

Ask the Guru - Open House

Bring a friend to our Open House. Let them “Ask the Gurus” questions and learn about our club. It’s the perfect opportunity to share the benefits of club membership with others. We are fortunate to have several “Gurus”; all previous presenters.

Returning from last year’s Guru session will be Christopher Urban, Lecturer, Computer Science at SUNYIT. Accompanying Chris will be Nick Gasparovich, who was also on last year’s panel.



Chris presented a program on open-source software at our February 2009 meeting. His primary focus is the practical application of computer information systems (CIS) technology to satisfy real-world requirements. Chris holds an M.S. in Information Systems and an M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies. He is a retired career Naval Officer with significant leadership, management, and project management experience, and he has served as a chief information officer (CIO). He has taught at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD and the United States Naval War College in Newport, RI.

New this year to our Guru panel will be Anatoly Bondarchuk, owner of BONDARTECH.

Anatoly presented a program last April on anti-virus software. He is the owner of BONDARTECH, a local computer service center, 22 Roosevelt Drive, Whitesboro, NY 13492— located next to the Boulevard Diner in Whitesboro. Specializing in computer repair, setup & networking BONDARTECH provides a much needed local service. All repairs are done in house on brands such as Dell, HP, Apple, Toshiba, Acer, Sony. Other services include small business technical support, email setup, web hosting and design.



Tuesday, September 6, 2011 ♦ 6 - 8:30PM
New Hartford Library



explorer

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The MVPCUG was founded in 1981 by individuals interested in IBM compatible computers. This non-profit organization consists of volunteers whose expertise range from novice to professional.

Regular meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm, usually at the New Hartford Library, Library Lane, New Hartford. A typical agenda consists of discussion of business affairs and a demonstration of computer related products. Meetings are open to the public.

Membership fee for an individual is \$25.

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Meeting Agenda

- 5:30. Meet and Greet
- 6:00. Business Meeting
- 6:30. Program, Part 1
- 7:10. Break
- 7:20. Program, Part 2
- 8:15. Drawing for Prizes
- 8:30. Adjournment

Editorial notes . . .



I can't believe that the summer is winding down and we are getting ready to resume meetings. As I write this it is sunny, and 78 degrees. The River is rolling by the front door and folks up and down the shore are taking advantage of the summer to swim, fish, waterski, and just be outdoors.

David Hartnett recently volunteered to be program chair and he has arranged several good programs. First off, we are having our annual Ask the Guru night on September 6th.. The panel will consist of three very knowledgeable fellows who have been with us before. Coming in October will be a presentation on retirement planning and in November we'll be shown how to build/equip a media room.

Please bring a friend to the meeting, or at least urge someone to come. We feel that we have a lot to offer. It's free and we usually learn something of interest.

Stay connected . . . to the MVPCUG
Mohawk Valley PC User Group, Inc.
\$25 for initial sign-up - or renewal

Name _____
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Please mail this application with a check payable to MVPCUG to
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Minutes of June 7, 2011
—Joe Penabad, Secretary

BUSINESS MEETING

The MVPCUG General Meeting, with 28 members in attendance, convened on 07 June 2011 in the SAMMON Room of the New Hartford Library and was called to order by Jerry Finkelstein at 6:08 PM. He reminded everyone that MVPCUG will meet next in September and that everyone is encouraged to bring a friend for Guru Night. Bill Gorrell’s Treasurers Report of 9 membership renewals, \$5.00 in extra door prize tickets and a net income of \$143.29 for the month of May was accepted.

General questions from the floor were addressed; among the topics discussed included Thumb Drive operation, PC turn-on problems, hard drive substitutions, and Internet connection difficulties.

PROGRAM

Joe, Chris and Seth from Best Buy entertainingly exposed the mysteries of Tablets, which seem to be the gadget of choice at present. Discussion centered on defining various Tablets available and their unique features and applications. With the plethora of Tablet options on the market, the consumer needs to decide 1) What it’s use will be, 2) How much memory is needed, 3) Connectivity options, 4) Convenience (i.e. how it performs with your other devices) and 5) Size.

The presentation was followed by an interactive Q & A period that covered issues from the ability to read the display in daylight when screens are back lighted and are hard to read to battery life. Tablets at present are much better at consumption than productivity, such as doing taxes or making calculations. The industry trend is to make them more productive.

The MVPCUG thanked the Best Buy trio for their informative presentation, their patience with the interruptions by an eager audience, and for addressing all the post-talk questions. The Best Buy representatives look forward to having our members come in to Best Buy to get updated information.

DOOR PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

[furnished with club funds]

Copy Paper. Kay Janowsky
4 GB Flash Drive. Gary Vickler
8½ Photo Paper. Nicholas Dudish

4 by 6 Photo Paper. Rodney St Clair
Mini Gel Pens. George Purpura
12 Pack DVD + R. Louis Barile

[Donated by Jerry Finkelstein]

CD with cases. Joseph Madeira

[Donated by Rod St. Clair]

Collective Knowledge. Fred Cole

The meeting adjourned at 8:14PM.

Respectfully submitted, Joe Penabad, secretary ♦

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- | | |
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Sites to Visit on the 'Net

— by John Hunter

Remember Ewell Gibbons?

Do you remember Ewell Gibbons encouraging you to eat nuts and twigs you harvested yourself? The 1960s and 1970s “live-off-the-land” guru’s foraging for food idea continues with a new spokesperson. A visit to www.foragingfoodie.weebly.com takes you to the website of Bibi Brion, a Netherlands native now living and foraging in Northern Pennsylvania.

The site offers training tours and workshops for those interested in eating unusual plants, recipes using these plants and a picture gallery featuring the plants and the resulting food. The site contains a calendar listing available edible plants by month. April, for example, contains Dandelion fettucine and Dandelion root tea. May brings brown rice with cattail and Chicory soup.

The most interesting recipe was the Red Current sorbet. For this yummy-sounding treat all you need is 2 cups of berries, 1 cup of water, ½ cup of sugar and ½ teaspoon of corn starch. For more directions, visit the website. Enjoy.

The Future is Here

A news factoid in *Baseline Magazine* [www.Baselinemag.com], features a report about research conducted jointly by Brown University, the Providence VA Medical Center and Massachusetts General Hospital. The joint research team developed a device that can translate brain signals into commands for electronic devices. The implanted device, called Braingate, allows people who have lost the use of their arms and legs to control a computer.

One test subject who suffers from tetraplegia, the inability to use her limbs and the inability to talk, to control a cursor with a 90% accuracy rate. [I wish I could achieve a 90% accuracy level.] For more information visit

<http://news.brown.edu/pressreleases/2011/03/braingate>.

The research also appears in *Journal of Neural Engineering*. This is not the first article about this neural device. A visit to Google brings up a plethora of hits that discuss this breakthrough. While this electronic connection continues in development, the article does give hope to severely handicapped individuals that they need not live imprisoned in a body that won't work the way it's supposed to.

Food Trails for Everyone

For people lucky enough to live near the Saranac Brewery in Utica and Brewery Ommegang in Cooperstown, there may be little incentive to find additional artisanal brews. For the adventurous beer buff, however, a short drive west reveals the newly created Finger Lakes Beer Trail.

A click on www.fingerlakesbeertrail.com provides an interactive map identifying 21 microbreweries and brew pubs located in the Finger Lakes and the Rochester area. Starting with Empire Brewing Co. in Syracuse, the trail wends its way through the Finger Lakes to the Rohrbach Brewing Co and Restaurant in Rochester with nineteen additional stops in between. Run the cursor over a map button and the name, address, telephone number and Internet website of that brewery appears.

The brewery I am most familiar with is the Keuka Brewing Company between Hammondsport and Branchport on the West side of Keuka Lake. The White Cap Wheat beer they produce is a Belgium style blend of wheat and barley and lightly hopped. Like Finger Lakes Reislings, this beer goes well with anything.

All the breweries and wineries in the Finger Lakes are friendly and welcome the opportunity to show you their products. Bottoms Up.

America's Most Wanted

Now that America's Most Wanted TV show has ended, how are Americans going to help the FBI capture missing felons? For those interested, a visit to www.fbi.gov/wanted/top10 will give you the most actively sought criminals. At my visit, the site still listed Whitey Bulger and Osama Bin Laden, even though these two have been dealt with. Another FBI site contains the 10 most wanted terrorists. This list too contains outdated information. Maybe the government cutbacks have caused the FBI to eliminate timely updates.

Find a Post Office

Those of you who own smartphones now have another free app to make your lives easier. iPhone users can download an app that finds post offices and collection boxes, zip code information, track packages as well as on-the-go access to USPS services. Click on www.usps.com/mobile/htm. Android phone users can visit

www.market.android.com/details?id=com.usps.

Until next time . . .



Did You Know . . . — Donna Gorrell

. . . that you can change the way Windows 7 combines things on the taskbar? If you find it harder to keep track of what's running and would like to go back to the "cluttered look" right-click the Taskbar, select Properties from the context Menu, then choose the Taskbar Tab. In the Taskbar Buttons drop-down menu, select Never Combine and click the OK button.

. . . that you could restore Firefox 4's 'Missing' Orange Button? This orange button [located in the upper left corner] takes the place of the Menu bar. If it is missing, here's how to get it to show up. Start Firefox, then Click View, Toolbars, Menu Bar. The orange button now should appear and the menu bar disappears. What if you don't want the orange button, but would rather have the menu bar? Click on the Options sub-menu and you'll find it there. The orange button eliminates a row of menus giving more viewing space in the browser window. You can switch back and forth between the two views.

. . . that you could control the automatic windows resizing in Windows7? Some people may like the way Windows7 lets you drag a window to the side or top and resize to fill half the screen. But what if you are one of those that would rather control the size of your windows as in previous versions of Windows? It's easy to do as long as you can find where to do it. Click Start, type *Ease*, then click *Ease of Access Center*. Scroll down and click *Make the mouse easier to use*. Scroll down to and enable the last checkbox in that window: *Prevent windows from being automatically arranged when moved to the edge of the screen*. Click OK. You windows will no longer attach to the edges of the screen or resize themselves when you drag them to various spots.

. . . that you could download streaming videos? An excellent article on how to do is at:
<http://windowssecrets.com/top-story/how-to-download-and-save-streaming-videos/> -OR- <http://tinyurl.com/3d3wyne>

. . . that you could turn on 'Smooth Scrolling' in Firefox? Start Firefox, select Tools, Options. Click the Advanced icon, then look in the Browsing section. Select the Use smooth scrolling check box, click OK.♦

Byting Remarks — Jerry Finkelstein

What a summer! Hot. Lots of rain. Floods. Typhoons. Tornadoes, one touched down what seemed to be a few blocks from me. More hot. And all at once it was more than weather that went crazy. Significant social upheavals were reported from across the African continent. They were closely watched on TV thanks to the cellphones used by witnesses to the rebellious conflicts. It was their use of Facebook (banned) and their tweet on Twitter (banned) that brought us the news of the riots. Official reporters were not permitted on the scene. It was the people on the ground, in the very act of struggle, with their electronic gadgets that sent the message.

Hackers had a field day throughout the summer. They became such a national concern that the Pentagon established a policy that will now consider cyberattacks to be acts of war. Lockheed Martin was hacked. The Pentagon was hacked. We just found out that the British government has been hacked into for about ten years and lately their telephone calls and other electronic communications were leaked to the press. We are not talking about the Wikileaks of months ago, that is very old news.

So, the electronic stuff of computer gadgets was very much in the news this summer. Look through the latest PC magazines and you will find a lot about security concerns, about "protecting yourself," about matters of privacy. But let's face it, we are not talking about the cyberworld on your computer. The world we live in is a cyberworld. It's how we stay connected. And in the meantime, the smart phones are getting smarter. ♦

In case you haven't heard, we have a new program chair. David Hartnett graciously agreed to step in and obtain programs for us. He can be reached at program@mvpcug.com if you have any suggestions. He has secured the Guru panel for September and has October's speaker lined up as well. Way to go, David! Thanks for volunteering.

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Ask the Guru Night

Tuesday ♦ September 6 ♦ 6:00 PM ♦ New Hartford Library



NATIONAL APPLE MONTH



what's.com/ing ~ Apple Month ~ September 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept 2 1945 - Surrender ceremony aboard USS Missouri formerly ends WWII September 13 1813 - Uncle Sam's image first used Sept 18 1947 - US Air Force established Sept 29 1899 - VFW established				1	2 V-J Day	3
4	5 Labor Day	6 Monthly General Meeting 6 PM N Hartford Library	7	8	9	10
11 Patriot Day	12	13 Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Autumn	24
25 Gold Star Mother's Day	26	27	28	29 Rosh Hashanah	30	