

# KILOBYTES

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Computer Club of Rossmoor

P.O. Box 2070, Walnut Creek, CA 94595

(925) 280 - 3984

Computer Club website <http://carossmoorcomputerclub.com/>

December 2014

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



“Residents Helping Residents” to use, and benefit from, computers. That is what we do; that is our goal and our purpose for this Computer Club of Rossmoor.

What we do, and how we do it, has

been changing just as the computers themselves have been changing. At first we were introducing our older adults to those new “computer things;” then later we began offering basic classes within Rossmoor. When more classroom space was needed, we joined in partnership with the Acalanes Adult School.

Many thousands of older adults have participated and have learned to use, even enjoy, those new computers. Now, there are few Rossmoor residents who do not use a computer. Even that small number is declining as newer, computer-literate residents are moving in to Rossmoor.

Your Rossmoor Computer Club continues to help residents keep up with computers and with those many new electronic devices. Our basic “Computer-1” class is still offered, though less frequently than before. Now we offer classes in the popular iPad as well as

Word and Excel, and even classes in Digital Photography.

Seminars, those quick and easy 2-hour sessions, cover the newer Windows versions as well as special subjects like Picasa and Skype and Facebook. (Seminars now cost just \$10 for current Club members; for others the cost is \$15.) A full schedule of current classes and seminars is included in this issue of Kilobytes.

Just recently this Computer Club offered free seminars to introduce the latest computer offerings, such as Picasa and special Google programs. Hundreds of residents came to these Fireside Room sessions, to see and hear for themselves about these newer computer programs and services. These special Fireside programs were developed by Club members, especially Monte Hall, Bill Hammond, Jim Bradley and other Club volunteers.

Keeping up with the newest computer products and services is challenging. Your Computer Club will try to help. We have professional computer teachers and some very knowledgeable volunteers to answer your questions, solve computer problems, and even make house calls if necessary. Working together we can accomplish more than anyone working alone.

Leonard Krauss

# Some Common Security Myths, And the Truth Behind Them

Bill Hammond, Computer Club of Rossmoor



**Myth:** Once software is installed on your computer, you do not have to worry about it anymore.

**Truth:** Vendors may release updated versions of software to address problems or fix vulnerabilities. You should install the updates as soon as possible; some software even offers the option to obtain updates automatically.

**Myth:** There is nothing important on your machine, so you do not need to protect it.

**Truth:** Your opinion about what is important may differ from an attacker's opinion. If you have personal or financial data on your computer, attackers may be able to collect it and use it for their own financial gain. Even if you do not store that kind of information on your computer, an attacker who can gain control of your computer may be able to use it in attacks against other people.

**Myth:** Attackers only target people with money.

**Truth:** Anyone can become a victim of identity theft. Attackers look for the biggest reward for the least amount of effort, so they typically target databases that store information about many people. If your information happens to be in the database, it could be collected and used for malicious purposes. It is important to pay attention to your credit information so that you can minimize any potential damage.

**Myth:** When computers slow down, it means that they are old and should be replaced.

**Truth:** It is possible that running newer or larger software programs on an older computer could lead to slow performance, but you may just need to replace or upgrade a particular component (memory, operating system, CD or DVD drive, etc.). Another possibility is that there are other processes or programs running in the background. If your computer has suddenly become slower, it may be compromised by malware or spyware, or someone else may be using your computer as a mail server.

**Myth:** The internet is so huge; no one will attack my computer.

**Truth:** Hackers use automated tools that continually probe computers to find attack vectors. A new, unprotected computer installed on the internet can be compromised within seven minutes.

**Myth:** Sketchy websites are obvious; you can tell just by looking at them.

**Truth:** Hackers use every technique in the book to attract their victims. The best hackers make websites whose style is impeccable – and might even be copied from a legitimate website.

# COMPUTER CLASSES

January 2015 through March 2015

|  |                                |             |            |               |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|
| #801   | Computer-1                     | Tues & Thur | 10am-12    | Jan 6-22      |
| <b>Learn basic computer skills using a Windows-7 computer. Learn how to create, save, find files, send and receive emails.</b>   |                                |             |            |               |
| #802   | iPad Basic                     | Tues & Thur | 1-3pm      | Jan 6-22      |
| <b>Learn the essentials using your own iPad in this small class. Hands-on and demonstrations.</b>  |                                |             |            |               |
| #803   | Windows-8 Basics               | Tues & Thur | 10am-12    | Jan 22-Feb 12 |
| <b>Use the latest Windows-8 software in this special mini-course.</b>  |                                |             |            |               |
| #804   | Using Word                     | Tues & Thur | 1-3pm      | Jan 22-Feb 12 |
| <b>Use the new Windows-8 software and improve your computer skills. Word-1 has controls to improve convenience, operating efficiency, and much more than in previous versions of Word.</b> |                                |             |            |               |
| #805   | iPad II                        | Tues & Thur | 10am-12:30 | Feb 17-Mar 3  |
| <b>So you know the essentials of using your iPad. Now bring your iPad and learn even more.</b>   |                                |             |            |               |
| #806   | Digital Photo II               | Tues & Thur | 1-3:30pm   | Feb 17-Mar 3  |
| <b>Learn to easily modify pictures and send photos over the Internet. Bring your digital camera to class and learn more about it.</b>  |                                |             |            |               |
| #807   | Using Excel                    | Tues & Thur | 10am-12    | Mar 10-26     |
| <b>Learn to do spreadsheets and other business documents.</b>  |                                |             |            |               |
| #808   | Computer Refresher – Windows-7 | Tues & Thur | 1-3pm      | Mar 10-26     |
| <b>Come to this “drop-in” class to solve problems or to expand your computer knowledge.</b>  |                                |             |            |               |

# SEMINARS

January 2015 through March 2015

|      |                                  |           |         |        |
|------|----------------------------------|-----------|---------|--------|
| #850 | Mouse Class (Free)               | Monday    | 10am-12 | Jan 5  |
| #851 | Using Your New Windows-8         | Wednesday | 10am-12 | Jan 7  |
| #852 | Print Your Photos with Picasa    | Wednesday | 10am-12 | Jan 14 |
| #853 | Computer Q & A                   | Wednesday | 1-3pm   | Jan 21 |
| #854 | Using Your New iPad              | Wednesday | 10am-12 | Jan 28 |
| #855 | Find Anything on the Internet    | Wednesday | 10am-12 | Feb 4  |
| #856 | Skype is for Talking to Family   | Wednesday | 1-3pm   | Feb 4  |
| #857 | Facebook is for People to People | Wednesday | 10am-12 | Feb 11 |
| #858 | Computer Q & A                   | Wednesday | 1-3pm   | Feb 11 |
| #859 | Google has new Features          | Wednesday | 10am-12 | Feb 18 |
| #860 | Word – Features and Specials     | Wednesday | 1-3pm   | Feb 18 |
| #861 | Email Basics and Review          | Wednesday | 10am-12 | Mar 4  |
| #862 | Be Safer on the Internet         | Wednesday | 1-3pm   | Mar 4  |



PLEASE ENROLL ME IN THE FOLLOWING CLASS(ES)

| CLASS # | SUBJECT | FEE |
|---------|---------|-----|
|         |         |     |
|         |         |     |
|         |         |     |
|         |         |     |
|         |         |     |
|         |         |     |
|         |         |     |
|         |         |     |
|         |         |     |
|         |         |     |
|         |         |     |
|         |         |     |

(PRINT) YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGN: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_



-----

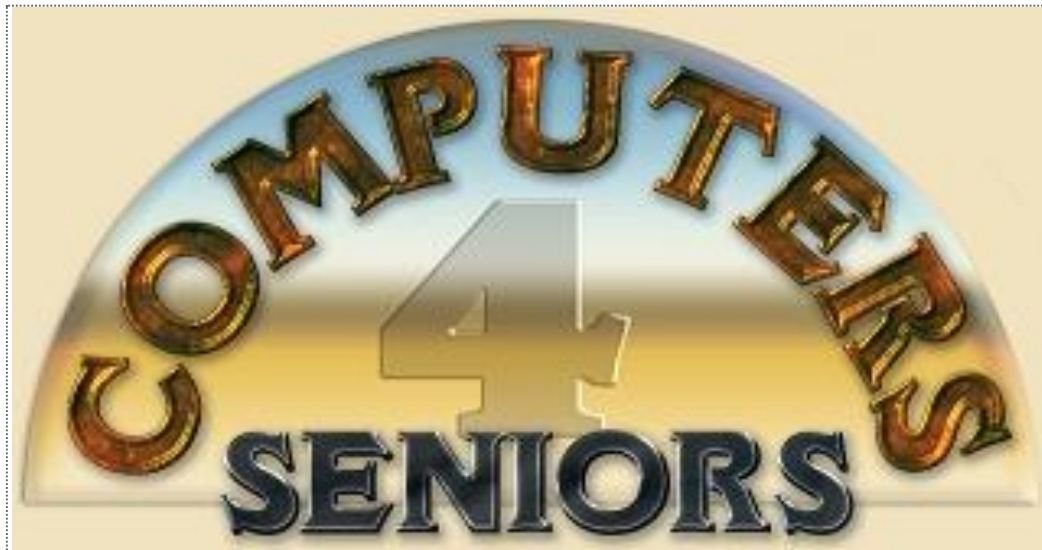
**At least 10 days before class starts,  
Mail this form, with your check, to:**



COMPUTER CLUB OF ROSSMOOR  
P. O. BOX 2070  
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94595

- Classes are held in Computer Rooms A and B at the Acalanes Adult Center, on the lower level.
- Classes are \$45 (\$30 for current Club members). Seminars are \$15 each, \$10 for current Club members.
- Class space is limited; send in your reservation **now**.
- Please put class number on your check.
- Call 280-3984 for information or directions.

*Please note—there can be NO refunds.*



**Computer Club of Rossmoor**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b><u>Officers:</u></b></p> <p><b>President</b> Leonard Krauss</p> <p><b>Vice President</b> Teresa Brock</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> Muriel Wyro</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> Jim Bradley</p> | <p><b><u>Board of Directors:</u></b></p> <p>Jim Bradley</p> <p>Teresa Brock</p> <p>Joan DeGanahl</p> <p>Monte Hall</p> <p>Bill Hammond</p> <p>Sandy Helmus</p> <p>Jan Hjorth</p> <p>Jo Jones</p> <p>Leonard Krauss</p> <p>Muriel Wyro</p> |
| <p><b><u>Past Presidents:</u></b></p> <p>Al Halpern</p> <p>Barney Teich</p> <p>Homer Myers</p>  | <p><b><u>Kilobytes Staff:</u></b></p> <p><b>Production</b> Roxana Khachadourian</p> <p><b>Distribution</b> Bill Hammond and Al Weiner</p>   |