



November 2015 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 20, Issue 11



Thanksgiving 1600s

President Barbara Denny called the Meeting to order at 1 PM and welcomed 21 members and 1 guest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) Today's guest and new member, **Jose Aguilar**, first heard of our meetings at the September 27th, La Fetra Open House. President **Denny** thanked **Connie Lang, Annemarie Hunt, Helga Djordjevic, and Ruthann Mayrose** for tending our table at the open house. Bookmarks and business cards were handed out.
- 2) A **Board Meeting** will follow today's General Meeting and all are welcome.
- 3) **Dan Leddy** our Newsletter Editor will be having eye surgery and will be at least temporarily unable to produce the newsletter.
- 4) Nominations are open and needed for the **2016 Board** to be announced at our next meeting and voted on at the Christmas Party & Potluck Meeting (December 9th).
- 5) Thanked **Dale and Barbara Houston** for today's cookies.

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

November 4th

ITunes and it's Many Uses

Presented by :
Michael Harrington of Bright
Idea Technologies

No Meeting
on November 25, 2015

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November 2015

Program: **Bill Belcher**, our former computer teacher, presented a follow up to his previous program via Skype Program: again about "Electronic Communications". Bill covered the Do's and Don'ts of Social media giving specifics about Facebook security (settings) and other social media sites (Twitter & LinkedIn) mentioning several helpful sites – F.B. Purity (eliminates unwanted clutter) an extension to Chrome, Firefox etc.

Break: President Denny shared a slide presentation of beautiful pictures from her recent trip to Colorado.

President Barbara Denny shared a tip from Dr. Oz regarding an app for medical information; 911 works on mobile phones even if they are turned off.

Annemarie showed a short video clip regarding tips for Lithium Battery charging.

Members would like to have a **Silent Auction at the December 9th Christmas Party Potluck**. Save your good stuff for the auction.

Next meeting: Wednesday November 28th; **Helga Djordjevic** has volunteered to bring cookies.

Note change for November Meeting: November 4th (1st Wed) because 2nd Wednesday is the 11th Veterans Day Holiday.

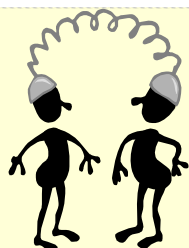
Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Submitted by:

Secretary Ruthann Mayrose

Approved By: (pending)

President Barbara Denny



The Computer Guy , , *Ell Fullmer*, will be meeting on

THE SECOND Thursday of the month: , November 12

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

November 2015 ,

GLENDORA SENIORS COMPUTER CLUB
General Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2015

President Barbara Denny called the Meeting to order at 1 PM and welcomed 24 members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) **President Barbara Denny:** Our next meeting is **NEXT WEEK, 1st Wednesday November 4th** (moved up due to Veteran's Day 2nd Wed. November 11th)
- 2) **Vice-president Wayne Gue** - nominations are still open and needed for the **2016 Board.**
- 3) **Program Chair - Annemarie Hunt** - December 9th Christmas Party Potluck Meeting and Silent Auction—**SAVE YOUR GOODIES!**
- 4) Thanks to **Helga Djordjevic** for today's cookies.

Program:

Program Chair - Annemarie Hunt moderated an **APCUG 40 minute YouTube** video presentation, **Jere Minich "How Secure is My Device?"** PC – Windows Vista, 7 & 8/8.1, Tablets – Android, Smart Phones – iPhone, Android.

Break:

Q & A – Ell Fullmer, Annemarie Hunt and Barbara Denny covered questions on the following topics:

- 1) AVG and Chrome Search Engine (settings)
- 2) Laptops, Smartphones and Tablets "How far we have come with tech devices."

November 2015

Silent Auction at the December 9th Christmas Party Potluck. Save your good stuff for the auction.

Next meeting: Wednesday Note change for November Meeting: November 4th (1st Wed) because 2nd Wednesday is the 11th Veterans Day Holiday.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Submitted by:

Secretary Ruthann Mayrose

Approved By:

President Barbara Denny

November 2015

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| SUBMITTED ARTICLES, FROM APCUG members furnished by Judy Taylour, of the Santa Clarita Computer Club |
|---|

The Tip Corner – March 2015

By Bill Sheff, Lehigh Valley Computer Group, Pennsylvania

March 2015 issue, The LVCG Journal

www.lvcg.org

nsheff (at) aol.com

Hacking

How do you know if you have been hacked, and what can you do about it?

You usually know when your e-mail or social media account has been hacked when you start getting calls and e-mails from friends asking you why have changed your status to single, or your endorsement for Romanian Viagra has just arrived, or some other equally stupid message has been received by lots of people you know. It feels bad, but it has happened to most of us at one time or another. The good news is that you have not been specially picked to be hacked. We are just not that important. Even so called safe sites can possibly be the culprit, possibly using usually it is a poor risk site or opening up a bad email attachment or a password for a website which was compromised was reused.

The culprit is a data stealing Trojan. It's an awful feeling, but you can recover. The worst case scenario is that quite possibly someone now has all or part of your log-in information, and any site using that password could now be available to them.

So rule number one; if you feel you have been hacked you need to **change your e-mail password immediately**. All of your password-protected secure sites are potentially in danger. In a perfect world you'd change the password for every secure site as soon as possible. But this is easier said than done. You may not even remember all the sites that you've signed up with. Start with financial sites and other important sites, then rack your brain to come up with as many others as you can. And rather than start using the same password for many sites, this might be the time to get a good password encryption program. There are a few very good ones out there that are free. One that we have discussed previously is Keepass, and another one is LastPass. They will generate random secure passwords.

While not too many people do it, it might not hurt to drop a line to tech or customer support just to let them know what happened. There is not too much they can do, but they might be able to suggest something. Also make sure your antivirus and malware programs are up to date and run a full scan. Use CCleaner which will also clear up problems with your registry.

Finally, for the really uptight user some people suggest you reformat your PC and start over. Perhaps it is not a bad idea, but I personally think that is overkill. Just make sure you have the latest updates for your operating system and all installed browsers and browser add-ons.

Double-check that your antivirus or security suite is fully up to date, and run the most thorough scan it offers. Don't assume, though, that your antivirus will root out all problems. After all, it didn't stop the initial hack. Get a second opinion. Temporarily disable your installed antivirus's real-time protection and run a scan using one or more of the available free antivirus

tools. Focus on those that specialize in cleanup. Even with all of the above, there is no guarantee that it won't happen again. Run your anti-malware programs about once a week, and be careful when using public computers.

What is encryption?

Since we mentioned password encryption above, let's talk a little bit about encryption.

Encryption is the process of securing information by transforming it with an algorithm into a form that can only be readily translated by those that know the algorithm used to make it. Early simple encryption used a simple letter by letter substitution. We see them all the time in puzzle books. More complicated systems use various other methods of hiding data, even electromechanical devices such as the Enigma, and today's on-line encryption utilize 127 digit prime number algorithms as the method of tying together your computer with a secure site before data is passed. Encryption has historically been used in government correspondence, especially in the military, but since the rise of the computer and the internet, encryption has become an important part of securing vital information such as passwords and files, and preventing identity theft. We will limit ourselves to just looking at Computer password encryption.

We make up a password on our computer so that the web site knows it is really us. So the first line of defense is not to have a password that can be guessed at by someone trying to get into your account.

We call a password weak if it is simple words. Hackers can run through every word in the dictionary in seconds. But passwords may still be vulnerable to guessing strategies. People often use parts of real words in

passwords, or use words or numbers that are familiar like addresses or birthdays. This makes passwords easier to remember, but also much easier to crack. Using the same password for many different programs and internet sites is also common for ease of use, but again, this makes passwords more vulnerable. For maximum protection, use a different string of random characters for each password, or better still use a password encryption program like the ones mentioned above. The more characters and the more different characters and symbols used in a password the stronger it is to protect against a hacker.

Once you have your password and enter it onto a site, the password goes through an encryption process that changes the characters used into a string of characters that is usually much longer than the password itself and will appear to be completely random. Most password encryptions work as a one way check for password validity: the algorithm used always transforms a given password into the same string of characters. When a password is entered, it is run through the algorithm, and the encrypted string of characters produced is compared to the encrypted password that is stored, and if they match, the password is accepted. Good encryptions will transform a given password into a character string that is nothing like the string produced by the same password when a typo is made.

Weak encryptions that use simple algorithms produce character strings can be attacked directly. Stronger encryptions can still be cracked through volume, or brute force attacks where each possible password is tested. As mentioned above strings of prime numbers are used to help keeping the pipeline between you and the site from being invaded. Today, those algorithms are very strong, so the weak link would be the password you are using to start the encryption process. Keep your passwords long, keep them varied and most important of all keep them safe from prying eyes.

Don't keep your passwords list on your computer. Keep it on a USB Thumb drive that is not attached to your computer preventing access to your password is the best way of keeping your data safe.

Setting Up a New Computer

Whatever the reason, at one time or another we go out and buy a new computer. Perhaps we just want to graduate beyond Win XP, or finally decide to try out Win 8.1 or 10 to see what the hoopla is all about. Regardless, of the reason, here are a few pointers to get your computer working as good as you can get it before you even start. Of course we want to use our new computer right out of the box, but these few tips will help make your PC a fast sleek operating machine.

First thing you want to do is make the back-up disks. There is a small emergency section on the hard disk that has the appropriate software. Once you have those disks made, you know you can always get back to the original computer as it came right out of the box. And of course, you have a good back-up program to periodically make a clone of your machine, right?

If you are a purist, before you even use the machine, you can go out to the web (with another machine) and get all updated drivers from the actual retailers. Windows usually provides drivers for audio and video but getting the latest from the retailers might provide other and sometimes better options.

Get rid of the Garbage! Every new machine comes with a lot of programs pre-installed called bloatware. Many are programs that give you a trial period and then after six months or so, you have to buy them. If

you are going to install your own office suite, get rid of the “trial” version of Microsoft Office suite or any of the other trial programs you know you are not going to use. Otherwise, you will be plagued by nagging screens popping up asking you to purchase something. If you don't think you will use, get rid of it. It is still out there on the net anytime you change your mind.

One program to help get rid of the bloatware is PCDecrapifier. This program automates the process of cleaning out known bloatware. Then open the Control Panel, head to Programs > Programs and Features, and work your way through the list of currently installed programs, removing anything you're not likely to use. Then go to the task manager (In Win8 it is Ctrl + Shift + Esc) and hit the Startup tab, and disable any background programs that you don't want to run when Windows launches. (Prior systems use msconfig in the start menu. You will find dozens of programs that can be disabled, which will free up system memory and resources for other applications as well as speed up your boot time.

Next, run Windows Update to get all the necessary components and security patches up to date. You should make sure you click on the Automatic file updates so you never miss a necessary update.

Install your apps. Once you have the machine completely updated it is now time to install your favorite applications. Make sure that they are compatible with your machine. You may want to try out a program called Ninite which can automate installing a number of popular applications.

Finally, it is time to install the security and antivirus tools. And then install Secunia Personal Software inspector which automatically keeps all of your programs up-to-date.

Now that you have done all of the above, back up to an external drive using Windows' built in imaging tool or some other third party program that will do the job.

This will give you a head start on reinstalling in case something goes wrong in the future. And, continue to do backups of one type or another to keep your machine as up- to-date as you can make it.

That's it. Enjoy your new PC.

November 2015



Ask Mr. Modem! – November 2015

www.MrModem.com

Help: Email Causes Freezes!

Q. Sometimes people I send email to tell me that when they open my message, their computer freezes. I'm sending you one of my emails that did this. Can you tell me what I'm doing wrong that might be causing this?

A. The email you sent me contains eight graphical animations, including four animated closings, "Goodbye," "Adios," "CUL8TR," and "Sayonara." While I understand that "cutesy" is in the eyes of the beholder, I would encourage some measure of restraint when it comes to email "enhancements" of this type for several reasons:

First, all those graphics and animations increase the size of your email exponentially, turning what should be a simple message into a bloated e-mess. For recipients with older systems or computers running a minimal amount of memory, opening your graphical extravaganza can be overwhelming to the system, resulting in a freeze.

Keep in mind, whether you're using IncrediMail or some other email fluffer-upper, there are only so many graphics and related animations, and graphically inclined senders all tend to gravitate towards the same ones. Toward that end, you can't go wrong if you extend the courtesy of asking your intended recipients if it's okay if you include animations. If they decline, thank them and honor their request not to include them. If they do not respond, do not assume that's an implied permis-

sion to continue sending cutesy. It is not.

In your case, remove the graphics and animations from your message and re-send it. Individuals who previously experienced a computer freeze will then be able to view your message without any problem.

Q. I notice that my 4-port USB hub feels warm to the touch. Is this normal or are flames about to leap out and cause me grief. Do you think I am worrying over nothing? Thanks, Mr. M.

A. There are components within the hub that can get warm, so some amount of warmth is normal. If it is too hot to touch, I wouldn't take any chances and I would replace it immediately.

My rule of thumb for something like this is if it makes me uncomfortable -- rightly or wrongly -- I replace it. It might not really need replacing, but if it's going to drive me to distraction to that extent then I will just replace it and be done with it. I would keep the USB hub that was replaced as a spare. And if the replacement hub ultimately feels about the same temperature as the one I replaced, then I'll walk to a mirror, look into it and say, "You moron! You replaced it for nothing," though the peace of mind alone would be worth it.

Q. I would like to ask your advice and opinion about a software program called Driver Robot. It's supposed to scan your PC and then list all the drivers that are out of date. It then provides a link you can use to download and install the most current drivers.

A. Personally, I wouldn't touch a program like that with a borrowed ten-foot pole. It is of no consequence if drivers are old or outdated if everything is working properly. I have computers here that haven't had new or updated drivers installed in years. It's simply not necessary unless a problem arises, so this clearly falls within the advice category of, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

If you are experiencing a computer problem, by all means, it should be addressed. Otherwise, just enjoy your computer. When things are running smoothly, you're not going to make them run smoothlier by installing anything new.

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

AllerGlobal

Create a ready-to-print card listing your food allergies, in any number of languages. For example, let's say I'm allergic to anchovies and it's time for my annual visit to Uncle Sven at the family farm in Hudiksvall, Sweden. Sven loves his kroppkakor and silltallrik thin-crust pizza with extra anchovies. If I accidentally eat a slice of delicious kroppkakor, when the paramedics arrive all I have to say is, "Jag är allergisk eller intolerant mot följande näringsämnen ansjovis," before I lose consciousness, and I'll be in good hands.

www.allerglobal.com

American Car Brochures

Original, factory brochures that harken back to an era when cars were cars, not today's everything-looks-alike boxes. If you're like me and yearn for the good old days of massive tail fins, hood ornaments, hubcaps, white-wall tires, curb feelers, column shifts, slippery bench seats (without seat belts), and unpadded dashboards with eviscerating projectiles, you won't want to miss this site.

www.lov2xlr8.no/broch1.html

PicLits.com

A creative-writing site that matches beautiful images with carefully selected keywords in an effort to inspire you. No, seriously. The object is to put the right words in the right place and in the right order to capture the essence, story and meaning of a given picture. Click the "Learn It" link for additional information.

www.piclits.com

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 | 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**

Committees & Chairpersons

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Program Director | Annemarie Hunt | Ajhunt1447(at)aol.com |
| Asset Management | Glen Moore | mooretours(at)earthlink.net |
| Public Relations | Barbara Denny | dennyandassoc(at)verizon.net |
| Membership Chair | Helga Djordjevic | hdjordjevic(at)verizon.net |
| Nominations | Wayne Gue | wa212gue(at)verizon.net |
| Programs Chair | Annemarie Hunt | Ajhunt1447(at)aol.com |
| Webmaster | Ell Fullmer | pakratt(at)gmail.com |
| Education | | |
| Newsletter Editor | Dan Leddy | ranchitoave(at)yahoo.com |
| Set-Up Chair | Bill Hart | Bobbibill(at)peoplepc.com |

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

Type GSCC in Subject Line.

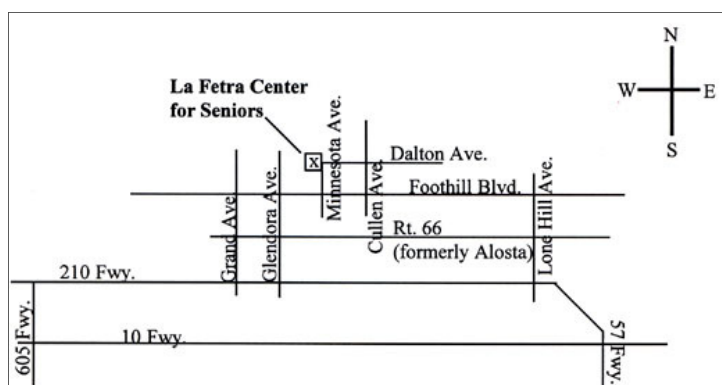
**Email to Dan Leddy
ranchitoave(at)yahoo.com**

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

Helga Djordjevic



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Telephone: (626) 914-8235



We're On The Web

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