

September 2015

User Friendly

LACS

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www.apcug2.org
www.facebook.com/APCUG
www.twitter.com/apcug
www.youtube.com/apcugvideos

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING**TOWARD A MORE OPEN INTERNET****Regulatory Reclassification, the Future of Net Neutrality**Speaker: **Michael Epstein, Ph.D.**

In 2014, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would have adopted a "commercially reasonable" two-track approach to net neutrality. Under this plan, ISPs could have introduced tiered service for consumers and edge providers, allowing for a "fast-lane" or "slow lane" connection. After a deluge of public comments by consumers and the tech industry, and prodding by President Obama, the FCC changed course in February 2015, selectively subjecting the Internet to common carrier regulation under Title II of the Communications Act. Prof. Michael Epstein will speak on this regulatory about-face and discuss the current legal challenge to these new rules, *AT&T v. FCC* (DC Circuit, 2015).



Michael M. Epstein is a Professor of Law at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles. A founding faculty member of the Donald E. Biederman Entertainment and Media Law Institute at Southwestern, Prof. Epstein specializes in media, telecommunications, international law, and popular culture. Since 2009, he has been the principal editor of the *Journal of International Media and Entertainment Law*, a faculty-edited law review published jointly by the American Bar Association and Southwestern Law School. He also directs the Amicus Project at Southwestern, a pro bono outreach program inviting law students to prepare "friend of the court" briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court and other jurisdictions. Prof. Epstein received his undergraduate and law degrees from Columbia University, and earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in American Culture at the University of Michigan. The second edition of his book, *Mass Media Law: A Survey of Content and Culture* (Vandeplas Publ.), published in July 2015.

Tuesday, September 8, 2015, 7 - 9 PM

**Fellowship Hall, 8065 Emerson Ave.
Westchester, L.A. 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

AUGUST 11, 2015 GENERAL MEETING REPORT

By **Leah Clark**, LACS Editor

Kathy Jacobs, a LACS member, has been on a “bug hunt” as a professional Beta Tester for years. She is a past president of APCUG. She talked to us about why and how we can become beta testers.

Beta is the last testing, by real users, before software is released to the public. Beta testers get free access to software before the release date. (They usually get a free copy of the final, released version.) They download it and report what they like or don't like about it, tell what goes wrong, and report any bugs. This saves the companies time and money. The later a problem is found, the more it costs. If a bug is found after it gets out to the real world, it causes loss of money and reputation. If you like learning new things and keeping up with the latest software, beta testing is for you.

Beta testing does have a few risks. Software is going to crash on you, and you may lose data and time. Is what you are going to lose worth what you are going to gain?

There are many ways to get involved. Intuit has a great beta program. If a game or program you use has a forum, a Facebook or Twitter account, talk to them. Answer people's questions, and ask questions. The more the community recognizes you, the more the company will recognize you. They may ask you to beta test. Pick a piece of software you already know, find their community, and get involved. Watch for opportunities. Some companies will ask for beta testers. Look at websites to see who's putting out new stuff. If you sign up, be sure to participate. Once you are in a company as a beta tester, they'll usually keep you for all their products. Think like a beginner who does things that haven't been thought of to find a bug!

Go to different sites like microsoft.com for Office 16 or to Microsoft Play for X Box games and phone games. If you use Facebook on Android, you may sign up to test each new version of Android software. There are sites like **Beta Bound** for lists of beta testing opportunities.

Companies may ask you to try specific things, and then note what isn't right, and report the

problems. Tell them what you did, what you expected to happen, and what really happened. Send a screen shot to show what happened.

Bruce Jacobs, also a LACS member, has developed training materials for Microsoft, and has beta tested for years. He uses five computers: desktops, laptops, and an all-in-one. He has seen different issues on different computers.

Windows 10 was released on July 29. Updates will be free to Windows 7 and 8.1 users for one year. Be sure to backup before updating! Microsoft has said this will be their last operating system. They plan to do updates so you'll continue to get the latest stuff. If you reserve a copy by July, 2016, the license will be updated for life. It would probably be best to wait awhile before updating; for Windows 8.1 until after Christmas; for Windows 7 until after tax time. Let people who want to be on the cutting edge of things have their pain first!

To reserve your copy, click on the little white Windows icon in your task bar. They will tell you when it's ready, and will start to download copies of the files it needs to do the update. When it has enough, and Microsoft approves you, you'll get a message saying Windows 10 is ready to go. Tell it “yes” and it'll reboot. A screen will come up to tell you to customize your settings. Go in there, and read through it.

The drivers for most everything will work, or they can be found. Windows 10 will remove a few things from your machine, like Media Center (not Media Player) and Solitaire. There's an app for the Solitaire Collection.

Most people do automatic updates. When Microsoft makes a fix, it will be tested inside Microsoft, and then given to Windows Insiders (beta testers). who will give feedback on it.

Cortana, a personal assistant, has voice recognition, and it can put multi-languages on your machine. Windows feedback is available. **Task View** puts running programs in separate windows or multiple desktops. The new browser, **Edge**, is much faster and is more secure than Internet Explorer. **Continuum** bridges the gap between desktop, tablet, and smartphone computing. **Reader View** enables you to share and save whatever you are reading on the Web.

Bruce then demonstrated some of the new features of Windows 10. ♦

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

SURVEYS

By **Leah Clark**, LACS

At the August 11 general meeting, Stanley Johnson explained LACS's use of Google Forms for surveying our members. We want to know more about our members and what we can do to better meet their needs. It's important that every member answers the survey when it's received in your email. You will also receive instructions.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

As chair of the nomination committee, Stephanie Nordlinger has been trying to get more members to run for office. Please consider volunteering, to keep LACS functioning. We have openings for **treasurer** and **vice president**. Past officers and board members will help you. Ask them if you have questions. The board needs members who represent a wide range of interests and abilities, from beginners to geeks, to help us meet the needs of everyone.

Below are bios of the candidates we have so far. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the September 8 general meeting. You may nominate yourself!

President: Maurice Stephenson, incumbent

I was born in Guyana, South America, and immigrated to the USA in 1975, and settled in Washington, DC. I moved to Southern California fifteen years ago to complete my academic studies. I obtained a Ph.D. degree in Phys-



ical Organic Chemistry from the University of Southern California, after four years of study. I have since worked as a scientist, consultant, educator, and I am trained as a Manager and Product Developer. I am currently a Science Teacher at Magnolia Science Academy, and enjoy helping my students as they face many challenges in learning Science Content.

My hobbies include hiking, running, reading, traveling, writing, and family reunions.

Vice President: No candidate

Secretary: Charlotte Semple

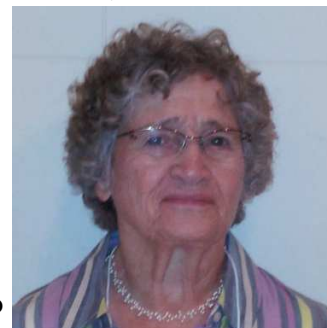
I have been an active member of LACS for many years, first serving as Welcome Coordinator, then Treasurer, Secretary pro tem and President of the LACS Board of Directors. I have worn many other "hats" as well. I have missed numbering amongst the leaders of LACS and would be most happy to serve as Secretary.



Treasurer: No Candidate

Director: Paula Van Berkem, incumbent

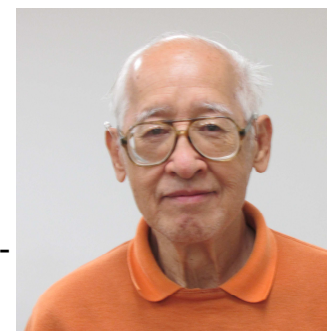
I have a certificate of completion in Computer Science from WLA College. As a member of LACS, I take part in the Basics & Beyond and other SIGs. I volunteer teaching computers to seniors at Emeritus



Santa Monica College and at the computer Lab at Culver City Senior Center. I have learned much from the LACS and have decided to share all this knowledge with the community by returning to the Board for another term as Director. As a member, I plan on reaching out to our members and to other computer users to expand our scope of activities. I trust that you share my confidence in making LACS a premier computer user group.

Director: Jim Louie, incumbent

I am a retired Registered Architect with a B.A. degree from Berkeley. I was employed by several different governmental agencies and private architectural and engineering companies.



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(Nominations for Officers and Directors)

(Continued from page 3)

My hobbies & interests include walking and jogging, surfing the Internet, reading and browsing the libraries, solving LA Times word puzzles, watching TV channels on sports, political, national and state issues, the National Geographic Channel, and nature shows, etc. I am a Hollywood Bowl seasonal member.

Director: Felix Frolov

Felix was born in the Ukraine where he received a degree in engineering. Later he worked in Moscow as a documentary film director. In 1973 he immigrated to Israel and made educational documentary films at a movie studio in Tel Aviv. In 1976 he immigrated to the United States. He worked in several different places before joining Magnavox in 1980. Magnavox became Hughes, and then, Raytheon. Felix traveled the world fixing and testing satellite communication and navigation systems. He earned several awards from Raytheon for individual technical contributions. Felix has been a member of LACS for one year. Today his main hobby is photography - he does outstanding work. In March, 2015, he led a Digital Photo SIG.

**Director: George Wolkon**

Before retirement I was on the faculty of the University of Southern California and am now an Emeritus Professor in Behavioral Science. I was also a Deputy Director in the L.A.



County Department of Mental Health. I have been a member of LACS since the mid 1990's. I served on the Membership Committee from 1999 -2000, coordinated the Office SIG from 2003 -2006 and was Secretary of the Board during some of that time. Although maintaining my membership since then, I have been substantially less active. Now I wish to help LACS to be as useful to others as it has been to me.

DIGITAL PHOTO SIG REPORT

By **Jerry Schneir**, LACS and
Elliot Silverstein, LACS

Picasa is a free photo editing and organizing program offered by GOOGLE. It is only available for Windows. Our speaker was Jerry Schneir, who teaches photography at the Santa Monica Emeritus College.



Jerry began by taking several photos of participants, and showing how to load these into his computer using Picasa. Then, using these photos, he demonstrated many of the program's editing features.

Picasa has the following sub-routines for downloading, organizing, and editing digital photographs:

1. Can download selected images or all the images on a memory card or directly from a camera hooked up to the computer.
2. Offers a variety of options for naming picture folders.
3. Recognizes most digital picture formats (JPEG, RAW, TIFF.)
4. Allows sending pictures via email directly from Picasa using your own email program and address book.
5. Allows the user to select a variety of image sizes to be used for the email.
6. Allows exporting or uploading of pictures in a variety of resolutions.
7. Has an abundance of image editing routines, some of which rival or exceed programs costing many dollars.
8. The ability to easily change the image brightness, to vary colors, and to adjust the white balance, i.e., the overall color rendering.
9. Has particularly good cropping, rotating and straightening sub-routines.
10. Has image editing options resembling those found in the QUICK option found in Photoshop Elements 11, 12 and 13.
11. Automatic saving of the unedited original image when an edited image is saved with the same name as the original image. (This can also be done by using the command "Save As" rather than "Save" after editing, and adding a number or letter to differentiate the edited from the original image.)

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(Digital Photo SIG Report)

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12. A print routine that allows for the creation of very large pictures by automatically dividing up an image into segments which are printed, and then manually reassembled in to one very large picture.
13. Has a collage routine which allows placing a variety of images/pictures on a background which is then treated as one picture.
14. Has sub-routines for adding text to a picture, and to move, resize and rotate the text, along with adding a variety of borders.
15. The ability to recognize faces, even when the images had been made years apart, and to show just the face, or the entire photo from which the image was taken.

Jerry also demonstrated collecting a group of photos into an "album", so these pictures can always be recovered together. The Picasa Album does not rearrange the photos in their actual locations on the computer. The grouping records are contained only in Picasa.

Picasa does not have a very good retouch routine, nor does it provide anything like layers in Photoshop or Photoshop Elements.

There have been some reports of problems with a recent update that renders Picasa unavailable. This has been remedied by reinstalling Picasa, which is very quick and easy. There has been some concern voiced that Picasa may be dropped by Google in the near future.

Picasa has other useful features, and is worthwhile investigating if you are actively interested in digital photography. ♦



Jerry Demonstrating Picasa

2015 SOUTHWEST TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTER CONFERENCE

By Leah Clark, LACS

This is the final installment of my report on the S.W. conference. See the July and August issues of *User Friendly*.

Some Wireless Technologies That You Can Use With Your Windows Computer

Speaker: Francis Chao

Tucson Computer Society, Greater South Bay User's Group, WIndows usERS (WINNERS)

This presentation explained how to wirelessly connect your computer to televisions, printers, tablets, and monitors by using WiDi, EZCast, Chromecast or a ScreenBeam Kit. He talked about streaming sticks which plug into the HDMI ports on the TV to bring entertainment to our TVs. This session was a little too technical for me to take good notes, and it covered too much for me to relate here. You may go to http://aztcs.org/meeting_notes/winhardsig/wireless/wireless_tech.pdf to see notes from Francis's presentation.

Virtual Private Network (VPN)

Greg Skalka

Under the Computer Hood User Group

VPN is a network that is constructed by using public wires and the Internet to connect to a private network. This is an option for companies to connect with remote workers and organizations. Separate home networks can be connected. Data is typically encrypted so that your ID and location can be protected. Reasons to use VPN are to provide security on public WiFi, to secure connections to your home network, to hide your ID when surfing, and to prevent being snooped on by your neighbor. Consumers use a private VPN service known as a **VPN Tunnel** to protect their online activity and identity. Individual VPNs require a router with VPN capability. A few VPN services are free, but most are by subscription. **Open VPN** is a popular, free multi-platform application.

Greg described different tunneling protocols like Point-to-Point Tunneling Protocol (PPTP), Layer 2 Tunneling Protocol (L2TP) and Secure Socket Layer (SSL). Greg gave more details on how all this works.

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(2015 Southwest Technology and Computer Conference)

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Photoshop Elements

Van Webster

Founder and President of Webster Communications

Today, the most popular camera is the iPhone! 95% of the images will never be taken off the phone! 95 % will be lost!

Most image processing tools have more features than are needed. There are many ways to do the same thing. Cropping, adjusting lighting, adjusting color and contrast, removing distractions, resizing and printing are the most common editing tasks.

Van demonstrated some of the many tools that are available. The first step is to get the pictures off the camera and onto an external hard drive. Edit out the pictures by selecting images based on mood, composition, technical issues, focus, and exposure.

To edit the exposure, go to Enhance > Adjust Lighting > Levels, Brightness and Contrast, and/or Shadows and Highlights

For retouching, there are the Clone Tool, the Healing Tool, Filter Tools, Gradient Filters, Dodging and Burning Tools, the Cropping Tool, and the Selection Tools. White Balance adjustment works best with RAW files.

Regarding image size: The best size for email or Facebook is 72 dpi and 72 - 92 dpi for screen display. 300 dpi is about the sharpest that our eyes can see. The display size is the number of pixels, while the image size is the dimensions of the image.

For archiving, save pictures as TIF files - JPEG for the web.

When storing images, have a system for regular updates. Update hard drives every two years. Van also talked about panorama photos, printer technology, custom photo books, photo filter tools and sky replacement. ♦

See you at the S.W. Technology and Computer Conference in 2016!

DAYTIME SIG REPORT

By **Robert Mercer**, LACS and

Jim McKnight, LACS

The July 28 meeting was well attended, with over a dozen computer users – not all members – present. The first topic was about an old but always important problem.

Malwarebytes Anti-Malware now comes in a Premium version which runs all the time and gives extra protection for \$25/year for 3 PCs. Along with an active real-time antivirus, Jim McKnight (our guru) runs the free version as well as **SuperAntiSpyware** once a month, but he points out that Sandboxie is still the best protection against bad stuff. See Malware Topics on Jim's website, www.jimopi.net. The latest version of Sandboxie is 4.20 and seems to be running well. In answer to a question, you can get infected just by simply clicking on a link in an email, or on an attached or included picture.

A question was asked about a utility called **System Mechanic**. Jim does NOT recommend it, as it does strange things to your PC without your knowledge. Jim had problems with fixing computers with System Mechanic installed and had to remove it on several PC's to continue repairs. He doesn't like "helpful" programs that change the settings, without your permission, on your computer.

Jim also uses the free **ESET** on-line scanner monthly. With the ESET online scanner, you download a small file initially, and then it uses the ESET.com website to scan your PC for malware. Check all the boxes that allow detection of Potentially Unwanted Programs (PUPs) and applications. ESET works in many browsers, such as Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, and more. It will delete or quarantine infected files into a special folder, where they no longer pose a threat to your system. To find it, google "ESET online scanner".

With any program download, be careful to get just the program you want, not the other suggested programs or files for which the selection box comes already checked. The 'Ask' toolbar (now classified as 'junk ware') is probably on many computers, delivered when updating Java blindly. When installing a new program, always use Custom, not Express, so you can un-check the boxes for unwanted extra software.

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(Daytime SIG Report)

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Another favorite program is the **Moo0** (that is M-oh-oh-zero) **System Monitor** available as a free “installable” program or “Portable”. Jim gave a demonstration at the meeting. (You can find it on www.jimopi.net under Utility Programs > ‘System Monitoring’.) A quote from Peter Drag-onitti on the Moo0 website:

Moo0 System Monitor is a smart free program that shows what is going on with your computer. The program uses a minimal amount of resources and you can learn from it where your computer ‘hangs’. You can see your computer under many perspectives, and with the features you can diagnose your computer. You can have as many features as you want open and have them in the way that fits you best on the screen. I use Moo0 System-Monitor every day.”

Be sure to only download the program via the link on Jim's “Utility Programs” document or from www.Softpedia.com to avoid crapware.

Another useful utility is **Prime95**. Yes, this is a program that searches for prime numbers, but it can also be used as a stress-test program. The idea is to torture your computer, and find out if it is overheating, or has other marginal components. Alongside Prime95, Jim runs a utility called **Speedfan** that shows various PC temperatures real-time as Prime95 runs. These two programs running together can give early warning of overheating issues.

Bring your friends (who don't have to be members), as well as interesting information, problems, and questions to the next Daytime SIG meeting at Felicia Mahood Senior Center for help from our guru and the education of the rest of us. It is on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Please check the User Friendly calendar. ♦

**BASICS & BEYOND SIG REPORT**By **Kim Stocksdales**, LACS

Topics discussed at the August 2015 meeting included:

- Avoiding Scammers when Upgrading to Windows 10
- Website Link Checker
- Geography IQ

Upgrading to Windows 10??... Watch out for the Scammers!

There is a right way... and a not so right way to upgrade to Windows 10. With the free Microsoft Windows 10 upgrade offer available for PC users running Windows 7 or 8.1, there are also cybercriminals coming out of the woodwork with phishing offers, purportedly from Microsoft, to “help” you make the upgrade.

We first discussed the right way to upgrade, which is to locate the Windows icon that should be in your systems tray as shown below.



If you don't see the icon, it probably means your computer does not have Windows 7 or 8.1, or those systems have not been kept updated as they should be with regular updates from Microsoft. Clicking the Windows icon will have Microsoft verify that your system is OK to update, then a window will pop-up stating “This PC is compatible.” Then there will be a button in the window stating “Reserve your free upgrade.” Clicking that button will get your computer in to the queue to upgrade. In a short time (usually within 24 hours), a window will pop up above your system tray stating that you can upgrade now.

We also discussed the wrong way to upgrade to Windows 10, which is to fall for a phishing scam that probably comes to you in the form of an email purportedly from Microsoft. The email will start with a heading that looks something like “Upgrade to Windows 10 for free.” A link will be provided in the email, and if you click the link, you may find all your computer files get encrypted with Cryptolocker ransomware, and instructions where to send \$300 to get a key to free your files before the key is destroyed. At the meeting we showed a YouTube

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LACS NOTICES

WELCOME ALL

Gene Jacobs
Data Base Manager, LACS

New Members (1)

Jessica Garcia



Renewals (14)

George Andrews	Stanley Epstein
Orsie Carter	Susan Mahan
Terry Carter	Michael Price
Roger Clough	Madeleine Rungaitis
Ian Cowan	Sei Shohara
Patricia Dunn	Anne Uski
Frank Elston	Pearlie White

PODCASTS

To listen to the podcasts of our general meetings, go to <http://www.lacspc.org/category/audio-files/>. Click on the session you wish to hear.

LACS IS ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK

On **Twitter**, follow us at:

[LAComputerSociety \(@LACompSoc\)](https://twitter.com/LACompSoc) | [Twitter](#)

To see the LACS **Facebook** page, log onto your Facebook account. In the search box on top, start to type in "Los Angeles Computer Society." It may come up after just the first few letters.

YOUTUBE SPACE L.A. HAPPY HOUR

12422 W. BLUFF CREEK DR.

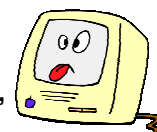
L.A., 90094, Near Centinela and Jefferson

Most months YouTube puts on a fabulous Happy Hour or other events with food, wine, and beer, entertainment and demonstrations. Everything is free, but you must register ahead at <https://www.youtube.com/yt/space/events-la.html>.

It is usually in the third week of the month from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. After the first of the month check at the URL above for the exact date and event, and to register. Parking is validated.

FIX YOUR PC FOR FREE?

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

GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATIONS

September 8: Net Neutrality

October 13: New Trends in Social Media

November 10: TBA

December 8: Holiday Party

January 12: Computer Technology for Understanding our Health

February 9: Population Growth and Climate Change

Note: This schedule is subject to change. Check your email and U.F. for updates.

GENERAL MEETING SNACK SCHEDULE

By **Sylvia Q. Davis**

September 8: T through Z

October 13: A through D

November 10: E through I

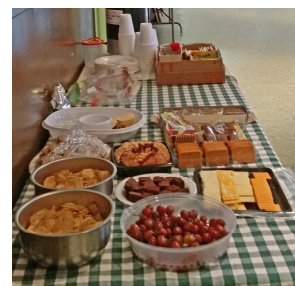
December 8: Holiday Potluck Party

January 12: J through N

If you are unable to come on your assigned date, please trade with someone.

Bring finger-food treats such as fresh fruit, veggies, nuts, cookies, brownies, cold drinks and the like. LACS provides hot drinks.

See your email for more suggestions and updates.



SEPTEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Rosh Hashana	7 Board Meeting 7:00 PM Labor Day	8 General Meeting 7:00 PM	9	10	11	12
13	14 Basics & Beyond SIG 7:00 PM	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Social Media SIG 7:00 PM	22 Daytime SIG 1:00 PM Yom Kippur	23 Eid al Ahda	24	25	26
27	28 Digital Photo SIG 7:00 PM	29	30	1	2	3

This Calendar may change.

Check your email or with the SIG leader before attending a meeting.

The General Meeting is at Fellowship Hall.

The SIGs meet at the Santa Monica College Bundy Campus, room 415, unless otherwise noted.

The Board may meet at Maurice's home or at the college. The Board meeting has been changed to the first Monday. Members in good standing are welcome to attend.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

SIG meetings are lead by and for LACS members. Visitors are welcome to attend.

To inquire about a SIG, check your email or call the contact person in advance.

Basics & Beyond SIG	Kim Stocksdales	310-720-0603	2nd Mon. 7 PM SMC, Bundy Campus
Daytime Sig	Jim McKnight	310-823-7829	4th Tues. 1 PM, Felicia Mahood Ctr.
Digital Photo SIG	Nancy Cattell	310-452-2130	
"	Elliot Silverstein	310-670-1544	4th Mon. 7 PM, SMC, Bundy Campus
Social Media SIG	Stanley Johnson	909-782-0103	3rd Mon. 7 PM, SMC, Bundy Campus

ADDRESSES

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

Felicia Mahood Senior Center, 11338 Santa Monica Blvd., West LA 90025 (at Corinth)

Fellowship Hall, 8065 Emerson Ave., Westchester 90045

Santa Monica College Bundy Campus, 3171 S. Bundy Drive, LA 90066 (west on College Dr., one block South of Airport Avenue, 2 blocks North of Rose) Our room number may change each semester. Look for it on a sign opposite the elevator on the first floor. We have room 415 through December 28, 2015.

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 email 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 email Leahjc (at) sbcglobal.net 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 an inconvenient time.

America Online - 5	Linux - 11	Picasa - 14
Android Smartphones - 5	Lotus Word Pro, Approach - 12	Quicken - 3, 5, 9
Apple Devices - 15	Mozilla Firefox, Thunderbird - 12	QuickBooks - 9
Anti Malware - 12	MS Excel - 3, 15	Thunderbird - 12
Digital Imaging, Editing - 8, 14	MS Word - 3, 4, 10	Visual Basic - 13
Digital Photography - 8, 14	MS Outlook - 15, 5	Websites - 13
Dragon Naturally Speaking - 4	MS Outlook Express - 15	Win XP-Vista - 12, 16
Genealogy - 5, 7	MS PowerPoint - 15	Windows 7 - 5, 12
Hardware - 12	MS Publisher - 2, 7, 9	WordPerfect - 5
iPhone, iPad, iPod - 15	Open Office - 16	Yahoo - 9
LA FreeNet - 6		

No.	Name	Preferred Phone for Calls	From	To
2	Mercer, Bob	310-837-5648	9:00 AM	10:00 PM
3	Wilder, Joan	310-472-8445	9:00 AM	9:00 PM
4	Hershman, Irv	310-397-9453	11:00 AM	11:00 PM
5	Nordlinger, Stephanie	323-299-3244	5:00 PM	10:00 PM
6	Springer, Karl	424-646-3410	10:00 AM	10:00 PM
7	Clark, Leah	310-677-2792	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
8	Silverstein, Elliott	310-670-1544	10:00 AM	10:00 PM
9	Kamerman, Cora	424-442-9592	Noon	8:00 PM
10	Beckman, Loling	310-471-7893	10:00 AM	6:00 PM
11	Hughes, Bill	424-259-1818	Any	Any
12	McKnight, Jim	310-823-7829	8:00 AM	7:00 PM
13	Ialongo, Gilbert	310-641-7906	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
14	Schneir, Jerry	310-451-4140	9:00 AM	10:00 PM
15	Van Berkomp, Paula	310-398-6734	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
16	Johnson, Carol	310-372-8535	10:00 AM	9:00 PM

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(Basics & Beyond SIG Report)

(Continued from page 7)

video of what actually happens when someone, clicks such a link and Cryptolocker takes over their PC. To see the video, enter, "Windows10 upgrade CTB locker" into YouTube search.

Website Link Safety Checker

Clicking on that innocent looking link in an email sent to you from a friend or other "trusted" source can lead to unintended negative consequences such as spyware or other malware getting installed on your computer. You are better off taking a more guarded attitude about links in emails, even from trusted sources. So how do you test that link before you click, to make sure you are not being directed to a malware infested website?

We demonstrated how to practice "safe clicking" by hovering the mouse arrow over the link to see the underlying link that shows as either a pop-up or at the bottom edge of your web browser. If the underlying link is short, you can type the link into a web link checker (or better is to right click the suspect link, and if an option is available such as "copy hyperlink" or equivalent, then copy and paste). First we showed the web link checker "**Norton Safe Web**" at <http://safeweb.norton.com>. Next, we showed a lesser known, but more thorough and feature-rich website called "**URLVoid**" at www.urlvoid.com. This website sends the link to a variety of different website checkers, and comes back with a status such as Clean, Suspect, or Dangerous.

What is Your Geography IQ?

Think of any country in the world...even the most obscure country with a land mass less than Rhode Island? Can you name its capital and major cities, language spoken, population, and other such details as well as provide a basic history? You can on a website called www.GeographyIQ.com. At the Basics & Beyond SIG we demonstrated using the website features such as the World Maps, the A to Z country list, and the rankings. The "rankings" has over 50 rankings of such things as smallest land mass, airport count, lowest infant mortality, male-female sex ratio, etc.

13 attendees attended the August 10 Basics & Beyond SIG. ♦

NEW PRODUCTS CAN ELIMINATE MOST ANNOYING ROBOCALLSby **Ira Wilsker**

Golden Triangle PC Club

www.gtpcc.org

Iwilsker(at)sbcglobal.net

I have not heard from "Rachael, at Credit Card Services" recently, nor have I recently received the calls that I will receive a free medical call alert system. I am sorry to say that I will no longer be informed that I have won a free cruise nor will I be told that I can save having my mortgage refinanced at super low rates, or that my computer is infected with hundreds of viruses. The reason is that I am using a free service connected to my phones that automatically blocks most robocalls.

For several years, despite some internet rumors and hoaxes, the Federal Trade Commission's National Do Not Call Registry (donotcall.gov) has attempted to eliminate or minimize many of the "junk" phone calls that we receive on a regular basis. Just as many other laws on the books are only obeyed by honest people and ignored by the criminal element, honest telemarketers have generally followed the regulations promulgated by the Do Not Call program, but illicit marketers, phone spammers, crooks, and scammers still flaunt the law with a blatant disregard for us and our privacy. A recent article in the July, 2015 issue of Consumers' Reports magazine online states, "Every month more than 150,000 consumers complain to the Federal Trade Commission and Federal Communications Commission about 'Rachel from Cardholder Services' or Microsoft 'representatives' warning about a computer virus.'" "Robocalls have eclipsed live telemarketing calls as a source of consumer complaints," says Bikram Bandy, program coordinator for the National Do Not Call Registry. Aaron Foss, founder of **Nomorobo**, a call-blocking technology, estimates that 35 percent of all calls placed in the U.S. are robocalls. "For every 10 phone calls you get, roughly three to four of them will be unwanted robocalls," he says. Consumers' Reports continues, "Just to be clear: Robocalls refer to auto-dialed or prerecorded telemarketing calls to landline home telephones or cell phones or unsolicited text messages to wireless numbers."

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(New Products Can Eliminate Most Annoying Robocalls)

(Continued from page 12)

Autodialed informational messages, such as those announcing school closings or weather alerts, are permitted according to the FCC, as are calls to landlines on behalf of nonprofit groups and political campaigns."

I have two distinct VoIP (digital phone service) phone lines from two different providers; one line is our primary family home phone line, and the other dedicated to important family communications. That second digital phone line only for important family communications has an unusual phone number, is provided from a very reputable provider that has a strict privacy policy on not releasing or publishing phone numbers, and only members of my immediate family have that phone number, fully cognizant to keep it confidential. That number has never been posted online, and should be reasonably secure, but over the past several months I have received countless robocalls on that line. My primary household digital phone line, using the same phone number that I have had for nearly four decades, was getting several annoying robocalls per day.

Recently, the number of robocalls and other junk phone calls that I have received on my two digital phone lines has decreased precipitously. I have signed up for a free robocall blocking service from **Nomorobo** (nomorobo.com). I read about Nomorobo in a recent column in the Consumerist (consumerist.com), an informational blog operated by the Consumer's Reports magazine. In a recent posting, the Consumerist (consumerist.com/2015/07/28/consumers-put-robocall-blocking-devices-to-the-test) reviewed several commercially available hardware devices and online services that claim to block robocalls and other unwanted calls. After reading the reviews, I decided to sign up for the free service from Nomorobo. One of the reasons why I chose Nomorobo was the fact that it won the "FTC Robocall Challenge" (robocall.devpost.com), defeating several other hardware and software competitors.

Nomorobo offers its free blocking service for digital phone subscribers connected through most of the major digital phone carriers, includ-

ing Time Warner, Vonage, Ooma Premier, AT&T U-Verse, Comcast Xfinity, Verizon Fios, and other VoIP digital phone providers. Nomorobo is currently unavailable for traditional analog land lines and wireless phone services.

Nomorobo			
Supported Carriers			
AT&T U-verse	broadvoice phonepower	comcast xfinity	frontier
ooma PREMIER	optimum.	SONIC.	SureWest
Time Warner Cable	verizon Fios	VoiP.ms	VOIPo
Vonage	WAVE	1-VoIP	

Signing up for the service was very fast, and no credit card or other personal information was required. Simply choose your type of device and carrier, enter a valid email address, enter the digital phone numbers that are to be protected, and verify the phone number. The service almost immediately takes effect. Nomorobo detects and evaluates the caller on the first ring, and asks subscribers not to answer any call on that first ring, and to wait until the second ring before answering. Coincidentally, within five minutes of signing up and activating my Nomorobo service, the caller ID display on my phone, TV, and computer monitor, showed a strange number as our primary digital phone rang once; it did not ring a second time as Nomorobo blocked the call. By the end of the evening, Nomorobo blocked three calls.

Nomorobo only blocks illicit robocalls, and explicitly does not block or interfere with legitimate automated phone calls, and will still receive legal robocalls about prescription reminders, school closings, reverse 911 calls, doctor's appointment reminders, and other valid forms of automated calls. Just this morning I received an automated call from my pharmacy informing me that a prescription auto-refill was ready, and could be picked up, that call getting through fine, not being blocked by Nomorobo. What is being blocked on a massive scale are the endemic telemarketing robocalls, often being made in clear violation of existing laws and regulations, frequently with "spoofed" (counterfeit) caller ID, and sometimes showing a faux local number

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(New Products Can Eliminate Most Annoying Robocalls)

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on the caller ID. This deception is being done in order to deceive the recipient and encourage him to pick up the phone. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), telemarketing fraud cost American consumers an estimated \$350 billion in 2011, predominantly initiated by a robocall.

A pernicious robocall example that I have written about in previous columns here, has been



about the robocall scams that victimized local individuals. One of the most common and most egregious robocall scams, locally and nationally, is from a

foreign caller with a spoofed (often local) phone number falsely claiming to be from Microsoft, Windows Technical Support, Geek Squad, or some other legitimate sounding service informing the recipient that his computer is badly infected with viruses and needs to be cleaned immediately. Instructing the recipient to allow remote access to the computer, this pseudo expert (who is really a crook working on a fat commission of whatever he scams from the victim) takes control of the computer and appears to remove hundreds of viruses and other malware. Sometimes the thief also sells and installs useless security software for an extra cost, typically charging a fee from \$39 to \$600 on the victim's credit card. On several computers that I have personally cleaned after a scammer did his nastiness, I have found evidence of identity theft (personal documents, email, spreadsheets, tax information, and other sensitive information downloaded by the crook), as well as new malware installed including key loggers to steal passwords and account numbers, a variety of software hijackers, and other malware. The crook also now has your credit card number, which is often resold on illicit websites by stolen credit card brokers. All of this damage done because the victim fell for the pitch in an illicit robocall.

According to the FTC, 77% of us find these robocalls to be very annoying. This free robo-

call blocking service from Nomorobo is definitely worthy of consideration. Signup is fast and easy, and the service can be stopped and discontinued at any time. If you are among the 77% that find robocalls annoying, Nomorobo may improve your quality of life by minimizing this common annoyance.

WEBSITES

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/magazine/2015/07/rage-against-robocalls/index.htm>

<http://consumersunion.org/end-robocalls/problems/>

<https://www.nomorobo.com>

<http://robocall.devpost.com>

<https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/contests/zapping-rachel>

<http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/if-first-you-dont-succeed>

<http://consumerist.com/2015/07/28/consumers-put-robocall-blocking-devices-to-the-test/>

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2015/06/are-you-a-target-for-robocall-scams/index.htm>

<http://consumerist.com/2015/07/22/45-attorneys-general-agree-phone-companies-should-give-consumers-ability-to-block-robocalls/>

<https://consumersunion.org/end-robocalls/>
<http://consumerist.com/2015/07/07/ftc-and-florida-ag-sue-company-thats-allegedly-behind-medical-alert-robocalls/>

<http://consumerist.com/2015/06/18/fcc-votes-to-give-consumers-the-right-to-block-annoying-spam-robocalls-and-texts/>

Why the Do Not Call List Isn't Effective



Technology made it easier to "spoof" phone numbers.



Many scammers overseas don't worry about violating the law.



Robocalls are fairly inexpensive to set up and take down.



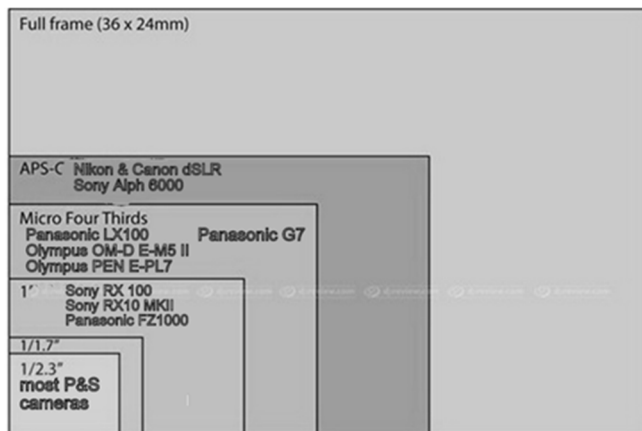
Many phone companies resist technologies to effectively block illegal robocalls.

SHOULD I GET AN INTERCHANGEABLE LENS CAMERA?

By **Jerry Schneir**, LACS

This article could easily be retitled, DO I REALLY NEED AN INTERCHANGEABLE LENS CAMERA?, or HOW MUCH MONEY WOULD I SAVE BY NOT GETTING AN INTERCHANGEABLE LENS CAMERA?, or maybe, WHAT WOULD I BE LOSING BY NOT UPGRADING TO AN INTERCHANGEABLE LENS CAMERA?. Hopefully, I will be addressing all these titles in this article.

It has long been true (up to the last year or so) that the image quality provided by any variety of a digital singles lens reflex (dSLR) or a mirrorless interchangeable lens camera (ILC) is far better than that produced by any fixed lens SMALL sensor camera. Last year (2014) some cameras were introduced by Sony and Panasonic, that at least for me, make me want to question that wisdom. Sony introduced the RX10 and the RX100 cameras while Panasonic introduced their LX100 and FZ1000. Three of these cameras use the 1" sensor while the 4th, the Panasonic LX100, uses the 4/3 sized sensor.



The larger sensors generally yield better low light pictures since these sensors have larger pixels and therefore less noise at higher ISO settings. The chart above provides the representation for the different sized sensors. What you find is that the 1" sensor has roughly half the area (116mm) of the micro Four Third mFT (4/3 – 225mm) and 1/3rd the area of the Advanced Photo System type-C, APS-C (367mm) sensor used in most of the dSLR cameras.

But sensor size is only part of what we need to examine in determining if buying a dSLR or a ILC is worth it over one of these larger sensor

fixed lens cameras. While the lens itself is a major part for both the cost and image quality of any camera, there are two other major parts, the sensor and the internal image processor built into each camera.

CAMERA	ZOOM RANGE	APERTURE RANGE
Sony RX10 mk II	24-200mm	F2.8 constant
Sony RX100-mk IV	24-70mm	F1.8-F2.8
Panasonic LX100	24-75mm	F1.7-F2.8
Panasonic FZ1000	24-400mm	F2.8-F4.0

The commonly provided kit lenses for dSLR or ILC type cameras have zoom ranges of 27-83mm in 35mm terms. And their maximum apertures are about F3.5 and go to F5.6 very quickly as you zoom in on a subject. To get a lens of similar to the fixed lens large sensor cameras would increase the cost of the dSLR or ILC by more than \$600 and that would be for a lens of lesser quality. As an example, Amazon has a Tamron 16-300mm F3.5-F6.3 maximum aperture lens for \$629. That takes your beginner's SLR or intermediate SLR from \$500 or so to over \$1100. And still, you have NOT have matched the lens quality. The lens on the Panasonic FZ1000 has almost a 2 stop advantage. Translation - whereas you might have to shoot a picture at 1/30 second at f6.3 on the dSLR, you should be able to shoot at 1/120 second at f4.0 on the FZ1000. Of course, you could also increase the ISO from 1600 to something near 6400 on your dSLR/ILC in which case you could keep that higher shutter speed but at what cost to image quality?

If I use the Sony RX10 mk II in this comparison, things get a bit worse for the dSLR/ILC. The Sony costs a great deal more, about \$1240 but you do get a constant f2.8 24-200mm lens. You might consider buying a Tamron 70-300 f2.8 lens but it will set you back \$1200 plus but you would still have to use the kit lens on anything requiring less zoom power. Yes, there are lenses from Sigma and others that might cover the 24-200mm range but are they equivalent to the Zeiss lens on that RX10? I doubt it.

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(Should I Get an Interchangeable Lens Camera?)*(continued from page 15)*

What about the RX100 mk IV? It only has a 24-70mm f1.8-2.8 lens. And yes, there are Tamron lenses in that zoom range that have a constant f2.8 aperture that cost about \$500. That would bring the package to about \$1000 and you would have a dSLR or ILC package for a little bit more than the \$950 cost of the RX100.

What features are present in a dSLR/ILC that you will not find in one of these fixed lens large sensor cameras? Viewfinder? Yes, the dSLR's all have an optical viewfinder. The ILC cameras use an electronic viewfinder (EVF) just like the fixed lens cameras utilized. Everyone knows that the optical viewfinders are better, but are they really? I have a Pentax K50 dSLR which has a real pentaprism and gives a 100% field of view. I also have a FZ1000 with an electronic viewfinder which gives me far more details, including shooting parameters and a real live view, something my dSLR does not unless I turn on Live View, in which case I lose the optical view. If you have not looked through a recent model EVF, then do so before trashing the EVF.

Does your introductory or mid-range dSLR have an articulating screen? The two Sony's have viewing screens that tilt up and down while the FZ1000 is fully articulated. Only the LX100 is a fixed screen. For some types of shooting, the moveable LCDs become a wonderful accessory. I haven't discussed some very nice dSLR cameras. The Nikon D5300 has a cost of about \$950 with a very nice 18-140mm (27-210mm in 35mm terms) f3.5-f5.6 lens and an articulating LCD. The closest camera to this is the Sony RX10 which has a constant f2.8 24-200mm lens. Is that Sony worth about \$350 more? You probably would have to spend in excess of \$700 to get any lens close to the f2.8 24-200mm Zeiss lens.

There are a host of other features that should be addressed. Things like constant shooting speed and movie specs. The Nikon D5300 can shoot at about 5 frames per second, about half of what any of the fixed lens cameras do. When it comes to movies, the fixed lens cameras out-perform most of the dSLR cameras and a goodly number of the ILC ones as well. 4K video is common to

the fixed lens cameras and not available on the D5300.

So where or when does it make sense, dollars and cents, to get a dSLR/ILC over one of the large sensor fixed lens cameras? That is not a question that I can answer nor would I even if I could. There are too many variables that go into making that decision. Questions related to ego may affect camera choices along with any budget restraints. What level of experience do you have that can be used with any of these options? Were you a dedicated film photographer and have a collection of good glass or are you just moving up and are open to new thinking and options?

I have repeatedly said that there is no perfect camera. I am reminded of the camera disguised as a pocket watch that was used to photograph an execution in the 1920s. It was perfect for that job but would have little use in day to day activities. In my case, I have gone from film SLRs to dSLRs, from point and shoot cameras to large sensor fixed lens cameras. I find that the live view seen through the EVF of a fixed lens large sensor camera meets most of my needs and wants. I recently bought a Pentax K50 which I dearly love. I am a very old Pentax film camera buff and still have an assortment of lenses which I can use with the K50. Yet, when I took it with me on a recent excursion into Europe, I found that most of my picture shooting ended up with my using my Panasonic FZ1000. The image quality for the FZ1000 was, IMHO, as good or better than what I got with the K50 and I did not have to change lenses nor even carry them as I explored various scenic areas.

I would love to try using the Sony RX10 MK11 and see how it compares to using the Panasonic. I have several Sony ILC cameras; I still gravitate to using the Panasonic FZ1000. For me, the menu system for the Panasonic, if not better, is easier to cope with. The relatively fast f2.8-f4.0 lens on the FZ1000 allows me to take pictures in low light without using a flash. In some cases, I probably should have used that flash.

Things are somewhat different when talking about the Panasonic LX100. Panasonic makes a very fine ILC camera, the G7 which has a fine EVF and comes with a 14-42mm f3.5-5.6 lens for that same \$799 price. For about \$300-\$500

(Continued on Page 17)

(Should I Get an Interchangeable Lens Camera?)

(continued from page 16)

more you can get that camera with a 14-140mm lens and a f1.7 42mm lens. For a bit less you can get a combo package with the 14-42mm lens and a 40-150mm lens. Those combinations may have some advantages for those wanting that extra reach or who also want or need a faster lens. Neither of those combos match the faster lens on the LX100, but they do offer interesting alternatives. Note: Panasonic also has a G7X which has the same attributes of the G7 except its LCD just tilts while the G7 has a fully articulating LCD.

Now to answer the alternate titles I posed at the start of this article, DO I REALLY NEED AN INTERCHANGEABLE LENS CAMERA? For most people, I think not. The dollar expenditure for having a dSLR/ILC camera with the extra lenses needed to match that of the fixed lens large sensor camera is too great in my humble opinion. Nor do I think that the supposed increase in image quality is worth that extra cost. I have not seen that supposed increase in image quality between the large sensor fixed-lens cameras and the dSLR/ILC cameras.

HOW MUCH MONEY WOULD I SAVE BY NOT GETTING AN INTERCHANGEABLE LENS CAMERA has been answered. For an equivalent outfit, you may save anywhere from \$300 to \$1000 (or more) by not getting a dSLR or ILC.

And finally, WHAT WOULD I BE LOSING BY NOT UPGRADING TO AN INTERCHANGEABLE LENS CAMERA has also been answered. In many cases you might actually lose some features, things like 4K video or the ability to extract an 8MP image from a video. You also might not have in-camera panorama processing which is something common to a lot of the fixed lens large sensor cameras. In-camera HDR processing is also common to many of the fixed lens cameras, with or without the larger sensor. The one possible negative might be if a lot of your camera use is in very low light situations where the larger sensor may make a difference.

But there is more to this discussion. Why are there no large sensor fixed lens cameras from Canon and Nikon? Both Canon and Nikon have a huge vested interest in continuing to produce

large numbers of dSLR type cameras. If either company created a large sensor fixed lens camera with a good electronic viewfinder it might and probably would negatively impact their sales of dSLR cameras. Much like Kodak of yesterday, if they moved into digital photography it might impact their sales of film. We know what has happened to Kodak; is this shortsightedness also in store for Canon and Nikon?

CAMERA	MAX WIDE ANGLE	MAX TELE- PHOTO	APER- TURE RANGE	PRICE
Canon G3 X	24mm	600mm	F2.8-F5.6	\$999
Canon G7 X	24mm	100mm	F1.8-F2.8	\$699
Canon G1 X MK II	24mm	120mm	F2.0-F3.9	\$799

Canon has introduced three large sensor fixed lens cameras, the G3X, G7X, and the G1X. All three share one problem, no built-in EVF. The G3X and the G1X have the ability to have an external EVF attached. The G3 and G7 both use a 1" sensor while the G1X MKII has a 1.5" sensor.

The accessory EVF for the G1 X is about \$250. I could not find the EVF for the G3 X. All three of these cameras are well specified and they cost about what an introductory to mid-range dSLR costs.

For a brief moment I thought that Canon had stepped up to the plate with their G7 X, but, alas, I was wrong. The Canon G7 X not only does not have an EVF, but it does not have any option to put one on the camera. There are better options from Panasonic and Sony, and even perhaps from Fujifilm. People who own any of these Canon cameras seem pleased with them, they perform well and yield good photos. But for me, and a host of others, the lack of a viewfinder, even a poor one, would stop me from buying one.

I am tempted to ask if there is a deliberate attempt on the part of Canon (and Nikon) to not introduce a large sensor fixed lens camera with a built-in EVF so as to NOT compete with their dSLR cameras? I think the evidence speaks for itself. ♦

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<http://apcug2.org-node-1867>

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LAUGHING OUT LOUD



"It was much nicer before people started storing all their personal information in the cloud!"



"How can you say we never go anywhere together? I've been following you all day on Twitter!"

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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. Its predecessor was the UCLA PC Users Group. The Editor of *User Friendly* will accept contributions of any suitable length from members.

Articles should be sent to Leahjc (at)sbcglobal.net as plain text in an email message or as a Word document. The deadline for submitting articles is the **18th of the month**.

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LACS

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Please bring your dues and this form to a meeting or mail them to:

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11664 NATIONAL BLVD, #343
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Voicemail: 310- 398-0366. Web site: <http://www.lacspc.org>
Subscription is included in the membership dues.

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.

