

McHENRY COUNTY COMPUTER CLUB

USERS GROUP FOR PC-COMPATIBLE SYSTEMS



AUGUST 2009
VOLUME 26 No. 8

The **August 2009** meeting of the McHenry County Computer Club is **August 8**, at the Salvation Army Building, 290 W. Crystal Lake Ave., in Crystal Lake. Enter the building at the parking level double door under the awning. The treasurer will be there by 8:30 AM for Club financial transactions.

Membership

Our membership is \$26.00 a year. NOTE: This fee offsets the running of the club; membership benefits include help with computer problems. Please pay Lyle Giese, our treasurer, or the designated Board Member in his absence.

Meetings : 2nd Saturday of the month.

Meeting Agenda

09:00 General Business Meeting
09:15 Break
09:30 On-Line Recovery Services - Bob Wagner
10:45 Q&A

The Newsletter is published monthly by McHenry County Computer Club, online.

Editor-in-Chief: Lucë York

Direct inquiries, comments, articles to the Editor to Lucë at info@Mc3ComputerClub.org

Please indicate that your email is for the editor.

Direct technical questions to MC3 at: info@Mc3ComputerClub.org

MC3 website: <http://www.mc3computerclub.org/>

UPCOMING DEMOS

September Anniversary Party & Extended Q&A

N.B.: Suggestions for demo topics and volunteers for demos are always welcome.

MC³ OFFICIALS

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Past President : John Katkus
Webmaster: Cindi Carrigan
Board Members : Jack Luff ; Dave Lutes ; Jim Bierle ; Bruce Eckersberg

Questions & Answers

Q. On my Desk Top, I can key in Alt+0128 to get the Euro Sign. How do I do this on a Lap Top?

A. Use fn+alt+0128. fn should turn on the number keys on the number key pad. You can't use the regular number keys for this function, you must use the number key pad.

Q. This is more of a follow-up than a question. I am the guy who had Microsoft Fax problems and a 20-minute startup. I increased RAM from 250 to 740 and it solved both problems. Startup is now less than 4 minutes.

A. The video was probably taking up most of the system memory so that when you increased the RAM you provided more available memory for program startup and execution.

Q. Can you shed some light on Windows Silverlight?

A--Our understanding of this application is that it is Microsoft's version of Flash.

Q. I for 2 Power DVD/CD which came with DVD burners. They are using a Password-Number. After re-installing Win-XP, I cannot install Power DVD. The numbers are not the right numbers, it says. What could be the problem? I can't play DVD movies anymore.

A. We don't know. He did try both sets of serial numbers when doing the reinstall but that did not solve the problem. The end result of the Q&A was to contact the company. (My take is that he should be able to play DVD's even if the software isn't installed. He said that he did reinstall the drivers, but we can't be positive of that as he was a little confused about that operation.)



Old Time Radio Programs

The Internet has something for everyone. There is a group of us who have a hobby that has grown in leaps and bounds because of internet. We collect Old Time Radio (OTR) programs from the Golden Age of radio, 1930's to the 1960's when nobody said "hell" or "damn" and famine products weren't advertised on radio. I can't give a number of OTR collectors or the age, but they are in the thousands.

I have to confess that for 38 years I have been addicted to old time radio programs and collect them on cassette tapes. My collection was getting out of hand. I had to find a way to organize so I would know if had duplicates, and what program I wanted. My solution was 3x5 index cards.

That was another problem storing 3 or 4 thousand cards, so I bought special filing cabinets with trays for the index cards. Finally one of my daughters suggested a computer. The idea sounded good except for 2 things. One, I couldn't afford one: I was retired and had 2 mortgages, one in Crystal Lake, the other in Florida. Two, I had no idea how to use a computer.

After a string of second-hand computers and gifts of used computers from friends and one of my sons, I saved enough to buy a new Gateway with a modem and MS Works that included a Data Base. I copied my catalog of my OTR cassettes to the Microsoft data base. That was January of 2000. (My catalog today contains 4,200 cassettes with over 9,500 radio programs.)

A few years later, I discovered the Internet and a web site <http://www.otrsite.com/radiolog/> (Jerry's Vintage Radio Logs). Jerry has program logs of possibly 12,000 different OTR show. He lists by the series (e.g., suspense), episode date, title, length, the sponsor, and the name of the starring actor. You can listen to most of the programs; he sells the programs on Cassette tape, CD's, or on MP3.

One of the problems of collecting old time radio shows is getting the correct date and name. Over the years the dates of broadcast have been lost. Radio plays and mystery programs usually have episode titles, but programs like Jack Benny, Fred Allen, and Red Skelton were not titled. It takes a lot of detective work to put a date on these. So logs are very important to the collectors.

Another site used to get information is <http://www.jjonz.us/RadioLogs/index.htm> (JJ's Newspaper Radio Logs). This site has copies of the daily listing of radio program in newspapers (such as the New York Times, Washington Post, Chicago Daily Tribune, and Los Angeles Times), spanning the years from 1930 through 1960. J.J. did it all from the internet searching the archives of newspapers. It is a real service for the collector who wants to verify the date a program was played on the air.

If I have program and am really lost as to an accurate date and who the cast members were, this is a great web site: <http://www.radiogoldindex.com/> by Jerry Golden. He calls it "The Definitive Database of Old Time Radio Programs." He lists programs by date, Network, sponsor, cast and a synopsis of the episode.

A few years ago a group collectors (made up of retired college professors, a few judges and other professionals and others) formed the organization The Old Time Radio Researchers <http://www.otrr.org>. Here is a quote of their purpose: "The OTRR Group is a community of enthusiastic fans, avid listeners, and strong supporters of 'Old Time Radio' ." The group's goals include restoring, preserving, and sharing the classic shows from what is commonly known as the "Golden Age of Radio" (1930-1960). The OTRR Group, comprised of over 1500 worldwide volunteers, has undertaken many ongoing projects and continues to work hard to preserve our wonderful radio heritage.

The OTR Researchers publish a monthly magazine free, on line, with articles about OTR and the progress of collecting all the radio programs they can find and publishing logs that they have verified as correct program name and date. It's a huge undertaking. It is a great source of information for collectors. Google is the best search engine for OTR.

These web sites are only a few. I have more than 50 web sites bookmarked on my computer and I'm seeing more all the time. I have over 500 logs on my computer. I don't collect many cassettes any more due to storage space. I have more than 4,000 cassettes with almost 9,500 radio programs. I'm in the process of finding correct dates and names of my programs and making labels for the cassettes and Insert cards for the plastic storage boxes all on the computer. At the rate I'm working, I should be finished in about 10 years. As my wife says, it's a great hobby and it keeps me off the streets and out of trouble.

Contributed by Frank McGurn



The New Technology and Me

by Jim Bierle

This is definitely a description of me and new technology (in the last 8-10 years).

Laugh? Yes.... perhaps at my incompetence....at my inability to comprehend the age in which I find myself.... I am being....electronically challenged..... how?

Take a look.....

Things are spiraling out of control. I think I have become lost in a world of electronic madness. One of my sons informed me this week that my cell phone has become obsolete and I must head down to the Cell Phone store and get a phone that is contemporary with the times. I pointed out that the fancy Razor/Slim line phone with camera built in that he made me trade my perfectly good flip-top Motorola cell phone for two years ago still works perfectly fine. Well, except for the camera thing. Never could figure that out... Even the few times I actually did take pictures I couldn't figure what to do with them and gave up; that is, except when I would push the wrong button and take a video of the ceiling or my feet.

Another issue seems to be that I am unable to text with the tiny little 3-character buttons. "Hi, son," would come out looking like, "Gh Qmo." My grandkids have even spoken to me about my crazy text messages. Give me a break! What ever happened to actually talking on a phone? Isn't that what they were invented for?

They want me to get one of those phones that you can turn upside down and sideways and has a typewriter keyboard with keys about one-eighth the size of my pinky finger. One of my four sons is a realtor whose real occupation is fly -fishing. "Way to go, son." Or in my text language, "Xbz um lo, rmo."

We were floating the Yakima River in his guide quality drift boat south of Ellensburg , Washington . We were miles from anything remotely resembling civilization. Rock canyon walls were on either side of us. Bear with me as I try to explain this strange thing. His "Blackberry" rang. It was blue, and I asked him why it wasn't called a Blueberry. He shook his head with that dealing-with-an-elder despair look I get a lot these days. It was another realtor who called to say that the sellers he represented had agreed to my son's client's changes and he had the signed documents in hand. My son told him to FAX the papers to his office and he would get them signed and Faxed back, to close the deal that morning.

A minute later the phone rang; he hit a few buttons and looked over the FAX, now on the Yakima River with us. He then called his clients and told them he was Faxing the papers to them to sign and asked them to FAX them back to his office. While he was waiting, he hooked into a fat rainbow and was just releasing this 22-inch beauty as his phone rang again - with the signed FAX from his clients. He called the other realtor and told him he was sending the signed papers

back by FAX. The deal was closed. He smiled and just said, "You are a little behind the times, Dad." I guess I am.

I thought about the sixty-million-dollar-a-year business I ran with 1800 employees, all without a Blackberry that played music, took videos and pictures, and communicated with Facebook and Twitter. I signed up under duress for Twitter and Facebook, so my seven kids, their spouses, 13 grandkids and 2 great grand kids could communicate with me in the modern way. I figured I could handle something as simple as Twitter with only 140 characters of space. That was before one of my grandkids hooked me up for Tweeter, Tweetree, Twhirl, Twitterfon, Tweetie, and Twittererific Tweetdeck, Twitpix and something that sends every message to my cell phone and every other program within the texting world.

My phone was beeping every three minutes with the details of everything except the bowel movements of the entire next generation. I am not ready to live like this. I keep my cell phone in the garage in my golf bag.

The kids bought me a GPS for my last birthday because they say I get lost every now and then going over to the grocery store or library. I keep that in a box under my tool bench with the Blue tooth [it's red] phone I am supposed to use when I drive. I wore it once and was standing in line at Barnes and Nobles talking to my wife as everyone within 50 yards was glaring at me. Seems I have to take my hearing aid out to use it and got a little loud.

I mean, the GPS looked pretty smart on my dash board, but the lady inside was the most annoying, rudest person I had run into in a long time. Every 10 minutes, she would sarcastically say, "Re-cal-cu-la-ting." You would think that she could be nicer. It was like she could barely tolerate me. She would let go with a deep sigh and then tell me to make a U-turn at the next light. Then when I would make a right turn instead, it was not good.

When I get really lost now, I call my wife and tell her the name of the cross streets and while she is starting to develop the same tone as Gypsy, the GPS lady, at least she loves me. To be perfectly frank, I am still trying to learn how to use the cordless phones in our house. We have had them for 4 years, but I still haven't figured out how I can lose three phones all at once and have to run around digging under chair cushions and checking bathrooms and the dirty laundry baskets when the phone rings.

The world is just getting too complex for me. They even mess me up every time I go to the grocery store. You would think they could settle on something themselves but this sudden "Paper or Plastic?" every time I check out just knocks me for a loop. I bought some of those cloth re-usable bags to avoid looking confused but never remember to take them in with me. Now I toss it back to them. When they ask me, "Paper or Plastic?" I just say, "Doesn't matter to me. I am bi-sacksual."

Then it's their turn to stare at me with a blank look.

