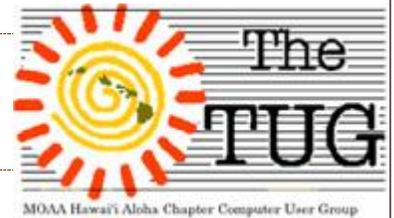




THE TUG



We'll, we're almost through the summer with nothing of significance to brag about. No surfing records set, no volleyball, swimming, golf nor baseball championships, but who cares? It's still summer. Those lazy days of doing nothing that requires real work will be with us for awhile longer. It's amazing the reasons (read: excuses) we can come up with to lollygag during this time.

Those of us in the retired corps have become experts in the practice of putting off until tomorrow what the significant other wants done today. Labor Day will be here soon enough. We appreciate all the free time we can make for ourselves. Speaking of free, see Lou's entry this month.

Last meeting was unexceptional in that we had no specific topic just a smattering of different subjects.

Bear led us on with ways to capture streaming TV from several outlets with cable adaptors. We had a short chat about Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org). This site rates thousands of charities on their efficiency in soliciting donations and the output to those programs.

We then heard from many in the group about the number of solicitations received in the mail, on a daily basis, and the discarding of them. Once you donate to a charity the collection agency sells your address to like-minded charities. So, for example, you donate to a no-kill animal shelter shortly you will shortly receive mail from many other shelters asking for your money. Charity Navigator rates all charities that have assets of \$1 million or more and awards them zero to 4 stars. You might be surprised of the more popular ones who have only 2 or 3 stars.

Personally, I don't donate to any charity that has less than three stars. My main factor is the CEO's salary. Some I checked on are 3 to 4 % of their operating budgets. Six-digit compensation seems high to me, even though it doesn't disclose any associated perks, i.e. Travel expenses, etc.

We spent the remainder of the meeting talking about various subjects, many of which I have forgotten. I should learn to take notes...

August 4th is the U. S. Coast Guard's 228th birthday. This date in 1790 the Revenue Cutter Service was created which, over the past two centuries, has evolved into the modern-day Coast Guard. Happy Birthday to all the Coasties out there, past and present.





August is known for many things, including the dog days of summer, National Watermelon Day and National Smile Week as well as an update on the column I wrote last August ☺ There are many other fun facts associated with summer's last full month. Should you wish to explore them go to <https://tinyurl.com/y7lgxjqg> Keep reading for the update:

"The Best Things In Life Are Free- The moon belongs to everyone - Best things in life they're free - Stars belong to everyone..." If this song had been written after the internet was born, it too would probably have been included in the lyrics since more and more free Wi-Fi hotspots are being introduced in every city, town (Hawaii has just announced new ones) and even villages all over the world and the internet has a cornucopia of freebies...here are some you may want to explore:



<https://www.gutenberg.org/>

Project Gutenberg offers over 54,000 free eBooks: Choose among free e-pub books, free Kindle books, download them or read them online. You will find the world's great literature here, especially older works for which copyright has expired. We digitized and diligently proofread them with the help of thousands of volunteers.

No fee or registration is required, but if you find Project Gutenberg useful, we kindly ask you to donate a small amount so we can digitize more books, maintain our online presence, and improve Project Gutenberg programs and offerings. Other ways to help include digitizing more books, recording audio books, or reporting errors.

≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈

<https://www.khanacademy.org>

Education is expensive, but it doesn't have to be. That seems to be the ideal driving Khan Academy, an online nonprofit organization entrepreneur Salman Khan founded to provide free courses spanning a variety of subjects. The courses include everything from video lectures and educational exercises, and the site keeps track of users' progress, letting them know how well they are mastering a subject. For those who find gamification helpful, the site even rewards badges for accomplishing certain things, such as mastering X number of skills or posting an answer that people find helpful.



≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈



<https://tinyurl.com/ycx2o9aq>

Image editing is both a popular pastime and a useful job skill, whether one is simply throwing a filter on a vacation photo or trying to create an image for the front page of a website. Good image editing software such as Photoshop — which comes with an extensive set of features — can be prohibitively expensive, though. Enter Pixlr, a free cloud-based image editing program that provides users with all the tools they need to quickly and easily manipulate images. The Web-based application is easy to navigate, too, and there's no need to download software.



<https://www.freecycle.org>

The Freecycle Network is made up of 5,301 groups with 9,155,188 members around the world, and next door to you. It's a grassroots and entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns and neighborhoods. It's all about reuse and keeping good stuff out of landfills. Each local group is moderated by local volunteers (them's good people). Membership is free. To sign up, find your community by entering it into the search box on the page or by clicking on 'Browse Groups' at the top of the page.

≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈≈

<http://www.2000freebies.com>

They have a huge list of free stuff that gets updated almost daily. It's hard to not find anything on this site. Here are the category listings on the side of the page: Freebies; Free Software; Free Family Stuff; Free Coupons; Health Offers; Free Home Stuff; Print Coupons; Newest Freebies; Free Samples; Freebies



In case you're wondering: Why Do Companies Give Away Things for Free? You may wonder what is there to gain when entirely legit companies give away their products for free?

The business is convinced that the person on the receiving end presents another potential customer. If he or she likes the product enough, then the business gains another regular customer. Even if there may not be any immediate buying decision coming forth, the fact that the product is actively in use, instead of laying idle on the shelf, is still a better proposition. Though the person who received free stuff has the most to gain!

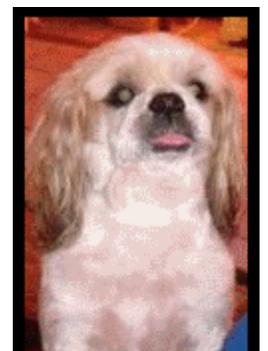
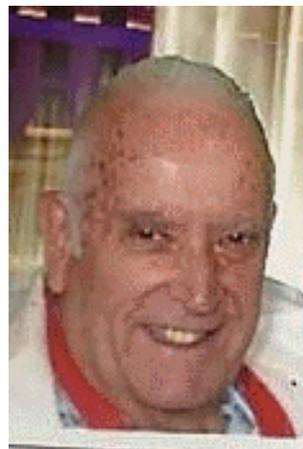
Takeaway: There are lots of websites that give free samples of products, but not all are equal. Some of them will bombard you with junk emails, yet when it comes to giving you freebies, they fall short. Getting emails from these sites is expected. After all, they don't just spend their time and money finding you freebies out of the goodness of their hearts. In exchange for giving you those deals, they may send you advertising emails from time to time. That is to be expected.

Just make sure to go for safe and legit sites that actually can be used to get you real free stuff, and not just free junk emails!

There you have it-have fun checking them out and be careful out there on the www.

Aloha,

Lou, and in spirit, Pooky





Official Computer User Group of the Aloha Chapter MOAA

Established 1988

2018 Officers

President Jack DeTour jakdet@hawaii.rr.com

Vice-President Mark Webster Markster96816@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Ebey weetrees@hawaii.rr.com

Editor/Webmaster Jim Fromm editor@the-tug.org

www.the-tug.org

I've posted a couple of files from our APCUG Region 11 Director, Judy Taylour.
Filled with good, pertinent and topical information from contributors around the nation.
Check out the content and then scroll down to the article you want to read.