

Vista Royale Computer Club
Minutes and Information from the Meeting
January 28, 2016

Mike Johnson, President, welcomed 43 members and guests on another rainy day. Our paid membership is now over 158 members; a ways left to go to the 200 mark. He again reminded members to use the calendar on our website, www.vrcc.info, to see who our speaker is, etc. A printer and a shredder were raffled off to the people present. The Lost & Found basket has a black hoodie sweatshirt in it. We were also given a 'Quicken for Dummies' book which has been put in our bookcase for loan to our members. There are still a few hand-outs left from our iPhone/iPad speaker, Mirja Heide, last week along with her business cards if you want to attend one of her classes.

Please pay your \$20 cash overdue dues so that you can keep your membership active, grace period ends on Jan 30 and with this newsletter. Please take your Vista badge with you when you pay so you can get your VRCC sticker. There are stickers waiting for a few members who have already paid..... you need a 2016 sticker to use the equipment in the Lab and receive news through our 2016 mailing list.

John Richardson of Bill's TV on Rte 60 was our speaker. It was a very interesting informative presentation on how to buy a Smart TV, what one does with it and how to set it up. Here are a few of the points he made:

- When reading TV reviews, 'vet' the reviewer to make sure it is legitimate and relevant to what you want to know.
- All new TVs have to be hooked to the internet to get the updates, just like a computer.
- Netflix is a paid service for TV shows and movies; about \$11 a month and can have more than one person using the account at a time.
- Free sites include: Hulu, Crackle, Ted, Pandora
- Skype is also a popular feature; some of the TVs have a camera built into it
- Many sites require a Google sign-in.
- Sony TVs are the best, some have Sony PlayStation games built in
- You can find the menu at the bottom of the screen for settings
- One audio feature is voice zoom where you can adjust the volume of characters on the show
- Apple-TV devices make a regular TV into a 'smart TV'
- You can do 'screen mirroring' from the screens of your i Phone or i Pad
- Some smart TV's need internet connectivity or they can cease to work at all even as a dumb TV due to the need for firmware updates.

- There are many apps integrated with a smart TV that you can subscribe to stream video. Some are free, others are not. Many people talked up NetFlix as a reasonably priced service that offers lots of content. Smart TV apps can vary when firmware updates are applied.
- Firmware updates are usually automatic. If not, you need to make sure they get done. Any devices connected to the internet can be a security hole.
- Streaming TV takes a lot of bandwidth. You'll need 15Mbps at the TV to stream 4K HD content. This can be easy to do with Ethernet connection, but with wireless you are on a shared spectrum, so this can sometimes be difficult to achieve on the overcrowded 2.4Ghz wi-fi spectrum in some areas at Vista Royale.
- Any Dumb TV with an HDMI connection can be turned into a smart TV by adding a streaming device such as a Chromecast, Amazon Fire Stick, Apple TV box, or Roku. Content varies by TV, or streaming device. It is generally accepted that the Roku is the king of the content.
- Smart TV's and many of the connective devices for dumb TV's allow you to connect with your smart phones, or tablets wirelessly, to project your personal content onto the screen. You should keep your mobile phone and tablets in mind when selecting a smart TV or streaming device.
- Some features, such as voice control, may be objectionable to some security conscious individuals who don't want everything word said in front of the TV analyzed "in the cloud" to see if its a TV command.
- Florida has a high incidence of lightning strikes. Surge protection was highly recommended. It was also recommended to unplug the TV and disconnect the RF cable and keep the ends at least 3ft from the wall receptacle when we leave for the summer. Many surge protectors offer insurance with the purchase, so make sure to keep the receipts and guarantee information.
- We saw John from BillsTV unable to connect to NetFlix because he couldn't remember his password under pressure. That goes as just another reminder that we need to keep good records of what our passwords are! The number one computer problem at the computer club, is forgotten passwords!

If you unplug any appliance or electronic device during the summer, move the cord at least 3 feet away!

He highly recommends using a Panamax M8AV Pro surge protector for any TV; surge protectors ONLY protect your devices when the surge protectors are turned ON.

Next week, February 4th, our speaker will be Leah Jackson of Well Fargo Bank talking about fraud & scams. The bank has had a great influx of patrons with identity problems in the past few months and are anxious to share their concerns & tips with us.

Our programs are ALWAYS at 9:30 on Thursday morning. For your personal calendar ...watch for the future programs that include: new digital hearing aids, long term care, Facebook, senior travel, computer security and Florida residency. Let us know if you have a subject you would like covered and we will attempt to find a speaker or demo it ourselves if we can.

Regards, Sandy McKenny-- Sec

Vista Royale Computer Club
Pine Arbor Clubhouse
Vero Beach, FL 32962