

FPCUG Notes for February 2019

Editor: Frank Fota (fotafm@gmail.com)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (7:00 PM - Falmouth Firehouse, Butler Road):

- Tues, Feb 5: **Technology Workshop (Josh Cockey)**
- Tues, Feb 12: **Board of Directors (BoD) Meeting (Patty Davis, Presiding)**
- Thu, Feb 14: **General Meeting.** Executive Director Rita Girard, Mental Health America of Fredericksburg (MHAF), will inform us about the oldest nonprofit charitable organization in our community. Founded in 1955 by local citizens, the MHAF provides education, advocacy and service to all people with mental health needs. They educate to promote mental health awareness and understanding. They solve problems by advocating policies and by working with individuals and agencies in the community to respond to mental health problems and to meet needs. The public is invited and refreshments will be served.
- Tues, Feb 19: **Windows 10 Workshop (Ed Alexander)**
- Thu, Feb 21: **Experimac Workshop** 1865-106 Carl D. Silver Parkway
- Thu, Feb 28: **Windows All Workshop (Jim Hopkins)**

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING RECAP



Photo Courtesy Cliff Dalseide

Commander Brad Largent (above left), Disabled American Veterans – Gen. Washington Chapter 7, discussed how the DAV assists disabled veterans and their families access benefits. He also discussed issues the DAV intends to address before congress on behalf of veterans and the close relationship that has developed between the DAV and Congressman Rob Wittman who serves Virginia's 1st District.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE FPCUG BYLAWS

The FPCUG Executive Board and the Board of Directors have proposed changes to the bylaws to increase Board effectiveness. The proposed changes will be emailed to members prior to the General Meeting to be held at the Falmouth Firehouse at 7 PM on February 14, 2019. **Your presence to vote on the proposed changes is appreciated.**

experimac WORKSHOPS

We heard you! [Experimac](#) workshops meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 1865-106 Carl D Silver Parkway in Fredericksburg. The focus is on Apple/Mac products but,

many of the applications discussed can be used on Android devices as well. [Experimac](#) has continued to host workshops for FPCUG members since they first presented to the FPCUG in June 2017. Recent workshops have not been well attended and the FPCUG Board of Directors (BoD) would like to know if you would like them to continue. Please let the BoD know by [email](#), at the February General, or March Annual meeting.

NOMINATIONS FOR FPCUG OFFICERS

The FPCUG is recruiting officers to serve on its Executive Board and Board of Directors. Please consider serving as an FPCUG officer. This is your opportunity to share ideas and make a difference!

Elections will occur at the General Meeting at the Falmouth Firehouse at 7 PM on March 14, 2019.

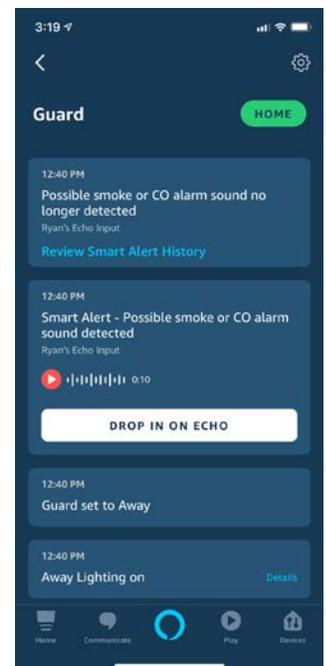
| POSITION | NOMINEE(S) |
|--------------------------------|--|
| President | Patty Davis (if a bylaws change is approved) |
| 1 st Vice President | Roger Schirmer |
| 2 nd Vice President | |
| Treasurer | Rick Neil |
| Secretary | Frank Fota |
| Director | Ed Alexander |
| Trustee | Johnny Creech |

FPCUG Executive Officers serve one-year terms. Directors and Trustees serve for 3-year terms and one Director and Trustee are elected each year. Two Directors and two Trustees will continue in office until their terms expire in later years.

Please note – Most positions on the FPCUG Executive Board and Board of Directors require nothing more than attending, participating and voting at monthly meetings. If you are interested in serving or have questions, please contact FPCUG President Patty Davis or any of the FPCUG Officers at BOD@fpcug.org to ensure your name is added to the list of nominees for office.

SOMETHING NEW FOR THE AMAZON ECHO IN 2019

The Amazon Echo is maturing at a rapid pace and one of the features recently announced is Alexa Guard. Writing for [CNET](#), Ry Crist says that the Alexa Guard is, "...a new feature from Amazon that lets your Echo devices keep an ear out for trouble when you're away from home." If you have an Amazon Echo device, you can say, "Alexa, I'm leaving" and Alexa will say, "OK – I'll be on guard." If Alexa hears something while in "Guard" mode (e.g., a smoke alarm or glass shattering), she will send you a notification. While Alexa can't call the police or Fire Department, she can send some home security providers a notification as well (e.g., ADT and Ring). The feature works with most Echo devices. If it doesn't work with yours, Amazon says that they intend to, "...support additional Echo devices once the Alexa Guard feature is generally available."



RECORD-SETTING FINE FOR FACEBOOK

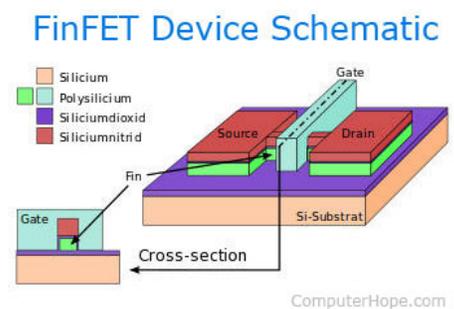
You may not be aware of Facebook's legally binding agreement with the government to protect the privacy of user personal data. In March 2018, both [The Guardian](#) and [The New York Times](#) reported that political consultant Cambridge Analytica accessed the personal data of 50 million Facebook users without their knowledge. That number was revised upward to 87 million! The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is considering a fine that would surpass the record-setting \$22.5 million fine levied against Google in 2012. Privacy advocates (e.g., [the Electronic Privacy Information Center](#)) are pressing the FTC to take stronger action against Facebook, Amazon, Google and other tech companies that mishandle consumers' data.

FREE SPAM/ROBOCALL SHIELD FROM VERIZON – MARCH 2019

Writing for [TECHSPOT](#), Shawn Knight says, "The features were previously part of Call Filter (formerly Caller Name ID), a premium service offered by Verizon for \$2.99 per month, per line." Information on how to sign up for the free Android and iOS service will be announced closer to the March 2019 launch date.

AMD AT THE CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW (CES) 2019

[Forbes](#) contributor Patrick Moorhead says, "...the big jaw-dropper from the conference was the unveiling of AMD's new Radeon VII graphics card, marking the company's re-entry into the consumer performance space after a 5 year hiatus." The Radeon VII is the first 7nm gaming Graphics Card. At 7nm, I wonder how the signals from one wire within the Graphics Processor Unit (GPU) are effectively insulated from another. AMD claims 29% more gaming performance than its predecessor (i.e., the AMD Radeon RX Vega 64 GPU). I realize that there are few in our group interested in gaming graphics cards. However, the 7nm process is a notable achievement that will pave the way for continued improvements in all microprocessors. AMD's Ryzen processors currently use a 12nm Fin Field Effect Transistor (FinFET) process. Intel's 9th Generation processors use a 14nm FinFET process. An electron microscope is needed to truly appreciate the complexity of modern processors. The companies that produce them protect their designs. A high resolution image of a 45nm Intel processor (2008) can be found [here](#).



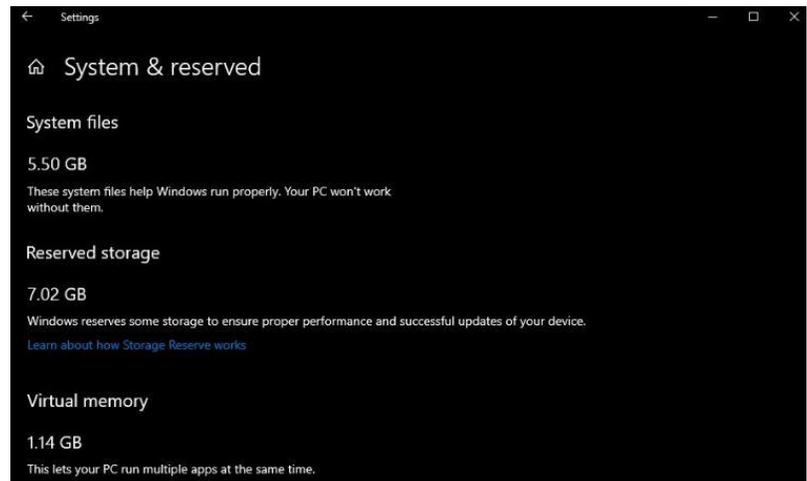
SUPPORT FOR MS WINDOWS 7 IS ENDING IN ABOUT A YEAR

On January 14th, 2020, Microsoft's will no longer support Windows 7; their most popular desktop PC operating system. Two support options exist for business customers to obtain continued support. Microsoft will sell extended security updates on a per device basis through January 2023. Support will also be provided to those that purchase Windows Virtual Desktop services. Microsoft has not announced when Windows Virtual Desktop services will be available. Writing for PCWorld, Mark Hachman says, "Microsoft's encouraging businesses to migrate to Microsoft 365—its package of Office 365 and

Microsoft Windows support—which comes with a free upgrade from Windows 7, 8, or 8.1 Pro, but for \$20 per user, per month. Consumers have no such option—you’ll pay \$139 to download Windows 10 Home, or a bit less if you opt for a system-builder option.”

WINDOWS 10 19H1 RELEASE – RESERVED STORAGE FEATURE

Many Windows 10 users have reported problems when attempting to install Microsoft's Windows 10 feature updates. These problems were often due to storage constraints. To eliminate storage constraints as a cause, Microsoft intends to reserved space on your hard drive (or solid-state drive) for future updates. Mary Jo Foley ([ZDNet All About Microsoft](#)) says that the 19H1 update, “...should begin rolling out to mainstream users around April 2019, if Microsoft sticks to its current feature-update timetable”



WIRELESS SECURITY PROTOCOLS

Perhaps you’ve heard recent reports about router hacking. You have likely been advised to secure your wireless network from malware and predators. Perhaps you are asking, “What’s a router?” In any case, you should be concerned about wireless security. Your computer is likely not the only device connected to your router via a wireless connection. Televisions, internet radios, security cameras, and other Internet of Things devices connect to the internet via wireless routers. Wireless (Wi-Fi) encryption secures your wireless connection. Some types of encryption are better than others. You should not use Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) as this is an easily hacked, obsolete encryption protocol. If your router or device only supports WEP, you need to update or replace the router and the device now. WEP encryption was officially discontinued in 2004! Most routers currently use Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA); specifically, WPA2. According to Senior Writer for [MakeUseOf](#), Gavin Phillips, WPA3 is being developed and promises:

- 1) **Brute Force Protection.** WPA3 will protect users, even with weaker passwords, from brute-force dictionary attacks (attacks that attempt to guess passwords over and over again).
- 2) **Public Network Privacy.** WPA3 adds “individualized data encryption,” theoretically encrypting your connection to a wireless access point regardless of password.
- 3) **Securing the Internet of Things.** WPA3 arrives at a time when Internet of Things device developers are under enormous pressure to improve baseline security.
- 4) **Stronger Encryption.** WPA3 adds much stronger 192-bit encryption to the standard, drastically improving the level of security.

WPA3 is not yet available and may not be available for some time as manufacturers must patch backward compatible devices; a process that could take from months to years.

APPLE SELLING THE IPHONE SE AGAIN

Writing for [betanews](#), Brian Fagioli says, "If you want a safe and secure smartphone that will receive consistent operating system updates, iOS is the only true option." Apple iPhones are generally expensive. However, Apple is selling the 32GB iPhone SE for just \$249 and for an additional \$50, you can increase the storage space to 128GB. A big compromise for the purchase of the iPhone SE is the 4" screen size. For some, this size is preferred as the phone can be easily slid into a pocket. Evidently the deal was so good that the iPhone SE in any capacity or color is "out of stock." Hopefully, the phones will be back in stock soon. If you are interested, you can check for availability [here](#).

NOTE... the FPCUG does not endorse products or services of any kind 😊.

EVENTS IN COMPUTER HISTORY

(paraphrase and additions to the [Iceni Technology Blog](#) by Iceni Technology Contributor Rebecca Coe and historical data from the websites <http://www.computerhope.com/history/> and <http://www.historyorb.com/>)

-- Feb 1 --

1st US satellite (Explorer I) launched (1958).

-- Feb 1 --



Perhaps marking the end of the slide rule, the 1st scientific hand-held calculator (HP-35) was introduced for \$395 (1972).

-- Feb 1 --

Sun Microsystems began development of Java Technology (1991).

-- Feb 2 --

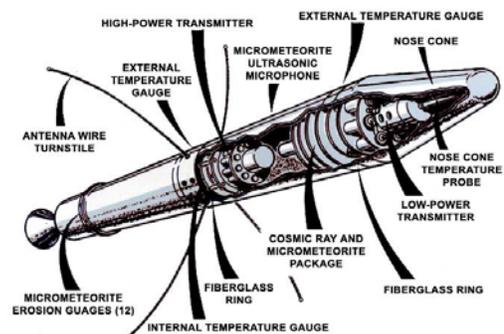
Radio Shack officially started production of TRS-80 computers (1977).



-- Feb 5 --



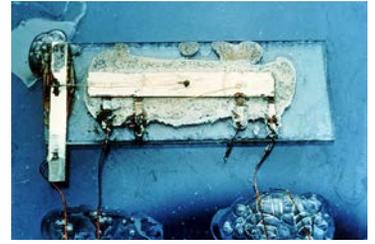
Computer hackers tried to steal \$1 billion from Federal Reserve Bank of New York using Bangladesh banking codes. The hackers managed to steal \$81 million before a typo alerted the authorities (2016).



EXPLORER I

-- Feb 6 --

Jack Kilby of Texas Instruments filed a patent for the integrated circuit (1959). Kilby's patent application was titled "miniaturized electronic circuits." The patent was one of 60 that Kilby holds. While Kilby has the earliest patent on the "integrated circuit," it was Robert Noyce, later co-founder of Intel, whose parallel work resulted in a practical device.



-- Feb 8 --



C.D Lake, H.H. Aiken, F.E. Hamilton, and B.M. Durfee filed a calculator patent for the Automatic Sequence Control Calculator, commonly known as the Harvard Mark I on February 8, 1945. The Mark I was a large automatic digital computer that could perform the four basic arithmetic functions and handle 23 decimal places. A multiplication took about five seconds.

-- Feb 10 --

IBM computer Deep Blue became the first computer to win a game of chess against a reigning (human) chess champion, Gary Kasparov (1996). In the first game of a six-game match, IBM's Deep Blue chess computer defeated the world champion. Kasparov would eventually win the series 4-2, but would lose to Deep Blue in a re-match a year later.

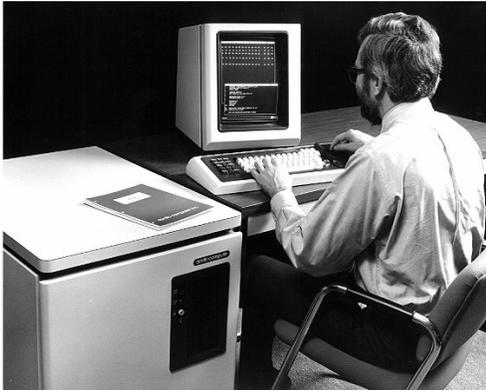


-- Feb 12 --

Jonathan Rotenberg founded the Boston Computer Society on February 12, 1977. Four people attended the first meeting of this group, whose membership eventually reached several thousand. Early topics of discussion for the society included Community Use of Personal Computers and The Minicomputer Goes to the Racetrack.



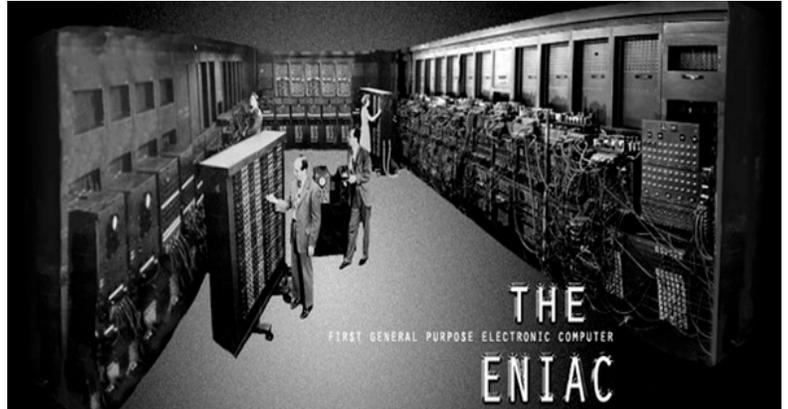
-- Feb 13 --



Apollo Computer was incorporated in Chelmsford, Massachusetts (1980). Apollo helped create the original workstations, small but powerful computers mostly used for engineering. In 1989, Hewlett-Packard Company acquired Apollo for \$476 million.

-- Feb 14 --

John Mauchly and J. Presper Eckert unveiled the ENIAC at the University of Pennsylvania (1946). The ENIAC calculated 5,000 operations per second -- 1,000 times faster than its contemporaries. Impressive in size as well as strength, the machine occupied over 1,500 square feet, weighed 30 tons, and used 18,000 vacuum tubes.



-- Feb 16 --

The first computer Bulletin Board System (Ward & Randy's CBBS, Chicago) became operational (1978).



-- Feb 16 --

The first 911 phone system in the U.S. became operational in Haleyville, AL (1968).

-- Feb 17 --



The retail launch of Windows 2000 occurred (2000).

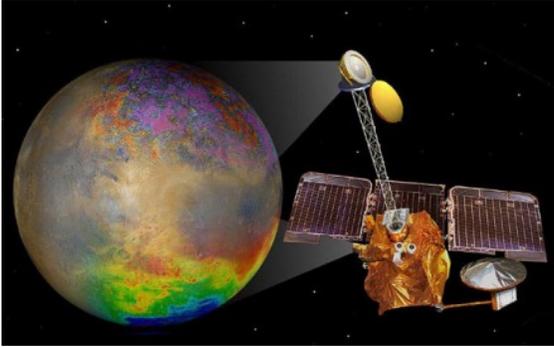
-- Feb 18 --

ComputerLand™ Following successful sales of IMSAI 8080 computers by mail-order (IMS Associates, Inc.) and through independent dealers, IMSAI founder Bill Millard made the decision to launch a franchise operation of computer retail stores. Initially called Computer Shack, the first ComputerLand franchise store opened on South Street in Morristown, New Jersey (1977). The chain changed its name to avoid a lawsuit over similarities to the name Radio Shack. ComputerLand became the largest computer retailer by the mid-1980s, peaking at approximately 800 stores in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Japan.

-- Feb 19 --

The first warrant was issued to search a computer storage device (1978). Requirements were similar to the warrant obtained to search a home. However, the precedent this warrant set forced those seeking to protect their data from law enforcement to use increasingly sophisticated methods of encryption.

-- Feb 19 --



NASA's Mars Odyssey space probe begins to map the surface of Mars using its thermal emission imaging system (2002).

-- Feb 20 --

A bomb blamed on Unabomber Theodore John "Ted" Kaczynski exploded by a computer store in Salt Lake City (1987).



-- Feb 25 --

The Automatically Programmed Tools language was demonstrated (1959). APT is an English-like language that tells tools how to work and is mainly used in computer-assisted manufacturing. A New Yorker article from March 28 observed: "The Air Force announced today that it has a machine that can receive instructions in English - figure out how to make whatever is wanted- and teach other machines how to make it. An Air Force general said it will enable the United States to build a war machine that nobody would want to tackle. Today it made an ashtray."

-- Feb 27 --



Perhaps a visionary but failed attempt at the future iPad, Apple discontinued development of the Newton computer (1998).

-- Feb 27 --

Windows Server 2008 (sometimes abbreviated as "Win2K8" or "W2K8") was officially released on February 27, 2008.



-- Feb 27 --



The National Security Agency (NSA) retired the Harvest Computer February 27, 1976. The IBM 7950 (Harvest) ceased operating after 14 years of NSA service. The Harvest, delivered in 1962, was a one-of-a-kind adjunct to the Stretch computer. It was designed for cryptanalysis by James H. Pomerene. Its electronics, built from the same kind of discrete transistors used for Stretch, were about twice as big (physically). Harvest added a small number of instructions to the Stretch, was attached to it, and could not operate independently.

-- Feb 28 --

Jay Wright Forrester was issued a patent for computer core memory (i.e., coincident current magnetic core memory) on February 28, 1956. Forrester's invention of the "multicoordinate digital information storage device" became the standard memory device for digital computers until supplanted by solid state (semiconductor) RAM in the mid-1970s.



Who's Who in the FPCUG

Officers

| Office | Name | Email Address |
|---------------------------|----------------|--|
| President | Patrice Davis | president@fpcug.org |
| 1st Vice President | Roger Schirmer | vp1@fpcug.org |
| 2nd Vice President | Ed Alexander | vp2@fpcug.org |
| Secretary | Frank Fota | secretary@fpcug.org |
| Treasurer | Rick Neil | treasurer@fpcug.org |

Directors and Trustees

| Office | Name | Email Address |
|------------------|---|--|
| Directors | Josh Cockey | directors@fpcug.org |
| | Cliff Dalseide | |
| | Robert Monroe | |
| Trustees | Johnny Creech | trustees @fpcug.org |
| | Kay Pollock | |
| | Bill Williams <i>"Agent of Record"</i> | |

Chairmen & Representatives

| Office | Name | Email Address |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--|
| APCUG Representative | Frank Fota | apcug_rep@fpcug.org |
| Newsletter Editor | Frank Fota | newsletter@fpcug.org |
| Webmaster | Josh Cockey | webmaster@fpcug.org |

Special Interest Workshop Leaders

| Office | Name | Email Address |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <u>Technology</u> | Josh Cockey | technology_sig_leader@fpcug.org |
| <u>Windows</u> | Jim Hopkins | windows_sig_leader@fpcug.org |
| <u>Windows 10</u> | Ed Alexander | windows10_sig_leader@fpcug.org |