

Vista Royale Computer Club

December 7, 2017

Meeting Information & Links

Members:

President Mike Johnson welcomed 36 members and guests to our first meeting of the 2017/2018 season. We are celebrating our 10th year in our Lab which was set-up and opened in the fall of 2007. More on that can be found on our History Tab at www.vrcc.info. That equates to more than 180 speakers over the years; how we have grown and evolved in that time span. This is a great marketing tool for Vista Royale and certainly a wonderful resource for our residents if they partake of our membership.

We started the season with our favorite speaker, Jurgen Schwanitz of ACT Computers in the K-Mart Shopping Center [<https://www.actcomp.us/>], who gave us solid ideas and reminders in regard to our computer security. As usual he illustrated some of his presentation to actual cases that they have handled in their shop. Here are some of the comments that he made, many of which you have heard before, but perhaps neglected to heed.

Preventive Measures:

Remember 'free' anti-virus and other apps usually cost you more than you think in the long run with trouble.

Use only 1 anti-virus software along with free Malwarebytes [for spyware] and keep up with or pay your annual anti-virus subscription. [Note from Sandy: they are frequently on sale at Staples, etc.]

Keep your computer operating system up to date as well as Java and adobe updates.

Do not give your passwords to anyone or access to your network/internet connection.

Apple computers get viruses as well.

Do not use your 'Facebook' or Google logins everywhere, create different ones

Back up your data, preferably on an external hard drive or 2 alternating ones as well as in the cloud at free One Drive or \$\$ Carbonite

One of your backups should be off-site [also in case of fire or theft]

You can also use another computer if you have two, or some storage not physically attached to regular computer

Thumb drives are more for transfer, not permanent long term storage

Make sure you are connected to the correct WIFI

If you use public WIFI, make sure that your anti-virus is up to date, firewall is on, file sharing is off

Do not open email or email attachments that look strange or have a weird address

If Infected:

Unplug from your network and the internet immediately

...and can not close a frozen window, use F4 instead of x'ing out which can trigger more problems.

Reboot your computer in safe mode and try to uninstall any suspicious software that has been recently installed

If you are able to 'restore' your computer, run a full virus scan

If nothing helps, take your computer to a professional that you trust

Ransomware:

This is when a virus tries to extort money from you..... do not pay and do not call them or talk to them! Turn off machine, wipe it clean and restore from your backup.

Phone:

Use good passwords and keep track of your phone ID & password

Turn on location service and enable 'Find my Phone'; good for loss or theft

Back up phone or tablet, do not rely only on cloud backups as they may also be infected if you have had a virus for a while.

Be care where you get your apps, note the number of downloads in the App Store when you chose as viruses frequently come in game or flashlight apps.

Next week, Dec 14th, Vicky Getz will discuss the internet options for your unit and Steve Getz will show us the new improvements on our website. Time permitting, we may add other content as well. As always, please bring your questions, comments and suggestions. Guest welcome as well to see what we are all about. We will take a 2 week break and will not have any meetings due to the holidays, returning on January 4. In the mean time, visit the Lab and check out the subscription to Ancestry.com.

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.