



# THE COMPUTER CONNECTION SAUK COMPUTER USER GROUP

MARCH 2017

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

BOARD MINUTES & FEBRUARY DRAWING & HUMOR FROM THE NET 2

TECH HECK 3-5

SHAREWARE AND FREEWARE 5-6

NETIQUETTE: FORWARDS 7

## FEBRUARY 11, 2017 MINUTES: SCUG CLUB MEETING

The February 11, meeting began with President Bendick welcoming everyone to the February meeting. There were no guests. Question and answer session was next.

The business meeting began at 1:55 P.M. The minutes published in the newsletter were approved. The treasurers report was given and approved. There was no old business. New business was help is needed to install the new screen purchased for club use. Tentative plans were made to install the screen March 4. Doug will be contacted to confirm date. The board meeting will be held February 22nd at 6 PM

at Wendy's in Sterling. Meeting was adjourned.

Neal started the program at 2:10 P.M. Neal went thru the remainder of the hand out Terry started last month. Neal explained each step in setting up Malware Bytes. Neal showed everyone Team Viewer a way to control a remote computer from your computer. It can also be used for tech support or to transfer files. Next month John Miller will do the program on local knowledge, looking at local government websites.

The drawing was held next with wonderful prizes given away.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Darla Stigall club secretary*

### Club Information

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**BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR  
FEBRUARY 22, 2017**

## Drawing for February

President Bendick call the February 22, 2017 board meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The meeting was held at Wendy's in Sterling. Officers attending were Art Bendick, Neal Shipley, Joe Fornero and Darla Stigall. Board members were Cheryl Johnson and Terry McLennan and trip coordinator Glenda McLennan. Also attending were Sam Johnson and George Schneider. The treasurers report was given and accepted.

The shopping trip to Chicago was finalized. There will be a signup sheet for those interested in going. The trip will be Saturday May 6, 2017. There will be a stop at a mall for the ladies interested in shopping before computer shoppers will go on to Fry's and Micro Computer.

No old business. New

business: March 4, 2017 will be the date club members will install the new motorized screen.

Plans were discussed on the equipment and help needed.

The March program will be on Local Knowledge by John Miller, April program on software you should have on your computer by Terry. Cheryl Johnson will present the May program on Craigslist. In June Glenda and Joe will do the program on booking vacations. Members please offer suggestions on programs you would like have or volunteer to do a program.

*Respectively submitted by  
Darla Stigall, Secretary.*

The large prizes for March will be two **\$25 gift cards from Applebee's and a 500GB G-DRIVE slim 7200 rpm Portable USB 3.0 Drive.**

There will still be a number of smaller items including a flash drive. We are hoping you will invite friends to the meeting and thereby increase our membership.

## Humor from the Net

### TEXTING

An elderly couple had just learned how to send text messages on their mobile phones.

The wife was a romantic type and the husband was more of a no-nonsense guy. One afternoon the wife went out to meet a friend for coffee. She decided to send her husband a romantic text message and she wrote: "If you are sleeping, send me your dreams. If you are laughing, send me your smile. If you are eating, send me a bite. If you are drinking, send me a sip. If you are crying, send me your tears. I love you."

The husband texted back to her: "I'm on the toilet. Please advise."

## Tech Heck

By Greg Skalka

Somewhere between tech heaven and tech hell is tech heck, where most of us that are tech users reside. No one's technology experience is always flawless and perfect, so tech heaven is not achievable in this existence (I mean, really - who has not received a spam email or had a cell call dropped). Likewise, it is unlikely anyone is always bested by technology and gets absolutely no benefit from it, or lives a life of total misery because of technology. We all live somewhere in between, usually where technology helps us a lot of the time, but betrays us on occasion. We all have our own individual tech hecks, and where ours is in that wide spectrum can vary greatly, and even change over time.

I don't think that anyone today can live completely apart from our modern technology. Even if you forsake everything modern and retreat to the wilderness to live completely off the grid and off the land with only stone tools, you'll probably be spotted by surveillance satellites or aircraft. Then the authorities will soon arrive to find out why you are trespassing, or if you do own the land, why you have not been paying your property

taxes. In a world that seems to be shrinking due to increased population and easy travel, technology serves the purpose of helping us to better get along with all the other humans here.

That does not mean that everyone has to be "all in" on the latest tech. Each person must decide for themselves what they feel comfortable dealing with and capable of understanding. No one need be forced into using Snapchat or smart phones or self-driving cars, but we all live in a world where these exist, and we can still benefit from their existence. I don't know how to perform laparoscopic (or minimally invasive) surgery, but I am glad the technology to perform it exists, otherwise the recent removal of my appendix might have left a big scar and required a lengthy recovery. All the latest medical devices and procedures help us to live longer and healthier lives, but as I found with my recent procedure, and as we are all finding out as country, there is often a higher financial price to be paid for those advances.

Shunning technology can reduce the negatives of tech heck in a limited sense, but we are all sharing this planet and are affected by what everyone else does, at least to some degree. The Amish certainly don't have to worry about their buggies being set afire by an exploding Samsung Galaxy Note 7, as they shun modern conveniences like smart phones. They will, however, suffer the same unfortunate fate as the rest of us tech users if we can't prevent a climate disaster from human-induced global warming or avoid a global nuclear war. The Amish may decline modern transport and walk beside the roads, but could still fall victim to an accident caused by a cellphone-distracted automobile driver.

Technology connects us all and provides a backdrop for all we do. Television, telephones, computers and the Internet have reduced the distance between us and broken down geographic

barriers, all without our having to leave our homes. We have the advantage of knowing what is happening on the other side of the globe; we also have the disadvantage sometimes of knowing exactly what is happening on the other side of the globe. The media's emphasis on sensationalism can make it seem that all news everywhere is bad. The internet can help spread knowledge and tolerance, but can also be used by the hateful and intolerant to spread their views. We benefit from the ability to conduct financial transactions and shop online, but suffer from identity theft, online scams and loss of privacy.

Tech heck is even creeping into the political debate, one of the main current news subjects. Both major party presidential candidates have their own tech problems, Hillary Clinton with email servers, and Donald Trump with having embarrassing recordings from his past made public. We have had concerns about the integrity of election results in the past due to technology; now do we

have to worry about the Russians hacking voter databases and influencing our election?

Our technology problems are not even confined to this world alone. Going into space is difficult. We have had many successes, but also a number of failures, and lost lives in the process. We were able to land men on the moon with computers not much more powerful than a pocket calculator, yet we still crash expensive, sophisticated spacecraft today. Mars appears to be particularly intolerant of our technology, as of the 55 spacecraft humans have tried to send its way, less than half have been successful missions. The recent crash of the European Space Agency's Schiaparelli lander is another example of Mars tech heck. The U.S. and Russia have sent the bulk of the missions to the red planet, with NASA succeeding in 19 out of 25 tries, while Russia succeeded in only three of 23. Maybe we don't have to worry so much about election hacking after all.

When it comes to new technology, it appears the young are the most eager and adept adopters. Put a smart

phone in the hands of a two-year-old and they will dive right in, but the same device may be intimidating to a senior citizen. My children (in their late 20's now) are more accepting of and accomplished with some new tech than I am, while my parents (in their late 70's) would like to keep up but need some help.

My daughter is not very technical, but knows most everything about social media, and the iPhone and iPad are her weapons of choice. My son is an engineer and has become quite accomplished at building little project boards that communicate over text or the internet, letting him know if his mail was delivered, if a monitored item moved and how much beer is left in the keg. He uses computers all day at work, set up his own home network (with network cameras) and is kind of tethered to his smart phone. He seems quite pragmatic about technology and is not at all intimidated by it; he has no reluctance to just trying things until he gets it working. Part of his confidence I'm sure comes from growing up with all this tech stuff. When I bought network cams like his, I

resorted to having him come over to help me set them up (a true indication that I'm getting old). He has no interest in a user group to help solve his tech problems; he'll just Google the problem.

My parents live 100 miles away; I wish I were closer, so that I could help them with their tech problems more often. My dad has been my idol and role model through life. It has always impressed me that he grew up in a farm house with no indoor plumbing or electricity, yet picked up tech and computers easily. He has built his own computers, but lately has had a harder time keeping up with advanced topics like networking and email. My mom has used computers for years but is slowing down a bit as well. Both have cell phones but don't text. My mom now has a smart phone, but is waiting on my nephew to come over and give her more guidance on how to use it. What is intuitive for the younger generation is not so much for the older.

I'm somewhere in between, in my own tech heck. I'm an

engineer and spend my work days designing telecom hardware, but no longer have the time or inclination to build little projects like my son. My first computer was a Timex Sinclair 1000, so I knew BASIC pretty well, but by the time C programming came along I was so much into the hardware that programming fell by the wayside. I'm pretty good at networking and setting up tech stuff; I have a wide variety of printers, scanners, cameras, GPS receivers, action cams and other gadgets. I may succeed in conquering technology more due to being methodical and persistent than being skilled. I have lived so long in the Windows environment that I've never had much interest in the Apple world (too expensive) or in Linux (too unfamiliar and seemingly less useful). Mobile devices have never caught on with me; I own a couple of tablets that I rarely use, and I've yet to buy a smart phone (I'm paying for everyone else's data plans, so can't afford one for myself). I don't really see a point in social media like Facebook; it is hard enough keeping up with email.

I am the IT department for my extended household, responsible for keeping everything running. On the whole, things usually work as expected, but with more tech comes more opportunities for interaction problems or outright failures. My least favorite call to receive is from my wife, to tell me while I'm at work that her home PC is having problems (as if there was anything I could easily do to diagnose or fix it remotely). I sometimes wonder if in an afterlife our heaven or hell would be tailored specifically to us individually. In that case, I know my heaven would be a place where everything works and nothing ever breaks or malfunctions, while my hell would be a place where everything was perpetually broken, and Lucifer was constantly after me to fix it all.

Oh heck!

*by Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA  
November 2016 issue, Drive Light  
[www.uchug.org](http://www.uchug.org)  
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# Shareware and Freeware

By Kent Mulliner

The two terms, shareware and freeware, are used interchangeably and refer to software that is available without a required payment (examples include Firefox, and the Libre Office Suite). As an alert, we should be aware that these are usually developed / written by goodhearted individuals or groups, but the absence of a revenue source can be a constraint on maintaining and developing the refinements needed by software in a rapidly changing environment. Increasingly, we are seeing Shareware groups seeking donations to offset commercial revenue. Examples include LibreOffice and Thunderbird (this latter was developed by the Mozilla group but they have decided that it is not fair to Mozilla users to transfer revenue to maintain Thunderbird. Thus they are seeking voluntary donations from Thunderbird users to further develop and maintain the program.

Approached practically, encouraging freeware/ shareware development through donations is self-serving. The donations enable more active

development and maintenance programs to keep the software up to date. The absence of freely given revenue can threaten the continuance of such software.

A current example is Open Office which was the forerunner of LibreOffice. It was developed by Sun Computing (which was bought by Oracle). In the initial purchase, many staff working with Open Office opted to join together to independently develop the software further and hence the birth of LibreOffice. Others stayed with Open Office but they also left Oracle and opted for the umbrella of Apache software (a shareware server company).

The latest word from this group is that they have decided to retire Open Office. In 2015, Open Office had a single update in October while LibreOffice had 14 over the course of the year. While some updates may correct minor bugs, more importantly is that they correct vulnerabilities [to malware] that have been discovered.

Apache Open Offices vice president explained that it faced a severe shortage of staff to address vulnerabilities and that it was hard to adhere to the company's commitment to publicly announcing all vulnerabilities discovered without being able to correct (patch) those vulnerabilities.

The lesson is that while we can appreciate the availability of freeware/ shareware, this is only possible if funding is available to support development of the software. It is like National Public Radio. It is only available as long as people are committed to and able to assure its continuance at a quality level that you should demand (and you can make such a demand only because you have paid to make maintenance of that quality possible.

*By Kent Mulliner, Past-President,  
Bristol Village Computer Club, OH  
September 2016 issue BVCC  
Newsletter  
www.bvres.org  
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## Netiquette: Fowards

### By Melanie Birnbom

It is important to use good manners when forwarding e-mails. Now and again, we all see an interesting message that we might want to share with friends, so we forward it along.

However, other folks practice mass-forwarding. They forward every joke, prayer chain, political e-mail, funny image, urban legend or anything else they can get their hands to everyone they know, including people who are business contacts. That many messages can clog up already full inboxes. It also makes people less likely to notice an actual important e-mail from you. Always avoid sending items like forwards to your friends' work e-mail addresses. Some examples of emails that should be forwarded using caution are:

Fwd: FW: THE CREEPY \$20 BILL.....

Fwd: FW: Visit with God - Forwarded mes

Fwd: FW: Riddle for seniors.... - Subject: I

Fwd: FW: MAGNIFICENT!! - Forwarded m

Fwd: - Read, heed and forward. This will c

Fwd: The Irish Furniture Dealer - Begin fo

Fwd: Fw: Fwd: Six trivia questions. How

Think back to the days of phone calls and letters. You might call someone up or write them a letter if you saw something interesting, but would you make seven separate phone calls in a day or write seven letters? One way to be sure you aren't bombarding your friends is to ask if they want to receive fun forwards or not. But don't be offended if they say they don't have the time. Or consider combining the information into one e-mail featuring the best things you've seen recently. That takes a little copying and pasting, but a lot of folks actually do that. It's a convenient way for friends to enjoy things you want to share.

Another considerate thing to do is not to use a "send all" function or go down and select everyone on your list of contacts. Think carefully about whether or not the person will really be interested.

This is also where you can make specific lists of folks to receive jokes or political e-mails after you check with them to see if they are interested.

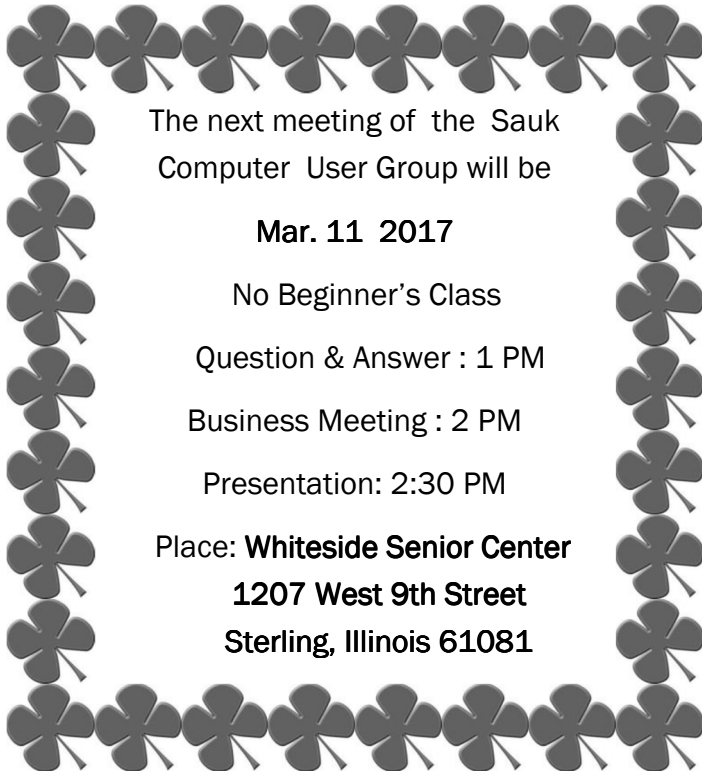
Social media, such as Facebook, is a great outlet for sharing news stories and jokes. There's less likelihood of some type of important communication getting buried in a pile or forwards and it was specifically designed for sharing that type of information.

*From Judy - Don't forget to delete all addresses before forwarding any 'message' on your joke, etc. e-mail list. If you receive a forwarded joke, etc. with a gazillion e-mail addresses, please let the sender know they should delete all of the addresses before forwarding the message. Tell them Homeland Security, their police department, etc. appreciates them doing that to help reduce people harvesting all of the e-mail addresses and using them for phishing e-mails. They should put the addresses in the Bcc: field.*

*Contributed by Melanie Birnbom,  
Century Village Computer Club, FL  
September 2016 Mid-Month  
Newsletter  
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There will be a Question & Answer Session starting at 1 PM. Bring any questions you have about your computer or problems you may be having. It will be conducted by:

**Art Bendick & Neal Shipley**



The next meeting of the Sauk  
Computer User Group will be

**Mar. 11 2017**

No Beginner's Class

Question & Answer : 1 PM

Business Meeting : 2 PM

Presentation: 2:30 PM

Place: **Whiteside Senior Center**

**1207 West 9th Street**

**Sterling, Illinois 61081**

**OUR MARCH PRESENTATION WILL BE ON LOCAL  
INFORMATION WEBSITES BY JOHN MILLER.**

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