

**Abort,  
Retry,  
Ignore....**

Founded 1984 **ARI** is the  
Official Newsletter of  
**Computers Are Easy User Group**

January  
2014  
Volume XXXI Issue 1

**Confirmed  
meeting  
dates**

**January 18**  
3rd Saturday

**February 22**  
4th Saturday

Check  
[www.caeug.net](http://www.caeug.net)  
for confirmed  
meeting dates

**MEETING  
PLACE**  
is the  
Glenside Public  
Library  
\*\*\* \*\*

Visitors  
Welcome  
**HOPE TO SEE  
YOU THERE!!**

**\* \* \* January 2014 meeting \* \* \***

**January meeting -- January 18 3rd Saturday**

Frank Braman's presentation Nov/Dec meeting will be  
"Fast Answers On the Internet"  
- this presentation will take us to amazing sites for information and answers.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

### **January reminder to all members: Dues are due every January!**

For just \$20.00 a year you receive ten informative presentations. The bonus is all presentations is accompanied by coffee, donuts & bagels, your choice. Don't forget our wonderfully relaxing annual CAEUG picnic. Also, you will have the opportunity to bring your computer related problems to the Members forum at every meeting. You could have your computer problem solved with the wealth of knowledge of other members. That means a huge savings to you not having to call a heldesk that could charge you big bucks. You also will continue to receive the ARI CAEUG monthly newsletter.

To renew your membership see John St. Clair, Treasurer, at the third Saturday, January 18 meeting and pay your annual dues.

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## Preserving memories in a digital age

Mike Hancock, Advertising Manager  
Golden Gate Computer Society, CA  
July 2013 issue, GGCS Newsletter  
www.ggcs.org  
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More than 30 years ago—in 1982—videotapes came to the market. By now, though, many are degenerating. Alan Kolsky, of Digital Video Dimensions, startled attendees of the June 24 GGCS General Meeting by enumerating the probable life spans of various media:

CDs 5 - 100 years  
Newspapers 10 - 20  
Data-grade VHS videotape 10 - 30  
Digital linear tape 10 - 300  
Other magnetic tape 10 - 30  
Microfilm 10 - 500  
Photographic slides 100  
Archival grade acid-free paper 10 - 500  
Egyptian stone tablet 2,000!

But people often want to digitize home movies, slides, videotapes, audio recordings, documents, and photos for storage and ease of presentation. Some authorities argue that because of rapid advances in technology enhanced media longevity is questionable.

Future trends that will affect archiving include higher resolution and solid-state storage. “4K” resolution video format (4,000 pixels in horizontal direction) is coming and is needed for the huge monitors, which tend to have much softer resolution than smaller monitors.

“Ultra HD” is on its way, too. 64GB thumb drives are readily available, and solid-state drives are being introduced to computers and will displace mechanical drives and players. DVDs are ubiquitous today, but Alan warned us that improper handling can rapidly degrade them. Hold DVDs at their edges, across their diameter; do not handle them on their recording face, and do not handle them roughly. Also, avoid using paper stick on labels because they cause wobbling and thus poorer recording.

These factors affect the life of any media:

Quality of the original media. Kodachrome slides from the '50s are still beautiful.

The number of times the media are accessed.

Storage temperature and humidity; store in a cool, dry place.

Cleanliness of the storage environment.

Quality of the device used to read/write the media.

To help keep your media in good condition:

Keep media in its storage case.

Avoid flexing or twisting any media.

Do not touch exposed media.

Do not expose magnetic media such as videotapes to magnetic fields (speakers, for example).

Alan recommends making backup copies of all digital media—two backups minimum for optical discs and hard drives. And re-copy them every two years or so. “High-8” tapes, especially from Sony, have a 20% failure rate, therefore they should be copied digitally and archived.

#### Tips for digitizing media

Alan suggests if you are digitizing home movie films to remember that film deteriorates and becomes brittle, and old projectors can accelerate damage.

With slides, look for at least 2,400-dpi scanners with no glass between the scanner and the film, otherwise you may have distortion from Newton rings, an interference pattern created by the reflection of light between two surfaces.

Canon is the best scanner brand for prosumers, or try to find an old Microtek 1800F on eBay. A 4,000dpi scan is the best, with 7,200 dpi being overkill, Alan says.

Document scanners are affordable at \$500 to \$600. Alan’s advice for scanning photos is to scan at 600 dpi for photos 5x7 inches or smaller, and at 300 dpi for greater than 5x7 inches.

Scanning services usually charge by the hour: \$15 to \$25. Be careful about cheap scanning services; they work as fast as possible and not necessarily with consistent quality. Also, pick out only the best of your photos to scan to reduce cost.

With videotape, “repack” the tape before copying by using fast-forward and fast-rewind before playback and capture. It helps, too, if tapes sit in the machine for a couple of hours before repacking because the heat of the machine makes them more flexible.

The best DVDs for general purposes are Verbatim and JVC at the Gold level. Ritek is another good general purpose DVD. Meritline.com and Rima.com are good online resources if you buy at least 50.

Go to eBay to obtain a Sony VHS Adaptor for the High-8 reader and capture the output of a VCR.

Alan showed us a couple of examples of advanced mixed media montages with voiceover, comprising slides, videos, and music. An external service would charge about \$6,000 for a 35-minute professional mixed media show.

Video editing software include Adobe Premiere Pro, Sony Vega, ProShow Gold, and Photodex. Be careful, though, of copyright laws when using, for example, Youtube video clips or music. Alan recommends paying for royalty-free music or looking for government newsreels.

If you wish to digitize tape, look for a Grass Valley Digital Converter that runs output to a computer (upward of \$250), or an outside service will do it for \$25/hour. Clean dirty or greasy

DVDs and CDs from the center out, radially, using a cleaner (Radio Shack has one).

Judging by the numerous questions and comments, a significant number of the audience had boxes of material that were candidates for digitizing!

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## **Computer Entertainment**

By Jim Cerny, Director  
Sarasota PC Users Group, FL  
August 2013 issue, PC Monitor  
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Are you old enough to remember sitting around watching the radio and listening to The Lone Ranger or other programs? Then came TV, movies, records, tapes, and DVDs. We all have our favorite forms of entertainment and entertainers. I am sure most of you have already used your computer, tablet or phone for some kind of entertainment, but I thought it might be helpful (i.e. entertaining?) for you if I gave you a quick overview of the almost infinite entertainment possibilities with computer devices. For the purpose of this article I will assume you have a computer, tablet, or phone connected to the internet. I am sure you will find the following ideas fun and entertaining:

YouTube – one of my favorites. You do not have to join anything or get an ID or password, just go to the You Tube website at [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and in the search box at the top enter in anything you like and hit the “Enter” key. You can enter an actor, TV show, name, event, topic, or news item. Be prepared to get a list of videos you can watch that can take all day. Rarely is an “app” so easy to use and so much fun! To watch a video, just click on it (or touch it on a touch-screen and it should start playing in a few moments. While playing, you can use the controls to pause or drag to any point in the video.

Google Earth – You can download this free through the Google website. (If you don’t know how to get to the Google website there is no hope for you at all, please donate your computer today to our refurbishing group.) Google has many tools that are entertaining and fun, but one of my favorites is Google Earth. When it begins you see a slowly spinning earth that you appear to be approaching from outer space. Use your finger on the touch-screen or your mouse to rotate the earth or stop it from spinning. Zoom in or out using your fingers to pinch or spread, or use your mouse wheel or the zoom in-out bar. Try zooming in on Disney World in Orlando and you can see the parks and the people. You can’t quite read a car license plate, but it’s pretty close. Many cities have 3D rendered buildings and you can fly right between them if you want. Explore your planet and checkout the many options available.

Free games – Whatever games you enjoy you can bet there are computer versions of them. Many are free. On the Google search website, enter in the search bar the word “free” followed by whatever game you are interested in. You will get quite a list. Be aware, however, that some “free” games may ask you to register or set up an account. I never do this – I have too many accounts and passwords to keep track of as it is. Some games on the internet you can play with or against

other people all over the world. I generally prefer to play against the computer instead of a real person. When you do find a website that allows you to play a game right on the internet for free, you can be sure there will be some advertising. It may be on the border at the edge of the game screen or window, or it may appear as “pop-up” windows. Carefully click your mouse or tap your finger on the “X” (wherever it is, usually in the upper right) to close the window. If you miss the “X” and hit any other part of the window you will probably be sent to another window with more advertising. But do not be afraid, the internet is all about advertising you know, just click on the next “X” you see to remove the unwanted window or ad.

TV and Radio Stations – Use Google to find your favorite radio or TV programs (current or from days gone by) and see what you find. Many current TV and radio programs can be viewed or listened to on the station’s internet site.

The whole idea of all this is to consider your computer a window to the world—the present and the past. Don’t be afraid to search and explore, you will find fun and amazing things. Give yourself a time limit, otherwise you will find the hours slipping by and missing meals. Oops, look at the time! I think I just missed dinner.

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### **A little Chicago winter humor... (the last one is so true)**

#### THE WINDY CITY TEMPERATURE CONVERSION CHART

- 60° F: Arizonans shiver uncontrollably; people in Chicago are still sunbathing.
  - 50° F: Californians try to turn on the heat; people in Chicago plant gardens.
  - 40° F: Italian sports cars won't start; people in Chicago drive with the windows down.
  - 32° F: Distilled water freezes; Lake Michigan water gets thicker.
  - 20° F: Floridians don coats, thermal underwear, gloves and wool hats; people in Chicago throw on a light jacket.
  - 15° F: People in Chicago have the last cookout before it gets cold.
  - 0° F: All the people in Phoenix die. Chicagoans close the windows.
  - 10° below zero: Californians fly away to Mexico. The Girl Scouts in Chicago are selling cookies door to door.
  - 25° below zero: Hollywood disintegrates; people in Chicago get out their winter coats.
  - 40° below zero: Washington, DC runs out of hot air; people in Chicago let the dogs sleep indoors.
  - 100° below zero: Santa Claus abandons the North Pole. Chicagoans get frustrated because they can't start 'da car.'
  - 460° below zero: All atomic motion stops (absolute zero on the Kelvin scale); people in Chicago start saying, 'cold 'nuff for ya?'
  - 500° below zero: Hell freezes over. The Cubs win the World Series.
- 





## Lamp Post 154

January 2014

With the exceedingly cold weather prior to the January thaw **(1)**. I looked up some helpful tips on how to keep warm. First is how to keep warm outside **(2)**. Eat a complete meal before you spend an extended time outside. Food is your source of energy for warmth. Keeping dry is some of the best advice I have ever used. In areas you are likely to perspire, wear terry **(3)** fabrics to wick the moisture away from your skin. This is particularly important for the feet. The only place I have ever found socks with terry interiors is in sports stores **(4)** and Amazon **(5)**. Keeping your core (torso) temperature from dipping too far below the normal of 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit is essential. The more weight you have at your core, the more energy it takes to keep it warm so stay in shape and dress warm covering as much skin as possible. Dress in at least three layers in extremely cold weather. Your outermost layer should be able to resist liquids (rain and snow). Wear water resistant foot wear, too (boots, rubbers, or galoshes). Wearing a hat will make your hands and feet feel warmer. Mittens are warmer than gloves but should have the terrycloth interior to avoid moisture. Drinking room temperature water is helpful. Stay out of the wind and try to stay in sunlight if possible. If you are over 65 years of age, cold weather makes you more susceptible to colds, flu, heart attacks, strokes, pneumonia and depression. Second is keeping warm inside **(6)**. Dress in at least two layers. The main living area (where you spend the most time) should be at least 65 degrees Fahrenheit. If you cannot heat your whole home, close off unused rooms. Seal windows with plastic and / or heavy curtains. Your bed can be heated with an electric blanket. The cautions are that the blanket should be in good shape. If it has any hotspots, it should not be used as an electric blanket. I had an electric blanket (a few years old) that caught fire while I was sleeping. I woke up for another reason but in time to prevent injury. Do not use an electric blanket with a hot water bottle. Never use a space heater. The list of life ending troubles with space heaters is far greater than any benefit that can be derived **((7), (8))**. If that warning is not strong enough, just Google 'space heaters kill people' to view the 5,000,000 plus stories about people who died using space heaters. If you have and use a fireplace or Franklin type stove, be sure your chimney is cleaned of creosote **(9)** at least once a year. Use only dry wood to eliminate most of the creosote problem (chimney fires). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA **(10)**) has information about wood burning **(11)**. On January 3rd 2014, the EPA issued a proposed regulation of residential wood burning **((12), (13))**. The January thaw will be ending soon so keep warm.

**1) <http://sn.im/28flqr8>**

**2) <http://sn.im/28flqvn>**

**3) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrycloth>**

**4) <http://sn.im/28flqxr>**

**5) <http://sn.im/28flqzd>**

**6) <http://sn.im/28flr0s>**

**7) <http://sn.im/28flr23>**

**8) <http://sn.im/28flr3w>**

**9) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creosote>**

**10) <http://www.epa.gov/>**

**11) <http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/>**

**12) <http://sn.im/28flr5h>**

**13) <http://sn.im/28flr6n>**

The new Mac Pro **(1)** has been released. It is designed for high end audio and video work including 3D simulations. The design of this machine is a departure from Apple's **(2)** previous all in one designs. It is an eleven pound, 6.6 inch diameter, 10 inch tall chrome cylinder. Everything is connected to it via Bluetooth **(3)** or wires including Thunderbolt **(4)**. You must pay for all the performance. The Mac Pro starts at \$3000. The monitor and speakers are extra cost items. This Mac Pro can be expanded either at delivery or after market (memory and storage).

**1) <https://www.apple.com/mac-pro/>**

**2) <https://www.apple.com/>**

**3) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bluetooth>**

**4) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thunderbolt\\_%28interface%29](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thunderbolt_%28interface%29)**

Did you shop at Target **(1)** over the last three months? Target announced a loss of customer information **(2)** including names, mailing addresses, phone numbers, payment card, and / or email addresses of 70 to 110 million people. If Target has your e-mail address, they will contact you about this breach . IN THAT E-MAIL they will NOT ask you for personal information. Target first announced a breach of the data for 40 million customers that made purchases on or after Black Friday **(3)**. Since then Target has been working with the United States Secret Service **(4)** and the Department of Justice **(5)**, they discovered a much greater data theft. Target has provided a web site to inform consumers about the theft **(6)** and another site with specific instructions **(7)**. This data theft has not been good for Target's business. They have been trying to put on their best face for stock holders **(8)**. If you think you may be part of this, you should probably contact Target in person for further information. The U. S. Secret Service has general advise if you think you have been the victim of fraud **(9)**.

**1) <https://corporate.target.com/>**

**2) <http://sn.im/28fpks1>**

**3) <http://sn.im/28fpkuw>**

**4) <http://www.secretservice.gov/>**

**5) <http://www.justice.gov/>**

**6) <http://sn.im/28fpkxm>**

**7) <http://sn.im/28fp10c>**

**8) <http://sn.im/28fp12j>**

**9) [http://www.secretservice.gov/fraud\\_creditcard.shtml](http://www.secretservice.gov/fraud_creditcard.shtml)**

Intelligence **(1)** is a new television series on CBS **(2)**. It stars Josh Holloway **(3)** who is best known for his role as James 'Sawyer' Ford in the ABC TV **(4)** series Lost **(5)**. This series explores the science fiction promise of computer integration into a human being. It does this in a more or less pedestrian manner using only current technology. Apparently, the writers lack imagination or the network big wigs that have the final say about content could not handle the risk of a good sci-fi program. Ostensibly, it is a cop show, but an interesting factor about the program is that the man / machine combination is considered a weapon on an international scale. The Holloway character with the computer integration is compared to a nuclear weapon. I suppose this is to be expected with the

militaristic fervor in this country (6).

- 1) <http://sn.im/28flr98>
- 2) <http://www.cbcorporation.com/>
- 3) <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0391326/>
- 4) <http://abc.go.com/>
- 5) <http://abc.go.com/shows/lost>
- 6) <http://sn.im/28flrao>

Have you ever wanted to purchase a Rosetta Stone course (1) or a Berlitz (2) language program but did not want to spend over \$300? You are now in luck. DuoLingo (3) has free on line courses for four of the five Romance languages and German. You have to register using an e-mail address or Facebook (4). You will need speakers to listen to the lessons.

- 1) <http://www.rosettastone.com/>
- 2) <http://www.berlitz.us/>
- 3) <http://www.duolingo.com/>
- 4) <https://www.facebook.com/>

Frank Braman's December's presentation was on how to write code. The code.org web site (1) that he cited teaches computer code writing.

- 1) <http://code.org/>

A day late and a dollar short. That is the only way I have to describe what Facebook (1), Google (2), Apple (3), Yahoo (4), and other large tech companies have said in an open letter to President Obama (5). Their tepid complaint is that the 'balance' between state power and individual rights has 'tipped' too far toward government power. They did not complain (openly) or defy Obama's minions who demanded access to our personal records, e-mail, texts, phone calls, and data streams. They caved in and gave the government anything it wanted. Edward Snowden (6) has let us in on the betrayal of trust by these companies and the U. S. government. His thanks for that revelation is that the 'former' National Security Agency ((7) NSA) and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) chief, Michael Hayden and Representative Mike Rogers (8), chair of the house intelligence committee (9), have both 'joked' that Snowden should be on President Obama's 'kill list' (10). I think the letter (11) is a publicity stunt by these Internet and computer giants to con the public (us) into thinking that the government is the only bad actor when in fact they are complicit. This spying is not only on U. S. citizens. It includes virtually all Internet users in the world. The European Union Parliament is investigating this breach. They want Snowden to testify (via video link from Russia) (12). Two U. S. Congressmen (Mike Rogers and C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger) have claimed that Snowden's leaks have endangered U. S. troops (13). They will not state specifics because their information came from a Defense Department (DOD (14)) classified report. From their accusation alone, we can see the kind of 'fair' trial Snowden would get if he returns to the U. S. If their accusation is true, you would think that troop casualties would be going up. That is not the case (15). A look at the leaks Snowden has made might shed light on the accusations against him (16). Interestingly, the Judge turned reporter, Andrew Napolitano, has noted that the NSA is also spying on Congress (17). 'I have nothing to hide' proclaim many people. That really is not true ((18), (19)).



- 1) <https://www.facebook.com/>
- 2) <https://www.google.com/>
- 3) <https://www.apple.com/>
- 4) <http://www.yahoo.com/>
- 5) <http://sn.im/28flre9>
- 6) <http://sn.im/28flrfj>
- 7) <http://sn.im/28flrh2>
- 8) <http://mikerogers.house.gov/>
- 9) <http://intelligence.house.gov/>
- 10) <http://sn.im/28flrid>
- 11) <http://nyti.ms/1ixU0XD>
- 12) <http://sn.im/28flrwm>
- 13) <http://sn.im/28flry3>
- 14) <http://www.defense.gov/>
- 15) <http://icasualties.org/oef/>
- 16) <http://sn.im/28fls0f>
- 17) <http://sn.im/28fls1r>
- 18) <http://sn.im/28fls31>
- 19) <http://sn.im/28fls48>

The one silver lining to the NSA spying mess is that funding is now available for development of a quantum computer (1). A quantum computer (2) is a computer that uses the sub-atomic (quantum) properties of superposition and entanglement to solve problems. Superposition (3) and entanglement (4) are difficult to understand without a thorough background in particle physics (5). Essentially, superposition means that matter is in all possible states all the time until we measure it. At the time of measurement it is in one state or another which is Werner Heisenberg's (6) uncertainty principle (7) in that once something is measured or observed it changes. Entanglement is when a group of particles interact with one another so that any one particle can only be described in terms of the other particles in the group. Erwin Schrödinger (8) illustrated this with what has become known as Schrödinger's cat (9). A two minute Youtube describes the Schrödinger's cat thought experiment better than I can (10) (Video on the DVD of the Month). Once I got a little understanding of this part of physics, I began to wonder how a quantum computer would work. Some really smart people are trying to figure that out so the NSA can crack encryption codes so that privacy will be a thing of the past. If the quantum computer is not classified, it may be used to solve some of humankind's most vexing problems.

- 1) <http://sn.im/28fls5v>
- 2) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum\\_computer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_computer)
- 3) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum\\_superposition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_superposition)
- 4) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum\\_entanglement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_entanglement)
- 5) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Particle\\_physics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Particle_physics)
- 6) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Werner\\_Heisenberg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Werner_Heisenberg)
- 7) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uncertainty\\_principle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uncertainty_principle)
- 8) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erwin\\_Schr%C3%B6dinger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erwin_Schr%C3%B6dinger)
- 9) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schr%C3%B6dinger%27s\\_cat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schr%C3%B6dinger%27s_cat)
- 10) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOYyCHGWJq4>

Between you, me and the LampPost, that's all for now.

## January 2014 DVD of the Month

**ARI** - January newsletter

**AuslogicDefrag** - Updated HD defrag program

**BATExpert** - Laptop battery health status util

**Calibre** - Updated e-book utility for conversion and display

**cCleaner** - Updated HD cleaner

**CDOMlists** - Lists of past CDOMs and DVDOMs

**CryptoPrevent** - Program to prevent Cryptolocker infection

**DirectoryMonitor** - Notifies you of file changes/access in a folder

**HandyStartMenu** - App to edit, clean and maintain registry

**IMBatch** - Batch image processing tool for Windows

**iSpy** - Turns your PC into a full security and surveillance system

**MalwarebytesAntiExploit** - Updated protection for MS before security patches are issued

**MD5Checker** - Bit check for downloads

**MemberContributions** - Things e-mailed to me from members

**OldTimeRadio** - Old time radio broadcasts

**RootKitHunter** - Scans for rootkits, backdoors and local exploits

**RouterPasswordCracker** - Recover Lost Login Password of any Router/Modem

**ShellExView** - Free tool helps you identify and remove pesky programs

**Shotcut** - Updated full featured video editor

**SyneiSystemUtilities** - Clean up, speed up, maintain, secure, and repair your system

**TorBrowserBundle** - Use Tor without needing to install any software

**Unchecky** - Keep potentially unwanted programs out of your computer

**VirtualBox** - Updated virtual machine

**VLC** - Updated media player

**WinRepairAllInOne** - Updated Windows repair utility

## Meeting Location and Special Accommodations

The Glenside Public Library address is at 25 E Fullerton Avenue, Glendale Heights, Illinois. Please park away from the building. Thank you. The meeting(s) are not library sponsored and all inquiries should be directed to Mike Goldberg. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this program and who require certain accommodations in order to observe and / or participate in the program are requested to contact CAEUG president, Mike Goldberg, at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be made.

### Members Helpline

Any member with a specific expertise can volunteer to be on the Members Helpline.

### Beginner Helpline

- Billy Douglas

### Beginner hardware problems

- Dick Fergus

### Hardware problems, XP, Win 7 & Linux

- John Spizzirri

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