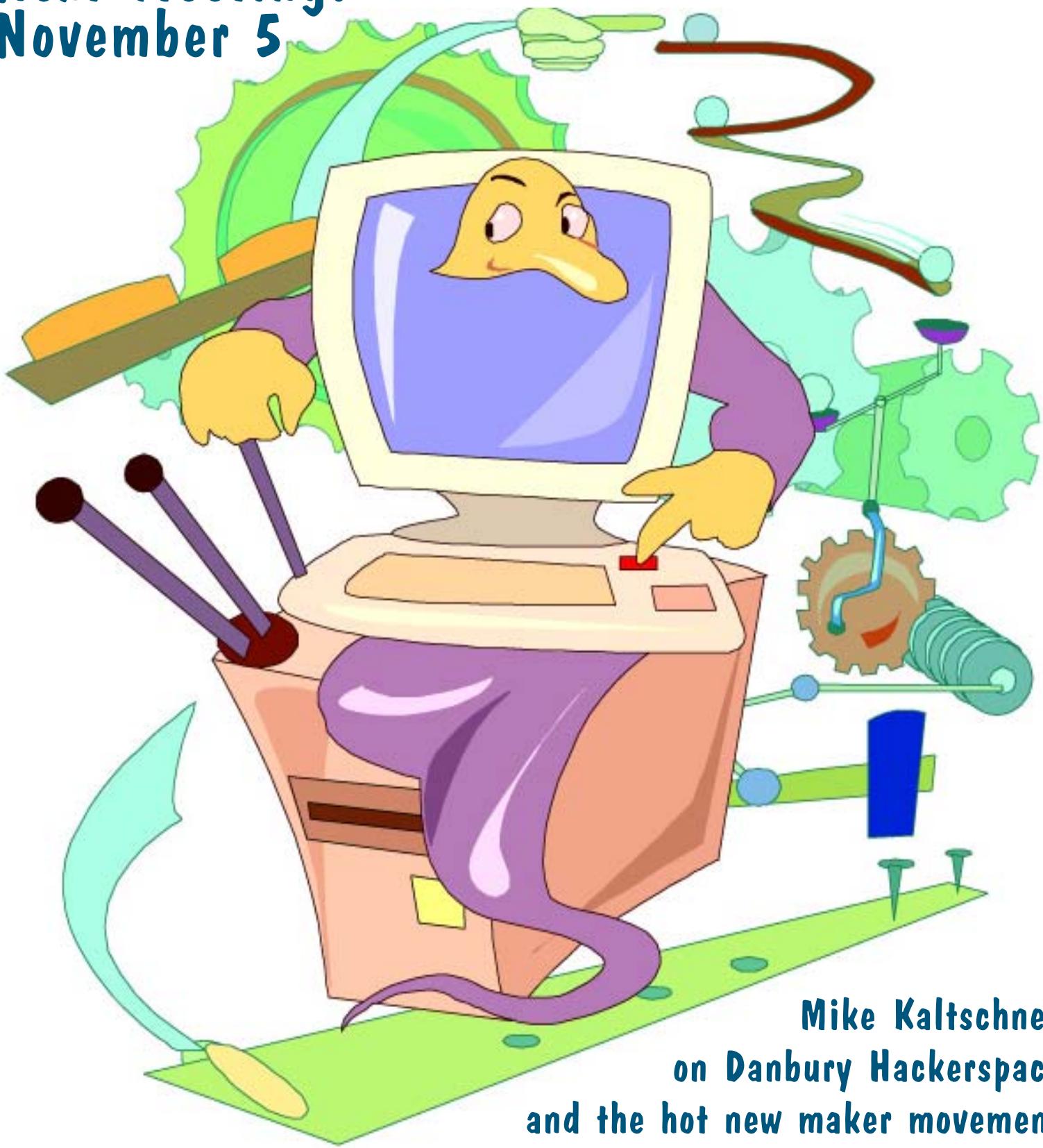


**Next Meeting:  
November 5**



**Mike Kaltschnee  
on Danbury Hackerspace  
and the hot new maker movement**

# Directors' Notes

A meeting of your board of directors was held on Wednesday, October 9, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Attending were Richard Corzo, Jim Scheef, Richard Teasdale, Lisa Leifels, Annette van Ommeren, Drew Kwashnak, Andy Woodruff, Bruce Preston, Bill Saturno, Dave Green. Guest: Charlie Bovaird.

The minutes of last meeting were accepted.

## Treasurer's Report September 2013

Balance on hand 9/1/13:\$4,638.23

### INCOME

Dues:	\$312.66
Total Income:	\$312.66

### EXPENSES

Resource Center Phone:	\$83.15
Newsletter Printing:	\$88.00
Newsletter Postage:	\$36.16
Adobe Software:	\$170.00
MeetUp 6-month fee:	\$72.00
Total Expenses:	\$449.31
Balance on hand 9/30/13:	\$4,501.58

## Membership Report

AUG 6 - Office 365 - Microsoft Store  
SEP 3 - Photo Organization - Ken Graff  
Oct 1 - Virtual Machines - Bruce Preston

	AUG	SEP	OCT
seat count	29	34	33
members signed in	24	28	29
visitors signed in	4	4	4
Paying members	121	114	115
w/ email address	111	108	109
new members	1	1	1

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DACSDOC	75	75	75
printed	75	75	75
number of pages	12	12	12
mailed	62	60	61
mailed-members	43	41	42
mailed-other	5	5	5
mailed-free lib	14	14	14

## Old Business

### 1. General meetings

- October 1: Bruce Preston - Virtual Machine Technology, how it works and demonstration. Preview: Jim Scheef, Review: Jim Ritterbusch.

- November 5: Mike Kaltschnee-Danbury Hackerspace. Preview: Bill Saturno, Review: Sean Henderson (Andy Woodruff backup)

- December 3: Bill DeRosa-Facebook and Pinterest. Preview: Lisa Leifels, Review: Richard Teasdale

- February 4, 2014: Jay Ferron-Windows 8.1. Preview: TBD, Review: TBD

### • Possible future topics:

- Shall we do a "Meet the SIG" segment between the Ask DACS session and the featured presentation? What SIG should do September? Some suggestions: Mobile Devices, Linux (Raspberry Pi perhaps?), Drupal, Web Design.

◦ "LifeStream" monitoring. Mike Kaltschnee mentioned FitBit (currently available at BestBuy) or other 'wearable electronics'. Considering session on wearable technology such as this for the January session. Andy spoke with Jeff Schlicht, professor of phys ed at West Conn, about a possible presentation at DACS re wearable electronic devices that monitor exercise and/or body functions. Bill may have access to someone who has Google Glass, and perhaps other health-related wearables.

◦ Bruce did a Virtual Machine session in October and showed that an XP machine (or earlier) could be built to support legacy applications. Should we also schedule a hands-on workshop as a follow-on? Did we ask audience members at the meeting? We will see if Sean would like Bruce to assist in setting up a workshop. Decision must be made within a week so as to make announcement in the November newsletter.

◦ Now that the new OS X Mavericks release has been announced to

## Membership Information

*dacs.doc*, ISSN 1084-6573, is published monthly by the Danbury Area Computer Society, 27 Ole Musket Lane, Danbury, CT 06810-8232. Annual subscription rates: \$45 to regular members, \$30 electronic access (included in dues).

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Send address changes to Danbury Area Computer Society, Inc., 4 Gregory Street, Danbury, CT 06810-4430.

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The editors welcome submissions from DACS members. Contact Richard Teasdale ([dacseditor@dacs.org](mailto:dacseditor@dacs.org)). Advertisers, contact Charles Bovaird at (203) 792-7881 ([aam@mags.net](mailto:aam@mags.net))

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## Applications & Hardware to enhance *dacs.doc* are welcome.



Bill Saturno APCUG Liaison  
[wsaturno@dacs.org](mailto:wsaturno@dacs.org)



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**RESOURCE CENTER:** (203) 748-4330 • **WEB SITE:** <http://www.dacs.org>

## HelpLine

Our former telephone HelpLine has been replaced by our web-based DACS Community Forum at <http://forum.dacs.org>. We have topic-specific forums where DACS members can post questions. Questions may be answered by SIG leaders or other DACS members. If none of the categories fit your question, just post it to the Ask DACS forum.

### Topic

Microsoft Access  
.NET Programming  
Digital cameras/scanners/image processing  
Content Management Systems  
Linux  
Mac and iPhone/iPad/iPod touch  
PC maintenance  
Smartphones & Tablets  
Virtual machine software  
Desktop publishing and website design  
Windows

### Forum

Access SIG  
ASP.Net and C#VB.Net SIG  
Digital Imaging SIG  
Drupal SIG  
Linux SIG  
Apple SIG  
PC Maintenance SIG  
Mobile Devices SIG  
Virtual Computing SIG  
Web Site Design SIG  
Windows SIG

## Directors' Notes, Cont. from page 2

come out in the fall, we should ask Dave Marra to do another presentation as the time draws nearer. It need not be immediately after release, so something like January or March would be good.

o Andy suggested a session on creating a web site of various types: blog, brochure, e-commerce site, etc.) - making use of such as products/services as site builder (online or on PC), turn-key sites, etc. Andy suggested that as a computer group we should do some sort of session that would answer the question: "I think I need a web site, what are my options?" This might involve a "high level" overview of the various approaches. Andy (and to some extent Bruce) wanted to talk about the entry level 'turn key' systems where you must live within the constraints of the design, where Annette is more concerned about "What happens if it doesn't do what you want it to do?" Annette and Andy will discuss creating an outline that describes at a high-level what components might be a part of a web site and the repercussions they have upon the construction of the site.

o Lisa suggested a "decision tree" presentation - "What should I get?" - Windows or Mac, Desktop, All-in-One, Notebook, Tablet, or even SmartPhone - Android or iOS, etc. Lots of decisions - how to decide what meets your needs. We think this would be a 'tough' presentation to pull off but a lively session. Bruce, Richard C, Jim and Charlie will work on defining the metrics.

2. Bill Saturno is our new APCUG representative. He is receiving APCUG emails but not everything. It appears that APCUG has multiple distribution lists based upon functionality. For example Richard C is deluged with APCUG mailings perhaps 4 per week, while Bill has only received 8 since July..

3. Opening positions

- Treasurer when Dave Green retires March 31. Richard C's two possibilities came up dry. Does the treasurer need to be a CT resident, since we use the treasurer's home address as the club's legal address: Answer: No. Richard T. has identified a can-

*Directors' Notes, Cont. on page 4*

# Meeting Review

## Go Back in Time with Virtual Machines

By Jim Ritterbusch

**A**RE YOU STILL doing fine without InDesign, or are you an old hand with a DOS command? Keeping up with the computer revolution can be a daunting task for even the most tech savvy computer user.

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, Bruce Preston presented “Virtual Machines for Backward Compatibility (and a lot more)”. He suggested a number of reasons why one might want virtualization, such as support for legacy applications, obsolete hardware, regression testing, and more. Using the analogy of a Windows calculator being a “virtual calculator” that fulfills all of the functions of a real calculator, Bruce explained the principal of virtualization being implemented completely in software.

Detailing the normal PC boot process, Bruce explained how virtualization is different from dual-booting. He elaborated on many facets of the boot process. He walked us through the virtualization from mainframes through mini-computers and ultimately on desktop PCs. He provided us details on the software/hardware interface, the hardware abstraction layer, device drivers, and tied it all together into a conceptual diagram of a physical computer.

Bruce then introduced the hypervisor, the housekeeper that keeps all of the virtual components in their proper places. He showed us various different hypervisors. For the purpose of this demonstration, he focused on the VirtualBox hypervisor, freeware published by Oracle. He tied the virtual PC back to the conceptual diagram presented earlier.

He then listed the steps to create a virtual machine using VirtualBox, whether the VM was Windows 8, Vista, Windows 95, or even DOS. Bruce elaborated on options for internet connections to the outside world, as well as a Disk2VHD utility that can take an existing single-boot Windows installation and convert it to a VM, with that version of Windows running as the guest underneath.

Bruce provided some resource links,

such as <http://www.virtualbox.org> and <http://www.vetusware.com>. He explained that there are some compatibility issues with old software applications, especially those that used code which directly accessed hardware. A primary example was the original Microsoft Flight Simulator, which was tied to early PCs' 4.7 MHz clocks. Running on a modern machine at 3.4 GHz would cause your Cessna 150 to fly 700 times faster and crash immediately on takeoff!

Following the pitch, Bruce presented a

live demonstration of installing a virtual machine on his existing computer running VirtualBox. For the VM, he selected Microsoft DOS 6.2, due to the quick installation time. This was accomplished in a few minutes. A question and answer period ensued.

All-in-all, an informative and interesting presentation. Thanks, Bruce!

Bruce's presentation is available in PDF format on the DACS download page, at [http://dacs.org/pdf/VM\\_Present\\_v1\\_DACS.pdf](http://dacs.org/pdf/VM_Present_v1_DACS.pdf).



## Directors' Notes, Cont. from page 3

dicate who seems enthusiastic. He will follow up and ask him to talk to Richard C. Dave has prepared a document detailing the functionality required.

- President when Richard Corzo retires March 31.
- Replacements for retiring "odd-year class" board members Drew Kwashnak and Annette van Ommeren in December. Jim, Lisa, and Bruce are continuing. Dave Green is also retiring in December as an "even-year class" board member after serving just one year of his term.

## New Business

1. Sean Henderson will be doing his annual music production workshop on November 22.
2. Jim has been looking into the feasibility of implementing a 'split domain' where e-mails may be serviced by either Microsoft 365 or our current mail server on Bluehost. The reason that he wants to do this is that if a member with an @dacs.org address could make use of the MS Exchange functionalities available, such as centralized Outlook calendar that can be synchronized across devices. He is in the process of determining as to whether this can be done without impacting existing accounts.

Adjourned: 8:50PM

—Bruce Preston

A black and white cartoon illustration of a group of people in a room. There are several tables covered with white cloths and chairs. Some people are standing and talking, while others are seated at the tables. The room has windows in the background. The style is reminiscent of a political cartoon or a satirical drawing.

Do the General Meetings leave you thirsting for more?  
Find all that after the meeting at the DACS Pig SIG.

# Meeting Preview

## Mikey Maker's Back in Town

by Bill Saturno

**I**F YOU HAVE EVER ASSEMBLED a Heathkit project, gathered with others at a local SIG to discuss programming, or tinkered with tubes at a meeting of a Ham Radio club, you will be glad to know that the innovative, creative tech culture is alive and well today. A renaissance has bloomed recently, as shown by the resurgence of the "Do It Yourself" movement. This movement is no longer a niche - *Time* and *Forbes* magazines acknowledge the growing maker movement as well as the places where these creative souls congregate. The DIY movement is often referred to as "making" or "hacking", and their clubs and workshops are known as "makerspaces" and "hackerspaces".

The November general meeting welcomes speaker and DACS member Mike Kaltschnee, co-founder of the Danbury Hackerspace at The Innovation Center. This facility, opening in Danbury later this year, will be one of the newest hackerspaces in Connecticut. The Danbury Hackerspace will be linked with the Danbury Innovation Center, which encourages new local business development and provides resources for growth to businesses in the local community. Mike will discuss the involvement of the City of Danbury in the project, which included a \$550,000 commitment to renovate the facility space.

The Danbury Hackerspace will be open soon and Mike will explain the types of activities and events the space will run for makers, entrepreneurs, artists, hackers, and craftspeople. In addition to discussing the Danbury Hackerspace, Mike will describe makerspaces in general, coworking spaces, as well as the recent growth and influence of crowdfunding (Kickstarter, Indiegogo, etc.). Mike will also cover CT Next, Maker Faires, as well as providing information about established hackerspaces in our area, such as *CT Hackerspace*, *NESIT*, and *Make Haven*.



Mike Kaltschnee

Xerox PARC and Bell Labs may have closed their doors but new opportunities at hackerspaces are the places where people are going to create and build "the new stuff" for tomorrow - life-changing products and technologies, and writing code that will change the world.

DACS meetings are held at Danbury Hospital auditorium. (Go to [www.dacs.org](http://www.dacs.org) to find directions and parking info). Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for registration and casual networking. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. with a Q&A period (Ask DACS), followed by announcements and a short break. The featured presentation begins at 8:00 p.m. The meeting is scheduled to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

DACS General Meetings are free and open to the public. Members and prior attendees are encouraged to extend invitations to anyone interested in this topic.

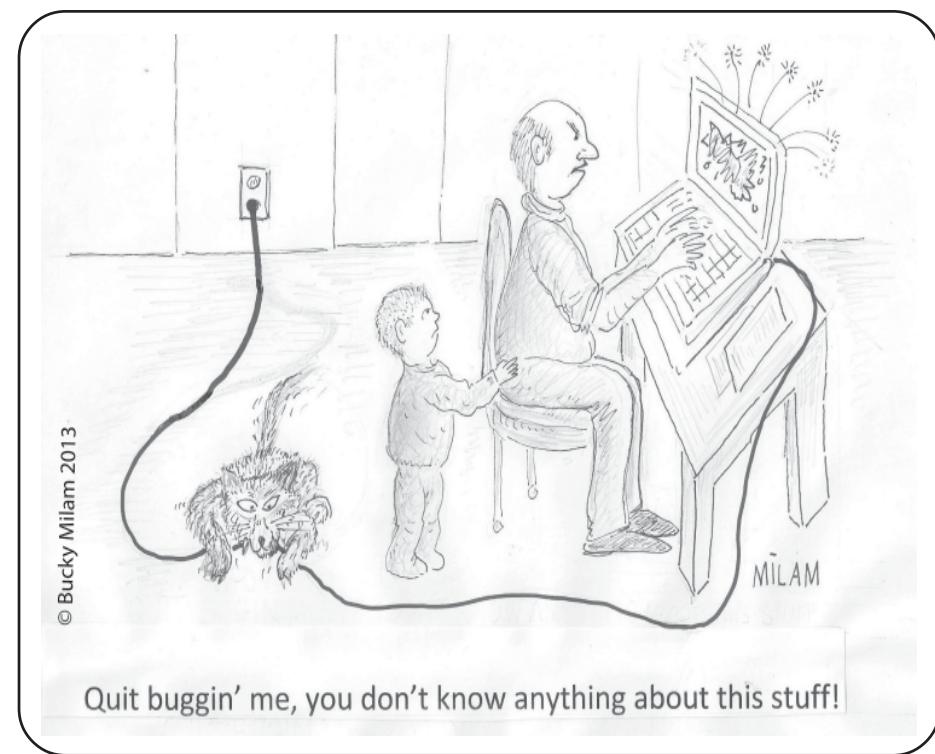


## DACS Community Forum

Ever wanted to ask a question and get an answer without waiting for the next general meeting? How about sharing news with other DACS members, or communicating with fellow participants in a SIG you attend?

The DACS Community Forum (<http://www.dacs.org/forum/>) is another benefit of being a DACS member, and it's open 24/7. Once you register there you'll be able to post questions, answers, and comments. You can even set up an RSS subscription to be notified of updates to the forums.

Try out the DACS forum today!



# Special Interest Groups

## SIG NOTES: November 2013

**Apple.** Focuses on all aspects of the Mac and iPhone operating systems.

**Contact:** Richard Corzo ([macsig@dacs.org](mailto:macsig@dacs.org)).

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7 p.m. at DACS Resource Center.

**Next Meeting:** Nov 4

**Digital Imaging.** All about digital cameras, retouching, and printing using various programs.

**Contact:** Ken Graff at 203 648-9747 ([thedigitalwiz@gmail.com](mailto:thedigitalwiz@gmail.com)). Meets last Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.

**Next Meeting:** Nov 27

**Drupal.** Covers all things on Drupal, the open source content management system (CMS).

**Contact:** Jim Scheef ([jscheef@dacs.org](mailto:jscheef@dacs.org)).

Meets on the second Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center, or go to the DACS Community Forum (<http://www.dacs.org/forum/>) within the Members only area.

**Next meeting:** Nov 7

**Jobs.** Networking and jobs search

**Contact:** Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 ([aam@mags.net](mailto:aam@mags.net)).

Go to DACS Community Forum (<http://forum.dacs.org> for job listings).

**Linux.** Helps in installing and maintaining the Linux operating system. Also of interest to Apple owners using OS X.

**Contact:** Dave Mawdsley, [linuxsig@dacs.org](mailto:linuxsig@dacs.org)

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.

**Next Meeting:** Nov 13

**Mobile Devices.** Focuses on smartphones, tablets, and e-readers of all makes and models.

**Contact:** Richard Corzo and Jim Scheef ([Mobilesig@dacs.org](mailto:Mobilesig@dacs.org))

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 7 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center

**Next Meeting:** Nov 18

**PC Maintenance.** Review of PC hardware and OpSys maintenance and use.

**Contact:** Charles Bovaird, 203-792-7881 ([aam@mags.net](mailto:aam@mags.net)).

Go to DACS Community Forum (<http://forum.dacs.org>).

**Server.** Explores Back Office server and client applications, including Win NT Servers and MS Outlook. SIG is on hiatus and presently merged into the Drupal SIG.

**Contact:** Jim Scheef ([jscheef@telemarrksys.com](mailto:jscheef@telemarrksys.com)), or go to the DACS Community Forum: <http://www.dacs.org/forum/>, within the Members-only area

**Web Design and DTP.** Learn about Adobe software for web, graphics and desktop publishing.

**Contact:** Annette van Ommeren ([avo@annagraphics.com](mailto:avo@annagraphics.com)).

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at the DACS Resource Center.

**Next Meeting:** Dec 17

## SIG News & Events

**Apple.** At the October meeting we talked about the new iOS 7 software available for the iPhone and iPad. This is a major overhaul to the look of the interface, with several new features. Gone are the skeuomorphic elements that looked like real materials such as felt, leather, or wood. Icons have a flatter, more colorful look, but now some items are placed in layers with translucency added to give a sense of the layer underneath. The notification center includes a Today view that gathers information for a quick glance at today's weather, schedule, stock prices, etc. A swipe up from the bottom reveals the new control center for quick access to certain settings like Wi-Fi, Airplane mode, music player controls, a calculator, and flashlight. It's almost like getting a new phone just by updating the software. For those noticing a decrease in battery life, check the new Background App Refresh setting under General and turn off any apps that you don't need to have refreshed in the background. Some less obvious features are those that make it difficult for thieves to wipe an iPhone and resell it.

Later in the meeting one Mac user reported having had some trouble making video calls with a relative. Using me as the other party, we were able to successfully conduct both FaceTime and iChat video calls with his and my MacBook Pros.

### Linux.

Tonight's meeting included two presentations: 1. "Using Scientific Formulas Inside a LibreOffice Writer Document," a how-

to demonstration using the methods with scientific equations in a Writer document; and 2. "Installing nVidia Support," an example of using proprietary code along with an otherwise open-source Fedora environment to solve a serious video problem.

### 1. "Using Scientific Formulas Inside a LibreOffice Writer Document" (changing plain text formulas to fancy formats)

With any text writer or editor, expressions such as  $C^2 = A^2 + B^2$  are useful and are fairly clear, but they're not very elegant in a nice presentation. As a quick fix, the expression could be written  $C^2 = A^2 + B^2$  and then just reformat the characters with superscript to make the equation look better such as  $C^2 = A^2 + B^2$ .

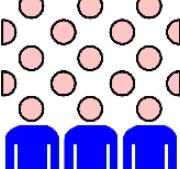
Using Microsoft Word 2007, there are some options that might be enough for simple expressions. Use the 'Insert' ribbon of Word to find some simple pre-made formulas along with an extensive list of math and science symbols at the far right of the ribbon.

A more elegant solution is to use LibreOffice Writer, which is available free for Windows, Apple and Linux. Writer contains an on-board equations editor that can deal with expressions such as  $C^2 = A^2 + B^2$  with ease. Once written that way in a Writer document, simply select the expression, use Insert > Object > Formula, and the conversion to the desired form is immediate. Later formatting for font size and bold can be done as well.

*SIG Notes Cont.on page 9*

# November 2013

## Danbury Area Computer Society

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																	
			<table border="1"> <tr><td colspan="7">Oct 2013</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr><td colspan="7">Dec 2013</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Oct 2013							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			Dec 2013							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					1	2
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17	18	19	20  Linux 7:30 -9:30 PM Dave Mawdsley linuxsig@dacs.org	21  SQL Server Study Group 7:00 -8:30 PM Sean Henderson 203-837-7068	22  Digital Music Workshop 7:00 PM Sean Henderson sean@museworks entertainment.com	23																																																																																																	
24	25  Mobile Devices 7:00 PM Jim Scheef & Richard Corzo mobilesig@dacs.org	26	27  Digital Imaging 7:00 PM Ken Graff 203 648-9747 thedigitalwiz@gmail.com	28 	29	30																																																																																																	

# Memories

## Shirley, Goodness and Mercy

by Allan Ostergren

*Editor's note: Shirley Fredlund passed away on September 30, after a brief illness.*

**W**HEN I FIRST MET Shirley Fredlund in June 1991, DACS was an up-and-coming organization of about 100 members, and had just moved into larger meeting accommodations at Brookfield's DATAHR rehabilitation center. The computer revolution was spawning legions of followers, anxious to master the new technology and to explore its possibilities.

Shirley was recruiting volunteers for Voice for Joanie, an organization she had created in honor of her friend Joan Margaitis, a victim of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). More commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, ALS attacks motor neurons in the body, causing muscles to weaken and atrophy and resulting in paralysis and death. Shirley and a close friend, Frank Ruiz, had obtained a grant from IBM for a communication system, but it arrived just too late to help Joanie.

DACS eagerly embraced Shirley and her cause, forming a Voice for Joanie SIG to recruit volunteers and an assistive technology SIG to develop new devices to help ALS victims communicate. Although this was part of a general community outreach initiative to fulfill DACS' nonprofit status, that also included refurbishing used hardware, training seniors and other community projects, it was eagerly pursued, and earned considerable recognition for DACS.

Assistive technology is a broad and fiercely competitive field developing rehabilitative devices for the physically impaired. For ALS victims, it typically consisted of a word processor that could receive commands from a pointing device tailored to the user's physical abilities. The muscles of the eye are normally the last to be affected by paralysis, so an infrared switch was developed to enable patients to blink to select text on the computer screen. The system, used by astrophysicist Stephen Hawking is the most common example, although many similar tech-

nologies—even thought-based switches—are being developed.

Although ambitious and well-intentioned, the assistive technology SIG never achieved its goal of cheap, off-the-shelf devices for the handicapped. But the magic of Shirley's personality and determination, combined with DACS' growing community outreach initiative and computer industry connections proved a powerful combination.

In April 1993, DACS participated in a nationally televised promotional launch of MS-DOS 6 at Danbury Hospital. More than \$7,200 was donated by 300 members and guests at the event, and Microsoft agreed to match the total for a grand total of \$14,462. In 1994, DACS and Voice for Joanie won the national REACH Award (Recognizing Excep-

*Remembering Shirley, Cont. on page 11*

THE NEWS-TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1994

## Seeing may mean speaking soon for victim of disease

By Helen O'Neill  
The News-Times

**N**EW TOWNSHIP — Shirley Fredlund spoke with her eyes yesterday, getting hands-on training on an eye-operated computer she hopes will transform a "terminally ill friend" a bit.

"It's a phenomenal system. It will allow Joanie to speak again," said Fredlund, wearing a pair of eye-glasses linked to a special infrared switch that transformed her eye-poked blinks into words on a computer screen.

By blocking or exerting the lower pressure on a sensors switch, Fredlund and Peter Duncan learned how to type and say sentences such as "I am tired. I don't feel well. I need to be moved."

The two day their friend Joanie, 52, is a perfect candidate for the computer. Joanie is paralyzed and wheelchair-bound after suffering from ALS, commonly called Lou Gehrig's disease.

They have launched a fund-raising campaign to obtain a

Shirley Fredlund demonstrated an eye-operated computer specially designed for people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.



of her muscles, nerves, speech — and independence! Friends: A working model with a blue Dahlia, the flower of the month, sits on the table next to Shirley. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows some office equipment and papers.



In foreground: Frank Ruiz, Shirley Fredlund and DACS president, Dick Gingras at REACH Award ceremony



Microsoft's Bob Jones and Sue Page present big check to Shirley Fredlund, Tom McIntyre and Dick Gingras

## SIG Notes, Cont. from page 6

As an alternative, when it's time to insert an equation, use Insert > Object > Formula and the equation editor opens and allows for typing in the bottom pane. Then clicking back in the upper pane changes the typed equation to the form desired.

When the equation editor is open, right-mousing next to the equation typed brings up a list of useful tools such as formatting and special functions. The View menu also gives the option 'Elements' which reveals standard forms for fractions, integrals, relations and so on—those found in science and mathematics. Chemical formulas, matrices, physics constants, and so on are also possible.

Excellent resources are available to get started in the LibreOffice equation editor:

- A. "LibreOffice 3.5 Math Guide Using the Equation Editor" at [https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/images/6/65/MG35MathGuide\\_LO.pdf](https://wiki.documentfoundation.org/images/6/65/MG35MathGuide_LO.pdf)
- B. Full Circle Magazine has a comprehensive write-up in "LibreOffice Special Edition Volume Three" the workings of the formula editor. The direct link is: [http://dl.fullcirclemagazine.org/issueLO03\\_en.pdf](http://dl.fullcirclemagazine.org/issueLO03_en.pdf) The article featuring the equation/formula editor begins toward the middle of the issue and it is very comprehensive.

## 2. "Installing nVidia Support" (coping with graphic card needs and using proprietary binaries instead of open source ones)

With Linux distributions, generally a new install searches out the hardware as it installs and it automatically assigns the best drivers for that hardware—which it already contains. Thus when restarting after the install, the final restart process is seamless. It isn't fool-proof however. Some hardware can still be outside the accepted list. When that happens things don't work correctly.

Jim Ritterbusch presented a sticky-wicket issue involving a downloaded binary nVidia card driver to run the video card on his computer. It seemed that the Linux distribution, Fedora, lacked a required proprietary binary for nVidia. Jim found that his computer couldn't properly use the existing video card with drivers supplied by Fedora's repositories. So being creative and brave, he went hunting for a driver that he could successfully use.

Luck would have it that a working binary was available thus making it unnecessary to manually compile code from a source listing. However, the binary required that the repository containing it would also have to be utilized. In a sense, that repository is considered uncertified and is generally disallowed by the Fedora community because Fedora prides itself on using only open source code.

After a struggle to install and configure the driver, Jim found that all went well until an update from the regular Fedora repositories installed a new Linux kernel. The new kernel, once installed, required a reinstall of the same nVidia binary each time it was updated. I doubt that the average user would be up to this repetitive task—especially when kernel updates appear every week or so. But Jim's work-around solved the issue.

### Next Linux SIG Meeting

At the November 20th meeting, the topic "Using the GIMP Cloning Tool with Photos" will be presented. This topic is meant for the beginner using GIMP. Attendees to our meetings are always welcome to raise topics and issues as they feel the need to do so. This is the Linux community's normal way of sharing ideas, methods and code. Our Linux SIG continues always in that spirit.

Join us at our next meeting in the DACS Resource Center of Ives Manor. Bring your laptop, Arduino or Raspberry Pi and show us a thing or two. Our meetings are for the beginner, intermediate or advanced user, so topics vary considerably depending upon the needs of the attendees. Linux topics cover software and hardware along with the joys and sorrows of those using it.

### Half-Life of DNA

The Half-Life of DNA is reasoned to be 521 years.

#### Equation Derivation:

General decay formula:  $N(t) = N_0 e^{(-at)}$

Let  $N_0 = 200$  and  $N_{521} = 100$  with  $t = 521$ .

Then  $100 = 200e^{(-521a)}$

which means  $0.5 = e^{(-521a)}$  or  $\ln(0.5) = \ln(e^{(-521a)}) = -521a$

Thus  $a = \frac{\ln(0.5)}{-521} = 0.001330417$ . Use 0.00133.

Finally:  $N(t) = N_0 e^{-0.00133t}$

**Equation:**  $N(t) = N_0 e^{-0.00133t}$

$N_0$  is the original population

$N(t)$  is the final population in  $t$  years.

#### Source of 521 year half-life claim:

<http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/32799/title/Half-Life-of-DNA-Revealed/>

**Mobile Devices.** In September we talked about transferring music to a mobile device. Typically you can connect your phone or tablet to your computer using a USB cable and have it show up as a removable drive. Unlike photos, where the built-in camera's photos always seem to be located in a folder called DCIM on the device, music files may go into different locations on different devices in order to be recognized by the music apps on the device. On my NOOK HD+ I have the folder My Files > Music, where the various apps can find my locally stored music. Within that folder the music is normally organized first by folders for each artist, and then by subfolders for each album.

On many Android devices the Google Play Music app is built in and will recognize and play locally stored music files. Your device manufacturer may also have a music app. At the meeting I showed the eMusic app as another one that can play locally stored music. It's also a music subscription service from which you can download a designated number of songs each month, or purchase songs a la carte. The more famous option for accessing music in the cloud or downloading it locally is the Amazon MP3 Store and their Cloud Player. The Cloud Player is available from any web browser, or on a wide variety of devices as an app, and now even as a PC or Mac desktop application. On devices, the app can download music that you have bought from Amazon, or a limited amount of music that you acquired elsewhere and previously uploaded to the Amazon cloud.

In contrast, Apple's mobile devices are loaded with music by using the iTunes application on a computer, or by purchasing music directly in the iTunes store app on your iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, and now the Apple TV box. You can also enable the iTunes Match feature to allow access to music in the cloud that you haven't directly transferred from your computer.

# Ask DACS

October 2013

Moderated and reported by Jim Scheef

**W**E WELCOME QUESTIONS FROM the floor at the start of our General Meetings. The role of moderator is to try to guide the discussion to a likely solution to the problem. In addition, members who are not able to attend the General meeting may submit questions to [askdacs@dacs.org](mailto:askdacs@dacs.org). We will ask the question for you and post the reply in *dacs.doc* and on *dacs.org*. Please provide as much information as possible, since we can't probe during the session.

**Q – I purchased a Lenovo laptop a few months ago from TigerDirect that came with Win7 preinstalled and Windows 8 on the recovery partition. The machine came with 8GB of RAM. I was told that if I upgraded the RAM to 16GB then I would be able to install Win8 to dual-boot. I would like to know if this is accurate.**

A – What you describe with Win8 recovery disk images on the machine is probably correct. TigerDirect is a reputable company that stands behind what they sell (from personal experience). If the machine came with licenses for both versions of Windows, there should be no problem. Win7 and Win8 use the same boot loader, so they work well in a dual-boot setup. The extra RAM is not necessary to install Win8, since a dual boot configuration makes no extra demands on RAM as only one operating system can be running at a time.

The first step would be to create a separate partition for Win8. In a dual-boot configuration, the ideal setup is three partitions: one for each of the operating systems and the third for your data. That makes it easy for both OSs to use the same data directories and allows you to reinstall either OS without endangering your data. I have this exact same configuration on my main machine and it works quite well.

**Q – I have an iPad 2 and installed the iOS-7 upgrade. Has anyone else done this? With the new OS, my batteries don't last. Apple suggested doing a clean install but I don't see how that will solve the problem.**

A – This question generated a lot of discussion. Apple support suggested doing a clean install of iOS-7, which will put the device in a known state where Apple can support it.

Discussion moved to how had battery life changed under the new OS. This is really difficult to assess without doing repeatable benchmark testing. Gut feel is an unreliable measure as one naturally wants to use the new features in the new OS. Otherwise, why upgrade? Suggestions like reducing screen brightness are not really palatable as they make the device less pleasant to use. Carrying this to the extreme, a really horrible device will have infinite battery life because no one will ever use it.

**Q – How can I turn off dynamic device management (DDM) in Windows 7 so my Win7 machine will not lose its keyboard, mouse and printer?**

A – No one knew what DDM is. The problem is that when Win7 goes into sleep mode and then reawakens, it polls all the USB devices. Many older USB devices do not support polling in this state and thus fail and become unrecognized. The member's concern is a KVM (keyboard, video, mouse) switch and a USB parallel port adapter used with an older HP LaserJet printer. Older laser printers (both HP and other makes) often continue to work because they can use HP PCL (printer control language) and can be installed in Vista and Win7 by telling Windows that the printer is an HP LaserJet V, which in this case may be the truth. So a Win7 device driver is not an issue even for a 15-year old printer. In this case the problem is the adapter needed to connect a printer made before USB to a computer that does not have a "legacy" parallel port.

Various people in the audience related similar KVM experiences when moving to Win7. Most bought new USB-based KVM switches which solved the problem, although one person mentioned problems on bootup. In my

own "server farm" I use two entirely manual Cybex PS/2 and VGA 4-port switches. A physical button press switches the physical keyboard, mouse and video monitor between the four sets of ports connected to various machines. The switch makes all four machines believe they are always connected to a keyboard and mouse so the machines boot properly and Windows does not hang when the machine is being "ignored". KVM devices intended for home use now include sound so your speakers are always connected to the active machine.

When discussion returned to the printer, one member suggested using a network "print server". These are typically small devices with just enough smarts to listen to the network and direct print jobs from computers on the network to the printer. Office-grade HP LaserJets from this era had a dedicated slot for an HP JetDirect device that served this function. Used JetDirect devices can be found on eBay for as little as \$6.75 with "free" shipping. Now a network connection is standard in all but the very cheapest home printers.

**Q – I'm having trouble with one computer where my documents want to print on A4 paper rather than standard letter size (8 1/2 x 11). I'm forced to change the printer each time I print a document. How can I get the default paper back to letter size and make it stick?**

A – We had a hard time understanding this problem at first until the member explained that the machine had been configured for UK English to get the character for British Pounds, etc. Now that the Windows has been set back to US English, documents still want to print on A4 paper. A member in the audience pointed out that Word caches printer configuration information in each document. Thus all documents created while in "UK mode" must be opened and changed in the page layout to letter size paper and resaved. Doing this may change the document formatting slightly as the margins and width of the paper change. If new documents are also defaulting to A4 paper, the "default template" is configured for A4 paper. Microsoft Office stores templates separate from your documents and the exact location varies with the version of

Windows and the first version of Office installed. Templates are further distributed between folders for personal templates and common templates. The easiest way to find the default template would be to search for default.dot or default.dotx. If you do not have any custom styles in this template, simply delete default.dotx and Word will make a new one the next time it runs.

**Q – I have three machines running different versions of Windows. Application program files seem to be in different folder names. I want to install an old program on the new machine, where should I install it?**

**A –**The answer depends on the “bit-ness” of your version of Windows. To determine if you have 32-bit or 64-bit, open the System Applet in Control

Panel. If it does not mention 32- or 64-bit, then it is 32-bit. The default locations are in the table below.

**Note** – There were two questions that I could not make out on the recording. Sorry!

Thanks to John Kin for sending me his recording of Ask DACS this month as it was often intelligible where my recording was not. It is imperative that everyone speak toward the podium; I can always repeat things that people in the back can’t hear. Repeating things

ensures these details are on the recording.

**[Disclaimer:** Ask DACS questions come from members by email or from the audience attending the general meeting. Answers are suggestions offered by meeting attendees and represent a consensus of those responding. DACS offers no warranty as to the correctness of the answers and anyone following these suggestions or answers does so at their own risk. In other words, we could be totally wrong!]

Windows XP, Vista, 7, or 8	32-bit programs	64-bit programs
32-bit	C:\Program Files	Will not install or run
64-bit	C:\Program Files (x86)	C:\Program Files

**Remembering Shirley,** Cont. from page 8  
tional Achievement in Community Help) sponsored by Ziff-Davis and the APCUG.

In 1998, DACS received a “Jerry Award” for its Community Service Projects, from the Association of PC User Groups. The awards, named for APCUG founder Jerry Schneider, recognize and support outstanding volunteer initiatives with \$500 grants sponsored by Oracle, Microsoft, and Adobe Systems. VFJ has been declared an official charity for corporate matching funds on behalf of Microsoft employees, and a special \$1,300 contribution from Microsoft in 1999 helped send a PC and monitor to an ALS victim in southern California. Over the years, these companies and many others have generously sup-

ported Voice for Joanie with grants and charitable contributions.

But while DACS was a catalyst in this powerful formula, it was Shirley Fredlund’s wisdom, personality and incessant determination that drove the process. Through a tireless 14-year campaign of grant applications, fund-raisers, and events, and a determination that every penny goes to help her clients, she had managed to provide a gift of speech to close to a thousand needy patients in our tristate region.

Voice for Joanie provides a unique service to its clients that goes beyond all others. Although Medicare covers assistive devices, it limits this benefit to a single system, which may become useless as the patient’s condition progresses. ALS sup-

port groups provide valuable human services and counseling, but may lack the technical knowledge to evaluate patients’ special needs. Voice for Joanie is a type of lend-lease service that analyzes a client’s abilities and provides continuing assistance based on current needs. All systems are returned to Voice for Joanie when no longer needed and are then allocated to other users.

Shirley’s work will be continued by her long-time friend and husband of 15 years, Frank Ruiz, whose ties to IBM helped provide the first grant for Joanie from IBM. Volunteers wishing to help in the maintenance and distribution are welcome, and should call Frank at (203) 770-6203.



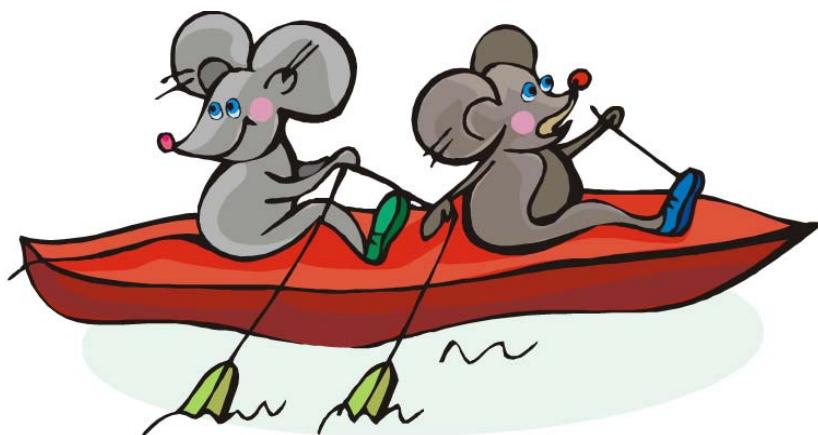
Shirley accepting the 2013 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award from the New England Patriots



Shirley and Frank with Wayne and Rose Parent at Microsoft event in Hartford. An ALS patient, Wayne served as good will ambassador for Voice for Joanie

# dacs.doc

Danbury Area Computer Society  
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Danbury, CT 06810-8232



When you come to the next DACS meeting,  
why not bring a friend?



## Voice for Joanie

Help give the  
gift of speech  
Call Frank Ruiz  
at 203 770-6203  
and become a  
Voice for Joanie  
volunteer  
[www.voiceforjoanie.org](http://www.voiceforjoanie.org)

## Future Events:

### November

Mike Kaltschnee  
Danbury  
Hackerspace

### December

Bill DeRosa  
Facebook and  
Pinterest

### January

TBA

### February

Jay Ferron-  
Windows 8.1