

Licking County Computer Society

Random Bits

L.C.C.S.
P. O. Box 612
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Next General Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 19th, 7:00 PM
Zerger Hall
745 E. Main St., Newark, Ohio

PROGRAM**Getting Your Inbox to Zero**

Presented by Gail R. Emelko

Annual LCCS Election

For future monthly General Meeting program, please go to:

www.lccsohio.org/meeti.htm

2006 General Meetings of LCCS**Examples of Ways to Use Computer Networks**

Presented by David Clement with assistance by Kevin Clement, July 18, 2006

Voice, Filetransfers and Instant Messaging were demonstrated and Streaming Radio and Video was mentioned. All the programs are free but most require free registration.

For voice, Skype, which allows for conversations like telephone calls between computers or between a computer and a landline or cellular phone. Currently all calls within the USA or Canada are free until the end of the year 2006. After that calls will be around \$0.02 a minute. Calls outside the USA or Canada vary in price but are still substantially cheaper than regular phone long-distance service.

Instant messaging is a way of sending text messages quickly to another person, usually faster than email, along with other related features. GAIM is an Instant Messaging client that allows multiple protocols to be connected at once.

Filetransfers were discussed using Windows XP over a LAN. This is part of a Windows computer connected to other computers and/or the Internet and is used to send and receive files between computers.

Internet Radio and Video allows a computer user to listen to radio and other audio programs, including live news and prerecorded programs called podcasts, and watch movie trailers, home movies, and other video for free. Some programs that allow some or all of these features are Windows Media Player, which comes free with Windows, iTunes, free from Apple, and RealPlayer from Real. Additionally digital music, tv shows, and movies are now becoming available for sale and download.

There was a good turnout for the presentation, the demonstration showed and discussed both the advantages of such network uses and possible difficulties and security risks. And good questions were asked by those present.

Links:

<http://www.skype.org/>
<http://www.apple.com/itunes/>

<http://gaim.sourceforge.net/>
<http://www.real.com/>



2006 General Meetings of LCCS - - - cont. from p. 1

Microsoft Vista Beta 2

Presented by Jim Amore August 15, 2006



I've been testing Windows Vista Beta on my computer at home. The Beta 1 installed nicely and I was not having any problems. It was running a little slow and did not have drivers for the modem card,

but I'm on cable so it wasn't an issue. As I got the beta 2 and was ready to update and my 80 GB hard drive crashed and could not be used. I found another hard drive around 20 GB and used it to install. Before the August General Meeting I didn't get much time to test it. I tried to demo it and it ran so slow that I just presented Ubuntu. I took my computer home and installed another drive and reinstalled XP Home.

I will try again. We have a nice computer that was donated during the recycling event and I also have a copy of Office 2007 to install on it also. Wish me luck. I'll keep you up-

Living Well For Life

Presented by Dr. Angela Mead September 19, 2006

Dr. Angela Mead spoke to us about preventive procedures



to be applied to everyday life that may keep us healthier and/or slow down the aging process. She told us that WELLNESS is the key to enjoying anything or any hobby. She pointed out the two (2) main causes of disease are Genes and the Environment. She showed us documented proof that 75% of an individual's health, after age 40, is dependent upon what the person has done to his or her genes, not a defi-

ciency of the genes themselves. Relating specifically to computer operation, she cautioned us to not sit too long in one position and reminded us of the importance of properly hydrating ourselves.



Backing up Data

Presented by Kemp O'Dell, June 20, 2006



This article will appear in the next issue of Random Bits

LCCS Secretary's Report

Minutes for Executive Committee Meeting, September 19, 2006

Written by Kemp O'Dell, Secretary, with the assistance of Mary Frances Rauch

Attendance: Jim Amore, Jaki Amore, Vicky Atkins, John Dovjak, Kemp O'Dell, Don Furnish, Mary Frances Rauch, Dave Rauch, Mary Ossa, and Bob Porter.

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm by President Jim Amore.

There was a discussion as to the number of Executive Committee members needed to make a quorum. The total number of members is 12, therefore the number needed to make a quorum is 7.

Treasurer's Report was read by Jim Amore. CD has matured, money has been moved to a savings account. Finance Committee is shopping CD interest percentages. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Bob Porter, seconded by John Dovjak, and passed.

Secretary's Report – Executive Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2006 were read by Jim Amore. Motion to accept was made by Bob Porter, seconded by John Dovjak, and passed.

Random Bits – No report. Next deadline is September 20.

The updated version of the Constitution & Bylaws has been sent to the Ohio Secretary of State with filing fee.

A-Frame – We have a good relationship with the city. The Tri-City Bike Day needs access on Sept 30th. LCCS will relinquish the A-Frame to Tri-City for restroom purposes. City wants a "wishlist" for A-Frame. Parking lot and drive are primary.

Informational Flyers have been printed and will be distributed at local events.

MAR Program – December 31, 2006 is the last day we can put Windows98 operating system stickers on computers. Discussion of the future software purchase for refurbishing committee.

Recycling Report – Jim Amore said the Recycling Event went like clockwork.

Teaching Committee – Mary Ossa submitted her letter of resignation and President Jim Amore regretfully accepted it. We will be searching for a new Teaching Program Chairperson.

The list of overdue memberships was reviewed. Associate membership was discussed but no motion was brought forward.

Passed on SIG reviews.

No new business

Old Business – The business insurance premium went up \$50 this year.

Motion made to adjourn at 6:45 pm by Jaki Amore and seconded by Bob Porter. Motion carried.

SIG REPORTS

Digital Imaging SIG

Written by David Clement SIG Leader

August, 2006

Grace Davis, Jeff Eno's daughter, gave a very good presentation on Paint Shop Pro Version 7. She demonstrated how to add a person to an already existing photograph. Next she demonstrated how to remove or add a background that totally changed the appearance of the photo. She also showed how to change the color of a shirt or a pair of pants that a person is wearing. Finally Grace show us how to use layer's, Lasso, cutting, and masking.

October, 2006

Once again we looked at removing two individuals from two different photographs. We then proceeded by adding a new background and placing the two individuals in front of the background to make it appear like that was the original way that photograph was taken.

We also looked at Adobe Photoshop CS, Print Shop Pro, and Picture It and tried the same procedure that we did previously. We then compared the overall ease of using the various software.

Finally a demo using Pixaround software that allows you to take a panoramic photo made out of two or more photographs to join/stitching them together into a panoramic format.

Next month we will be taking a look at filters and how we can use them along with how to set up a batch operation.

Repair SIG

Written by Jim Amore

August, 2006

As people were showing up we noticed we had no SIG leader. We called Wyn and found out he was not going to be able to make it. A total of about 10 members showed up.

We started out with a computer that would not do anything when you pressed the power button. I hooked up the cables and nothing happened when you pressed the power button on the front. I noticed the power supply had a power button on the back and it was in the off position. I think that was the easiest fix we've ever had. Since we had the computer hooked up to high speed internet, we updated everything.

Next was the burner from ****. Another member brought in her computer after trying to install a CD burner on her own. All the settings were right and we had a major time getting it to work. After changing cables and using about 4 burner programs, one finally liked the CD burner and it started working.

Linux SIG

Written by Jim Amore SIG Leader

August 2006:

Cancelled.....Had a charity softball tournament to play.

September, 2006

We had 5 die-hard Linux members after the recycling event. We updated Ubuntu and installed Automatix which installs a list of programs just by selecting them with a check mark. They are trying to make Linux an easy operating system. It seems we will have to learn a new operating system in the future whether it be Vista, Linux or Apple.

WEB SIG

Written by - Kevin J. Clement SIG Leader

Web SIG has seen an increase in regular attendees along with some new members and people interested but either unable to attend meetings or only occasionally. Members brought forth some of their previous and current websites, projects, and programs. Some of the subjects covered have included portable applications (PortableApps.com), wikis, blogs, Dreamweaver, multimedia content such as flash, and image use.

To facilitate the Web SIG, esp. between sessions, I've created a simple web page for the SIG at:

<http://lccswebsig.googlepages.com/>

This also is a demonstration of Google's free services and one way for people to get into web site creation and/or get a free webpage.

Anyone is welcome, at any level of experience or interest. If you have a topic you'd like to demonstrate or cover more in depth, feel free to do so. If anyone wants a Gmail / Google Account, I and several others in the Web SIG have invites available. If I missed responding to anyone on this or other matters, please contact me again, I've been busy and was also fighting several colds.

NOVICE SIG

No Report

Windows SIG

Phyllis Hartroft and Jon Luzio, SIG Leaders

Written by Phyllis Hartroft

No meetings were held in July, August or September.

SIG REPORTS - *continued from p 3*

Digital Imaging SIG

Written by David Clement Digital Imaging SIG Leader

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Word/Works SIG

Written by Mary Francis Rauch Word /Works SIG Leader

July, 2006

We were asked how to find exactly what version of Microsoft Works is on their home computer. Members asked to be shown how to use the mailing address feature in Outlook Express to find and print out a map (or driving directions) to a friend's house. A few people asked what "BELARC Advisor" is after hearing it mentioned at the May, 2006, LCCS General Meeting.

August, 2006

There is ongoing interest in how to copy and paste certain items/articles from a website...Many times the formatting is a problem. We talked about "Paste Special" option in WORD, and its benefits and drawbacks.

September, 2006

This session was completely based on MS WORKS. We prepared examples in WORKS Spreadsheet, and demonstrated making Page Breaks in WORKS spreadsheets. We discussed Page Setup for MARGINS in the WORKS Spreadsheet, as we prepared to Print it (and how to "print outside the printable" area, if necessary). In the MS WORKS Word Processor, we offered a refresher on how to find the RULER if it was not enabled, and how to use the RULER. We reviewed the use of PAGE SETUP to adjust margins just before printing a document.

LCCS MEMBERS SPEAK

ADDING MULTI-MEDIA CAPABILITIES AND MORE TO UBUNTU 6.06 DAPPER DRAKE

Written by By Ken Baker September, 2006

Ubuntu is now the most popular Linux distribution according to DistroWatch.com. Like many free distros it does not



include non-free software like various audio and DVD codecs, a Java client, Adobe Flash player and Windows fonts. All these are usually considered necessary for users

coming from Windows to Linux in order to get a computing and web-surfing experience they are familiar with.

This perceived shortcoming can be addressed by the end user manually, but at the cost of surmounting a fairly steep learning curve. Because of this the Ubuntu community has been hard at work creating a largely automatic method to add the above capabilities, and more, to Ubuntu. The two approaches most commonly used are Automatrix and EasyUbuntu.

I have used both of these methods successfully. Each has pros and cons. Let's have a look at them, starting with EasyUbuntu, which is probably the easier of the two to use.

Once you have Ubuntu installed (see the article at: <http://www.lccsohio.org/reviews.htm>) open your browser and go to <http://easyubuntu.freecontrib.org/>, choose the Download page, and you will see that you have two choices: You can download the program to your hard drive and then install, or you can copy the commands shown below the download link into a terminal window and run it. I chose to copy the commands. First I opened a terminal (Applications -> Accessories -> Terminal) then in your browser select the commands by left-clicking at the beginning of the commands and dragging the mouse pointer to the end of the commands. Then choose Copy from the Edit menu or hit Ctrl-C on the keyboard. Click on the terminal window and choose Paste from the menu or hit Shift-Ctrl-C (rather than Ctrl-C) to paste the commands into the terminal window. Hit Enter and follow the instructions carefully, entering your password as necessary. When finished, close and reopen your browser and both Java and Flash will be installed.

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A more demanding, but more powerful approach is to use Automatrix. Open your browser and go to <http://www.getautomatrix.com/> and choose Install from the main menu on the left side of the page. Read the post installation instructions then scroll down slightly to the installing Automatrix section and read carefully! As with the EasyUbuntu install above, you will be copying commands into a terminal window – this time one command at a time. Alternate installation techniques are listed below this section on the web page, which I have not used.

After this program is installed, you will be presented with a menu of programs that can be installed, preceded by three informational messages you must click through. Go through the menu carefully, choosing the programs you want to install. At a minimum I would suggest checking AUD-DVD codecs, Flash Player, Media Players, Multimedia codecs, Skype and Sun Java 1.5 JRE. You will need to monitor this process as you will have to accept various licenses, etc.

Automatrix works by temporarily changing your sources.list file which tells Ubuntu where to download updates. As it finishes, you will be given a choice to keep the Automatrix sources.list or to revert to your original sources.list file. The dialog box to do this can be confusing but clicking OK will restore your original sources.list which, under most circumstances, is what you want. Automatrix is also installed in the Applications Menu under System Tools so it can be rerun at a later date to install more software.

Having used each approach I find that although Automatrix is a little more difficult to use it does have a superior selection of software. Either approach will give you the capabilities many people are used to when using Windows. I am putting together a more complete guide to using EasyUbuntu and Automatrix including screenshots which will probably be too large for the newsletter

If Your Computer is running slow....**Submitted by Ken Baker**

I rediscovered something useful today. My download speed had dropped to about 42KBs from a more normal 500 -600KBs on Adelphia. Finally figured it out! I shutdown the computer, unplugged the cable modem and the broadband router and left them off for 30 seconds. After plugging them back in and letting them reconnect to the network I rebooted. My download speeds are now back up to 600+KBs. Both the cable modem and the router are small computers and occasionally need to be rebooted. Once a month seems like a good idea.

How to Access the LCCS Bulletin Board**By Jim Amore**

We have a blog or bulletin board for LCCS. You can find the link from our web page on the top page of the links page or <http://helmicks.com/v-web/bulletin/bb/index.php>. After you go there, in the center of the header you will see “register.” Click on it and follow the instructions. You will need to give a good e-mail address to register and to get accepted. I have to accept you and give you permission to be a member of the blog. Once you are accepted you will get e-mails if anyone posts to the topics you want to watch. The Advocate has the same bulletin board on their web site. If anyone has a problem registering or logging on let me know.

Why I Joined LCCS**By J.C. Deck**

I first heard about the Licking County Computer Society in March through an ad for the computer recycling event. At the event I turned in two computers. After dropping them off I asked one of the members working the event about what the LCCS typically did at their meetings. He gave me the web address for the LCCS website and suggested I come to one of the General meetings.



I visited the March and May general meetings. Although I thought the meetings were interesting and learned many things I was still not convinced that I should become a member. After the May meeting I asked LCCS President Jim Amore and Repair SIG chairman Win Davies about what was typically covered at the SIG meetings specifically the Repair and Maintenance SIG. During our conversation Mr. Davies invited me to come to the next repair SIG meeting and see for myself what they did.

I accepted his invitation and attended the Repair SIG meeting on June 11. Although there were not very many systems brought to the meeting for repair, I thought the way the LCCS members communicated with each other to solve the problems was amazing. I thought that I could gain valuable knowledge from attending the Repair SIG meetings that would help me achieve my goal of being able to build and upgrade my own computer. I was so impressed by the Meeting that I joined LCCS and hope to be able to attend as many of the meetings as I can.

The Recycling Event

September 15 and 16, 2006

Written by Jim Amore



About 2 months before the event I was about ready to cancel. We still had the load from the March event at Contour Forming. Then when we did get the items sent, we didn't get boxes or many pallets back. I wasn't sure how we were going to get any collected item to the recycling center this time. I called my contact up north and told him of my concerns and he gave me a person to contact. This person said he will pick up the load and take it back up north without charge. He was also going to send down some collection cages for us. After talking to him, everything just fell into place. I called Bayer Corp. in Heath / Hebron and they said they could let us have some Gaylord boxes and pallets for the event. Next, I had to figure how to get the boxes to Contour. I got a call asking if we would accept a couple skids and if we had a way to unload them from a delivery truck. "IDEA" I asked if the truck could make a small detour and pick up the items at Bayer. Problem solved.

We had two beautiful days of weather for the event. I was so glad to see so many members show up on both days. Fourteen members on Friday and eighteen on Saturday with Marti Kolb and Melissa Seville from the City Of Newark Litter Prevention there both days. The City provided lunch both days. Bill Anderson manned the forklift both days, giving me time to help coordinate other areas.

The truck showed up Tuesday morning to take the load up to Cleveland. We had a full load approx 30,000 lbs and still had about 6 skids left at Contour. After taking monies out for tools, pop and water, we had donations of \$171.00, and \$50.00 was spent for the porta-john which gives us a plus for the event of \$121.00.

A little note: Dave Clement could not find his ham radio after the event. If anyone has found it in their articles please let us know. Also, please keep track of all your articles as I also lost a camera in a carrying case in March. I would hate to think anyone took them on purpose.

LCCS/LCAP Teaching Program

Computer Classes for Senior Citizens

Written by Phyllis Hartroft

At a meeting of the Teaching Program Committee on October 17, 2006, Dave Bibler was elected the new Chairman, taking over from Mary Ossa. The appointment was approved by the LCCS Executive Committee. Dave is a member and officer of LCCS and is Executive Director of Licking County Aging Program (LCAP). He has been active in the teaching program for a number of years. Classes are taught by volunteer members of LCCS at Zerger Senior Center.

The next session will begin on Monday, January 8, 2007. Each class consists of ten students and is held for two hours per week for 7 weeks. There is a small fee to cover cost of materials. Registration is going on now (see below).

A general requirement is that students have access to computers at home for practice.

Classes available for January are the following:

I. Beginning Computer Course (Microsoft Windows)

Monday, 1:30-3:30 PM

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30 PM

Wednesday, 7-9 PM

II. Beyond the Basics (Microsoft Works or Office)

Thursday, 1:30-3:30

Word processing, spreadsheets, and database — compose letters and documents, keep track of budgets, etc, create address book and labels.

Special requirement: Have already taken the beginners course at Zerger or equivalent.

III. Internet and Email

Tuesday 10:30 AM-12:30 PM.

Thursday 7-9 PM

Special requirement: Have already taken the beginners course at Zerger or equivalent.

You may register for any of these classes at Zerger Senior Center (LCAP), 745 E Main Street, Newark, OH 43055. 740-345-0821. Registration requires a non-refundable fee of \$10.



Licking County Computer Society, Inc.
 PO Box 612
 Newark, OH 43058-0612

LICKING COUNTY COMPUTER SOCIETY

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