
The Computer Club At Willow Valley

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The President's Pen by Sid Paskowitz

Membership Your Computer Club has 529 members at this writing, including 192 lifetime members.

Information Central Access to Information Central has been removed from Internet connections that are external to Willow Valley's servers. It is accessible from Kiosks, Computer Lab computers and Internet connections that are made through Willow Valley servers. Also, Information Central's content is being reviewed by Willow Valley management. The situation that created the problem was caused by Google cataloging content on Willow Valley's Internet server and enabling direct access to that

content by anyone on the Internet. Suggestions have been made for protecting Willow Valley information by requiring login by anyone external to the Willow Valley computer network. In light of the potential changes to the servers and the management review of Information Central, the content in Information Central will not be updated until issues are resolved.

Staffing Difficulties Due to difficulties in getting volunteers to be Monitors in the Manor North and Lakes Manor Computer Labs every weekday, and

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What Is NFC? by Ralph Beedle

Have you seen the TV ad where two smartphones are touched and information is transferred? How do they do it...NFC. So, what is NFC?

NFC (Near Field Communication) is a set of standards that allow smartphones and other devices to communicate via radio signals when held in close proximity. NFC works similarly to Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), although NFC has a much shorter range than RFID. NFC's range is about 4 inches, which makes it harder to eavesdrop.

Devices with NFC hardware can establish communications with other NFC-equipped devices as well as NFC "tags." NFC tags are unpowered NFC chips that draw power from a nearby smartphone or other powered NFC device. At their most basic, NFC tags could be used as a more convenient replacement for Quick Response (QR) codes which store more information than bar codes and are easily read by an optical reader.

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Coming Programs

March 2013

Tony Poulos, Resident
Windows 7, Revisited

April 2013

Tune Up That PC

May 2013

An Expert Panel
Browsers, Browsers

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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due to the reduced numbers of Residents visiting the Computer Labs, the Computer Club Executive Committee voted to open and staff the Computer Labs with Monitors Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. 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 Computer 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 Computer Lab. Monitor schedules are posted on Computer Lab doors.

Previously Owned Computers Ed Dahrsnin and his team have worked on 304 computer systems as of 2/14. Two systems are available to give to Club members or they will be donated to the Lampeter-Strasburg School District to give to families who cannot afford a computer for their students. Ed's team is accepting towers, monitors and printers from Computer Club members for recycling. Included software driver CD's and other CD's are appreciated. Also, they continue to accept laptop computers, with power adapters, and printer cartridges. Leave the items in Manor North's computer room on the first floor of 'M' building Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

MAC SIG We are still searching for a leader of the MAC Special Interest Group (SIG). Until a MAC person volunteers to take that leadership role, the MAC SIG group meetings on the second Thursday of the month in the Manor North Johnson Auditorium are suspended. 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 and Apple product users.

Implementing Linux Based on Al Williams' Linux presentation at the February Computer Club meeting, Gene Simasek and Al Williams are investigating the feasibility of setting up a Linux computer in the Lakes Computer Lab.

Thank You, 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 Computer Room Monitor.

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

Set Your Computer Clock by Ralph Beedle

Most computers automatically synchronize their time with time servers on the Internet. You can see what your computer's settings are using these commands:

Windows: Control Panel > Clock, Language, and Region > Date and Time > Set the time > click on the Internet Time tab

Mac: Applications > System Preferences > Date and Time

Linux: System > Admin > Time and Date

Once there, see if your computer's clock is synchronized with a time standard. If not, select one of the Network Time Protocol (NTP) servers. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) operates several official servers. Please google NIST computer time for more information. •

What Is NFC?

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To establish an NFC connection, all you need to do is touch two NFC-equipped devices together or place them very close to each other. For example, if you had two NFC-equipped smartphones, you would touch them together back-to-back or up to four inches apart. If you had an NFC tag, you would touch the back of your NFC-equipped smartphone to the NFC tag.

NFC is included in a wide variety of devices, including Android devices like the Nexus 4, Galaxy Nexus, Nexus S, Galaxy S III and HTC One X. Android isn't the only platform that supports NFC – Windows Phone devices like Nokia's Lumia series and HTC Windows Phone 8X include NFC, as do many BlackBerry devices. However, none of Apple's iPhones include NFC hardware.

For more, search GOOGLE: What is NFC •

What I've Heard by Al Williams

Over the past several years, I've heard a lot of advice from people like Brian Krebs and Steve Gibson, who are recognized experts. Here is some of their advice, in my words, which is easy to do.

If a web page offers to download and install software on your machine, don't do it.

Download and install only software that you need.

Download software only from the people who developed it. Don't download software from a web site that lists many software packages, like the CNET site. It is reported that many of these web sites insert malware or nuisanceware into the software they are offering.

If you don't need a software package, remove it. Java is a software package that you should keep

on your PC only if you need it. Don't forget to remove unneeded add-ons from your browser.

If you do need a software package, keep it up to date. Use Secunia PSI to keep track of the software on your PC. It will tell you when a software package needs to be updated.

Use www.grc.com/shieldsup to see if your router is one of the 2% which allows a hacker using UPnP (Universal Plug and Play) to completely take over the router and your computer. While you are there, click, in turn, on *File Sharing*, *Common Ports*, and *All Service Ports*. If you consistently see that your computer is in Stealth mode, you will have additional peace of mind that your computer is not easily hacked. If you don't see that, you will know that you have work to do. •

The Equipment Corner by Ed Dahrsnin

Refurbished Systems The following refurbished systems are available:

#300: *Dell Dimension 2350*

#303: *Dell Inspiron 530*

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 Wermuth

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
