

Choose your personal favorite—
a Wall, or a Tweet

MOAA Computer User Group

For the August meeting we took a tour of Facebook and received a detailed explanation and warnings regarding social network websites. Our tour guide was Da Bear.

Because his extended family is scattered from Indonesia to Ireland to the Mainland to Hawaii, he needs a quick way to keep in touch, so he is a seasoned veteran in the use of Facebook, Twitter and Skype (not covered at the meeting)..

Our first stop was the definition of a social network. This is what Wikipedia says: *A social network is a social structure made up of individuals (or organizations) called "nodes", which are tied (connected) by one or more specific types of interdependency, such as friendship, kinship, common interest, financial exchange, dislike, sexual relationships, or relationships of beliefs, knowledge or prestige.*

Bear's was more easily understood, he says—*"It's a quick way to keep up with the goings on with the family."*

From this description you can readily ascertain that out there somewhere is a social network website for each and every family interest.

The most popular site is, of course, Facebook. With nearly 700 million subscribers around the world, it surpasses Twitter and MySpace by a factor of 5.

The procedure to sign on to Facebook (FB) is easy. Type in a name,

email address and password. That's it. It doesn't (and shouldn't) be your real name. More on that later. Once FB determines your name and email address aren't already being used by another subscriber, it will lead you to a Profile page. This is where you put in the information you don't mind others viewing. Music interests, political proclivities, reading likes and dislikes and just about anything else you want to share. Once you've set up your account FB will ask if you want to have those folks in your address book 'friend' you. If you agree a computer generated email will be sent to all inviting them to become your friend at your FB page. You'll then receive a request from those who want to be your online friend and you have to give them permission. Once you grant permission they will have access to your home page, commonly called 'your wall', where they can see photos you've posted and post their own photos and leave messages for you. A form of Instant Messaging (IM).

With FB you can share videos, photos, music and internet links. You can conduct video calls. You can leave private messages and you control who sees your wall and who can, or cannot, post there.

Privacy settings let you make your page available for no one, friends only, friends of friends, and other.



If you want to start a FB group for members of your club or one with a special

interest you can specify if they will be *Open to the public*, everyone on Facebook can view the group and join. The group will appear in search results and all content (e.g., photos, videos and discussions) is visible to anyone viewing the group.

Closed to members only— everyone on Facebook can see the name and members of a group, but only group members can view content in the group or *Secret*. Secret groups cannot be found in searches, and non-members can't see anything about the group, including its name and membership list. The name of the group will not display on the profiles of members.

Someone talks stink, you can block them. Once you block someone, that person can no longer be your friend on Facebook or interact with you (except within apps and games you both use and groups you are both a member of). If you need personalized instructions to set up an account, just ask your grandkids.

MySpace, once the premier social networking site, was overtaken in membership totals in 2008 by Facebook. One of the reasons given is that MySpace continued to rely on entertainment and music while Facebook and Twitter kept adding features and innovations. Purchased for \$560M in 2005, it was sold in June 2011 for \$35M.

Twitter is a 140 character outlet, sometimes referred to as a microblog, for those who need to tell the

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1) *Social Networks*

world what they are doing at a given point in time, or just want to vent. Items as banal as “I’m getting in the shower, TTUL”, or

“OMG, There’s a blind guy who just got hit by a bus on Broadway.”

Poke the characters on your phone keypad, iPad, or computer and they instantly appear on the Twitter feed.

You can follow, or have others follow you, so that every time you post something it automatically goes to all your followers.

But, as with everything else in the ether, it will be there for just about forever. Be careful what you post or what you attach to the tweet. Remember ex-Rep. Anthony Weiner?

One of the warnings in the Terms of Service states—

“What you say on Twitter may be viewed all around the world instantly. You are what you Tweet!”

If you want to set up an account, go to www.twitter.com and click on *Join Today*. You’ll need to put in your name, email and a username. Different languages are available if you want to communicate with someone in the old country.

Not in a creative mood at the time you create your Twitter account? Can’t come up with a cool username? Then skip on over to Myusernamegenerator.com and



have one created for you. Long names, short names, fantasy names, Japanese or Chinese are available. Pick a category and click on create. If you don’t like the one that comes up, try again. It’s useful to get more than one incase someone is already using that name.

If you want to search for someone on Twitter, it’s as easy as going to this link <http://tinyurl.com/dgr5vb>

For a better understating on content, and your enjoyment, here are a few actual tweets that were posted and visible on a blog I regularly visit -

* It's funny to listen to rappers complain the police harass them for being black 30 seconds before they brag about being a criminal.

* I admire my dog for seeing 6 cats and wanting to take on all of them. He's like Walker, Texas Terrier.

* Helping other people is very important. But, you have to help yourself first or you won't have anything to help them with.

* Don't be cocky because people USED TO be so ignorant. We're every bit as ignorant. Only the subjects have changed.

As you can see, there are amateur philosophers out there, some with a sense of humor, as well as profoundness. I’ve not shown any of the political themed ones so as not to irritate either side.

Due to the limitations of tweets, the method of adding a hash tag (#) at the end of the tweet was devised to give more meaning to the tweet. This particular hash tag, #whcd, represents the White House Corre-

spondence Dinner.

For a near complete listing of hash tags, visit <http://tagdef.com/> to find what you are looking for or, type one into the search engine for a quicker lookup.

This is a list of major active social networking websites and excludes dating websites. Please note the list is not exhaustive, and is limited to notable, well-known sites.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_social_networking_websites

As with everything else on the internet, use common sense before giving out any personal information. Using your own name and providing personal data could result in identity theft.

As a rule you should not put your home address, place of employment, DOB and make them visible. You can elect to keep the DOB from showing on your page. If you enter other personal info, it can be seen by whomever has permission to view your page. But, keep in mind, Facebook pages have been hacked.

On my Facebook account I have a username that doesn’t identify me in any way and I list my location as the Island of Oahu.

Child predators use social network sites to entice juveniles into going to closed chat rooms where they can be seduced into clandestine meetings. This is *THE* major reason parents should be monitoring their childs on-line activities.

All too often we hear of children being abducted after meeting a stranger at the local fast food

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2) *Google+*

place. Let's face it, kids are gullible. Adolescents like being told they are pretty, or handsome or just all around nice folk. Flattery does work. Sometimes for all the wrong reasons.

The old idiom "You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar" comes to mind.

Parents, and Grandparents, should actively monitor the sites, or block those offensive ones, from the under-age child's computer.

Be especially wary of sites that they have password protected. If they do not have their own bank account, there is really no need to password—unless they are trying to hide something from Mom and Dad.

Parental controls on computers, digital TV's, smart phones, video games and computer software can be activated and password protected by Mom and Dad.

No need to feel guilty. It's not because you don't trust your children, it's because you don't trust everyone who may communicate with them.

Besides, you're the ones paying for them so why not protect your investment?

The latest entry to the social network arena is Google+. At present it is by invitation only. Once you get an invite you log in with a Gmail address and user name.

Each time you open that mail account, you can access your Google+ account.

Similar to FB you create circles. These are where you place the folks you want to have talk to you. A major difference over FB is that you can, from your account, make entries into blogs, email and directly to friends.

Google+ integrates social services such as Google Profiles and Google Buzz, and introduces new services Circles, Hangouts, Sparks, and Huddles. Google+ is available as a web site, will be available as a desktop application, and is already available as a mobile application, but only on the Android and iOS operating systems. To view an interactive tour, visit

<http://www.google.com/+demo/>

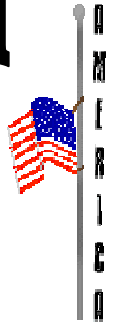
Those of you who use a social network on a regular basis already know of its benefits. Those of you who don't, should consider opening an account so you can "visit" family and friends on the mainland. You don't have to publicize your FB link but you do need an account in order to converse with those already on FB.

This type of communicating is not going away so we might as well use it while we can.

Aloha,

Jim

Never Forget



In case you weren't aware, there are some special occasions during the month of September -



7th—Labor Day

11th—Patriot Day, to remember those lost on 9/11.

13th—Grandparents Day

22nd—First day of Autumn and Elephant Appreciation Day. (Not clear if they are referring to Republicans or the actual pachyderms.)

And, of course, the 9th month has been designated: Adult Literacy Awareness; Apple; Baby Safety, and Childhood Cancer Awareness month. And, to obviate those guilty food feelings, it's also Chicken, Potato and Honey month. Bon appétit.

Sep 3rd Agenda

We're going to expand on the many ways you can accomplish photo editing without having to purchase expensive software. Most of you already have the tools on your computer. Come, learn with us.

Read and all of Lou's previous columns, @ Oceanic Around Town. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/363qew>

Da Prez Sez column is on hiatus until further notice. Lou and his column will return in the near future.

Websites you may never visit without me telling you about them.

Think it's time, once again, to make you aware of some links that are not your run-of-the-mill variety. You probably won't see them on the first page of any Google or BING search, but they are useful in their very own way. Some are topic specific others are general in content all are interesting. One I visit often is

Ø www.pchell.com "Everyone has been to PC Hell at one time or another." is the opening greeting and is right on the mark. There are how-to's; tips; remedies' trouble-shooting methods and lots of other good computer related stuff.

Ø Everything you might want to know about the Viet Nam war can be found at this site:

<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

Battle plans, operations categorized by services, maps, lots of historical content.

Ø Received a solicitation from a charity? You want to help but you're not sure if they are legit? Then click on over to

<http://www.charitywatch.org/azlist.html#g> and check them out.

There are a number of veteran themed charities that are bogus. The only one benefiting from donations is the crooks running them. One in particular sends out a "free gift" - a coffee cup, blanket, stationary set, etc. and asks for a donation. About 10 days later, if you haven't sent them a check, they send a follow up letter, "Did you receive our wonderful gift?" and ask for money again.

Ø Looking to buy (or sell) a house? Check out the C&C of Honolulu Real Property Assess-

ment site,
<http://www.honolulupropertytax.com/Main/Home.aspx>

Ø Need the proper spelling and or definition of a word? Then visit

<http://dictionary.reference.com/> to look like a good speller and use the right word in the proper context.

Ø WWII history buffs may enjoy this site dedicated to the exploits of Gen. Patton, If you served in Europe during the war, you may recognize some of the sites and events

<http://www.pattonhq.com/homeghq.html> .

Ø You have a very long URL (web address) that you want to forward to friends. Typing it could lead to errors or, if it's too long, it will wrap around the line and become a broken link. Just go to <http://tinyurl.com/> paste the URL in the box and have it create a very short one for you. Then copy it into your email.

Ø This site is just for fun, I'm not using tinyurl so you can see the name in its entirety—

<http://thelongestlistofthelongeststuffatthelongestdomainnameatlonglast.com/expensive.html>

OK, OK. I relent. Here's the same address created by TinyUrl

<http://tinyurl.com/az64f>

Ø More fun. Pining for recent "good old days". Here's a link to pretty much everything that happened in the 90's. Music, movies, culture, fashion, everything. Create your own 90's trivia game to out smart your friends. Visit <http://90s411.com/>

Ø Want to impress your friends and family? Need to make a neat poster, or sign, for your group? Then, you want to visit <http://www.customsigngenerator.com/> It's free.

Pres—Lou Torraca

VP—Jack DeTour

Sec/Treas—Polly Leigh

Assistant—Sandy Wells

—Program Directors—

Herman Jordan and Bear Maher

Newsletter—Jim Fromm

Distribution—Rose Miller and friends

Contact info is on our web site

www.the-tug.org

Ø Everybody with a computer knows about this next site, or should, but far too many do not use it as they should

<http://www.snopes.com/>

Urban legends is the subtitle. Whenever you get an email with the subject of a dire warning about a hard drive destroying virus; the second coming; or naked pictures of a celebrity, before you hit that Forward button you should check it's veracity first. 99% of the time it's going to be bogus. By forwarding the mail you just add to the traffic going through the mail servers and, if you didn't use Bcc., give spammers more addresses to continue the overloading.

Ø Finally if, like me, you laugh at other peoples mishaps, you want to spend some time browsing through this site.

<http://www.darwinawards.com/>

Browse with confidence, enjoy your travels and use your head. Don't end up an entry on that Darwin website.



Aloha,

Jim