Lake County Area Computer Enthusiast

News Journal

33rd

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Party

LCACE

Board of Directors

VOTE 2016

"Members Helping Members"
(since 1983)

Board of Directors
2015-2016

Phil Bock . . . . **President**
  president@lcace.org

Linda Busch . . . . **Vice President**
  vicepresident@lcace.org

Bobby Jacobs. . . . . **Secretary**
  secretary@lcace.org

Judy Dunham . . . . **Treasurer**
  treasurer@lcace.org

Vacant . . . . **Programs**
  programs@lcace.org

J.J. Johnson. . . . . **Membership**
  membership@lcace.org

Linda Koudelka . . . . **Public Relations**
  pr@lcace.org

Volunteers

Webmaster . . . . J. J. Johnson
  webmaster@lcace.org

Newsletter Editor . . . . .Mike Mc Enery
  editor@lcace.org

Historian . . . . Lester Larkin

News Journal
The LCACE News Journal is published eleven times annually. Members are encouraged to submit contributions which will be acknowledged in this newsletter.

Send articles to editor@lcace.org
Permission is granted to reproduce any or all parts of this newsletter in other User Group publications, provided that credit is given to LCACE and the individual author(s).

Logo designed on an Atari Stacy Laptop in 1989 by Dwight Johnson Jr.

**Lake County Area
Computer Enthusiasts**

**LCACE
c/o Group Ambassador**

"J.J." Johnson

Membership
LCACE membership is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are $20.00 per individual/family. Applications for membership may be obtained at the monthly meeting, by request on the club hotline, and are now available on our web site at http://www.lcace.org.

Meetings
LCACE meetings are usually held on Saturdays at the Grayslake Area Public Library, 100 Library Lane, Grayslake, Illinois. The meeting room opens at noon and the formal meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend!

Newsletter Submissions
Club members are welcome to submit classified ads, reviews, tips and other articles for publication, to our newsletter editor in Microsoft Word format (.doc). **Publication deadline is the 20th of the month for all ads and articles.** Please do not use tabs or special formatting.

Newsletter Advertising
Ad rates per issue: Full page - $25, Half page - $15, Quarter page - $10, Business Card - $5. Discounts are available on advance purchase of multiple issues. Please send camera-ready copy and payment to the club address by the 15th of the month preceding publication. For more information on ad pricing, please call our Hotline. Ads are **FREE** to all paid members.

Notice
LCACE WILL NOT CONDONE or knowingly participate in copyright infringement of any kind. The *LCACE News Journal* is published by and for LCACE members. Opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of LCACE, the membership, the board of directors, and/or our advertisers.

Phil's Ramblings

During the past month I've attended a number of computer-related presentations at local libraries. These included how to best use various Google tools as an aid to research of a particular subject (in this case genealogy), navigating YouTube to find videos of practical and entertainment value, how to minimize my chances of being hacked and how to use Microsoft's new presentation software, Sway. These presentations, plus related experiences, have reminded me of the wealth of computer-oriented information that is available. Here are some thoughts in that regard.

While a number of local library districts offer basic classes about computer use and common software (Microsoft Word and Excel, for instance), there are a few which go considerably farther. The library district with the most (and most-varied) computer-related offerings is Cook Memorial Library District, with facilities in Libertyville and Vernon Hills. This was where I attended three of the four presentations I mentioned above. The fourth presentation was at the Vernon Area Public Library in Lincolnshire. Most libraries offer quarterly catalogs of coming events, in print and/or online; I encourage you to check out yours – and to go online to check out offerings at neighboring libraries. (So far, I have not heard of non-residents being turned away from library programs, other than because of space limitations.)

Along the same lines, check out the online databases available through your library (and others that are convenient to you). During several of the presentations I attended, the speakers recommended that attendees follow up by accessing the library's Lynda.com database for additional information about that night's topic. I had never used that database before, and so looked into what it is all about. Lynda.com is an online learning company based in California, which provides a wide range of personal and business classes to individuals and com-panies on a subscription basis. While individuals can subscribe for $240 a year, a better alternative is to take advantage of subscriptions purchased by local libraries and available to their patrons for free. I have found four local library districts which have such subscriptions – Grayslake, Cook, Fremont (Mundelein) and Vernon Area.

There is another option if your library does not offer this database. I spoke with a Cook librarian yesterday, who explained their reciprocal library card process. At either of the two Cook library facilities a non-resident can present a valid library card from another district in Illinois or Wisconsin, and be granted a reciprocal library card at Cook. This card does not grant full privileges, but does offer a way to access their Lynda.com subscription. While reciprocal card holders will not have online access from their homes, as residents do, they will be able to use their reciprocal card to utilize one of the library's public computers to access Lynda.com. I have not checked the policies at the other three library districts; however, if one of them is closer to where you live and you are interested in pursuing this option, it would be worth inquiring.

I'll use Sway as an example of how Lynda.com and other educational options can help you learn more about a particular computer topic. Sway is new application software released by Microsoft last fall. Superficially, it resembles PowerPoint in that it is also a form of presentation software. However, while PowerPoint is typically used to create a visual aid for a live presentation, Sway is designed to create a standalone presentation that can be viewed online by the intended audience. The software itself is available as a free app in the Windows Store in Windows 10. Here is a portion of the description shown in the Windows Store (notice the almost 5-star user rating for this app):

Sway
Microsoft Corporation
Everyone ★★★★☆

⌁ Share

Built for Windows 10

Sway is a digital storytelling app for work, school and home that makes it quick and easy to create and share interactive reports, presentations, personal stories, and more. Add your content, and Sway will do the rest.

Despite the newness of this software, Lynda.com already offers two online training courses and seven videos. Here is an example of one such course, which lasts one hour and fifteen minutes and provides video and audio instruction for each facet of the program:
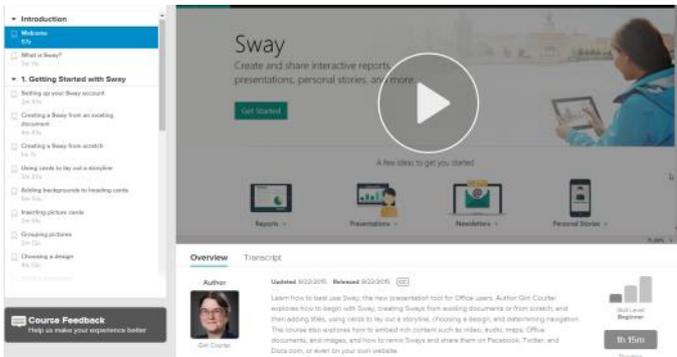
Lynda.com offers similar online courses and videos about many other computer-related topics; unlike trying to learn from a reference book, their approach offers live examples combined with instruction.

Many software providers offer online tutorials and/or written reference documents to help users get the best from their software. Microsoft does this for Sway. Go to www.microsoft.com; then click on "Support". In the search box that will then appear enter "Sway tutorials". Here is what will you will see:

If you click on the "Watch tutorials…." option, you will be taken to a series of Microsoft-produced YouTube videos about Sway. You can get similar results for other Microsoft software by using a different product-specific search term on the Microsoft Support page, i.e., "Excel tutorials". (However, note that you may have to try out different search terms and/or sort through the results you get to find exactly what you are looking for. Using the "Excel tutorials" example, the fifth suggestion in the search results is actually the best one for tutorials across all platforms.)

You can get an even broader selection of instructional videos by going directly to YouTube and entering the search term "Microsoft Sway tutorials". (Up will come 3,870 results!)

The key take-away here is that there is a wealth of information available about virtually any computer-related question or topic you would like to learn more about. Check out the following:

- Local free classes
- Printed and eBook tech publications from your library or available for purchase
- Tech-related magazines from your library or print/online subscriptions
- Online databases, such as Lynda.com
- Manufacturer's websites
- Online search, i.e., "How do I …………….?"
- YouTube search

And, you are always welcome at our LCACE Help Desk sessions prior to every meeting!

MARCH WINNERS

Check out our Website
The Web Master had been making many improvements and update.

http://www.lcace.org

L.C.A.C.E. Club Historian

History Report, 3/19/16 Meetings
By Les Larkin
LesLarkin@AIM.com

Our March meeting was conducted by Phil Bock.

Nominations for the Board of Directors was held again. As of the last meeting, we had 7 nominees: J.J. Johnson, Phil Bock, Judy Dunham, Linda Busch, Linda Koudelka, Bobby Jacobs, and Bob Pokela . At the March meeting, Linda Rohlfing became the 8th nominee.

A motion was made and passed to streamline the process for the election of our Board of Directors. The process currently requires two separate votes. The first vote is for our Board of Directors, and the second vote is for our president. If it is written into our bylaws, it would take effect during the 2017 election.
Our door prize was a selfie stick, won by Liz Barnett.

Bob Pokela won the 50/50 raffle, the club and Bob each receiving $15.00. Congratulations to all winners!

Thanks to Linda Busch for tending to the coffee, and to Phil Bock, Liz Barnett, J.J. Johnson, and Bob & Linda Koudelka who provided such munchables as cookies & cake type items.

This month's program was "Internet Security" by Phil Bock. Another great presentation by Phil on only two days notice!

Another great meeting, and I hope to see you at our April 16 meeting.

Membership

J.J. Johnson
Membership Chairperson
March 19, 2016

Members: 58
Meeting Attendee: 24 = 41%
THANKS FOR JOINING
None

THANKS FOR RENEWING
Steve Russell
Jerry Straw
Winnie Frost

THANKS FOR VISITING
Joanna Triggo

Happy Birthday!

Bobby Jacobs

Howard Jacobs

J.J. Dwight Johnson

Robert Koudelka

Jean Moran

Product Review

HP Spectre x360

Slim, smart and sophisticated

By Jasmine D'Katz

This is my first product review daddy let me write about his new Ultrabook Tablet laptop PC. I only get to paw it when he leaves it on the Livingroom table, but I have to say, it's sweet.

This is one of the new ultra-slim (6th Gen. Intel i7-6500U processor) 2-in-1, 13.3" Ultrabook with 512GB SSD and 8GB RAM. The kQHD BrightView LED touch screen has a 2560 x 1440 resolution. I really like the Copper Trim which makes it really standout.

With the 360 hinge, this laptop easily converts between 4 different usage modes, making it versatile as you need it to be. Dad mostly uses it as a laptop but it can stand as a tent or a tablet. But the hinge allows you to flip it to almost any degree for perfect viewing. You can use the 13.3" touch screen to navigate features or connect the backlit keyboard for comfortable typing in dimly lit room. The 512BG solid state drive and 8GB of memory delivers a blazing-fast performance.

Fold it into a stand and it's perfect for watching movies from Netflix and there was no flicker. Lay it down flat and use it as a tablet. I believe this will be a companion to the iPad and not a replacement tablet. There are just a few things the iPad will not do that Windows 10 can do. Battery life is said to be 11 hours but we have not been away from an electrical outlet long enough to test it yet.

The Spectre used Bang & Olufsen speakers for a crisp and clear audio. Three USB 3.0 ports are backward-compatible. HDMI allows us to connect to the HDTV and a media reader for transferring photos.

We are going to have to get use to only having 512GB onboard, but with OneDrive, Microsoft 360 and Adobe CC, most of our application are cloud based. Although the Spectre comes with CyberLink video editing software, we haven used it at this time. Although this is one of the top of the line X360 laptops, I would highly recommend the HP if you are looking to replace an existing laptop and not in the need for a larger more powerful system. Be advised, this model is over $1000.00

Optical Zoom Digital Zoom Vs

The last topic I want to cover is optical versus digital zoom. When I say these terms I am referring to using a point and shoot camera to take pictures where the subject is being enlarged. Optical zoom means that the camera is using "optics," or a lens, to bring the subjects closer to the camera. Digital zoom means that you are actually scaling the photo. You are taking a portion of the image and enlarging it, thus faking the optical zoom look which results in a scaled version of the original. That's why if you are using a phone to take pictures, it's always better to physically move the camera forward or back to fill up the frame because they have fixed lenses. Optical zoom is always better, and I do not recommend using zoom on your phone if you want crisp, sharp photos.

I think it's fair to say that personal computers have become the most empowering tool we've ever created. They're tools of communication, they're tools of creativity, and they can be shaped by their user.

Bill Gates

Read more at: http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/b/billgates173261

TECH REVIEWS

Featured Article

"I've fallen and I Can't get UP"

By Randy D (the tech guy)

Many of us have heard this phrase before, but now we are at that age where this can really happen to us. There are many alternatives to getting help and one that I have recently run across is the Frist Alert Big Button Phone with Safety Pendant.

This phone features three one-touch keeps for automatic emergency dialing, plus an emergence remote pendant to wear in case of a fall, break-in or other emergency. Simply press a button on the pendant to dial a stored contact and play you own pre-recorded emergency message. Best of all there are no monthly fees! The phone features 3—number speed dial, oversize keys making easy to read without your glasses, talking dialer keys, digital clock, indicator LED lights and smartphone. Phone plugs into an AC outlet. Pendant battery included.

First Alert Big Button Phone with Safety Pendant sells for $79.99 @ Walmart and Sharper Image.

Do I need a smartphone?

By Phil Sorrentino,
Contributing Writer, The Computer Club,
Florida
http://scccomputerclub.org
Philsorr.wordpress.com
philsorr (at) yahoo.com

Many of you have already answered this question in the affirmative. But for those of you who might still be on the fence, here are a few thoughts that might help make the decision.

1. Contact information is always available. Put a phone number in your contact list and never have to put that phone number in again. Phone numbers in your phone can be synchronized with the contacts in your email software. With an Android phone, the phone numbers come directly from the contacts list in a Gmail account. The phone numbers will always be available and they will be backed up, so when you change phones (phone disaster or new phone envy), the contacts will show up on your new phone. No need to reconstruct or transfer your phone numbers. Addresses are also handled in the same way.

2. Your Calendar is always available. How many times have you been asked "Is Thursday, the 24th, at 2pm ok?" Doesn't it seem that every doctor's office visit ends with that question? Well, with your calendar available on your phone, you can easily answer the question and propose an alternative, if need be. Not only can you see your appointments on the calendar, but you can see appointments on other calendars, if you link them. You can easily see your appointments and your significant-other's appointments, so that a good decision can be made. I even have a calendar with important dates like birthdays and anniversaries

linked in so I can always know when one is coming up.

3. You can get some things accomplished during what would be wasted time. How many times have you sat in a doctor's office much longer than you expected? Sometimes there's a good reason for the delay, but that doesn't help you, if you have to sit and wait, unable to accomplish the things you expected to do. Well, if you had your smartphone (which is really a small computer), you might be able to accomplish some of those things you would normally do at home. You could check your email. If you need to, you can even answer your emails, at least if the answers are relatively short. (The keyboards on most smartphones are probably only good for short answers, although some people get very proficient, using some of the special keyboard enhancer Apps.) You could catch up on the news. Newsreader Apps are very easy to use. You could check on your investments. Yahoo Finance is one App you might use. And if you have done all the investigating you want to, you can always play a game like Solitaire, Angry Birds, or 2048. Keep in mind that you could do all this while listening to music from your own music collection on your phone, or from a streaming service like Pandora or Spotify.

4. You can check or make a list of things you want to do, or to buy, or whatever. There are many Note-taking Apps that keep track of notes you create so you will not forget all those things you have to do before next weekend. Some Note-taking Apps keep the notes in the cloud, so they're accessible from any device, and some keep the notes on your phone so you don't even need to have an internet connection.

5. You can determine how to get to a location and get directions to a place of interest. The Maps App and Google Earth give you great views of places you may not be familiar with, and they can even give you turn-by-turn directions to get anywhere from your current location. With these Apps, you can find the nearest restaurant or gas station, and get directions if needed. And with "Cortana", the Microsoft Personal Assistant, you can verbally ask for these things, and sometimes receive audible answers.

6. You can take pictures when you didn't even think to bring a camera. Most smartphones have two cameras, as part of the device. A rear-facing camera for taking pictures of scenery, and a front-facing camera for use with skype or for taking "selfies". A camera might be very useful if you get into a traffic altercation. By the way, with the camera on the smartphone, you can even deposit checks into your checking account without ever going to the bank. All it takes is the check, your smartphone, your bank's App, and a steady hand.

7. You can watch videos, or movies, if you are stuck in a place where there is just nothing to do. Most phones have enough memory to hold a few movies, considering a movie might be about 5 GB. And there is always video streaming if you have a Netflix or Hulu+ account. If you are in a Wi-Fi area you won't even have to use up any of your "data".

8. You can check the weather, but then you could always look out the window. However, you can check the weather at any location, and find out how the weather is up north where some of your friends might be. Don't you love to do this in the winter? I usually tell them I just got out of the pool.

9. Your smartphone can act as a bunch of useful tools. There are Apps that turn your smartphone into a calculator (that's not very earth-shaking), into a compass (that's a neat trick), and even into a flashlight (bet you didn't see that one coming). One neat calculator even shows a tape, and lets you go back to see what each and every entry was. One of the compasses looks just like the one you used when you were a boy or girl scout. And the flashlight is a nice thing to have when the lights go out, or you are in a dark movie theater.\

So, you might not need a smartphone, but you might find some of these things helpful. And when you look at the total list of things you can do with that small device, you just might find this reason enough for you to trade in your trusty flip phone for a new smartphone.

●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

Be the first member to bring the correct answer to this month trivia question to the April meeting will win a prize.

What is the only Disney animated feature film whose title character does not speak?

    a. Tarzan
    b. Dumbo
    c. Winnie-the-Pooh
    d. Bambi
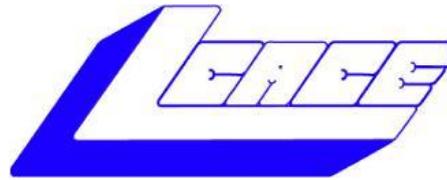
Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

Do you have computer questions or need help with your computer?

Visit Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts' help desk for one on one help

Open to all

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Grayslake Area Public Library
Rooms A-C