

April 6, 2017

Hi members:

Mike Johnson, President, welcomed the 20 members to our next to last meeting, April 6, 2017. April 13 is the LAST one and the last day of the Lab is Fri April 14. Hurricane Pack-up Day is Tuesday April 18. Thank you to Tom & Jerry Linder for the donation and to Joe Tremato for the Windows 10 Resource Book; they will be put to good use.

He also reported that there was a scam concerning a delivery of wine & roses. As you can read here: <http://www.hoax-slayer.net/flower-and-wine-delivery-credit-card-scam-warning/>; this is an old scam but well worth mentioning because of the creative bent of people out to steal our money. We have to be vigilant at all times with our front door, email and visiting websites.

He also announced that as usual we will be giving a gift to the Maintenance Staff for all the extra set-up/break down work that they do for us each and every week for 18 weeks. The meeting room is always ready for us early every Thursday morning.

Monitors: Please return your keys next Thursday or to another monitor and make sure that your name is taken off the key list under the membership list in the top file cabinet drawer.

There was also a discussion of AT&T 'vacation mode' and how & if it works. Some people who are now heading north are finding that the great promotion they are trying to turn off is only getting them a pro-rated bill for breach of contract. Vicky Getz also questions what the situation will be in the fall when everyone is arriving again and if they will have to pay a disconnect/reconnect charge.

She also added that because of the 'Wi-Fi' fishbowl we are all living in and the various internet speeds that people are reporting, one might consider changing their Wi-Fi from 2.4 GHz to 5 GHz. With that in mind, she wrote a 10 page report, "MY Wi-Fi IS SO SLOW, HOW CAN I FIX IT?" so you can educate yourself on the subject and correct your slow internet. Find it here: <http://getzweb.net/vista/att/>; remember 'Knowledge is Power'.

Vicky then explained Microsoft's GOD MODE which is essentially a trick that lets users get access to all of the operating system's controls ...kind of back door way to tweak your Windows 8 or 10 machine to create a super easy to use Control Panel. It can be used in Win7 but is not necessarily needed. Using our All-in-One Win 10 machine we usually have in the Lab, she showed how to create a God Mode folder on your desktop. If you have upgraded or purchased a Win10 machine, you will want to explore this feature so that you can change or tweak any settings such as mouse pointers, sound system, network, etc. without a frustrating search for where these settings are hiding in this version of Window. If you google 'God Mode' you can find lots of information or you can follow these instructions from C-Net:

To enable GodMode, right-click on the desktop and click **New> Folder**.

Copy and paste the following into the folder name:

GodMode.{ED7BA470-8E54-465E-825C-99712043E01C}

The folder icon will change to a control panel icon. Double-click on the new icon to see your universal settings panel.

Sandy McKenny then discussed and showed some of the techie newsletters she regularly receives and the websites that are connected to them. Most have a free newsletter with an optional enhanced version you have to pay for.

<https://askleo.com/> This is a 'user-friendly' **free** newsletter you all should explore as the subjects and answers are common problems for all of us.

<http://windowssecrets.com/newsletter/> This is a bit more techie, an off-shoot of the former Windows Magazine, that is right up-to-date on the current news, fixes, etc. of everything Windows. The paid edition allows you to search their website for previous articles; very comprehensive.

<http://www.makeuseof.com/> This is great for the free downloads of timely articles, books and manuals on all business type subjects. The website is very 'busy' looking, but the free downloads are great.

<http://www.top-windows-tutorials.com/> This is where you can sign-up for their monthly newsletter; they have the best computer tutorials and the first 15 are free. Their newsletter has what is new on their site, articles on Windows updates, and the tip of the month.

This is where you will find links to some of her favorite genealogy newsletters right on our own website: <http://www.vrcc.info/resources.html>. Obviously, the season is ending along with the 'geni sessions' on Monday & Wednesday 3-5. It has been fun and keep researching this summer. We can share 'brick wall' stories next season.

She then showed the Snipping Tool which is found on your own computer at: Start>All Programs>Accessories>Snipping Tool. You can add the shortcut to your task bar for easy use. It essentially snips sections of text, photos, websites and puts it in the 'Clipboard'. You can save it as a png, gif, html, or a jpg file in a favorite folder; don't forget to change the name from 'capture' when you save it. You can also 'paste' it into a word processor, webpage, etc. It snips in rectangles, free form, window snip or full screen snip. There is also a choice of border and pen color, highlight or eraser. Play with it so you are familiar in how it works and how to use it to your advantage. There is a great video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxaScDIOSJw> to refresh your memory of how it works.

Sandy also suggested that you explore the cloud sites Dropbox or Google Drive this summer as a way to back-up or store some of your favorite files. She forgot to tell you about the article entitled: When Wills Get Weird - 11 Unusual Wills, Burial Requests And Final Wishes https://www.everplans.com/articles/11-unusual-wills-burial-requests-and-final-wishes?utm_source=Everplans+Newsletter&utm_campaign=7d8d765de2-Weird+Wills+02+21+2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fdb52c78d8-7d8d765de2-132772677

This is an amusing article at a serious website we should all explore. Mike mentioned this site back in January; <https://www.everplans.com/#/?k=ny5xmf>.

Next week we will close the season with Mike giving us info on using Titan TV as your favorite TV guide, maybe a trip on Google Earth and anything else you might need or want to know.

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