



Laguna Woods Village PC CLUB Newsletter

www.thepcclub.org

November 2009

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MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, November 16, 2009
6:30 p.m. - Clubhouse 3 Auditorium

“A Look at Windows 7”



Windows 7™

- It's here!
- It's fast!
- It's what Microsoft promised!
- Don't miss this!

Russ Suter, our guest speaker, will demonstrate the new features and operation of Windows 7, including: The Aero Desktop, Searching, Gadgets, and much more!

All Laguna Woods residents are welcome.

There will be a drawing for prizes for Club Members
(4 copies - *Windows 7 for Dummies* books with
DVD)

If you don't drive at night, Night Bus Service is
available - call 597-4659.

Workshop News & Update

No matter what your level of skill or interest in the computer world, this was a milestone week for users of Windows. You may know that Microsoft has released yet another new Operating System – Windows 7. This is the much-anticipated upgrade and fine tuning to the previous widely-shunned Vista. While this may not affect many of us overnight, it is significant for two reasons: (1) MS is acknowledging that they didn't quite get it right with Vista and must fix it. Thus, Windows 7 just three years after releasing Vista (XP has been with us forever it seems); (2) Those of you using XP or even earlier versions of the MS Operating System are going to be left behind forever. Under great pressure, however, MS has said that they will “*support*” XP to 2014.

Early reports from almost all the technical press and users, along with some major corporate customers and the PC manufacturers (who have been “test driving” Windows 7 for many months), say that this is a big step forward for Microsoft...some even say they've “finally done themselves proud.”

What does this all mean for our **Workshop & Learning Center** where we're using XP on 66% of our Workshop PCs and 100% of our Learning Center PCs? In the Workshop we moved up to Vista* with the acquisition of 11 PCs about 2 years ago and, while these are still quite satisfactory for many of our users, there

will be those who will soon come in expecting to try out Windows 7. It's also an unknown factor as to how many residents will purchase PCs in the next 12 months – which will of course be Windows 7 - and come to the Workshop for help. Others will decide that it's time to upgrade their Vista PCs and will do so by purchasing the compatible Upgrade Version: Home Premium, Professional, Ultimate, etc. If a resident has been using XP (and/or NT, 2000, or 98) he or she faces a major hurdle in performing the upgrade to Windows 7 due to both hardware and software issues. For them, *the path of least resistance may be simply to buy a new PC with whichever version of Windows 7 suits your current need* (The good news is that PC prices have declined dramatically from the day you purchased any of those other PCs!).



The PC Club must soon make decisions about our ability to offer all the usual resources, assistance, and educational programs to all residents. Stay tuned - visit the Workshop regularly, read the information available there, talk with Staff, and watch the *Globe* for updates on this situation.

*Please note that an excellent self-paced tutorial called, “Professor Teaches Windows Vista,” is available on all of our Vista PCs. Since Windows 7 is essentially a remodel and refinement of Vista, it's a win-win if you learn as much as you can about Vista now by using this program. Help yourself!

FYI – don't miss the next Monthly Meeting of the PC Club – open to all residents – when we will hear a presentation on Windows 7 by one of our regular, well-informed speakers, Russ Suter. The date is Monday, November 16th @ 6:30 p.m. in the CH 3 auditorium.

For Village residents, our Workshop is the best source for PC access – plus coaching, advice, problem solving, etc.- on a daily basis. Average attendance is about 100 visitors per day. In addition, the Learning Center curriculum is central to learning the current Operating System and commonly used applications.

Please keep in mind that we are an organization staffed and managed entirely by Volunteers. The PCC Board, Supervisors, Greeters, Teachers, and Aides are doing their very best to meet the expectations of our community. We intend to continue to serve the needs and interests of a majority of the residents; your feedback or input is always welcome.

Bob Sellards
Vice President/Workshop Coordinator

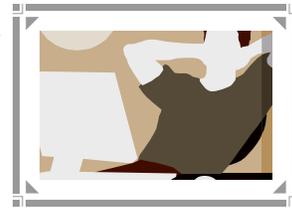
A Bit of Nostalgia

While rummaging through my closet, an old notebook surfaced. There on page one were notes taken in 1994 during my indoctrination as a substitute Supervisor in the PC Club's Computer Lab. That small room next to the Amateur Radio room in Clubhouse 1 is now a card room. The Lab had 6 computers running Windows 3. It only took one volunteer to staff each of the 10 shifts running weekdays at the same hours the PC Club's Workshop operates today.

Joe Schwarz, the Friday Supervisor, became President of the PC Club. None of that 1994 crew is active in the Workshop today, although about half still reside in the Village.

Not long after my training, one of the Supervisors got injured while riding his Moped and I took over for him. The Lab (now called the PC Workshop) moved to Clubhouse 3 and grew to over 20 computers with Internet access. A separate room became the Learning Center (and a neighboring

room became the Mac Club's facility). In 1997 Joe Schwarz talked me into writing articles



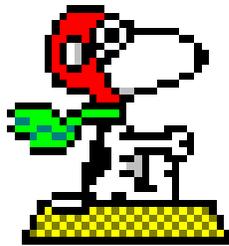
for the *Globe* (formerly the *Leisure World News*). Membership was over 2000 residents in the year 2000. In 2002 space was available on the 3rd floor of the new Community Center; we moved there and expanded to 33 PC's with high-speed cable Internet access. Some time in 2010, the PC Club will begin replacing some of its computers with Windows 7 units.

I have learned a lot in the PC Workshop (and Computer Lab) over the past 15 years. Trying to help residents with their computer problems and questions is a great way to expand your computer skills. Why not volunteer to become a Supervisor or Greeter in the Workshop, or an assistant in the Learning Center. Contact Bob Sellards at bob511@comline.com for a Workshop position or Helen Coutant at hcoutant@hotmail.com for a Learning Center job.

Norm Salzberg

In response to Norm's submission:

Wow, going from 6 computers to what we have today - quite a feat! I see that the "workshop" was called a "lab." I still think of it as a "lab" since I was a Computer Science major in the late 70's, early 80's. I finally call the "monitor" by that name, instead of "terminal." I had spent only one semester at Cal State Northridge as a CS major. They had an old CDC (yeah, with the tubes), using punch cards. Then we moved to Michigan and I transferred to Oakland University. They had a Burroughs computer - still using punch cards. The next year, they had a Honeywell computer and a Honeywell minicomputer (no more punch cards - terminals hooked up to a mainframe). I used to take my dog (Collie/Shepherd mix) to the minicomputer lab when I took a course using the minicomputer. The dog was fascinated by the paper coming out of the printer! She would stand there, transfixed, staring at the printer whenever anything was printed. Those were the "good old days."



You've been writing for the *Globe/Leisure World News* for a long time! Yes, I agree that helping out in the workshop is a great education. I learn more and more because other people are doing things that I don't normally do with my own computer. Therefore, I have to figure out how to get it done. I used to wonder if I should pay for having the Internet, but now I use it for many things and wouldn't want to be without it. My son (only 28 years old) said, just the other day, "If you want to know something, just look it up on the Internet."

He researches things on the Internet, and even finds out how to do major repairs on his car. There are so many good things about the "information highway."

Shirley Szalkowski
Newsletter Editor

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS



Donna Donelson serves the Personal Computer Club as a Greeter in the PC Workshop

Donna has volunteered as a Greeter for the past four years. She also participates in the Docent Tours provided by the Historical Society, and is a member of the Cat Club.

Donna's first experience with computers was when her daughter and son-in-law gave her their old Mac. She later bought a PC and, when she moved to Laguna Woods Village, took computer classes at the PC Learning Center. At the time Donna was taking computer classes, a need for volunteers was expressed so she decided to "answer the call."

Donna was born in Nebraska, graduated from the University of Colorado, married her husband, Richard, and resided in the State of Washington. Donna worked as a hospital pharmacist for 25-30 years.

Donna is a real asset to the PC Club with her willing attitude and great smile.

Shirley Szalkowski
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Marie Love
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Frank Mandic
Helen M. Maskell
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C. E. Morschauser
Judy Nixon
Craig Olson

New Members

Robyn Farrell
Margaret Fayollat
Bob Feldman
Tony Gargano
Rubin Gottesman
Chris Grimley
Margaret Grimley
Lois Grote
Renate Guarano
Barbara Hall
Cindy Hayes
Bella Heidari
Michael Hempen
Laura Hill
Patricia Holmes
Don Horton
Ali Hosseini
John Huber
Linda Huber
Richard J. Hunter



Monica Osterholt
JoAnn Rempe
Jeanette Rice
Katherine Robertson
Annemarie Rohrs
Carlos Rosario
Nita Rydell
Carol Schwartz
Anne Seligman
John Sells
Morton Shapiro
Jacqueline Shelburne
James Shelburne
Karen Sherif
Beverly Sigmund
Kenneth Sigmund
Christine Smith
Joyce Swing
Dianne Tamblyn
Sotiria Tsarnas
Harold Wiener
Phyllis Wiener
Rita Yankasammy
Tsong-Min Yeh



PC Club Computer Classes in the LC (Learning Center)

In 2010, the PC Club's computer classes will be expanded. We will still offer our standard format, which is a particular class, such as Basic Computing, will meet for 1 day of the week, say on a Monday morning, for 5 weeks in a row.

Session #1 of the standard format begins on January 18th and ends February 19th. Registration times and class subjects will be announced in the *Globe* and by flyers in the **PC Workshop** and on our **Web-site** (thepclub.org). Flyers will also be available at several of the Clubhouses and check the bulletin boards outside the **PC Workshop** and the **LC** classroom.

**Session #1
Classes
Will
Start On
January 18th
And
End On
February
19th**

In addition to that format, we will have classes on Saturdays, late afternoons and early evenings for those who work or whose schedule is too crowded during the daytime. These classes may be for 1 to 3 sessions only. The topics may be based on a special interest class such as Facebook, iTunes, Quicken, how to create labels for a club mailing, etc. but will

be taught using the computers in the Learning Center.

We will use our Web site for signing up for classes as much as possible. You will need to go to thepclub.org, print out your registration form and mail it to us with a check. *Cash will no longer be accepted for class registration.*

To participate in our classes you must be a Laguna Woods Village resident. You do not need to be a PC club member to take a class. However, PC Club members do receive a discount on class fees.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead of providing you not only with our standard class offerings, but also many new classes never before taught. Our big surprise is that in 2010, the Learning Center classroom will be upgraded with new computers and monitors.

We look forward to seeing you in class.

Helen Coutant
Education Director

Microsoft Opens Store

Coinciding with the release of Windows 7, Microsoft opened it's first California retail store in Mission Viejo last week. After a weekend visit I have to admit it was about an 8 on the Richter scale! This is a sizable store in the Shops At Mission Viejo, Suite 578, 2nd level in the main core of the mall.

It is, of course, well stocked with the new OS (Windows 7) in all versions, and a cadre of at least 25 knowledgeable MS employees who are on-hand to answer your questions, and point out the features and services of this new approach by Microsoft. At least 25 PCs are also available for a "test drive" of the new OS. For the foreseeable future you will be able to view promotional video and training courses for a wide range of Windows products. Theater hours are 10am to 8pm Monday to Friday; 10am to 6pm Saturday and Sunday. Reservations may be made online at <http://store.microsoft.com/> Locations. Directions to the store are also available at this web site.

The "Store" is a concept well-executed by Apple and it appears that Microsoft has let out all the stops to show what they can do in a similar arena! There is, of course, plenty of free parking, and ample floor space and resources for them to meet and inform the computing public. I say it's a **"don't miss this"** item between now and the end of our Winter Holidays. It's about time!



Bob Sellards
Vice President/Workshop Coordinator



To join the PC Club or renew your membership for 2010, you may use the form below or pick up a form at the Greeter's Desk in the PC Workshop. You can also download the form from the club website: www.thepcclub.org. Yearly dues are \$10.00.

LWVPC Club (Laguna Woods Village PC Club) \$10 (expires December 31, 2010)
MEMBERSHIP FORM (Please Print)
Must be a resident of Laguna Woods Village

Date _____ Cash ____ Check No. _____ Check one: New Member ____ Renewal ____

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Phone _____

Address (LWV Address) _____ Unit _____

Mailing Address (if different)

Email Address (please print clearly) _____

Please make \$10 check payable to PC Club
Place check in Membership Mailbox in Workshop (3rd floor Admin. Bldg.)
Or mail to:
LWVPC Club, Att: Robin, Membership, P.O. Box 3063, Laguna HILLS, CA 92654