President's Corner

May 2015

Do We Really Want to Deal with All of This?

Should We Even Care?!

- my response is Y<u>es</u>, definitely! -

- Smart Homes

- Wearable Tech – Apple Watch; Google Glass; Microsoft Band; etc.

- Self-driving cars

- Electric cars

- Drones

I don't know about you but for many of these – while I see the value, I don't get too buzzed about each and every one. I do hope to have an 'up close and personal' experience with a fully tested and useable product – in each category - in the years I have remaining on this Earth. Numerous products are already in production and will be more widely available in the future; (some very soon) many others are in advanced stages of development and are on many people's radar, especially *outside* this community. Given where I presently live and my lifestyle, the chance that I'll adopt the whole lot is slim. There is regular evidence of the progress, and challenges, in each area – just get on the internet to do your own research! I've done only minimal research; below I've shared some findings and my take on them. *I have to wonder if Steve Jobs, of Apple fame, Bill Gates, Microsoft, and of course Gordon Moore, Robert Noyce - Intel's Founders - and Andy Grove, long term Intel CEO had any idea what they unleashed when they produced the OS's and processors now so prevalent in this new world of technological innovation!*

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CyberEd Corner

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with PC class registration for Session 2. We used our new software ProClass and it was a challenge to all. In spite of difficulties we registered almost 140 residents to our 10 classes. A big **Thank You** also to everyone who waited patiently in line.

Registration for Session 3 classes will be Thursday, May 21 for the Korean Language classes, and Friday/Saturday, May 22/23 for all other classes. Same time 10 AM to 12 Noon - same place PC Club Learning Center. Mark your calendar.

We are attempting to update our data base of members. If you are not receiving emails from the PC Club, please come to the Workshop and fill out a form with your correct email address and/or phone number. **Please print clearly!**

Looking for a new challenge or have a special computer talent you would like to share? We are always looking for new and exciting teachers with special expertise to share with our members. Please contact me at nancykri@hotmail.com. We are open to suggestions for new and different classes of interest to our Village residents.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are one-time classes that usually meet on Saturday morning's from 10 to 12 to address an individual area of interest, such as Facebook. If you would be interested in helping to plan monthly SIGs, contact me at the above email address.

Nancy Kring

Educational Director

Volunteer Greeters and Supervisors Needed!!

If you enjoy computers and computing activities, and like to interact with other people who also like computers, then add some *fun* and *new* interest to your life by volunteering as a **Greeter** or **Supervisor** in the Workshop.

Both of these positions take just 3 hours of your time each week.

The morning shift is from 10 AM – 1 PM (Monday thru Saturday)

The afternoon shift is from 1 PM - 4 PM (Monday thru Friday)

You choose what day and time is best for you.

You might wish to start out by being a ***Substitute*** Greeter or Supervisor. Then you can find out if you like doing this without a big commitment.

You'll be trained by Marci Neuroh sna.xfa@comline.com (Greeters) and/or John Huber jchuber@ix.netcom.com (Supervisors).

You will start with an initial training and orientation session, and continue to learn on the job.

President's Corner *continued from page 1*

- **Smart Homes**: if I still lived in the 2-story suburban home where I lived for 11 years before LWV, and working dawn to dark all week, this would be something I'd definitely be salivating over! Imagine the convenience of controlling much of your home's environment, from anyplace on the planet (well almost) using your Smart Phone or tablet! Here in the Village I'm afraid I have to view this as a non-issue at this point.

- **Wearables**: the whole lot - Smart watches and bands, glasses, etc. are admittedly very intriguing, but I've not yet discovered a compelling personal need. For that I'm thankful, as there are a number of variations on these that are in use by consumers with a medical or health condition – these could literally be a "life-saver" for them.

  Given that I'm only moderately functional with a Smart Phone, or Android tablet, equipping me with a watch or band that requires new tech savvy, wouldn't be a welcome prospect! Want more information? -head for the internet!

- **Self-driving Car**: to me this is absolutely the most intriguing item of the bunch. What imagination, know how and intellect it requires to even conceptualize one, let alone produce a working prototype! Yet it is already here and the research necessary to make it a reality is moving along at a furious pace. Would that I live long enough to see it be a reality for the average driver! You may find this interesting –

  http://www.edmunds.com/car-news/self-driving-cars-future-technology-explored-at-2015-sae-conference.html

- **Electric Car**: consumers now have numerous choices*; the Electric era is here and is admittedly very relevant to the environmental debates. You may be able to still see the Tesla on display in the Shops at Mission Viejo; during and after the Holidays, it was in the commons area on the same floor as Macy's, near the Microsoft Store. There are presently some limitations that make owning an electric car a non-starter for many consumers, but I have little doubt that these will be overcome by the industry; I also predict that a significant % of the driving public will be very receptive. For some further study of this issue, see this web site - http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/evtech.shtml

  -I honestly was surprised to see that so many manufacturers have made the commitment and gone down this road: BMW, Chevrolet, Ford, Honda, Nissan, Fiat, Kia, Mitsubishi, VW and of course the much discussed and publicized – Tesla. Models are available now from each.

- **Drones**: what's a drone; doesn't that have something to do with bees?! Well while you and I were occupied with our routines and favorite retirement activities, an entire industry has emerged that has serious commercial potential, and consequences. Many military establishments, as well as law enforcement agencies world-wide have of course been involved in Drone technology research, production and/or deployment for some time; now commercial applications are showing up at a fast and furious pace. Amazon has just secured the permits and clearance for its first application – home delivery via drone! I was frankly amazed to see that the Drone marketplace is quite well established already: just stop in at our local Best Buy, Costco or Walmart-or go online to their websites. While you're there check eBay and Amazon as well – a large array of models is available, or if you're a former hobbyist, buy a kit and build your own!

To join me in researching, and keeping abreast of developments in all or most of these topics, use the Google, Bing or Yahoo search engine periodically; these are not obscure topics. For some of the more scholarly research and/or information click the links below –

https://scholar.google.com/?hl=en

https://www.google.com/?tbm=pts&hl=en&gws_rd=ssl [patent searches]

We may revisit these topics and provide an update in our last issue for 2015 or early next year. Feel free to send your thoughts.

Genealogy and Family History Research

You may not be aware of it, but over a span of the past 6 months, there have been regular meetings of a group of residents who are both actively compiling a list of their relatives, known and unknown, and pursuing their ancestor's origins. Many are creating, or updating, a Family Tree and/or their family history. At this point this is not a new **Social Club**, of which there are many here; but interestingly lacking is one for this special interest group. Each meeting attracts new attendees who are quite interested in learning where and how to begin. We are presently meeting on an every-other-month schedule; meetings are held in the PC Learning Center, 3rd floor of the Community Center on El Toro Road. These are open to LWV residents only. *The email list is now comprised of over 90 individuals who are being contacted!* If you would like to add your name to our distribution list, simply send an email to the PC Club and place "Genealogy Discussion Group" in the subject line. The date for our next session is Tuesday, June 16th, at 1:30 pm in the Learning Center. Free and open to all, (*donations welcome!*) but registration is required. **RSVP** to our g-mail address below:

<p align="center">lwvpcclub@gmail.com</p>

This activity is hosted by our **PC Club**, Bob Sellards, President, with considerable information and live lectures given by the 2015 President of the South Orange County California Genealogical Society, David Flint.

 (see their home page: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casoccgs/

While these are not structured classes, numerous handouts are provided at each meeting. Attendees discuss their successes, sources and resources, roadblocks, and of course the meetings are wide open for questions on the topics.
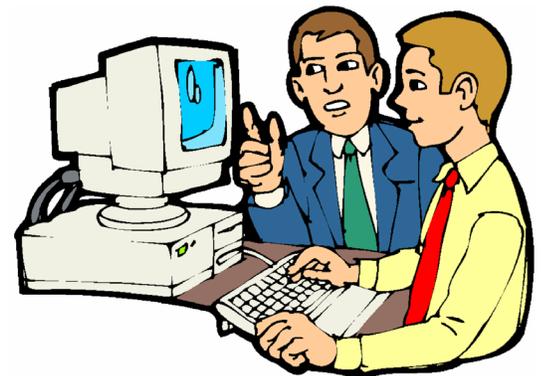
We are Taking Membership and Registration to the Cloud

As mentioned in several Monthly meetings, the PC club has purchased a Cloud based Membership and Class Registration System. The name of the application is Pro Class and over the past several months we have been transitioning our class registration and membership data base to the new application.

With the new application members will have the ability to purchase a membership and register for classes from the comfort of their own homes. As always we struggle with trying to decipher your email address. If you are a member and have not been receiving our emails, please contact us at lwvpcclub@gmail.com or the next time you are in workshop or at a monthly meeting, please check our list and confirm that we have the correct email address.

Within the next few weeks be on the lookout for emails instructing you how to access your account.

E-waste Recycling

(TVs, computers, monitors, printers and misc. electronics)

May 23rd & June 27th

You must place your items near the trash enclosure in your Cul de Sac, or at the curb if you have curb side service. Items cannot be placed before 7 PM on Friday night and must be out by 7 AM on Saturday. If you want pick-up at your manor at another time, call City Hall, 639-0500 to schedule a pickup."

Document Shredding

**Saturday, June 13th
8:30 AM to 12:30 PM.**

North of the parking area in front of City Hall.

Android Tablet over 6 mo. old?

Android Tablet over 6 mo. old? Check for a system update. Latest version is 5.0, called Lollipop. Go to Settings, scroll to About Tablet - note your version. Look for notice that Update is Available or just the word Updates. It will be Free of course!

PC Club General Meetings
(all meetings held at Clubhouse 7 at 7:00 pm)

**June-August
No Meetings**

**Tuesday, September 8
TBA**

**Tuesday, October 13
TBA**

**Tuesday, November 10
TBA**

All residents are welcome!
Refreshments at close of meeting
Door prize drawing for members only
(become a member and win)

PC Club Staff Member is Multi-Talented!

John Moran (PC Club Supervisor). is a heck of a good poet. He has written/published 2 books of poetry since he moved to Laguna Woods . . . go to Amazon Books and put in his name in the Search Box.

The Circle

Behold the circle
It just sits there
Not wanting
Not looking for a beginning
An end
Always balanced
The very essence of symmetry

Unable to turn a corner
Look for an angle
Or get to the point
Because there's
None to be found
Just going around

Whatever lessons
The circle may hide
Can only be found
By looking inside
by John Moran

The History of the Leisure World PC Users Group (LWPCUG)

The LWPCUG was started by Al Bloom in 1984 and was composed of volunteer supervisors who used a computer room in CH 1. Meetings were held informally at Al's house. No figures are available for membership in that year, but by 1995 membership was up to 150. Joe Schwarz became president in 1994 and the first 2 page newsletter published.

The first PC Classes were held for 6-7 students in 1996 with the presentation of "Works for Windows" which met Monday - Friday in Clubhouse 1. In May 1996, Murry Katzen started writing the curriculum which was the forerunner of today's Study Guide. Approximately 150 people took courses in 1996. By the end of that year 5 series each of 6 weeks were completed and 5 SIG groups started, which were held in DR3 of CH!. Our membership in 1996 reached 540 members.

In 1997 we introduced the laminated membership card, and on June 7th we had our Grand Opening weekend at the learning center at CH2. Classes started for the first time on May 5th with 8 computers. By June 2 more computers were added and the class size increased to 10. Originally 5 sessions were held each week. By the end of 1997 approximately 450 people had taken beginner courses, bringing the grand total to about 600 people since the start of classes. 3 more classes were added and helpers were recruited from among past students. Membership in 1997 reached 930. In January 1997, Sybil the editor of the newsletter "Leisure Bytes" enlarged the newsletter to 6 pages. January 1998 the job of editing the newsletter was assumed by Helen Jaroslow.

We had started in 1984 with small Monthly General meetings in the multipurpose room at CH1, held in the afternoon with an attendance of about 24. We relocated to CH1 Art Gallery in September of 1994 and changed to the 4th Monday, and in short order moved again this time to CH1 main dining room meeting on the 4th Tuesday. By this time CH1 main lounge was too small for the monthly general meetings and Joe Schwarz, our hard working president made arrangements for the meetings in 1998 and 1999 to be held in CH5 main lounge. Meetings were held on the 3rd Monday of each month, at 6:30 pm.

In 1997 Murry wrote a Study Guide for Intermediate students, as so many requests for continuing classes were received. Several classes were offered each week for Beginners and for Intermediates; we had 13 working computers most of which were bought in the past year, and the class size was increased to 13. We accommodated approximately 800 students each year. Many new courses were being offered, including spreadsheets, word processing, digital imaging and internet.

Our membership in 1998 was 1260. In short order our Workshop was obsolete as we had outgrown it; in October of 1998 we moved to an enlarged workshop directly opposite the learning center at Computer Square.

President Joe Schwarz predicted membership in the year 2000 would reach 2000. The final membership reached 2540.

Anticipating Windows 10

Are you ready for Windows 10?! That's right-"10." No you didn't miss 9; They've decided to jump from 8.1 to 10. *No, we don't know either!* While they initially announced an October (2015) release date, a recent press release indicates that they've penciled in "summer" - perhaps late July as their target release date for the fully ready, debugged consumer version.

Do we *actually need* a new version of the Windows OS? I guess it depends; if you're still using W 7 and are just fine with it, you probably have little or no incentive to upgrade.* If you upgraded from 7 to 8 and then 8.1, and are quite comfortable with it now, you might want to wait awhile. If of course you're a confirmed "early adaptor" – go for it. According to the news that Microsoft is giving the press, we 8.1 users should embrace W10 and start enjoying the many new features and benefits – ASAP.

You'll find thorough reviews by PC World, CNET, PC Magazine and TechRadar if you just enter Windows 10 reviews in your favorite Search box. For other extensive information on the new W10, head over to YouTube and just type Windows 10 in the Search box.

If you'd prefer not to wait another day and want to join the millions who have been test-driving W10, you need only visit this Microsoft website -

http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/preview-iso

Countless suggestions and critiques have been submitted to the W10 development team over the past 8 months and they now feel that the OS will meet the toughest standards and therefore the summer release date is realistic. The following is a short list of items you'll find in the "new and improved" W10 OS.

- an entirely new web browser: "Edge" (not IE xx)

- a redesigned Start Menu - return to the Windows 7 model, with more features

- a "Siri like" digital assistant: Cortana which is integrated into multiple apps like Office, Mail, Calendar, Skype and the new Edge browser

- removal of the stand-alone Start Screen tiles and full screen apps

- elimination of the "Charms Bar" and a redesigned Settings screen

- new biometric authentication: used in lieu of a login password

- revamped E-mail and Calendar apps

- a make-over for Action Center (incorporating the former Charms) to make it more functional and user friendly

- introduction of new Windows Store with Universal Apps that will run on all platforms from phones, tablets, and PCs

Microsoft has stated that any legitimate copy of Windows 7 or 8.1 will be allowed to upgrade to W10 for one year, FREE. They have not published a price list nor "flavors" that we can expect in W10, but it's said there will be the usual – Home, Professional and an Enterprise business version; also phone and tablet versions . . . but not RT.

BTW – at this time we do not have the Technical Preview copy on any of the Workshop PCs; we anticipate upgrading one or more of the W 8.1 PCs, – or purchasing new equipment – within a reasonable time after the final product is available, whether in July, October, or in between. Check with a Workshop Greeter or the Workshop Coordinator, John Huber, whose email will be found on our website: www.thepcclub.org
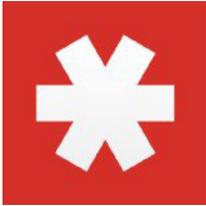
Appetite for Apps

-as you probably know there's something for everything,
and everyone through the two major providers of Android apps.
These are **Google Play** and the **Amazon App Store.**

Here are our choices for flavors of the month!

https://play.google.com/store?hl=en&tab=w8   http://www.amazon.com/mobile-apps/

Last Pass: save and auto fill user names and passwords; audit the strength of your passwords; enable multi-factor authentication; shop-on-line with form fill profiles.

MLB.com At Bat: Features live action from all 30 Major League teams. At Bat app also delivers 2015 schedules, 2014 scoreboards and complete Winter Meetings coverage and expert analysis. *A baseball fans must have!*

Medscape: Extensive database of medical information; clinical reference database includes more than 8,000 drugs, 4,000 diseases and conditions, thousands of clinical images and procedure videos, and drug interaction checker tools.

List Master Pro: Keep your shopping list, to-do list, home inventory, movie or music collection, or any other list you can think of in one place. Features: sublists/subnotes; set daily reminders; CSV import and export to edit lists as a spreadsheet; drag and drop or automatic list sorting; share via email; backup to SD Card

NotePad Pro: ad free; allows prioritization; color coding; auto-save option; search capability; reads note text back; import/export to SD card.

Avast Mobile Security: Full-featured, top-rated antivirus & anti-theft Android security app!

Lookout (Kindle Edition): Offers all the essential protections of the original Lookout Mobile Security optimized for your **KindleFire** device. Security and antivirus; device locator; backup and restore. Allows you to block phishing links, malware, spyware, and download all your favorite apps without worry. *Don't have a Kindle? Choose Android version in either store*.

NPR News: Read, listen, or create a playlist of your favorite NPR stories; Hear live streams from hundreds of NPR stations: search by location (GPS) or zip code.

Box: 10GB of free cloud storage;access your files, photos, videos online, from your desktop, and on your Android phone or tablet; uploadto Box and download them to your device; file-level encryption and security.

The Weather Channel: current weather conditions and news, forecast maps, radar maps

Workshop Update

We'd like you to share our excitement over the addition of a new Epson color photo printer in the workshop. It's located on the West wall, next to the 3 photo computers and is available to create 4 x 6 up to 81/2 x 11 prints from your digital camera or phones. Come in and give it a try! The photo computers all have Photoshop Elements 13, Lightroom 5, and Picasa 3 for your photo editing projects. They also have tutorial videos on Elements and Lightroom to help you learn about these excellent programs. Remember that loaner headphones are available from the greeters.

We also have three different scanners that are designed for scanning multiple documents into PDF type files. They also will scan photos, and slides. We urge you to scan your precious photos and slides before they begin to deteriorate.

We are constantly expanding our lending library, which has books for beginners or more advanced PC users. The topics include Windows, Office, and other applications, and other technical topics. If you have a topic or book titles you would like us to add to the library, please leave a note with the greeters.

BTW - a little known option with our laser printer is the ability to print on both sides of the paper. We currently allow 5 prints for free, and 10 cents a print after that; if you use the two sided printing option it effectively doubles the copies available. If you don't know how to use this option, ask a supervisor and they will assist you.

Can You Believe - A Good Computer for $200?
by Dave Berger

Remember when a good computer cost about two thousand dollars? Well, you can now purchase a new computer one tenth of that. And the $200 computers that are becoming available at that price are ultimately more powerful than those expensive computers of old.

Wow! A good computer for $200? How is that possible now? Well, not only have hardware prices tumbled, but Microsoft is coming to the aid of the average computer buyer. They are trying very hard to compete with the current sales of Chromebooks, which have recently picked up in popularity.

Microsoft is helping computer manufacturers and purchasers by lowering, and in some cases, eliminating, the cost of the Windows operating system. This is being done to combat Chromebooks which have recently picked up in popularity. Chromebooks are laptops that run on the free Google Chrome operating system rather than on the Windows operating system. Many of them are selling in the $200 range.

So Microsoft is offering Windows 8.1 with its Bing search engine as the OS for these cheaper PCs. Although this is a special version of the operating system, the only change is that Bing is the default search engine in Internet Explorer. Other than that it is the same as the latest version of Windows 8.1.

Microsoft is trying to stem the tide of defections from Windows and to bolster the use of its Bing search engine and OneDrive cloud storage. In some cases a limited subscription to Microsoft's Office 365 subscription service may be included to entice people to continue paying that yearly subscription fee and to use Microsoft's cloud storage.

Hewlett-Packard, Dell and Lenovo are all announcing these Windows 8.1 with Bing laptops for around $200. Rumors are that a 7" or 8" HP Stream laptop may be available for the holiday season selling at closer to $100. Although the manufacturer will determine the type of device this cheaper OS will be used on, it is expected that most will be laptops rather than tablets or desktops.

Most of the Windows laptops that are currently offered under this program have 1366 x 768 pixel resolution screens, good hard drive storage, either Intel or AMD processors, and HDMI ports. You may not want to use them for extensive video edition or CAD programs, but they should be adequate for email, Web surfing, basic computing and, light gaming.

One drawback of many of these laptops is poor battery life. Although most have a battery life of about four hours, this is only half of what some high-end laptops offer. Also, if you purchase one, try to get one with 4GB of memory rather than 2 GB.

The prices on these computers may or may not be permanent, but they are sure to keep the prices moving in the right direction for consumers.

Have you filed your 2014 Taxes Yet?

Although April 15, the first due date for filing your 2014 Federal Income taxes, has come and gone, the final due date to file your taxes is October 15, 2015.   For those of you who have filed an extension or still need to file your 2014 Tax Return, we are here to help.

This past tax season, many residents took advantage of the PC Club My Free Taxes sponsorship. Several of PC Club members who are IRS certified Tax counselors assisted residents as they prepared their taxes on Saturdays in the Learning Center. The club also provided a link to the IRS sponsored My Free Taxes application on our web page.

A special thanks to club members Bob Rosen, Linda Huber, John Dinunzio and Craig Harris who gave up most of their Saturdays to help our residents file their tax return. There is still time to file and if you need assistance call Barbara Harris at 949 436 1095 to make arrangements to utilize the Learning Center.