

WINDSOR Seniors' Computer Users' Group

12/8/08

Agenda for Today

1. **Questions/Answers????** - General Discussion. Computer dialog - what's new, what's different, what works or doesn't work? Computer Tips. Upcoming events:

Computer classes: SRJC, SR Cm Center, Windsor HS, Healdsburg HS, SSU Ext

Computer Consultants: Ross Guistino rossg@sonic.net; Chris Bethards Chbethards@comcast.net



Farwell Dorothy

Dorothy Losee died November 16, 2008 at the age of 84. For several years Dot was an active member of WSCUGR. We will miss you.

• *What to do when Your PC Beeps* – “Beep beep beep.”



That's odd. Instead of booting to your Windows Desktop, your PC is beeping at you. Press its Reset button (the smallest button on the front panel near the Power button of the system unit – hardware) and try again. *Beep beep beep.* More beeps. Maybe a cold restart will help. Shut down the computer by pressing and holding in the Power button until the fans turn off. Next, unplug your PC from the wall for half a minute or so. This should allow the capacitors in the motherboard, expansion cards, and other components to drain off any residual electrical charges. Plug the computer back in and press the Power button to start up. *Beep beep beep.* Next, shut down your PC. If it's a desktop model, open its side panel and touch a bare metal portion of the case to discharge any static electricity. Look for disconnected cables, and try to determine where they should hook up, if anywhere. Make sure that the connected cables are snugly attached to the drives, expansion cards, and the motherboard. Try to reboot. If the beeps continue, you have a problem somewhere in your computer's hardware. The beeps emanate from a tiny speaker on the motherboard. The number of beeps indicates the error code.” *Ed Note: See TIP - You might now need a consultant or User's manual. See Smart Computing, 12/08, p. 78-79.*

• *Develop Wealthy Habits – Use :Yahoo!Finance for Money Management* – “Most people have a financial plan – some plans are more ideal than others. If you've been telling yourself that you need to get your finances in order (maybe for quite some time), then you should continue reading. While you may be familiar with many of the features Yahoo! Offers, the Finance

section might not be saved in your Favorites folder yet. If you're not a member of Yahoo!, be sure to open a free account. Not only will you be able to access Yahoo! Mail and My Yahoo!, but you'll also have the opportunity to take advantage of every facet of Yahoo! Finance. To register, go to Yahoo! Home page (www.yahoo.com), Sign Up, fill out the required information fields and select Create My Account. Each time you open Yahoo!Finance (via Yahoo!'s home page or <http://finance.yahoo.com>), you'll immediately view the Home tab. You can use this area as a quick guide to recent commerce and world finance news.

The Market Summary box tracks the latest stock headlines....For those who need to brush up on financial vocabulary, the Glossary, under Tools in the blue box on the left side of the main Personal Finance page, provides a dictionary of must know words, acronyms and concepts.....No matter where you are in your financial timeline, Yahoo!Finance is with you, providing practical resources to get your investments in line.” *Smart Computing, Dec., 2008, p. 38-39*

• *Privacy Watch – how Private – or Secure – is so – called Private Browsing?* “All the Major browsers – Firefox, IE 8, Safari, and even the new Google Chrome – now have or will soon have a major privacy feature. The name varies from browser to browser, but the basic intent is largely the same. While active, it masks your browsing trail from anyone who might later sit down at that PC and try to check the browser's history, cookies and other data. In Private Mode, the sites you visit won't be added to the browser's history. However, just keep in mind that they're not a panacea, and that they're for secrecy, not additional safety.” *PCWorld, Dec 2008, p. 50*

TIP. If you don't have a printed or electronic user's manual, check the support section of the PC or motherboard manufacturer's site online.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Feliz Navidad, Merry Solstice, Happy Kwanzaa and all of the best of the season to you and yours and a Happy New Year.



4. Internet -Web sites: (If these don't work, let me know - Editor Donna)

Do It Yourself (DIY) web sites - <http://www.makezine.com>; <http://www.craftzine.com>;
<http://www.ReadyMade.com>

Shortcut keystrokes – Windows XP - <http://www.komando.com/tips/index.aspx?id=1179>

Flight information – <http://www.insideTrip.com>

Free Photo Editor – PhotoScape <http://graphicssoft.about.com/od/freesoftware/fr/photoscape.htm>

Site aimed at Travel geeks - <http://www.sosauce.com>

Price comparison sites - <http://pricegrabber.com>; <http://nextag.com>; <http://shopping.com>

Switch from Firefox to Chrome - http://news.cnet.com/8301-17939_109-10107152-2.html?tag=nl.e776

Picasa Photo software review – <http://graphicssoft.about.com/cs/imagenagement/gr/picasa.html?n1=1>

Turn gadgets into cash - <http://Gazelle.com>

Am. Largest Charity Evaluator – <http://www.charitynavigator.org>

***** **Favorite Web Sites:** What is yours? Let me know and I'll include it*****

5. Difference between http and https? Http stands for HyperText Transport Protocol – or a language for information to be passed back and forth between web servers and clients. The S stands for “Secure”. If the web address begins with https://, that basically means your computer is talking to the website in a secure code that no one can eavesdrop on. Make sure the web site starts with https:// if you are asked to enter your credit card number. *Thanks to Nolan Dehner for this article.*

6. Today's Program –Seth Maybee, Andy Wright, Tiffany Love and Anthony O'Conor from Best Buys, SR, will discuss/demonstrate “Santa's Latest and Greatest Toys and Gadgets”. Thanks to all for sharing their expertise.



7. Speakers for 2009 - After the User's Group meeting today the Board of Directors will meet to consider next year speakers and programs. You are more than welcome to attend also. Who do you want on the agenda next year? Let us know.

8. Extensions and Programs they initiate – In order for a file name to access the correct program to display the file, the extension must be associated correctly with a program. From Windows Explorer select Tools>Folder Options, or select Folder Options from Control Panel, then click on tab File Types. You will see as you scroll down, the extension is associated with a program to open that file. The program can be changed or a new file extension can be added. There must be an agreement between the program and extension. We will discuss this as time provides.

9. Computer Help – Drop in - People can drop by the Senior Center, first come/first serve, and will receive one/one opportunity to get their problems, questions, projects addressed: *No preregistration – Donation*

Next one: January 26, 2009, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

10. Next meeting of User's Group

All senior computer enthusiasts are invited to join us. This informal gathering shares ideas, resources and networks:

January 12, 2008 *No preregistration*

1:00 – 2:00 pm General questions/answers

2:00 -4:00 pm - Program - A panel composed of

Donna Crawford, Ross Guistino and Chris Bethards will discuss/demonstrate “Basics of the Computer – What do you want to know?” In essence it will be a two hour question/answer period with a little dissertation interspersed here and there. We are very fortunate to have such knowledgeable people for our presentation.

11. Upcoming Workshops – There will not be any Workshops until March 16, 2009 -

Hands-On Computer Workshops –

Part 1 – Word Processing A to Z - 3/16/09 –

1:00 - 4:00 pm

Part 2 – Word Processing A to Z – 4/20/09 –

1:00 – 4:00 pm.

See Town's Fall 2008 Recreation Bulletin for details.

If you have questions, please call me (home 838-4737), (e-mail: wscugrdonna@gmail.com or donna@sonic.net) or you can call the Senior Center 838-1250 for dates/times of computer events. See <http://www.sonic.net/donna/windsor.html> for Computer Info Windsor Sr. Computer User Group

This is your User's Group - What are your goals? Help to make this group what you want it to be.

“You take people as far as they will go, not as far as you would like them to go.” *Jeanette Rankin*

Have Fun Computing & Take Time to Smell the Roses

