

VISTA ROYALE COMPUTER CLUB
January 24, 2019

Members:

President Mike Johnson welcomed 29 members and guests to our weekly meeting of the 2018/2019 season. We have 129 paid members so far this season and you can renew your membership any time the Lab is open. Use the calendar online and on the Lab door for hours. Dues are the same price, \$20 cash and please bring your badge for a new sticker.

Sandy McKenny explained what a Vial of Life is and how to get one. They contain information, contacts and medication for members in your unit for the EMT 's or first responders and you locate them on your refrigerator. The Red Sticker on your window indicates to them that essential data has been provided for them in case of the patient is incapacitated.. The red decals and additional forms are free and available at any fire station or the Emergency Operation Center at 4225 43rd Ave, Vero Beach. There may be more available through the Vista Social Club & Diane Zadnof.

This week Jurgen Schwanitz of ACT Computers was our guest speaker regarding trends in Computer Security. First he showed his updated company website with a video done by a programmed drone flying through their shop. He explained that more than 1/2 the jobs in his shop were cleaning up viruses and spyware inadvertently caused by unsafe downloads by the computer owners. Here are some of the highlights on how to prevent viruses and what to do if you get contaminated.

- Beware of anything on the internet that is 'FREE'.
- Do not open email, attachments or links that are even from friends and family that you are not sure are safe. Open them in our Lab where the machines are protected.
- Have and keep current your anti-virus subscription; make sure you renew when they remind you. He recommends Norton Anti-virus and does not trust the free stuff. Norton has the fastest response to new viruses. In Windows 10, Microsoft Defender is adequate if you keep it up-to-date. Do run Windows updates as well as Adobe, Java updates from their sites. Stay away from updates when you are on a strange site, use the safe links at www.vrcc.info. Do run Windows updates as well as Adobe, Java updates from their own sites.
- Never allow remote connections and stay away from software & downloads that promise to speed up your computer or clean your Registry.
- NEVER, NEVER give anyone your credit card number or bank number.
- Microsoft does not call consumers to warn there is something wrong with their computer.
- A lot of 'pop-ups' are scams; if you are not sure you can open them on your phone.
- Unfortunately Apple's quality control is not as good as it used to be.
- If your computer freezes up, DO NOT CLICK on the 'X' in the upper right hand corner. Hold down ALT & F4 to shut all windows. If that does not work, hold down the 'on' button till it shuts down or pull the plug.
- To try and fix it yourself, disconnect from the internet or unplug your network cable.
- Re-boot your machine in safe mode [F8 on startup] and run system restore. If that works, run a full virus scan. If nothing helps, consult a professional.
- To prevent a problem, make sure that all your data is backed up regularly and then tested by restoring it. You can also do complete backups in the cloud by signing up

for Carbonite, etc., which have monthly fees. Only you know how valuable the data on your computer is and if you want your whole life disrupted by getting hit up for a ransom.

- Up-grade to Windows 10, it is safer.
- Use different and complex passwords on every site.
- Do Not use Facebook logins everywhere.
- Do not let others use your computer..... especially your kids or grandchildren.
- Learn to really look at search results on the internet and know that many are advertising and direct you to the wrong site.
- Also make sure you are connecting to the right Wi-Fi.
- If you use public Wi-Fi___33, keep your anti-virus current and turn off file sharing. Also turn on your firewall.
- To avoid Ransomware, do not open email that looks strange.
- Do not run macros in Excel or Word if you receive them in the mail.
- Make sure you have a back-up, especially in the cloud.
- Lock and password protect your phone--don't forget to write down your user name and password.
- Use a good password and enable location and 'Find My Phone' in case it has been stolen.
- You can back up your phone to your computer to safeguard your contact list, etc.
- Look at the reviews and # of downloads for apps you are interested in..... many have contained viruses, especially games and flashlight apps.

As you all know, Jurgen is always willing to answer any of other questions regarding computers, tablets and phones so we had a lively discussion.

Florida Crime Prevention is presenting at 9:30 am in the kitchen of Pine Arbor Clubhouse as usual on Thursday morning January 31th, 2019. See you then, bring a friend.

Sandy McKenny, sec.

Vista Royale Computer Club, Pine Arbor Clubhouse, Vero Beach, FL 32962

Please go to our <http://www.vrcc.info/> website for archived Meeting Minutes, Calendar of Events, Genealogy Resources and more. You can also set your own computer home page to <http://www.vrcc.info/home.html> to make it match the home page on our Lab machines.