

User Friendly

October 2014



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Member of



An International
Association of Technology
& Computer User Groups

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

IS IT TIME TO BUY SOLAR?

Speaker: Professor Stuart Cooley



Stuart will speak about today's market for solar photovoltaics and energy efficiency and the role and importance of computers and controls in the future of those industries

He has a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Hawaii with specialization in Renewable Energy Engineering. He is Professor of Renewable Energies at Santa Monica College. He teaches courses in Energy Efficiency and Solar Photovoltaics. He is responsible for the development of curriculum in Renewable Energies as part of the Sustainable Technology Program. Recently Santa Monica College was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for Strengthening Solar Photovoltaic Education, for which Professor Cooley is Principal Investigator.

Prior to this tenure track position at SMC, Professor Cooley was the Energy Efficiency Engineer within the city of Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability and the Environment where, since 2000, he has helped "Green" the city through efficiency improvements to City Facilities, managed community projects, and promoted renewable energy. The City's seminal program, Solar Santa Monica, grew out of his vision for the City's energy independence.

Before the above affiliations, he was a management consultant to the electric utilities, marketed efficiency for Anaheim Public Utilities and Hawaiian Electric, and served as an engineering consultant to the commercial/industrial sector.

Tuesday, October 14, 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

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING REPORT

By Leah Clark, LACS Editor

Self-Driving Cars: Are They in Your Future...?

Speaker: **Richard Korf**

Richard is a professor of computer science at UCLA. He gave a very interesting, interactive presentation. We got an insight of what's to be in our future!

G.M. will market a self-driving car for the 2017 model year. It will be legal for freeway use, but a licensed driver must be on board.

Reasons for self-driving cars

- **For safety, the main motivation for self-driving cars**
The leading cause of accidents is distracted driving, followed by driver fatigue, speeding, drunk or impaired driving, aggression and recklessness, and weather. Self-driving cars would eliminate the first five!
- **For those who can't drive**
Those with disabilities or age-related concerns would be given independence.
- **To lessen traffic congestion**
Consistent spacing and following distance, and ability to have narrower lanes, would optimize usage of road space. Traffic flows best at a constant speed. Computers react faster than humans, and they are not "looky-loos".
- **Improved gas mileage and the carbon footprint**
The front car would burn the most gas; followers would be just drafting, lessening air resistance. Mileage is best at constant speeds. Breaking and accelerating are bad for fuel economy.

Innovations over the years to improve safety include cruise control and adaptive cruise control to maintain safe distances. There are sensors in some roads to change signals when a car approaches an intersection. There are GPS technology, black boxes, sensors to measure tire pressure, back-up cameras, and much more.

Parking

Now, every car needs at least three parking

spaces: at home, work, and for other activities. Self-driving cars can park closer together, as in stack parking. If there is no one in the car, space won't be needed for opening doors. A car can be parked at a distance and called up when needed, instead of using expensive real-estate for parking.

Self-driving cabs and rental cars

There would be no driver to pay, they could operate 24 hours a day. Maybe people wouldn't need to own their own cars - just call for a car when needed.

A computer can follow a lane, maintain even distance and speed, and free a human from these boring activities.

Surface streets are more of a challenge, with pedestrians, cyclists, and traffic cops directing traffic. A human can take over when needed.

Night driving is harder for humans, but easier for machines. There are no shadows, bright sun, etc. Infrared sensors can detect anything people want to avoid. Hot things like people, animals, and other cars will light up.

Google self-driving cars have driven over 700,000 miles, a life time of driving. During this time there was only one accident - that was when it was under human control!

As it is now, insurance settlers must determine if an accident is caused by human error or machine failure. Insurance should be cheaper. Now, in California, a driver is expected to be ultimately responsible.

Perhaps we will start with one freeway lane being dedicated to self-driving cars. A robot can be like a big brother watching for and correcting for human error. Self-driving cars can be more efficient than flying or high speed rail. Public perception of danger is not necessarily rational. Some self-driving technology may eventually be required on all cars. It is natural for people to want to be under control. Self-driving cars may be common in ten years.

Someday, all cars may be self-driving. People could operate manual cars in special areas as a hobby. After all, we can't ride horses on the highway!

You may listen to a podcast of this presentation at www.lacspc.org. Click on "Podcasts", then on "Self-Driving Cars." ♦

FROM YOUR EDITOR

APCUG is "An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups." LACS is a member of APCUG and shares in the benefits of membership. It is the source of a lot of the articles I put in *User Friendly*.

Have you ever looked at the APCUG website? Check it out at www.apcug.org.

Did you know that APCUG is on social media sites? Check out these URLs. You will see that LACS is a part of something much larger!

www.facebook.com/APCUG

www.twitter.com/apcug

www.youtube.com/apcugvideos

I would still like to have someone else to take pictures at the general meetings and at the SIG meetings.



Sept. 9 General Meeting



LACS NOMINATION REPORT

The Nomination Committee for the 2015 LACS board is composed of Maurice Stephenson (Chair), Mary Chiu, Joe Falcon, Charles Mahan, and Hedy Zhang.

At the September General Meeting the members voted to extend the nominating process until the October general meeting.

Because of Charlotte's illness, we need a candidate for treasurer. We also need someone to fill her position for the remainder of 2014. A new treasurer may have a choice of using QuickBooks, or changing to Quicken. Help and software will be available for you. As a non-profit organization, we cannot exist without a treasurer. If you feel unsure, perhaps you can volunteer to try it out for the rest of 2014 before committing. An ideal solution would be to have a couple of members working together to learn from and support each other.

There are two openings for director. A director attends a monthly meeting, offers ideas and votes on issues put before the board.

So far, we have Maurice Stephenson for president, Elliott Stern for Vice-president, Lee Freehling for Secretary, and Leah Clark for director. (See the September *User Friendly*).

Members are encouraged to contact the Chair or any of the members of the committee to indicate their interest in running for these positions. Maurice can be contacted at vp@lacspsc.org. The other members' email and phone numbers are in the roster.

The committee will continue to recruit candidates up until the October general meeting, where additional nominations can be made from the floor. If needed, voting will take place between the October general meeting and the Friday before the November general meeting. The winners will be announced at that meeting, and will take office on January 1, 2015. ❖



BASICS & BEYOND SIG REPORT

By **Kim Stocksdales, LACS**

There were 12 attendees at the September 8 Basics & Beyond SIG held at the Santa Monica College Bundy campus. Topics included:

- Create and Store Passwords
- New California Smartphone Law - Mandatory Kill Switch
- Where Online do I Learn That?

Create and Store Passwords

What are the five most common passwords? Depending where you look, the answer varies, however, these five are on most “top 5” lists and were presented at the meeting:

- 123456
- 12345678
- password
- qwerty
- abc123

When queried as to “should you ever use any of these five passwords” most in the audience responded with a “no.” Or should you? SIG leader Kim Stocksdales presented an argument for using these passwords on some websites. Websites such as car parts websites where they don’t have your credit card info, and there is little or no harm that can be done if someone cracks your password. Other sites like price comparison websites such as pricegrabber.com, or free news publications such as chess.com are similar sites where it is ok to use simple passwords.

Still, why would you use common passwords for websites such as these? Answer... so that if a crook ever locates your hidden list of password, and they see you are using passwords such as these, then they will try to use similar passwords for your important websites such as bank accounts, PayPal, Amazon, credit card accounts, etc. And of course, for those websites, you use passwords that don’t even resemble the five most common passwords.

Kim demonstrated a method to store passwords in a spreadsheet. The spreadsheet had an innocent sounding name, “Swimming Laps,” and when opened looked like an innocent spreadsheet, with no sign of passwords being stored. However, on the 3rd tab, in row 12,438 a list of

passwords was started. Of course the common passwords “qwerty” was used for all the easy websites where you did not care if anyone guessed the password. Then on bank accounts, brokerage accounts, Paypal, etc. were more difficult to figure passwords. However, even these important websites don’t require 16 character kryptonite - strong passwords, because these days, all websites such as these only allow 3 or 4 attempts at entering a password before you are locked out. And one other suggestion was to enter a few decoys, such as list Schwab.com and then for password list a variation of “qwerty.” Only if a crook tries to log on, they will eventually give up... because you don’t even have a Schwab account!

New California Smartphone Law - Mandatory Kill Switch

The new California Smartphone law was discussed at the meeting. The law takes effect July 1, 2015. It makes all phones sold include an owner-activated kill switch that can remotely shut your phone down and erase all data. Sounds like a good idea. So why is the law so controversial? Because police and government will also have the ability to shut down your phone such as in civil unrest. Not to mention hackers or criminals who could shut your phone down so you cannot call 911.

Where Online do I Learn That?

The class visited the website www.noexcuselist.com where the website owner claims to have hand picked all the best websites to learn various things online. The general categories listed on the home page include Academics, Art, Computer Programming, Cooking, eBooks, How To + DIY, Languages, and Music. Hover your mouse over the website names on the home page and you’ll see a popup that the website owner created describing what the website offers and his opinion on how good the online class is. ❖



USEFUL BITS & PIECES

By **Lorrin R. Garson, PATACS**

Newsletter of the Potomac Area Technology and Computer Society, February, 2014

Ultrastar He6

HGST (a Western Digital company) is now selling an enterprise-grade disk drive called the Ultrastar He6 ([see http://www.hgst.com/hard-drives/enterprisehard-drives/enterprise-sas-drives/ultrastar-he6](http://www.hgst.com/hard-drives/enterprisehard-drives/enterprise-sas-drives/ultrastar-he6)).

This is a 6-TB 3.5 inch device. Manufacturers have tried for years to economically create a hermetically sealed, helium-filled hard drive.



There are significant advantages in such a drive:

- 1) Helium has about 1/7th the density of air which results in less resistance and turbulence of spinning platters.
- 2) Helium has about 7 times the thermal conductivity of air, which aids in cooling.
- 3) Helium is inert, unlike air, which contains oxygen.

All this results in a more efficient disk drive that is quieter and runs at a cooler temperature. It's uncertain when this type of HDD will be found in home computers.

Buffalo DriveStation DDR

This is an unusual external disk drive which comes in either 2-TB or 3-TB capacity. What makes it special is the device has a 1-GB of DDR RAM inside the enclosure, which provides a dedicated buffer to the internal disk drive. The result is the DriveStation DDR which provides a remarkable sustained maximum disk write speed of about 210 MB/sec. This approaches the speed of some slower solid-state devices, well, until the capacity of the 1-GB RAM is exceeded.



The device is connected using USB 3, which has a maximum throughput of 600 MB/sec.

However, if the device is connected to a USB 2 port, throughput would be limited to 40 MB/sec. See <http://the-gadgeteer>. ❖

PANASONIC FZ1000

By **Jerry Schneir, LACS**

A great deal of writing has been devoted to what many people have called the “dSLR Killer” or more accurately known as the Panasonic FZ1000. You can tell something is exciting when rumors start to make the rounds, believed to be started by the FZ1000's competitors, about serious flaws or problems with the camera. So what is it about this camera that seems to excite many photographers, including a fair number of very dedicated dSLR types including some pros?



The FZ1000 belongs to a group of cameras referred to as Hybrid, Bridge, or super-zoom. This group of cameras have a fixed lens, i.e., the lens is not removable, it can't be swapped out for another lens. The camera closely resembles a mid level digital single lens reflex (dSLR) except as previously noted, the lens can't be exchanged for another lens. And speaking about the lens, it is really quite a lens, a 25-400mm (in 35mm film terms) with an aperture F2.8-F4.0. One feature that impresses all the reviewers is how fast and accurately the camera grabs focus, a feature which is related to both the lens and the sensor.

Another thing that sets this camera apart from the other hybrid cameras is the size of the imaging sensor. It is called a 1" sensor which means it is about 4x the size of the typical bridge or point and shoot camera. The FZ1000 seems to share the same sensor as that found on the very good Sony RX 10 to which it is often compared.

And speaking of the RX10, Sony took the introduction of the FZ1000 so seriously that it almost immediately cut the price of the RX10 by almost a third upon announcement of the FZ1000 just to remain competitive. The lens of the Sony is a 24-200mm, but it is a constant F2.8 over the entire zoom range. The body of

(Continued on Page 6)

(PANASONIC FZ1000)*(Continued from Page 5)*

the RX10 is also all metal while the FZ1000 is a mixture of metal and plastic. Another difference between these two very similar cameras is the viewing screen (LCD). The LCD on the FZ1000 fully articulates while the RX10 can only tilt up or down. Both cameras have very good electronic viewfinders (EVF) but from the reports of various reviewers, it appears that the FZ1000 is somewhat better than that of the Sony.

There is another feature that strongly contributes to the excellent reception given to the FZ1000 and that is its ability to shoot 4K video. And in addition to being able to shoot 4K video is how easy it is to extract a 8 megapixel picture from the video.

The combination of the 4K video capability, the 25-400mm zoom with a F2.8-F4.0 lens, the 1 inch sensor which yields excellent low light ability, the fully articulating LCD and the excellent EVF all contribute to the excellent reception of the FZ1000 by the photographic community. Add to that the speed of focusing along with a host of features only a dedicated photonut might appreciate, like in-camera RAW processing or the eye sensor that switches the LCD to the EVF whenever the eye is placed near the EVF.

The FZ1000 also offers a great amount of customization, something that more dedicated photographers greatly appreciate. Another feature that is showing up on more and more cameras is NFC, near field communication. This allows a smart phone or tablet to act as the control center. It allows the phone or tablet to download images and even control the camera. GPS is also implemented on the FZ1000.

My favorite saying about cameras is there is NO PERFECT CAMERA but this one comes very close. Especially if you don't mind the larger size or the weight. The camera weighs 29 oz. and as previously noted is similar in size to some of the mid-level or entry level digital single lens reflexes.

What contributes to the dSLR killer moniker is a widely known secret: the great majority

of dSLR owners rarely change lenses. They attach one lens on their camera and use it for almost everything. The lens on the FZ1000, if available for a dSLR, would meet many, if not most of the needs for photographers who use these interchangeable lens cameras.

Yes, there is a big difference in sensor size which shows up mainly in the better low light – higher ISO performance of the dSLR. But the 1” sensor found on both the Sony RX10 (and other cameras such as the Sony RX100 Mk II or Mk III) and the Panasonic FZ1000 produce images that are so close to what the larger sensors of the dSLR yield, that one is hard pressed to tell the difference in most cases.

The other major advantage of the dSLR cameras has also been laid to waste, and that is how fast and accurately the FZ1000 can obtain focus. Couple that with an electronic viewfinder that almost matches that obtained with an optical viewfinder and that combination further reduces any perceived advantages of the dSLR family of cameras. And if you are a movie buff, then the 4K video potential of the FZ1000 makes selecting an entry or mid-level dSLR hard to justify. Stay tuned, my FZ1000 is on order and hopefully will arrive soon, maybe even this year. ❖

Life is like a camera.

Just focus on what's important, capture the good times, develop from the negatives, and if things don't turn out – take another shot.



TALKING TO SIRI

A Book Review by Gilbert Ialongo, LACS

Que Publishing has recently published the third edition of *Talking to Siri* written by Erica Sadun and Steve Sande. The book provides an advanced level of information even though it is written for the widest audience. The list price is \$19.99.

Siri is an intelligent voice controlled personal assistant which works on Apple iOS and OS X devices. The most current version runs on iPhones (4S or later), iPads (third generation or later), iPad minis, iPod touches (fifth generation and later) and Macs running the latest OS X release.

Siri accepts spoken commands and provides answers and recommendations using a natural language or showing results from web searches. The range of commands understood by Siri is remarkable and its ability to provide relevant and at times humorous answers is surprisingly good.

There is a problem, though, for the uninitiated user. One must know how to ask questions using the right verbs and combination of words in order to get the most advantage out of Siri. So while it is easy to ask 'What time is?' there is no documentation of the range of commands that can be given Siri and the best way to ask them.

This is where *Talking to Siri* shines. The book is a must for all serious users of Siri. In a very clear language and with lots of relevant, well-illustrated examples, this book guides the user through the discovery of the range of capabilities offered by this application.

The book consists of ten chapters. Each chapter focuses on a distinct class of commands and interactions supported by Siri. Responses by Siri are indicated for each question asked.

The first chapter of the book explains how to launch and have basic interactions with Siri. The following chapters explain how to control your device, how to ask information about topics such as weather, sports and stocks, how to stay in touch with your contacts, how to schedule your day, and it provides help with various shopping activities. Advanced interactions with some apps such as Phone calls, Calendar,

Contacts, Mail and Messages are discussed in detail. A chapter is devoted to Siri dictation, covering enunciation, punctuation, abbreviations and dictation practice.

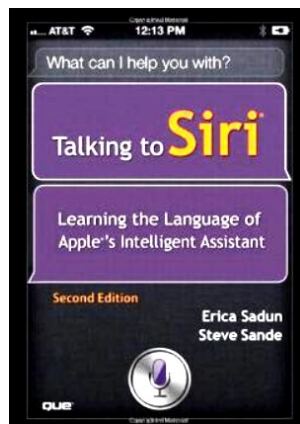
On the light side, the last two chapters cover having fun with Siri, and the authors list ten top Siri jokes. My favorite was: If you ask Siri "Do you have a family?", you may get an answer such as "I have you. That's enough family for me."

Each chapter concludes with a summary that gives highlights of the chapter content. A reader may want to read that summary first.

At the end of the book the authors have provided a quick reference guide to Siri organized around a large number of categories. Under 'Asking about contacts' are entries such as 'What is Emily's address?' and 'When is my wife's birthday?' Obviously to avoid funny answers Emily and one's wife's birthday must be included in the Contacts app. Under 'Checking email' we find entries such as 'Check email' and 'Any new email from Jim today?' These are just a few examples out of the more than 250 possible interactions listed in the reference guide.

Siri is a sophisticated app that can be funny at times, but is always relevant. This book shows the extensive range of the app's capabilities in a simple and very comprehensive fashion.

Before reading the book I couldn't even imagine the power that is available to us to make the most of our iPhones and other Apple devices. With this power we can extend our productivity in a fun and natural way. ❖



CELL PHONE BATTERY REPLACEMENT EXPERIENCE

By Karl Springer, LACS

After 2+ years of service the 1000mAh battery in my basic Samsung cell phone failed to hold a charge. I found an OEM replacement at Amazon. I ordered it on a Saturday; it was in my mail box the following Monday. Cost, including tax and shipping: \$4.09. Installation was easy. ❖



CASH FLOW

**July 19, 2014 Through
August 20, 2014**
Stephanie Nordlinger,
President, LACS

Current Total Liquid Assets

Bank of America Checking **\$13,885.42**

Gross Receipts

Member Dues 420.00

Total Gross Receipts \$420.00

Expenses

Fellowship Hall Rental 60.00

September *User Friendly* 269.28

MiFi Expense 50.08

General Meeting Supplies 51.07

Total Expenses \$430.43

Please Note: This report may be incomplete due to the illness of our treasurer.

WELCOME ALL**Gene Jacobs**

Data Base Manager, LACS

New Members (0)**Renewals (10)**

Gordon Bergelson*

Peter Demopoulos

Alice Hanks

Richard Harmetz

Harold Igdaloff

Michael Napoli

Ronald Rose

Madeleine Rungaitis

Gerald Schneir

George Wolkon*

* Contributor

**GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATIONS**

By **Maurice Stephenson**, Program Chair

- Tuesday, October 14, 2014

Is It Time to Buy Solar?, Dr. Stuart Cooley

Professor of Renewable Energies, Santa Monica College

- Tuesday, November 11, 2014

Robotics, JPL

- Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Holiday Party

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, LACS**

Here is the snack schedule for 2014. Plan ahead!

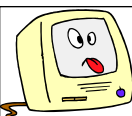
October A through C

November D through G

December Holiday Party - All

LACS provides hot coffee (decaf too), tea and cocoa. 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.



Remember to pick up your remainders and serving pieces at the end of the meeting.

**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.

OCTOBER 2014				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2	3  Yom Kippur
6 Smartphone Workshop 7:00 PM	7	8	9	10
13 Basics & Beyond SIG 7:00 PM Columbus Day	14 General Meeting 7:00 PM	15	16	17
20 Board Meeting 7:00 PM	21	22	23	24
27 Digital Photo SIG 7:00 PM	28	29	30	31 

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



Basics & Beyond SIG	Kim Stocksdales	310-720-0603	2nd Mon. 7 PM SMC, Bundy Campus
Digital Photo SIG	Nancy Cattell	310-452-2130	
	Elliot Silverstein	310-670-1544	4th Mon. 7 PM, SMC, Bundy Campus
Smartphone Workshop	Stephanie Nordlinger	323-299-3244	1st Mon. 7 PM, SMC, Bundy Campus

ADDRESSES

Fellowship Hall, 8065 Emerson Ave., Westchester 90045

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

Santa Monica College Bundy Campus, 3171 S. Bundy Drive, LA 90066 (1/2 block S. of Airport Avenue) Our room number may change each semester. Look for it on a sign opposite the elevator on the first floor.

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\(at\)lacsps.org](mailto:editor(at)lacsps.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 - 5	Lotus Word Pro, Approach - 12	Open Office - 16
Anti Malware - 12	Mozilla Firefox, Thunderbird - 12	Picasa - 14
Digital Imaging, Editing - 8, 14	MS Excel - 3, 15	Quicken - 3, 5
Digital Photography - 8, 14	MS Word - 3, 4, 10	QuickBooks - 9
Dragon Naturally Speaking - 4	MS Outlook - 15, 5	Visual Basic - 13
Genealogy - 5, 7	MS Outlook Express - 15	Websites - 13
Hardware - 11, 12	MS PowerPoint - 15	Win XP/Vista - 12, 16
iPhone, iPad, iPod - 15	MS Publisher - 2, 7, 9	WordPerfect - 5
LA FreeNet - 6		

No.	Name	Daytime Phone	Eves/Weekends	From	To
2	Mercer, Bob	310-837-5648	310-837-5648	9:00 AM	10:00 PM
3	Wilder, Joan	310-560-2702	310-472-8455	9:00 AM	9:00 PM
4	Hershman, Irv	310-397-9453	310-397-9453	11:00 AM	11:00 PM
5	Nordlinger, Stephanie	323-299-3244	323-299-3244	5:00 PM	10:00 PM
6	Springer, Karl	424-646-3410	424-646-3410	10:00 AM	10:00 PM
7	Clark, Leah	310-677-2792	N.A.	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
8	Silverstein, Elliott	310-670-1544	310-670-1544	10:00 AM	10:00 PM
9	Semple, Charlotte	310-398-5052	N.A.	10:00 AM	5:00 PM
10	Beckman, Loling	310-471-7893	N.A.	10:00 AM	6:00 PM
11	Strate, Steve	310-450-7478	N.A.	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
12	McKnight, Jim	310-823-7829	310-823-7829	8:00 AM	7:00 PM
13	Ialongo, Gilbert	310-641-7906	N.A.	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
14	Schneir, Jerry	310-451-4140	310-451-4140	9:00 AM	10:00 PM
15	Van Berkomp, Paula	310-398-6734	N.A.	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
16	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 8.1, 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	2014	323-299-3244	president(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 Berkomp	2015	310-398-6734	Please see the Roster
APCUG Rep.	Charlotte Semple		310-398-5052	apcug_rep(at)lacspc.org
Car Pools	Lance Hegamin		424-248-5262	Please see the roster
Changes	Karl Springer		424-646-3410	changes(at)lacspc.org
Corporate Counsel	Stephanie Nordlinger		323-299-3244	counsel(at)lacspc.org
CCSC Computer Lab	Rosalie Kirsch		310-559-2244	Please see the roster
Hospitality Chair	Sylvia Davis		213-924-4927	Please see the Roster.
Assist. Hospitality Chair	Linda Williams		310-748-1694	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
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Los Angeles Computer Society

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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 **18th of the month**. The Editor asks that articles be submitted **UNFORMATTED**.

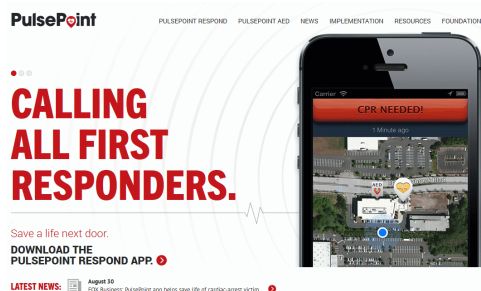
LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND CITIZENS MAY SAVE LIVES WITH THESE APPS

By **Ira Wilsker**, Golden Triangle PC Club

[lwilsker\(at\)sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwilsker(at)sbcglobal.net)
www.theexaminer.com



On May 9, in Clackamas, Oregon, an off duty firefighter with Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Scott Brawner, was working out in his health club when he received alerts on his iPhone. He had previously installed the **PulsePoint** app on his iPhone which alerted him to a nearby man, Drew Basse, who was having a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) in the parking lot of the gym. A security guard in the parking lot made the initial call to 911, which transmitted the emergency alert to the PulsePoint app. The app immediately displayed the victim's information on a detailed map which pinpointed his precise location, and alerted Scott Brawner.

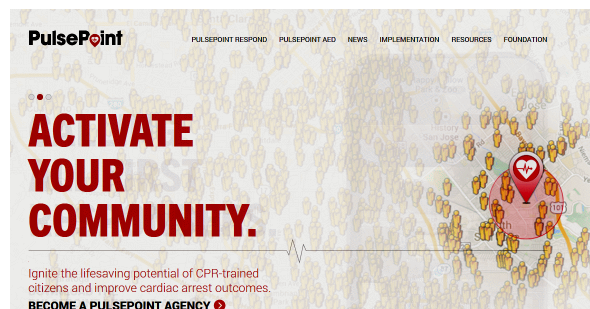


Within a minute, Scott Brawner was in a position to save Drew Basse's life. Brawner immediately commenced CPR, continuing until the paramedics arrived about five minutes later. According to published media reports, the only reason why Basse survived was the prompt application of CPR by Brawner. Scott Brawner is quoted as saying, "I've had a lot of people live throughout my career, but I've never had that one-on-one connection with somebody. I'm really happy how well that app worked. It allowed me to find him so fast ... It's pretty remarkable. ... If I had taken a minute longer to get to him, he would have not survived."

According to a posting on the PulsePoint website (pulsepoint.org/pulsepoint-respond), Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) kills 325,000 Americans every year, which is about 1000 deaths per day, or about one death every two

minutes. The national survival rate for SCA is less than 8%, which leaves substantial room for improvement. Only about a third of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest victims get CPR from bystanders, another statistic that can be greatly improved upon. CPR is a proven method of sustaining life by maintaining circulation to the heart and brain until the paramedics can arrive. Individuals can often provide the potentially lifesaving CPR much faster than paramedics can respond; it takes less than 8 minutes for brain damage or death to occur, a life sustaining time that can be extended with the judicious use of CPR by citizens until help arrives. According to the American Heart Association, the chance of survival doubles or triples if a bystander immediately commences CPR, a fact not lost on the creators of these apps intended to improve the odds of survival of our families and friends.

The concept for these free apps was created by Richard Price, former chief of the San Ramon (California) Valley Fire Department. Price's idea was to enable the millions of CPR trained individuals to be made instantly aware when there was a nearby need for immediate help. The app was developed as a partnership created in 2009 between the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District and the College of Informatics at Northern Kentucky University. The PulsePoint Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was formed in 2011 with the stated purpose "to share its life saving potential ... empowering everyday citizens to provide life-saving assistance to victims of Sudden Cardiac Arrest." At present, the software engineering for the apps is provided by a volunteer staff from Workday, Inc. Following his recent experience, Scott Brawner explained, "The app isn't for firefighters, doctors and nurses. It's for people with smart phones who are willing to provide some CPR to a stranger within a quarter

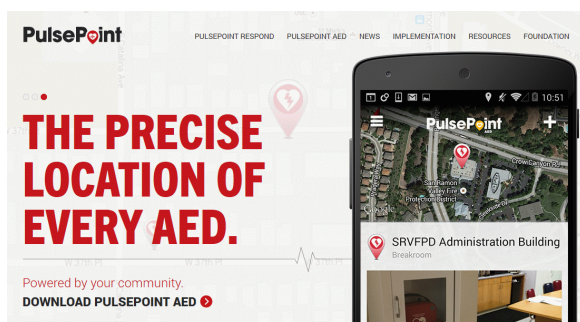


(Continued on Page 13)

(Local Fire Departments and Citizens May Save Lives With These Apps)

(Continued from page 12)

mile or so of their location." In the short time since its release, the PulsePoint app has been adopted by over 600 communities in 18 states. PulsePoint, and its companion app PulsePoint AED are free apps available for both the Android and iPhone smart phones. According to descriptions provided by the publisher, the intent of PulsePoint was to empower individuals in participating communities to provide im-



mediate life saving assistance to victims of cardiac arrest. Users of the app who may voluntarily indicate that they are CPR trained, may be notified in the event of a nearby emergency where CPR may be needed. In addition of providing the user with a detailed map showing the location of the victim in need, the PulsePoint app, as well as a sister app PulsePoint-AED, may also show the detailed location, including photos, of the closest AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators), which may be very useful in saving lives. For those who may need a refresher, both apps also include an "AED How-to" screen showing the simple steps of the proper use of an AED device, and "CPR How-to" screens which explain the CPR process. In addition to providing potentially lifesaving information, the PulsePoint app also displays real time information from participating 911 centers, including incidents, and the response status of dispatched units; these results can also be displayed in real time on a detailed map. Some users have used the app to satisfy curiosity about the destination of a nearby EMS or fire unit. Some drivers using the app have also found it useful to determine if there is an accident ahead on the highway, necessitating a reroute in order to avoid the

traffic congestion and delays in the area of the incident. Some of the participating fire departments also stream their radio traffic over the app, making the smart phone a modern version of the old fire scanner radio.

The companion free app, PulsePoint AED, was explicitly designed to, "Help build the most comprehensive registry of AEDs for use during emergencies." Also available for Android and iPhone smart phones, this app is intended to notify citizen and professional first responders of the closest available Automated External Defibrillator (AED) whenever needed. It has been proven that AEDs save lives when utilized in the precious first minutes after a cardiac arrest. One problem with the listings is that there are perhaps many thousands of accessible AEDs that have not been entered into the app's database of AED locations.

The confirmed locations of the AED devices listed are from crowd sourced inputs. Users of the PulsePoint AED app are encouraged to take a photo, and upload the location information through the app. Once the locations are verified by local authorities, the location is added to those available on the app. As I type this, none of the many AED devices on the Lamar University and Lamar Institute of Technology campuses are listed, and none are shown for the downtown Beaumont area, despite my firsthand knowledge that these AED devices are clearly visible in several locations, including some local churches, office buildings, government buildings, and other facilities. While I will personally upload some of the AED locations that I see on a regular basis, it would be a fantastic community service project for some local groups such as Scouts and Explorers, fraternities and sororities, church groups, and

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(Local Fire Departments and Citizens May Save Lives With These Apps)

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others to participate in. This is one simple project that can literally be a life saver, thus a very worthy undertaking. According to PulsePoint, "You and PulsePoint AED" can help strengthen the chain of survival for cardiac arrest victims."

A quick review of the updated listing of fire departments on the PulsePoint app displays departments in California, Nevada, Colorado, Ohio, Oregon, North Dakota, North Carolina, Virginia, South Dakota, Washington (State), Arizona, and Tennessee that participate in this PulsePoint system. What is woefully missing are departments in Texas and Louisiana. While the apps for the smart phones are totally free, there is a cost to the city that wishes to utilize these services; philosophically, our community leaders need to weigh the costs of the system in terms of lives potentially saved, and then the cost may be a bargain. For a city the size of Beaumont, the annual license fee would be \$5000, which could easily be underwritten by local philanthropic businesses and individuals. For a city the size of Houston or Dallas, the license fee would be \$25,000, which again could be easily donated by local businesses or organizations. This could be a wonderful opportunity for local organizations and businesses,

as well as philanthropists, to participate in a project that could truly save lives, including their own and the lives of family members. The steps to implement the PulsePoint system are available at pulsepoint.org/implementation.

There is no doubt that we, as a society, can do a great deal to save the lives of our loved ones in the event of a cardiac arrest, and these apps are but one effective tool that can be used to that end. If we were all to use these free apps, and our communities were to implement such a system, along with continued involvement in CPR training and the judicious placement of AEDs, we may be able to reduce that ghastly

325,000 number of Americans who die of Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

The life that we save may be that of a loved one, or even our own. ❖

WEBSITES

<http://www.pulsepoint.org/download/>
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=mobi.firedepartment>
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pulsepoint/id500772134?mt=8>
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.pulsepoint.aeds.android>
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<http://www.pulsepoint.org/2014/08/20/court-bailiff-saves-a-life-with-cpr/>
<http://www.menshealth.com/bestlife/bemo-re-bystander>
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=pulsepoint
<http://www.pulsepoint.org/2014/08/23/collier-county-sheriffs-office-looks-to-integrate-cpr-app-with-911-system/>
<http://www.pulsepoint.org/pulsepointrespond/>

Ira is an Associate Professor at Lamar Institute of Technology, and hosts a weekly radio talk show on computer topics on KLVJ News Talk AM560. He writes a weekly technology column for the Examiner newspaper www.theexaminer.com ❖



ENABLING CITIZEN SUPERHEROES.

BE CAREFUL OF BUYING OLD VERSIONS

By **Sandy Berger**, CompuKISS

www.compukiss.com

[sandy \(at\) compukiss.com](mailto:sandy(at)compukiss.com)

Don't be fooled by a cheap price on a product. It may be last year's model. While sometimes this is okay, for others it is a real rip-off. Here are some examples that you may want to read. Remember being a savvy consumer is essential in today's high tech world.



In the recent past, when a new version of a product was introduced, the old versions were removed from the retailer's shelves. So when you went into the store, you were sure of getting the latest and greatest version of each product.

But times have changed. Now the manufacturers are keeping their old versions available right alongside the newest models. In some cases, the product names have changed enough that the average person can easily tell the new from the old. For example, the iPad Air is Apple's newest full-sized iPad. You will see that Apple is also still selling the older iPad 2 model. In this case, the name actually changed and the marketing will usually indicate which is new and which is old.

In many cases, however, the name of the product doesn't change. There are often several versions of the same product with the same name or similar names selling at different prices.

Take the iPad mini, for example. Apple recently introduced a new, improved version of that product. The cheapest current version is selling for \$399. So when Walmart advertised the iPad mini for \$299 and it offered a \$100 gift card with that purchase, it seemed like a fantastic deal. However, Walmart was selling last year's model in that ad. They didn't have to stipulate anything other than "iPad mini" because both last year's model and the latest version are both simply called "iPad mini". The same is true for devices from other manufacturers, as well. The Microsoft Surface tablet has an original version and a newer updated version. If you purchase a Nexus tablet, you will find a version from last year right alongside the newest 2013 version that was just released.

The newer versions almost always have improved functionality and new features, but buying last year's model is not necessarily bad. To be a smart consumer, however, you need to know exactly what you are buying. It is always wise to ask if you are purchasing the latest version. Even better, take the time to research the older version and compare it spec-by-spec with the newest version. That is the only way to know if the price difference is worthwhile for you.

Luckily, the Internet makes such research easy. Right on the Apple website you can find a comparison for the two versions of the iPad mini. The newer iPad mini has a much improved screen resolution and a faster processor but the main specifications of the device remain the same. If you don't care that much about the screen clarity or the speed, the savings may be worthwhile.

You may not always need to purchase the latest and greatest version of each product. Only you can determine exactly what you need and which features you will use, and which you can do without. Doing research on the products can be time-consuming, but it is a worthwhile endeavor that will help you find the perfect device at the right price.

When it comes to high tech gadgets, being a savvy consumer is essential. You need to be "in the know" so you can make an informed decision on whether you would rather have the best device currently on the market or a little extra money in your pocket. ❖

CLOUD COMPUTING

By **Larry McJunkin**

The Retired Geek Technical Tips for the Non-Technical "Over 50" Crowd

<http://retiredgeek.net/>

<http://retiredgeek.net/contact-me/>

It may seem complicated, but simply defined, cloud computing is the practice of using a network of remote servers hosted on the internet to store, manage, and process your data, rather than keeping it on your own computer.

Understanding the idea behind cloud computing may be simple, but getting on board with it seems to be difficult for some (though I really don't understand why). Hundreds of

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(Cloud Computing)

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millions of people use cloud computing and don't even realize it, with email programs like Gmail, Yahoo! Mail, Outlook.com, etc. You do not install any programs for these on your computer; they are instead hosted on remote servers at the provider.

The goal of cloud computing is to apply traditional supercomputing, or high-performance computing power, normally used by military and research facilities, to perform tens of trillions of computations per second, in consumer-oriented applications. These applications are things like financial portfolios, email, corporate and individual data and they store and deliver personalized information to and from the users (you and me).

To do this, cloud computing uses networks of large groups of servers, typically running low-cost consumer PC technology with specialized connections to spread data-processing chores across them. This shared IT infrastructure contains large pools of systems that are linked together. Often, virtualization techniques are used to maximize the power of cloud computing. But you don't need to know these things...you just need to know that cloud computing is safe, effective, and keeps us from losing data on our own computers.

Some of the old file-sharing programs that existed years ago were actually early forms of cloud computing as well. Data, movies, pictures and music were hosted by other computers. You logged in and were able to watch, listen or view the data from the comfort of your own home, while someone else hosted it. But now cloud computing has taken off and gone to the next level, being a system of computers linked up together hosting, serving and storing data so users can use that data without even needing to install or upgrade their own computers.

For many of us early adopters, cloud computing is a concept we've used for quite some time. But now the cat is out of the bag, so to speak, and it has become the new "in" thing in computing, both for businesses and individuals.

To better understand cloud computing, try out Dropbox, which is a (FREE) prime example of cloud computing. Dropbox is the most well

known cloud service today and it lets you store and access your files from anywhere...on the web, on your hard drive, or on all your mobile devices. Here's how it works:

1. Go to Dropbox on the web at <https://db.tt/7rEut4dJ>.
2. Install Dropbox on your computer or mobile device.
3. Throw your files into the Dropbox folder... it's always right there on your device.
4. Add Dropbox to your mobile devices by visiting the iTunes Store or Android Store.

Now your files go everywhere you do. Change a file on the web, on your computer, or on your mobile device and it updates on every device.

THE INTERNET AS AN INFORMATION RESOURCE

February NNCUG meeting recap
by Anne Moss, Secretary

Presented by: Brian Riley, Vice President
Northern Neck Computer User Group, VA
March 2014 issue, *The Link*

Brian started with an overview of the ancient history of software documentation to illustrate the impact of the Internet as an information resource. In real time, 30+ years, software came with manuals and disks (5-1/4, 3-1/2). A loose-leaf manual was designed for manual updating. Updating usually was tedious, time consuming, and almost instantly out-of-date. The problem was cost. Updates had to be printed, mailed, and then each manual updated manually. And updates could be out-of-date with the delay in the mailing process. This was costly to both the software vendor and to the company or individual who had to maintain their manuals.

Help File Systems: Remember those days? To get somewhere one had to search back and forth through hypertext trying to find an answer to a question. And then the documentation frequently, *almost* but *not quite*, answered your particular query and you ended up going round and round in circles trying to find a better answer. In addition, you could not update help files that came on disks. So how do Help files now work? Click on "HELP" in the menu (or the F1 key), which formerly brought up a standard help format.

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(The Internet as an Information Resource)*(Continued from Page 16)*

Clicking F1 in a program brings up Help files that are now located on the Internet. This makes a lot more sense if you think about it. First, there is only one place to update; every user automatically has the latest information. Second, the user does not need to update individual installations and check others to make sure they updated. Third, updates and corrections are pretty much instantaneous. The major anti-virus vendors, Apple, Adobe, Microsoft, etc. now are following this same pattern. That doesn't mean "how to" books are no longer out there. Printed documentation is bought separately, or from third parties.

The Internet: What about the tangible effects of the Internet on everyday life? Brian then reviewed changes in everyday life that are the result of information being available through Internet technology. Real Estate has always been a candidate for a database – Multiple Listings actually began in the late 1800's and transactions were standardized in 1999 (RETS) by the National Association of Realtors. Realtors used to maintain paper files, and updated them frequently. This changed with Quick Response (QR) coding, which allowed a publication to show a picture or brief listing, with a QR code beside it, thus allowing the customer to access the data.

Banking is no longer just transactions by snail mail or in a bank branch. On line banking has grown exponentially in the last decade. How many tellers does it take this day and age to staff a bank branch? Instead, customers now use the ATM and pay bills through a secure website. On the other hand who needs an ATM if you don't use cash? Plastic card purchases comprise 66% of all in-person sales, and 31% of those are made with debit cards. Even bill paying can be set up automatically and half of all households have bills paid by automatic deduction from bank accounts.

Conducting transactions with your stockbroker is no longer by telephone, and choosing the best stockbroker for you is easy with an Internet inquiry and exploration of web sites.

We have all become used to using the Internet to find stuff, buy stuff, and these days, to fix stuff. For example, oops I have a broken keyboard. Do I take it to the shop or fix it myself? First, I'll

need a replacement keyboard. Using Google, type in "replacement keyboard" and the computer model number. There are references to the part, as well as a YouTube video showing just what to do, and a downloadable manual. Not only is this useful for electronic parts, but ordinary equipment such as a simple three-hole punch can be repaired.

There are innumerable questions and updates available with the simplest of inquiries. For example, when planning to visit an out-of-town friend, use Google weather, and pick the city or Zip Code. What about next week when I will be traveling—just add a 10-day forecast to the inquiry. Then find hotels and restaurants at the destination. Found the type of food you want? Specify if you want it delivered. Whatever the topic, Internet surfing allows the user to learn more than the original question. We really do carry around a mammoth reference library in our smart phones, tablets, etc.

Taking Classes: Maybe you would like to take a class in something. There are a lot of online accredited colleges. They are usually expensive and require that you complete entrance requirements. There are also a lot of non-accredited classes for a wide variety of subjects and generally they are very cheap. Some of them are offered by established brick and mortar colleges, and some offer feedback from students.

Udemy is one of many websites offering online courses. It also lists reviews of the courses. Udemy, and similar sites, do offer discounts, some substantial, particularly if you get on their mailing list. Keep in mind that non-accredited courses will not count towards a degree or be used for a job application.

Remember: There are thousands of websites. Some are well documented and maintained by professionals and experts. Others are less reliable. So who to trust? As an example, Brian uses Wikipedia and finds it good for information that is non-controversial. For controversial and philosophical subjects, you may want to check with several sources.

Brian concluded by noting that the Internet is more than just iPhones and tablets; it is about information access! ❖

USER FRIENDLY ADVERTISING RATES

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Half Page	\$35
Third Page	\$25
Full Page	\$50
Two page spread	\$100

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WE'RE on the WEB!

<http://www.lacspsc.org>

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LAUGHING OUT LOUD

If I am ever on life support.

Unplug me

Then plug me back in

See if that works....

- There can never be a computer language in which you cannot write a bad program.
- Programmer's Time-Space Continuum: Programmers continuously space the time.
- RAM disk is NOT an installation procedure.
- Reference Manual: Object that raises the monitor to eye level. Also used to compensate for that short table leg.
- Scheduled Release Date: A carefully calculated date determined by estimating the actual shipping date and subtracting six months from it.
- Shift to the left! Shift to the right! Pop up, push down, byte, byte, byte!
- Southern DOS: Y'all reckon? (Yep/Nope)
- Speed Kills! Use Windows 95.

A man and wife were both in an Internet business, but it was the husband who truly lived, ate and breathed computers. His wife finally realized how bad it gotten when one day she was scratching his back, and he said "No, not there. Scroll down a little."

I met an old University friend the other day, who in his youth had professed his desire to become a great writer.

When I asked him to define 'great', he had said: "I want to write stuff that people will react to on a truly emotional level; stuff that will make them scream, cry, howl in pain and anger!" Just discovered he's now working for Microsoft...writing error messages.

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*.
- ◇ Get help by e-mail by using our LACSLIST Yahoo Group Mail List. Simply address your e-mail questions to [lacslist \(at\) yahoogroups.com](mailto:lacslist(at)yahoogroups.com)
- ◇ Receive important news and announcements via LACS's Yahoo Group e-mail lists.
- ◇ Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to help solve your problems regarding selected topics.

- ◇ Eligibility to win door prizes in the General Meeting's "Lucky Draw."
- ◇ Information on training, swap meets and trade shows.
- ◇ Occasional product discounts, special offers, etc.
- ◇ Free software and computer books (if you review them for *User Friendly*).
- ◇ Rewards for Recruiting Members: LACS will extend your membership for three months for each new Regular member you recruit.

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[changes \(at\) lacs.org](mailto:changes(at)lacs.org)

For more information:

Telephone (310) 398-0366

LACS

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Please bring your dues and this form to a meeting or mail them to:
Los Angeles Computer Society, 11664 NATIONAL BLVD. #343, LOS ANGELES CA 90064-3802

Please PRINT Clearly

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[] Contributor - \$50.00 [] Supporter - \$75.00 [] Benefactor - \$100.00 [] Other - \$_____

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Name of Associate: First _____ Last _____

Company, Occupation: _____ [] Retired?

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City, State, Zip + 4 _____

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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,
8065 Emerson Avenue,
Los Angeles CA 90045

