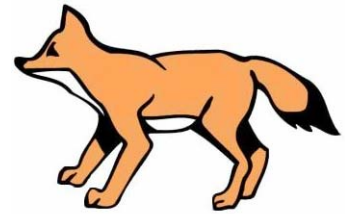


Fox Tales



Volume 20, Issue 11

Official Publication of the
Fox Valley PC Association
"Established January 1985"

November 2007

Upcoming Events in November

By Jon Jackman – President FVPCA

The October meeting at the Civic Center ushered in a new era. The Oswegoland Park District has given us Wi-Fi access, so we now have Internet access for meetings. Although Tom Anzalone has been able to provide Internet access via his Sprint broadband card, the Wi-Fi connection will allow us to access the Internet for various program topics whether Tom is there or not. It will be helpful when we have our Q&A sessions as well as allow us to demonstrate real time tasks. You may recall that we had sought this connection for some time. It appears that the Park District has provided the equipment and DSL connection exclusively for us so that our club may have an Internet connection for our monthly meetings. Thanks to Bob Tuftee for his diligent pursuit of an Internet connection at our meetings, and thanks to the Oswegoland Park District!

This month's meeting will offer a variety of topics. Bill Palmer will be demonstrating the Avery Wizard and how to make mailing labels. This may be handy for you when making labels for Christmas cards.

We have been promoting the Grisoft AVG tools for free antivirus protection. We have also indicated that another free firewall tool to use is the Comodo Firewall. I have used the Comodo firewall, but it seems that it does not remember my saved "allows" and I also have had problems sharing files across my local network. I have been debating about choosing another firewall solution.

I recently rebuilt my younger son's laptop after it was seriously infected with numerous viruses and malware. I decided to go with the AVG Internet Security suite. This will have all of applications daddy needs. This is not free, but has the complete package to lock down your computer and protect it from threats. It features all-in-one protection including antivirus, anti-spyware, anti-spam and a firewall, so it was a perfect solution for my son who would rather not have to figure out the ins and outs of security software. A one-year subscription costs \$52.95 and a two-year subscription goes for \$69.95 (\$34.98 a year). In my case, I have multiple computers so I opted for a two-year subscription for three computers at a cost of \$99.95. That works out to about \$16.66 a year for each of the computers. Such a deal! There are other packages available for a price. There is still an AVG antivirus version that is free. Unlike the free version of the antivirus package, you get the 24/7 technical support plus the other security tools mentioned. All of these programs seem to work well together without any conflicts. I will give an overview of this program at our November meeting.

Upcoming Events in November (cont'd)

By Jon Jackman – President FVPCA

The membership directory is coming along and will be coming out soon! Please see Bill Powell if you want your picture updated. We hope to have a draft copy at our meeting so that you will be able to check your contact information for accuracy.

Do you YouTube? Though our Wi-Fi connection may not be the fastest, we are hoping to explore some of the more entertaining videos that are out on the web. If you have a favorite, make note of it and let us know at the meeting.

As November will be our last general meeting for 2007, we typically offer some sort of suggestions for some neat digital gadgets that might appear under the Christmas tree. What do you have on your list? Last month there was a discussion on the Nintendo Wii. They seem to be more readily available than they were last year and are gaining in popularity, so they may be hard to find on shelves again this year. We hope to have a list of recommended hardware and software items that you may want to consider putting on your wish list for the holidays.

November will also be the debut of the DOQ-4 (Downloads of the Quarter – 4th Quarter Installment.) we will have an extra laptop available at the meeting so as to load your thumb drives up with the final offerings for 2007. If you have used any of the programs offered in our DOQ, please send a comment or a review that we may post on the website or include in the newsletter.

And finally, we want to thank you for your endorsement of our officers at the October elections: Jon Jackman – President, Tom Anzalone – Vice President, Bill Palmer – Secretary and Richard Chamberlain – Treasurer. We pledge to provide informative content in our programs and assistance for users in need.

Hope to see you at our meeting on November 17th at the Civic Center location.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Jon Jackman
President FVPCA

Do you have a Chumby?

Coming soon!



Wandering Indiana

Jon Jackman, President FVPCA

This past month my wife (Martha) and I along with her cousin (Dorine) and her husband (Ray) went on a three day expedition in pursuit of genealogy information for the Airola family. Their mothers' were raised in Clinton, Indiana. The grandfather was a coal miner. They moved to Joliet in the late 1920s, after the coal mines were closed and the grandfather had passed away. Our goal was to find out details and dates from that era.

We rendezvoused at her cousin's home on Wednesday and headed south in Ray's AWD Mercury Montego. I rode shotgun and acted as navigator. Usually when Ray and Dorine travel, Dorine acts as the navigator. I brought along my laptop and GPS to figure out the best routes, so I assumed that role. It came in handy as we were traveling in unknown territory. The weather was good and colors were beginning to change making for a pleasant drive.

From Darien, we headed south on Interstate 55 and then jogged over to the Peotone blacktop which took us to Interstate 57. Our first stop was the rest area just inside Indiana on Interstate 74. We grabbed up several brochures and maps concerning points of interest, and spoke with a state tourist-travel volunteer worker who pointed out that there were numerous covered bridges near our destination. I also had the opportunity to test out an electric hand dryer that resembled a jet engine and did the job in seconds. I had never seen such an efficient hand dryer before! Back in the car I had my laptop fired up and the GPS working at this point so we knew just when and where to turn (Rt. 63.)

The December issue of PC World ranked Microsoft's Streets and Trips 2008 as poor (See page 86.) The offer suggested that mapping software can't keep pace with GPS handheld devices. I use Delorme's Street Atlas USA Deluxe 2007 with an Earthmate USB GPS that I have demonstrated previously at one of our meetings. I use this package extensively for my fieldwork in northeastern Illinois. I find addresses and then plot all of my stops on a route for that day's visits before loading up my car. The large display offered by my laptop's LCD gives me a good sense of all the streets in the vicinity. I do not like to take my eyes off the road when I'm driving, and I use the high contrast display for quick reference to minimize risk. When I see a traffic jam ahead, or a construction detour I will look for shortcuts to circumvent them. The program will choose a new route to get me to my next destination, or "VIA" that I had plotted out before I left home. It is not perfect, as new subdivisions may not be listed and sometimes it takes me to an intersection that has no turns, but I am generally pleased with its performance. I do not know how I could get along without it. It does take some getting used to and you need to be careful so as to not be distracted while you drive. However, as I was riding shotgun on this trip I was able to devote my complete attention to our route and use search features included in the program to find points of interest. Also, there are no additional fees needed, as may be required for a cell phone.

As Dorine and my wife struggled in the back seat with their maps, I would be telling Ray that we had a turn coming up and how far ahead it was. We often glanced at each other exchanging grins, enamored with this technological tool.

Wandering Indiana (cont'd)

Jon Jackman, President FVPCA

While we were driving, I took a close look at Clinton, Indiana and found where there were several cemeteries. Though just marked as "CEM", I inserted a comment on the map for future reference. We also needed to visit the parish center at the Sacred Heart Church, so I was able to tag that location, as well as one for the Clinton Public Library. Another highlight in Clinton was the Italian American memorial, and we also wanted to eat at a local Italian restaurant. Amazingly, all of these points of interests were in the Delorme database.

I was able to use the macro lens on my Canon PowerShot SD1000 digital camera to take pictures of the record books at the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Although some of the books had been damaged in a flood, we were able to find records regarding baptisms and marriage. (In thanks to the help provided by the church lady, I later sent a photo of her friendly dog to her via the Wi-Fi connection at the motel.) The library had records on microfilm. It has been some time since many of us have used one of these machines, but once we figured them out we were able to print out information, including obituaries and funeral records. I also obtained information on what coal mining was like at that time. There were also records from the US Bureau of Mines which were very interesting.

We headed over to the cemeteries that I had marked earlier. There were actually two cemeteries side-by-side and we headed into the correct one. With instructions from Dorine's cousin, we were able to locate the final resting place of the grandfather Michele Airola (1875-1926) and the uncle James Airola (1906-1926). According to the obituaries, they had both succumbed to pneumonia in 1926. Some other interesting information may lead me to seek out some legal records from Vermillion County Indiana.

Before or trip, my wife had gone on the Internet and made reservations at the Comfort Suites in Terre Haute, Indiana. I entered the information into the laptop and we followed the suggested route without incident. The accommodations were excellent. With a special code provided with the room key I was able to access the Wi-Fi network and the Internet with my laptop easily. I used the Internet to access more information about Klondike, Indiana, where the family had lived at one point and also Fontanet, Indiana, the town of residence indicated on the grandparent's marriage certificate. (Also noted occupation: miner.) I also downloaded aerial photographs from Microsoft's Terra Server, which I "printed" to PDF files for convenient viewing. After some beer and wine, we hit the sack, remembering that we were now in the Eastern time zone.

Thursday morning we took advantage of the free breakfast at the motel and headed up to the Terre Haute Public Library. David, the librarian there was most helpful. We were able to extract some more information from microfilm, and also had a look at some detailed maps of the Klondike area. We headed out from Terre Haute for Klondike, a very small area west of Clinton. It was not unusual to see deer carcasses along the roadside or other evidence that the deer were losing the deer vs. car battle.

We drove around in the Klondike neighborhood. We stopped to speak with a couple who were their front yard. They were unaware of the location of the school mentioned by Dorine's mother, though we did find a likely spot. The gentleman did point out some coal mining artifacts in the area: an old air shaft was nearby and he mentioned how that sometimes the ground just caves in leaving depressions.

Wandering Indiana (cont'd)

Jon Jackman, President FVPCA

If you are lucky, you or your home is not above that location. From there we headed back into Clinton and visited the Four Seasons Monument at the end of Elm Street, overlooking the Wabash River.

We wanted to head over to Fontanet next, and would look for some of the covered bridges that were in use or in a state of preservation along the way. The GPS came in real handy once again. Many of the covered bridges were accessible via obscure county roads which were sometimes just gravel roads. We noticed some unique Halloween decorations. It was very common to see several hay bales piled up decorated with pumpkins, cornstalks and scarecrows or other figures. We even passed in a cemetery that had Halloween decorations on the graves! Spooky!

We visited about six covered bridges in all. We stopped at the covered bridge in Bridgeton, which had a working mill and novelty shop. We had an interesting discussion with the owner who is in the process of restoring the mill's raceway. At the present time the millstone is being powered by an old electric trolley motor. The original bridge burned down a couple of years ago and has been rebuilt, though it is not open to vehicle traffic, you can walk across it. If you ever take the scenic covered bridge trail, I highly recommend this stop. It was back in the car and off to Fontanet, which was basically a small town. We had no address, but it was an interesting side trip.

We were getting hungry, so we went back to Clinton to another Italian restaurant, Giuseppe's. From there it was back to the motel in Terre Haute. Once again we visited over a few beers and reminisced about the day's activities. It was also an opportunity to share some computer knowledge with Ray. Specifically, we looked at how to set up a database and create labels for Christmas cards. (Coincidentally, Bill Palmer will be making a short presentation on that topic at our November meeting.)

Friday morning we took off after breakfast, headed for home. As we passed by Clinton we made a brief stop at Fossi's, the local Italian bakery which was only open on Friday mornings. We purchased several loaves of bread as well as breadsticks before we headed north. We decided to stop by at Martha's cousin's cheese factory in Joliet (Mancuso Cheese) and bought some more goodies. From there we went to the near Eastside of Joliet in an old neighborhood where the Airola family grew up. Interstate 80 now runs right over this area. As a matter of fact, one of the homes relocated during the construction of Interstate 80 was moved to a vacant lot next to Martha's aunt and uncle's home. Some of the homes where the cousins lived were gone, and others were still there, but rundown, as this is a "changing" neighborhood. Ray drove around Joliet giving us a scenic tour down memory lane. Afterwards we returned to Darien, and bid our travel companions goodbye. They both commented on how the GPS enabled laptop made our trip a better experience. It really was an interesting trip.

This is not the first time that I have used my laptop for travel assistance, but it was the first trip of this nature where it really proved itself a worthy companion. Hopefully we may get into a genealogy presentation next year. Bob Tuftee is a member of a Genealogy Society, and he may be able to offer his expertise for those interested.

Jon Jackman



J&S DISTRIBUTORS
12 voltproducts.com

27 Stone Hill Road ♦ Oswego, IL 60543
(630) 554-1728 ♦ Fax: (630) 554-1198
E-Mail: sales@12voltproducts.com

AUTO • MARINE • HOME • RV/CAMPING • RECREATIONAL
TRUCKER PRODUCTS & SUPPLIES
TRAVEL ACCESSORIES

Power Inverters / Portable Power Supplies
- Extend the battery life of your laptop / cellphone
DVD Player / Camera / Camcorder



There are a growing number of locations that offer free Internet via a wireless Wi-Fi connection! We would like to find a place where we could meet and have Wi-Fi too!

*THE FOX VALLEY
PC ASSOCIATION*

The Fox Valley PC Association is dedicated to the task of providing computer information to our fellow members. We are a non-profit organization. The group has been active since January 1985. The dues are \$30 per year. Our meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month (except December.)

The meeting place this month (November) will be at the Oswego Civic Center at 5 Ashlawn Ave Montgomery, Illinois. The formal meeting starts at 9:15 A.M. Non-member visitors are always welcome. If you can, please come early & help with set-up. Thanks!

The following members have renewed their membership:

Bill Powell

Barbara Weber

**Thank-You for your continuing support!!
Don't forget to check the mailing label for your dues date!**

The "FOX TALES" Newsletter

The "Fox Tales" Newsletter is published monthly by the Fox Valley PC Association, Post Office Box 369, Oswego, IL 60543, a non-profit organization, established to provide information about IBM PCs and IBM Compatible personal computer systems (and almost anything "digital") to our members.

The Fox Valley PC Association, contributors and Editors of "Fox Tales" do not assume any liability for damages arising out of the publication or non-publication of any advertisement, article, editorial, or any other item in this Newsletter. All opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors only and do not express the opinions of the Fox Valley PC Association, its Officers, Board of Directors, the "Fox Tales" Newsletter, or its Editors.

Permission to reproduce portions which are not specifically copyrighted is given to other computer users' groups for non-profit use. Reprints must not be altered, proper credit given and a copy of the publication must be sent to the attention of the "Fox Tales" Editors at the Club address. All other reproduction is prohibited without written permission of the original author.

Recycling Tips

Obsolete electronic gadgets -

Don't pitch them, recycle them. Check out www.epa.gov/ecycling or www.earth911.org for info about electronics recycling.

In Illinois, http://www.commerce.state.il.us/dceo/bureaus/energy_recycling/recycling and http://www.illinoisrecycles.org/byteback_text.html.



Offset & High-Speed Digital Duplicating Printing

27 Stone Hill Road, Oswego, IL 60543
Stonehill Industrial Park

Ph: 630-554-2733 Fax 630-554-1198

E-mail: jim@agma.net



2007

Fox Valley PC Association

President

Jon Jackman 630-892-7767
e-mail jockjojkj@aol.com

Vice President

Tom Anzalone 630-482-9808
e-mail tanzalone2@earthlink.net

Secretary

Bill Palmer 630-859-8939
e-mail william_palmer@att.net

Treasurer

Richard Chamberlain 630-892-9361
e-mail Rsqrd_chmb@aol.com

Newsletter Layout Editor

Dean Holste 630-966-8521
e-mail [deanholste\(at\)sbcglobal.net](mailto:deanholste(at)sbcglobal.net)

Membership Coordinator

Bill Powell 630-553-1887
e-mail wpnkp81@sbcglobal.net

Website Webmaster

Bob Tuftee 630-553-0513
e-mail retjtt@comcast.net

Publicity Coordinator

VACANT
e-mail

Program Coordinator

Craig McGregor 630-554-1923
e-mail Craig.McGregor@ACXIOM.COM

Fox Tales

Fox Valley PC Association
P.O. Box 369
Oswego, IL 60543-0369



The Fox Valley PC Association Web site is:

www.fvpca.org
Courtesy of APCUG



November Meeting Programs:

Christmas Labels

Presented by: Bill Palmer

AVG Internet Security

Presented by: Jon Jackman

The Next Meeting Will Be at 9:15 A.M.

November 17, 2007

**At the Oswego Civic Center
5 Ashlawn Ave, Montgomery, Illinois**