

Meeting Minutes for March 2, 2017

President Mike Johnson welcomed 27 members and guests and announced that our current membership is now 192 members. He also made several comments on the AT&T contract regarding the phone numbers. He also called and talked with Jurgen at ACT Computers regarding the meeting next week. Christopher is going to cover the iPad and the Mac with Qs and As after his presentation.

Thanks to Vicky, we have her 17+ pages of information regarding the contract. She purchased a photocopy of the Association/AT&T contract and spent extensive period of time going over each section. I urge you to read her commentary on the subject to get a better understanding of the situation. This is where you will find it: <http://getzweb.net/vista/att/VistaRoyale'sATTU-verseFAQ.pdf>

Our speakers, Kelly Bergstrom and Kyle Bradfield came from the AAA Travel Office on Rte 60 to talk about Senior Travel Tips and TSA Pre-Check. They noted that AAA is not just a towing & map service as today they offer condo and auto insurance, free car buying service, extended auto warranties, auto financing, free TripTiks, maps & TourBooks, free Trip continuance, free travel accident insurance as well as full 24 Hour Emergency Road Service and more. Some of this is predicated on the level of membership you have with them. As a member you will also get AAA discounts from companies across the country as well as other perks. Their mobile app, AAADrive, does everything their website does. Check out their website: <https://autoclubsouth.aaa.com/> to fully appreciate the services that they offer.

AAA also has their own credit card which has great features such as a 3%, 2% or 1% cashback/points on certain purchases which can be used for gifts or future travel and discounts at many businesses. Travel insurance is predicated on the price of a trip, and will cover pre-existing conditions if you enroll/purchase within 10 days of booking your trip with AAA. They can arrange international driving permits, have free passport photos, do not charge foreign transaction fees and have extra cruise perks for AAA members. If you purchase regular 'gift cards' at their agency instead of grocery or big box store, you get 5% back toward your annual AAA membership fee.

TSA pre-check \$85 and Global Entry \$100 are the two programs that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers for 5 years. They left some copies of how to apply which we placed in the Lab. The application process involves an interview and fingerprinting in certain locations. Approved participants do not have to remove their shoes, take off a light jacket, remove their laptop and they have a separate lines at TSA in participating airports. It is especially great if you are coming back into the USA from overseas. You can read all about it at

<https://www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs>

<https://www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs/global-entry>

Kelly gave some good cautionary tips to think of when you are traveling and I added a few that I found online:

- Stay away from dark streets, stay alert and travel with a group whenever possible.

- Lighten the purse or fanny pack by bringing only the necessities with you. Never carry your Social Security card, do not take all your credit cards and do not have any old bills in your purse which might identify you.
- Label all your luggage and devices, inside and out. Consider even carrying a bogus wallet while keeping your real one inside your clothing.
- Keep a copy of your passport, itinerary and other travel documents in a separate safe place. Scan all of your documents and keep a copy on a USB stick too, so that if all of your copies somehow disappear you've got a digital version that can be printed out.
- Do not trust 'FREE' Wi-Fi, as it is not safe.
- Be wary of scams; use your instincts and do not reply to emails, pop-ups, websites that you question or are not expecting. Better to 'delete' than have to pay a computer company to clean or restore your device.
- Notify your credit card company of your itinerary and follow up when you get home to make sure that you do not have any 'strange' or extra charges.
- On your phone, put similar or travel apps on 1 page where you can find them quickly when needed. IE: smart phone security, maps, currency converters, language translators, medical apps, contact numbers.....
- Take photos of your medication bottles and remember that the names of drugs will have different names in a foreign country, and availability might be a problem. Don't pack them in checked luggage, and don't leave them lying in the open in your hotel room. And always make sure you've got enough medicine to last you an extra day or two, just in case your flight home is delayed.
- A "clean my room" sign on the outside of your door when you leave your hotel room is effectively advertising that your room is empty to would-be thieves. A quiet word at the front desk will ensure your room is cleaned when you're not there.
- They sell the anti-fraud sleeves for credit cards and passports in their office.
- Beyond wearing comfortable shoes in order to get through full days of walking and touring, wearing flats will also help older travelers to stay steady on their feet.

These are a couple of the apps that she recommended, will send any others later:

<https://www.allianztravelinsurance.com>: some good information on travel insurance

<http://www.ulmon.com/#get-the-app> CityMaps2Go

<http://www.smarttravel.tips/10-safety-tips-senior-travelers>

Next week, Jurgen Schwanitz and his tech, Christopher, of ACT computers will be our guest speakers and will be able to answer all of your device questions after their presentation on Apple products. This will be their last visit of this season. As usual you can always check the 'calendar' on our website: www.VRCC.info for speakers/subjects of upcoming presentations.

Note from Vicky: You need to contact Comcast phone to get them to return the credit on your account after you turn in all your equipment and get a receipt. A check will be at least 4-6 weeks.

NOTE: Wall Street Journal 2-3-17: "...analyst at IBM Corp. estimate that 90% of all the electronic data in the world has been created in the past two years."

Sandy McKenny, sec.

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