

## VISTA ROYALE COMPUTER CLUB

Meeting Minutes 02/08/2024

Linda Briggs welcomed members to the 5th meeting of the 2024 season.

### Important Notices:



#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. CAN YOU HELP OUT?**

Two volunteers needed to cover the Lab for Electronic Voting help.

The Lab has to be unlocked, machines turned on and then the verse. The dates are:

**Feb 24 (Saturday) from 9am to 11am**

**Feb 29 (Thursday) from 4-6pm**

Thank you for considering volunteering for one of these time slots. Please let Sandy know if you can help out. Thank you!

### Upcoming VRCC Meetings:

Feb 15 Vero Beach Chamber of Commerce

Feb 22 IPHONES for senior dummies - Linda Briggs

Feb 29 TBA

Mar 07 Estate Planning - Pamela Hennig

Mar 14 ACT/Jurgen Schwanitz - Cyber Security

Mar 21 TBA

Mar 28 Linda Briggs

Programs always begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Pine Arbor Clubhouse kitchen. Weekly programs are scheduled - Thursdays between 1/4/24 - 3/28/24

**Shout Out to ALL MEMBERS - Thank you for supporting VRCC, now in its 22nd year of serving the Vista Royale community!**

### Indian River Genealogy Conference

Free and open to the public. Presenter: Lisa Louise Cook

March 23, 2024 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (In-person registration begins at 8:00 a.m.)

Our History: Your Story

3980 12th Street, Vero Beach FL

## **Presentation - ACT/Jurgen Schwanitz - Building Gaming Machines**

The gaming machines around 1999 had less power than today's mobile phones. Imagine! Today's gaming machines are powerful and have fabulous graphics. ACT builds customized gaming machines and sells two or three each day. They have 8 - 10 machines on display. Their market is teenagers to seniors. (Stop by ACT and take a look!) Also in the market are engineering companies for mechanical drawing and aviation companies for flight training. ACT runs stress tests on their machines about once a month. The software collects information and pushes the machines to see if they can perform as expected. If they are not working properly, images will start stuttering.

Jurgen likens gaming machines to hot rods with lights, colors, and tempered glass covers. It's "very cool and amazing", says Jurgen. These machines are about the size of a computer tower at home, but much prettier. They need a lot of air flow, front to back. Like vacuum cleaners, they need to stay cool. Their hard drives are not physical any more. The old ones had a concept similar to a record player and were very mechanical. These models are still used for large capacity situations because they are cheaper.

New gaming machines live life via a memory chip and don't crash, are more reliable, and super fast. The chips are very small (about 2" 4") and plug into the motherboard. Modern gaming machines are light, pretty, and reactive. They are water cooled, like a car, and have a radiator, like a car. The centerpiece of these machines is the video card which produces 3D images and is very powerful. The processor is the boss. Components all come from other countries and most chips are built in Viet Nam. (The US does not have the skilled manpower to produce these components.)

The keyboard is very heavy and has lights, colors, and black keys that can be replaced with colors. The keys are much better than in the past, being heavy and loud and won't slip around while gaming. The mouse lights up and is super light and super fast. Joysticks are used with certain games, such as flight simulators. Virtual reality glasses are a great option especially for traveling.

Games can be purchased electronically or by subscription. Example: find STEAM online, a video game distribution service. Popular adult games - Sim City (build a city) and racing or flight simulators. Popular kids games include flight simulators, Mind Trap, and Road Block. We watched an XBOX video game about careers in aviation rendered by a gaming machine. It was all simulated and very realistic!

The game invention field (the game makers) is very lucrative \$\$\$\$. Software coders (the workers) earn very good \$\$\$. It's a hot employment field. There is a convergence between movies and games - same people who produce movies also produce games. Example: the Avatar movie and game. Most games are produced in the USA.

**Tips from Jurgen:**

1. AVAST - recommends this antivirus software (not Norton and not McAfee). Jurgen says AVAST just does its job and doesn't ask questions.
2. Windows 12 is coming soon, maybe this year. It is all about AI. It will probably not run on computers that are 5 year old or more.
3. TechTalk with Jurgen Schwanitz - Find the episodes on YouTube - a once a month talk show with the best of Treasure Coast local guests, product demos., and more. There is always something new coming along in Tech!

Linda Briggs adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING - February 15th**

**Vero Beach Chamber of Commerce**

9:30 AM. PACH KITCHEN



SEE YOU THERE!!

Nancy Dalley, Sec.