



2019

Inside This Issue

President's Letter Pg.2

LCCUG Officers Pg.2

Minutes Pg.4

Cheap Windows Scam? Pg.5

Classes & Workshop Pg.6

Interesting Web Sites Pg.7

Our New Location Map Pg.8



Tuesday
March 12, 2019

Amazon and Google smart devices

*Presented
By
LCCUG BOARD Members*

Sandra Ruth & Micky Knickman

Come learn with us!

The Lorain County Computer Users Group
P.O. Box 792
Amherst, Ohio 44001
Phone: 440-363-1232

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☺ Meetings Now Held at LCCC ☺

LCCC Community Learning Center
at Lorain High School
2600 Ashland Ave. Lorain, Ohio

Doors will open at 6:00 PM, program starts at 6:30 PM

A Word From Our President



Reminder! Please remember that as a member you can take advantage of our 3rd Tuesday **Problem Solving Workshop** and Small group training sessions. Free hand-holding for whatever your questions or problems are.

We are developing a process to record our monthly meetings for our members. We did record the February meeting on **Cutting the Cord** by recording the PowerPoint as we showed it and the dialogue of the presenters.

This is the link for the video of the meeting recording: <https://youtu.be/Qw8RhhL3InE>

Here is the **PDF** of the PowerPoint of the presentation used that evening: <https://goo.gl/shCEWZ>

We need to adjust this process when we want to record presentations that don't rely on the computer screen. We are experimenting with other techniques to make that do-able. Stay tuned!

We still want you to attend the meetings whenever possible. That's where we can socialize and offer spontaneous questions and comments and participate in the raffles and drawings and win prizes!!

We used to do programs on **Tax Programs** that members might be buying this time of year. I have a sense that most of our members are settled into the way they have their taxes done or what they use to do them themselves.

I used to always buy TurboTax. In recent years I have used online free software. If you make under \$66,000 a year, there is software with various tax companies available via the IRS.gov website.

Go to <https://www.irs.gov/> Click on "Free File Software" for Income below \$66,000

- File your taxes with free, easy to use software
- Free state return options are available. Use the Free File Software lookup Tool (<https://apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile/jsp/wizard.jsp>) to find free federal and free state return options

There is also information for Income above \$66,000 using *Free File Fillable Forms* and there is also a section for *Free File for business*!

I mention this because TurboTax and some of the

LCCUG Officers For 2018

President	Sandee Ruth president@lccug.com
Vice President	Carole Doerr vp-programs@lccug.com
Secretary	Don Hall secretary@lccug.com
Treasurer	Micky Knickman treasurer@lccug.com
Newsletter Editor	Pam Rihel newsletter@lccug.com
Web Page Editor	Richard Barnett webpage@lccug.com
Statutory Agent	Sandra Ruth statutory_agent@lccug.com
Director of Membership	Dennis Smith membership@lccug.com
Director of Advertising	Richard Barnett advertising@lccug.com
Director of Education	Neil Higgins education@lccug.com

commercial companies offer free versions of their software and then right away try to upsell you to a version costing \$\$\$!!

Also keep in mind that you can have your taxes done for free by volunteers at an AARP Tax Location (https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/). Locally, they are usually located at Public Libraries and two of our members, Micky and Vic are volunteers for this service.

Happy Tax season to us all!!

Sandra Ruth
LCCUG President

**Tuesday
March 12, 2018**

Smart Devices



*Presented
By*

Sandra Ruth & Micky Knickman



For people looking to convert a dumb home into a decidedly smart home, choosing between Google Home and Amazon Echo is the place to start. But actually knowing which option to choose — and when — can be difficult.

We will demonstrate some of the devices from both of these companies.

Should be a fun & informative meeting!

Computer Systems Unlimited, Inc.

We are a full service computer/peripheral sales and repair Company specializing in custom built Pc's, network design, software integration, and everything in-between. We are located in the small college town of Oberlin, Ohio, and for fourteen years have been providing unrivaled service to home users, small and large businesses all over Ohio as well as State and local government agencies. All of our systems and networks are tailored to meet the individual needs of our customers.



Onsite service and repair for all networks and systems, In house service and repair, Pick up and drop off, Printer repair and cleaning, Laptop repair, Software troubleshooting, Custom designed networks and pc's, MAC repair, Parts replacement & Expert advice and support and Data Recovery.

*** Computer Systems Unlimited is happy to offer a 5% discount on all computer systems ordered by LCCUG members.**

*** Computer Systems Unlimited will also offer a free computer diagnostics check, (a \$25 value), for all LCCUG members.**

Visit our web site at www.csuoberlin.com for more of what we can do.

Store Hour Monday 9-5:30 - Thursday 9-5:30 - Friday 9-5 - Saturday 9-1

Scambusters Alert of the Week

Impersonating the IRS is the top scam aimed at seniors, says a new report from the US Senate Aging Committee.

The Committee's 2019 Fraud Book lists the other most common scams for older folk to be on the lookout for as fake lotteries, phony computer support and grandparent scams.

You can read or download the committee's full 56-page report here: <https://www.collins.senate.gov/sites/default/files/2019%20Fraud%20Book.pdf>

MEETING CANCELLATION NOTICE

When a meeting is cancelled, the notification will be on our Websites and emails will be sent out to our members.

Our Website is: www.lccug.com

If you think the weather is too bad to drive in then don't try to come to a meeting that may already be cancelled. Please check your email boxes and our websites.

Thank You

Attention! Attention! Attention!



Now you can get a 5 year membership subscription to LCCUG for only \$75.00.

This is a savings of \$50.00. Can't beat this price.

So talk to Micky Knickman our Treasurer and get started on your 5 year membership today.

Don't wait until this great offer disappears.



Executive Board Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 5, 2019

The board Google Hangout video meeting was attended by Sandee Ruth, Carole Doerr, Don Hall, Micky Knickman, Pam Rihel, Richard Barnett, Dennis Smith and Neil Higgins.

Sandee picked up 2 Echo Dots from Staples to be used as prizes for our software/hardware raffle. They were paid for from ink cartridges turned in.

Considerable time was spent discussing how we will proceed with getting an internet connection in the classroom at Lorain High School due to the controversy between Lorain High and LCCC. Neil was willing to offer his phone hot spot if that would work.

There is an interest in video recording our meetings for distribution to our members who cannot attend. Micky, Sandee and Neil are investigating methods and costs.

Prizes were selected for the February 12 meeting.

Micky moved, Richard seconded meeting be adjourned.



General Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 12, 2019

President Sandee Ruth called the meeting to order. A motion to accept the minutes as shown in the February issue of the *INTERFACE* was made by Bud Ennis, seconded by Ray Stevens. Motion passed by voice vote.

Sandee reviewed the February newsletter and informed members that the March program will be covering virtual assistants like Alexa, Siri, Cortana and Google. Neil will explain creating and using spread sheets during the workshop next Tuesday.

Sandee and Micky presented a program "Cutting The Cord". Sandee began with the question, "What do you watch?". The answer will help determine which of the various alternatives will bring in the programs you want. She presented different indoor and outdoor antennas. The question where do you live in Lorain County will guide you in choosing since reception varies greatly. She continued with streaming from the internet using a Fire stick or Smart TV,s

Don Hall won the attendance raffle, Margie Soto-Rivera won the rollover and Cliff Salisbury won the Software/hardware raffle.

Dick Long moved, Joe Harrold seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

NEOPC Meetings

Check out their website at: <http://neopc.org/>

No recent meetings



CGB TECH



CGB Tech Solutions Inc is a full service computer sales and service company. We help commercial, residential and non-profit clients throughout Northeast Ohio by providing professional on-site service, sales and repairs. We are industry certified in the repair and design of computer systems and networks. CGB Tech offers sales and support for a wide range of hardware.

Specialize in providing services to non-profit clients throughout Northeast Ohio. Take pride in our fair pricing, quality service, prompt response and accessible staff.

Come on in! We mainly focus on you the customer directly in computer repair at this location. Just stop by and drop off your computer, no appointment is necessary. Most repairs are completed within 48 Hours. if it takes, longer you will be notified. We also have computers and computer accessories available!

Members receive a 10% discount

To Learn More Contact Us

Avon
36964 Detroit Rd
Avon, Ohio 44011
(216) 373-9449

Support@CGBTech.com or Web site: CGBtech.com



**Association of Personal
Computer User Groups**

MEMBERSHIP WITH LCCUG:

Yearly dues are \$25.00. For more information contact:

Dennis Smith
Director of Membership,
membership@lccug.com.

Meeting Location:

LCCC Community Center at Lorain High School
2600 Ashland Ave, Lorain Ohio
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Meeting room is on the second floor.
Elevator access is available for those in need.

Are Cheap Windows and Office Programs a Scam?

By Keith

Why those cheap Windows and Office programs don't last: Internet Scambusters #845

When every cent counts, as it does for most of us, cheap Windows and Microsoft Office software has an undoubted appeal.

But, in addition to the question of whether this software is legal or ethical, buyers also face the risk that it'll stop working just when they need it most.

In this week's issue we explain where some of this dubious software comes from and why it's best to give it a wide berth.

Let's get started...

Psst... Looking for cheap Windows or Microsoft Office software? How does a few dollars a pop sound?

If that interests you, you're not alone. Online auction and retail sites are teeming with cut-price versions of the Windows operating system and the Office program, often claiming that this software is legal.

The truth is that, at best, it's legally-dubious "gray market" software, sometimes from other countries. At worst, it's downright fraudulent.

One thing you can be pretty sure of is that it doesn't come with a disk, an unused keycard or a certificate of authenticity (CoA). You'll be given a download link and a key code that may or may not work. And, if it does work, it might suddenly lock up a few months down the line.

The trouble is that copyright and software licensing laws are a mass of confusion, with myriad ways of getting around the rules.

And Microsoft themselves, together with sites like eBay and Amazon, more often than not seem to turn a blind eye to the sales of these products — unless they suspect it's a large-scale fraud.

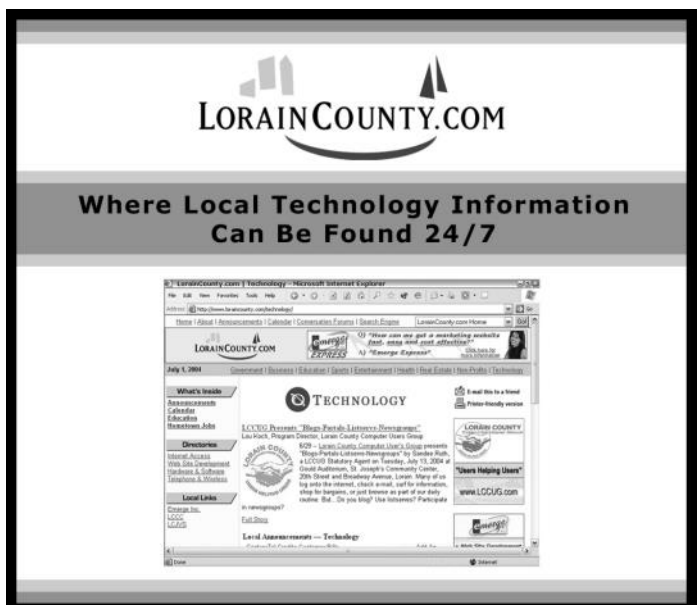
So if you go online and search for a definitive answer on whether cheap Windows and Office are legal, you'll find plenty of other people doing the same — but no definitive answers.

On the other hand, it's fairly easy to tell if it's risky. If the price is way below what Microsoft charges, then something is obviously not quite right.

Here are the more likely explanations:

- The software comes from another country, such as China, where the retail price is often much lower than in the U.S.
- The key comes from one of a number of bulk-licenses for developers and manufacturers. You might hear these products referred to as "OEM" software. They're not supposed to be sold to the general public.
- It's educational software, made available for legitimate students and academics. In some cases, you may buy a "pre-registered" version, which means you have to sign on with a Microsoft account specified by the seller.
- You're told the software and its key come from a computer that has been scrapped. Advertisers who sell these often claim this product, which includes a license transfer, is legal in certain countries.
- The key codes have been bought using stolen credit cards. They'll work at first but once Microsoft catches up with the fact of how they were purchased, they'll deactivate the programs.
- You're simply getting a key code that has already been activated. And it's hit or miss whether it will work again and for how long.

(Continued on page 7)



NEED HELP?



Here's Who to Contact:

Neil Higgins

440-967-9061 - higgins.neil@gmail.com

Evenings 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. + Weekends
Hardware, Linux & Windows Operating Systems,
Chromebooks, Tweaking your system

Micky Knickman

440-967-3118 - micky@knickman.com

Daily 6:00 am to 4:00 pm. Leave message if no answer.
General Software Configuration, Hardware Installation,
Basic to Advanced Windows

Richard Barnett

440-365-9442 - Richard216@aol.com

Evenings & Weekends
General Software Configuration, Hardware Installation,
Basic to Advanced Windows & Web Page Design

Sandee Ruth

440-984-2692 - sandee29@gmail.com

Basic Word Processing, Windows, & Web Design
Advanced Internet

Pam Casper Rihel

440-277-6076

6:00 p.m. to 10:00 pm Monday thru Thursday
Genealogy help
prihel1947@gmail.com

Denny Smith

440-355-6218 - dennis.smith@windstream.net

Microsoft EXCEL
Leave message on machine.

If any of our members are interested in helping other users with what programs you are adept at, please contact any of our officers with you name, what program or programs you would be willing to give help with, you email address and or phone number and when you would like to have them call you. Thanks

Newsletter Editor: Pam Rihel using Microsoft Publisher, 2013

This Month's contributors: Micky Knickman, Sandra Ruth, Pam Rihel, Don Hall, Dennis Smith, Neil Higgins, Carole Doerr, Michael John Neill, Steve Costello, Dick Eastman, David Ketchman, Julia Rice, Scambusters, APCUG, Leo Notebaum, NEOPC, Microsoft Office art online, Newsletter is now

Online at:

lccug.com/newsletters or lccug.com



LCCUG ONGOING WORKSHOPS

MOST ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Problem Solving Workshop

Date: Tuesday - March 19, 2019

Time: 5:30 - 8 pm **Instructor:** Micky Knickman, Neil Higgins, Richard Barnett

Learn how to repair or update your computer by changing hard drives, memory, CD ROMs, etc.

For Members Only: Members can bring their computers anytime before 7:30 pm for assistance from Micky & Neil.

Learning About Electronics

Date: Tuesday - March 19, 2019

Time: 5:30 - 8 pm **Instructor:** Sandee Ruth

Place: Learn how use you electronic devices.

Members & guests are encouraged to bring their tablets, iPod, kindles, etc. at 5:30 pm for assistance from Sandee and any other knowledgeable members. Public is welcome to sit in these classes.

Learn About— Hands on Demonstration

Date: Tuesday— March 19, 2019

Time: 5:30- 8 pm **Instructor:** Neil Higgins

Place: Lorain County Community College 2600 Ashland Avenue, Lorain

Instructor: Neil Higgins

With the price of Microsoft Office 2019 at \$410 (on sale) we'll take a look as some free alternative office suites.

The criteria for choosing these solutions was:

- 1) It must be free.
- 2) You must be able to run it without installing the program (from a USB drive, for example) OR it must run from the Internet.

Several items will be available for distribution, including the programs and how to sign up for online suites.

Please bring a flash drive to obtain software and handouts. If you would like to participate and get copies of the material for this presentation, please let Neil know by sending an email to Education@lccug.com.

(Continued from page 5)

- The key code has been provided by a firm to an employee for home use and the employee is selling the code.

As Chris Hoffman, editor in chief of the tech advice site How-to Geek, recently commented: “These keys just aren’t legitimate. By purchasing them, you may be supporting criminals who steal credit card numbers. Or, you may be rewarding people who abuse programs set up to help students and encouraging the shutdown of these programs.

“We all know it: There’s no way a \$12 Windows product key was obtained legitimately. It’s just not possible. Even if you luck out and your new key does work forever, purchasing these keys is unethical.”

However, if your budget is tight, there are ways of getting Windows cheaply or even for free.

For example, you can simply install some of these programs and not activate them. Their functionality may be limited and you may get on-screen reminders but you can certainly use them as a temporary stop-gap.

Or you may be able to download a trial version of Office and use it for free for a couple of months.

You can also buy legitimate OEM software for around 25% less than the full retail price, though it won’t be fully supported by Microsoft.

Or, if you already have an earlier copy of a higher version of Windows — 7 or 8 Pro for example — you can usually use the key from this to upgrade your copy of Windows 10 to the same level.

In fact, you may find that that old Windows 7 or 8 disk will allow you to install a fresh version of Windows 10 from scratch.



Thinking of shopping with Amazon? Well you can now go to our lccug.com website and just click on the amazonsmile link and start shopping.

Our club gets rewarded for any items purchased from our website. So the more you buy the better it is for our club. SO START SHOPPING.

Alternatively, if being bang up to date isn’t important to you, you can buy a new, sealed Microsoft 7 disc online for around \$40 — and pursue your upgrade from there.

And, of course, if you really are a student or academic, you will likely qualify for discounts on any Microsoft products you buy.

Don’t forget too that, when it comes to Microsoft Office, there are several programs that are either free or cheap that are fully compatible with Office, being able both to open and save files in the native Microsoft formats.

For us, the bottom line is that it’s not wise to buy very cheap Windows or Office software — for the reasons Chris Hoffman gives and, for the likelihood that, at some unspecified point in the future, your cut-price version will simply stop working.

Fun & Interesting Web sites:

Museum of Endangered Sounds (<http://savethesounds.info/>)

Want a dose of serious nostalgia? Maybe, the sound of a dial-up modem will do it for you or the dial of a rotary phone. The Museum of Nostalgia will send you back in time. The single-person effort from Brendan Chilcutt aims to preserve the signature sounds of old technologies.

Stinkmoji (<https://stinkmoji.cool/>)

Switch on your speakers. Turn on your webcam. And make a face at your computer. Stinkmoji is a face recognition experience that uses a 3D emoji to mimic the faces you make at the camera. It even includes an Easter egg when you open your mouth wide enough.

Gross Science (<https://www.youtube.com/user/grossscienceshow>)

Get pulled in by all the bizarre but scientific videos here. For instance, find out about clothes made of slime. Or, why your pee can change the world.

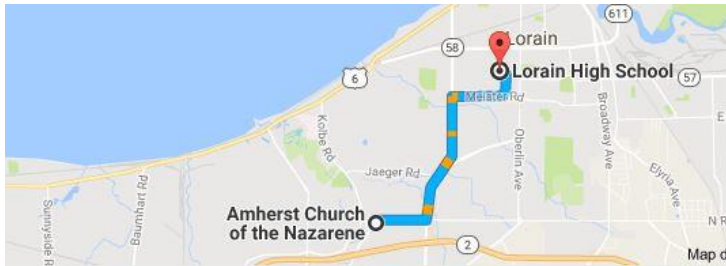
Innovation Station (<http://www.tis.tv/>)

This website alone could give you enough energy to ward off boredom. It showcases the latest videos on innovation and futuristic technologies. It is a wonderful learning platform. As their charter says, “We aim to inspire and educate by putting innovations and innovators in the spotlight.”

Current location of LCCUG meetings

Directions:

from the Amherst Church of the Nazarene to Lorain High / LCCC:



9 min (3.4 mi) via N Leavitt Rd

From the Church in Amherst travel north on Leavitt Rd (from Dunkin Donut) to Meister Rd, turn right (East) on Meister to Ashland, turn left and travel .5 mi to LCCC, our new location

Lorain High School / LCCC
2600 Ashland Ave.
Lorain 44052



The East side of the new Lorain High School is the College annex as seen in the photo.

You see parking area in the front there, facing Ashland Avenue.

Note: This building is behind the Frank Jacinto Elementary School.

Note: 26th St runs from the LCCC Bldg on Ashland Avenue to the George Daniel Fields football stadium on Oberlin Avenue.



This is an example of the classroom in which we will be meeting. Inside the door to the building entrance is an elevator that takes us to the second floor where this room is located.

