
The Computer Club At Willow Valley

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The President's Pen by Sid Paskowitz

Membership Your Computer Club has 523 members at this writing, including 181 lifetime members.

Protect Your Credit A reminder: Protect yourself against someone getting a credit card or loan in your name without your knowing about it. You can get a free annual credit report from each of the three legitimate credit report organizations and they will list all of your credit cards and loans, so if they show one you don't

recognize, it is a red flag that needs to be checked out. I get an annual report every four months so that once a year I am able to get a free report from each organization and make sure no one is tampering with my finances. Check out the free annual credit report link in Information Central or go to <http://www.annualcreditreport.com>. There are bogus Websites that offer free credit reports - avoid them!

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Our Diminishing Privacy by Al Williams

The GPS Controversy Have you been following the controversy concerning police officers attaching GPS devices to cars without a warrant? On January 23, the Supreme Court decided that a warrant was required to attach a GPS device. But the decision may be moot until the Court addresses issues it didn't in January.

Cameras Do Much of the Work The December 20th issue of the *IEEE Tech Alert* discusses our diminishing privacy in the article "License Plates, Cameras, and Our Vanishing Privacy" by Steven Cherry. Police officers around the country are using cameras and character recognition software to capture license plate in-

formation. This is taking place not only by fixed cameras at traffic intersections but also by cameras and recording devices in police cars. The article reports that the Riverside County's Sheriff's Department in California recorded 2 million unique license plates over 2 years.

So What? The article goes on to state "There's a wide variety of other technologies now being employed by law enforcement: radioactivity detectors, automotive black boxes, navigation systems, automated toll collection, the GPS in your cellphone, the traffic cameras I mentioned, civilian

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Coming Programs

January 2013

Ralph Beedle, Resident
Tax Preparation S/W

February 2013

Al Williams, Resident
Exploring Linux

March 2013

Tony Poulos, Resident
Windows 7 Revisited

*All programs are held
in the Theater at the
Cultural Center
on the 1st Thursday of
the month at 2:00 p.m.
unless otherwise noted.*

President

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Difficulties Due to difficulties in getting volunteers to be Monitors in the Manor North and Lakes Manor Computer Labs every weekday, and due to the reduced numbers of Residents visiting the Computer Labs, the Computer Club Executive Committee has voted to open and staff the Computer Labs with Monitors Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, starting in January 2013. If Residents need access to the Computer Labs on Tuesday or Thursday, they may contact Gene Simasek for the Lakes Manor Computer Lab (Room E-108) or Dave Baker for the Manor North Computer Lab (First Floor M Building between M-104 and M-106). When a Monitor is available, a Lab will open at 1:00 p.m. and will remain open to help Residents until 3:00 p.m. If no Resident arrives by 1:30 p.m., the Monitor may close the Lab. Monitor schedules are posted on Computer Lab doors and are displayed in Information Central.

MAC SIG Suspends Itself I want to thank JoAnne Phillips for her exceptional contributions and leadership of the MAC Special Interest Group (SIG). Due to health reasons, JoAnne is stepping down from her leadership role. Until a MAC person volunteers to take JoAnne's place, the MAC SIG group meetings on the second Thursday of the month in the Manor North Johnson Auditorium are suspended as are JoAnne's excellent contributions of information in Information Central. If any MAC user is willing to take a leadership role, please let me know. You don't need to be an expert. You only need to coordinate efforts that are beneficial to MAC users.

Windows Isn't What It Used To Be Reports are starting to come in that there are differences between Windows 7 and Windows 8. One key noted difference is the replacement of the Windows 7 Start icon by use of the Windows key and the search box being accessed via mouse or touch "drags." Any Computer Club members who have purchased a Windows 8 computer are requested to let me know similar information so we can share it with other members.

Monitors I want to thank the Computer Room Monitors who have volunteered to keep the Computer Rooms open for use by all Residents. We can always use more Monitors so no Monitor will need to sign up for more than one day each month. Any Computer Club member with basic computer skills who is willing to spend a couple of hours each month as a Computer Room Monitor is requested to contact Dave Baker at 464-6338 for the North Computer Room ("M" Building Level 1 between M-104 and M-106) or Gene Simasek at 464-4605 for the Lakes Computer Room (E-108). Let Dave or Gene know if you would like training to help you feel more comfortable as a Monitor.

Thank You For Volunteering My thanks to all of you who volunteer your time and knowledge to help other Residents. •

Our Diminishing Privacy

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drones, facial recognition software, and more. And it can all be correlated with driver's license databases, credit card information, national identity registries, cellular billing records, supermarket discount cards, and, again, more."

Private Firms It isn't just law enforcement that is using these technologies. Private firms such as auto repossession agencies scan millions of license plates per year to assist their business efforts.

The Future What's going to happen? That is hard to say. Technology, so far, is staying ahead of the Supreme Court. Until the court decides each issue, perhaps one at a time, misuse of your personal data, and mine, is likely.

Not Concerned? There is an excellent novel, *The Broken Window* by Jeffery Deaver that explores the implications and presents the issues with clarity. In the novel, one person with access to collected

data, as described above, frames others for crimes that didn't happen, including murder.

The novel is based on the work *No Place to Hide* written by investigative reporter Robert O'Harrow, Jr. The back cover of the book states "And at a time when companies routinely collect billions of details about nearly every American adult, *No Place to Hide* shines a bright light on the sorry state of information security, revealing how people can lose control of their privacy and identities at any moment." The author declares "This book is all about you and your personal information – and the story isn't pretty."

The article and the books are highly recommended reading. The article may be found at http://spectrum.ieee.org/podcast/geek-life/tools-toys/license-plates-cameras-and-our-vanishing-privacy/?utm_source=techalert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=122012 •

Would you like to read about a topic? Like to write about a topic?
Contact Sid Paskowitz or Al Williams

The Equipment Corner by Ed Dahrsnin

Refurbished Systems The following refurbished systems are available:

#295: Gateway E4000783

#296: Dell Vostro 2000

The systems are free to any club member. You must pick them up. Contact Ed at 464-6591.

Miscellaneous We have 3 volt CR2023 batteries (suitable for motherboards to keep the system clock running) and a variety of CD-ROM's, floppy disk drives, keyboards, 2-button mice, various power supplies, and assorted cables. Please contact Ed Dahrsnin at 464-6591.

Donations We accept used, *working*, tower and laptop computers (with power units and batteries) from club members along with all software CDs. Used printer cartridges also accepted. You may deliver them to the North's Computer Resource room on the first floor of M building after 1 pm on Monday through Friday. No Macs or Mac parts, see JoAnne Phillips or Bob Handler for additional information. •

The Mission

The Mission of the Willow Valley Computer Club is to:

- Provide the means to educate beginners or interested non-users on how to use a computer.
- Arrange for speakers to talk to the Club about subjects that would be of interest to those with some background and experience in computer use.
- Provide a forum for interchange of computer information among members.

For more information about the Club, contact Sid Paskowitz at 464-2127 or wvrccc@Yahoo.com

The Leadership

Officers

President: Sid Paskowitz

Vice President: Ralph Beedle

Secretary: Joan Burks

Treasurer: Dick Dressel

Community Representatives

Manor: Larry Gallagher

Manor North: Lee Yermuth

Lakes: Gene Simasek

Committee Chairpersons

Program: Ralph Beedle

Training: Wayne Barner

Equipment: Ed Dahrsnin

Technical Support: Tony Poulos

Website: Sid Paskowitz

Publicity: Wally Gordon

Newsletter: Al Williams

Mac Interest Group:

Computer Room Coordinators:

Dave Baker, Gene Simasek

Microsoft Liaison: Ed Dahrsnin

Past Presidents

Larry Gallagher

Reviewer Acknowledgment

The following individual kindly reviewed this issue:

Sid Paskowitz

Thank you,

Al Williams

Interested in reviewing the Computer Club newsletter before it goes to press, or providing advice about the content? Please contact:

Al Williams at atwilliams136@gmail.com

Key Willow Valley Web Sites

These are URL links to key Willow Valley web sites. Please copy the URL to your browser's URL space, open the site, and then add them to Favorites/Bookmarks or create desktop icons. You may need to choose a Select Text tool before you can copy a URL.

Information Central: <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cclub/index.aspx>

Kiosk Home Page: <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/default.aspx>

Resident Phone Directory: <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cris%20files/phonesearch.aspx>

Service Request: <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/ServiceRequest.aspx>

Computer Club Newsletters: <http://eventregistration.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cclub/p/Newsletter.pdf>
