

User Friendly

May 2014



Member of
An International
Association of Technology
& Computer User Groups

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MAY GENERAL MEETING

PROTECTING SENIORS FROM MEDICAL SCAMS

Speaker: Laurel Eu

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Since 1992, Ms. Eu has served as a Public Affairs Specialist at the FDA. Ms. Eu implements public health campaigns and educates community groups, health professionals, consumers, industry, and media about the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the products the agency regulates. Ms. Eu has made numerous presentations about food labeling, food safety including the Food Safety Modernization Act, medication safety, health fraud, clinical trials and the drug approval process, and the FDA PREDICT Import System.



Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 7 - 9 PM

Fellowship Hall, 8065 Emerson Ave., Westchester 90045

An informal Computer Forum meets from 6:00 to 6:50 P.M. to answer individual questions. All are welcome.

After the meeting some members may meet at Dinah's Family Restaurant at Sepulveda and Centinela.

More info at <http://www.lacspc.org> or at 310-398-0366

APRIL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

By **Charlotte Semple**, LACS Treasurer

PERFECTING YOUR COMPUTER BACKUP

LACS member Elliott Stern, aka "The Maestro," is the chief computer nerd at Maestro Computing Services. Elliott and Maestro Computing Services have been supporting small businesses and home-computer owners for over 25 years. Elliott strongly believes there is more to owning a computer than simply turning it on and hoping for the best. Unfortunately, too many computer owners buy the least expensive unit and never pay attention to protection and preventative maintenance. He calls this the "plug and pray, then walk away" method of computer ownership.



Before he started his presentation, Elliot gave everyone a copy of his Backup Quiz. He then started by discussing the first two questions.

(Continued on Page 3)

WELCOME ALL**Gene Jacobs**

Data Base Manager, LACS

New Members (1)

Angie Jacobs

**Renewals (7)**

Giok Brandt

Mary Chiu

Irv Farber

Robert Hirshon

Marian Juster

Olga Schexnader

Kim Stocksdale**

** Benefactor

FROM YOUR EDITOR**LACS E-Mail Lists — Members Helping Members**

If you are not subscribed to the LACS e-mail groups you are missing one of the main benefits of membership.

To subscribe to the two primary LACS mail lists, send your request via an e-mail with your name in the message body to each of the following addresses. All LACS mail lists are for members only.

lacslist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

lacspsc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

If you have questions send them to:

mail_lists@lacspc.org

We Need You!

I know you are all busy people but LACS really needs some members to learn what the officers and other volunteers do. If members start learning these positions now, there won't be a panic when someone can't continue. If several members are familiar with each job there won't be so much pressure on any one person.

If we want LACS to keep thriving we need everyone to participate. It is sad to see some of the SIGs fold up because of lack of participation or leadership.

The Daytime, Hardware, and Lunch SIGs have been disbanded due to lack of leadership or attendance.

The Digital Photo SIG won't meet in May due to the Memorial Day holiday.

Check your e-mail regularly to be sure the SIG you are planning to attend will be meeting.

More info at <http://www.lacspc.org> or at 310-398-0366 #2

CASH FLOW**March 18 2014 -****April 21, 2014**

Charlotte Semple,
Treasurer, Pro Tem, LACS

Current Total Liquid Assets

Bank of America Checking \$13,373.51

Gross Receipts

Member Dues \$872.00

Donation 40.00

Total Gross Receipts \$912.00**Expenses**

Fellowship Hall Rental \$60.00

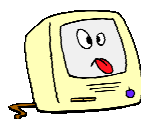
GM Refreshment Expense 35.45

Travel Expense 13.40

February Newsletter 279.99

Liability Insurance 748.00

MiFi Expense 50.08

Total Expenses \$1186.92**Net Deficit \$274.92****FIX YOUR PC FOR FREE?**

Jim McKnight has an open offer to all LACS members to diagnose, repair, disinfect, or up-grade member's PC's for free.

There are certain limitations to Jim's offer, so see the details by clicking the "Fix my PC for Free?" link at www.jimopi.net.

Non-members can wisely invest in a one- year LACS membership (\$40.00), and Jim will fix your PC problem, too.

(April General Meeting Report)

(Continued from page 1)

Questions #1 and #2:

1. Have you ever suffered a data loss, lost files or other data disaster?
2. Do you have a computer backup system?

How and where should you backup?

Use backup software and backup media, the automated or semi-automated scripts to create a backup job to save the stuff inside your computer. You want to save to an external removable redundant media; external hard drive, flash drive, USB drive, CDs or DVDs (though you know how the capacity of these is limited), or, use the latest trend – the online backup, the cloud service.

What should you backup?

Anything you cannot afford to lose; pictures, music, financial information, safe documents, word documents, taxes, etc. What also should be backed up are the downloaded software installation files, as the trend now is you don't get CDs or DVDs. You should also back up the activation codes, serial numbers, license fees and the windows installation key, that encrypted key that is valid for the installation of Windows operating systems. If you have old CDs or DVDs from your installation software, you can clone those to a file and back those up, so if you need them again to reinstall the software, you will have them.

When should you backup?

Regularly and on a set schedule. There are two types of backup in existence:

- A. The save file backup, saving your word, excel, music videos, JPEG files, etc.
- B. The other type is the entire computer, or image backup which includes all your saved files, operating system, installed software, user settings, device settings, internet settings, etc.

Where do you back up?

Back up to a local drive, or an online backup service(The Cloud).

Questions #3 and #4:

3. What is the name of the backup system/software for your system?

4. What is their website address?

Always, know and understand how your backup system works before using it. Practice using a few lesser important files. Then review what you have backed up to make sure it works. Also know the website address of your backup system for contact purposes, should you have questions, or need help with problems. Also, learn your backup system's restore function. Again, practice with the same files to make sure you understand how to restore.

Questions #5 and #6:

5. How often do you back up your computer?
6. Do you have the latest version of your backup software?

When you acquire a new computer, you most often get the newest version of an operating system. It is important for you also acquire the latest, updated, version of your backup system that will be compatible with your new Operating system. Stick with what you have and stay current.

Questions #7 , #8, #9 and #10:

7. Do you know how to restore/recover information or files from your backup system? Have you ever tried?
 8. Is your backup local (USB) or cloud/Internet based?
 9. Local USB Backup – how many drives are you using?
 10. Cloud backup – When was the last time you logged into the service via the Internet?
- Create a disaster recovery CD of your operating system (OS) software so that you have a recovery method to restore your OS if something goes awry. It will not backup the data in your system, though, but it will help you get back your OS, and you won't lose any of your data. It will not fix a virus. Run your virus protection before creating a backup. If you find a virus, close down your system. Then restart your computer, run your virus protection program to remove the virus, close down again, and create your backup.

You want to use redundant, removable media; universal backup. Use nothing so proprietary that you need special hardware or soft-

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SOUTHWEST TECHNOLOGY & COMPUTER CONFERENCE

June 27- 29, 2014

WWW.theswcc.org



Welcome to SW2014. This is our 21st annual conference and will again be held at the beautiful Kellogg-West Conference Center & Hotel @ Cal Poly Pomona. The environment is relaxing and friendly PLUS the food is amazingly delicious!

Presentations, Seminars, Vendor Expo, Door Prizes -- everything you have come to expect with this long-running event. The Conference always brings new and innovative technology to its attendees.

There will be something for everyone, regardless of your preferred platform or level of expertise. You will have many networking opportunities with PC, Mac & Linux attendees -- computers, tablets, smartphones, take your pick of conversations.

Are you having challenging situations with your user group / computer club? This is the place to talk one on one with others who might be experiencing the same challenges. You may find ideas from others to help.

Parking is free and there is free Wi-Fi in the Conference Center and Hotel rooms.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

\$85 if received by June 2, 2014 - includes meals

\$100 if received after June 2, 2014

Pay via check or PayPal

Fillable Registration form and more info on the Registration page

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

\$89/Single; \$95/Double; \$109/Quad

Call the hotel (1-800-593-7876) to make your reservations

If you have accessibility needs, please let them know.

There will be a golf cart available to bring attendees from the hotel to the conference center, as necessary.

PHOTO CONTEST

****New this year**** The 2014 photo contest is open to all attendees who may submit one 8x10 photo -- subject of their choice. There will be Best of Show, 1st, 2nd and 3rd places voted on by the attendees. You will find the photo contest guidelines via a link from the Home page.

Southwest will also be home to the 2014 APCUG Photo Contest. Attendees will have the opportunity to vote for APCUG's Best of Show photo.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with me (JudyTaylour@theswcc.org) *

(Editor's note: I hope a lot of LACS members will be able to attend. The more, the merrier!)

DIGITAL PHOTO SIG REPORT

By **Elliot Silverstein**, LACS

Eleven people were present at the March, 2014 meeting. The main topic was the presentation, by Nancy Cattell, of a number of photos taken on her recent trip to Italy. Most of the photos were taken at Sorrento or at Capri.

Nancy used her Nikon D800 SLR. Nancy had used her Nikon camera 300 mm variable zoom lens for all her pictures; she never changed lenses. Her ISO was set on AUTO, so she didn't know what ISO settings the camera had selected for individual shots, although the information is available in the exif files. Usually she used a fairly fast shutter speed, and her photos all looked very clear without blur. Nancy said she found that 1/250 second was usually fast enough, even for scenes shot from a moving boat. She used autofocus, based on the center of the field of view. This seemed to work quite well for almost all the images shown.

Nancy uses an Apple laptop and the Apple iPhoto program. She showed the photos as individual pictures accompanied by a musical background selected from assorted music

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(Digital Photo SIG Report)

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available in the iPhoto program. She then showed a number of pictures in a slide show that included slow zooming during each slide, giving a bit of an effect of movies rather than stills.

Later, Nancy discussed storage and filing of her photos. She takes all her photos in RAW mode, so her files are huge. She said she had taken over 1000 photos on this trip alone. So most of her storage media consists of portable hard drives. *

XP LAPTOPS NEEDED

Members may now be getting rid of XP machines, so we're calling attention to Jim McKnight's request for such laptops for the homeless.

This was taken from Jim's webpage, www.jimopi.net:

Since 2001, Jim McKnight has worked with a homeless feeding program in Santa Monica California called "Hand to Hand". Hand to Hand provides a hot meal to over 200 homeless and needy guests every Saturday morning and every holiday, year around at 5th Street and Olympic Blvd. in Santa Monica. Each month, Jim personally bakes 40 pounds of homemade brownies to share with our homeless guests on the last Saturday of the month.

Jim has found that there is a need for Laptop PC's among homeless and other needy people trying to better themselves. Yes, homeless people can use PC's.... for job preparation and other useful tasks, as well as for fun. Many free wireless hotspots allow them to connect to the Internet.

Jim refurbishes the donated Laptop PC's and gives them to deserving needy or homeless recipients in the West Los Angeles area through the Hand-to-Hand organization. He fully wipes all data from the hard-drive, then re-formats the drive, and puts on a fresh installation of the Windows Operating system. If desired, you can request that Jim pull any important data from your hard-

drive and put it on a flash-drive or CD for you before he wipes the hard drive.

This is a great way to recycle and dispose of your old Laptop. If you would like to donate an old laptop that has Windows XP, Vista, or Windows 7 installed (running or not), contact Jim at:



Please include the power adapter and any CD/DVD's that came with the PC.

Upon request, a receipt for tax purposes will be provided from either the Hand-to-Hand Feeding project or from the Los Angeles Computer Society (both are 501c3 Organizations). If you do want a receipt, please provide an estimated value of your donation for the receipt.

---- *Jim McKnight*

BASICS & BEYOND SIG REPORT

By **Kim Stocksdales, LACS**

There were 11 attendees at the April 14 Basics and Beyond SIG held at the Santa Monica College Bundy campus. First, apologies to those who may have come and left thinking the campus was closed. It was closed for spring break, so no cars were in the rear parking lot where we normally park. However, by a last minute arrangement, the campus security let us hold the meeting. Topics included: Using Windows XP after Microsoft ended Support April 8, Tabbed Browsing, and The 100 Best Outer Space Photos.

Using Windows XP after Microsoft ended Support April 8

Many thought Microsoft would not go through with their threat that April 8 would be the final day of support for Windows XP; an operating system that's still popular and widely used. Well, this time Microsoft did what they said, and from now on Microsoft will no longer offer security patches / upgrades to Windows XP. That doesn't mean

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(Basics and Beyond SIG Report)

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XP can't be used.... with some precautions. The easiest way to research the different things you can do, enter "Keep Using Windows XP Securely" into Google. We discussed some of those:

1. Do not have your PC set up to operate as the Administrator. Administrator rights allows you to add/remove software. If malware attacks your PC, they will take advantage of taking over as administrator and install their malicious software. Better is for you to set up your XP system so you log in as a "limited user." Then to install software, you (or the malware) have to enter Administrator mode that requires a password. Malware won't know your password.
2. Use the Firefox or Google Chrome browser instead of Internet Explorer. Both are far more secure since they're being kept up to date.
3. Use Sandboxie when browsing the internet
4. Only download software from original vendors. Don't download programs from a third party download sites because these sites often install extra software that may jeopardize your system.
5. Use up-to-date security software with anti-virus and firewall installed.

Enhance your Internet Experience with Tabbed Browsing

All the popular internet browsers (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Google Chrome) now offer "tabbed browsing" and this feature works similarly on each browser. Basically, multiple tabs allows multiple Internet windows to be open at the same time within the same browser window. For example, you could have four tabs in one Firefox browser window. One tab could have Google on it, one could have Yahoo!, the other Amazon.com, and the fourth with the LACSPC.org website. Then, to go from one of the four websites to another, just click the tab near the top of the browser window.

When you click on an internet link, the link

can open in one of three ways:

1. Replace the present website containing the link with the new website, so the original website disappears after the link is clicked.
2. Keep the present tab contents, open the new link in a new tab. So if you had four tabs open, you will have five open after clicking the link.
3. The link opens the new website in a new browser window.

How can you control which of the above three methods will be used? The answer is by right-clicking the link instead of left-clicking. Then a drop down menu appears, giving you the choice of opening the link in a new tab, or opening in new browser window. Usually (though not always) if you left-click the link, then the new web page will replace the original web page you were viewing.

The 100 Best Outer Space Photos

We viewed a web page at space.com with "the 100 best photos of outer space from 2012." The easiest way to find this website is to enter "100 Best Space Photos of 2012" into Google. The good thing about these 100 photos is you don't just view each photo and then scratch your head trying to decipher what you are looking at... Each photo comes with a short description of all the pertinent information you need to know about the photo, and a link if you want to look at similar photos or to get more details. Galaxy photos, Mars photos, Earth photos, satellites and space stations are just a few of those 100. *



Busy at the April General Meeting.

THE RUNNING OF THE NERDS 2014

By **Lou Torraca**, President
MOAA – The TUG, Hawaii
[Af06hi\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:Af06hi(at)gmail.com)



Who needs Barcelona and the bulls when we have Las Vegas and the Nerds? Yup, The International Consumer Electronics Show kicked off in Vegas 7-10 January with 150,000 folks running with the Nerds, wanting to see as many of the 3,200 exhibits as possible. For the media, the show started with 3 events, CES Unveiled on Sunday night at the Mandalay Bay, Digital Experience at the Mirage on Monday night and Showstoppers at the Wynn on Tuesday night. Monday was an all-day extravaganza of press conferences, each one an hour and fifteen minutes, then a fifteen minute break to run to the next one. I also went to one that previewed the China Information Technology Expo (CITE) sponsored by the government in April and another one that previewed the IFA, held in Berlin in September and which they bill as the world's leading trade show for consumer electronics and home appliances. So, with all that said, how do you get to see anything? Fortunately, the first three events took place in ballrooms and as many as 200 vendors displayed their best products, which, BTW, include cars, which look like the next Tech Hot spot!



From streaming music to BING search to self-parking there was a lot of buzz about all the various models displayed.

TVs were also a big hit with UHD, and curved screens causing a lot of oohs and aahs... biggest was when, with the push of a button, the curved screen was returned to a flat screen. But be prepared for sticker shock an LG 84inch UHD is priced at \$17,000. !!!!



OK, back to the real world, here are a few gadgets that caught my eye.

DISH Super Joey

The eight-show system involves Dish's Hopper (pronounced Happah by folks from Boston or who went to BU) DVR and a new Super Joey add-on box for separate rooms. The catch is that four of those shows have to be from the broadcast networks ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox. Dish also unveiled Joey boxes that can run wirelessly with the help of a router that sits next to the Hopper. Previously, Joey boxes had to be connected by separate coaxial cables. Now they just need power outlets. Improvements in Wi-Fi technology made the new wireless setup possible.



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(The Running of the Nerds 2014)

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ASUS PadFoneX: Combines a smartphone with the convenience of a tablet.



Easily dock the smartphone into the tablet docking station and you have a full tablet with all of your files and customizations in one place. You can charge the smartphone wirelessly or while docked for extended battery life. For you Techno nerds, this ASUS Padfone X device powers with 300~2266mHz MSM8974AB and Adreno 330 chipset. Other specs include 1920×1200 resolution, 2GB RAM, 16GB ROM and it will run Android 4.4 OS. Very impressive!

The Martian Notifier

It doesn't advertise to the world that it's a tech gadget. On the contrary, it looks almost completely like a regular watch, save for a small horizontal screen on its face. That's where you see those notifications, which have replaced voice control as the newer model's bread and butter. It lets you customize your own vibration patterns for each different type of notification. So, if you have your arms full, the

pattern of vibrations you feel will let you know right away what kind of notification just came in. Just an email... no rush. That's a text... might be the one you're waiting for. You customize the patterns for each type of alert and instantly know what type of notification is coming in without looking at the watch. Smartwatches in general keep you from having to look at your phone so often - but the Martian takes that a step further and keeps you from even having to look at your watch so often. If you have one or have a friend with one... you know what I mean.

Kolibree Smart Toothbrush

Toothbrushes have joined smartphones, smartwatches and smart beds in the ranks of devices with artificial intelligence, NBC News reported.

Kolibree has introduced what they are calling "the world's first connected electric toothbrush." The smart toothbrush senses how long and how well the user brushes and tracks down the user's performance on their phone. Besides tracking down tooth brushing performance, the electric toothbrush also teaches users how to brush right and it also tracks brushing habits.






The gadget comes with a mobile app compatible with iOS and the Android operating system that connects with the toothbrush via a Bluetooth connection. When the brush is in use, it syncs to the smartphone sharing information on how it's being used to the mobile app. Users can then share that information with their dentist, friends, family, or anyone else they choose. They can even post their results on social media. Somehow I can't see any of my grandkids/greatgrandkids posting their brushing info on Facebook... but who knows!! On the other hand, parents trying to teach their young ones about brushing may have a winner here.

GOJI Smart Lock

It will not only get unlocked when it senses your smartphone near it, but will also greet

(Continued on Page 17)

MAY 2014				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28 APRIL Digital Photo SIG 7:00 PM	29	30	1 MAY 	2
5  Software SIG 7:00 PM	6	7	8	9
12 Basics & Beyond SIG 7 :00 PM	13 General Meeting 7:00 PM	14	15	16
19 Board Meeting	20	21	22	23
26 	27	28	29	30

Calendar is subject to change. Check your e-mail or with the SIG leader before attending a meeting.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

SIG meetings are lead by and for LACS members. Visitors are welcome to attend up to six SIGs. meetings (three of the same SIG) before being asked to join LACS. To inquire about a SIG, call the contact person in advance. Acting SIG Coordinator: Heshmat Laaly, [sig_coord\(at\)lacspsc.org](mailto:sig_coord(at)lacspsc.org)

Basics & Beyond SIG	Kim Stocksdales	310-720-0603	2nd Mon. 7 PM SMC, Bundy Campus
Digital Photo SIG	Nancy Cattell	310-452-2130	4th Mon. 7 PM, SMC, Bundy Campus
	Elliot Silverstein	310-670-154	
Software SIG	Volunteer Needed *		1st Mon. 7 PM, SMC, Bundy Campus

* To volunteer, please contact the President or Vice President.

ADDRESSES

Dinah's Family Restaurant, 6521 Sepulveda Blvd., LA 90045 (on Sepulveda, just S. of Centinela)

SMC Bundy Campus, 3171 S. Bundy Drive, LA 90066 (1/2 block S. of Airport Avenue)

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

LACS members volunteer to help other members solve hardware and software problems by telephone during the hours listed below. Select the topic from the list and then call a person whose number is listed next to it. Or you may use a Helper's e-mail address, found in your LACS Roster. We hope that you find this free service useful. ***If you are experienced in a particular program or topic, please volunteer to be a consultant.*** To volunteer for this list or to make corrections, please e-mail [editor\(at\)lacspsc.org](mailto:editor(at)lacspsc.org) or call Leah Clark at 310-677-2792. More Quick Consultants are always needed. You may decline or postpone a call if it comes at the wrong time.

America Online - 20	Lotus Word Pro, Approach - 56	Open Office - 60
Anti Malware - 56	Mozilla Firefox, Thunderbird - 56	Picasa - 58
Digital Imaging, Editing - 50	MS Excel - 59	Quicken - 20
Digital Photography - 58	MS Word - 9, 53	QuickBooks -52
Dragon Naturally Speaking -9	MS Outlook - 59, 20	Viruses - 46
Genealogy - 20, 34	MS Outlook Express - 59	Visual Basic - 57
Hardware - 55, 56	MS PowerPoint - 59	Websites - 57
LA FreeNet—24	MS Publisher - 2, 52	Win XP/Vista - 56, 60
		WordPerfect - 20

No.	Name	Daytime Phone	Eves/Weekends	From	To
2	Mercer, Bob	310-837-5648	310-837-5648	9:00 AM	10:00 PM
9	Hershman, Irv	310-397-9453	310-397-9453	11:00 AM	11:00 PM
20	Nordlinger, Stephanie	323-299-3244	323-299-3244	5:00 PM	10:00 PM
24	Springer, Karl	424-646-3410	424-646-3410	10:00 AM	10:00 PM
34	Clark, Leah	310-677-2792	310-677-2792	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
46	Martin, Todd	818-766-1151	818-766-1151	10:00 AM	10:00 PM
50	Silverstein, Elliott	310-670-1544	310-670-1544	10:00 AM	10:00 PM
52	Semple, Charlotte	310-398-5052	N.A.	10:00 AM	5:00 PM
53	Beckman, Loling	310-471-7893	N.A.	10:00 AM	6:00 PM
55	Strate, Steve	310-450-7478	N.A.	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
56	McKnight, Jim	310-823-7829	310-823-7829	8:00 AM	7:00 PM
57	Ialongo, Gilbert	310-641-7906	N.A.	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
58	Schneir, Jerry	310-451-4140	310-451-4140	9:00 AM	10:00 PM
59	Van Berkorn, Paula	310-398-6734	N.A.	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
60	Johnson, Carol	310-372-8535	310-372-8535	10:00 AM	9:00 PM



It would be nice if more members volunteered to help other members. After all, that's what LACS is all about! We need helpers for some of the newer technologies with which members may be struggling. That would include Windows 8, Linux, Apple, and any Windows, Apple, and Android devices. As noted above, you will not be committed to any specific time. We hope to hear from YOU.

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND LEADERS

Title	Name	Term	Telephone	E-Mail Address
President	Stephanie Nordlinger	2013	323-299-3244	pres(at)lacspc.org
Vice President	Maurice Stephenson	2014	310-314-8489	vp(at)lacspc.org
Secretary	Lee Freehling	2014	310-837-4022	secretary(at)lacspc.org
Treasurer	Charlotte Semple	2014	310-398-5052	treasurer(at)lacspc.org
Deputy Treasurer	Vacant—Please Apply			
Director	Nancy Cattell	2014	310-452-2130	Please see the Roster
Director	Ray Crovella	2014	310-215-0076	Please see the Roster
Director	Lance Hegamin	2015	424-248-5262	Please see the Roster
Director	Heshmat Laaly	2015	310-838-7140	Please see the Roster
Director	Jim Louie	2015	310-473-4247	Please see the Roster
Director	Jim McKnight	2014	310-823-7829	Please see the Roster
Director	Paula Van Berkom	2015	310-398-6734	Please see the Roster
APCUG Rep.	Charlotte Semple		310-398-5052	apcug_rep(at)lacspc.org
Changes	Karl Springer		424-646-3410	changes(at)lacspc.org
Corporate Counsel	Stephanie Nordlinger		323-299-3244	counsel(at)lacspc.org
CCSC Computer Lab	Lee Freehling		310-837-4022	secretary(at)lacspc.org
Hospitality Chair	Sylvia Davis		213-924-4927	Please see the Roster.
Membership Database	Gene Jacobs		310-397-8457	Please see the Roster
Newsletter Editor	Leah Clark		310-677-2792	editor(at)lacspc.org
Program Chair	Maurice Stephenson		310-314-8489	program(at)lacspc.org
Publicity	Mark Presky		310-398-0366	publicity(at)lacspc.org
Quick Consultants	Leah Clark		310-677-2792	editor(at)lacspc.org
SIG Coordinator, acting	Heshmat Laaly		310-838-7140	sig_coord(at)lacspc.org
Web Master	Gilbert Ialongo		310-641-7906	webmaster(at)lacspc.org
Welcome Chair	Ida Riordan		310-837-9851	Please see the Roster



NOTICE

The columns, reviews and other expressions of opinion in *User Friendly* are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Los Angeles Computer Society. LACS became a California non-profit corporation on July 17, 1991.

The Editor of *User Friendly* will accept contributions of any suitable length from members. Articles should be sent to the Editor, [editor \(at\) lacspc.org](mailto:editor(at)lacspc.org), as **plain text** in the body of an e-mail message or as a Word document. The deadline for submitting articles is the **20th of the month**. The Editor asks that articles be submitted **UNFORMATTED**.

SCHEDULED GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATIONS

By **Maurice Stephenson**, Program Chair

- Tuesday, May 13, 2014
Laurel Au, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
How Does the FDA Protect Seniors From Medical Product Scams?
- Tuesday, June 10, 2014
LAUSD Students & Maurice Stephenson,
vp@lacspsc.org
Arduino Robots
- Tuesday, July 8, 2014
Westchester Library
e-Books

While we urge you to mark your calendars now, changes are certainly possible, so please watch your e-mail. If you have ideas for other topics and speakers, please contact Maurice Stephenson, our Program Chair, at vp@lacspsc.org.

GENERAL MEETING SNACK SCHEDULE

By **Sylvia Davis**

Please participate by bringing finger-food treats such as fresh fruit, veggies, nuts, cookies, brownies and the like. Bottled water and soft drinks (reg. & diet) are appreciated, too. Below is the snack schedule for the first portion of 2014 so you may plan ahead.

May	D through G
June	I through K
July	L through P



USER FRIENDLY ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card, Member	\$10
Business card	\$15
Half Page	\$35
Third Page	\$25
Full Page	\$50
Two page spread	\$100

Brief (4 lines/1 column-inch) non commercial, computer-related classified ads are free to members twice a year.

Advertising Policy: *User Friendly* accepts advertising on a space-available basis. Advertising insertion orders are due on the **FIRST** of the month before insertion. An image file or camera-ready copy (suitable for b/w offset printing) and **FULL** payment **MUST** be received by the Editor by the **TENTH** of the month. One month maximum credit or rerun for promptly reported errors will be allowed. For further information, e-mail [editor\(at\)lacspsc.org](mailto:editor(at)lacspsc.org)

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WE'RE on the WEB!

<http://www.lacspsc.org>

(April General Meeting Report)

(Continued from page 3)

ware. USB is the standard of external drives. If you have your external drive connected to firewire, or scuzzy, you are using something not so universal that you cannot plug it into everybody's computer to get to your information.

Built-in backup utilities should be considered; Intuit software (QuickBooks, Quicken), most of the accounting software, medical software, mailing lists, etc. These create their own backup files to your computer or to an external hardware. Include these backups in your big backup. Built-in backup systems enable the software companies to assist you with any problem with your backup of that product.

Hardware that does not have built-in backup systems in your network or wireless device (wireless printer, Wi-Fi, Router, etc.), the most important being your Router. How do you know how these work? You need to write this information down (its name, configuration, inscription code, user name and password, etc.) somewhere on your computer, in a special folder, so it can be included in your backup. We live on the Internet – so it is very important you understand how your Router works. You need to be able to get into and manage your Router.

Internet backup is reliable, safe, cost effective, and you don't need physical hardware to create you backup. But, you need to know how to log into your internet backup system, what is your provider name, your user name, your password, how big a capacity you are given, retention and delete policies, your method of payment. It is important to learn these details and have them written down. Again, learn how to backup and restore from your Internet backup system.

One of the advantages of having Internet Backup is you can retrieve it from most anywhere; cell phone, smart phone, another computer, iPad, etc. You can share files; send a specific file to another person, without that person having access to your other files.

Another thing that is really nice about the cloud backup is Versioning. When you create a backup of a word document one day, then

back it up another day, you have two versions of your document. Local backup systems cannot do this unless you have multiple local external drives onto which you have created multiple versions. A real pain!

The most important part of Elliot's presentation was his 4Rs of better backups:

1. Removable Media

Backup storage media should be removed and stored in a safe place away from the computer that is being backed up. Backup media that remains powered on and connected to the source computer can become corrupted with viruses, lost data, electrical problems, other issues, etc. So, turn it off and disconnect it.

2. Redundancy/Replication

Use multiple sets of backup storage media (at least 3): Multiple external hard drives, flash drives, CD/DVDs (old technology), or Online backup Services. If/when one set of backup media should fail; the alternate sets still contain a valid backup.

3. Restore/Recovery

Most information that is "backed up" needs to be "restored" using the same backup software that created the backup archive. Learn and test the restore function of your backup software before a problem occurs. Do not wait until you have a problem to learn how to restore. Perform a test restore from your backups periodically to make sure you know how it works. This is also true for online Internet cloud backup services.

Your backup software will create an archive file, containing backup of prior backups. Each backup software has its own unique archive files. You cannot restore files from one backup system to another. The only way to restore your backup is to use the software that created it.

There is a difference between an archive file and a copy. An archive file is traditionally made by backup software. Again, the only way to get to it is to use the backup software that created it. A copy or synchronization software creates true copies of your hard drive to an external hard drive and you can connect that hard drive to another computer

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and get to your copy. The cloud backup is really a copy as opposed to an archive. Most cloud systems run copies not backup archives.

4. Review your backup – is your backup system using the Plug and Pray then Walk Away strategy?

Backup jobs should be reviewed to make sure the backup is valid. Backup software should provide a log and/or e-mail notification that every backup job/routine has completed successfully. Check the log and receive a backup e-mail notification EVERYTIME a backup is run.

Please go to our website, to Podcasts, and listen to Elliot's presentation – it is very clear, and you probably will find what you are looking for.

Maestro has offered computer services since 1965. Weekend and Evening support is available. Please contact the Maestro:

maestro@pcmaestro.com or (310) 880-9891. *

WAZE TRAVEL AND ROUTING INFORMATION ON YOUR SMART DEVICE - A REVIEW

by **Ira Wilsker**

Golden Triangle PC Club

[iwilsker\(at\)sbcglobal.net](mailto:iwilsker(at)sbcglobal.net)

www.theexaminer.com

**WEBSITES:**

<https://www.waze.com>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.waze>

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/waze-social-gps-traffic/id323229106?mt=8>

<http://www.windowphone.com/s?appid=f07f83eb-a8a4-49fd-8946-c67a9349e062>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waze>

<http://www.haaretz.com/business/.premium-1.529478>

Over the past several weeks, I have taken several out-of-town road trips. On these trips I used a novel free smart phone app for routing and traffic information called Waze

(waze.com). There are an abundance of apps that function with the integral GPS built into almost all smart devices, including smart phones and tablets. Available for most smart devices with an appropriate wireless internet connection (cellular or Wi-Fi) running Android, iOS (Apple devices), Windows Mobile, Symbian, and Blackberry powered devices, Waze provides much more current routing and road related information than most other competitive apps.

For those who may drive outside the U.S., Waze is multinational in scope, and offers real-time traffic information on an international scale. According to Wikipedia, "As of 2013 Waze has a complete base map for the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Israel (claimed to be the best map for that country), South Africa, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile and Panama, but the company has plans to complete maps for other countries in Europe and elsewhere.

With the motto, "Waze, Outsmarting Traffic, Together," Waze describes itself as, "Get the best route, every day, with real-time help from other drivers." Waze is the world's largest community-based traffic and navigation app.

Join other drivers in your area who share real-time traffic and road info, saving everyone time and gas money on their daily commute. With millions of users (Yahoo! reported over 50 million users in mid-2013), Waze utilizes real-time information from users who have opened the Waze app on their smart devices. Waze anonymously, continuously, and transparently reports location, speed, and other information to a centralized server, which in turn almost instantly compiles and displays this shared information on other Waze equipped smart devices in the same user selected area. For privacy and security reasons, by default, the Waze configuration utilizes a user chosen screen name and avatar on the remote screens, and does not publically display any other personally identifiable user information.

While several other route mapping apps simply display traffic conditions as a colored line

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(Waze Travel and Routing Information on Your Smart Device)

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on a map, typically green indicating that traffic is moving fast, yellow indicates slowed traffic, and red indicating major traffic slowdowns or stoppage, Waze utilizes a different approach. Since the Waze app on the user's device is continuously reporting speed and location, based on GPS information, accurate traffic information is displayed along with a wide assortment of other helpful and useful information. According to the Waze website, this difference between Waze and the other GPS based routing apps is, "Get alerted before you approach police, accidents, road hazards or traffic jams, all shared by other drivers in real-time. It's like a personal heads-up from a few million of your friends on the road."

For safety reasons, if Waze is used by the driver of a vehicle, the text input function is disabled once a destination is entered or selected off of a saved list. The driver can still be informed of upcoming traffic, hazards, and other reports, as well as audio turn-by-turn directions, without having to physically handle the device. There is an option button displayed where a passenger can enable the text based data entry process while the vehicle is in motion. In addition to the passive information on speed and other road information provided by the app itself, a passenger can actively contribute to the community of Waze users by using a simple icon based method of sharing road reports. These passenger entered road reports take the current location, as automatically provided by the GPS, along with manually entered information on accidents, traffic congestion and delays, disabled vehicles, speed traps, and other road hazards, which immediately show up on all other Waze connected devices in the area. In addition to road related information, users can also enter gas station prices observed on their route, which will be displayed to others driving through the same area. Waze says on its website, "By working together to report prices at the pump, Waze drivers can always save some gas money."

Too many of us have had to deal with outdated maps on our GPS or smart devices. While

some newer free-standing GPS devices offer free quarterly updating of maps, many still charge substantial fees to purchase map updates. When using an Internet based mapping service, it is often difficult (or impossible) for the user to either determine the age of the map displayed, or to enter map corrections, both of which may undermine the confidence of the user in the accuracy of the maps displayed. What is unusual about the maps displayed on Waze is that they are community edited. Waze has an active community of map editors who work continuously to improve and update the maps displayed by the Waze app.

Map corrections and updates are constantly incorporated in the Waze display, down to the neighborhood level. These same community map editors also continuously improve the routing utility incorporated into the Waze app. Waze has made it as easy for any of the millions of users to submit suspected map errors or better routing information to the editors as it is to enter a road hazard; a single click on the appropriate icon, along with an appropriate comment, immediately sends the information to the map editors. For example, earlier today, while returning from Houston (my wife was driving), I submitted two suggested changes: the first was a suggested routing correction to my home address, submitting a shorter and faster route; the second was the location of a newly opened gas station.

While the information from users is anonymously displayed on the Waze display, using a moniker rather than a real name, users can also optionally select to send Waze information to selected individuals, or to post it on social networks, such as Facebook. On a recent out-of-town trip to visit a daughter and her family, I chose to provide her with a real-time web link that would display my current location and "ETA" (Estimated Time of Arrival). Since my wife was at the wheel at the time, it was safe for me to do the appropriate messaging. Clicking on the icon on the bottom-left corner of my screen, I selected the "notify" function, which presented me with a comprehensive list of messaging utilities; text messaging, email, Facebook, and

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(WazeTravel and Routing Information on Your Smart Device)

(Continued from page 15)

several other modes were displayed. I selected to send my daughter a private text message which



included a Waze generated unique URL, which when opened in her browser, displayed my real-time location and ETA, which was continuously updated in her browser. This same function can also serve to notify someone who is going to be met or picked up by the Waze user of the expected time of arrival.

The posting of travel information to Facebook can be useful if a group is trying to arrange a get-together of some type, and all of the participants can be kept apprised of the others' locations and arrival times. While Waze supports posting of current location information to social networking services, such as Facebook, for security reasons, I cannot recommend this practice. Even if the social media post is only directed to friends, not all friends may be honest and trustworthy. Posting that a user is a distance away from home, and will not be returning for a lengthy period of time, opens that user's home to possible break-in and burglary, as the perpetrators will know that no one is home and no one is likely to be home for a foreseeable time.

The Waze app has a most interesting history; originally invented in Israel in 2008 by a small group of developers as "a GPS-based geographical navigation application program for smart phones with GPS support and display screens which provides turn-by-turn information and user-submitted travel times and route details, downloading location-dependent information over the mobile telephone network."

Waze was recognized by the 2013 Mobile World Congress as the "Best Overall Mobile App," beating out several better known apps such as Dropbox. The original company, Waze Mobile, was acquired by Google in mid-2013 for the princely sum of \$1.3 billion,

after being approached by other prominent internet giants, including Facebook. According to contemporary news accounts, "As part of the deal signed, each of Waze's 100 employees will receive an average of about \$1.2 million, which represents the largest payout to employees in the history of Israeli high tech." (source: haaretz.com, June 13, 2013).

While the Waze app is totally free to download and use, its business model is funded in a variety of ways. Waze offers advertisers an opportunity to place a very small, unobtrusive icon on a given location, which may encourage Waze users to patronize that location. Waze also sells its aggregate traffic conditions and reports to media outlets, mostly TV stations, for their use in broadcasting current local traffic information. Utilized by several New York and New Jersey TV stations, the Waze feed is also employed (as of June 2013) by over 25 other U.S. TV stations, as well as foreign TV stations, including one in Rio de Janeiro.

Provided that a driver is not distracted by its use, the free Waze app is an outstanding resource. Waze also asks that the app be used to monitor daily commutes, in addition to longer trips, so that others may get the enhanced benefit of a greater knowledge base of road information. Over the past several weeks, I have used Waze on my smart phone rather than Google Maps and the other road routing apps that I have installed. Waze uses the device's GPS to determine the current location, and then offers a simple search function to ascertain the destination. In using Waze I have entered street addresses, the names of restaurants, and hotel names, with the integral search function rapidly calculating a route to the chosen destination. While on the road I used Waze to find the best gas prices, avoid major traffic congestion, and other road hazards.

Since Waze is free, and will run on almost any appropriately equipped smart device, regardless of operating system, I can wholeheartedly recommend it to travelers for both local and long distance driving. *



(The Running of the Nerds)

(Continued from page 8)



you with your name. The entire thing works through Bluetooth connectivity! Once you have the Goji smart lock installed on your door and a free app on your smartphone, you are all set to lock the door of your room / cabinet / locker and keep your precious things safe from intruders. And when you are back, the lock senses your smartphone and unlocks the door automatically. And there's more. The Goji lock also has a built-in camera that takes pictures of all those who arrive. The lock connects to the home's Wi-Fi connection and relays images and alerts to residents' smartphones. So what if you end up losing your smartphone itself? Well you can cancel that particular phone's access. All you need to do is cancel Goji access for your lost phone using Goji's website or their 24-hour call center. You can cancel Goji access for your lost phone and request access to be transferred to another phone, effective immediately. You can regain control over your home access without changing or re-keying locks or worrying about anyone using your lost phone to gain access.

Voyce Band

Introducing a "smart" dog collar. It's called VOYCE. (I was surprised it wasn't called iSmart but there really are other folks as smart as the Apple ones!!)



Created by a team of bio-medical engineers, veterinarians and dog behaviorists, the collar essentially tracks

everything your dog is up to throughout the day. This includes all pertinent health data and, of course, info as to what that pooch put in its mouth. Since my best buddy is Pooky, my Shih Tzu, this was my favorite at CES. *

WHAT IS DISK DEFRAGMENTATIONBy **Larry McJunkin**

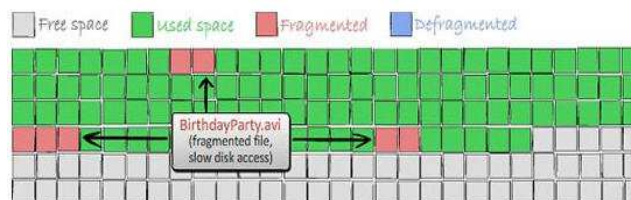
The Retired Geek

Technical Tips for the Non-Technical "Over 50" Crowd

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Defragmenting your hard disk is one of the best things you can do to speed up your Windows computer. Think of your hard drive as a file cabinet. If you're like most people, you have your papers stored in alphabetized folders so you can find things easily.

Imagine, however, if someone took the labels off all the folders, then switched the locations of all the folders, and moved your documents into and out of folders at random. It would take you a lot longer to find anything since you wouldn't know where your documents were. That's what happens when your hard drive gets fragmented: it takes your computer much more time to find files which have pieces that are scattered all over your hard drive. Defragmenting your hard drive restores complete order to this mess and speeds up your computer...sometimes a lot.

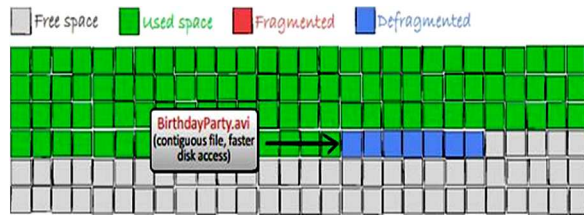
A Fragmented File on Your Hard Drive

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(What Is Disc Fragmentation)

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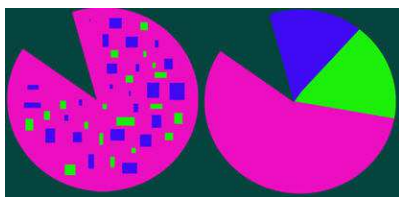
A Defragmented File on Your Hard Drive



To most people, a file on a computer is something tangible...a thing, a document, a music file, or any other file you may have stored on your hard drive. You would never think of a file as many very small bits of information scattered all over the drive. But Windows (and your hard drive) think differently. To Windows, a file is all these small fragments of information that are kept in various clusters on a hard drive. Windows knows exactly where each fragment of each file is and which is the right order for reading them...that's how you get your file displayed as a whole. File fragmentation occurs when clusters of free disk space get reused over and over again when you delete old files and save new ones.

Defrags (slang) can be a pain! Primarily, you have to find a time when your computer is on, but you aren't using it. However, there are good reasons why computer experts keep telling you it needs to be done! The most important of these reasons is that defragmenting your hard drives will help speed up computer performance!

How Hard Drives Become Fragmented



Armed with just what little you've read so far, you might wonder why Windows goes through all this hassle whenever you open a file, and why doesn't it just put the files on your hard drive as complete chunks...thus eliminating the need to defragment. The answer is simple. Because Windows is very space-efficient, and doesn't want a single bit

of hard drive space to be wasted. So when a new file is created (or modified) and saved, it puts pieces of the file in every little nook and cranny it can find.

Just because Windows scatters this information around is not bad...it's merely inefficient. The only downside of putting file fragments all over the drive is that the drive read needs to do a lot of extra work to find and access all fragments of a file when you want to open it. As a result, fragmented files can often take quite a while to open and what you see is a slow computer.

Defragging is the simple process of re-associating all these file fragments and putting them together in one place to speed up file access. This is the primary reason why you should defragment your hard drive on a regular basis. The least amount of time between defrags the better so you never notice your computer getting slower.

How to Defragment Your Computer

Starting the defrag process varies slightly, dependent upon which version of Windows you have, but the actual process is exactly the same. For Windows 8, when you're on the Metro (tiled) desktop, simply begin typing "defrag..." and Search will find "Defragment and Optimize Drives". For Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7 go to the bottom of the Start Menu and in the Search Bar begin typing "defrag..." and you'll be taken to the defragmenter for your version of Windows.

When defragmenting a disk, it's usually best to leave your computer alone, though if necessary you can use it without messing up anything. Disk Defragmentation might take from several minutes to a few hours to finish, depending on the size and degree of fragmentation of your hard disk. You can still use your computer during the defragmentation process. If you defrag regularly, the time it takes is much shorter. *



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual membership Dues:

Regular	\$ 40
Family/Associate	12
Students	18
Contributing	50
Supporter	75
Benefactor	100

A subscription to *User Friendly* is included with membership.

Associate members are people who live in the same household or work for the same company as a regular member; they do not receive their own subscriptions to *User Friendly*, but may read it on the LACS website or on Yahoo Groups.

Students must prove their full-time status.

In addition to monthly general meetings, members enjoy these special benefits:

- ◇ Monthly printed Newsletter *User Friendly*. We publish your article submissions or free classified ads to buy or sell your computer items.
- ◇ Get help by phone from Members who are Quick Consultants listed in *User Friendly*.
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- ◇ Receive important news and announcements via LACS's Yahoo Group e-mail lists.
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Send e-mail address changes to [changes \(at\) lacs.org](mailto:changes(at)lacs.org)

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LACS

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DIRECTIONS TO GENERAL MEETING

From the North:

Take Sepulveda Blvd. SOUTH to W. 80th St. Turn WEST/right and go about one mile to Emerson Ave. Turn SOUTH/left and go one long block to W. 80th Place. Fellowship Hall is on the Northwest corner of Emerson and W. 80th Place.

From the South, East or West: Take Manchester Ave. to Emerson Ave. Turn North and go about eight blocks to W. 80th Place. Fellowship Hall is on the Northwest corner of Emerson and W. 80th Place. There is plenty of street parking and a small parking lot West of the church.

Westchester United Methodist Church,
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 Los Angeles CA 90045

