



# September 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 9



**POW/MIA Remembrance Day**  
September 18th

### Glendora Seniors Computer Club General Meeting Minutes August 12, 2015

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**President Barbara Denny** called the Meeting to order at 1 PM and welcomed 35 members, 12 guests, and presented name badges to three new members.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 1) Computer Guys tomorrow, Thursday August 13, 9:00 - Noon.
- 2) Jim Glass has taken a bad fall and is in rehab facility here in Glendora; there is a card circulating for members to sign.

#### **Program:**

**Annemarie** presented two informative videos about Windows 10; the first one pointing out some new features of Windows 10, and the other one talking about the advantages and disadvantages of upgrading. **Michael Harrington of Bright Idea Technologies** also filled in infor-

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

#### **September 9th**

Electronic Communica-  
tions

#### **September 23th**

So you got a new computer.  
What next?

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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mation answering questions not addressed in the videos. Presentation links will be emailed to all who are present at the meeting.

**Break:**

**Q & A continues about Windows 10** and discussion about downloading, installing *if, when and how*. It is recommended if you are happy with Windows 7 or 8.1 to at least wait awhile to change to 10.

**A few Calendar changes for upcoming meetings:**

<b>Sept. 9 &amp; Oct. 14</b>  (Part Two)	<b>Electronic Communications – Phone, Fax, E-Mail, Text, Social Media, Facebook/Skype – Part One</b>	<b>Bill Belcher via Skype</b>
<b>Sept. 23</b>	<b>“So You Got a New Computer, Now What?”</b>  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Half: Groupon</b>	<b>Bob Gosticha</b>

**Next meeting: Wednesday August 26, 2015**

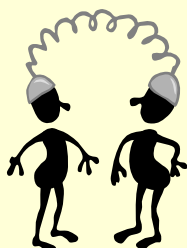
**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

**Submitted by:**

Secretary Ruthann Mayrose

**Approved By:**

**President Barbara Denny**



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

**THE SECOND Thursday** of the month: , September 10th

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

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**Glendora Seniors Computer Club**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**August 26, 2015**

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**President Barbara Denny** called the Meeting to order at 1 PM and welcomed 31 members and one guest.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 1) President Denny explained the Club's participation in the APCUG Contests; she is submitting our Newsletter and explained the 2015 Digital Photo Contest rules. **Tami Hecht** is submitting several pictures for the photo contest.
- 2) The Members' Survey has been revised and copies are available today; please fill them out and return so we can plan programs of interest to our members.
- 3) Jim Glass is still in rehab and another card is circulating for all to sign.
- 4) Upcoming programs: Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> – Bill Belcher; September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Abby Stokes (Social Media).

**Program:**

**Program Chair Annemarie Hunt** presented an overview of **Picasa**--a free image viewing, organizing, editing and sharing program for your photos.

**Part two** was an **APCUG YouTube** video presentation with Bob Gostischa "So You've Got A New Computer. Now What?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hS1tqSuAl74>

**Tech Advisor Ell Fullmer** gave an overview of "How to fix" Windows 10 settings.

**Break:**

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**Part three – What is Groupon? Groupon.com** *benefits and how it works*--a web site offering daily deals at restaurants, retailers and service providers.

### **Q & A**

**Ell Fullmer** addressed questions:

- 1) Windows 10 – privacy issues
- 2) System Restore before you install new programs.

**Next meeting: Wednesday Sept. 9th, 2015.**

**Tami Hecht and Ernie Gagne** will bring cookies.

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

***Submitted by:***

Secretary Ruthann Mayrose

***Approved By:***

**President Barbara Denny**

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SUBMITTED ARTICLES, FROM APCUG 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](http://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 you 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.

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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 antimalware 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 date 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 pass-

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words 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

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asking you to purchase something. If you don't think you will use it, 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.

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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.

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### **Some Web Sites I have seen Recommended**

Lynn Page, Editor/Webmaster, Crystal River Users Group, FL

October 2012 newsletter

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

[lpage46 \(at\) tampabay.rr.com](mailto:lpage46@tampabay.rr.com)

This is a list of sites that I have seen recommended. Some I have visited and the others have been recommended by people I trust.

#### Vocabulary

The Test Your Vocab is a website provides statistical data about people's vocabulary. It's designed to estimate how many words you know while collecting valuable research. In the three part check the box next to each word you can define. The site needs to know how old you are, how much you read and whether English is your first language. The site then estimates how many words you know!

[testyourvocab.com](http://testyourvocab.com)

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## Books

Open Library is a wonderful site for those who like to read. It is attempting to catalog every book. A book's page has information on the book, the author and relevant links. Even better, many of the books on Open Library are available for free download ,or you can borrow e-books from an electronic lending library.

[openlibrary.org](http://openlibrary.org)

## Games for the Brain

Counterfeit from Games for the Brain a simple spot-the-difference game. Just spot and point out the difference between two classic paintings before time runs out.

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

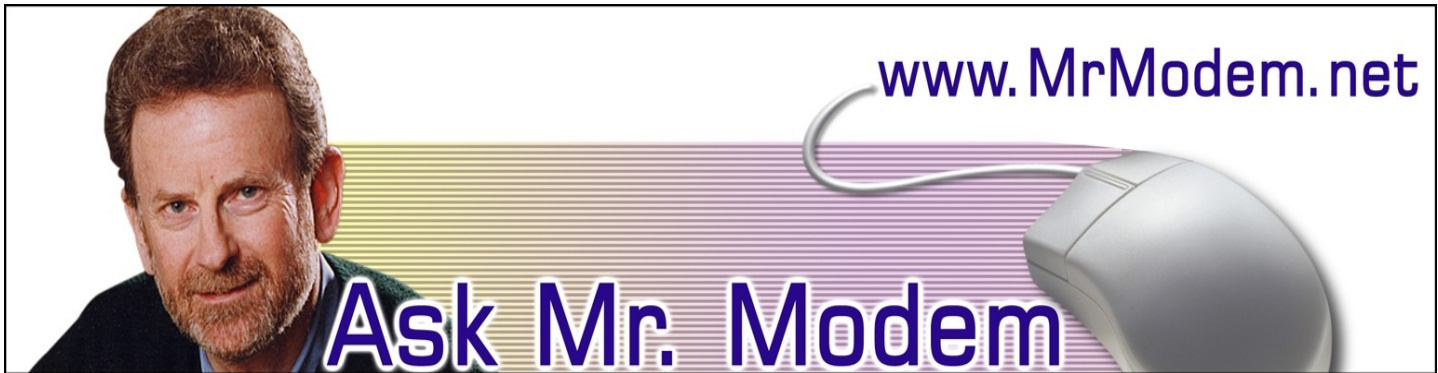
## Capitol Flags

The United States Capitol accepts requests for the flags that fly over the Capitol. The program has expanded to include flags of different sizes. Each one is issued a Certificate of Authenticity by the Architect of the Capitol after it has flown. To own a Capitol flag, contact your congressman, who can make the request on your behalf.

Prices range from \$13.25 to \$22.55 depending on the size. Plus you have to pay for shipping.

[www.capitolflags.gov](http://www.capitolflags.gov)

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**Ask Mr. Modem! – September 2014**  
**www.MrModem.com**

**“Help! My Hard Drive is Full!”**

**Q. What happens when an external hard drive runs out of space? Does that mean I have to spend money to buy a new one?**

A. When you start to run out of space on your external drive, one possibility is to purchase another, larger drive. A better option is to take a look at your saved files and see if you can thin the herd. Try to make a point of periodically reviewing your files and deleting items you don't really and truly need to save.

Old files are a lot like old clothes in a closet: If you haven't worn something in a year or two (or used a file), chances are you aren't going to need it again, so you might want to think about deleting it.

**Q. Help! I need some easy steps to restore my iPhone 4S to the operating system I had before I updated it to the current iOS 7. I don't like the new operating system.**

A. Unfortunately, you cannot go back to the previous operating system. It's all part of Apple's grand plan to ensure that all users of its devices share the same experience. While every Android device is just a little different -- which creates its own set of challenges -- Apple mandates conformity in their devices, which has its advantages and disadvantages, as well.

iOS 7 is simply a bit different than what you were accustomed to previously, but like anything, the more you use it, the more familiar it will become. Since you can't go back, you might as well enjoy the journey forward.

The next time there is a major iOS update, you might want to hold off and not install it for awhile. Mrs. Modem isn't using iOS 7 because she didn't want to bother with a new operating system, so she never updated it. That's an option we always have with our current devices.

You will find lots of helpful information on the Apple Web site, including the iOS 7 User Guide at <http://tinyurl.com/MrM-iOS7>. There are also many video tutorials on YouTube, so just search for "iOS 7."

**Q. I recently purchased a Kindle Fire HDX, but I still have a perfectly good first-generation Kindle Fire that I don't need anymore. How can I give it to somebody and not have it still registered to me or my Amazon account?**

A. With most tablets, all you need to do is perform a factory reset and all of your personal information will be erased. Kindles, because they are tied to your Amazon account, require a two-step process to make sure your personal information is erased and to get the tablet ready for the next user.

The first thing to do is deregister your Kindle so that it is no longer tied to your account. This prevents anyone from purchasing items and having them charged to your Amazon account. Eek! To deregister your Kindle using the device itself, tap the Quick Settings icon, then More > Choose My Account. Select the device you want to deregister and tap Deregister.

You can also deregister by going to Amazon.com, selecting Your Account and choosing Manage Your Kindle > Manage Your Devices. You will see all the devices registered to your account. Choose the appropriate one and tap or click Deregister.

Once the Kindle is no longer connected to your Amazon account you can clear all of your personal information and data off the device in one swell foop. To do this, tap

the Quick Settings icon > More > Device. Tap Reset to Factory Defaults. The device will restart and all your information will be gone with the wind: Your books, your apps, your music, your video... poof! Gone.

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

### **Attack of the Cute**

What's not to like about cute and cuddly animals? "Hello, little pit bull; that's a good pit bull. My, what powerful jaws you have." To navigate the site, scroll down through the cuteness and click the Next button.

<http://attackofthecute.com>

### **Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee**

Jerry Seinfeld chats with fellow comedians over a cup of coffee. Hilarious! Each video is approximately 15 to 20 minutes in length and as it is with most comedy today, there is occasional profanity and adult-oriented material. Interviewees include Michael Richards, Carl Reiner, Mel Brooks, Alec Baldwin, Ricky Gervais, Larry David, David Letterman, Don Rickles, Chris Rock and others. If you like Seinfeld, don't miss these episodes. Some are truly laugh-outloud funny.

<http://comediansincarsgettingcoffee.com/>

### **Perspective**

This is a thought-provoking visual with narrative. When viewing a photograph of the Earth from such a great distance, the implications may not be immediately clear. Listen as the late astronomer/physicist Carl Sagan explains that we are but a tiny, insignificant speck in the comos. Beautifully executed...and humbling.

<http://tinyurl.com/MrM-Perspective>

**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](http://www.MrModem.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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Elected Officers

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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

rfldd13(at)gmail.com

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

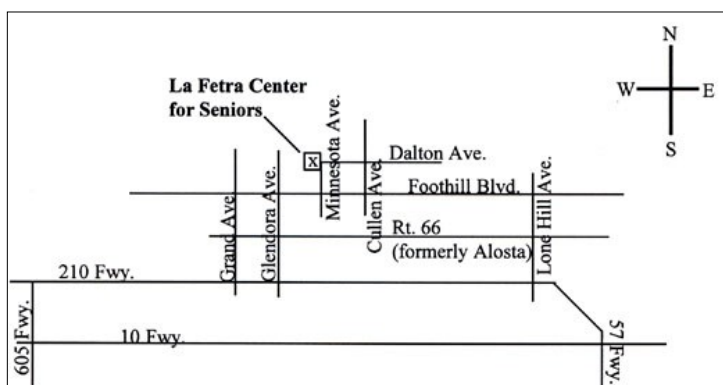
Helga Djordjevic

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