 Drawing** was won by **Ruthann Mayrose.**

Next meeting Wednesday March 26 – Frank Duran will bring cookies.

Adjournment: Meeting at 3:00 pm

Submitted by: *Approved By:*

Secretary Ruthann Mayrose   President Barbara Denny

General meeting Minutes
March 26, 2014

President Barbara Denny welcomed members and 5 guests.

<u>Program</u> **Chair Annemarie Hunt presented a Comparison of free file storage and file sharing services:**

    Drop Box/Intro Tutorial (David Cox) - easiest to share files.

    Google Drive Introduction (Anson Alexander on YouTube.) **--** Most economical and requires a Gmail account; shares storage with Gmail.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

    President Denny thanked **Frank Duran** for today's cookies.

Upcoming Programs: Annemarie announced the following upcoming programs and events.

<u>**The scheduled programs for the next two months are as follows:**</u>

April 9: "What are Apps and Where and How Do I get them ?" by Jim Glass

April 23: "Internet Connections on the Road" by Geeks on Tour.

May 14: "A Comparison of Windows 7, 8, and 8.1"

May 28: "Presentation by Glendora Library about E-Books, Adult Summer Reading Program".

Upcoming Events:

June 27-30, 2014: Southwest Technology and Computer Conference at Kellogg West, Pomona. More Information on their website at www.theswcc.org. Information on Progams, speakers, registration online, etc.

June 25: Instead of our regular meeting, we will be having our "Summer/4ᵗʰ of July Party and Potluck".

Classes

iPad Class Starts on April 3ʳᵈ and ends May 8ᵗʰ. Thursdays, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. The Beginners Class for Windows 7, starts on May 15ᵗʰ and runs thru July 3ʳᵈ. BREAK:

Q & A Ell Fullmer asked that questions be submitted **in writing at the beginning of the meeting**. Cautioned members of a "call back scam".809 #'s do not call this area code

Other - **The 50/50 Drawing** was won by **Barbara Klein.**

Next meeting Wednesday April 9th

Adjournment: Meeting at 3:00 pm

Submitted by: *Approved By:*

Secretary Ruthann Mayrose   President Barbara Denny

Submitted Articles

Furnished by Judy Taylour, Santa Clarita Computer Club

Smart Device Users Beware: Fraud May Be Just a Click Away

A Heads Up e-mail from the Southeastern Wisconsin Windows User Group

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www.portebrown.com / www.sewwug.org

email (at) sewwug.org

This was forwarded from a CPA Member of SEWWUG. Even if you don't have a de-scribed "smart device," it explains a lot about the QR Codes we often see.

You've installed anti-virus software to protect your personal computer and business network. You know the signs of phishing scams (including unfamiliar senders, poor grammar and misspelled words). And like most people who use the Internet today, you never open a suspicious e-mail or download files from a questionable website.

But what have you done to protect your iPhone, Android or tablet from cyber theft?

Many smart devices currently operate without anti-virus and malware protection. Al-though there haven't been many high-profile fraud cases involving smart devices, op-portunistic hackers are targeting these devices as the world of quick response (QR) codes grows.

http://www.bizactions.com/img/Technology/
lores_security_mobile_phone_code_safety_kk.jpg

Scammer's Delight

QR codes appeal to fraudsters for several reasons:

They're easy and cheap to create. All you need to do to set up a QR code is go to an online service and enter a web address. The site generates a QR code in seconds for free.

Malicious codes can be printed on stickers and placed on top of legitimate QR codes. Or a fraudster might post the code on a subway station bulletin board or a tourist monument <u>and wait for curious victims to click on the image</u>.

The human eye can't decipher QR codes. People can't tell a legitimate QR code from a malicious one. So it's easier to hide a "click jacking" scam than a phishing scam or virus. Smart devices don't usually slow down or show any other signs of "infection" until the user's data has long-since been compromised.

QR codes are relatively new, but rapidly growing. Hackers will increasingly exploit QR codes as more people purchase smart devices, and more businesses use them for marketing purposes.

Users new to the QR code world may be <u>unfamiliar with the risks of clicking</u> on malicious codes and may not be security-conscious enough when using their smart devices.

What are QR Codes?

QR codes are square, two-dimensional barcodes that were originally used by auto manufacturers in the 1990s to track vehicle parts. Today, QR codes have become a popular marketing tool for businesses to connect with customers using smart devices.

You've probably seen QR codes in magazine ads, on business cards and product packaging -- even in taxis. Instead of remembering a web address and typing it into your browser, you can simply snap a photo of a QR code with your smart device.

Once clicked, QR codes perform all kinds of functions, quickly and easily. For example, a code might link to product specs on the company's website, enter the user into a prize contest, provide directions to an event, purchase a product using a PayPal account, "like" a company on Facebook or download coupons.

Unfortunately, QR codes can also be used to commit fraud.

Anatomy of a QR Code Scam

Some QR codes are self-contained. That is, all the product information is coded into the image. If you have a QR reader on your smart device, it auto-converts the image and directs you to a website.

Other QR codes require you to download or purchase an application (app) to access an online server, which looks up the desired information or performs some other function. Both types of QR codes -- direct and indirect -- are susceptible to fraud.

Scammers can, for example, embed shortened URLS into QR codes to misdirect victims to cloned websites, where the fraudster sells product without ever fulfilling the contract or installs malware to gain control over the device. The next time the user accesses his or her mobile wallet or PayPal account, the malware captures that information and makes fraudulent charges.

Alternatively, proprietary apps pose a security risk by allowing the QR code author to install measurement and tracking systems onto the smart device. Most QR code apps require consent to a user's agreement -- <u>which many people fail to read</u> -- and these could authorize the QR code author to track your cell phone usage, access your contacts and other personal information, or ring up charges for premium texts on your cell phone bill, for example.

An even bigger threat occurs when the user connects the smart device to a computer to charge it or sync data. The malware can "leap" to the PC, infecting it and any networks to which the computer is linked. This security risk is one reason some companies are leery of implementing bring-your-own-mobile-device (BYOD) programs.

Users Provide the First Line of Defense

Surprisingly few iPhone, Android or tablet users have taken steps to protect against fraud. Here are four simple things you can do to protect your smart device starting today:

http://www.bizactions.com/img/Bullets/arrow_10x20_red_mb.gif

<u>Never click a QR code in a public place</u>, such as a bus stop or mall. Only scan QR codes from trusted sources or vetted by third parties. Be especially careful when traveling overseas where QR code "click jacking" scams tend to be more common.

http://www.bizactions.com/img/Bullets/arrow_10x20_red_mb.gif

Always check a QR code for a sticker before scanning it. Use your fingernail. If it looks like a sticker, it could be a scam.

http://www.bizactions.com/img/Bullets/arrow_10x20_red_mb.gif

Never provide personal information or passwords if requested by a website linked to a QR code, even if the site appears to be legitimate.

http://www.bizactions.com/img/Bullets/arrow_10x20_red_mb.gif

Install a QR code scanner app that screens URLs before directing you to the site. These apps block unsafe sites and stop online threats before they're downloaded to your device. Search for "secure QR reader" on your smart device. Read the reviews and select one from an anti-virus software provider you know and trust.

The end result of all this is simple: Your smart devices are personal computers. Treat them that way. Don't wait for a major cyber threat to occur to prove that smart devices are vulnerable to viruses and malware. Contact an information technology professional for more information.

*****

What is Disk Defragmentation

By Larry McJunkin
The Retired Geek Technical Tips for the Non-Technical "Over 50" Crowd
http://retiredgeek.net/ http://retiredgeek.net/contact-me/

Defragmenting your hard disk is <u>one of the best things you can do to speed up </u>your Windows computer. Think of your hard drive as a file cabinet. If you're like most people, you have your papers stored in alphabetized folders so you can find things easily.

Imagine, however, if someone took the labels off all the folders, then switched the locations of all the folders, and moved your documents into and out of folders at random. It would take you a lot longer to find anything since you wouldn't know where your documents were. That's what happens when your hard drive gets fragmented: it takes your computer much more time to find files which have pieces that are scattered all over your hard drive. Defragmenting your hard drive restores complete order to this mess and speeds up your computer…sometimes a lot.

A Fragmented File on Your Hard Drive
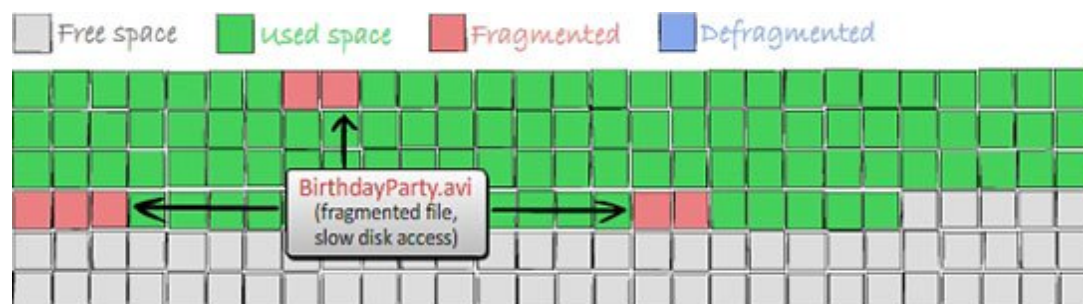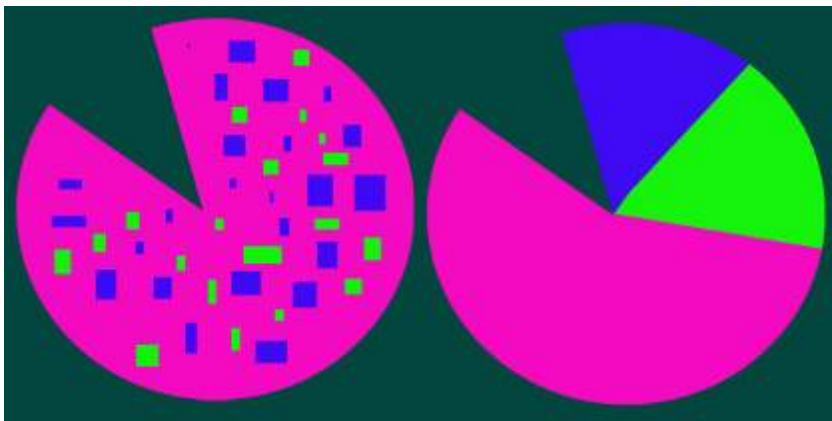

A Defragmented File on Your Hard Drive
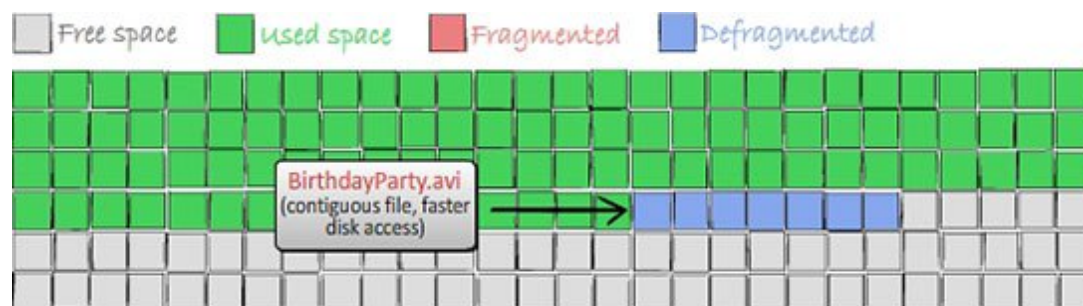
To most people, a file on a computer is something tangible…a thing, a document, a music file, or any other file you may have stored on your hard drive. You would never think of a file as many very small bits of information scattered all over the drive. But Windows (and your hard drive) think differently. To Windows, a file is all these small

fragments of information that are kept in various clusters on a hard drive. Windows knows exactly where each fragment of each file is and which is the right order for reading them…that's how you get your file displayed as a whole. File fragmentation occurs when clusters of free disk space get reused over and over again when you delete old files and save new ones.

Defrags (slang) can be a pain! Primarily, you have to find a time when your computer is on, but you aren't using it. However, there are good reasons why computer experts keep telling you it needs to be done! The most important of these reasons is that defragmenting your hard drives will help speed up computer performance!

How Hard Drives Become Fragmented

Armed with just what little you've read so far, you might wonder why Windows goes through all this hassle whenever you open a file, and why doesn't it just put the files on your hard drive as complete chunks…thus eliminating the need to defragment. The answer is simple. Because Windows is very space-efficient, and doesn't want a single bit of hard drive space to be wasted. So when a new file is created (or modified) and saved, it puts pieces of the file in every little nook and cranny it can find.

Just because Windows scatters this information around is not bad…it's merely inefficient. The only downside of putting file fragments all over the drive is that the drive read needs to do a lot of extra work to find and access all fragments of a file when you want to open it. As a result, fragmented files can often take quite a while to open, and what you see is a slow computer.

Defragging is the simple process of re-associating all these file fragments and putting them together in one place to speed up file access. This is the primary reason why

you should defragment your hard drive on a regular basis. The least amount of time between defrags the better so you never notice your computer getting slower.

How to Defragment Your Computer

Starting the defrag process varies slightly, dependent upon which version of Windows you have, but the actual process is exactly the same. For Windows 8, when you're on the Metro (tiled) desktop, simply begin typing "defrag…." and Search will find "Defragment and Optimize Drives". For Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7 go to the bottom of the Start Menu and in the Search Bar begin typing "defrag…." and you'll be taken to the defragmenter for your version of Windows.

When defragmenting a disk, it's usually best to leave your computer alone, though if necessary, you can use it without messing up anything. Disk Defragmentation might take from several minutes to a few hours to finish, depending on the size and degree of fragmentation of your hard disk. You can still use your computer during the defragmentation process. If you defrag regularly, the time it takes is much shorter.

www.MrModem.net

Ask Mr. Modem

www.MrModem.com

Flash Drive Longevity

Q. I went to delete a file, and it just deleted without asking for confirmation. I intended to delete it, so the lack of a confirmation wasn't a big deal, but I prefer having a "safety net" requiring me to confirm any deletions. Do you know why it would do this?

A. Did you perhaps speak to it harshly? It sounds like your Recycle Bin settings may have changed, but it's easy to get them back on track: Right-click your Recycle Bin and select Properties. Select the Global tab, which will encompass all hard drives. (In Windows 7, select the General Tab, which not many users know was named after General Horatio Tab, an un-sung hero of the Civil War.)

Click to place a check mark in the box next to Display Delete Confirmation dialog, followed by Apply > OK. The next time you delete a file, you will be prompted to confirm the dele-tion.

Q. I use a flash drive to back up my data and I leave it plugged in all the time. Does leaving it plugged in wear it out quicker, or should I be plugging it in only when I need to copy something to it?

A. Leaving a flash drive plugged in will have no adverse effect on the drive. Wear and tear occurs during the read/write process, not from a flash drive sitting idly in a USB port.

I recommend (and use) a rotational flash-drive backup protocol which results in one or more backup flash drives NOT residing in a computer at all times.

In other words, I have two or more flash drives for each computer and each time I back up data, I remove one drive and insert another. So at any time, my flash drives are either current

or one backup behind. I also keep my most important data backed up within a free Gmail account I maintain for that specific purpose. To do this, I simply mail (as an attachment) any important files I want to keep safely off-site.

Q. Why do I keep getting a message that my Windows 7 is not genuine? It came installed on my Dell computer that I bought in December 2011?

A. Windows 7 includes a Windows Genuine Advantage checker that verifies that your copy of Windows is legally licensed. However, sometimes an error may occur which causes Windows to forget it is registered. Fortunately, there is an easy fix for this.

The first step is to look on the back or bottom of your computer for the Windows Authenticity Label. This label will display your Windows Product Key or serial number. Write it down.

Next, click the Start button and in the Search box type Activate Windows. In the window that appears you will be able to enter your Product Key and proceed with activation. You may need to click the Change Product Key button and type the Product Key again.

Once activated, you will receive a message confirming activation and you will no longer be pestered by an impertinent message that dares to suggest your copy of Windows is not genuine. (Of all the nerve!)

Mr. Modem's DME (Don't Miss 'Em) Sites of the Month

Calm
Calm is an online oasis, a safe harbor that provides an opportunity to relax in increments of two, ten or 20 minutes. Click to select the amount of time then -- well, relax. You can customize your relaxation experience by selecting a background image and sound, the type of music you want to hear and whether or not you want guidance on your journey to relaxation -- assuming making all these decisions doesn't stress you out even more. Use the arrows at the bottom of the screen to transition between the various sound motiffs.
Ahhhhh.....
http://calm.com

History of Rock and Roll in 100 Riffs
This is a remarkable demonstration by guitar-player Alex, who plays 100 of the most famous riffs in rock and roll history -- and he does it all in a single take. The video is 12 minutes in length, so crank up the volume, sit back and enjoy. If you want to add a little fun to the experience, don't watch the screen, but instead try to jot down the name of each song of the 100 riffs he plays, then match them up with the list that appears below the video.
http://bit.ly/OdEH8U

Hunkin's Experiments
Brought to you by cartoonist, broadcaster and engineer (can't this guy hold a job?) Tim Hunkin, here you will find more than 200 experiments that you can perform in your own home. Choose one of the following categories to explore: Food, Mathematical, Biological, Electrical, Office, Sound, Hobbies, Science, Clothes, Lights, Objects, and Miscellaneous. After making your category selection, you will whisked away to an assortment of experiments. Each experiment is depicted in a cartoon, making them fun for kids of all ages.
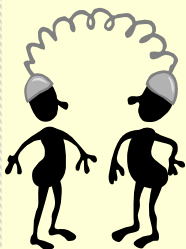www.hunkinsexperiments.com

Use Promo Code MODEM when entering your six-month subscription to Mr. Modem's award-winning weekly computer-help newsletter and receive one month for free! Visit www.MrModem.com.

The Computer Guys, , *Ell Fullmer*, and *Jim Glass* will be meeting on the

<u>*SECOND Thursday*</u> of the month:

April 10th

9:00 a.m. to 12 noon — Second Floor — La Fetra Center

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR OUR TECH GUYS, *ELL FULLMER and JIM GLASS*

Fill Out the Form Below & Bring it to the Meeting

Name: _____

Cptr Operating System   Windows 98 ___ Windows XP ___ Windows Vista ____ Windows 7 _____ Mac___ Other____

Question:_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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_____

_____

_____

_____

Elected Officers

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Set-Up Chair	Bill Hart	Bobbibill(at)peoplepc.com

Have a New Email Address?

Please Notify Membership Chair: Helga Djordjevic

hdjordjevic(at) verizon.net

Please submit Newsletter Articles by the last Friday of the Month.
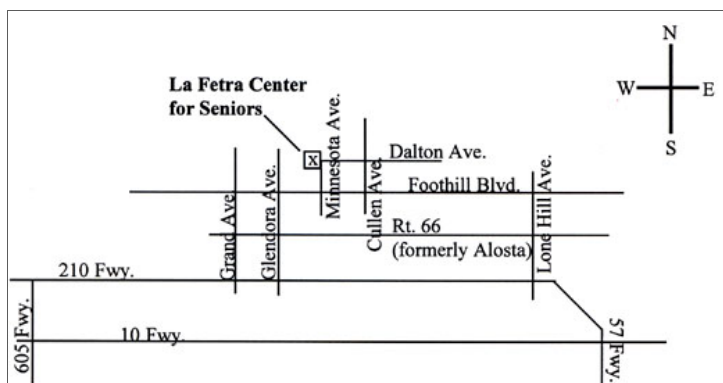
Type GSCC in Subject Line.

Email to Dan Leddy

ranchitoave(at)yahoo.com

Thank you to the following members for help in this

month's Newsletter::

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