

The Newsletter of the Kennebec Valley Computer Society



JANUARY 2011

**Visit our Website:
www.kvcs.org**

As you have already noticed, the editor has taken license and changed the first page.... somewhat. I looked back at the archives and realized the 'new' fresh first page was implemented in March 1995. Time for a change. We have had change all over the place. Some good and some bad. So with a new year, it's time for this change.

No Membership Dues for 2011

The Board of Directors has decided there will be no membership dues for this upcoming year. Our financials are solid, we have few expenses, so we will continue on at no cost to you.

Newsletter - Website - Internet linkages

The editor has talked with the Board of Directors as to how better to link the newsletter to the Internet. One of the things that would enhance the interest in the newsletter would be to have the URL links that appear in the newsletter be 'live' rather than having to copy off the information and then going to a browser to see that site. The Board of Directors approved the idea and empowered the editor to see if there is an inexpensive way to accomplish this.

Happy New Year

The Officers and Board of Directors of the Society wish you a very happy and prosperous new year. We look forward to seeing you at our membership meetings. We also continue to invite you to let us know what interests you have and what we can provide in our programs.

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KVCS MEETINGS

General Membership

The program for this months meeting will be a presentation and demonstration of Windows Server by Steve Day.

Thursday, January 13, 7:00 PM

Buker Community Center on Armory Street, just off Western Avenue near the National Guard Armory in Augusta.

Board of Directors Meeting

NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, January 19, 6:30 to 8:30 PM** at Lisa's Restaurant, 15 Bangor Street, Augusta.

**The Newsletter of the
Kennebec Valley Computer
Society**

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Send copy to the Editor:

Cecil Munson
760 Riverside Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330-8306
TEL: 622-0225

E-mail address:

cecil.munson@gmail.com

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 Officers and Board of Directors - 2011

President	Tim True driver@kvcs.org
Vice President	Bob Wells hardware@kvcs.org
Secretary - Recording	Robert Lloyd Wheelock robwheelock12@aol.com
Secretary - Membership	Steve Pooler poolers@mityfine.com
Treasurer	David Winslow treasurer@kvcs.org
Honorary (Past President)	Josh Zukerman josh@nailbat.net
Directors (2 Year - Expires 12/2012)	Cecil Munson cecil.munson@gmail.com Brian Boudreau boudreaub@hotmail.com
Directors (1 Year - Expires 12/2011)	Chad Perkins chad@maine.edu Steve Day seday@tds.net

KVCS WEB SITE

The URL for our web site is

www.kvcs.org

Check there for more information about KVCS. Bob Wells is suggesting you make it the opening page for your web browser so you get the latest announcements.

Bob Wells is the webmaster for the KVCS site. Go to www.kvcs.org and look around. While there sign up for member access.

Kennebec Valley Computer Society Account Balances Report December 15, 2010

<u>Bank Accounts</u>	
Certificate of Deposit	2,397.21
Checking	<u>479.57</u>
TOTAL Bank Accounts	2,876.78
OVERALL TOTAL	2,876.78



Member of
The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups

Social Networking and Friends

by Hewie Poplock

“Hewie’s News & Reviews”
(www.hewie.net)

There is a new report that shows that Internet users 50+ have nearly doubled in just the past year, from 22% to 42% in 2010. The survey goes on to say that almost half of Internet users 50-64 and about 26% users age 65 and older now use social networking sites.

While email and online news are still more appealing to older users, these people are now using the social sites and are repeat users, at that. The report goes on to say it shows that one attraction to seniors and others as well, is reconnecting with people from their past. It also states that older adults are more likely to be living with a chronic disease and are more likely to seek out online support with others afflicted or with medical professionals.

I am in the “older adults” category, as are many of my friends. Although I am more technically savvy than most, I am still seeing many people from my past and present in my age group using Facebook. I also must say that I have many friends who resist this new social stuff.

I am amazed that many of my friends, who have resisted a lot of the Internet hoopla and used AOL for many years because it was easy, are using Facebook and doing so daily. Some are very passive and are mostly lurkers. Others have immersed themselves in social networking and have renewed friendships and have become closer friends to many that they only occasionally see in person.

I have never played any of the games on Facebook and “hide” the references to Farmville, Mafia Wars, and such. I don’t post that I went to a movie or had stopped at McDonalds on the way home, but do not mind when my “friends” do. I do enjoy seeing pictures from my friends, hearing that my real estate sales friend sold a home, hearing that another friend found a job, or a friend’s daughter finished a charity race.

Each of us has our own interests and it is fun sharing them with your friends. I enjoy seeing what others do and what they are interested in. I can see what others in my age bracket find fun and interesting when using social networking. Being the careful and responsible computer person that I am, I always watch what I say and post to protect my information and the information of others. I also advise others to use the privacy settings that they are comfortable with and not to post anything that they do not want the whole world to see.

The report also says that social media bridges generational gaps. I totally agree. I see that grandparents and the rest of the family keep in touch, but all need to remember that what you share with your peers may not be items that you want to share with your family, your bosses, or your ex.

Various organizations that work with older adults, such as AARP, Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) and Project GOAL, have been actively promoting social media resources that are relevant to mature users.

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KVCS
Since 1984 - Central Maine’s First Computer User Group

GEEKS ON WHEELS TOUR

The next ‘tour’ is set for Saturday, January 15. It starts out at the Gardiner station and ends up in Boston 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

We always go to Microcenter in Cambridge, MA and usually Calumet Camera also in Cambridge. Lunch is at the Texas Roadhouse in Everett or Danvers.

Need a camera.....a new computer, computer parts, 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.

We are civilized. We have coffee and whoopie pies before leaving for the drive down.

Drop Box

In last months’ late newsletter I included an article about Acronis True Image, the software that provides a full image of your hard drive that can be used to restore your computer after a disaster, like hard drive failure. This time, I’m gong to briefly mention Drop Box, an on-line data back up program.

Dropbox allows you to sync your files online and across your computers automatically. Features include:

- * 2GB of online storage for free, with up to 100GB available to paying customers.
 - * Sync files of any size or type.
 - * Sync Windows, Mac, and Linux computers.
- continued on next page-

Dick's Clicks

**By Dick Ramette, President,
Computer Club of
Green Valley, AZ
Summer 2010 Issue,
Green Bytes
Rwramette (at) mindspring.com**

This month I clicked on "email etiquette" in Google, and found 163,000 hits, with myriad suggestions for doing the right thing. I realize that many of you do not need this, but others, including my own kith and kin, should take note of these pet peeves. Please take the quiz:

1. A friend emails you with the subject "Meg's birthday," and attaches three nice pics of the little sweetie with her cake and candles. Do you immediately reply and comment on the happy occasion, leaving the subject unchanged?

2. A month later, when you email this same friend about your successful hip replacement, and you use Reply to get started, do you use something relevant, like "I'm so Hippy," instead of lazily leaving "Meg's birthday" as the subject line?

3. When a friend sends you anything welcome, do you give them the courtesy of a prompt reply/thank you, knowing that they'll appreciate that you received it and cared enough to respond?

4. When you Reply, do you delete all traces of the incoming email, especially any pics or a long attachment, thus saving clutter on your friend's hard disk which, after all, already has a copy of what was sent?

5. Someone emails you a scary warning of impending doom if you get an email with a certain clickable link. Or, it might be an amazing come on, saying that Microsoft will pay you cash for every person to whom you relay this message,

so they can check a new method of email tracking. You are begged to forward this to everyone in your address book. You notice that this email has already been successively forwarded several times, each time accumulating long visible lists of email addresses of previous recipients.

Do you take time to check a hoax or urban legend web site, such as www.snopes.com or www.scambusters.org, to see if this message has validity? Most likely you'll find that it has been debunked, perhaps still making the rounds after several years. Do you spare others needless anxiety and wasted time by simply deleting such emails? They're meant to deceive gullible readers, which is rather funny given that "gullible" is not even in the dictionary.

6. When you Forward an email that is legit, perhaps a collection of cute rattlesnake pics, do you delete any previously-accumulated email addresses? When you write to multiple email addresses, do you Send using BCC (blind carbon copies)? In both cases, it's a matter of protecting email address privacies.

7. For all emails, before clicking on Send, do you read your composition to find typos, poor phrasing, bad punctuation and misspelled words? Do you avoid all upper-case words except when you want to be read as SHOUTING? Do you minimize those !!!s? It's all a matter of caring, courtesy and competence.

8. Did you get a perfect score, without "No" answers to any of the questions?

Thought of the Month: "Type unto others as you would have them type unto you."

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Will our computing experience be shaped by Microsoft competitors?

**By Constance Brown, President,
Canton/Alliance/Massillon
Users Group, Ohio
The Memory Map,
April 2010 Issue
www.camug.com / [constanceb \(at\) camug.com](mailto:constanceb@camug.com)**

Our total computing experience may well be shaped in the future by Microsoft competitors. Think that is an over statement? Just think of the changes Microsoft is making to keep up with new demands from a changing computer environment based on more mobile devices and the need to share documents quickly in a web-based environment. Many changes are being pioneered by competitors that are stepping up with new devices, applications, and software.

One competitor is Google. Google Docs were designed to allow the creation of documents online in an environment similar to Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, making it easy to collaborate in real time. Price? No charge. A few months ago Google released the new Chrome Browser. Google also released the Android operating system for phones which are very popular and not susceptible to the viruses written for Windows. Droid phones allow users to browse the internet, exchange email, take pictures, and do hundreds of tasks quickly and efficiently. Oh, yes. People talk on them too.

We have been waiting for Google's new Chrome Operating System, wondering how it will compare to Windows.

To answer that question, I visited Google's official blog. Here is some of what I learned from the July 7, 2009, entry.

“Google Chrome OS will run on both x86 as well as ARM chips and we are working with multiple OEMs to bring a number of netbooks to market next year. The software architecture is simple — Google Chrome running within a new windowing system on top of a Linux kernel. For application developers, the web is the platform. All web-based applications will automatically work and new applications can be written using your favorite web technologies. And, of course, these apps will run not only on Google Chrome OS, but on any standards-based browser on Windows, Mac and Linux thereby giving developers the largest user base of any platform.

“Google Chrome OS is a new project, separate from Android. Android was designed from the beginning to work across a variety of devices from phones to set-top boxes to netbooks. Google Chrome OS is being created for people who spend most of their time on the web, and is being designed to power computers ranging from small netbooks to full-size desktop systems. While there are areas where Google Chrome OS and Android overlap, we believe choice will drive innovation for the benefit of everyone, including Google.”

“We hear a lot from our users and their message is clear — computers need to get better. People want to get to their email instantly, without wasting time waiting for their computers to boot and browsers to start up. They want their computers to always run as fast as when they first bought them. They want their

data to be accessible to them wherever they are and not have to worry about losing their computer or forgetting to back up files. Even more importantly, they don't want to spend hours configuring their computers to work with every new piece of hardware, or have to worry about constant software updates.”

On November 19, 2009, Google open-sourced the code for Chrome OS, a year before the developers anticipate that the OS will be ready for general use. Anyone who wishes to download the code and contribute to the development of the operating system may do so. I am not a developer and have no interest in writing code. But I am interested in the results. It is a totally new way of computing. Here are excerpts from Google's official blog on November 19.

“First, it's all about the web. All apps are web apps. The entire experience takes place within the browser and there are no conventional desktop applications. This means users do not have to deal with installing, managing and updating programs.”

“Second, because all apps live within the browser, there are significant benefits to security. Unlike traditional operating systems, Chrome OS doesn't trust the applications you run. Each app is contained within a security sandbox making it harder for malware and viruses to infect your computer. Furthermore, Chrome OS barely trusts itself. Every time you restart your computer the operating system verifies the integrity of its code. If your system has been compromised, it is designed to fix itself with a reboot. While no computer can be made completely secure, we're going to make life much harder (and less

profitable) for the bad guys. If you dig security, read the Chrome OS Security Overview or watch the video.”

“Most of all, we are obsessed with speed. We are taking out every unnecessary process, optimizing many operations and running everything possible in parallel. This means you can go from turning on the computer to surfing the web in a few seconds. Our obsession with speed goes all the way down to the metal. We are specifying reference hardware components to create the fastest experience for Google Chrome OS.”

No doubt this new model will change the way we use computers in the future—at least for most people. Things will not change suddenly. But it is highly likely that a web based computing environment will be the norm for most users in the future.

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Drop Box - continued

* Automatically syncs when new files or changes are detected.

Sharing Files and Folders

* Shared folders allow several people to collaborate on the same files.
* See other people's changes instantly.
* Use your "Public" folder to link directly to files.

* Control who has access to your shared folders. Kick people out and remove the shared files from their computers in the process.
* Automatically create shareable online photo galleries out of regular folders.

-continued on page 7-

KENNEBEC VALLEY COMPUTER SOCIETY
Presents

Windows Server

Presented by
Steve Day

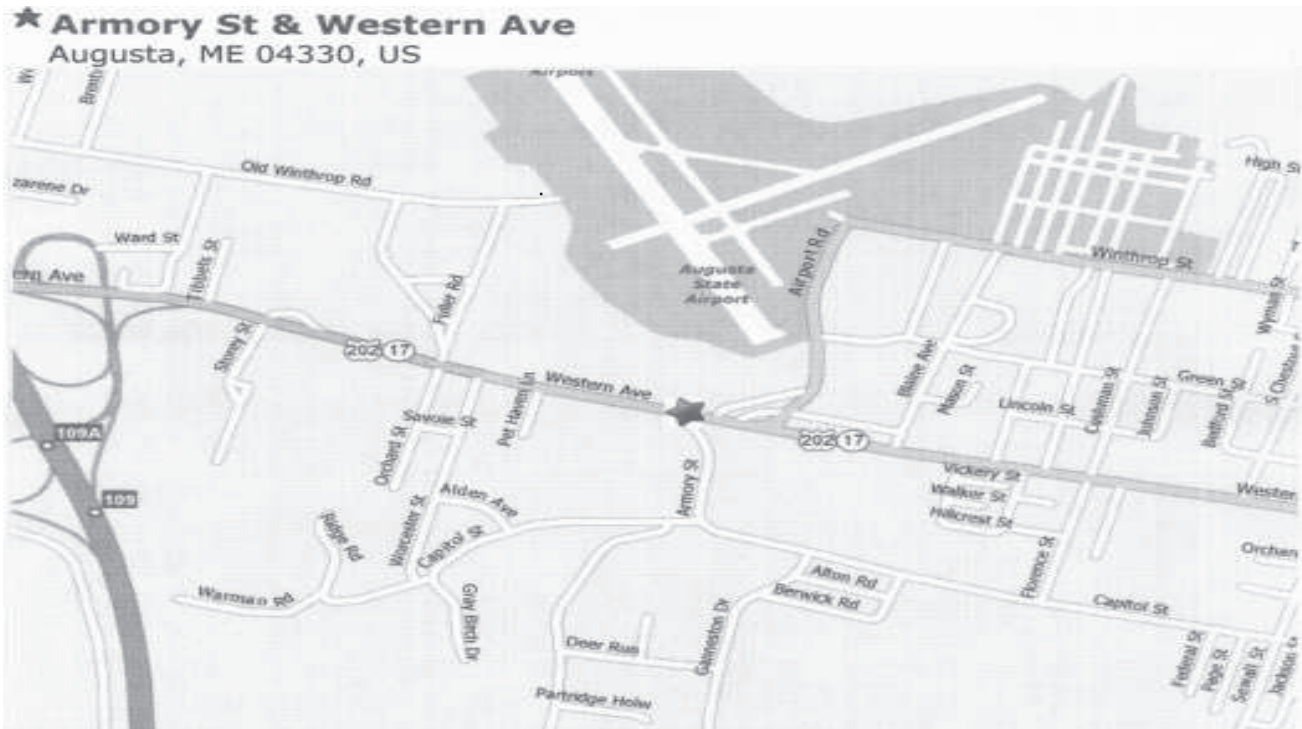
Thursday January 13 th 2011 - 7 PM
Social Time 6:30 to 7 PM

Lou Buker Community Center
Armory Street
Augusta, Maine

The Public is Cordially Invited

Bring a friend, meet a friend

KVCS MEETING LOCATION



-Drop Box - continued-

Online Backup

Dropbox backs up your files online without you having to think about it.

- * Automatic backup of your files.
- * Undelete files and folders.
- * Restore previous versions of your files.
- * 30 days of undo history. Upgrades available for unlimited undo.

Web Access

A copy of your files is stored on Dropbox's secure servers. This lets you access them from any computer or mobile device.

- * Manipulate files as you would on your desktop. Add, edit, delete, rename, etc
- * A Recent Events feed that shows you a summary of activity in your Dropbox.

Security & Privacy

Dropbox takes the security and privacy of your files very seriously.

- * Shared folders are viewable only by people you invite.
- * All transmission of file data and meta data occurs over an encrypted channel (SSL).
- * All files stored on Dropbox servers are encrypted (AES-256).
- * Dropbox website and client software have been hardened against attacks from hackers.
- * Dropbox employees are not able to view any user's files.
- * Online access to your files requires your username and password.
- * Public files are only viewable by people who have a link to the file(s). Public folders are not browsable or searchable.

Mobile Device Access

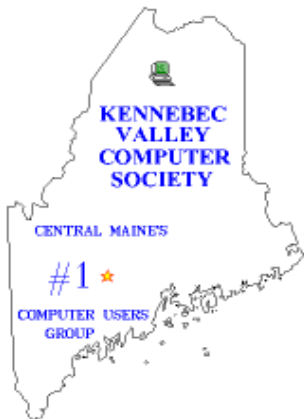
The free application for iPhone, iPad, BlackBerry and Android lets you:

- * View files from within the application.
- * Download files for offline viewing.
- * Take photos and videos and sync them to your Dropbox.
- * Share links to files in your Dropbox.
- * Export your files to other applications.
- * Sync downloaded files so they're up-to-date.

The free download is at www.dropbox.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

KENNEBEC VALLEY COMPUTER SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 2791
AUGUSTA, ME 04338-2791



KENNEBEC VALLEY COMPUTER SOCIETY

Post Office Box 2791, Augusta, Maine 04338-2791

____ 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.

() Annual Renewal (Dues waived for 2011 membership year)

FOR KVCS USE

() New Member (Dues waived for 2011 membership year)

DP _____

() Family (Dues waived for 2011 membership year)

CH _____

() Student (Full time status - Dues waived for 2011 membership year)

CA _____

Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Address: _____ City/State _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Your Interest in Joining KVCS? _____

Referred by: _____

11/01 Signature: _____