

Vista Royale Computer Club

December 14, 2017

Meeting Information & Links

Steve Getz gave us a fresh look at our club website and the new content that he has researched and uploaded, IE. Apps. He will be adding to this tab over the course of the year so give him your suggestions. He has also posted/replaced a lot of our old photos. Thank you Steve for putting so much time and effort into keeping our website, www.vrcc.info, up to date.

Vicky Getz then presented the current information regarding adding an AT&T internet connection to your condo. Be aware that there is no 'vacation' time allowed and an early turn-off before your 1 year contract is up will create a pro-rated disconnect charge. The one year special pricing with a contract is probably best for year-round residents, so know what you are buying. Here is what Vicky showed in her presentation your choices as well as the pricing and rules:

AT&T Year round service Phone number 866.299.6824 (Mon-Fri.)

Mbps Charge Data Allowance

50 \$30 250 GB

100 \$50

1000 \$70

- Requires a one year contract
- No vacation/suspension available
- Early Termination Fee \$180 or \$15 per month for remaining months on the contract.
- No modem charge. (I hear some people still have to fight this every month!)

AT&T Seasonal Service

Mbps Charge Data Allowance

5 \$40 250 GB

25 \$50

50 \$60

100 \$70

1000 \$80

- Very Easy to turn on and off, just dial the phone number.
- No Early Termination Fee, although I made them write SEASONAL no ETF in the notes when I ordered the service. Last year I signed up at this rate and when I went to cancel, the agent said all services were for a year and an ETF would apply to any service terminated before a year was up. This year the agent said the agent I talked to last year was misinformed.
- Year round with the cancellation fee can be cheaper than seasonal if you are in FL long enough

Comcast

Speed Price Monthly Data Allowance

25 24.99 250 GB

60 34.99

100 44.99

- One year commitment required
- Modem \$11 per month
- \$ 5 discount for paper less billing
- Vacation rates 7 per service
- Early termination fee 110 or 10/per month for remaining months on contract.
- Better rates are available if you are bundling phone or home security services.
- Self install available.
- Unsecured Xfinity hotspots are plentiful when you travel.

Mobile Hotspots

Use cellular

Very expensive data

Gives you secure service where ever you go

They come in pre-paid or contract.

Contract services are much cheaper than prepaid and more so when bundled.

AT&T prepaid Hotspot

\$60 for the Equipment

\$25 for 2GB 30 days

\$50 for 5GB/30 days

\$75 for 8GB/30 days

Much lower prices when bundled with your cell phone plan

Verizon prepaid Hotspot

\$49.99 for the Equipment

\$60 for 5GB /60 days

\$100 for 10GB /60 days

Verizon Hotspot with 2 year contract when bundled with a phone

\$29.99 for equipment

\$10 a month for customers with non unlimited plan

\$20 a month for customers with unlimited data plan.

Can be suspended

All speeds are delivery speeds, actual Wi-Fi speed will be impacted by the Wi-Fi saturation at Vista Royale.

If your Wi-Fi is not delivering at speeds near to your subscribed rate I would recommend reading this article from last year.

http://getzweb.net/vista/att/Why_is_my_wireless_so_slow.pdf

Our next meeting is at 9:30 am in the kitchen of Pine Arbor Clubhouse as usual on Thursday morning January 4th 2018. Our guest speaker Michele Miller of the tri-county organization '211.org' will be educating us all on their free services to the community. It is especially important to our 55+ complex, friends and neighbors. We can never tell when we might need to avail ourselves of their free comprehensive resources.

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.

Words of the Week: Two adages pop to mind in regard to 'Back-ups

1. Don't place all your back-up eggs in just one basket.

2. LOCKSS= Lots Of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe

These multiple copies of paper and digital files need to be stored in widely dispersed locations. Don't save copies solely at a relative's residence that is just across town from your own. One hurricane or other disaster could destroy both!