25 Years DACS

DACS.doc

A Computer & Technology Newsletter

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Next Event: December 1

Navigating the Digital World With Abby Stokes

Editor's Note: The president's file was unavailable at presstime. The file willl be posted on the DACS website at a later date.

Directors' Notes

Danbury Area Computer Society (DACS)
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 4, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:18pm by Dick Gingras.

In attendance were Richard Corzo, Dick Gingras (President), Bert Goff (Treasurer & Secretary), Lisa Leifels, and Andy Woodruff. Charlie Bovaird was present as a guest for part of the meeting, and the minutes were taken by Richard Teasdale.

• The Minutes of the 9/30/2015 Board Meeting were approved.

• The Treasurer's report for October was reviewed and discussed.

• Dick reported on his efforts to identify candidates for new board member(s).

• Options for the proposed 25th anniversary dinner were discussed. *Bert volunteered to ask Jim Scheef to further consider the options and develop a firm prop*• The dinner discussion included a review of the types of networking opportunities (social, professional, technical, etc.) that • Dick reported on the meeting which he, Richard, and Andy recently had with members of the board of the Trumbull PC Users Group. Options for various levels of collaboration with that group were discussed.

• The continuing difficulty of getting good press coverage of general meetings was discussed. No press release was distributed in advance of the November general meeting. *Dick to ask Sean Henderson whether he can help out with press releases.*

• Dick reported that he is looking into options for DACS collaboration with WCSU and has begun discussions with Paul Steinmetz, WCSU's Director of University and Community Relations. Ideas and possibilities were discussed by the board.

• Options for renewal of the resource center floor were discussed, including a possibility that the city of Danbury will pay for renovation. Dick has met and discussed this with Bruce Tuomala, Economic Development Director for the city, and plans to contact Wayne Shepperd - chief of staff to Mayor Boughton.

• It was agreed that the index of articles created by Bruce Preston should be made available via the DACS website.

Committee reports

• Membership committee:

◦ Total membership: 113. Current members: 93, Grace members: 20. *Bert will follow up with Jim Scheef re reminder cards.*

◦ General meeting attendance: believed to have been 39. (Several were members of the amateur radio club.)

◦ Dick suggested that independent computer support businesses might be a good source of new members.

• Program committee:

◦ December general meeting - Abby Stokes - Previewer: Dick. Reviewer: Tom Zarecki.

◦ Jan/Feb general meetings - two possibilities for topics:

1. Office 2016 - Richard will contact the Microsoft store about doing a presentation;

2. Cloud Computing - Anand Tirumani (assuming there is enough new material since the last presentation on that topic).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

—Richard Teasdale

IN THIS ISSUE

Membership Information

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DACS, its officers and directors assume no liability for damages arising out of the publication or non-publication of any article, advertisement, or other item in this newsletter.

The editors welcome submissions from DACS members. Contact Richard Teasdale (*dacseditor*@dacs.org). Advertisers, contact Charles Bovaird at (203) 792-7881 *(aam@mags.net)*

Member of apcug
An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups

2015 Newsletter Contest apcug First Place

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Apple User Group

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HelpLine

Our former telephone HelpLine has been replaced by our web-based DACS Community Forum at *http://forum.dacs.org*. We have topic-specific forums where DACS members can post questions. Questions may be answered by Workshop leaders or other DACS members. If none of the categories fit your question, just post it to the Ask DACS forum.

Topic	Forum
.NET Programming	ASP.Net and C#VB.Net Workshop
Digital cameras/scanners/image processing	Digital Imaging Workshop
Content Management Systems	Drupal Workshop
Linux	Linux Workshop
Mac and iPhone/iPad/iPod touch	Apple Workshop
PC maintenance	PC Maintenance Workshop
Smartphones & Tablets	Mobile Devices Workshop
Virtual machine software	Virtual Computing Workshop
Desktop publishing and website design	Web Site Design Workshop
Windows	Windows Workshop

There are Many Ways to Join DACS

An easy way to join DACS is to attend one of the monthly general meetings. General meetings are normally held on the first Tuesday of each month at Danbury Hospital. Or join right on our Website via the PayPal link, where you may also pay by credit card without a PayPal account.

General meetings are always free to the public, but only members benefit fully from DACS' many other events, activities, and publications. As a member you become part of a dynamic computer group in the Greater Danbury Area.

You will receive a subscription to *dacs.doc*, our award-winning monthly newsletter, packed with news and information pertinent to computer users of all levels. In addition to interesting feature stories, the newsletter contains a monthly calendar of events and a recap of the the previous general meeting and last month's workshops. Members may also post questions to the DACS Community Forum.

Members may also attend the monthly workshops, where topics relating to computers, peripherals, software, and operating systems are discussed. Workshops meet throughout the month at our Resource Center in downtown Danbury unless mentioned otherwise in the calendar. Occasionally, special topic sessions are also offered to members.

Individual/Family Memberships

Annual membership dues are $40.00 for individuals or for each family living at the same address. Annual memberships which include a printed newsletter are available for $60.00 a year.

Meeting Review

Computers in Amateur Radio
Speaker: Mike Walters, W8ZY!

By Jim Scheef

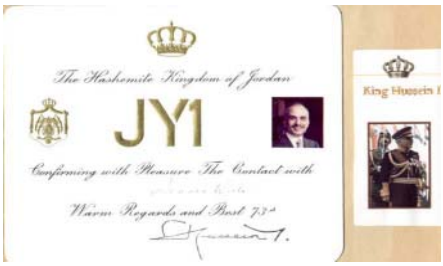
COMPUTERS AND HAM RADIO? There is more than a slight connection, and Mike Walters showed us that the link is more than just electricity and cool technology, but a synergy that has grown over the years. A couple of times I was wondering where was the line between ham radio and computing. In many ways they seem to have merged. Read on and see if you agree.

Mike started with a brief review of amateur radio, which is as old as radio itself. Amateur radio operators are licensed to operate on specific frequency bands that are recognized around the world for such use. Like all communications in this country, it is regulated by the FCC. In the very early days, the term "ham" was a pejorative used by professional operators when referring to amateurs and their "ham fisted" telegraphy. Soon the "hams" adopted the term as their own. First licensed in 1977, Mike has participated in the hobby as it has evolved over many years. He is a member of the Northville Amateur Radio Association and is the Region 5 District Emergency Coordinator for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Computers intersect with ham radio in four main areas:

- Logging
- Programming and Operation
- Digital Communication
- Software Defined Radio

Most hams keep a station log that records their contacts over the air. Working DX, or distant stations, is a primary activity and they're proud of the contacts they make all over the world. Since logging is rows of similar data, it's an activity that can be made easier with a computer. Of course, logging a rare or distant contact requires proof for the bragging rights to stand up. From the early days, hams have exchanged QSL cards to verify contacts. These are typically a custom postcard printed with the ham's call sign, location, and maybe a picture or two. A QSL card from the King of Jordan , would be a highly prized proof of contact. Rather than explain each abbreviation or "code", I'm going to

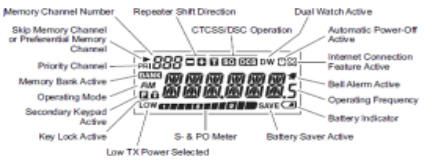


leave these to the reader as Mike did, with the reminder that your search engine and WikiPedia are your friends and most of these codes have an interesting history. Some are apparent just from the context.

As the cost of postage, especially international, rose, an electronic means to verify contacts replaced many QSL card exchanges. Two websites now allow each person in the contact to record the exchange. When matching records are entered in the database, the QSO is confirmed. While I would prefer a card mailed from the King of Jordan, these databases, run by the American Radio Relay League

(ARRL.org) and a private effort based in Texas, make confirmations fast, easy, inexpensive and searchable.

The second area Mike covered is **Programming and Operation**. Like most technology-driven hobbies, ham radio equipment comes with features in abundance. Even the smallest hand-held transceivers have so many features that they become hard to configure due to the small screen size and obscure codes. Since many settings are rarely changed, it's much easier to connect the



device to a larger computer, like a desktop, where a Windows-based configuration program can make all the settings easier to see and set. For instance, a portable transceiver is often used with a repeater to get greater range. The repeater's frequency never changes, so you would want the frequency setting loaded into the "speed dialer" so it can be accessed by pressing only one or two keys. The same would be true for the mode of operation (the type of FM or digital mode) and other operation parameters.

The plethora of features and options is not confined to portables. The equipment used for home stations, the traditional "ham shack", can be just as complex to configure and operate, and it's likely there is more

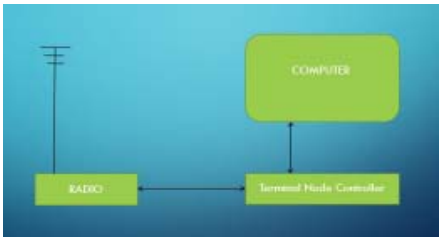
equipment. I was blown away by how computers have been integrated into ham gear. Modern gear, receivers, transmitters, antenna tuning and switching, and antenna rotators can all be controlled from a computer interface. For instance, say you want to work a station in the Republic of Georgia, in which direction should you point your antenna? My guess would be just a little to "right" of the North Pole, but why guess? Plug in the latitude and longitude of Tbilisi, and let the computer figure it out and turn the rotator to the right heading. Cool!

It was inevitable that radio amateurs would incorporate **Digital Radio**, similar to what is used in cellular phones, into regular use on most frequency bands. The interesting part of this is that all radio started as digital. The most "primitive" form of radio signaling was to simply start and stop the radio wave. Radiotelegraphy using Morse code was the beginning of all radio communications, starting in the late 1800's. Hams call this CW or continuous wave. As telegraph companies moved from operators with a key to put the "clicks" on the wire to various types of teletypes, radiotelegraphy made the same move using modulation techniques like PSK (phase shift keying) and FSK (frequency shift keying), and several other techniques evolved in both commercial and amateur use. All of these are a form of " digital" signaling. An important point here is that amateur radio is licensed specifically to help develop new forms of radio communications. Regulations are enforced to prevent interference with commercial radio and to

maximize use of the available spectrum. Generally speaking, modern digital transmission techniques are more efficient users of spectrum, which is why cellular operators moved totally to digital over the last decade.

The latest thing is **Software Defined Radio** (SDR). In this technique the entire radio is created in software. In a traditional radio, like many women in the 40's and 50's liked to have in the kitchen, the radio station was tuned using a large variable capacitor and a coil. The combination created a tuned circuit that resonated at a desired frequency. This is what selected the desired station and rejected others. If cell phones used such tuners, backpacks would be needed to carry them. Not only is this tuning replaced by digital signal processing, but it can work over several frequency bands. Once selected, the signal is digitally "processed" and amplified. We use similar technology every day and, as you would expect, so do hams for both receivers and transmitters.

This block diagram shows the basics



of how SDR can simplify a ham shack. This user interface is used to control a software defined radio. I listened intently while Mike

described this, but there is no way I can reiterate that here. This device contains all

the actual radio components controlled by the user interface above, once it is attached to the computer. This one device handles both reception and transmission. Notice that the only actual control is the power button!

To say I was blown away by computers in ham radio is quite an understatement. Mike Walters gave an interesting presentation that packed a lot into the time available. Mike's slides are available on the website at *http://dacs.org/downloads/Computers%20in%20Amateur%20radio.pptx.*

Meeting Preview

Navigating the Digital World With Abby Stokes

By Dick Gingras

Date: Tuesday, December 1, 7:30 PM
Location: Danbury Hospital
Creasy Auditorium
Presenter: Abby Stokes

WE ARE FORTUNATE to welcome Abby Stokes as the speaker at our December general meeting. Abby has taken on the role of the Johnny Appleseed of information technology, crisscrossing the country to help digital immigrants conquer their fear of technology. Abby has single-handedly helped a quarter million digitally challenged people cross the digital divide to get online. She has visited more than 20 states, 120 public libraries, over 100 computer clubs, senior centers, and has hosted webinars across the country. Abby has taught courses in basic computing at Cooper Union and NYU's School of Lifelong Learning, as well as computer skills to private and corporate clients.

"Is This Thing On?" Navigating the Digital World is the title of Abby's presentation. The digital divide widens daily, with the rapid pace of new innovations and gadgets. What is out there and how it might benefit you can be lost in all the tech talk. Should you buy a tablet or a computer? Stick with your PC or move onto an Apple? How do you optimize your searches and why on earth do people want to share on Facebook? Abby also helps "digital immigrants" (those baby boomers and beyond not born with a keyboard and mouse in hand) understand what everyone is talking about and how to decide what might work best for them. Learn more about Abby and see the short YouTube interview found at *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLppIbe_JbI*.

Abby is one of the foremost authorities in North America teaching computer skills to older adults and other newcomers to digital technology. She is also the author of the best-selling digital technology guide book: **"IS THIS THING ON?"** A Friendly Guide to Everything Digital *for Newbies, Technophobes, and the Kicking and Screaming*. This is a smart, comprehensive, reassuring, and jargon-free guide book – the epitome of user-friendly.

Abby's presentation will be interactive, so please come with questions you would like to have answered. This meeting is free and open to DACS members and the general public, starting at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, December 1st, in the Creasy Auditorium at the Danbury Hospital. There is plenty of free parking in the guest parking garage adjacent to the auditorium. After the meeting, everyone is invited to the Danbury Hospital Praxair Café for additional networking.

New dacs.doc Distribution Policy

At the DACS Board of Directors meeting on September 30, the board voted to implement a new policy for distribution of DACS.doc, our award-winning newsletter. The current edition of the newsletter will no longer be freely available to non-members of DACS via the website. Newsletters in pdf format will become available to the public 3 months after publication.

Each member of DACS will continue to receive the pdf newsletter upon publication, distributed via e-mail, either as an attachment or as a link to a hidden page on the website. Subscribers to the printed newsletter will continue to receive it in the mail.

The purpose of this new policy is to ensure that paying members of DACS receive priority access to the newsletter

Workshops

Workshop NOTES: December 2015

Apple. Focuses on all aspects of the Mac and iPhone operating systems.

Contact: Richard Corzo (*macsig@dacs.org*).

Meets 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m. at DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: Jan 12

Digital Imaging. All about digital cameras, retouching, and printing using various programs.

[Note: SIG is suspended until further notice

Drupal. Covers all things on Drupal, the open source content management system (CMS) .
Contact: Jim Scheef (*jscheef@dacs.org*).

Go to the DACS Community Forum - (*http://www.dacs.org/forum/*) within the Members only area.

Next meeting: Look for future announcements.

Jobs. Networking and jobs search

Contact: Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 (*aam@ mags.net*).
Go to DACS Community Forum (*http://forum.dacs.org for job listings*.

Linux. Helps in installing and maintaining the Linux operating system. Also of interest to Apple owners using OS X.

Contact: Dave Mawdsley, *linuxsig@dacs.org*
Meets 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.

Next Meeting: Dec 16

Mobile Devices/Windows 8. Smartphones, tablets, and e-readers of all makes and models.

Contact: Richard Corzo and Jim Scheef (*Mobilesig@dacs.org*)

Meets fourth Thursday 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center

Next Meeting: Workshop Suspended

PC Maintenance. Review of PC hardware and OpSys maintenance and use.

Contact: Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 (*aam@ mags.net*).
Go to DACS Community Forum (*http://forum.dacs.org*).

Online Business Workshop. Informal gathering of members sharing ideas on creating an online source of income.

Contact: Steve Harkness (*http://forum. dacs.org/forum-38.html*).

Meets second Monday in nearby Brookfield, or by Webinar

Next Meeting: Dec 14

Single Board Computers Workshop. Explores small cheap computers like Raspberry Pi, Arduino, Netduino, Beaglebone, and more. Meets 3rd Thursday at the DACS Resource Center.

Contact: Jim Scheef (*jscheef@dacs.org*), or go to the DACS Community Forum: *http://www.dacs.org/forum/,* within the Members-only area

Next Meeting: Dec 17

Social Media: Master the basics of Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

Contact: Tom Zarecki 914-548-4948; email *tomZshow@gmail.com*.

Meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm, usually at the DACS Resource Center, but check the monthly schedule.

Next Meeting: Dec 23

Web Design and DTP. The website design Workshop will be on hiatus starting November 2015 until April 2016. No meeting in November, and hope to start up again in April. Please check dacs.org or design.annagraphics.com for announcements early spring. Contact: Annette van Ommeren (avo@annagraphics.com) for information.

Workshops News & Events

Apple. This month we explored the Mac OS X 10.11 El Capitan release. It's available free from the Mac App Store, and is mostly a refinement of the previous Yosemite release.

S plit View is similar to the feature on the newest iPads, allowing two full-screen applications to sit side by side on the Mac screen. Getting into Split View for supported applications is not obvious. You start by long-clicking on the green dot in the upper left corner of the window of the first application, to fill half the screen, then finish by choosing an open application in the open desktop area to fill the other half.

If you have trouble finding your cursor on the screen, you can now shake your mouse to temporarily magnify the size of the pointer. El Capitan has a new more readable system font, San Francisco, which originated on the Apple Watch and is now also used in iOS 9.

The Spotlight search tool can answer some natural language searches like "slide presentations from last month." It can also answer questions about weather, stocks, and sports, if you enable that in the Spotlight system settings.

Mail has a few improvements, suggesting calendar events and contacts found in e-mails. It's also more flexible when composing an e-mail, allowing you to view and copy text from other e-mails.

The built-in Notes app has become more of a competitor to Evernote and Microsoft OneNote, supporting more of a rich-text format including saving web links, map locations, photos, and videos. It also has a checklist feature so that you can check off items when completed. The enhanced notes are also available by way of iCloud in the corresponding Notes app on your iOS devices.

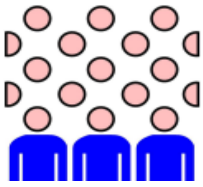
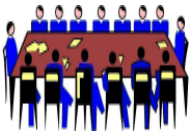
Some other app improvements are that Photos now supports extensions from third-parties for additional editing. Safari has a pinned sites feature for your most frequently used sites, and you can quickly silence a tab that has unwanted audio playing. Maps, as is also true on the iPhone and iPad, now includes transit directions.

We also discovered, because of a member's question about disk partitioning, that Disk Utility has been updated and appears to support resizing of existing Mac partitions.

—Richard Corzo

December 2015

Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 2015 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		1  **General Meeting** 6:30 PM	2  **Board of Directors** 7:00 PM	3	4	5
6	7	8  **Apple** 7:00 PM Richard Corzo *macsig@dacs.org* Cancelled	9	10  **Membership Committee** 7:00 PM Jim Scheef 860-355-0034	11	12
13	14  **Online Business Workshop** 7:00 - 8:30 PM *onlinebizsig@dacs.org*	15  **Web Design** Annette van Ommeren 7:00 - 9:00 PM *avanommeren@dacs.org* **On Hiatus until April 2016**	16  **Linux** 7:30 -9:30 PM Dave Mawdsley *linuxsig@dacs.org*	17  **Single Board Computers Workshop** 7:00 PM Jim Scheef 860-355-0034	18	19  **DACS.DOC Deadline**
20	21	22	23  **Social Media** Tom Zarecki 6:30 - 8:00 PM *tomZshow@ gmail.com*	24	25 	26
27	28  **PR & Marketing Committee** 6:30 - 8:30 PM	29	30	31 	Jan 2016 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	

Communications

Phone Service without Paying

ByTom Kuklinski

PHONE SERVICE WITHOUT a plan or contract? I like that but I still don't want to pay anything for it either. Okay, I am a cheapskate! There I said it.

So for years now, about 55 years, I have had a landline service. I did not even think that I could go on with life without it. Remember when you would pay $1.00 per minute for a 'long distance' call? If you are under 30 years old then look it up on your internet.

One day my wife announced that she wanted a cell phone. This was sometimes in the late 1990's. I could not justify it but she did. I could live without one as long as I had my trusty landline. Well, the day came and she brought home a flip cell phone. They were so nice at the Verizon store that they gave her a 'free' phone and a monthly bill that was three times what I paid for the landline phone.

That flip phone could not do much more than being a nice phone with an address book in it. She was limited in talk minutes but when more were needed, Verizon was very friendly in selling her more.

As years went by, I dropped the land line and got one of those cell phones of the day. It also was a flip phone. Time progressed and so did technology. The iPhone 3G was introduced and upset everything.

Phones were no longer phones. These manufacturers put small computers in them and called them 'smart.' It was now at this point that I was hooked. However, it also became expensive to have one of these. Still, millions, no change that to billions of people around the world got one. I was one of them.

It only took a short while to realize these smart phones were expensive to own. Somehow when you looked at the smart phone in the phone store, it did not look that expensive. It only took a few months after owning one for me to 'smart-up' and realize the actual expense. I wanted more for less.

Let's fast forward to today. The phones are very smart. In addition, they are faster and bigger. They hold more information. It is now that the state of the art smart phones are approaching laptop functionality. Today there are more apps for the smart phones then there are programs for computers.

So let me repeat what I said earlier, I am a cheapskate!

Each and every month when the bill was due, I kept thinking -- there must be something else cheaper and better. I repeated that each month till today. I found the solution. Yes I could do cheaper and close to better. All this is made possible by the competition among the cell phone providers, the wealth of the consumer, competition by manufactures, apps and stinginess.

Okay, if you look around, you will see almost everybody you know with a cell phone. You know people that wait every two years to get the latest offerings by manufacturers. You see ads by AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile, Sprint, Straight Talk, MetroPCS, and many more providers. You see ads and reviews on the news about the latest offerings by Apple and Samsung and other manufactures. Where do you fit in?

Are you one of those waiting for the latest offering no matter what it costs? Or are you one of those people that does not need the latest and gripe about how much you pay for a cell phone. Here is a solution for the second character that does not need the latest.

There are a lot of 'old smart phones' that are not being used because the owner upgraded to a later version. Basically the new one does what the old one does except the newer one may be larger and faster. Not much of a difference. They both make phone calls, text, email, surf the internet and have access to thousands of apps. What is the older phone doing now? It is probably collecting dust on a shelf somewhere. This is gold for a prospector like me.

The previous owner may not think the old phone is worth much. Many people are happy to sell the old phone for pennies on the dollar. If you are a good friend or related to that person then they may even give it away to you. If that happens to you I suggest that you take it.

Several providers will give away smart phones that are refurbished and may be one to two generations old. If you go to www.straighttalk.com you may shop for smart phones. Usually Straight Talk features a 'free' or $9.99 smart phone, IF you buy a month's plan. The plan costs $45.00 and features unlimited everything for 30 days. Not a bad deal. After that 30 days, you can do whatever you want to do with this smart phone. This is a NO CONTRACT phone. You are not bound to a contract. Make sure the smart phone is an Android phone.

If you shop around, you will see that other providers do similar deals. Currently Verizon offers a Motorola G for $25.00 for use on their No contract - month to month plan. This phone retails for $179.00 and is a very good choice. If you don't like Verizon then check out www.textnow.com for FreedomPop, Cricket and MetroPCS are other providers that have similar deals. Currently MertoPCS offers a very good phone for ZERO dollars after rebate and two months of service. It is the LG Leon LTE. It features a 4.5 inch screen and Quad core processor. (Deal ends June 30, 2015)

Use the phone for one or two months and the phone is free to you to use anyway you wish. Do you get the idea?

You also need to shop around for your best current deal. Go on line to www.dealnews.com as a resource.

So now you did get one of these phones and are out of any contract and now want to know what to do with it.

You go to the Google Play Store or Amazon App Store using your phone through a local Wi-Fi if you are Android. Do a search for Apps that will give you VOIP service. By the way, VOIP stands for Voice Over Internet Protocol. It makes an app turn your off-line phone act like an active cell phone. It does not use the cell towers or cell service of a phone company so you do not need to pay anyone. However, it will do the same as a cell phone by using the Internet. The Internet service is a key component in making this work. If you do not have internet then this will NOT work. You can use hot spots that are around and free.

On the Android phone, I like an App called GrooVe IP Lite. This app is free but does have ads in it. You may purchase the ad free version for $4.99 if you

wish. This App does not have Text function yet so you will need a Text App if you like to text. GrooVe IP will give you a phone number to use that is free. That is you new phone number. You may call free anywhere in the USA. If someone calls you and you do not have the phone running then the caller can leave a voice message to you. This voice message will then be sent to your email. So you never have to miss a call. This app has many options and is the best one that I found. Sorry but it is not available for iPhone.

When you look for VOIP programs you will have several to choose from. Try them out. They usually are free but not always so read the description carefully. Other apps include some of the brand products like Magic Jack or Freedom Pop. Usually Google Voice is available but I found it confusing to configure to my needs.

Here are some apps for the iPhone or Android: Skype - free between Skype users but on as a phone. If you pay you can get it just like a phone. Cost per year will run about $40.00. This is available for Android also.

TEXTNOW CLASSIC - You get a free dedicated phone number, Texting, Picture Messaging, Calling and VoiceMail. You earn credits by watching Ads or you can buy them. It is cheap. This also works on Android. What is interesting about this App is that this company partnered with Sprint. If your phone is Sprint compatible then you can get very low cost service. It starts at $18.99 per month and no contract. This is optional and not required.

Again, there are many more apps so I advise you to check it out and get the one you like. The idea is to get a phone number and use your out of service smart phone with VOIP service.

I hope that you get some understanding about what is happening here. The smart phone - cell phone industry is changing. It is competing as it should. There will be casualties. Fruit can be shaken from the tree. That is your gain to go after.

So now you have a fully (almost) functional smart phone. You DO NOT pay any fees to have it either. Now this is what I am talking about. I hope this article helps you

Tom Kuklinski *is director, Computer Users of Erie* (www.curie.com; cuerie01 (at) roadrunner.com**.**

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Remembering Chuck Fizer

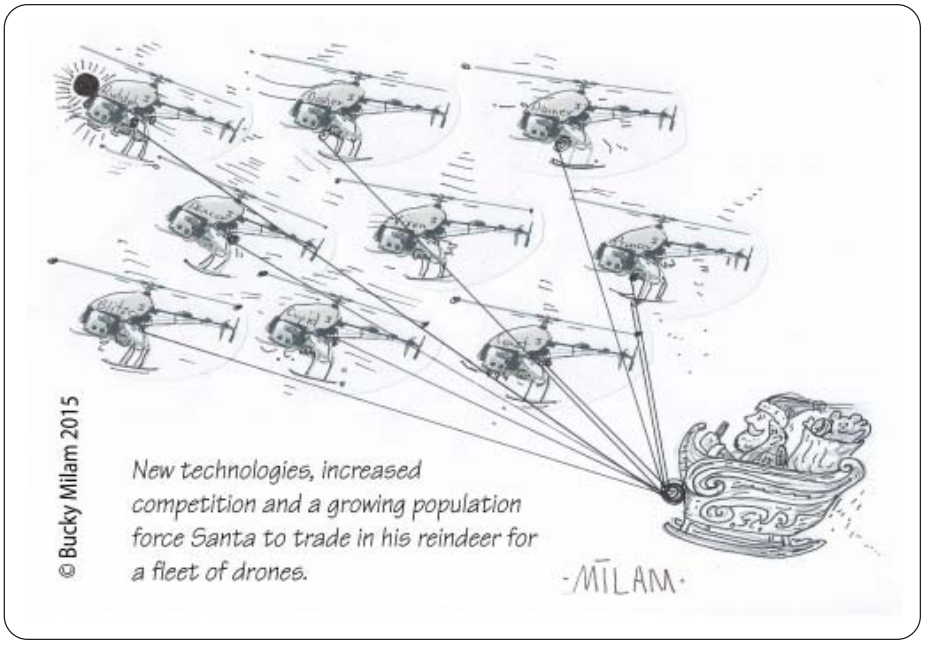
By Jim Scheef

Another DACS member noticed Chuck's obit in the Ridgefield Press (tinyurl.com/qdv7y83).

Chuck and I started the Visual Basic SIG back in 1993 or 4 – I'm not exactly sure – and ran it together for ten years. Chuck continued the SIG for several more years after I moved on to running other SIGs before he moved to Florida. For about three years in the late 90's Chuck and I wrote an order entry and invoicing system for a Danbury-area business using VB and SQL Server. We had fun doing it.

Chuck was a consummate programmer. As best I can recall from his stories, he learned to program as a trainee at IBM, probably programming in assembly language on a 1401. Assembler works with the fundamental operation codes of the processor, so the programmer must understand registers, accumulators, and how data moves in and out of the processor at the most fundamental level. From there he progressed thru many languages and could pick up a new language faster than anyone I've known.

Between IBM and Infocom Corp, his programming consultancy, he worked for several companies. One of these saw an opportunity to make a printer to proof large manuscripts. The defense industry produced manuals on large multi-user word processing systems and most documents were still printed using lines of type made from hot lead – the Line-O-Type was the machine used by newspapers. Buying a font meant buying a set of molds used to forge the characters into a strip of hot lead (this is why font companies are still called foundries). The strips were assembled into columns of type and locked into a printing press frame along with any illustrations or pictures produced as plates photographically screened and etched with acid. This was a costly process and not easy to correct when you found a mistake. Maintenance manuals for bombers or submarines could be both cheaper and more accurate if there were a better way to proof what was coming out of the word processors. Such a proof would be worthless unless it was a 100% accurate representation of the final typeset pages. Enter a company to make a laser printer that could do exactly that – 100% accurate. Chuck and a few others wrote the code for the 8-bit microprocessors of the day to control a laser that sensitized the surface of a drum that was then coated with powdered ink – a laser printer! The resulting printer took the text coming from Wang, Lanier, DEC or other word processors and produced accurate proofs. I got the sense that they were doing this just before the PC arrived; of course it could have been earlier. The whole business collapsed when Hewlett Packard released the LaserJet and Apple released the LaserWriter in the mid-80s. Even defense contractors couldn't ignore these lower cost alternatives.



Candidates

The following DACS members have been nominated for the Board of Directors for 2014-2015. Please show your support by voting at the annual meeting, December 1, or by volunteering to serve on our Board.

Bert Goff — has been the DACS Treasurer and a Board member for the past 2 years; and a member for over twelve years. He is retired from IBM and some independent software development contracting. Computers remain one of his interests and hobbies. With IBM, he was involved in all phases of software development, primarily in operating systems. His PC experience goes back to 1982 with the first IBM PCs (64K, 2 diskette drives, and DOS 1.0). He is also an active volunteer with the Red Cross, doing disaster work and blood drives. He and his wife, Vivian, ran the New Milford Wheels Program, which provides rides to medical appointments for those who cannot drive themselves, from 2011 through 2013. Many years ago, he was Treasurer of his church for 2 years. He has a BS degree in Applied Mathematics from Brown University and lots of education from IBM, including in management and leadership. He is a US Navy veteran, having run the Data Processing Department at the Navy Supply Depot on Guam. He and his wife moved to Connecticut (Bethel) in 2000 and now live in New Milford.

David Green—After serving in the U.S. Army for 3 years (1955 - 1958) in the U.S. Military Academy Band at West Point, NY, Dave taught instrumental music for 6 years. In 1964 he became a computer programmer trainee at Security National Bank in Battle Creek. After working as a computer operator for 4 months in 1966 at the Defense Logistics Service Center in Battle Creek, he entered their programmer training class, which led to a position as Systems Programmer, a position he held until taking a job with General Foods in 1978. That involved a move to work in their headquarters in White Plains, NY. In 1985 Dave became a consultant, working as a systems programmer until 1994, when he became a Systems Analyst for the Southern New England Telephone Company (SNET). After 6 months they outsourced their systems programming staff to Computer Sciences Corporation, for whom he worked until his retirement in 2001. He got his first PC in 1983, teaching himself since then..

Tom Zarecki has spent many decades working in broadcast radio, marketing and media. A radio DJ at age 13, Tom worked at radio stations throughout his teens. He was one of the co-founders of the campus station WXCI-FM at Western CT State University, and a few years later was one of the founding members of radio station I-95 (WRKI-FM) and was that station's very first morning DJ and program director.

As marketing director for Radio Computing Services, Inc. (RCS), a worldwide radio software company in New York, Tom created and wrote materials for web pages, product brochures and animated demos, and was the lead spokesperson and head writer for RCS for 14 years.

Currently, besides serving on the board of directors for DACS (Danbury Area Computer Society), Tom now hosts "The Weekend Wakeup Show" at WJMJ-FM radio in Hartford, CT, co-hosts "Business Backstory" a weekly radio program at WestConn station WXCI-FM where he also serves as faculty advisor, and teaches in both the marketing department and the communication & media arts department at Western CT State University.

DACS Members — Residents of one of our regional towns and members of DACS since joining. are interested in computers, but do not feel they know everything there is to know about them. Attend meetings regularly, and feel DACS should have an important role in educating the public on new computer technologies.

These members have volunteered for local organizations and community service, but so far think their background is not up to the level of those gurus on the board. Perhaps these persons think that computer clubs are different from other non profit community groups that serve beginners as well as advanced users.

If you know anyone fitting this description, or see them when you get up in the morning, say that DACS needs them to serve on the board. And, to think about it - how about YOU?

Ballot

I (we) hereby appoint Dick Gingras or Bert Goff proxies to vote in my (our) stead at the Annual Meeting of the members of the Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc. to be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. as follows:

The election of the following to serve as directors for a term of two years and until successors shall be elected and shall qualify (vote for no more than four):

• Bert Goff **• David Green** **• Tom Zarecki**

• _____

Signature(s): _____ / _____

_____/ _____/_____

(Membership in DACS is a family membership. If there are more than one member in your household, all please sign.)

Signed _____ **Dated _____**

Notice of the Annual Meeting of Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc. to be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 1, 2015

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc. will be held at the Danbury Hospital Auditorium, at 24 Hospital Avenue, Danbury, Connecticut on Tuesday, December 1 2015, at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of electing directors. The number of directors is fixed at seven individuals in two alternating classes of three and four. Each class serves for a term of two years and, this year. the individuals named above have agreed to stand for re-election or election to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Members to be held in the year 2017.

If you do not plan to attend the meeting, please return the attached proxy to:

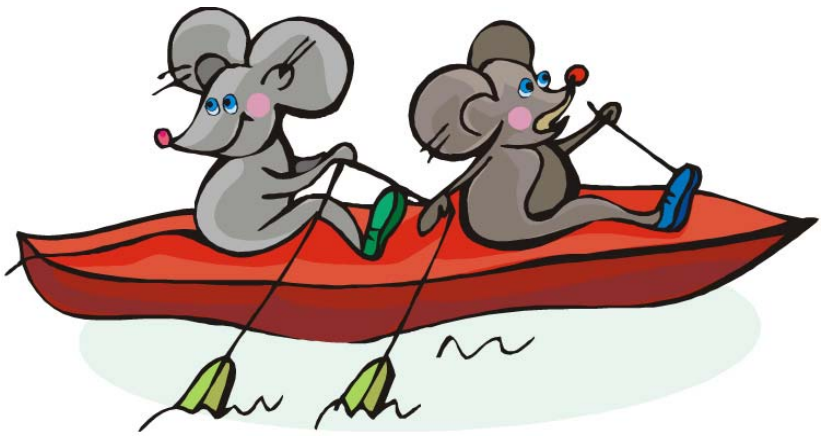
Danbury Area Computer Society
4 Gregory Street, Danbury, CT 06810-4430
to arrive prior to December 1, 2015 and express your preferences.

Your presence in person and participation in the meeting would be appreciated. Come and hear not only what we did this year, but what, with your help, we hope to do in the coming year.

Respectfully,
Richard Gingras, President

dacs.doc

Danbury Area Computer Society
65 Legion Rd
New Milford, CT 06776



When you come to the next DACS meeting, why not bring a friend?

Voice for Joanie

Help give the gift of speech
Call Frank Ruiz
at 203 770-6203
and become a
Voice for Joanie
volunteer
www.voiceforjoanie.org

Future Events:

December 1
Abby Stokes
Navigating the Digital World

January 5
TBA

February 2
Office 2016

March 3
TBA