

SCA Computer Club notes

Classes for the Month of Aug



To enroll, sign into the website at www.myscacc.com. Go to the calendar and click on the class you want to take. Be sure to check the date as there may be multiple offerings of the class. Click on the green **"Enroll Me"** box for the class you want to enroll. If you need to cancel your enrollment, please log back in, select the class again and click on **"Drop Me"**. This will make it available to others who may want to take the class and are on the waiting list. If you are on the waiting list, show up for the class to see if someone enrolled did not show up and you may be bumped into the class. All classes are geared for **beginners** unless otherwise indicated. **IMPORTANT: You must have your SCA Resident ID with you to check-in at the Monitor desk AND AGAIN in the front of the Classroom to ensure you are enrolled on the day of the class. Check-in will begin 20 minutes before the scheduled class time. If you are late, you may be bumped from the class by**

This month's calendar for classes is minimal. Your Education Director is always looking for new ideas for topics that our members might be interested in. Please let him know your interests by sending him a note via **"Contact Us"** on the website and choosing the **"Education"** category.

Chances are, if you are interested in having a class on a specific application, others might also be interested. Incidentally, if you are interested in teaching a class, please let him know that also. We welcome new instructors, as well as, new ideas. Remember, our Club exists to serve you, our members, so unless we hear from you, we do not know what your likes and dislikes are.

Photoshop Elements: Learn how to organize and edit your pictures. This hands-on class for both Mac and Windows users gives a basic introduction to Adobe Photoshop Elements. After taking this introductory class to this powerful photo-editing program, we recommend continuing with the **Photoshop Elements SIG**, where different tools, projects, and techniques are discussed.

Buying a Computer: Are you considering buying a new computer for yourself or as a gift? Should you buy a desktop, a laptop or a tablet? What are the differences between them? Should you buy a Mac or a PC? Will it be used for email, to watch movies, organize your photos, write a book, etc.? Have your questions answered before you buy. If you've recently joined our Club we encourage

you to attend the **New Member Orientation** class to familiarize yourself with our Club's activities. Learn how to sign up for classes, schedule a house call, volunteer to be a monitor and more. **Current members not familiar with all of the benefits offered by our Computer Club are also encouraged to take this Orientation as a refresher.**

Your Computer Club's Board will meet on Thursday, Aug 29 in the Computer Classroom from 1:30-3:00 PM. The Board consists of your Club's Officers and Directors as voted on by you, the membership. Each Board meeting will discuss our Club's operations, policies and general business. Learn how your Club functions. A member comment period will be allowed at the end of each meeting for members to offer feedback, recommendations and/or comments. New members are encouraged to attend.

Special Interest and User Groups

A SIG is a “*special interest group*” that meets on a weekly or monthly basis. “*User Groups*” also meet on a monthly basis. We invite ANY Computer Club member who is interested in learning more about a specific product/application or a specific topic to join in the discussions. All groups meet in the computer classroom. Participants ask questions and discuss various topics at each session.

If you are an Apple user, the *Apple User Group* will meet monthly to investigate Apple products. Did you recently buy a Mac, an iPad or MacBook Air? Do you have questions regarding specific Apple products or applications? Sit in on this month’s meeting on **Saturday, Aug 10 from 10 AM- noon** in the Computer Classroom and see if this is the group you have been looking to join.

The *Photography User Group* will **not** be meeting in Aug, but will resume meeting in Sep on the second Monday of the month at 1:00 pm in the classroom.

The *Photoshop Elements SIG* will meet on **Fri, Aug 30 from 9:30- 11:30 AM**. Enhance your skills working with digital photos. Every month we cover topics that build upon skills learned in the basic Photoshop Elements class and participants can get help with Photoshop Elements related problems. **Prerequisites:** basic Photoshop Elements class or some experience using Photoshop Elements.

Computer Talk meets **weekly from 9 –10 AM every Thursday** and is designed as a “question and answer” session. Can’t figure out how to do something? Anyone can ask anything computer related. Do you have a question regarding a specific product or application? Bring your questions and join the discussion each Thursday. New members are always welcome.

How to Recognize and Deal With Phishing Emails

By Linda Norton

A “phishing email” is an unsolicited email that tries to trick you into clicking a link and divulging some private information about yourself – your login and password information, for example. It is extremely important that you know what to look for to determine if a received email is really from your bank (for example) or from a stranger pretending to be your bank.

Here are a few things to look for:

1 – The subject line of the email contains some alarming notification. For example, it might say that your account has been hacked or compromised and that the only way to fix the problem is to click this link.... **don’t.**

2 – It contains an attachment and is totally unexpected. For example, the sender may claim that the attached file contains details of an inheritance or an unpaid bill. These are just tricks designed to... trick you. Don’t fall for it.

3 – The content of the email is badly written. Look for typos and misspellings; even improper spacing and punctuation. These are all signs of a “phishing” expedition.

4 – The web address and/or email address look slightly different than what you’d expect. For example, the web address amazon.work is **NOT** the same thing as amazon.com.

How to Recognize and Deal With Phishing Emails (continued)

By Linda Norton

Finally, you need to be aware that criminals will create and use an email address or web address that has the name of a real company buried in it, like this: noreply@amazon.xyz.com

In the above example, the actual domain name (web address) is xyz.com. The criminal in this case created what is called a “subdomain” in order to try to fool you into believing it’s the actual Amazon site; which of course it is not.

Here’s What To Do With Phishing Emails...

Make sure you permanently delete all phishing emails so you don’t inadvertently circle back and click an embedded link later on. If you happen to use Microsoft Outlook or Mozilla Thunderbird to retrieve your emails, you can permanently delete an item by clicking SHIFT + DELETE (instead of just DELETE) then confirming the permanent deletion.

Windows 10 - 10 and listening in...

Overall, the latest version of Windows 10, version 1903 or the May 2019 Update has been rolling out to compatible devices without a lot of problems (as compared to previous incremental updates). This is the seventh (7th) major refresh and this new version has features and changes to productivity, security, design, troubleshooting, mouse customization and more. The newest feature allows users to decide when to update while also blocking devices known to have issues with the new version. If it detects that one’s computer cannot be upgraded, it will display a message “This PC can’t be upgraded to Windows 10”. The reason could be due to a driver or service that isn’t yet ready for this new version. While this latest Windows 10 version can be considered one of the least problematic rollouts, it is not without a few bugs, but Microsoft is working to resolve them. And the next version of Windows 10, codenamed “20H11” is expected to be released in the Spring of 2020. Its focus is on improved stability and performance rather than new features. Stay tuned and as we learn more, we will keep you informed.



Did you know that on Aug 3, 1977, Radio Shack Announced its TRS-80 Model 1 computer? It was the company’s first computer and it came with 4KB RAM, a cassette tape storage and a BASIC interpreter. Along with the Commodore PET and the Apple II, the TRS-80 was one of the first mass-marketed personal computers.

And on Aug 4, 1988, right before the engines of Space Shuttle Discovery were to ignite, a computer stops the engine test. Computerized controllers detected a valve not closing quick enough, sending an engine component failure command to all three (3) engines so they would not fire. This was the result of NASA’s improved efforts to ensure the safety of Discovery, as it would be the first flight since the Challenger explosion two years prior (1986).

Useful things you may want to know, or Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

that we made up ourselves

Q. What is an Internet worm?

A. Internet worms normally travel across a computer network and take advantage of a security vulnerability at the operating system level. The intent of a worm is to duplicate itself across as many computers as possible; it is not intended to corrupt files or create damage to the computer. Worms have been known to slow down one's computer by using up a lot of bandwidth (or consuming resources) and they have been known to carry malicious payloads, making the computer vulnerable to other malware. Because we haven't heard a lot about them these days, doesn't mean they are not still being used. However, the target of hackers using worms tend to be big businesses or government operations to create large-scale attacks. Today, tech companies are much better at identifying OS vulnerabilities and patching them quickly thereby mitigating worm infections. If you are using up-to-date anti-virus software, chances are you won't need to worry much about worms. Windows 10 has a built-in anti-virus software capability that can automatically scan for viruses (and one can also manually scan one's computer if they feel the need to do so). Or one can use a third party software such as Malwarebytes to scan one's computer. However, the best advice to mitigate your chances of being exposed to malware, viruses or worms is to be careful and not download files or open attachments from sources you do not trust.

Q. We read about data breeches all the time. I heard that Sprint recently had a major data breach. Can you tell me more about it?

A. Yes, it appears that a major data breach occurred around Jun 22, 2019 and that Sprint has sent out letters to affected customers. The breach involved theft of personal data and Sprint indicated the risk of identity theft from the incident is low. Sprint claims that it was successful in resetting all of the compromised accounts user PINs. If you are a Sprint customer and did not receive a letter, chances are your account was not involved. To be on the safe side, you might want to reset your PIN anyway.

Q. How do I change my home page in my browser?

A. Most browsers allow one to set whatever home page one desires. Without knowing which browser you are using, well try to answer your question the best we can.

In Windows Edge: Click the More settings (the three dots in the upper right-hand corner). Select "Settings" and under **Open Microsoft Edge with**, select **a specific page or pages**. **Enter the web address** and be sure to **click on the save icon**.

In Mozilla Firefox: Click on the Menu (the three lines in the upper right-hand corner). Select **Options** and under the **General Tab** in the **Home Page** field, type the URL of the web page you want. Close the Options tab. If you want to set the page you currently have open, click **Use Current page**.

In Chrome: Click Menu (the three vertical dots in the upper right-hand corner) and select "Settings". Under the **On startup** section, click the button next to **Open a specific page or set of pages**. Select **Set pages** and type in the URL of the site you want as your homepage, then **Enter**. Once the site is added to the list, **select the site** and press **OK**. Another way to change your homepage in Chrome is to go to **Settings**, then in the **Appearance section**, check the box next to **Show Home button**. Click **Change** next to the address shown in the Show Home button. Now click the circle next to **Open this page** and type in the desired URL that you want to set as your homepage. Click **OK**. We hope one of these options work for you.

Useful things you may want to know, or Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that we made up ourselves (continued)

Q. You might say that I am a wee bit paranoid when using my computer (as I cover up the camera with a sticky note) so no one can watch me. My computer also has a microphone. I know I cannot “cover” that up, is there a control button to turn it off? If so, where do I find that?

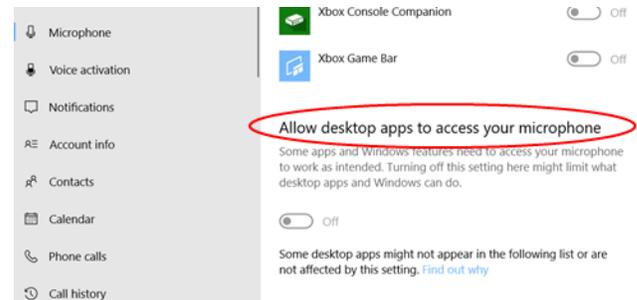
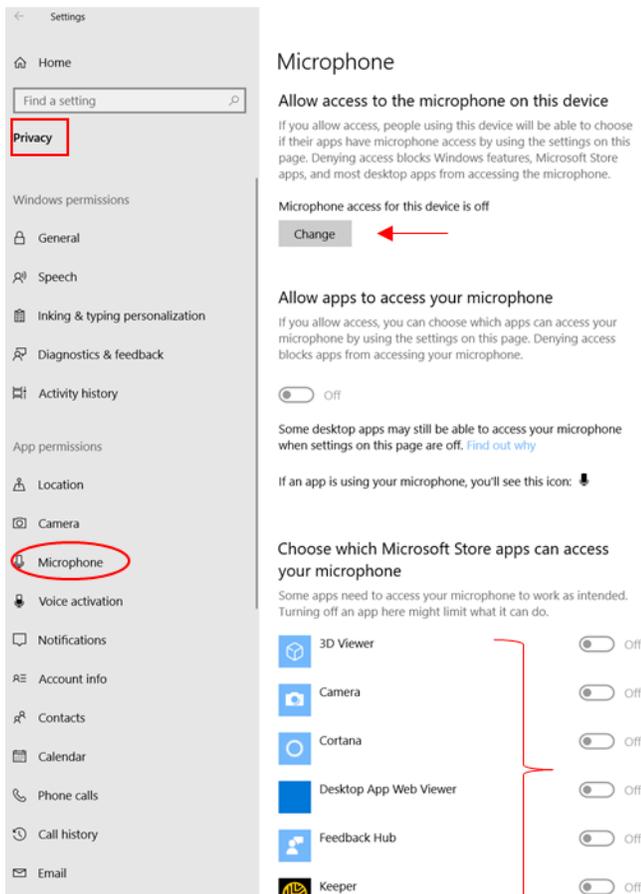
A. Excellent question. An easy way to tell if your microphone is in use is to look in your system tray (on the right side of your taskbar). You might need to click on the up arrowhead to expand it if you don't see it initially. If the microphone icon is there, then it is on or listening. If more than one application is using your microphone, clicking on the microphone icon will take you to the **Settings> Privacy> Microphone window**. It is here where you can manually change your settings.

You can turn off your microphone completely. If you want it on, you can change the settings by

clicking on the “Change” button and a pop-up window will appear allowing you to turn it on.

If you turn it on, you can also control which Microsoft Store apps are allowed to use it. If you want an app to use it, simply toggle the switch to “On” for the respective app.

There are two different lists; one for Microsoft Store applications and another for the desktop apps. You will want to check both lists and apply your settings as you desire. You will find the settings for the desktop apps below the list for the Microsoft Store apps.



Be advised that Microsoft notes that desktop applications could interact directly with your microphone and/or webcam hardware, bypassing Windows 10 privacy controls and monitoring. For example, an application could access your microphone or webcam at a low-level and the microphone icon would not appear. (Normally if the microphone is in use, you will see the microphone icon in the system tray, but that's not guaranteed). A remote access trojan (RAT) malware could go undetected. Again, you can avoid RATs by not downloading files from sources you don't trust. Don't open email attachments from strangers or download games from un reputable sites. Keep your browser and operating system up-to-date with security patches and you should have no problems.



Our Club's **Sep General Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, Sep 5th at 1:00 pm in the Delaware Room**, Anthem Center. You won't want to miss it as we have two special speakers, FBI Special Agent Anne Kempf and Henderson Police Detective Joshua Casto.

Did you know that in 2018, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center received approximately 300,000 complaints totaling \$2.7 billion in

victim losses?

Please join us as SA Kempf and Det Casto share information on cyber threats facing the Las Vegas community. Don't become a victim of scams and frauds. Learn how criminals are accessing your accounts. Find out what the current trends are and how you can best protect yourself from online fraudulent activities.

A \$50 gift card will be raffled off after the presentation. Must be present to win.

