Vista Royale Computer Club
Information From the Meeting
February 18, 2016

Mike Johnson, President, welcomed 47 members and guests. We now have 178 members. Please use the calendar on our website to see who will be our next speaker: www.vrcc.info.

Jurgen Schwanitz from ACT Computers presented an in-depth program on computer security, various kinds of scams & problems; how to avoid them and how to fix them if you are unfortunate and get caught.

If you get a scam or pop-up on your screen, sometimes 'Xing' out of the window can be dangerous, so use shift F4 or alt F4 to close it.

How to stay safe on public Wifi:

Keep virus protection up to date; ACT prefers Norton Anti-virus.

Turn off file sharing [in Network Options].

Use a Virtual Private Network [this would be about $7 a month].

Turn on Windows Firewall [in Network Options].

Make sure you are connecting to the correct WiFi [Pine Arbor is PACH].

Do not blindly trust search results; choose carefully what you click on after a search. Norton Anti-virus will give you a green icon for safe.

Use good passwords; a different one for each site or device.

Lock your phone.

Set locations service and enable 'Find my phone'.

Back-up your computer, tablet and phone. Test your backups and do not completely rely on 'cloud' backups. 'Carbonite' is one of the better cloud back-ups; but also be pro-active and purchase an external back-up drive or large USB stick to protect your settings and data. After you back-up, remove the drive or stick until you need to back-up again as the Crytolocker virus will ransom your data if you get it....and anything hooked to your computer.

How did I get infected?

Going to suspect websites, getting rebates/coupons, playing some free games and downloading useless utilities.

Opening email attachments that you are not expecting.

Not keeping your anti-virus, Java or Adobe Reader software up to date.

How can I prevent problems?

Do not allow remote connects from a company or person you do not know or initiate.

Do not give your credit/debit card number to anyone that you did not personally contact.

Microsoft, FBI and IRS DO NOT SEND YOU EMAILS OR CALL YOU........EVER! You will hear from them by regular mail.

Do not let other people use your work computer; beware of small relatives.

Apple products get viruses and malware too.

Do not use your Facebook login everywhere.

Do not let a website save your password.

Upgrade your Windows 8 & 8.1 computers to Windows 10 operating system.

Get rid of your old XP machines if you use it on the internet.

Things to try if you have problems:

Disconnect from internet immediately & remove network cable.

Re-boot into safe mode and run system restore [F8 for safe mode].

After booting to safe mode, try to uninstall suspicious programs in Control Panel: Add/Remove programs.

After system restore, run virus scan.

Hire a 'Professional'; hopefully you have a current back-up.

The Annual Members Meeting and Election of Directors will be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 1:30 PM at the Royal Palm Clubhouse. Please cast your ballot and complete your proxy prior to the meeting. You can mail it or deliver to a box in the Association office.

Next week, February 25, our program will be presented by Alicia Hanrahan about Facebook and, if time permits, some of the software she uses in her job.

Our programs are ALWAYS at 9:30 AM on Thursday morning. Future programs include new digital hearing aids, long term care, senior travel, and Florida residency. Let us know if you have a subject you would like covered for our meetings. We will attempt to find a speaker or demo it ourselves if we can.

We will giving away a clean XP laptop to one of the attendees this coming week.

Regards, Sandy McKenny, Sec.--

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