



JULY 2016 Newsletter

Glendora Seniors Computer Club

*A Friendly Seniors Group Serving All Computer Skill Levels
AND to address new technology issues*

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 21, Issue 7

GLENDORA SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB

General Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2016

President Annemarie Hunt called the Meeting to order at 1:05 PM welcomed members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) A Board Meeting follows today's meeting.
- 2) Tomorrow, June 9th 9-11:30 AM is Computer Guys.
- 3) A brief discussion of license issues with Windows 7 disks with an OEM designation. If it is not "original equipment manufactured" it may not install.

Program:

Barbara Denny presented several Videos on free &/or built-in Apps for Android & I phones – specifically for help with personal medical information available to first responders in an emergency. On Iphones the information remains in the specific device while apps for other Smartphone/androids are stored in the cloud or server. Information about "Omnibox" Omnibox is similar to the traditional browser address bar with additional features. A link for the presentation will be sent to today's meeting attendees.

Break:

Q & A issues addressed included:

- 1) Windows 10 printer issues

**PROGRAMS BY: Program Chair:
Barbara Denny**
(All programs subject to change)

July 13th

"Microsoft Virtual Tools"
for Windows 10
By Ell Fullmer

July 27th

Digital Photos and what I
do with them
By Annemarie Hunt

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- 2) Team Viewer Software
- 3) Acronis - backup

Next meetings: June 22nd Summer Party/potluck.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Secretary Ruthann Mayrose

Approved By:

President Annemarie Hunt

GLENORA SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB

General Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2016

President Annemarie Hunt welcomed nineteen members to our Summer Pot Luck.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) Many thanks to **Barbara Denny** and her helpers for arrangements, setup and the lovely decorations for today.
- 2) **Door prizes** will be distributed as we enjoy the meal and camaraderie!

The following members shared and enjoyed the Potluck Meal!

Annemarie Hunt	Ruthann Mayrose	Barbara Denny
Barbara Klein	Betsy Wills (guest)	
Wayne Lunde	Wayne Gue	
Ernie Gagne	Luis Martinz	
Winifred Farrell	Rita Norkin	
Margot Rossman	Richard Rossman	
Helga Djordjevic	Betty Glass	
Jim Glass	Clint Stone	
Al Gonzalez	Lee Collins	

Door prizes won by: Ruthann M, Betty Glass, Helga D, Lee Collins, Barbara Denny and Betsy Wills.

Next meetings: July 13, "Microsoft Virtual Academy" Power Tools for Windows 10 Ell Fullmer.

Adjournment: 3:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Secretary Ruthann Mayrose

Approved By:

President Annemarie Hunt

APCUG SUBMITTED Articles
Furnished by Judy Taylour, Santa Clarita Computer Club

Building or Buying a Computer in 2016

By Bart Koslow, Review Chair, Channel Islands PCUG, CA

April 2016 issue, The Outer Edge

www.cipcug.org

Bartkoslow (at) verizon.net

Whether you buy or build a new computer, there are a number of important things to know to obtain the best computer for the money you wish to spend. Is it better to build or buy a new computer? Most people will opt for buying a new desktop or laptop for the convenience of not having to build, particularly if they are not technologically or mechanically oriented. There are others who could easily build one if they had the courage. There are many websites where you can find detailed instructions on building a computer. If you are a computer club member, help and advice are always available if you have difficulty. So why not try?

I have always felt it is better to build one. Why? When I build, I get exactly what I want and do not pay for what I do not desire. I often use some drives, keyboards, monitors, cases, DVD burners, etc. from an earlier computer, saving money, but still obtaining the best computer for the money.

Name brand computers have drawbacks. You have to take what you get, even though the computer may not have all the things you would like, and you may get items you do not need. They do not come with the usual (at this time) Windows 10 operating system disk. If you have a major problem, instead of reloading Windows and retaining all of your program connections, you may have to start all over again, adding all the programs, etc., that you installed after buying the computer — not a pleasant prospect.

At present, you may download a bootable copy of Windows 10 from Microsoft, which will solve this problem. Name-brand computers often have little room for expansion in the event you wish to add drives, internal cards or memory. The motherboards and other hardware may be proprietary, which means you must go back to

the manufacturer if you have a problem or need a replacement, and the replacement may cost you more than similar non-proprietary hardware.

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Build or buy

There are many things you should know before you proceed. I usually do not buy state of the art because of the expense and because today's state of the art is passé in six to 12 months. Instead, I look for the best price/performance ratio that will fit my pocket book without making too many compromises.

CPU

Whether you build or buy, the CPU is the most important part of any computer and is the part you should decide upon first. In the past, I have used AMD CPUs as they were cheaper for similar performance. This is no longer the case except for budget PCs, so I am now switching to Intel CPUs. I believe the added cost is justified by their better performance, making them a better value. I look for the fastest CPU at a reasonable price. There are hundreds of CPUs with similar names available in a bewildering variety. Compare CPUs. How? Just do a search for CPU speed comparison, and you will find <https://www.cpubenchmark.net>, where you may compare the comparative speeds and costs of any CPU.

Memory

Next, you want to decide on what memory capacity, type and speed you wish. If you are buying, compare whether you are getting 4GB, 8GB, or more. When building, you should be looking at the newer DDR4 memory at speeds of 2133 MHz or more. In either case, I suggest not less than 8GB. I will be adding 16GB at a minimum speed of 2133 MHz or more depending on pricing. In most cases, the amount of memory is more important than the speed. What is dual channel memory? For example, instead of buying a recommended minimum one 8GB module, you buy two 4GB modules which work in tandem and supposedly run 20 percent faster. The price is the same. When you buy the memory modules, make sure you buy heat spreaders (for a few dollars) for each module if they do not come with the modules. They should be installed before you place the memory on

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the motherboard. Before you purchase memory, read the manual to find out which memory is supported by the motherboard. Then go to the motherboard manufacturer's website and find out which manufacturer's memory has been tested and recommended by the motherboard manufacturer. If you buy other memory, make sure you can return it or exchange it in the event it does not work properly in your motherboard.

Drives: go for solid state. Most store computers come with the older spinning drives. At present, if you desire one with a Solid State Drive (SSD), you will find them only in more expensive store computers at a cost that may not suit you. I highly recommend that you include an SSD for the boot drive (the one that contains the operating system) in your next computer. SSDs are much faster, more durable, quieter, and smaller. Though they're more expensive, prices are dropping rapidly. If you buy a computer that does not come with an SSD, you can have the spinning drive replaced with an SSD or added afterward, depending on space available. In the very near future, SSDs will be the primary drive in all computers. Most SSDs still use a SATA 3 interface. SATA 3 is limited in speed and is rapidly being replaced by M.2 SSD drives, which can run SSDs at much faster speeds. There are two kinds of M.2 drives — PCI-E and SATA.

The PCI-E interface is faster, as the SATA 3.0 spec is limited to 600MB/s maximum speed, while PCI-E Generation 1 is capable of up to 1000MB/s. Generation 2 is capable of up to 2000MB/s. There is also a newer PCI-E Gen 3 technology that is becoming more common with speeds of up to 4000MB/s.

Motherboard

If building, next and very important is the motherboard. Today you should look for a motherboard that supports your CPU, and dual channel 2133 MHz or more, DDR4 memory. I prefer a full ATX motherboard rather than a mini or micro as it has more slots, both bus and memory, and often more built-in capabilities. Some motherboards also have built-in graphics. The downside is that these may use some of the CPU power. The upside is that it is cheaper than buying a separate graphics card. I prefer the separate card since you usually get better performance, and prices are very low today. The motherboard should support two to four SATA 3 drives that run at a maximum of 600 MB/s, at least two PCI-E devices (hard drives, DVD, CD drives) and at least eight USB ports, half of which should be USB 3.0 or 3.1. Buy a quality motherboard. Before you buy your motherboard, go to the manufacturer's

site and make sure the CPU and memory you intend to buy is compatible with that motherboard.

Computer case

Your computer case is significant. Almost all cases support both AMD and Intel motherboards. You want an ATX case that has room for expansion. I suggest at least two 5¼-inch external bays, one or more external 3½-inch bays and three or more internal 3½-inch bays for hard drives. My Antec case has eight bays with front panel USB 2.0 connections and holds a standard size ATX motherboard. It has a large (and quiet) 120 mm fan and places for two more 80 mm fans, which I installed to keep the motherboard and CPU cool. Incidentally, air flow of the fans should be in from the bottom front of your case to out at the top rear. A nice feature of the case is the two hand removable screws that enable removing all the case covers without using a screwdriver or nut driver.

I never stand my case on the carpet if there is some air circulation from under the case or from the bottom front, which may be blocked. I place a 1-inch-by-8-inch board (or two 1-inch-by - 4-inch boards) on the carpet and stand the case upon it.

You should make sure you have a power supply with ample wattage. Otherwise, you may have problems that are due to insufficient power. I use a heavy duty 600 watt ATX power supply with a quiet 140 mm or larger fan, which complies with the newer power saving requirements.

Graphics cards

Graphics cards are becoming much cheaper. PCI-Express motherboards support dual (two) linked graphics cards, either NVidia SLI or ATI Crossfire. Make sure, if you buy dual cards, that they match SLI or Crossfire, and are supported by your motherboard. The dual cards are powerful and extremely fast. Good if you are a gamer, but much too rich for me. If you buy one card, it does not matter if it is an ATI or an NVidia card.

You do want a card that has both a digital DVI (or DVD) output and HDMI output. Most still have a VGA output as well. Look for at least 1 GB of DDR4 memory on the graphics card. Since I am not a gamer, I buy a low cost video card.

Items to save from the old computer

I transfer from my old computer DVD burners, a fax/modem, a mouse, a keyboard, a printer, a scanner, and a monitor. I still use the fax/modem to send and receive faxes. I install an internal card reader with a USB 3.0 connection in a 3½-inch external bay. Do not forget your Windows 10 operating system license.

Monitor

What about the monitor? I have a 23-inch Acer LCD monitor, and am very happy with it. In my book, bigger is better. There are a number of things you should be aware of when buying an LCD monitor. Do not buy an LCD monitor unless it has a digital connection either DVI or HDMI, or both, as the apparent resolution is much better using the digital connection. It will probably still have an analog VGA connection as well. All LCD monitors have a native resolution, which is usually the one advertised. Important!

Your video card must support the native resolution of the monitor for best results.

An older computer may not support a new LCD monitor in digital mode at its native resolution. In that case, you may have to add or change the graphics card.

Many manufacturers consider it OK if the LCD has eight or fewer bad pixels. If you get one or more, especially in the middle of your screen, you may not like it, or you may not like the monitor in general once you try it out. That is why I would only buy an LCD monitor locally, where I have a return privilege for any reason.

Some monitors can swivel vertically, which gives you a longer page view. Some LCD monitors come with a digital cable, but many do not. You must have the correct digital cable for the monitor, and LCD monitors do vary. Go to www.datapro.net/techinfo/dvi_info.html for a lucid guide to the Digital Video Interface and which cable to use in each situation. You will find buying cables is much cheaper online. The \$6 cable is just as good as the MONSTER \$141 one, so don't get ripped off.

Printers, scanners and more

You still need a printer, and I need a scanner for copying and faxing. The choices are innumerable. I like and use a black and white laser printer for the bulk of my printing. It looks better, is cheaper to run, and like the Energizer bunny, just runs and runs and runs. If you buy a laser printer, watch out for the ones that need drum replacements in addition to toner cartridge replacements after a certain volume of use. You

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will end up paying more than the original printer cost. If you require color printing, there are many inkjet and color laser printers available, or you may buy an all-in-one inkjet that combines printing, copying, scanning, and faxing. I leave the choices to you.

If you have a little adventure in your soul, you can build a new computer and obtain help from fellow computer club members. If not, you know what to look for. In any event, happy computing.

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 XP ___ Windows Vista ___ Windows 7 ___ Windows 8 ___ Mac ___ Other ___

Question: _____

Elected Officers

President	Annemarie Hunt	Ajhunt1447(at)aol.com
Vice-President	Connie Lang	Connielang(at)verizon.net
Secretary	Ruthann Mayrose	ruthannmeister(at)gmail.com
Treasurer	Rita Norkin	rin369(at)live.com
Tech Advisor	Ell Fullmer	pakratt(at)gmail.com
Past President	Barbara Denny	Dennyandassoc(at)verizon.net

Have a New

Email Address?

Please Notify Membership
Chair: Helga Djordjevic

[hdjordjevic\(at\)verizon.net](mailto:hdjordjevic(at)verizon.net)

Please submit Newsletter Arti-
cles by the last Friday of the
Month.

Type GSCC in Subject Line.

Email to Dan Leddy
[ranchitoave\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:ranchitoave(at)yahoo.com)

Thank you to the following mem-
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month's Newsletter::

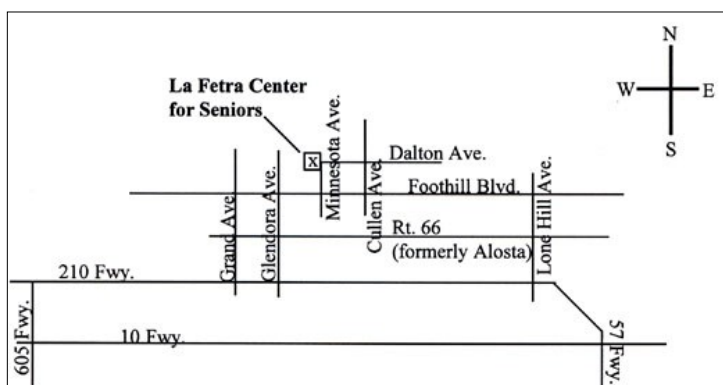
Helga Djordjevic

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