



March 2016

Visit our website at www.pcs4me.com

Ken Johnson, Newsletter Editor

CALENDAR

SIG = Special Interest Group

This Week's Schedule

March 12 - Saturday - 1:00-3:00 PM

[General Meeting](#) - Leader: Ray Carlson

Location: Prescott Public Library

First Hour: Browser Extensions

If you use Google Chrome or Firefox for your browser, you can add browser extensions that add extra features like identifying safe websites, blocking ads, remembering passwords, cutting out pictures from websites, translating information from foreign languages, and so on. Ray Carlson will demonstrate step-by-step how to safely select and install such browser extensions and will demonstrate some of the most popular ones. In addition, the results of the election of Board members and progress on selecting a site for future meetings will be reported.

Second Hour: Phil Ball will present his interesting and useful Tips and Tricks.

In addition to the presentations, the following are typical events which take place at our General meetings:

- 1) *We hold an informal Flea Market in which you are encouraged to bring in your excess computer equipment or software and make them available for others to enjoy at no charge. Please deposit give-away items on the table in the back marked "Free Stuff." Any items left here at the end of the meeting are subject to disposal.*
- 2) *If you have items that are just too good to give away, you may set up a separate table and hold your own sale.*
- 3) *We conduct a raffle of gift cards at the end of the meeting, so make sure to get a pair of tickets from whoever is in charge and place one on the item you'd like to win.*
- 4) *We will also accept your used ink and toner cartridges for recycling. They are turned in to Think4Inc for credits which PCS uses to purchase office supplies from them.*

Future Meetings

March 19 - Saturday

There will be no PCS meeting today

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Future Meetings, continued:

March 26 - Saturday

There will be no PCS meeting today

March 31 - Thursday - 6:00-8:30 PM

[Board of Directors](#) meeting - Prescott Public Library; Elsea Room

All PCS members are welcome to attend but you are asked to first [contact Ray Carlson](#) in order to ensure that there will be room available for you.

April 2 - Saturday - 1:00-3:00 PM

[Digital Photo SIG](#) - Leader: Phil Ball

Location: Prescott Public Library

Many aspects of digital photography will be discussed, including use of digital cameras and using Photoshop Elements to make your photos look their best.

April 9 - Saturday

There will be no PCS meeting today due to the unavailability of the Founders Suite.

*Note that these dates are correct at time of publication but are subject to change.
Up to date information can be found on our website, www.pcs4me.com*

*Unless otherwise noted, our meetings are usually held in the
Founder's Suite at the Prescott Public Library.*

It's time to renew your dues

if you haven't already done so.

The good news: **again this year, dues are only \$24.** Please make checks payable to "PCS" and present them to any Board member (gold nametag) or mail your check to:

Treasurer

Prescott Computer Society

Prescott Computer Society

Officers & Board of Directors

2015-2016

Officers:

President	Ray Carlson
Vice Pres	Phil Ball
Secretary	JB Burke
Treasurer	Edi Taylor-Richards

General Directors:

Joan Baum	Murray Smolens
John Carter	Dick Mason
Ken Johnson	

AcuRite Pro 5-in-1 Weather Station

By Jerry Grommes, Editor, Sandwich Computer Users Group, IL

www.scug.org

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I recently received an email from "Score Card Rewards" telling me how many points I had accumulated (purchasing with my VISA earns points which can be used to purchase merchandise through Score Card Rewards). I thought what better way to get a new gadget than to burn some points. Looking through the Score Card Rewards online catalog I came across something I had wanted for some time, but did not want to spend money on, a personal weather Station. I promptly added it to the cart & checked out.

The AcuRite Pro 5-in-1 Weather Station with PRO+ 5-in-1 Sensor, PC Connect, Wind and Rain arrived 3 days later. I was a "Happy Camper" and had it setup and running in just a couple of hours. <http://www.acurite.com/pro-5-in-1-weather-station-with-pro-5-in-1-sensor-pc-connect-wind-and-rain-01035p.html>

The weather display with AcuRite Connect plugs into your computer to store, track and share your weather information. You can view your sensors from virtually anywhere on a smartphone, tablet or computer with the AcuRite app and myAcuRite.com

website, or you can easily publish your weather reports on Weather Underground.

Good Support

Initially I had an issue adding my device to the AcuRite website, so I placed a call to customer support which the automated call service stated that I was in a que with 8 ahead of me. It then offered me to stay on hold and wait in line or to give a call back number and they would call me back when it was my turn. I opted with the call back and received their call about 45 minutes later.

The support person was very well versed, easy to understand and took care of my problem in a matter of minutes. The contact us support page lists the Company (Chaney Instrument Co.) as being located in Lake Geneva, WI. That's almost local.

AcuRite Pro 5-in-1 Weather Sensor

Measures temperature, humidity, wind speed, wind direction and rain.

Two solar panels power the internal fan to maximize ambient temperature accuracy at all hours of the day (standard 5-in-1 includes only one solar panel).

Strong wireless range up to 330 feet (100 meters).

Transmits data every 18 to 36 seconds.

Automatic self-emptying rain collection cup.

2 year battery life.

Durable, all-weather construction.

Easy installation includes mounting hardware.

Pro Weather Station Includes: Digital Display with PC Connect for 5-in-1 Sensor Data, 5-in-1 PRO+ Weather Sensor, USB cable, mounting bracket, mounting hardware, AC power adapter, instruction manual.

Display with PC Connect for 5-in-1 Sensor

12 to 24 hour weather forecast.

Patented Self-Calibrating Forecasting pulls data from a sensor in your backyard to give you the most accurate forecast for your exact location.

Weather Ticker™ streams real-time information and alerts.

Programmable weather alarms: temperature, humidity, wind, rain, dew point, heat index and storm alerts.

Measures rain precipitation and rainfall history (inches or millimeters).

Wind speed: current, peak, and average (MPH or KPH).

Wind direction with 16 point wind rose.

Indoor and outdoor temperature (degrees Fahrenheit and Celsius) with trend arrow.

Indoor and outdoor humidity (%RH) with trend arrow.

Heat index, wind chill, dew point and "feels like" calculations.

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Daily, weekly, monthly and annual high and low records.

Barometric pressure with trend arrow.

Time and date (month/day).

Bright blue backlight.

Bilingual English or French display.

Tabletop or wall-mountable design.

Indicator for wireless sensor signal strength.

I am currently publishing my weather data on Weather Underground and you can view it at:

<http://www.wunderground.com/weather-forecast/zmw:60545.1.99999>

Or you can check it out at the bottom of the SCUG Home Page: <http://www.scug.org/>

Weather Underground was founded in 1995 as the first online weather service, Weather Underground supplies weather data solutions to the many of the leading media companies and millions of users across the globe through their mobile apps and website wunderground.com. With over 180,000+ personal weather stations worldwide, Weather Underground is able to provide meaningful and reliable weather data to people in real-time. Weather Underground is part of The Weather Company and is based in San Francisco, California. 

Do I need a smartphone?

By Phil Sorrentino, Contributing Writer, The Computer Club, Florida

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Many of you have already answered this question in the affirmative. But for those of you who might still be on the fence, here are a few thoughts that might help make the decision.

1. Contact information is always available. Put a phone number in your contact list and never have to put that phone number in again. Phone numbers in your phone can be synchronized with the contacts in your email software. With an Android phone, the phone numbers come directly from the contacts list in a Gmail account. The phone numbers will always be available and they will be backed up, so when you change phones (phone disaster or new phone envy), the contacts will show up on your new phone. No need to reconstruct or transfer your phone numbers. Addresses are also handled in the same way.

2. Your Calendar is always available. How many times have you been asked "Is Thursday, the 24th, at 2pm ok?" Doesn't it seem that every doctor's office visit ends with that question? Well, with your calendar available on your phone, you can easily answer the question and propose an alternative, if need be. Not only can you see your appointments on the calendar, but you can see appointments on other calendars, if you link them. You can easily see your appointments and your significant-other's appointments, so that a good decision can be made. I even have a calendar with important dates like birthdays and anniversaries linked in so I can always know when one is coming up.

3. You can get some things accomplished during what would be wasted time. How many times have you sat in a doctor's office much longer than you expected? Sometimes there's a good reason for the delay, but that doesn't help you, if you have to sit and wait, unable to accomplish the things you expected to do. Well, if you had your smartphone (which is really a small computer), you might be able to accomplish some of those things you would normally do at home. You could check your email. If you need to, you can even answer your

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emails, at least if the answers are relatively short. (The keyboards on most smartphones are probably only good for short answers, although some people get very proficient, using some of the special keyboard enhancer Apps.) You could catch up on the news. Newsreader Apps are very easy to use. You could check on your investments. Yahoo Finance is one App you might use. And if you have done all the investigating you want to, you can always play a game like Solitaire, Angry Birds, or 2048. Keep in mind that you could do all this while listening to music from your own music collection on your phone, or from a streaming service like Pandora or Spotify.

4. You can check or make a list of things you want to do, or to buy, or whatever. There are many Note-taking Apps that keep track of notes you create so you will not forget all those things you have to do before next weekend. Some Note-taking Apps keep the notes in the cloud, so they're accessible from any device, and some keep the notes on your phone so you don't even need to have an internet connection.

5. You can determine how to get to a location and get directions to a place of interest. The Maps App and Google Earth give you great views of places you may not be familiar with, and they can even give you turn-by-turn directions to get anywhere from your current location. With these Apps, you can find the nearest restaurant or gas station, and get directions if needed. And with "Cortana", the Microsoft Personal Assistant, you can verbally ask for these things, and sometimes receive audible answers.

6. You can take pictures when you didn't even think to bring a camera. Most smartphones have two cameras, as part of the device. A rear-facing camera for taking pictures of scenery, and a front-facing camera for use with skype or for taking "selfies". A camera might be very useful if you get into a traffic altercation. By the way, with the camera on the smartphone, you can even deposit checks into your checking account without ever going to the bank. All it takes is the check, your smartphone, your bank's App, and a steady hand.

7. You can watch videos, or movies, if you are stuck in a place where there is just nothing to do. Most phones have enough memory to hold a few movies, considering a movie might be about 5 GB. And there is always video streaming if you have a Netflix or Hulu+ account. If you are in a Wi-Fi area you won't even have to use up any of your "data".

8. You can check the weather, but then you could always look out the window. However, you can check the weather at any location, and find out how the weather is up north where some of your friends might be. Don't you love to do this in the winter? I usually tell them I just got out of the pool.

9. Your smartphone can act as a bunch of useful tools. There are Apps that turn your smartphone into a calculator (that's not very earth-shaking), into a compass (that's a neat trick), and even into a flashlight (bet you didn't see that one coming). One neat calculator even shows a tape, and lets you go back to see what each and every entry was. One of the compasses looks just like the one you used when you were a boy or girl scout. And the flashlight is a nice thing to have when the lights go out, or you are in a dark movie theater.

So, you might not need a smartphone, but you might find some of these things helpful. And when you look at the total list of things you can do with that small device, you just might find this reason enough for you to trade in your trusty flip phone for a new smartphone.Ω

Favorite Smartphone and Tablet Features

By Julie Mahaffey, Member, ICON Computer Users Group, MO

January 2016 issue, The ICON Newsletter

<http://www.iconusersgroup.org/newsletters> (at) iconusersgroup.org

I recently asked my smartphone and tablet-using friends what their favorite features are for their devices. Following is what they shared.

1. Navigation

- Smartphone is always with you.
- Smartphones use maps stored on remote servers so the maps are always current.
- Integration with contacts on your smartphone for entering destination.
- Works for driving and walking tours.
- Useful in town as well as on trips.

2. Calendar

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- Calendar view can be set up as a list, year view, month view, or day view.
- Can be synced with all devices.

Settings allow inclusion of holidays and birthdays from contacts.

3. Alarm

The clock on a smartphone can be used as an alarm, timer, stopwatch, or world clock.

4. Weather Channel App

Provides current temps, local forecasts, radar maps, storm tracking, and alerts.

5. Microphone for Speaking Text

- With dictation you can use your voice instead of typing text when sending email or text messages. Look for the microphone on the keyboard.

Dictation understands basic text-related commands such as “all caps,” “new paragraph,” and “new line.” When you say “period,” “comma,” “question mark,” or “exclamation point,” Dictation adds that punctuation.

Insert emoticons into a text field by saying “smiley face” or “frowny face,”

6. Lists

- iPhones come with the Reminders App. With this app you can make grocery lists, packing lists, and set the app to remind you of a task on a specific day and time.

Items can be added to the lists by Siri also.

7. Pre-selected text for 2nd caller

iPhone iOS 6 users have the “Reply With Message” function which allows a response to be sent to the caller with a pre-written text message.

8. White Pages App

Look up name, numbers, and addresses.

9. Fingerprint Touch ID

Touch ID lets you unlock your phone and make purchases with Apple Pay simply by using your fingerprint. It uses highly sophisticated algorithms to recognize and securely match your finger print. And the improved Touch ID sensor detects your fingerprint even faster than the previous generation.

10. Lock Screen Shows Current Temperature, Time, and Date

11. Increase Font Size and Screen Size

Double tap the screen to stretch the screen for easier reading.

12. Screen Shots

Pressing the Home and Sleep/Wake button to Snap a picture of your smartphone screen. Once a screenshot is captured, it will be automatically saved to your camera roll.

Please share your favorite features with me at cejmmahaffey@gmail.com. I’ll create a list and publish the list in the next ICON newsletter to share with all ICON members.Ω

