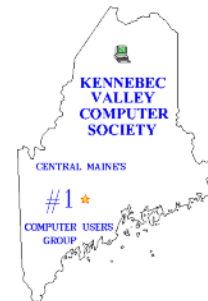


# The Newsletter of the Kennebec Valley Computer Society



**MAY 2012**



**Flowering Crab Apple Tree**

## **GEEKS ON WHEELS TOUR**

The next 'tour' is set for Saturday, May 12. It starts out at the Gardiner station and ends up in Boston (Cambridge) with stops here and there coming and going. If you are interested talk with Tim True or send him an e-mail - driver@kvcs.org Seating space is limited so act fast if interested.

This time we will be going to Melrose, MA, to the main Hunt's Photo and Video store for their semi-annual sale. We may or may not have time to go to the Calumet Photo and Video store in Cambridge. We will, though, be going to Microcenter in Cambridge.

Need a camera.....a new computer, computer parts, a tablet, software, a book? This is the tour to do it. There are 'experts' along to give all the advice you can stand..... if in doubt.

Lunch or late lunch is at the Texas Roadhouse in Danvers.

We are civilized. We have coffee and whoopie pies before leaving for the drive down and ice cream and/or coffee on the way back.

**KENNEBEC VALLEY  
COMPUTER SOCIETY  
SINCE 1984**

My new neighbor has put in place some bee hives. I love it. The little workers are all over this tree and my other fruit trees doing one of the things they do best. Pollination. They also make the honey. What a deal!

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## **KVCS MEETINGS**

### **General Membership**

The program for this months meeting will be a consumer preview of Windows 8

**Thursday,**

**May 10, 7:00 PM**

**Baker Community Center on**

**Armory Street, just off**

**Western Avenue near the**

**National Guard Armory in**

**Augusta.**

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 16, 6:00 PM at Lisa's Restaurant, Bangor Street, Augusta

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You may upload copy via E-Mail or bring to the KVCS general membership meeting. **Deadline for submission of copy for the newsletter is the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue and will be run on a space available basis.** Copy is subject to editing.

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## **KVCS WEB SITE**

[www.kvcs.org](http://www.kvcs.org)

*Click the link for more information about KVCS.*

*Bob Wells, our webmaster is suggesting you make it the opening page for your web browser so you get the latest announcements.*

## **KVCS**

**Since 1984 - Central Maine's  
First Computer User Group**



Member of  
The Association of  
Personal Computer User Groups

## **Windows 8 – Exciting and Challenging** By John Pearce, Member, Pikes Peak Computer Application Society, CO March 12 issue, Bits and Bytes <http://ppcompas.apcug.org> [Glenihan@comcast.net](mailto:Glenihan@comcast.net)

The Microsoft Development Team for Windows 8 has been writing a blog about its development. The first post was in August, 2011; the frequency varies from a few days to a few weeks. I have often wondered why certain design decisions are made in the Windows OS. The blog attempts to discuss some of those issues as related to Windows 8. < <http://bit.ly/xIUci8> >

Based on what I have read in the Microsoft blog and in the computer trade press, I think Windows 8 will be both exciting and challenging. Windows 8 will run on legacy x32/64 hardware as well as the ARM processor found in tablets. The blog posting related to the ARM processor called this Windows on ARM or WOA.

You will have your choice of Windows 8 on a desktop, laptop, net book, ultra book, or tablet.

The look and feel of the Metro interface will be the same across all the hardware platforms. The difference is the physical control of the interface. If you want to use the touch interface with your desktop PC, you will need a touch enabled screen, otherwise you will still use

the mouse. You can also revert to the old style desktop if you must.

In some ways, Windows 8 reminds me of the transition in Windows that happened with Win 2000. A benefit of melding the Windows 98/Me product line with the NT 3/4 product line was a way to run games that wanted to have direct control of the display screen. The dark side of the Win 2K release required new drivers for devices because Microsoft changed how drivers interact with the OS.

Windows on ARM generally requires new code. Porting most of the existing applications is not allowed because the ported applications would negatively affect battery life and would require more system resources than programs developed specifically for WOA. And there is the issue of designing the interface for Metro rather than the traditional Windows desktop.

The Windows Consumer Preview (otherwise known as a Win 8 beta release) was available by the end of February. The release is reported to be open to anyone who wishes to download and install the software. The hardware used to run the preview must meet the minimum requirements for Windows 7.

Microsoft is saying there is lots of work to do before the first release candidate is ready. There are few hints about the Windows 8 release schedule. It appears Microsoft is aiming for a grand slam event with Windows 8 on tablets (ARM processors) and on x32/64 hardware.

**Article provided by APCUG - All Rights Reserved**

## **Crime and Conflict Over the Internet**

**By Greg Skalka, President,  
Under the Computer Hood  
User Group, CA**

**October 2011 issue, Drive Light**  
[www.uchug.org](http://www.uchug.org)  
[President@uchug.org](mailto:President@uchug.org)

Recently my family and I were in Las Vegas and while we were there, another hacking incident hit the news. [Zappos.com](http://Zappos.com), an online shoe and clothing retailer, announced that they had been the victim of a cyber-attack. Being based in nearby Henderson, the reports on this company that I was previously unaware of (you can imagine how much online shoe buying I do) dominated the Las Vegas local news. Customer address, phone and email information had been stolen, but fortunately credit card info and account passwords remained secure.

This was just one more incident in an increasing trend of crime and conflict conducted over the Internet.

Reports of hacked computers and stolen commercial data have become commonplace. The Internet appears to be a prime medium for crime, with organized crime elements taking advantage of the easy access and anonymity. I've so far avoided being part of one of these data thefts from a major company that I've entrusted with some of my personal information, but it is probably just a matter of time until I'm a victim too. I'm also under siege on a smaller scale, receiving several scam emails every day. Most are such obvious scams that I almost have to laugh. Is the head of the FBI or Secretary of State Hillary Clinton really going to email me about claiming foreign

funds I previously knew nothing about? I have seen some pretty realistic emails from banks (mostly ones I don't do business with, but a few that I do), advising me to click on a link to avoid a loss of account access. A little restraint and outside research show even the most polished of these to be fakes intended to trick you out of personal information or plant malware on your computer.

The worst of these online scams try to use your own friends and family to trick you into lowering your guard. I recently received an unsolicited email from my sister, which was also addressed to a number of other family members. It contained only a vague greeting and a link. I recognized it as a scam, but my wife did not.

Fortunately, it appears the link only led to a Viagra-peddling website, as repeated cleanings of her computer turned up no malware. It appears that someone gained access to my sister's email account and used it to send this message to everyone in her email address book. After receiving this sham email herself at work, she changed her email account password and sent a warning out to all her contacts. That showed good web etiquette. I receive similar emails periodically from a friend's account, but he never responds to my warnings about his email account being hijacked. If you lose control of an email account in this way, at least let the provider know so the account can be closed. If you simply abandon the compromised account, you'll likely leave a zombie account out there to continue pestering your friends.

In addition to the criminal element, the political conflicts of our world are starting to creep into the Internet.

While electronic personal communications can play a positive role in exposing repression around the world, and can be a tool for change towards more open and free political systems, the access to information can also be a weapon. Enemies of our country and way of life hack our government and commercial web sites to steal information and deny legitimate access. Our businesses and institutions may be under attack through the Internet by factions related to or agents of China, Russia or our middle-eastern adversaries. Our own government has formed cyber warfare elements and acknowledges that future battles may include skirmishes in cyberspace. It is speculated that the Stuxnet worm, which appears to have targeted uranium processing facilities in Iran, may have been the product of U.S. or Israeli intelligence agencies. Palestinian hackers steal and release account information from banks and institutions in Israel, leading some in Israel to do the same with information on Palestinians.

Where will all this lead? I'd hate to see the "Information Superhighway" that was supposed to be our free and open Internet turned into the electronic equivalent of the highways in "Mad Max", where danger lurks everywhere and lawlessness abounds.

And speaking of laws on the Internet, we have recently witnessed online protests over U.S. Internet piracy legislation. A number of prominent web sites, including Google and

-Continued on next page-

## Crime On The Internet - continued

Wikipedia, conducted partial shutdowns or redirections to protest pending legislation and solicit support from their users. The Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and Protect IP Act (PIPA) are bills under consideration by the U.S. Congress to protect intellectual property. Opponents claim the proposed legislation would harm free speech and reduce technical innovation on the web. I acknowledge online piracy is a problem, but also don't want a solution at the expense of an open Internet. Hopefully our own government won't soon be in the censoring business. We all have an interest in how this issue is resolved.

With all this conflict on and over the web, it makes me wonder if I'm taking all the reasonable measures I can to protect myself and my assets as I use the Internet. It is sometimes difficult to determine where "reasonable" fits in between "it won't happen to me" and a bunker mentality. As I've moved my finances and shopping online, I've realized I've become more dependent on the Internet. By conducting all my banking activities, including bill payment and monitoring of accounts, on the web, I hope I've not made myself more vulnerable in the process. Am I safer not having bank statements mailed to me, or am I now more open to theft by hacking or scams? How would I access my money in a web-only bank account if the Internet should for some reason go down? It is great to be able to surf where I want, but does that surfing potentially expose me to malware that could capture my account information when I bank with the same computer? Is it

paranoid to consider using a separate computer for banking and another for other web access?

It is exciting to think that the whole world can be accessed through that little RJ-45 Ethernet jack on your cable or DSL modem. It should also be sobering to consider that the whole world could be there in that connection.

### Tablets of Clay

The crooks are not only after us on the Internet, but also in our electronics stores. Over this last Christmas, a number of iPad purchasers got the wrong kind of tablet. In Canada, a number of customers that purchased iPads at reputable stores like Best Buy and Walmart later found the box contained not a tablet PC but a slab of modeling clay. In perhaps more than a dozen reported cases, it appears crooks purchased iPads at these stores with cash, replaced the items in the box with the same weight in clay and expertly resealed the boxes. The boxes were returned to the stores for refunds, and since they appeared to be unopened, they were replaced on the shelves to be purchased by unsuspecting customers. The first customer discovering this switch was thought to be a scammer by the store, but after additional cases were discovered, he was reimbursed and given an iPad

### Article provided by APCUG - All Rights Reserved

We had an early Spring in March, temperatures into the 80's and then went back to 'normal' Spring. We are now entering May and the flowers are coming on. Good...!

## Sleepy Computer-NOT and the Mouse

A few issues back there was an article about power saving modes covering sleep, hibernate and hybrid hibernate in this newsletter. I haven't experienced any problems with these functions on my computers running Windows 7 or clients I have that are running this OS. Recently, I was asked to look at a brand new, factory built computer that would not do any of these shut down functions automatically. The OS is Windows 7.

A wireless mouse was installed and the keyboard was a USB wired direct to a computer port. I tried numerous settings and none worked.

Since the computer was new and under warranty a call to customer service was initiated. The technician took remote control of the computer and fiddled around with it for awhile to no avail. We could hear a helper in the background coaching her. Finally, we were asked about the computer configuration.... Was there a wireless mouse being used? Yes. At that point it was suggested we use a rodent with a tail plugged directly to a USB port. Problem solved. A look at Google showed there have been issues with wireless mice waking up sleeping computers but not much about mice not allowing computers to go to sleep automatically.

The manufacturer's rep was asked why wireless mice would not allow the computer to go to sleep. No real good answer forthcoming.

What I finally found in the vast world of Google was older wireless mice with old drivers or the drivers taken

-continued on page 7 -

## Managing the “Autos” in MS Office 2007/2010

By Nancy DeMarte,  
Regular Columnist (Office Talk),  
Sarasota PCUG, Florida  
February 2012 issue,  
Sarasota PC Monitor  
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[Ndemarte@Verizon.net](mailto:Ndemarte@Verizon.net)

I can't count the number of times I have begun a list in a Word document by typing "1," only to look up to find that my 1 is now indented by a quarter inch and the text by a half inch, which was not what I wanted. I was experiencing the frustration sometimes caused by a feature of Microsoft Office programs called AutoCorrect. First, let me say that I am a big fan of the automatic editing and formatting concept. MS developers spent a lot of time interviewing users about their most common errors. Then, to make the programs more efficient, they added to Word, Excel, and PowerPoint a feature that makes these corrections while the user is typing. In some cases, however, when the automatic correction is not what I intend, I lose time undoing it. Therefore, early in my Office experience, I learned how to customize the "Autos" to my needs.

### AutoCorrect and Auto Format

If you want to see what AutoCorrect and AutoFormat actually control in Word, click the Office button, and then Word Options. (File tab, then Options in Word 2010). Next click Proofing in the left pane, followed by the AutoCorrect Options button. This window has 5 tabs at the top. Exploring the content of each one will give you a good sense of what can be auto-corrected or formatted. You can adjust the checkboxes to

create the auto corrections that fit your style. Here are my five favorite options, which I always keep checked:

1. "Correct the accidental use of the cAPS LOCK key" tops the list. It's too easy to hit that Caps Lock key without noticing it until a whole paragraph has been typed. (AutoCorrect tab)

2. "Replace text as you type" gives you access to the extensive list of commonly misspelled words and other typical errors, along with their corrections. For example, if you type "teh" for "the", it is automatically corrected. You can use the list as is, delete items, or add your own typical misspellings with the correct ones. (AutoCorrect tab)

3. "Replace fractions (1/2) with fraction character -- ½" and "Replace ordinals (1st) with superscripts (1<sup>st</sup>)" make a document look more professional in an instant. (AutoFormat tab)

4. "Allow text to be dragged and dropped" is a feature that many Office users are not aware of. You can move small groups of text from one place to another on a page by simply selecting the text, placing the mouse pointer anywhere in the selected area, and holding the mouse button down for a second or two until a small dotted rectangle appears near the mouse pointer. Without letting go of the mouse button, drag the text to its new location. When a vertical dotted line shows you where it will appear, let go of the button. This is the quick alternative to cut and paste. (Word Options --- Advanced)

5. "Show Tooltips on hover" gives you immediate definitions for

command buttons by merely moving the mouse pointer over the item and reading the information that appears. (Word Options – Display)

Here are my five least favorite Auto options, which I keep unchecked:

1. "Capitalize first letters of table cells" is an option I don't want because I use tables for so many different purposes. (AutoCorrect tab)

2. "(Replace) Internet and network paths with hyperlinks" is good idea, but I often include a website or email address in a document with no intention of having it linked to the web. (AutoFormat and AutoFormat As You Type tabs – uncheck both)

3. "(Apply) automatic numbered lists" addresses the situation I mentioned in the first paragraph. If I am creating a numbered list, I may want to put my numbers at the left margin to save space, rather than have them indented. (AutoFormat As You Type tab)

4. "Use Insert key to use overtype mode" is one of my most annoying features of Word. Overtyping mode means that to change a group of text, you merely type new text starting where the old text begins; the new replaces the old. But because the Insert key is located just above the Delete key on the keyboard, it is often pressed accidentally, engaging overtype mode. The next words typed will overwrite whatever is ahead of them. You can see the problem. (Word Options – Advanced)

5. "Automatically create drawing canvas when inserting Auto shapes" can cause a lot of frustration. The

-Continued on Page 7-

KENNEBEC VALLEY COMPUTER SOCIETY  
Presents

# Windows 8 Consumer Preview

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Presented by

**Panel Discussion**

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**Thursday May 10 th 2012 - 7 PM**

**Social Time 6:30 to 7 PM**

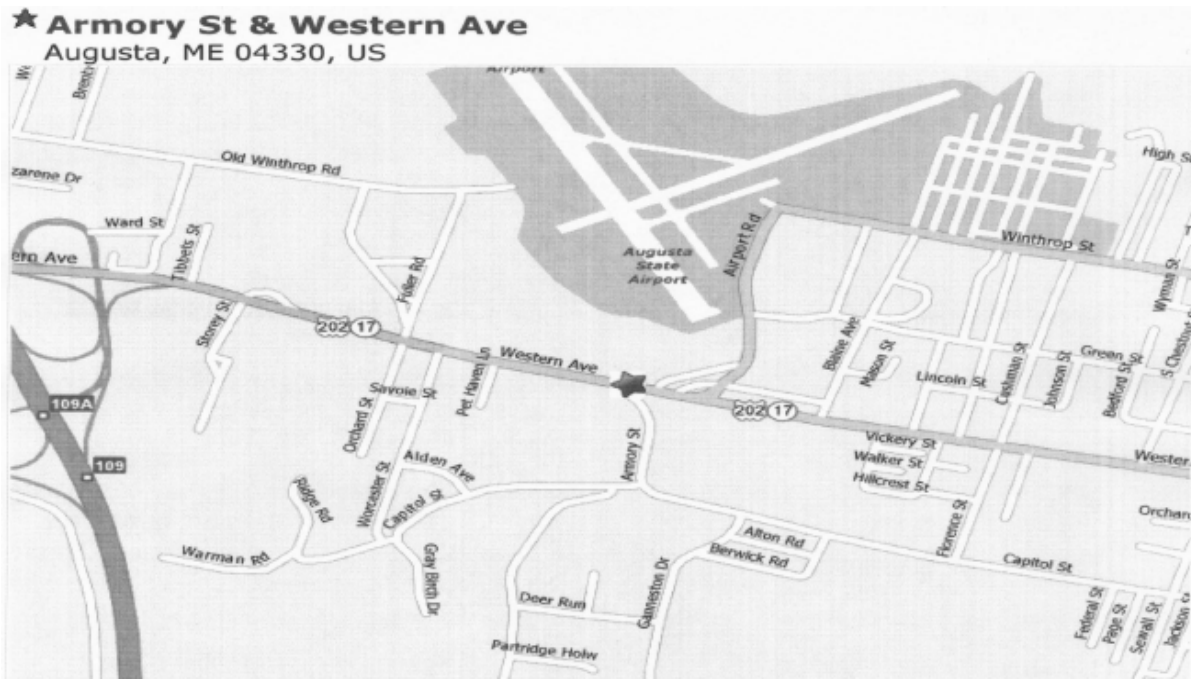
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**Lou Buker Community Center  
Armory Street  
Augusta, Maine**

**The Public is Cordially Invited**

**Bring a friend, meet a friend**

# KVCS MEETING LOCATION



## Wireless Mouse and Sleep - continued-

directly from Windows 7 (and Vista) may cause these problems.

Out of curiosity, the client asked if I would try a new wireless mouse with its' accompanying drivers to see if that works with the new computer. Just haven't had time to do that yet.

## -Editor-

### KIDS ARE QUICK - ADULTS NOT SO MUCH

**TEACHER:** George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

**LOUIS:** Because George still had the axe in his hand.....

## -Managing The Autos -continued-

drawing canvas, introduced in Office 2003, allows you to keep shapes together in complex diagrams. It turned out to be hard to control, however, and in 2007 was relegated to optional status. (Word Options – Advanced)

### AutoRecover

Before you leave Word Options, click Save in the left pane. Here, in the Save Documents area, you will find several options which you can edit to your preferences. Here are the two most important:

· “Save files in this format.” – The default choice here is .docx, which is the file type for Word 2007 and 2010 documents. If you normally save your documents as the Word 2003 or earlier file type, .doc, then this is the place to set the file format so it will affect all future documents except those you change manually.

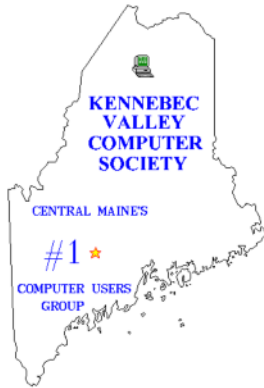
Click the down arrow to get the list and choose .doc.

· “Save AutoRecover information every 10 mins.” -- In Word, Excel, and PowerPoint 2007 and 2010, your work is automatically saved periodically to protect it in case of an unexpected power outage or other disruption. The default is 10 minutes, but you can lessen or increase the time between saves. A shorter time keeps your files safer, but might slow down the program's response time. A better solution might be to save work manually after you complete important sections using the keystroke shortcut, Ctrl+S.

The “Autos” can be very useful as long as you set them up to match your style.

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Change of address

I would like to see more. Please send me a complimentary issue of the Newsletter.

I would like to join KVCS / renew my membership.

<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Renewal (Dues waived for 2012 membership year)	FOR KVCS USE
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member (Dues waived for 2012 membership year)	DP _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (Dues waived for 2012 membership year)	CH _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (Full time status - Dues waived for 2012 membership year)	CA _____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

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Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

**12/05** Signature: \_\_\_\_\_