

VRCC Minutes & information for Thursday, Jan 12, 2017

Hi Members.

President Mike Johnson Welcomed over 40 members and guests. Our current paid membership is appx 138 and growing every day. A sign-up sheet was sent around for the Open House. If you have some time or wish to donate to the refreshments, please let Sandy know or sign up in the Lab. We always have a good time 'showing off' our Lab to new comers, so join in the fun and work a few hours.

Please pay your dues of \$20 cash in the Lab if you want to use the equipment or have any privileges of membership. The weekly newsletter changeover to 2017 list will be the end of January.

The **Genealogy BEGINNER Presentation** will be held on Tuesday night in the Lab at 6:30 to 8:30. There are a couple of slots left on the sign-up sheet in the Lab. Those of you who are coming please fill OUT in PENCIL to the best of your ability the 2 handouts on the same desk and bring them with you. Also make sure that you know your own email password for retrieving any documents you send yourself. If you have a USB memory stick or drive, bring that as well. I recommend using only one size paper which is good for filing, so bring lined 8 1/2x11 paper or pad to get off to a good start. There will be an PowerPoint overview of 'How to do Genealogy" and hopefully we will have time to do some basic searching. If there is an overwhelming number of alternates, I will do this again. In the meantime, I suggest that anyone interested in learning how to use Ancestry Library Edition watch this very short video clip first:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2f72zOSfEE>

You can find others by 'googling' video how to use ancestry com library edition

For those of you who are already experienced researchers, I will open the Lab for independent work on Wed 3-5.

Vicky very kindly passed along all her notes on her presentation so you can review them.

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**COMCAST's EMAL POLICY FOR FORMER CUSTOMERS**

As of June 2016

If a customer terminates service **and is in good standing**, active email accounts will be retained as long as you log in at least once during the last 90 days prior to disconnect. Visit these links for information

<http://customer.xfinity.com/help-and-support/internet/email-only-faqs>

## RETAINING YOUR PHONE NUMBER

If you are changing your phone service, you need to start the new service before you cut out your old service or you will lose your phone number!

See the FCC rules: <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/porting-keeping-your-phone-number-when-you-change-providers>

Vicky's talk was about the general process of changing email addresses, especially if you are threatened with losing your email account because you are changing ISPs (Internet Service Providers). Although Comcast will let you retain your email address as long as you login to the email account regularly, many other ISP's have a 30 day cut off period.

She stressed that changing your email address is much easier if you do it while **you still have access to your old account**.

She talked about giving us a senior's prospective on some of the top email accounts, GMAIL, OUTLOOK, Yahoo!, AOL and iCloud.

Gmail – The interface is very modern, lacking visual clues. Sometimes the lack of visual clues is a problem for seniors. We do offer beginners gmail training. Gmail is a Google product. Your Gmail account offers a wide variety of features including Google Drive, Google Calendar, Google Docs.

Outlook – A great email provider, except that the interface uses thin fonts with low contrast that don't thicken much as you scale the website, so it can be very hard for some seniors with cloudy vision to actually read the website, even when the screen is magnified up to 150%/

Yahoo – The use of poorly handled POPUPS on the email web interface is the thing that concerns Vicky more than the 2013 breach in which millions of user's passwords and answers to secret questions were revealed, or the recent reveal of a bug in which viewing a message could let the bad guys take control of your machine without the use of an attachment. Any website any time might have a breach. The pop-up for printing has a difficult time recovering if it encounters a blocked pop-up situation occurs. This recovery is so clumsy, that in the lab we had to allow pop-ups from yahoo. Allowing POPUPS on pages that have advertising is a big no-no when it comes to good security.

AOL – Just because it carry's the stigma of belonging to a tech-dinosaur, doesn't mean you need to give up your AOL account. On the other hand, it has a very quirky interface that just makes it a poor choice for new users. Vicky's point that AOL EMAIL is FREE. Many users, mostly seniors, are still paying for AOL, because they are afraid of losing access to their email. We even had someone in the audience that is still paying.

iCloud – It is the only advertising free webmail in this bunch. If you use Apple devices and you don't own or plan to own an android phone or tablet or Chromebook, an iCloud email account might be something to consider.

### **Steps to take when abandoning an email address:**

- Create an account with a new provider.
- Get email and contacts from our old account.
- Send an email to all your contacts from both old account and new account notifying them of the change
- Set up an auto response on your old account
- Visit every site where you have an account- password and update your personal information with your new email.

Getting your email and contacts from you old account-

Gmail and Outlook let you import email from any account

Yahoo only allows importing from Gmail, Outlook, AOL and other Yahoo accounts.

AOL doesn't offer this capability.

Vicky showed us how to import email into a gmail account with this YouTube video that she made specifically for us:

[https://youtu.be/6P85\\_ijSDgA](https://youtu.be/6P85_ijSDgA)

For other email providers that don't provide an import function

- Set up forwarding from your old account

Russ asked about finding port settings. The answer is to find Pop setting and SMPT settings along with Port number, is to Google “*your-emailprovider* Pop Settings” where your email provider is the part that comes after the @ in your address. Also you have apps on your phone or tablet, you can dig into settings and find the port there.

Mike asked about places where you use your email as a user ID. After the meeting Vicky found that it was easy to change the login for her two accounts that use her email as a user name. Not a problem.

Some questions came up about keeping internet with Comcast or switching to ATT. We expect the change in services with Comcast to impact the price we pay. Calls to Comcast have yielded different answers as to how much of an impact this is going to be. Vicky was told by Comcast that her internet price was going to double when she was no longer going to have a bundled rate. We are totally in the dark about the ATT pricing policy. We don't know the pricing. We don't know if there is a minimum time commitment. If there is a minimum, we don't know if 'vacation time' counts against a

minimum period. We don't know if 'vacation time' increases the honeymoon period. We don't know what an unbundled price is. WE KNOW NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT ATT'S INTERNET PRICING AT THIS TIME.

A question came up about ATT's internet speed. ATT offers 6Mbps, 12Mbps, 18Mbps, 24Mbps and 45Mbps and probably higher at various price points. For comparison purposes, Comcast's slowest speed is 9Mbps, Performance Internet is 25Mbps.

A question came up about ATT's TV lineup compared to Comcast Xfinity TV. We are getting almost all the channels we got before, plus many more channels. We are getting ATT's U200 package.

The only information we have is what can be found on the Update and Alert page of the Vista Royale website

<http://vistaroyale.org/updates-a-alerts.html>

Next week [Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017], we will have several presenters..... a surprise pot pourri.

Sandy McKenny, sec

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