Vista Royale Computer Club
Minutes of the Meeting
March 31, 2016

Mike Johnson, President, welcomed 34 members and guests; we now have 185 members. Please use the calendar on our website www.vrcc.info to see who will be our next speaker or read all about it at the end of this message.

Next week we will be giving away some computer related stuff donated by members, including a monitor light, Sirius radio & boom box, CDs, etc. You have to be signed in to the meeting to win. Anything not claimed/won will be put on a 'Take Me Home' Table in the Lab.

Mike also mentioned a new prescription drug site he found in addition to www.GoodRX.com. It is www.Blinkhealth.com where you can compare the prices.

Another worry is touching a capped soda bottle that you might find on your lawn or driveway. People have been badly hurt as they sometimes have been rigged to explode when handled. [Sandy: I googled this and found: http://www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/bottlebomb.asp I suggest you read about it and be aware. Not a good thing with spring clean-up in our future.]

Our speakers this week were from ACT Computers in the K-Mart Plaza: Jurgen Schwanitz, owner, and Christopher, technician & Apple specialist. Jurgen told us about the new 'locky' virus that will encrypt all the devices on your network and hold them for ransom. Usually it is about $400 and even paying them is dangerous and might not work. Make sure you have a backup of your computer to get up and running again and that your back-up is only connected to your network while backing-up. Remove it when you are finished.

Christopher lead us through all the elements of a 'Mac' computer with the operating system OS X [10]. Most of us are familiar with only Microsoft products and Windows operating systems. More and more members that have an iPhone and iPad are migrating to Apple or Mac laptops as Apple products will synchronize together. Also they are being influenced by the platform that their children have. The transition has a learning curve but both operating systems do about the same things, the elements are just named something different and are found in different places. This presentation gave us all a good look at what one might expect if changing to a Mac and whether we would want to tackle this new learning curve.

Some of the differences are that most software is already included or available at the Apple Store but you can buy and install 3rd party software that you are familiar with …........... making sure that it is the Mac version. Physical repairs to an Apple are not recommended as you need tools that only a professional has, so take it to an Apple registered store/dealer.

Here are some of the similarities:

Finder [files can be tagged/color coded] -equivalent of Windows Explorer/My Computer

Safari [works as fast as Chrome, has multiple tabs & plug-ins] -equivalent of Internet Explorer, Chrome or FireFox

System Preferences -equivalent of Control Panel

Time Machine -Windows Backup & Restore [It will restore data and software to a new computer]

Command/Option/Escape does the equivalent of Ctrl/Alt/Delete to force a quit or shut-down

iTunes -music, also backup with this app

Keynote, Numbers & Pages -equivalent of MS Office

OTHER BITS OF INFORMATION

Macs are not virus-proof so make sure you leave the fire wall in the 'on position'. Norton has available software but the built-in virus protection is better. Get MalwareBytes for a Mac to guard against malware. Do not use Advanced MacCleaner or Mac Keeper Pro.

If you absolutely need to keep your Windows software available and working on a Mac, the software BootCamp can partition a Mac hard drive so you can also dual boot to Windows. You would need to pay for the extra Windows operating system.

They have 'App Cleaner' to download; removes or uninstalls software.

You can use dictation to do your work, it just has to be turned on.

Other apps included are: ibooks, photo & video software and iWork which is like MS Office.

Training can be found in How-to book: Mac for Dummies is good; YouTube Videos; and at Apple Stores and other tech stores and schools.

Note all the icon differences on the title bar and bottom status bar

To search, use the Spotlight icon and space bar

New app: Maps gives you detailed maps, allows you to pick multiple routes for comparison and will print out; much better than MapQuest.

ESSENTIAL: We can not help you with your Apple devices in the lab if you do not remember or have your Apple ID and Password written down.

Changing to a completely different operating system should be a decision that you thoroughly explore and understand before spending your money or accepting a gift from your children.

Next week our guest speakers will be several of our members: Dick Anderson & iphone and ipad favorites; Claude White & his classic car collection photos, Carl Spinola & how to use Netflix. If we have time, Vicky is going to discuss PDFs (Portable Document Files) and show us how to fill out a PDF form using the computer, or a mobile device such as a smart phone or tablet, without having to print it out and fill it in by hand.

Bring your spouse or friend to enjoy & learn all about some new things. We take questions too.

Regards, Sandy McKenny, Sec.

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