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# The Computer Club At Willow Valley

**Inside this issue:**

<b>Coming Programs</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The Equipment Corner</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>The Mission</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>The Leadership</b>	<b>6</b>

## **The President's Pen by Sid Paskowitz**

**Membership** As of this writing, your Computer Club has 543 paid members of the Club including 262 who have signed up as Lifetime members. Please make sure your email address is correct on Club records so we can send you important emails. Those emails only go to Computer Club members for whom we have a good email address. Please let our Treasurer, Charlie Trumbo, know if your email address has changed or if you don't get a future Newsletter.

**North Computer Lab** The Manor North Computer Lab on the first floor of "M" Building is getting new Windows 8 computers. Our current goal is to have a monitor in the Lab at 1:00 p.m. on Mondays to help Residents with Event Registration, to open the room for Computer Club members to turn in working PC components, and

to help with computer problems. In recent months there have been very few visitors to the room and we are studying the possibility of not opening that room on Mondays. Depending on future utilization of that room, we may designate a different location for computer component drop-off.

**November Meeting** A reminder that the November Computer Club meeting will be a presentation by Jim Cluck. Jim always educates us on Willow Valley matters associated with telephone service, Internet, TV, future plans for Information Technology, computer systems and technology staffing. This will be Jim's final presentation to the Computer Club.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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## **Need Information? by Al Williams**

I wrote an article in September of 2012 describing good sources of technical and security information. Several people have indicated that they now use those sources frequently. That article is reprinted here in its entirety.

Are you curious about computers? Would you like to know more? Do you have a problem with your com-

puter that you need to fix? There are many good sources of information written for beginner through advanced. Here are a few:

**Krebs on Security** Brian Krebs is an investigative reporter who blogs about malware developers, security problems, online banking problems,

*(Continued on page 4)*

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## Coming Programs

### November 6, 2014

Jim Cluck, VP Property Mgt and Services  
*IT Update*

### December 2014

Al Williams  
*Exploring the Cloud*

### January 2015

Ralph Beedle  
*Tax Preparation*

*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

*(Continued from page 1)*

He is retiring at the end of the year.

**October Presentation Available** The screen displays from Ron Dillon's excellent presentation at the October Computer Club meeting are available on Information Central. If you missed the meeting or want to revisit the information he presented, go to Information Central.

**Newsletter Index Available** I have stopped getting on my soapbox on topics such as shortcuts and protecting your computer. I have covered those topics many times in past Newsletters. You can access an archive of Newsletters and an index to topics in those Newsletters at <http://resident.willowvalley.org/kiosk/cclub/p/Newsletter.pdf>. The Newsletter index page is also available by left-clicking on Newsletter in the left column in Information Central (the Computer Club icon on the Kiosk Home Page). If you think you remember a topic covered in an earlier Newsletter article and you want to review that article, or you want to see if an earlier Newsletter discussed a topic of interest, check out the Newsletter subject index link on the Newsletter page in Information Central. Another benefit of the Newsletter archive is that if you are a Club member and decide not to have an email address but want to read the Club Newsletters, you can still read them online by visiting Information Central and clicking on the Newsletter link. Let me know if you want me to continue to cover those topics or other topics in President's Pen columns in future Newsletters.

**Zap2it** At the April Computer Club meeting we showed a video tutorial about Zap2it, the online TV guide that displays the WVComTV (Willow Valley Communities TV) channel lineup. The video is available on the Computer Club's external Website at [www.wvrccc.com](http://www.wvrccc.com). Be advised that the video was recorded prior to Tribune Media making a major change to Zap2it. As of the writing of this Presidents Pen, Zap2it is still not taking new registrations; a six-hour option in lieu of a three hour display window is not available; and channel favorites (known as faves) cannot be identified and displayed at the top of the channel listings. On the other hand more selections (Genres) such as movies or sports can be highlighted in the listing. Stay tuned.

**Recycling** Ed Dahrsnin and his team are accepting working computers and components for recycling. Let Ed know if you would like to help recycle computers. Ed and his team meet on Monday afternoons at Manor North. Working in the recycling effort may also help you deal with your own computer when you have problems. Thanks to Ed and his team, the Computer Club passed the 110 mark of computer systems given to the Lampeter-Strasburg School District for families that cannot afford a computer for their students.

**Windows 10** Windows 10 The following is my best information on the status of Windows 10. As you may have heard, Microsoft jumped directly from Windows 8 to Windows 10 (no Windows 9). I believe the reason for this was to remove the bad

*(Continued on page 3)*

## President's Pen

*(Continued from page 2)*

publicity and experiences people had with the initial version of Windows 8, before releasing Windows 8.1 and Windows 8.1 Update, and Microsoft wanted to get as far away as possible from Windows 8.

Microsoft has opened the development of Windows 10 and I have signed up as an evaluator. I have loaded a copy of the Windows 10 operating system onto one of the computers that Ed Dahrsnin and his recycling team have made available. It is an old Windows Vista computer that meets the minimum requirements for Vista and we wanted to see if the Windows 10 operating system would work with that hardware configuration. So far it has. We may also try to see if Windows 10 will work on an even less capable computer.

My plan is to focus my testing on Skype, Windows Speech Recognition and Cortana. For those of you who are not familiar with Cortana, she is the artificial intelligence digital assistant that is available on the Windows 8 mobile phones. It has been so successful that Microsoft has indicated that feature will be added to the Windows 10 operating system which will apply to mobile, portable and desktop devices. As of this writing, Cortana has not been included in the Windows 10 evaluation software, but I will be watching for it with great anticipation. My hope is that when it is available, it will be possible to do whatever I want on a computer, tablet or phone without needing to use a mouse, keyboard, finger or stylus.

I have noted that Windows 10 has restored the popular Start menu from Windows 7 and has added tiles to it so it has features found in handheld devices. A significant change I have noted in Windows 10 is that there is increased use of special characters such as + and ... that are now mostly found on smartphones and tablets. This actually

makes sense because the screen size on those devices is much smaller than a flat screen on a desktop or laptop computer so there is less room for icons or text links. Those special characters will take a little getting used to, but if the use of those special characters becomes standard across a wide range of applications and devices, I think we will be able to deal with them.

Something I was able to do with Windows 10 that I had not done before was to have a three-way Skype video conversation. That was pretty neat!

Some other features I noted with Windows 10 are that there will only be one store for applications that will work on devices all the way down from desktop computers to smartphones. I am hoping this means that once I learn how to use an application on a Windows 10 desktop computer, I will have no problem using that application on a smartphone or vice versa. That should make everyone's life a little easier. Software updates will apparently be handled differently with Windows 10. Instead of large revisions or releases, changes will be distributed automatically as they are developed.

The guidance I have received so far indicates the test version of Windows 10 (Microsoft doesn't even call it that – they call it an operating system evaluation) will cease to function on February 15, 2015 at which time the operating system on the computer on which it is installed will cease to function. <<A word to the wise for those who think they can just download the software and play with it!>> Windows 10 will likely be released for public use sometime later in 2015. Rumors are that it may be available as a free download for those who have Windows 8 on their computers or handheld devices.

Ralph Beedle is also testing Windows 10 and we frequently compare notes on what we find. Stay tuned. We will try to keep you informed. My

*(Continued on page 4)*

## President's Pen

(Continued from page 3)

“bottom line” of what I am seeing so far is that I think Microsoft may be getting it right this time – but only if I can talk with Cortana.

**Thank You** My thanks to all of you who volunteer your time and knowledge to help other Residents. We need more volunteers! •

**PS** After reading the *Need Information?* article by Al Williams, I suggest you visit those websites and add them as Favorites or Bookmarks on your computer so you won't need to search for them later.

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## Need Information?

(Continued from page 1)

etc. He writes for the Beginner but his material is need-to-know information for the Intermediate and Advanced user as well. You may read his blog at <http://krebsonsecurity.com/> or you may subscribe. If you subscribe, a email summarizing his latest blog will be sent to you as new material is posted.

**Windows Secrets** A series of weekly articles about Windows computer problems and how to fix them. Covers XP, Vista, and Windows 7. Delivered to your email inbox. Beginner to Advanced. You may subscribe at <http://windowssecrets.com/> subscribe (suggested by Ed Dahrsnin)

**bleepingcomputer.com** Have a pop-up that won't go away? Have you been attacked by the FBI ransomware? This site has excellent and understandable instructions on how to remove malware. You go their site and describe what is happening; it will usually find the appropriate set of instructions. Beginner to Advanced.

**support.microsoft.com** Have you been looking for an answer to a Windows problem? If Google displays a support.microsoft.com option, do check it

out. This series of web pages provides answers to questions from Microsoft employees (and others). In some cases, a Mr. Fix-It solution is offered. Once downloaded and executed, the Mr. Fix-It script fixes problems on your computer that match your description of the problem. For Beginner to Advanced.

**Know How...** This is a [twit.tv](http://twit.tv) show (a video podcast) that provides hands on information showing the viewer how to do something of interest. The first show is titled “Roll Your Own Cloud.” The fourth is “Setting up a Media Server.” A media server allows you to access movies and music around the house. Intermediate to Advanced.

**Security Now** Want to know how the Internet works? How the latest malware attacks a computer? Steve Gibson explains. This audio podcast's early shows were designed for the Beginner. After the foundation was laid, it moved to the Intermediate level and is now at the Advanced level. All of the over 360 shows are available. [www.grc.com/securitynow](http://www.grc.com/securitynow)

**Forums** Have a piece of software or hardware that is giving you a problem? Many manufacturers

(Continued on page 5)

## Need Information?

*(Continued from page 4)*

support on-line forums for their products. Look for a Forum tab on the manufacturer's website. Someone on the forum for your product may know the answer to your problem. These forums are for Beginner to Advanced.

*Microsoft's MSDN and TechNet websites* Microsoft also offers information through their MSDN

and TechNet sites. These sites provide excellent information although it may take a while to assimilate what they are saying and you may have to read background information to understand what is being said. For Intermediate to Advanced. •

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

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## The Equipment Corner by Ed Dahrsnin

### Refurbished Systems

#362 Compaq Presario V2000 laptop with Ubuntu

#369 Dell Dimension 3000-5ZLZD61 tower with Ubuntu

#370 Compaq Presario S6300NX tower with Win 7 SP1

#374 Dell Dimension 3000-DFWP881 tower with Win 7 SP1

#375 Dell Dimension 8200-FSZ3111 tower with Win 7 SP1

#377 Dell Dimension E310-6PRBP91 tower with Win 7 SP1 and HP Presto Printing Mailbox printer

**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. 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 [wvcomputerclub@gmail.com](mailto:wvcomputerclub@gmail.com) •

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## The Leadership

### Officers

President: Sid Paskowitz

Vice President: Bob Scala

Secretary: Marge Schmieder

Treasurer: Charlie Trumbo

### Community Representatives

Manor: Larry Gallagher

Manor North: JoAnne Phillips

Lakes: Gene Simasek

Providence Park: Peter Scott

### Committee Chairpersons

Program: Bob Scala

Training: Ralph Beedle

Equipment: Ed Dahrsnin

Technical Support: Tony Poulos

Website: Sid Paskowitz

Publicity: Wally Gordon

Newsletter: Al Williams

Mac Interest Group:

Computer Room Coordinators:

Gene Simasek Lee Yermuth

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, providing advice about the content, or writing an article? Please contact:

Al Williams at [atwilliams136@gmail.com](mailto:atwilliams136@gmail.com)