

## April 13, 2017 Meeting and Minutes

Hi members:

Mike Johnson, President, welcomed the 11 members to our last meeting, April 13, 2017. Hurricane Pack-up Day is Tuesday April 18 at 9am.

Sandy McKenny showed how to use Google Earth which is a free download from [www.Google.com](http://www.Google.com). All Lab computers have an icon on the desktop for easy access. She showed the various check boxes down the left side and showed how some of them worked. She explained how widespread the street level is, even in her very rural neighborhood, and why she likes using it in conjunction with Google Maps, etc. She then showed a bunch of fun pictures and explained the how, when, why there were oxen moving an old building in a nearby town of Brownington, Vermont.

Mike then logged onto [www.TitanTV.com](http://www.TitanTV.com), an online personalized TV guide that you can set for different locations and providers. Mike showed us the DESKTOP\* version of which includes Windows laptops, Apple MAC's, even Linux machines. It does not include Android and iOS mobile devices. Vicky has not seen the app on a Chromebook, so doesn't know if that is available.

TitanTV is a color coordinated TV guide that has listings for cable/satellite and over the air channels throughout the United States. The DESKTOP\* version allows access to many features that are not available in the mobile (tablet/smartphone) version of the website, or the special TitanTV-app for those devices.

The DESKTOP\* version allows you to filter the guide by type (Movies, Comedy, Documentary, Drama, Education, Entertainment, Food, Game/Quiz, Health, Home, Information, Interview, Music, News, Other, Religious, Sci-Fi, Sports, Travel, True, or Favorites) for easier browsing. You don't need to create a user account to utilize the website, but if you do, you can customize your lineups from the DESKTOP version and eliminate channels you don't get, or don't want to see. The more channels you hide, the faster the TV guide will load. You can then use the customized lineups on all your devices including tablets and smartphones, but for setting it up you must use a PC or a MAC. You can have multiple lineups for the locations you use TV, so its less jarring if you watch TV on multiple cable systems.

Vicky Getz then logged onto AT&T Uvers.com which offers their own online 'TVGuide'; however it doesn't use filters or colors to help you quickly find the program you want when browsing.

She showed the DVR section of [www.Uverse.com](http://www.Uverse.com) where she took information from TitanTV to remotely setup a recording on Vicky's DVR in her condo. Pretty Slick!

Vicky recommended the 'Audience Network', a commercial free TV channel (114, 1114, 599, 1599) on our AT&T lineup. The channel offers older content, but you can see an hour long show like *NYPD Blue* in 43 minutes, the rest of the hour will have promos for their other programs, and short interesting video clips.

**NOTE: Vicky's experience with AT&T earlier on Thursday morning when shutting down her internet connection for the summer.**

People have been told that they couldn't put their AT&T Promotional Plans 'on vacation' and are being advised the only option was a disconnect with an Early Termination Fee .....or paying full price all summer.

Being aware of early termination fees when Vicky signed up in January, she opted to pay full price for internet \$50/24Mbs so no early termination fees should have applied. When she went to disconnect, she was informed that there was going to be a \$160 early termination charge. Now we find out that the \$50/24Mbs rate ALSO carries a one year contract. When Vicky strenuously objected, the service rep told her that **they would "Waive the charge" because they are aware of the situation at Vista Royale.**

Apparently the AT&T charge for just internet next year without a contract will be \$67 a month.

Comparison: Similarly Comcast's full price for internet is \$74 a month + \$10 modem rental, unless you sign up for a bundled deal with a phone, or sign a year long contract for internet only. Comcast does not impose a service charge for a self-install and also knows how to bill a vacation rate for snowbirds.

Next year it will be interesting trying to navigate the negotiations and doing the calculations to find the better deal. You should check for specials from both companies when you get back in the fall so you can make informed choices. Hopefully by then AT&T will have their act together. From Vicky.....Thanks!

Mike finished the meeting with a heartfelt thank you to all the monitors, volunteers and officers for a job well done for another successful season. If you have any suggestions or requests for programs next season, please contact Sandy. Please let Mike know if you are willing to help with the club in some capacity; we are in need of new blood. We will see you in the fall, have a safe trip north and healthy happy summer.

Sandy McKenny, Secretary  
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