

Webinar

We held our second successful webinar. (I can hear the attendees now, “Whaddyamean successful?”), at the October 6th meeting.

Well, it wasn't totally 100% successful. You see, at the previous meeting (September) I was going through steps to take to make yourself less vulnerable to hackers by going into Settings and disabling several default functions. Two of them happened to be the microphone and camera. Both of which were sorely needed for our participation in the webinar. I could see and hear Bob and Pres. Emeritus Lou (who was logged in from home) on our monitor but they couldn't see nor hear us. After several minutes of troubleshooting the problem it finally dawned on me where the problem lie. It was with the operator, DUH! After enabling both the mic and camera we established two-way communications.

Bob then went into his approximately 50-minute presentation entitled “If it's connected, it must be protected.”

A comprehensive, informative and witty presentation that alerted us to the dangers of having everything in your house on Wi-Fi.

With todays technology when I say everything, I mean everything. Refrigerators; Smart TV's; HVAC systems; lighting; garage door openers; coffee pots, toasters and more can be controlled with your Smart Phone. But can also be hacked by others.

He advised all to have a strong password for your Wi-Fi network and gave examples of the most popular, and least secure, passwords in use. He recommended using a password manager.

Since Bob is an advocate for Avast antivirus, he mentioned that product at key points in his presentation. Bob pointed out some of the many features of Avast. He said he uses Avast Free but the Premium version can do much more. Avast happens to have a password manager in their product, so you can get anti-virus and password protection in one application.

He even gave us a link that contains complete download and installation instructions for Avast. Here it is if you want to check it out. <https://goo.gl/5v4sIQ>

High marks from the group. Only a couple of questions because Bob had pretty much covered the topic of home network protection sufficiently.

Once again kudos to Terry for loaning us his hot spot so we could get a firm internet connection. As a karma reward for his generosity, his number was picked and he took home the Fire TV door prize.



It's about that time of year again when everything turns to pumpkin scented or pumpkin flavored and the thought of turkey and stuffing is filling our thoughts. Families will gather and stuff themselves as they intermittently nap and watch football. So, how can technology help you survive the hectic Thanksgiving season? Here are some ways that technology can help relieve some of the holiday stress.



1. *Football and Thanksgiving are as synonymous as pilgrims and pointy shoes, but what if your dinner plans interfere with your football watching plans? Amazon is out with a new DVR called Fire TV Recast. This is a great way for you to not miss a single play with the pigskin while you're pigging out.*
2. *We all know that the holidays are a time for family, but what if you can't all be physically together? Well, thanks to Skype now you can be together. The only thing missing is the smell of homemade pies.*
3. *Digital thermometers! I know that we have all watched a family member take the turkey out of the oven, check the temperature, baste it, put it back, etc., but a digital thermometer can save time and can actually even send you an alert on your phone.*
4. *We all know that Mom wakes up at 4 am, cooks the turkey, stuffing, veggies, pies, etc. and Dad swoops in with a knife, carves the turkey and he is the hero...well, how about arming that hero with an electric carving knife. No longer will we have to watch the mutilation as Dad tries to salvage every ounce of turkey.*
5. *No Thanksgiving holiday would be complete without Black Friday Shopping! Instead of clawing your way through the lines and crowds, how about doing some shopping in your ajamas? Many sites offer Black Friday Shopping Online with a lot less stress! But, if you insist on touchy-feely shopping, check out the hours here:
<https://www.theblackfriday.com/black-friday-2018.php>*

However, the best advice that I can give, this Thanksgiving season, is to put down your phones, turn off the TV and spend some quality time with the family!

That's all for now, have fun on the 31st, but be careful and kind if you decide to "trick" anyone 😊

Aloha, Lou and in spirit, Pooky

*Happy
Thanksgiving*





Official Computer User Group of the Aloha Chapter MOAA

Established 1988

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In addition to our regular door prizes, this month we are again offering another item, with a twist. In an effort to do a little fund raising we will be soliciting donations. *Amazon Echo provided by the generosity of Kathleen Ebey, our Club Secretary.*

The puritanical no-gambling laws of the State of Hawaii reach all the way down to fund raisers for non-profits so we can't offend the authorities by 'selling' tickets but we can ask for donations. In return you will be given the appropriate number of tickets and the recipient of this item will have her/his ticket picked from 'the hat'. So please plan on attending, participating and possibly, winning.



It's Halloween month, so Microsoft gave us all a scare early on...

You most likely have heard/read about the misfortunate Windows October Updates. If not, in a nutshell, the initial release caused some users to lose files after the update was installed. The resulting clamor forced Microsoft to pull the updates, make some fixes, and re-release.

I installed it on my notebook and discovered that Ccleaner had been removed. Upon re-booting I received the message, via dialog box, that Ccleaner had been removed because it wasn't compatible with this version of Windows. \

Hmmm, it had been working just fine for many months on Win10. An update is NOT a different version of Win10. I couldn't find any other programs, or files, effected by the update.

If you have Windows automatically installing updates, you probably have the corrected version installed. If you have Windows prompt you to install updates, you're probably OK too – unless you jumped on the first version, then you'll get prompted to install another update. Not suppose to be this confusing, is it?

To see what you've had installed, go to Settings, Update & Security then click on View update history. Scroll down to see other categories of updates. The October update is dated 10/09 or 10/10.



Have you registered to vote? Have you already voted? If not, are you going to?

It saddens me to say that only 47.3% of Hawaii registered voters participated in the 2016 General election. According to the Census Bureau, in 2016, there were 974,000 citizens in the state. Of those, 530,000 were registered, which is a percentage of 54.4. Total voting 460,000.

This puts Hawaii dead last in the percentage of citizens exercising their civic duty.

Compare Maine, similar total population of 1,058 with Hawaii, whose total population was 1,054. Maine had a voting percentage of 72.7, second place behind the District of Columbia, with 553,000 and 74.3%.

I realize there may be more comfortable outdoor activities in Hawaii on a Tuesday in November versus November in Maine, but c'mon folks.

This is more than embarrassing. With all the ways to cast your ballot, i.e. via regular mail, early voting, even registering on election day! - there should be no excuse not to vote.

Remember your civics class from high school about the number of elections that have been decided by a single vote? Will you not voting help decide this one? Voting IS a civic duty.