

Computer News

Scheduled Events

September - October 2014

Investor SIG Meeting	September 8, 2014 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM October 13, 2014 5:30 PM - 7:30PM 23 Skipping Rock Way, Napa
Mac SIG Meeting	September 11, 2014 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 PM October 9, 2014 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 PM Napa Senior Center / 1500 Jefferson St., Napa
General Meeting	September 17, 2014 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM October 15, 2014 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Napa Senior Center / 1500 Jefferson St., Napa

September General Meeting
 features: **Will Dipman, Operations Manager, Computer Engineering Group.**

He will be discussing and demonstrating printers and printer technologies.

Do you have a printer that is not acting well? You might get the answer to rescue it at this meeting.

We are still meeting at the **Napa Senior Activity Center** 1500 Jefferson Street, Napa. 7PM to 9PM. You should come early to be sure you get a parking space. Also Will may start his presentation at 7PM so don't assume that if you get there by 8PM that you will get to participate in the printer/ printer technology presentation.

If you can bring a friend. This presentation may be useful to them.

From the President
by
Ron Dack

Since the earthquake I have been a little scrambled of course for the past few years I haven't been at the top of my game. Somehow I seem to end up picking up the rains of this group and pulling it back from the brink. Still I cannot do everything. It behooves those of you that still get some value from being a member to ask not what the group can do for you but what you can do for the group?

Several of our board members have been doing jobs for years without a break. We finally found someone to give **Roy Wagner** a break from being Treasurer for the last 15 years. Thank you **Marion Segoria** for stepping up to do that job. Unfortunately in August Marion had a serious fall and sustained some facial injuries. Consequently our mail was not collected from the post office. Then the earthquake closed the post office and they are operating from some shade covers in the back parking lot. I went down today to see how we could get our mail. I picked up a stack of mail and began weeding out all the junk mail and found what appear to be envelopes addressed to the Treasurer and or Membership which I believe probably contain checks. I will bring them to the September meeting tomorrow so Marion can process them.

I hope each of you came through the earthquake safely and with minimum damage. Last week I had to go to the Senior Center and collect the contents of our locker. The excuse was a cracked truss above the lockers. **Ron Rogers** met me there and picked up the MUG locker contents. The main group stuff is still in the

trunk of my car as I have no room to store it. I also have numerous books including CDs on **Windows XP** as well as **Office 2000/2003**. Most of these are in new condition and I hate to just dump them. I know that many of you still use this OS and this software. Any member interested should contact me.

I am also looking for someone to write short reviews of presentations. I am finding my time for doing the newsletter, reviews, and announcements, as well as the web page, Presidents job, publicity, and lining up presenters is becoming to much.

A few volunteers should be able to split these up and do them in a short time range. The question being do you want this group to continue to exist or simply disappear. Let me know because I can think of a thousand other things I could be doing with my time.

Review of August Meeting

by Ron Dack

Our August 20th meeting brought back **Lawrence Koga** who had talked to us earlier about computer security. That presentation got my attention for sure.

This time Lawrence was here to discuss and demonstrate **Linux** the free operating system. **Linux** will run on just about any machine and is an open source software. Anyone can modify it to satisfy their use and in case of bugs the whole **Linux** world is ready and willing to work through solving them.

Just about any software you can find for a PC or a Mac is available for **Linux** including word processors, spread sheets, art rendering, photo, etc.

A little background on **Linux**:

Linux is an operating system that evolved from a kernel created by Linus Torvalds when he was a student at the University of Helsinki. Generally, it is obvious to most people what Linux is. However, both for political and practical reasons, it needs to be explained further. To say that Linux is an operating system means that it's meant to be used as an alternative to other operating systems, Windows, Mac OS, MS-DOS, Solaris and others. Linux is not a program like a word processor and is not a set of programs like an office suite. Linux is an interface between computer/server hardware, and the programs which run on it.

When Linus Torvalds was studying at the University of Helsinki, he was using a version of the UNIX operating system called 'Minix'.

Linus and other users sent requests for modifications and improvements to Minix's creator, Andrew Tanenbaum, but he felt that they weren't necessary. That's when Linus decided to create his own operating system that would take into account users' comments and suggestions for improvements.

most web servers and cloud servers use the **Linux OS**. It is much more secure and stable than other operating systems.

Lawrence agreed to download and create about 15 CDs that group members could use for experiencing **Linux**. These CDs can be booted to without installing and all the **Linux** features are available except saving a file. After running your computer on the CD if you decide to install it as a main or secondary dual boot OS Lawrence will be at our October Meeting to help you.



All you need do is bring your tower, keyboard, and mouse or your laptop. Lawrence gave me 17 CDs **Mint 17** on them. I will be handing these out to anybody who wants them at our September meeting. That will give you a month to play with them before deciding whether to install it on your computer.