



Verde Valley Computer Club

Connections

Volume 25, Issue 2 February 2010

FEBRUARY 20, 2010

MEETING TIME 9:30 AM

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES TO
BE PRINTED IN THE
MARCH CONNECTIONS:
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22,
2010 AT 2:00 PM**

ACRONIS SOFTWARE

Gene Barlow of User Group Relations will describe for us the best way to backup your computer. Making regular backups of your computer's hard drive is the most important thing you should be doing to protect and maintain your computer. Gene is very knowledgeable on the many backup approaches available to PC Users today. Gene represents Acronis Software to the user group community. His products will be available at the meeting to purchase at Special User Group Discount Prices for those that wish to do so.

The very first thing you need to put into your computer after its operating system is a good manageable backup software program. My choice and statistically that of the majority of users today is Acronis True Image (TI) Home. I choose it for some very good reasons: Use it only once and the software much more than paid for its self. True Image is not only easy to use, it is completely dependable. It will work reliably exactly as you have set it to function.

If you are already using TI 2009, an upgrade to 2010 is well worth the money. The latest version adds considerable polish and new features to 2009. In particular, the Restore feature has been completely changed to make restoring a simpler, faster easy to use essential feature. It is no longer necessary to go through the obtuse procedure of mounting an image in the restore process."

This will be a very interesting and informative session. You won't want to miss it!

In presenting this program, the Verde Valley Computer Club is neither implying an endorsement of any product offered nor validation of any information provided."

See the JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010. VVCC Events Calendar on page 3

DOQ UPDATE

Anyone still having problems with past DOQ CD's, please notify me so I can bring a replacement CD for you FREE.

Contact me with your requests and ideas at:

DOQ@VVCLUB.COM

**Thank you,
Jack
DOQ CHAIRPERSON**

VVCC Mentors

Windows - Bob Efros:
646-9182 bob@refros.com

Front Page -Miles Standish:
frontpage@vvclub.com

Adobe Photoshop Elements, WordPerfect, Word
Marny Zuercher
marny71@gmail.com

Any others out there willing to share their skills? What programs do you work with? Share it! Being a Mentor doesn't mean you have ALL the answers just a willingness to help someone.

VVCC Contacts

president@vvclub.com
vicepresident@vvclub.com
secretary@vvclub.com
treasurer@vvclub.com
past-president@vvclub.com
sig@vvclub.com
frontpage@vvclub.com
DOQ@vvclub.com
equipment@vvclub.com
membership@vvclub.com
editor@vvclub.com
publicity@vvclub.com

Note: To keep our records up-to-date, you do need to complete a new application form each year. There is a copy of the application in The Connections.

User group members
SAVE 35% on all titles

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Looking for the VVCC web site?

**http://
www.vvclub.com**

Do you have your own web site?

Let us include a link to your personal web site—on the VVCC site!

**Contact:
info@vvclub.com**

2010 OFFICERS


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Consuelo Langholtz
Vice President:
Jerry Miller
Treasurer: Lee Andress
Secretary: Del Rosenwasser

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VERDE VALLEY COMPUTER CLUB							FEBUARY 2010						
Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
	1 SHUTTERBUG SIG 6:00 PM	2		3 BEGINNER CLASS 4:15 PM	4 BOARD MEETING 6:30 PM	5 WINDOWS SIG 4:00 PM	6						
7		8		9		10 BEGINNER CLASS 4:15 PM	11			12 INTERNET SIG 4:00 PM	13		
14		15		16		17 BEGINNER CLASS 4:15 PM	18 PHOTOGRA- PHY SIG 6:00 PM	19 WORD PROCESSING SIG	20 GENERAL MEETING 9:30 AM				
21		22 DEADLINE FOR CONNEC- TIONS 2:00 PM	23		24 BEGINNER CLASS 4:15 PM	25		26		27			
28										29		30	

MARCH 2010

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28		29		30		31							

Membership Corner by Myrelle McHale

Hello,

Well, here we are, starting up what we hope will be a GREAT New Year.

I want to thank all of you who have paid your renewal dues. And I also want to welcome the

DRUM ROLL PLEASE**NEW MEMBERS!**

**Kathryn Adams – Salim & Nasim Akhtar – Bette Fineman – Peter Fish –
Cherie Lederer – Richard & Fran Rosner**

We hope this will be the start of a long, pleasant and rewarding relationship.

January's Program was also the start of something new. We are going to try to give you more of what you have been asking for. Programs that deal with the personal use of your computer. Learning everything from short-cuts to usable information on items you already have but don't know how to work with.... If you have ANY thoughts about what you might want to learn more about, please let us know.

One member said she wanted to know more about FACEBOOK. So would I. Is there anyone out there who could put together a short program about FACEBOOK? If you don't know how to make a Power Point Program, perhaps we could match you up with another VVCC member and you could work out a 'SHOW-N-TELL' about that. Who knows, you might make a new friend along the way.

Someone told me they really liked the colorful chart I put together showing attendance for 2009. Thank you. I am making up a new one for this year so please be sure you let the ladies at the Sign-In table know you are here. That way I get a very accurate count for our list.

I am also going to be making up a list of all the comments you have made on the Applications. (And you thought no one ever read those notes !!!) I will be letting you know what I come up with and you can always add to the list. Just send me a note at membership@vvclub.com

I think this year will be really educational for all of us. We are taking new approaches to sharing information about computers and their applications. We hope to see more of you at the various SIG meetings and for sure, we look forward to seeing the attendance at the General Meetings grow as well.

Bye for now.

Myrelle

Membership Chair

LAST CHANCE FOR:**FREE EPSON INK**

We replaced our printers and have full ink cartridges for Epson stylus Photo printers to get rid of:

3 Black for: 400/440/460/480/500/580/600/640/660/670/680sx/480sxu/700/710/720/750/1200/ex/ex2/ex3

2 Color packs for: 700/710/720/750/EX/EX2/EX3

3 RC-008 COLOR

***3 Black, 2 Magenta, 2 cyan, 1 light cyan for: 1400
928 301 1319 or 928 301 8169***

Elaine and Bob

Cleaning for a Reason

THIS IS A !"MUST READ"!

If you know any woman currently undergoing Chemo for cancer, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning - 1 time per month for 4 months while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment.

Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. Or go to <http://www.cleaningforareason.org>. Please pass this information on to bless a woman going through cancer treatment. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women. It's our job to pass the word and let them know that there are people out there that care. Be a blessing to someone and pass this information along.

Fighting cancer is difficult enough, but living with it is even tougher and that's where the Cleaning for A Reason Foundation steps in. This newly formed nonprofit service offers free professional housecleaning, and maid services to improve the lives of women undergoing treatment for cancer any type of cancer.

To learn more about this, go to www.cleaningforareason.org.

Louise Evans sent this to me and I felt it was important enough to print it here. I also e-mailed this article to family and friends.

The internet and e-mail have a lot of jokes and such, but there are some wonderful people and organizations out there, too and when we find one, such as this, we need to pass it on.

Thank you, Louise, for this article.

Verde Valley Computer Club
P.O. Box 3023 Cottonwood, AZ 86326

E-mail: info@vvcclub.com Web Site: www.vvcclub.com

Date: _____, 2010

Membership Application: New: _____ Renewal: _____

Cash: _____ Check: # _____

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ E-Mail: _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Have you attended a Seniors Class or Beginners Class? _____

Have you attended a SIG class? Which one(s): _____

What topics would you like to learn more about? _____

**Would you be willing to help in: Club Newsletter () Meetings –Set up/Clear () Equipment
Maintenance () Lead or assist SIG group () Publicity () Administration () Programs ()
Decorations ()**

Other () _____

**Do you know anyone who might be interested in making a presentation at one of our
monthly meetings?:**

**Please mail this form along with your dues to the P.O. Box shown above, or bring it to the
next General Meeting or SIG Meeting.**

Thank you.

VVCC Beginners **Class**

A popular series of six **hands-on** sessions designed for the *beginning* computer users. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 4:15 to 6:15 PM at the Cottonwood Middle School Computer Lab, Mingus & 6th. More information is on our web site!

The Series repeats.

Beginners class dates:

**(Series 4 will begin
February 17, 2010)**

VVCC

Mailing Address:

Mail inquires, suggestions and items of interest, to the club,

VVCC

**PO BOX 3023
COTTONWOOD, AZ
86326**

**Or e-mail us at
info@vvccclub.com**



Have a refreshing cup of tea or coffee and sit back and peruse the Connections.

This is your Publication.

TREASURER , LEE ANDRESS

On January 16, the Club checking account balance was \$1,153.00

COMPUTER REFURBISHING/DONATIONS

by Miles Standish

As we move into 2010, it's a good time to re-think some of our actions in the Club. I have been receiving, refurbishing and placing donated computers for several years, and I greatly enjoy this activity. However, interest in the program has increased to the point that I'm having trouble keeping up. Also, I don't have room for efficient storage of all the computers, monitors, keyboards and other parts in our garage. I don't even have a good workplace; I do this in the living room of our house, on a foldup table or sometimes out on the floor. So I want to invite others to "get into the act." To help you consider whether you would like to participate, let me tell you some details of how I've been doing this.

I have an air compressor that I use to blow out the dust, as practically all of them have **lots** of dust. Usually there is something needing replacement, and normally I can use parts from another computer that, for one reason or another, I "sacrifice" or cannibalize. Often my reason for sacrificing a computer is damage to the case or input/output ports. Another reason is to sacrifice the older and slower for the newer and faster. Basically, all I can do is remove and replace; I can't "fix" some electronic part that requires an electron microscope to see inside. Sometimes the only trouble with a computer is that it's choked up with Internet garbage and programs running in the background, perhaps including viruses, such that it seems all bogged down to where the owner has lost patience with it. For this situation, it's amazing what reloading the operating system can do. I think it takes less time and expertise to reload than it takes to diagnose and remove this type of problem. Besides that, this is a good way to remove all of the donor's personal data.

Memory upgrade is the most common expense for refurbishing computers. Fortunately, the cost has plummeted, so that a 512mb module now costs about \$30.00 postpaid. However, I've ordered a lot more of the 256mb modules @ \$23.00 each. Nearly all the donated printers need ink, and that costs about \$35 per printer at think4ink in Prescott.

If you would like to help pay for this activity, you can donate directly to VVCC. We have an account for this. Just mark your check "for computer refurbishing." If you would like to work on the computers, let's talk about it (miles@crnatural.net). Refurbished computers go first-come-first-served to people all over Verde Valley and to some Indian reservations.

Join Us for a Special Interest Group SIG)

Learn from *each other!*

Visit our Web site for more SIG info. Attendees are encouraged to print out handouts prior to classes.

Word Processing:

Dick Gohman

Session #2

Internet: Dick Gohman

Questions & Answers

Windows: Bob Efros

Questions and Answers

Beginner Classes:

All at CMS

Feb 3: Series 3, 5/6

Feb 10: Series 3, 6/6

Feb 17: Series 4, 1/6

Feb 24: Series 4, 2/6

Mar 3: Series 4, 3/6

Digital Camera: Leo

Zuercher

Transfer pictures from Camera to Computer

PHOTOGRAPHY SIG:

Hal Rosenwasser.

Thursday, February 18,
6:00 PM

Web Site Team:

Lisa Packard

There are handouts for the classes that can be downloaded from the club website:

www.vvcclub.com

The Secretary's Corner

By Del Rosenwasser

Consuelo Langholz opened the first general meeting of 2010 by welcoming everyone and making sure they could hear the sound system. She announced that at the end of the meeting complimentary copies of the January issue of SMART COMPUTING magazine and mouse pads would be handed out.

Lee Andress gave the treasurer's report. There is \$1,153 in the checking account which does not include membership renewals received at today's meeting.

Special Interest Groups (SIGS)

The **spreadsheet** SIG will be replaced by **word processing**. The 1st lesson is next Friday at 4 PM.

Internet will be back to the regular 2nd Friday in February.

Digital Shutterbug is on putting pictures into the computer.

Photography concerns the operation of your camera.

More information about these SIGS and the Beginner's Class can be found at www.vvcclub.com

Richard Gohman explained that a SIG can be formed by the sharing of information among interested persons.

Consuelo suggested people step up to help those who do a job. She commended Dave Olson for doing an excellent job as Publicity Chairman. We are still seeking a Program Chairman. If you are interested please contact Consuelo at president@vvcclub.com or just come to the next Board meeting on February 4th. Visitors are welcome at the Board meeting.

Myrelle McHale, Membership Chairman announced today's attendance is 50 members and 9 visitors.

The program for today "Useful and Free Utility Software" was presented by Richard Gohman. He advised that these programs are all free and have been tested. .

The programs demonstrated were:

AM-DeadLink which detects dead links and duplicates in browser bookmarks and text files.

EditURLs which enables the user to edit URL addresses in Internet Explorer's Address Bar.

CUTE PDF which converts documents into the PDF format.

BELARC ADVISOR which will make a complete inventory of your computer.

Five useful tools from the Karen's Power Tools website were also mentioned.

This program was very well received and the audience requested that more practical programs of this type be presented.

Dale Forbes made an announcement thanking everyone who helped with setup and take down of the Christmas potluck. He suggested that the prize winners visit the contributing merchants.

Richard Gohman reminded us that Mountain View Methodist Church on 12th Street in Cottonwood is accepting electronic items for recycling. This is a one time project for 3 weeks only. The best time to take your items is from 9-12 AM on Sunday mornings. Please donate any functional electronics to Miles Standish who refurbishes them for placement on a first-come-first-served basis to people all over Verde Valley and to some Indian reservations.

Door prize were awarded to:winners

Subscription to SMART COMPUTING magazine to Lee Andress

Subscription to SMART COMPUTING magazine to Don Mesaros

yoga Starter Sessions to Jean Munro & Marny Zuercher

Binoculars Optic 10 x 50 to Bette Fineman

A good leather Briefcase to Dale Lowes

HP All in one Printer to Al Quadracci

Leather case to Bette Fineman

Submitted by: Joan Lambard for Del Rosenwasser

6 Simple Steps to Keep from Falling for Fakes

Rogue security software is here to stay. Why? Because cyber criminals are profiting from unsuspecting computer users. What can you do to stop the spread of rogues and save your hard-earned cash for genuine programs that protect your PC and personal information? Armed with a little knowledge and awareness of the problem, users will be able to stop falling for these fakes and help to make sure that rogue software vendors stop profiting from their unscrupulous business. Never pay for malware! Here's how you can tell what's real and what's not when it comes to security software, so you can keep from buying bogus products.

1. **Do not fall for scare tactics.** Not sure what that means? While browsing sites, be cautious of pop-ups warning you that your system is infected and offering a product to clean it up. Never pay for a program that installed itself to your computer. This is a hallmark of rogue software.
2. **Use security software and keep it up-to-date.** If you know that you have anti-virus, anti-spyware, and a firewall on your PC, you can safely ignore security alerts you receive that do not come from your chosen security software provider. (Rogue security software will often try to lure computer users by using legitimate looking pop-up messages that appear to be security alerts.) Also, most anti-spyware programs, like [Ad-Aware 2008](#), will help keep you protected from rogues because they can find and detect these programs.
3. **Access experts** at the Lavasoft Support Forums or other security forums and ask about the software you are considering *before* you decide to purchase it.
4. **Read the software reviews** at reputable sites like Download.com. Do not blindly trust individual sites offering security products. You can also refer to reputable lists of trustworthy anti-spyware programs, like the one on [SpywareWarrior.com](#).
5. **Ask knowledgeable friends and family** members about quality software they use. Keep in mind that when you search for trustworthy security software online, rogue products can, and often do, appear in the search results list.
6. **Practice online skepticism.** Be aware that rogue security software does exist on the Web, and be vigilant about avoiding it. These programs are designed to appear genuine – meaning they may mimic legitimate programs, use false awards and reviews to rope you in, or employ other deceptive tactics. It's also a good idea to familiarize yourself with common phishing scams, and to be cautious of links in e-mail messages and on social networking sites.
For additional online safety tips to help you securely navigate the Web, visit the [Lavasoft Security Center](#).

**The computer swallowed grandma.
Yes, honestly its true!
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.**

**It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.**

**I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet,
But nothing did I find.**

**In desperation, I asked Google
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online..'**

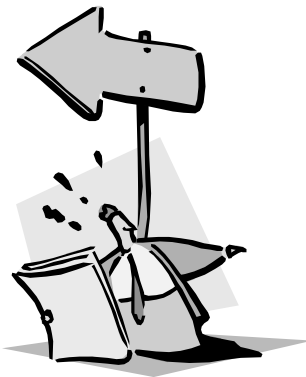
**So, if inside your 'In-box,'
My Grandma you should see,
Please 'Copy,' 'Scan' and 'Paste' her
And send her back to me.**

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When you are done
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the
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Pass it on to a
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Verify that your e-mail and
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rect. Send corrections or
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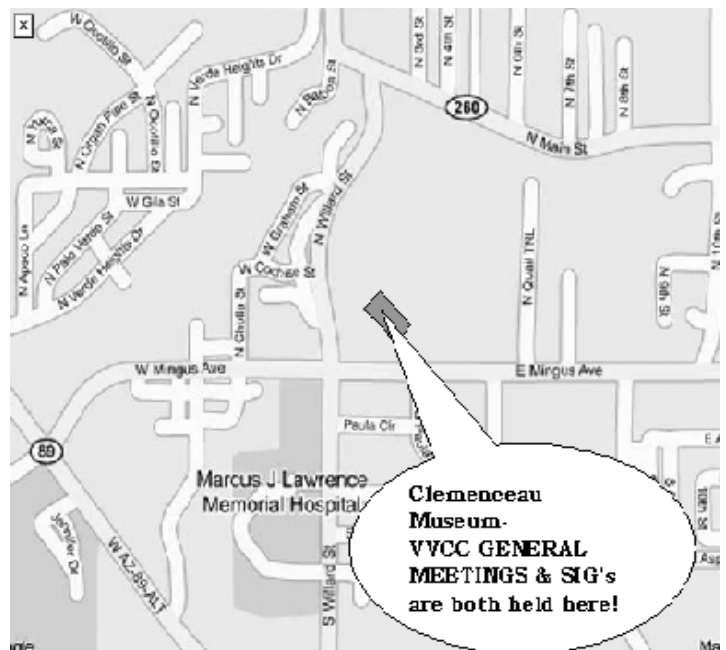


**THIS SPACE RESERVED
FOR NEW MEMBERS
WOW!
TOO MANY FOR THIS
SPACE
SEE PAGE 5**

Note from the Editor...

The next newsletter deadline for all
submissions:

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010 - 2 PM



**Clemenceau
Museum-
VVCC GENERAL
MEETINGS & SIG's
are both held here!**