



# JUNE 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 6

## SUMMER VACATION

### GSCC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES May 14, 2014

**Vice-President Wayne Gue** welcomed 36 members and four guests.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) Board Meeting today after General Meeting
- 2) Need Nominations for 2015 Officers - Elections

#### Program

**Ell Fullmer did a presentation, "A Comparison of Windows 7, 8, and 8.1". Important mainly because of the words in the message.**

*Click to teach Gmail this conversation is not important.*

#### BREAK:

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

- 1) Timeline for Windows 8.1
- 2) How to turn off XP looking for internet—startup.
- 3) Tour of Windows 8.1 (start button back).

**Other - The 50/50 Drawing** was won by Luis Martinez.

**Next meeting Wednesday May 28<sup>th</sup>; Anne Marie Hunt and Wayne Gue will bring cookies.**

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

*Submitted by:* Secretary Ruthann Mayrose

*Approved By:* Vice-President **Wayne Gue**

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

June 11th

Linux/Ubuntu  
Dennis Hoidahl

June 25th

Summer Potluck Party

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# GSCC General Meeting Minutes

## May 28, 2014

June 2014

**President Barbara Denny** welcomed members and guests.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) If you do not have a Name Badge or are not receiving Email Notices see Membership Chair Helga Djordjevic.
- 2) Jim Glass spoke about the upcoming Southwest Technology & Computer Conference (SW 2014) June 27 – 29, 2014 - **Presentations, Seminars, Vendor Expo, and Door Prizes. Jim is one of the presenters and several of our members will be attending.**

### Program

Gaetano Abbondanza from the Glendora Library gave a presentation update about the Library resources including Downloadable Audio and EBooks; The Summer Reading Program begins Monday June 2 and available online or at the library. Gaetano talked about the current digital program OverDrive and an anticipated program 3M Cloud Library (Kobo eBooks).

**Thanked Wayne Gue** for today's cookies.

**Important mainly because of the words in the message.**

*Click to teach Gmail this conversation is not important.*

### BREAK:

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

- 1) Security for Email – 8.0 Windows Essentials=Windows Defender
- 2) Windows 8
- 3) Client vs. Internet Email – Windows Live Mail
- 4) Multiple Email Accounts

**Other - The 50/50 Drawing** was won by Wayne Gue.

**Next meeting Wednesday June 11th; Ruthann will bring cookies.**

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

*Submitted by:*

Secretary Ruthann Mayrose

*Approved By: ( pending)*

President **Barbara Denny**

June 2014

## COMPUTER CLASSES

No computer classes scheduled for June

June 2014

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

### **Storage Media, Interfaces, and Backups**

Recap of December 2013 Meeting by Anne Moss, Secretary, Northern Neck Computer Users' Group, NJ

January 2014 issue, The Computer Link

[www.nncug.org](http://www.nncug.org)

mcmillan (at) va.metrocast.net

Rob Mink, President NNCUG, was the speaker at the December NNCUG Meeting. Rob's discussion about storage media and interfaces was designed to pick up from Brian Riley's October discussion about the use of external hard drives for computer backup. Throughout his talk, Rob passed around examples of different storage media.

There are two basic types of storage media – Magnetic and Solid State. However, optical storage may still provide a method of relatively long term data storage.

**Magnetic Storage:** First, Rob noted that physical media, for example punch cards, is extinct for computing. The most common form of magnetic storage is found in hard drives. Soft drives (such as tapes and floppy disks) are obsolete. Currently the maximum capacity of hard drives is 4 terabytes (TB). The 4 TB limits of hard drives dictate the use of a desktop computer. A hard drive in a desktop computer can have 4 or 5 platters to store data on each surface area. Additional storage usually can be installed in a desktop computer or attached to it. A desktop will use a 3.5 inch drive and a laptop will use a 2.5 inch one. A laptop hard drive uses a lower number of data storage platters with a maximum a capacity of about 1.5 TB. Laptop capacity can be expanded by the use of a USB flash drive which functions as an external drive. In addition, an external hard drive may be attached to a lap-

top via a USB port. Magnetic storage devices can fail quickly or gradually. They sometimes give warning of forthcoming failure.

**Solid State Storage:** These storage devices commonly can be Solid State Drives (SSD), USB Thumb drives or “sticks”, and flash memory cards. Basically, these devices are made of transistors and capacitors in the desired format and size. Data life can be from 8 years to over 100 years, depending upon the temperature in which they are used and stored. The greater the capacity, the higher the price! However, over time, the prices for a given size device usually drop. The drawback for these solid state devices is that they can suffer sudden and catastrophically failure.

**Solid State Technology:** This comes in single layer or multilayer forms. It is made from Floating gate MOSFET NAND FlipFlops. Floating gates keep data for a very long time - 80 years was mentioned. Even though the technology is quite difficult for the average user to understand, one sees the products everywhere – for example, tablets and memory cards. Rob was asked why sudden failures occur. Reasons can be a bad interface with a chip or sudden drops can kill a device. The technology still is immature, so it is not good at recognizing failure. He does not trust flash drive backups considering the risk of sudden failure. (In response to a question about photograph storage, Rob indicated that, in actual practice, photos by the average home user could be stored on magnetic media. Alternatively, while photos can be stored on flash drives, Rob counseled that it is probably safest to burn a CD.)

**Optical Storage Technology:** This includes CDs (read only and read-write), DVDs (in various types such as read only, read-write, dual layer that are burned on each side), and Blu-ray disks (in similar types). Optical storage media can be normal or archival in nature, depending upon the dye material used. Best is gold or silver dyes found in the more expensive disks. Normal grade disks are other colors such as green or blue. (Rob noted that it is best to stay away from DVD's with a purple colored dye.) Expect a burned disk to last from 2 to 25 years. For critical data, Rob advised that it is wise to burn pairs of disks. Then if it is needed, recovery can be made by combining data from both disks. It is unlikely that both disks would fail in the exact same place. Optical media is cheap and comes in capacities of 650 megabytes to 125 Gigabytes. Data can be burned in a single write session or multi-write sessions depending

on the media used. The former is locked after the initial write session, and the latter can be written to or erased many times. The latter method is less reliable, and somewhat less readable by devices other than the one that was used to create the original disk.

**Interfaces:** Rob described a wide range of interface types. Internal interfaces in computers include SATA, IDE, and SCSI/SAS types. Some need a connector to the power supply to function. External interfaces include Serial Peripheral Interface (SPI), SATA, USB, and Firewire.

**Backups:** There are two major strategies for data backups. First, backups can be kept offsite using cloud storage firms such as Carbonite or Spider Oak. Costs vary, but one should estimate about \$1.00 per gigabyte per year. Relatively limited cloud storage may be available for free. Second, one can use onsite storage. There are a few different types of onsite storage. Onsite magnetic storage includes using RAID and NAS hard drive configurations. (Different RAID type numbers indicate different configurations of hard drive storage.) Onsite optical storage, such as CD's or DVD's is a good means of back up storage, but is labor intensive for burning the data to disks. (Burn disks in pairs and not automatically.) Tape backups have changed and now are smaller than cassettes. However, tape backups are slow, and there are may be a number of failures. Rob indicated that the best approach is to have backups on two optical disks and another type of storage such as hard drives. Some computers have a removable hard drive bay and one can use several hard drives to have a rotating backup plan. This approach is useful for whole hard drive backups.

To sum up, Rob presented an extensive list of the available choices when choosing to back up data, as well as highlighting the changes in standards that has occurred over a relatively short time in computer technology.

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## **What is the CLOUD? / What is a Cookie?**

by Phil Chenevert, member and instructor for Computer Lab Workshops

Cajun Clickers Computer Club, LA

December 2013 issue, Cajun Clickers Computer News

[www.clickers.org](http://www.clickers.org)

ccnewsletter (at) cox.net

### What is the CLOUD? And Why Is Everything Going There?

And if I send my pictures and stuff there, will all that data eventually fall out on my head? No need to worry, people. There is nothing in the sky floating over our head loaded with gazillions pieces of information.

The Cloud is really just a cute name that was made up for the internet; in other words a network of servers. If you've ever checked your email, you've used the 'Cloud'. (Your emails are stored on a server somewhere, which is then of course connected to the internet). YouTube, Gmail, Yahoo email, Dropbox, Facebook, Evernote, Mozy and scads of other things operate in the cloud; which means they are part of the internet and store stuff for you or allow you to use an application on line.

When you use the Cloud, your computer communicates with a network of servers. Some of these servers are specialized to provide storage while others run applications.

(Continued on Page 8)

### An actual 'Cloud' server in captivity



This is one of the real innovations about the Cloud, putting your software online and 'borrowing' it, instead of purchasing it and actually installing it your computer. Google Docs is a fine example of this. I have many documents, power point presentations and videos floating around somewhere in the Cloud that are available to me from any computer anywhere and I can share them with anyone I choose by just giving them a web link. So the Cloud is just a bunch of servers where things are stored.

### What is a Cookie?

It seems like everyone who tries to explain what a cookie is just has to make a joke out of it (because of the name), so I'm not even going to bother. In computer terminology, a cookie is data sent to your computer by a Web server that records your actions on a certain Web site. It's a lot like a preference file for a typical computer program.

When you visit the site after being sent the cookie, the site will load certain pages according to the information stored in the cookie. For example, some sites can remember information like your user name and password, so you don't have to re-enter it each time you visit the site. I like Amazon to remember me and my preferences and don't mind their cookies at all.

Cookies are what allow you to have personalized web sites like "My Excite" or "My Yahoo," where you can customize what is displayed on the page.



While cookies have many benefits, some people don't like to have their information

recorded by Web sites that they visit. For this reason, most Web browsers have an option to accept or deny cookies. Personally, I like cookies -- I think they taste great too.



### *"Write It Down"*

A couple in their nineties are both having some short term memory loss.

While in for a checkup, the physician says that physically they're okay, but since they're having trouble remembering things, they might want to start writing things down.

Later that evening they're sitting and reading, when the husband gets up.

"Would you like anything from the kitchen?" he asks.

"Some vanilla ice cream," his wife replies.

"Okay."

"Shouldn't you write it down so you don't forget it?" she asks.

"Don't worry, I won't forget."

"Well," she says. "A few raspberries on top would be great. You want to write that down?"

"I've got it, honey. A bowl of vanilla ice cream with raspberries on top."

"And chocolate sauce, too. Maybe you'll forget that. Want me to write it down for you?"

A little miffed, he replies, "I've got it! Ice cream, raspberries and chocolate sauce. I don't need it written down, for gosh sakes!"

He waddles out to the kitchen. A half hour later, he comes back with a plate of ham and scrambled eggs, and gives it to his wife.

She stares at the plate a few seconds, then says, "You forgot my toast."





[www.MrModem.com](http://www.MrModem.com)

### **Move Photos from Smartphone to PC**

**Q. Can you recommend a simple program to move pictures from my Android phone to my Windows 7 computer?**

A. You really don't need a program or an app to do that. Instead, follow these steps and you should be all set: First, connect your smartphone to your computer using the USB sync cable that came with your phone or is available at any Radio Shack. Once connected, a USB icon will appear in the Notification area of your phone. Drag the Notifications bar down, then tap it. Next, tap USB Connected > Mount.

On your computer, click Start > Computer or My Computer. The micro-SD card in your phone will be recognized and listed as a Removable Disk. Double-click its icon to open it. Double-click the DCIM folder > DCIM > Camera. From this location you can copy all pictures and videos taken with your Android phone to any folder on your computer.

To disconnect the Android phone, go to the Notifications area and tap the USB sign to disconnect. That's all there is to it, and no app required!

**Q. When I send a new email and click To: a list of previous addresses appears. How can I remove individual, unwanted addresses from the list? I am using Outlook 2007.**

A. Start typing the name or address you want to remove when composing a new message. Then use the down arrow key to highlight the undesirable entry and press DELETE.

**Q. I'm tempted to try out a free junkware removal tool that I got an email about. What's your take on these types of programs?**

A. There is nothing inherently "wrong" with programs of this type, but philosophically, I don't use them. My feeling is that unless a system is experiencing a problem that I am attempting to resolve, what's the point? In other words, if everything is working well, you're not going to make it run "weller" by throwing more software at it. And every additional piece of software carries the risk of potential conflicts, not to mention the underlying concept of "free." With virtually any "free" program, there is always a price to be paid. I would also steer clear of any offer that appears out of the blue. You can call that type of email anything you want, but it's still spam.

I'm very much an advocate of the old "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" philosophy. I have 11 systems here running all versions of Windows, Mac and Linux and they run happy as clams -- if clams are truly happy -- and never give me any problems. The computers, not the clams. Clams are nothing but trouble.

So that's my take on it. Without question, you are the boss when it comes to your computer and you can try anything you want, but if you ask me if I would install it on any of my systems, the answer would be "Absolutely not." When it comes to unsolicited, free programs of that ilk, just remember the old axiom, "Beware of geeks bearing gifts."

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

#### **National Geographic: Education**

This site is filled to the brim with teaching and related educational resources. Along the top of the page you will find a navigation bar with the categories Teaching Resources, Reference and News, Mapping, Media, Collections, Get Involved and Geo-Literacy. You will also find lots of interesting tidbits on the main page. Check out the Fast Fact section, the scrolling featured topics and Quote beneath the navigation strip. Below those you will find featured content from each of the categories on the navigation strip. This is an excellent resource for anyone interested in science, social studies, or geography.

<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/>

#### **Public Art Archive**

This site is home to a vast database you can use to search for public art exhibits in the

United States and Canada. You can search by Artist, Collection, Material, Title, Venue or Year. Once you find a place or artist or collection you would like to view, click the image or the title link and you will be whisked away to that page, where you will find additional information about the artwork, its location, as well as more images and a map of the area.

[www.publicartarchive.org](http://www.publicartarchive.org)

#### Twinkies Facts

The Twinkie, long recognized as the cornerstone of any well-balanced diet, was created in 1930 by James Dewar, a plant manager at the Continental Baking Company. From its humble beginning as “Twinkie Fingers,” today more than 500 million Twinkies are produced every year. Despite urban legends that suggest the shelf life of a Twinkie is measured in decades, the actual shelf life is 25 days per Twink. Before he departed for the Big Cupcake in the Sky at age 88, Mr. Dewar said that the secret to his long life was to “eat Twinkies every day and smoke a pack of cigarettes.” What, no bourbon?

<http://bit.ly/SstRSy>

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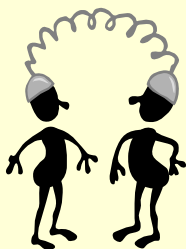
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**The Computer Guys**, , *Ell Fullmer*, and *Jim Glass* will be meeting on the

*SECOND Thursday of the month:*

June 12th

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**

President	Barbara Denny	dennyandassoc(at)verizon.net
Vice-President	Wayne Gue	wa212gue(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	Connie Lang	connielang(at)verizon.net

**Have a New  
Email Address?  
Please Notify Membership  
Chair: Helga Djordjevic  
**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****

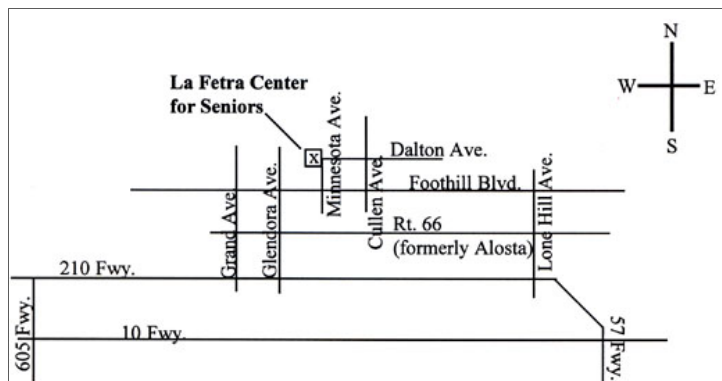
Thank you to the following mem-  
bers for help in this  
month's Newsletter::  
  
Helga Djordjevic

**Committees & Chairpersons**

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