Next Event: May 3, 6:30 PM

John Patrick on his latest book, *Net Attitude: What It is, How to get It, and Why It Is More Important than Ever*

President's Letter

VOLUNTEERS ARE the roots of strong communities. As I read that in the email from Judy Taylour, of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), I realized that it's true! And volunteers live happier and healthier lives. In the United States, National Volunteer Week was April 10-16, 2016. So congratulate yourself for all the volunteering you have been doing! With no paid staff, DACS is completely run by volunteers!

APCUG is a national organization which provides many services to its computer club members. DACS, a long-time member, has been recognized by APCUG with awards for the excellence of both its website and newsletter. APCUG regularly hosts Virtual Technology Conferences, to which all DACS members are invited, in which presentations about numerous computer-related topics may be heard.

Getting excited about the appearance of John Patrick at our May general meeting? Just reviewing the article on him in Wikipedia amazes me at the depth of his interests and affiliations. Please read Andy Woodruff's meeting Preview article for more information about this upcoming event. This will be John's 24th annual appearance, speaking to DACS. Note: the meeting will begin at 6:30pm, one hour earlier than our normal general meeting start time. A big thank-you to Andy for taking charge of the arrangements for this milestone on the DACS calendar.

For an amazing and inspiring performance, come to hear O FORTUNA, a celebration of hope and joy, sung by the Connecticut Choral Society at its spring concert May 21st at Walnut Hill Community Church in Bethel. We will be joined by the New Jersey Choral society and their youth chorus in a performance of Carmina Burana by Carl Orff, arguably one of the best-loved classical works and a true choral showpiece. The program features music that honors our patriotic heritage, displays empathy for a world with great humanitarian challenges, and offers an opportunity for us to celebrate the goodwill of humankind. These ideals will be presented through the music, a cinematic multimedia backdrop and the sheer power of the human voice.

Conducted by Eric Dale Knapp, the concert also features Megan Knapp, soprano, Nathan Munson, tenor, and Peter Kendall Clark, baritone, with Linda Sweetman-Waters, piano, Ruth Draper, piano, and a percussion ensemble.

For tickets visit *www.CTChoralSociety.org*.

—*Dave Green*

IN THIS ISSUE

DACS Community Forum

Ever wanted to ask a question and get an answer without waiting for the next general meeting? How about sharing news with other DACS members, or communicating with fellow participants in a SIG you attend?

The DACS Community Forum (*http://www.dacs.org/forum/*) is another benefit of being a DACS member, and it's open 24/7. Once you register there you'll be able to post questions, answers, and comments. You can even set up an RSS subscription to be notified of updates to the forums.

Try out the DACS forum today!

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

2015 Newsletter Contest APCUG First Place

Dick Gingras   APCUG Liaison
rgingras@dacs.org

Apple User Group

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

Directors' Notes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by the DACS President, Dave Green.

In attendance were board members Richard Corzo, Bert Goff (Secretary & Treasurer), Dave Green (President), Cathy Quaranta, and Jim Scheef. The minutes were taken by Richard Teasdale.

• The Minutes of the 3/2/2016 Board Meeting were accepted as written.

Reports

• The Treasurer's report for March was discussed and accepted. Bert pointed out that income from membership dues was less than last year both for the month and the first quarter. It was agreed that post-card reminders should be sent out again.

• Membership committee: Jim reported that there are 97 current members + 13 in-grace, making a total membership of 110, which is the same as for the previous month. Three new members were recorded. 15 DACS members and 9 visitors attended the April general meeting.

• Press Coverage: Dave reported that a press release for the April general meeting was sent out on March 23. Some responses were received.

• Website: Richard C. reported that he created a documentation webpage on how to send out the monthly newsletter by e-mail to the membership.

Old Business

• Programs

o Lisa Leifels will write the Review of the April general meeting. (The meeting topic was changed from Genealogy to Danbury History due to the scheduled speaker's illness.)

o Andy Woodruff is working on arrangements for John Patrick's presentation at the May meeting. The meeting will start at 6:30pm, one hour earlier than usual. Dave will check with Andy on whether he will write the Preview. Jim agreed to write the Review.

o Bert is working with the owner of Computer Troubleshooters (Brookfield), Rick Van Akin, to have him speak at the June meeting.

o Bert will contact a DACS member known to be a lawyer to ascertain whether he would be interested in giving a presentation about intellectual property.

April Meeting Review

Danbury's History with Brigid Guertin

By Lisa Leifels

PULLLED OUT OF A HAT - That sums up our pleasant surprise when Brigid Guertin came forward to substitute for our scheduled speaker who had to cancel due to an illness. Brigid offered to fill in at the last minute and gave us the opportunity to learn about Danbury's rich history. Brigid is Executive Director of the Danbury Museum and Historical Society Authority, where she serves as Danbury's local historian. Brigid holds a master's degree in Museum Studies from George Washington University and received her undergraduate degree from Marymount College. She grew up in Danbury, graduating from Immaculate High School, and has a strong connection to the city.

Brigid started off by talking about the Danbury Museum, which houses its main campus at one of the city's oldest structures, at 43 Main Street, also known as the Rider House. In 1941 there was a plan to demolish the building and replace it with a gas station, but some concerned citizens intervened and were able to raise enough money to purchase the property. The Danbury Museum and Historical Society was formed in 1947, when the Scott Fanton Museum and the Danbury Historical and Arts Center merged together. The museum is composed of seven historic buildings, including the John Dodd Hat Shop, the Ward House, the Charles Ives birthplace, two one-room schoolhouses and Huntington Hall, where other exhibits are displayed. Brigid told us that most historic houses are maintained by volunteers; however, the Danbury museum is unusual and has a paid staff of 24 people.

Next, Brigid told the story of how the town of Danbury was founded in 1685 by eight men who traveled north from Norwalk and Stamford and planted a flag declaring the new town. Many of the streets, including Hoyt, Gregory, and Taylor, are named after the original founders. There was a debate over what to call the town, the settlers preferred the name Swampfield, but the court of Connecticut ordered that the town be named Danbury, after a city in England.

Brigid explained that in 1770, Danbury was equally split between the Patriots who wanted independence and the Loyalists who supported the British Crown. During the American Revolution, Danbury was an important military supply depot for the Continental Army, by an order from George Washington. On April 26, 1777, the British,

under Major General William Tryon burned and looted the city, destroying everything in sight. The British destruction went on for nearly a week before the Continental Army leaders found out. General Benedict Arnold, along with General David Wooster and General Gold Silliman, led a surprise attack on the British with more than 500 American troops as the British withdrew from Danbury. The American General David Wooster was mortally wounded at the Battle of Ridgefield by the same British forces that attacked Danbury and is buried in Wooster Cemetery in Danbury.

Most of us know that Danbury has been nicknamed the Hat City because of its history in the hatting industry. The first hat shop was opened in 1780 by Zadoc Benedict, where he produced a mere three hats a day. When the hatting industry took off, many different kinds of immigrants moved to the area and lots of different languages were spoken. By 1850, Danbury was producing more hats than any other city in the United States. The focus in Danbury was creating men's felt hats which were less expensive to manufacture since, unlike women, it didn't bother men to wear similar hats.

Throughout history people wore hats as a necessary part of their wardrobe since they needed protection from the rain, snow, and sleet. After World War II there was a slow and steady decline and by 1950, men's felt hats were no longer fashionable. People began spending more time in cars and less time outside, so they no longer needed hats to keep warm. The last Danbury hat factory closed down in 1981. The Danbury Hatting exhibit located at the John Dodd Hat Shop is one of the Danbury Museum's premier exhibits and gives you the ability to look at the beautiful hats up close.
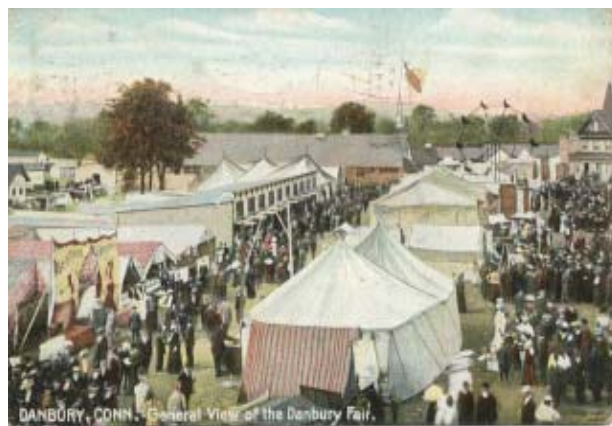
Brigid told us that one of the favorite parts of her job is going out and speaking to students at local schools, church groups, and senior groups. Brigid spends a lot of her time in the Danbury Public Schools, especially the 3rd grade classes which focus on local history. Brigid shares vintage photos with the students showing them how the architecture of the buildings on Danbury's Main Street has changed over time. The 5th graders learn about the

Revolutionary War and Brigid teaches them Danbury's role in it. She also talks to students at WestConn and encourages them to get involved in National History Day.

Brigid said that the museum is currently in the process of digitizing all of Danbury's historical records, but it is a constant struggle due to all the changes happening with technology. The museum houses a wealth of collections spanning the city's history and growth from colonial times to the present day. Danbury newspapers are on microfilm, there are minutes from the Common Council meetings, early city directories, cemetery and burial records, early maps, and business ledgers. Brigid's favorite collection is of the photos that contain all kinds of gorgeous images, each telling a different story. The museum uses the photos in a way that is enticing, but respectful to the sensitive nature of the content.

Over the years hundreds of people have donated all kinds of memorabilia to the museum such as wills, hats, and textiles. The museum has handwritten city records going back to the 1700's so you can see which businesses were successful in the past. Brigid mentioned that many of Danbury's residents are interested in genealogy and the museum is constantly adding to these records. They have a collection of city directories which are the early versions of the phone book. They offer information about the status of individuals, which is useful if you are looking up information on your family history.

Brigid said that they are always looking for new items to add to the museum such as historical pamphlets or old photographs that show people living in Danbury, so please keep them in mind the next time you clean out your attic. The museum is constantly creating new programs and exhibits and it certainly sounds like a place worth a visit. If you would like to learn more about what the Danbury Museum has to offer you can check out their website at DanburyMuseum.org.

At the Danbury Fair (Wikipedia/public domain)

Meeting Preview

Net Attitude: What It is, How to get It, and Why It is More Important than Ever

By Andy Woodruff

Tuesday, May 3, 2016, 6:30 PM
Danbury Hospital
Robilotti Conference Center
Presenter: John Patrick

Note:This event is scheduled at 6:30 PM - an hour earlier than usual.

WE ARE PLEASED TO announce that John Patrick will speak to DACS about Net Attitude on May 3. John has a long tradition of treating us to annual presentations, and this will be his 24th year!

John will discuss the new version of his book *Net Attitude: What It is, How to get It, and Why It is More Important than Ever*. He wrote most of this book in 2001, and he recently updated it.

John says he updated and republished the book because the concepts in it remain highly applicable. Back in 2001, he estimated that we were using 2% of the potential of the Internet. Now he estimates we are at 10-15%. "We have come a long way. But we're not there yet!"

In his presentation to us last year, John discussed another book, *Health Attitude*. In that book, he focused on health issues. In Net Attitude, he looks at broader issues about how we use the Internet and how companies set up their websites.

John says some companies have net attitude. Others don't have it. Amazon is an example of a company that indeed does have net attitude. Note that Amazon's website works; it is reliable and fast; and it leads to a generally positive customer experience. This came about because Amazon's founder, Jeff Bezos, had net attitude; he wanted to make his customers happy.

What are the advantages of having net attitude? John says: "It makes your constituents happy, whether they're customers, or employees, or vendors, or business partners, or investors."

John thinks a lot about websites. "After all, a website is really your brand. Your brand isn't the Coca-Cola image or the IBM 8-bar logo ... it's that homepage! That reflects your brand. And if you don't have net attitude, it comes through."

John goes further. He says net attitude is "a state of mind ... It's thinking about customers. It's thinking about the web and how it works and how easy it can be. … It's the cultural background of the Internet." John thinks companies would even do well to expand their new business vocabulary around net attitude. He will tell us about this in his presentation on May 3.

John looks forward to future work on applications of the word "attitude" to many other areas of our lives. After net attitude and health attitude, he is now looking at "home automation attitude", "robot attitude", and even "election attitude." He clearly tackles some of the big problems of our society!

Following the panel discussion, there will be a book signing opportunity. John has graciously donated 20 copies of his book, and we will give these copies to the first 20 DACS members who arrive. Additional copies will be for sale, and John will be available after the meeting to autograph books.

Dr. John R. Patrick is President of Attitude LLC and former VP of Internet Technology at IBM. Patrick was a founding member of the World Wide Web Consortium at MIT in 1994, a founding member and past chairman of the Global Internet Project, and a member of the Internet Society and of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He is a Fellow of the IEEE. Patrick has served on a number of boards, including Danbury Hospital from 2003 to 2013. He is currently a board member at Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) and a member of Western Connecticut Health Network's Biomedical Research Institute Advisory Council. He has a Doctor of Health Aministration degree.

"John Patrick is one of my favorite thinkers. John is one of the Web's original wise men, a bright spirit and intellect who shares his rare understanding of technology and the web, its many dimensions and limitless potential. In Net Attitude he lays out a clear path for anyone who is determined to succeed on the Internet and, as he demonstrates, it all begins with *attitude*."

∗ Lou Dobbs, Host, Lou Dobbs Tonight, Fox Business Network

Workshops

Workshop NOTES: May 2016

Apple. Focuses on all aspects of the Mac and iPhone operating systems.
Contact: Richard Corzo (*applesig @dacs.org*).
Meets 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m. at DACS Resource Center.
Next Meeting: May 10

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: May 18

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 (*onlinebizsig @dacs.org*)

Meets second Monday in nearby Brookfield, or by Webinar
Next Meeting: Check *dacs.org*.

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: May 19

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: May 25

Video Production. Explores all aspects of video capture and production including how to create good video using smartphones and tablets as well as using professional cameras and equipment. Meets on the 4th Tuesday or 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm, typically at Charter Communications in Newtown.
Contact: Andy Woodruff (*awoodruff @dacs.org*)
Next meeting: Check dacs.org

Web Development/Design This Workshop meets every 3rd Tuesday, 7-9 pm, at the DACS resource center. Although we cover many web-related subjects, most meetings will feature WordPress ("Content Management System"). We discuss its pros and cons, learn about theme editing, CSS, plugins, security, customization and more. Next meeting: May 17.

Workshops News & Events

Apple. In April we answered user questions. The main question was about Adobe Flash on the Mac. New vulnerabilities are constantly discovered so that's why it's important to keep it up to date. There is a Flash plug-in used by Safari and Mozilla Firefox (if installed). You can check whether it's up to date by browsing to this website: http://www.adobe.com/software/flash/about/.

Safari does allow you to enable or disable Flash for individual websites. Normally you will be prompted whether to trust a plug-in when you visit a new page. You can also manage which websites are allowed to use particular plug-ins in Safari Preferences. Click on the Security tab and click the Website Settings… button next to the "Allow plug-ins" checkbox to manage which websites are allowed to use each plug-in.

Initially I thought Google Chrome used the same Mac plug-in that the other browsers use, but it turns out it has its own copy (https://helpx.adobe.com/flash-player/kb/flash-player-google-chrome.html). Chrome automatically updates itself and the built-in plug-in.

If you are using an iPad or iPhone then Flash is not supported, which makes it much safer to browse the web from those devices. Fortunately a lot of websites that use Flash on the desktop version of the website, serve up an alternate version for iOS devices. Instead of using a mouse or trackpad to manipulate the Flash game or video, you use your finger on the touchscreen. For any website you are unsure of, I recommend using an iPad or iPhone, if you have one.

—Richard Corzo

May 2016
Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 **General Meeting** 6:30 PM	4 **Board of Directors** 7:00 PM	5	6	7
8	9	10 **Apple** 7:00 PM Richard Corzo *applesig@dacs.org*	11	12 **Membership Committee** 7:00 PM Jim Scheef 860-355-0034	13	14
15	16	17 **Web Development and Design** Annette van Ommeren 7:00 - 9:00 PM *avanommeren@dacs.org*	18 **Linux** 7:30 -9:30 PM Dave Mawdsley *linuxsig@dacs.org*	19 **Single Board Computers Workshop** 7:00 PM Jim Scheef 860-355-0034	20	21 **DACS.DOC Deadline**
22	23	24	25 **Social Media** Tom Zarecki 6:30 - 8:00 PM *tomZshow@ gmail.com*	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Apr 2016						
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Technology Trends

Looking Back to See Forward

By Greg Skalka

WITH 2015 IN THE rear view mirror, one starts to wonder what kind of year 2016 will be for computers and technology. We had better figure that out quickly, as almost 1/4 of the year is gone already, and before we know it Christmas decorations will be appearing in the aisles of Home Depot once again. I now prefer to avoid making New Year's predictions. A lot of interesting things happened with technology in 2015, and I'm now so good at guessing. Perhaps by considering the events, milestones and trends of last year, some useful conclusions can be made about what is likely to happen to our tech items in 2016 and further into the future. A lot of tech topics were in the news in 2015; looking back at them now may provide insight into what we will face going forward.

Automobiles. Quickly name the most powerful computing device you own. For most of us, it is probably our car. Most new cars have more than 40 embedded processors, running everything from the emissions to the entertainment system. Luxury cars may have 100 processors each. Car makers are now packing 200 lbs. of electronics in a new vehicle; though they try to shave weight from the vehicles to increase fuel mileage, the added electronics typically saves fuel by replacing heavier mechanisms. Today's cars are safer (air bags, electronic traction control and braking, tire pressure sensors, backup cameras, collision avoidance), more efficient (electronic engine control) and more capable (GPS navigation, cruise control, self-parking, Wi-Fi hub), due in a large part to electronics.

Along with all those processors come 100 million or more lines of code. That software can do great things for an automaker, or it can be their undoing. The VW diesel emissions scandal that was revealed last year, in which they admitted configuring software to cheat on emissions testing, hurt VW sales and its stock value and resulted in fines, lawsuits and recalls. There were, in fact, a record 51 million vehicles recalled in 2015, many resulting from the other major auto scandal and the problem of airbag inflators made by Takata firing shards of metal at car occupants when they inflate. In general, however, more complex vehicles and short design schedules will lead to more design problems and more recalls.

Autonomous or self-driving cars are being developed by most major automakers, including Tesla, as well as Google, Uber, Lyft and Apple. Unfortunately, the state and federal regulations to deal with this new vehicle paradigm are also still under development. Meanwhile, many automakers are introducing semiautonomous driving features incrementally. Vehicles with automatic braking and steering for collision avoidance, as well as self-parking capabilities are already available. Will the automakers get a self-driving car in the public's hands (or under their behinds) first by adding autonomous features piecemeal, or will Google and the government regulators get their vehicles and laws completed first?

Though 2015 set a record for auto sales, low fuel prices sent sales of electric cars down 17% from 2014. While new plug-in electric and hybrid models continue to be introduced, consumers are reluctant to pay the $8K to $10K premium for these vehicles with gas prices so low. Only 400,000 out of the 1 million electric vehicle sales goal set by the Obama administration by 2015 had been achieved.

Going forward, consumers can expect more electronics in their cars and trucks and more electric cars in general, especially if oil prices increase sharply. If fuel prices stay low, auto makers will be conflicted, having to choose between selling bigger vehicles that consumers want and smaller, high mileage gas and electric cars that allow them to meet the much tougher 2025 average fuel economy standards. Though adding electronics tends to increase reliability, look for more recalls as the complexity of the products increases. Autonomous vehicle development has become "too big to fail"; with so many players in the market, the cars could be available in just a few years, and then the regulations will have to be resolved. This will be great for the disabled and inebriated, but devastating for bus, taxi and truck drivers.

Drones. The FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) finally released some regulations for small unmanned aircraft or drones in 2015, requiring registration for some and specifying flight rules. As with their wheeled autonomous cousins, regulations have not kept up with the technology and popularity of personal drones. Aerial firefighting efforts for wildfires last summer were interfered with by drones in a number of cases. A number of new laws relating to drones were proposed in California but none were enacted. Meanwhile, small quadcopters continue to drop in price and become more available. Fry's has several aisles devoted to drones and their accessories.

Personal drones usually have a lot of autonomous flight capabilities, but most still require some human control, as with a radio-controlled plane. A new product to be released this summer called Lily promises to make drone photography easy for everyone (*www.lily. camera*). This quadcopter with built-in camera is very easy to use; it is launched by simply throwing it in the air. It tracks and follows you via a small tracking device and takes video and stills. It is in pre-sales online for $800. This kind of device could be the next Go-Pro Hero of action cameras. If the price could come down further, it could be a big hit.

Computers. Sales of laptop and desktop computers fell slightly in 2015, continuing a trend started in 2012 when tablets began to compete with them. Tablet sales rose for several years, but were flat last year, probably because by then almost everyone that wanted a tablet had finally gotten one. Microsoft's release of the Windows 10 operating system was supposed to spur sales of new computers, but by the end of 2015, it had only a 10% market share (less than Windows 8.1 at 10.3%, XP at 11% and Windows 7 at 56%). This was in spite of Microsoft offering it for free to existing Windows 7 and 8 users. For tablets, 57% used the Android OS at the end of 2015, while iOS had 35% of the market.

The main competition for computers and tablets at this point is the smart phone. While computers (desktops and notebooks combined) had around 300,000 shipped in 2015, and tablets an additional 300,000 units, nearly 2 million mobile phones were shipped worldwide. While smart phones and tablets may be great for web surfing and emails, most file creation work is still best done on a conventional PC, with a larger screen and full keyboard. Tax return filing season is here, and while a few may file using a tablet, I would guess the majority of filers will do so on a desktop or laptop PC (with practically none on a smart phone). I can't see editing spreadsheets or writing large documents on a smart phone. Even online shopping is more difficult on a

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smart phone's small screen. Thus I feel computers will continue to hold their percentage of market share for quite a few years into the future. It will also take a few years for Windows 10 to become the most used computer OS, but it will get there.

Smart Phones. Smart phone sales may have peaked simply because it is getting harder to find anyone that does not already have one. There are some that own no computing devices other than a smart phone, but those people are primarily content consumers, not creators. In the smart phone arena, Android is the king of the OS with 83% of the market; Apple's iOS only had 14% in 2015.

What started out as mobile device that could only make voice calls has turned into a mobile computer, web browser and instant (text) messager. An interesting phone prediction says that one quarter of phone users won't make a single voice call in any given week this year. I would guess that trend will continue. Almost everyone will have a smart phone, but fewer people will use it as a phone.

Wearables. Activity trackers like Fitbit have been growing in popularity, with Fitbit alone selling 4.5 million units in the 3rd quarter of 2015. The Apple Watch was not far behind in sales. Still, I see the activity tracker as a useful device, while the Watch seems little more than an extension for the iPhone's ability to call. The Watch display seems far too small to be useful for reading texts.

I thought Google Glass was a clever device, though expensive. I read recently that Google may be reintroducing it or a similar product. A wearable computer like that would be useful; it just needs the right user interface. We will probably see more medical-related wearables introduced in the future.

Social Networks. Facebook is still the top social network spot on the web, with 45% of users in 2015. You Tube is the next most popular destination at 22%. All the others are in low single digits each, including Twitter, Reddit, Pinterest, Tumblr, LinkedIn and Instagram. These sites will remain popular, and though it will continue to have new competitors, Facebook will probably remain on top for some time. Tastes can change quickly in this category, however. Who remembers Myspace?

Greg Skalka is president, Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA. *This article was published in the February 2016 issue, Drive Light, and is distributed for reprint by APCUG member groups.* (*www.uchug.org; president (at) uchug.org*)

Picture Perfect

Polaroid Cube

By George Harding

T HE NAME pretty much describes what you see for this product. It's a photo cube with things on four of the six sides.

On top is the multifunction button. It controls On/Off and, when On, whether you are taking a still or a movie. The front has the camera and a small aperture for the microphone. The company says the lens captures 124° of field, although my tests show somewhat less. Still, that's a pretty wide angle. The bottom has an embedded magnet for stable attachment to any metal object. This is an easy, but not very useful, way to step away from the camera for motion pictures or stills.

On the back inside a compartment sealed with a slotted disk are: a slot for a microSD card of up to 32 GB; a switch to shift from720mp to 1080mp; a micro USB slot for the included cable used to attach your laptop or computer.

The laptop or computer connection allows charging the Cube while displaying the stills and movies contained on the microSD card. You can access the data through your laptop, but there is also an app available that allows a few other controls.

Light Frequency switches from 60 Hz to 50 Hz to eliminate flickering that may be present when taking movies in artificial light.

Timestamp whether or not to be included in stills and movies and to be displayed when viewing same.

Cycle Recording records over existing movie files to save storage.

Date & Time to set the date and time to whatever you want.

Sync with Computer, so the time and date are whatever your laptop or computer has at the time the still or movie is taken.

Camera Buzzer Volume Multifunction button presses generate one or more beeps; this control makes them more or less audible.

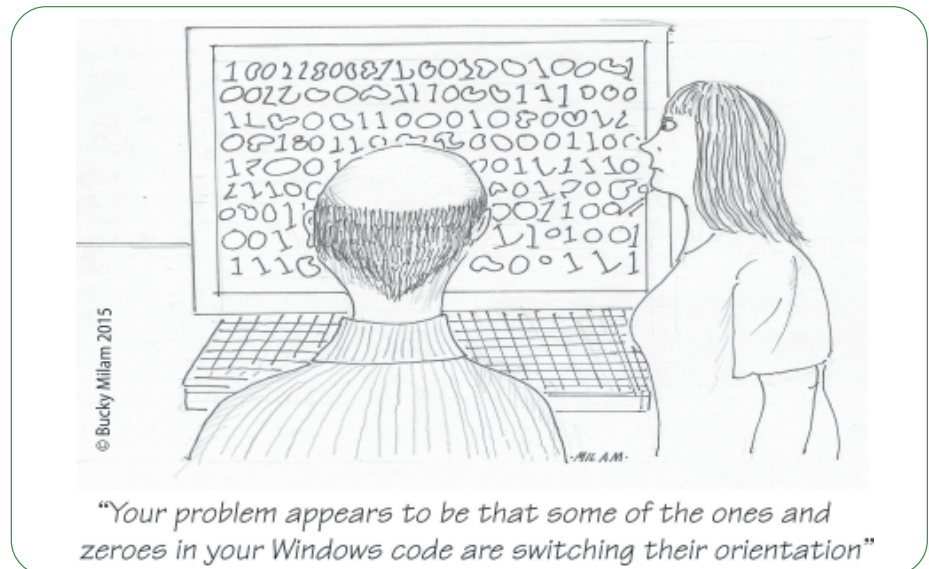**The User Guide** includes basic information, but is rather short on details.

The device is pretty simple when you understand how to do it. There are a number of accessories available for use with the Cube. The tripod mount may be one of the most useful. Pointing the camera at the target you want is not easy and the mount would make it much easier.

It would be helpful if there were a way to access the camera's function with an app for your smartphone Since Cube is not Wi-Fi capable, the app would not work for it. Their successor product the Cube+ is Wi-Fi equipped and available at a higher price.

> **About: Polaroid Cube**
> **Vendor: Polaroid**
> **www.polaroid.com**
> **Price: $99**

George Harding *is treasurer, Tucson Computer Society, AZ. His article appeared in the January 2016 issue, TCS eJournal: www.aztcs.org; georgehardingsbd (at) earthlink.net, and is distributed for reprint by APCUG user groups.*

"Your problem appears to be that some of the ones and zeroes in your Windows code are switching their orientation"

Word for the Wise

AcuRite Pro 5-in-1 Weather Station

By Jerry Grommes

I RECENTLY RECEIVED an email from "Score Card Rewards" telling me how many points I had accumulated (purchasing with my VISA earns points which can be used to purchase merchandise through Score Card Rewards). I thought what better way to get a new gadget than to burn some points. Looking through the Score Card Rewards online catalog I came across something I had wanted for some time, but did not want to spend money on, a personal weather Station. I promptly added it to the cart & checked out.

The AcuRite Pro 5-in-1 Weather Station with PRO+ 5-in-1 Sensor, PC Connect, Wind and Rain arrived 3 days later. I was a "Happy Camper" and had it setup and running in just a couple of hours. *http://www.acurite.com/pro-5-in-1-weather-station-with-pro-5-in-1-sensor-pc-connect-wind-and-rain-01035p.html*

The weather display with AcuRite Connect plugs into your computer to store, track and share your weather information. You can view your sensors from virtually anywhere on a smartphone, tablet or computer with the AcuRite app and myAcuRite.com website, or you can easily publish your weather reports on Weather Underground.

Good Support

Initially I had an issue adding my device to the AcuRite website, so I placed a call to customer support which the automated call service stated that I was in a que with 8 ahead of me. It then offered me to stay on hold and wait in line or to give a call back number and they would call me back when it was my turn. I opted with the call back and received their call about 45 minutes later.

The support person was very well versed, easy to understand and took care of my problem in a matter of minutes. The contact us support page lists the Company (Chaney Instrument Co.) as being located in Lake Geneva, WI. That's almost local.

AcuRite Pro 5-in-1 Weather Sensor

- Measures temperature, humidity, wind speed, wind direction and rain
- Two solar panels power the internal fan to maximize ambient temperature accuracy at all hours of the day (standard 5-in-1 includes only one solar panel)
- Strong wireless range up to 330 feet (100 meters)
- Transmits data every 18 to 36 seconds
- Automatic self-emptying rain collection cup
- 2 year battery life
- Durable, all-weather construction
- Easy installation includes mounting hardware

Pro Weather Station Includes:

Digital Display with PC Connect for 5-in-1 Sensor Data, 5-in-1 PRO+ Weather Sensor, USB cable, mounting bracket, mounting hardware, AC power adapter, instruction manual

Display with PC Connect for 5-in-1 Sensor

- 12 to 24 hour weather forecast
- Patented Self-Calibrating Forecasting pulls data from a sensor in your backyard to give you the most accurate forecast for your exact location
- Weather Ticker™ streams real-time information and alerts
- Programmable weather alarms: temperature, humidity, wind, rain, dew point, h• Measures rain precipitation and rainfall history (inches or millimeters)
- Wind speed: current, peak, and average (MPH or KPH)
- Indoor and outdoor temperature (degrees Fahrenheit and Celsius) with trend arrow
- Indoor and outdoor humidity (%RH) with trend arrow
- Heat index, wind chill, dew point and "feels like" calculations
- Daily, weekly, monthly and annual high and low records
- Barometric pressure with trend arrow
- Time and date (month/day)
- Bright blue backlight
- Bilingual English or French display
- Tabletop or wall-mountable design
- Indicator for wireless sensor signal strength

I am currently publishing my weather data on Weather Underground and you can view it at: *http://www.wunderground.com/weather-forecast/zmw:60545.1.99999*

Plano/Sandwich, IL

Plano, IL

Temperature: 23.5F
Humidity: 79%   Dew Point: 17.9F
Rainfall: 0.00in   Pressure: 29.11in
updated: 12 minutes ago

SW 4.2 mph

Weather Underground was founded in 1995 as the first online weather service, Weather Underground supplies weather data solutions to the many of the leading media companies and millions of users across the globe through their mobile apps and website wunderground.com. With over 180,000+ personal weather stations worldwide, Weather Underground is able to provide meaningful and reliable weather data to people in real-time. Weather Underground is part of The Weather Company and is based in San Francisco, California

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Elev 666 ft 41.66 °N, 88.59 °W | Updated 7 min ago

Overcast

21.7 °F

Feels Like 17 °F

N 3.2

Wind from SSW

Tomorrow is forecast to be *MUCH WARMER* than today.

Today
High 25 | Low 21 °F
0% Chance of Precip.

Yesterday
High 18.9 | Low 1.6 °F
Precip. 0.1 in (Radar Loop)

Pressure	29.92 in
Visibility	8.0 miles
Clouds	Scattered Clouds 5500 ft Overcast 7000 ft
Windchill	17 °F
Dew Point	17 °F
Humidity	82%
Rainfall	0.00 in
Snow Depth	*Not available.*

Sun & Moon

Peripherals

BACK TO BASICS
Taking Photos with Your iPad (and iPhone)

By Jim Cerny

YOUR IPAD TABLET device (and your iPhone) are excellent devices for taking photos and videos. We will discuss taking and working with photos in this article, but taking videos is similar. All iPads and iPhones have a "Camera" app to TAKE photos, and a "Photos" app to VIEW your photos.

THE CAMERA APP -- Tap this app to begin using the iPad built-in camera. Immediately you will see an image of what your iPad camera is seeing through its lens. Move your iPad to see on the screen what you want to take a photo of, wait a moment for the image to focus (you will see a small yellow-outlined rectangle on the image as it adjusts the focus). You may tap on the image anywhere to move this focusing rectangle to another place if you wish, then tap the large white button. You will hear a "click" and your photo is now saved on the "camera roll" on your iPad. (Before taking your photo, you can "zoom in" by touching the screen with two fingers and spread them apart.)

When you are using the camera, you can tap on the small white camera outline icon to switch between the front or rear lens of your device. The front lens (facing you) is best used during Skype or video calling. Some settings for your camera can be changed in the "Settings" app, such as turning a grid pattern on or off. The "HDR On" option (just touch to change to "HDR Off") will allow your iPad to take three photos at almost the same time and provide one best photo using the three images. (I have noticed no significant difference whether HDR is on or off). In addition to the "photo" option, there is the "video" option (to take videos, obviously) and a "square" option for taking square (i.e. not rectangular) photos. Scroll to chose. Your most recent photo will be shown at the bottom corner of the screen and you can touch this photo to open the "Photos" app.

THE PHOTOS APP -- Touch this app to open and view your photos. You can scroll through all your photos in your iPad memory and they are already sorted by date. To delete a photo, touch it to open the photo on the screen, then touch the little blue garbage can in the bottom corner of the screen. Touch on "Delete Photo" when it appears to confirm the delete. Your photos can be used in various ways, printed (if you have a printer that works with your iPad), sent to other places, etc. You can also organize your photos into ALBUMS. You can think of an "album" as a "folder". You can create a new album by touching the "album" icon at the bottom of the screen which opens your list of albums, then touch the "+" to add a new album and give it a name. At this point you will see your collection of photos and you can "select" the ones you want to "copy" into that album. A photo you have "selected" will have a blue circle with a checkmark in it on the photo. You can copy the same photo into multiple albums if you want. If you DELETE a photo from an album you are only deleting the copy you put in that album. If you DELETE a photo from your "photos" (that is, you are NOT in viewing albums) then that photo will be deleted from your device including all the albums you copied it into.

FUN TIP: To take a photo of whatever is on your iPad screen at any time, just hit the "home" and the "power" buttons at the same time.

You can download any number of free and low-cost apps that will work with your photos and allow you to edit and enhance them. However, the Photos app that comes with your iPad can do some editing. Touch "Edit" at the top right of the screen when you have selected a photo to see your options - such as rotate, enhance, filters, red-eye removal, and crop.

The camera of your iPhone will work the same way. The iPhone will have a flash built-in, whereas the iPad does not.

More Tips:

• It is a good idea to backup your photos somewhere else for safekeeping. You can do this when your iPad (iPhone) is connected to your computer or you could save your photos to some memory in the "cloud".

• Take photos and experiment with them. Learn how to find them and organize them into albums.

• Learn more by using Google and YouTube - ask questions such as "How do I delete a photo from my iPad?"

• Review your photos on your device on a regular basis and DELETE the photos you no longer want. (If you can NOT delete a photo then the photo was most likely put on your device from someplace else.)

• Having your iPhone with you means that you have never forgotten your camera at home or in the car!

Directors' Notes, *Cont. from page 3*

o Topics covered recently by meetings of the Trumbull user group were reviewed for general meeting ideas. Jim suggested a presentation on RSS, and Richard C. offered to look into the possibility of an Apple Store presentation.

• Renovation of the Resource Center (RC)

o Cathy pointed out that the presence of mold is a problem in the RC. She and possibly others have suffered allergic reactions while in the RC. The nature of the problem, other needed renovation tasks, and possible solutions were discussed but no conclusions were reached.

• Mail that comes to the RC and keys for the RC were discussed.

• The location of the greeter's box between general meetings was discussed at length. In conclusion, the existing arrangement was left unchanged, i.e. that Cathy will keep the box at her house and bring it to meetings.

• At Jim's request, a new Gmail account will be established, to support the sign-in form at general meetings.

• Discussion of the search for a Vice-President (and other DACS leadership positions) was deferred.

New Business

• Snacks for general meetings:

o Andy (drinks) and Lisa (snacks) will make the arrangements in May.

o Richard C. (drinks) and Cathy (snacks) will make the arrangements in June.

• Bert will follow up on the ad from Alliance of Nonprofits for Insurance.

• Jim will add Dave as backup recipient for the Treasurer's e-mail address.

• Cathy will update the Membership Application form to remove the interests section.
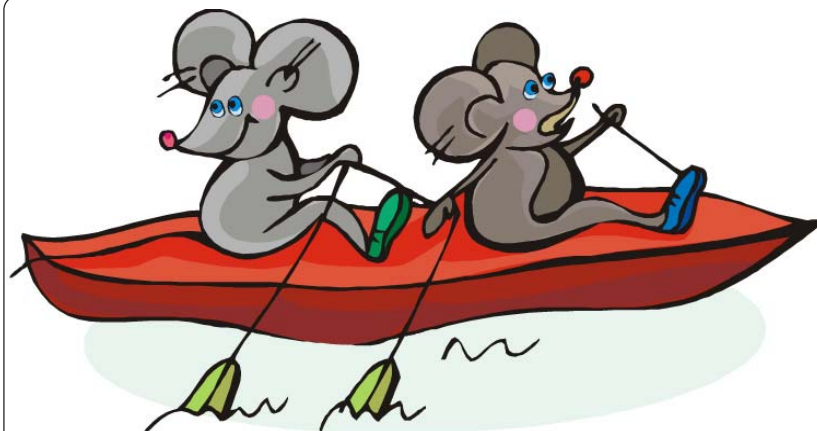
• Further discussion of how to organize a Music workshop was deferred. Andy is expected to follow up with Chris Aher.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

—Richard Teasdale

dacs.doc

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

Future Events:

May 3
John Patrick

June 7
Rick Van Akin and/or "Computer Troubleshooters"

July 5
TBA

August 2
TBA