

## VISTA ROYALE COMPUTER CLUB

Minutes January 20, 2022

Mike Johnson opened our meeting this week on Thursday, January 20, 2022. We now have 47 paid members for 2022 and the Lab is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 to 11:30 and again at 1pm to 3pm. Our Thursday meetings will remain at Pine Arbor Clubhouse at 9:30 am.

Steve Getz, VRCC resident Webmaster, was our presenter with an interesting subject that we all should be aware of: Social Dilemma --which was all about the Internet, Social Networking and how Computers and Smart Phones are used today. He made note of the film:

'The Social Network', a 2010 drama about Facebook founder: Mark Zuckerberg. You can see a trailer of it at: Trailer 2:31: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IB95KLmpLR4>

“The Social Dilemma”

2020 Documentary. *The Social Dilemma* blends documentary investigation and narrative drama to disrupt the disrupters, unveiling the hidden machinations behind everyone's favorite social media and search platforms, e.g., Facebook, Instagram, Google and Twitter. Premiered Tuesday 9/28/2020

There is another episode on 60 minutes called:

60 Minutes Facebook Whistleblower <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lx5VmAdZSI>

Studies & Facts from Steve's presentation:

**The Dilemma:** Never before have a handful of tech designers had such control over the way billions of us think, act, and live our lives.

The Mental Health Dilemma A 5,000-person study found that higher social media use correlated with self-reported declines in mental and physical health and life satisfaction. American Journal of Epidemiology, 2017

The Democracy Dilemma The number of countries with political disinformation campaigns on social media doubled in the past 2 years. NY Times 2019

The Discrimination Dilemma 64% of the people who joined extremist groups on Facebook did so because the algorithms steered them there. Internal Facebook Report 2018

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Be aware and understand that the person with whom you disagree may be operating from a completely different fact set as they surf the net differently and get their news from media that is more interested in advertising something to you. When we have a respectful, fact-based disagreement, it **may** be because we don't have a shared set of facts...this is the 'Social Dilemma'.

This documentary-drama hybrid originally appeared on Netflix and explores the dangerous human impact of social networking, with tech experts sounding the alarm on their own creations. Starring: Skyler Gisondo, Kara Hayward, Vincent Kartheiser, it is now on Netflix, and was on YouTube and perhaps it may be again in future.

Website and Trailer <https://www.thesocialdilemma.com/the-film/>

Full Movie <https://www.netflix.com/title/81254224>

Steve suggests spending 90 minutes watching "The Social Dilemma" and says in this day's social media world that "If you're not paying for the product, then **You Are the Product**". You will emerge with a new understanding on how Social Media is framing debate and thinking in society. Be sure to make decisions and form opinions based on facts; using multiple sources and understand and be wary of Mainstream Media and Social Media manipulation.

Thanks, Steve, for a very thorough thought-provoking presentation on parts of our everyday world that we take for granted and at face value.

Next week Jan 27, 2022, Sandy McKenny will present a genealogy type meeting on the US Census, the first resource every budding genealogist should use. She will also tell you about the upcoming 1950 Census Release on April 1, 2022. See you in the Kitchen at Pine Arbor at 9:30 on Thursday morning. Tell your neighbors and friends.

Regards, Sandy McKenny, sec.