

VISTA ROYALE COMPUTER CLUB

Notes for January 12, 2023 Meeting

Sandy McKenny, Sec, welcomed 44 new and returning members to the 2nd meeting of the 2023 season. She noted that Mary Thieman, Treas, reported more than 110 paid members and over \$1,200 being deposited in our checking account which is always targeted for equipment and supplies. The 'two for one' membership dues sale is working well and will continue until Feb 1, 2023. For better management and continuity, our club is looking for a president and vice president.

Announcements:

Next week, Vicky Getz will be presenting on 'Using your phone with your car' which should be very interesting.

The White Elephant Sale and Bake Sale will be at Royal Palm Clubhouse on Sat morning 9am to noon; stop by to browse the endless offerings, buy dessert to take home or have a cup of coffee with friends. They will also accept any monetary donation you might want to make instead of baking. Items also accepted by the Social Club for their table.

We received a new box of 16 GB flash drives that are priced at \$5 each; place fee in Printer Money Bin, please. *Note instructions on box if you are going to store large files over 4 GB.*

ACT provided an ACT T-shirt for a door prize which was won by Teresa Terry. There were also business cards, posters and free mouse pads.

The Lab will be used for Electronic Voting by owners who need help or a computer/internet connection to participate easily. It will be manned by members of the Electronic Voting Committee and opened by a club monitor. The dates are:

Thursday; February 9, 2023; 4-6 pm; [Sandy McKenny monitor]

Wednesday; February 15, 2023; 4-6pm [Mary Thieman monitor];

Saturday; Feb 25, 2023 9-11am; [Sandy McKenny monitor]

NOTES from Jurgen Schwanitz's presentation on CYBERSECURITY:

ACT Computers on Rte. 1 by the US Post Office has a podcast/radio show every Friday at 11:30 am. It is provided at <https://www.actcomp.us/> or on their Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/actvero>. Photos of our meeting Jan 12th are already posted. They have been in business 28 years and have 10 techs; they set up the Club network and sold us much of our equipment.

Here are a few simple tips and tricks that Jurgen recommends you do to keep your tech safe.

Cell Phones:

- Lock your Cell Phone; whether by password, number password or fingerprint.
- Back up your Cell Phone to the cloud so you can recover from any accident or disaster with your data.
- Turn on Location Service on your Cell Phone to find a lost phone, identifying the location of where you take your photoseven though you might get some targeting advertising called 'geo fencing' by being in close proximity to a specific business.
- Be extremely careful what apps you download or from which store. Be suspicious if they want access to your contacts or photos.
- Phones and tablets do not have the same security problems such as computers do.
- Stay away from folding screen phones, they are not perfected yet.
- ACT repairs screens and replaces batteries on phones.
- Do not allow 'remote connections' except with a business you KNOW and Trust. When ACT does remote diagnosis or repair that you pay them for; they record the whole process.
- In emails, the danger is opening attachments or clicking on links..... be cautious.

Anti-Virus Software or Apps:

- Jurgen no longer uses Norton Anti-virus as they are doing crypto mining on your machine.
- He does recommend Avast Business Solutions Version/Avast Premium--NOT the free version.
- McAfee Anti-Virus is now too slow
- Windows Defender [built in Win 10, etc.] is OK for security.
- Computing during travel outside the USA, it is much safer and sometimes necessary to have a VPN or Virtual Private Network
- Recommended app is NORD VPN which you can download from an app store.

- When using a phone under the same circumstances, communicate by FaceTime [best], Facebook Messenger or the 'What's up' app. Skype is OK.

HACKING:

- Turn on '2 factor authentication' for many websites as it is much safer for transactions.
- 'Time is of the essence' when trying to fix any hack or error; fix as quickly as you can with Credit Card Company or Bank. First change your password. You might want to unplug from your internet or WIFI until you are sure that your problem is solved.
- Take a look at your Facebook Settings and adjust for more privacy and security.
- At gas stations, check for skimmers on the pump and use the pump closest to the building as has more lights and probably a camera,
- ACT takes about 1 hour to check out your computer for a report on its Wellness.

Credit Card vs Debit Card: Jurgen only uses a credit card as Debit Cards and your Bank Account are very vulnerable to losing what money you have in them.

If you would consider demo'ing a favorite app/software or website when we have a Pot Pourri Meeting, please let Vicky Getz know. These are some of our more interesting programs. The demo can be for only 15 min or so.

That is all for this week..... see you on Thursday.

Regards, Sandy McKenny, Sec.

