

NEWS JOURNAL

“Members Helping Members”

June 2023

(since 1983)

Volume 40, Issue 03

A Mighty Mite External SSD

A mystery package addressed to me appeared at our front door a few months ago. This is not an uncommon occurrence, at least once a month I forget I have ordered an item, and its arrival is a pleasant surprise. I had no idea what was in the package until I opened it, and fortunately, I still remember ordering the item.



Something different happened to me this time. I excitedly cut open the mystery padded envelope and found a wee SanDisk USB 3.2 Gen2 portable SSD. I was further delighted when I noticed the drive had a one Terabyte capacity.

It was 1/3 the size and a fraction of the weight of a mechanical external USB drive thanks to its M.2 SSD. Cool, I thought – this is something I can use. I guessed I might have ordered this late at night, maybe after a couple of sips of wine, and forgotten about it.

I soon realized my mystery package was the SanDisk SSD external drive I had volunteered to test for Newegg.com, an online reseller. YES! A free useful item is an even better deal than the drive costs at online sellers.

I plugged the SSD into my tower using the cable provided: USB-C (external drive end) to the USB Type-A (backward compatible with any standard USB port). It was instantly recognized.

Real-World Speed



The drive is advertised as having a READ speed of up to M.2 SSD 520 Mb/second. I copied a 2 Gb file from my tower's internal M.2 SSD to the SanDisk external drive to test the real-world speed of the drive. It transferred data at

about 120 MB per second, 3X faster than copying the same data to my older external mechanical Samsung external drive. This was a little slower than I anticipated since SSDs generally run from 4 to 10 times faster than a mechanical drive.

My tower's USB is mostly the older and slower 3.1 version, which I'm sure was the factor in the drive's lack of speed. I am disappointed with the data transfer speed because of the USB 3.1 and maybe the USB C to USB A cable. My tower, which is just a few months old, does have one Type-C USB port, but since I do not have a newer USB C to USB C cable, I could not test that transfer speed. This cable costs about \$10 - \$20 at Amazon or Newegg.

(Continued on page 4)

By David Kretchmar
Hardware Technician
Kretchmar's Korner
Sun City Summerlin Computer Club
<https://www.scscc.club>



*"Members Helping
Members"
(since 1983)*

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News Journal

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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.

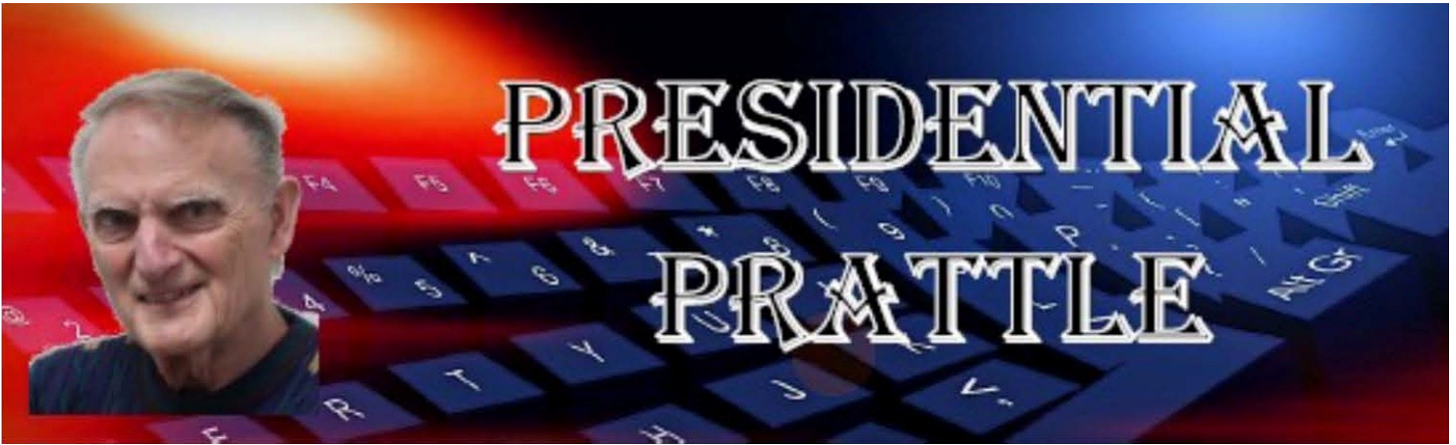
Newsletter Advertising

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.

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May 20 Meeting

Although we were 'celebrating' Liza Doolittle Day (fans of the movie *My Fair Lady* know of what I speak), the REAL star was J.J. Johnson, our club Founder, and Most Valuable Player, for 40 years. It was my honor to present him with a plaque in celebration of J.J.'s 40 years of accomplishment.

During that meeting, J.J. also showed us how to host our own Zoom meetings. Fortunately for us, J.J. has a less hard-core view of retirement.

Thanks again, J.J.

The Club Computer Auction

L.C.A.C.E. has a laptop computer that needs a good home. It's a 2008 Compaq with 3 GB of RAM, and a 160 GB hard drive. It has the Microsoft Windows 10 operating system installed, as well as the latest Linux Mint O.S. It has only 2 known issues: the microphone electronics doesn't appear to work, and the VGA video output port only works under Windows. If the auction winner would like the laptop configured with only the Windows or only the Linux operating system, I will do that at no charge. I plan to start the bidding at \$30. All money received for the laptop goes to the club.

New Meeting Target Day

Starting with our August meeting, our target meeting day will be the 3rd Saturday of the month instead of the 2nd Saturday. The objective of this change is to have a more consistent meeting day. This is because we believe that the 3rd Saturday is easier to get at the Grayslake library.

My best to all,

Les Larkin

The Vault

The Samsung external SSD M.2 drive comes with an ingenious encryption scheme they call PrivateAccess with the encrypting software installed on the drive itself. This software will ONLY run off the external drive, further increasing the device's security. Transferring data to the external drive vault



is a drag-and-drop procedure using the drive's built-in encryption software. There is no back door into the vault. As you would expect, if you forget your password, the data in the vault is gone forever. This drive will dedicate only the amount of space required for encrypted data, so the balance of storage space is available for non-encrypted storage.

The Curse and Blessing of Backward Compatibility

The drive would be much faster on newer computers if it included a USB C to USB C cable and a USB C to USB A cable. Other external SSDs I have seen advertised come with the USB C to USB C cable. Obviously, the USB C - USB A cable is required for backward compatibility and is the most useful connection today. Still, any new computer you buy now should include a USB-C outlet. If you are offered a computer without a USB Type-C port, you know that system is likely old stock, and you should make your buying decision accordingly.

The USB cable furnished with this drive is only one foot long. This is adequate for functionality but too short for real-world usage. As a result, I prefer the external drive sitting on top of my tower rather than dangling at its side.

Conclusions

This is a remarkable amount of fast external storage for the money. A USB Type-C to USB Type-C is necessary if your computer has a USB Type-C outlet. At the risk of boring repetition, a computer user who does not back up important files will very possibly lose those files due to a hardware failure or mischief caused by a ransomware infection.

The Vault feature of this drive is an outstanding personal privacy consideration. It would also be impossible for any ransomware software to corrupt files stored in the Vault.

Our Next Meeting Will Be

**SAT. JULY 8th — ANNUAL
LCACE MEMBERS' PICNIC**

INDOORS—RAIN OR SHINE.

NOTICE:

See page 5 for a list of **“Learning Resources for Seniors.”**

There is a plan afoot: a committee is preparing “Sweet Treats” for anyone participating in a contest. To enter, write a one or two sentence review of any of the “Learning Resources” and you will receive a “Sweet Treat” for each review. A Form will follow via e-mail. Reviews must be submitted on paper, at the Annual Picnic, with a maximum of five submissions allowed.

Learning Resources for Seniors - References

Senior Planet - August 17, 2022
By Hewie Poplock
hewie@hewie.net

APCUG
<https://apcug2.org/>

Central Florida Computer Society
<https://www.cfcs.org/>

Central Florida Computer Society YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/user/CentFlCompSoc>

Coursera
<https://www.coursera.org/>

Denver Public Library
<https://www.denverlibrary.org/>

Geeks on Tour
<https://geeksontour.com/>

Hewie Poplock YouTube Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/user/hewiep>

Hewie's Views & Reviews
<https://hewie.net>

Kahn Academy
<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Learning Google Photos
<https://learngooglyphotos.com/>

LIFE at UCF
<https://life.ucf.edu/>

Lifehacker
<http://lifehacker.com/tag/lifehacker-night-school>

Lifelong Learning Institute Directory (2018)
<https://nrc.sps.northwestern.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/A-Directory-of-Lifelong-Learning-Institutes.pdf>

LinkedIn Learning (Lynda.com)
<https://www.linkedin.com/learning/>

Meetup
<https://www.meetup.com/>

Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI)
<http://www.osherfoundation.org/>

Reference
<https://www.reference.com/>

Sarasota Technology User Group
<https://thestug.org/>

Senior Center Tech Connect
<https://sites.google.com/friendslongmnt.org/sctc/home>

Senior Citizens Can Go to College for Free or Cheap in All 50 States <https://www.thepennyhoarder.com/save-money/free-college-courses-for-senior-citizens/>

A Senior Citizen Guide for College <https://www.aseniorcitizenguideforcollege.com/p/find-your-state-tuition-waivers.html>

Senior Planet
<https://seniorplanet.org/>

Stanford OnLine
<https://online.stanford.edu/free-courses>

Techboomers
<https://techboomers.com/>

Tech for Senior YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/TechforSenior>

Ted
<http://www.ted.com/>

Udemy
<https://www.udemy.com/>

WebMD
<http://www.webmd.com/>

Windows 10
<https://leanpub.com/windows10fieldguide>

Windows 11 Field Guide
<https://www.thurrott.com>

YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/>

Simplify your life with these smartphone apps

Visit play.google.com or open your iTunes application and search within the App Store to download these.

App name	How it works
Flashlight	Turns your screen into a flashlight
Google Maps	Provides maps and directions using GPS
Dragon Dictation*	Lets you send texts and emails without typing
GasBuddy	Finds cheap fuel in your area
FaceTime*	Allows video chats with friends and family
Triplt	Organizes flights, hotel reservations, and more
Laser Level	Helps hang pictures straight
Lose It	Lets you create and follow a diet plan
RedLaser	Compares prices by scanning bar codes while you shop
The Weather Channel	Keeps up with local weather
iPharmacy Drug Guide & Pill ID	Identifies your pills and finds lowest drug prices
Tip Calculator	Computes your tip and splits the bill among friends



*iPhone only

Members Helping Members

Just think you could have submitted a paragraph or two that would help your fellow Members



YouTube

Ctrl+ click white arrow to go to out You-

Our Next Meeting Will Be In-Person

SAT. JULY 8th — ANNUAL LCACE MEMBERS' PICNIC

INDOORS—RAIN OR SHINE. With WONDERFUL FOOD!!!



Location: State Bank of the Lakes

50 Commerce Dr, Grayslake, IL 60030

Hours are: 12:30—4:00 (Set-Up Begins at 12 noon.)

Computer Services

**Desktops,
Laptops,
All-in-Ones
and more**



During our October Zoom meeting the following two computer services were mentioned.

White Box Computers

They say they are the place for all your computer repairs & upgrades at nearly half the prices of the competition. **847-833-9324**

<https://whiteboxcomputers.org>

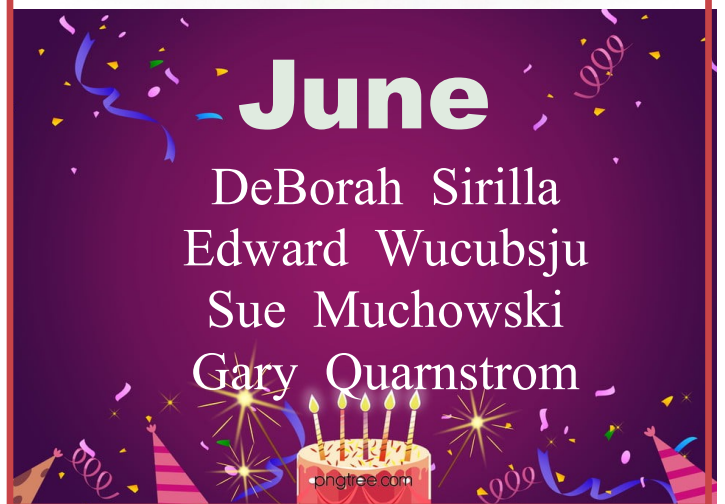
ZYTEK Services

Has been around for over 30 years and offers the best in fast, friendly, high-quality, fair price computer service solutions. **847-336-2259**



June

DeBorah Sirilla
Edward Wucubsju
Sue Muchowski
Gary Quarnstrom



Member's Area



BUSINESS CARDS



Pegasus

OPEN AIR PHOTOBOOTH

847.372.8186

pegasusphotos.smugmug.com

JIM JACOBS TRIO
Jazz Standards
 THURSDAYS 6:00-9:00 PM

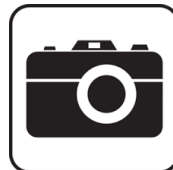
Deerfield
Italian Kitchen

CONTACT JIM AT 847.372.0656 OR JIM.JACOBS@MUSIC@GMAIL.COM

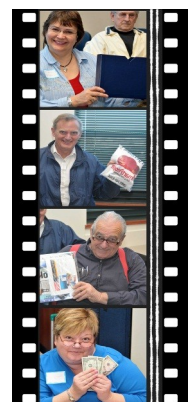


Phone: (847) 623-3815

Members



Take a good look, you just might see yourself.



LCACE Photo Albums

Liz Barnett
 Chief Cookie Baker

Phone: 847-494-4222
 E-mail: Liz@LoveMyCookies.com

www.LoveMyCookies.com
www.facebook.com/LoveMyCookiesLizB

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Genealogy Your Way
 Special Computer Services

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 847-372-0660

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scs4now.com

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