



## President's Message July, 2009

It's too hot for me! I have a La Crosse wireless thermometer that I dearly love but I'd probably be better off not knowing the air temperature and the humidity and the dew point and the heat index all the time. So far the highest heat index it told me about has been 116 and I didn't need to know that to know it was too hot to be outside. This is the time of year when reasonable people with inside hobbies, such as computers, question the thought process of gardeners who continue to pursue their hobbies saying 'Oh it's not that hot'. Of course there are also goofy golfers and fisherfolk who do the same thing but I don't live with any of them.

The July meeting program will be all you ever wanted to know about internet phone service and will be presented by Suddenlink who is just starting to offer that service in this area. I'm really looking forward to it because I've wanted to try it for quite a while but none of the VOIP providers offered anything local. The meeting is on the third Wednesday (07/15 this month) at 2 in the meeting room at the Comfort Inn. Don't forget to wear your badge for the drawing and make use of the help desk which will open around 1.

We have two active Special Interest Groups (see below) but considering the wide range of computer related topics that is a really small number. Leigh Coulter is the club SIG Chairman ([sig@tlcug-ark.org](mailto:sig@tlcug-ark.org)) and his job is to evaluate topics to see if they have enough general interest to warrant being an ongoing official SIG so if you have any specific topics let him know. The only conditions are that they are computer related and there are enough people to make a meeting worthwhile. Large groups can try for the library meeting room and small groups could even meet in private homes.

Until next month, good computing.

Jerry Marr

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**Review**  
**McAfee (Suddenlink Version)**  
Review by Jerry Marr

July 2009

I've been using Windows OneCare from the time it was a Beta baby and I've been pleased with it but now that it's dying I thought I'd try the free McAfee download that Suddenlink is offering and I already have mixed feelings about it.

The download and install process is bizarre and seriously flawed. The first download page has detailed instructions with snapshots of what the pages will look like during the download process but starting with the next page nothing matched the instruction page so I ignored it and just followed the install instructions as they came up.

Since the Parental Control program was listed first I started with that and the install went just fine. It installed the user interface program that they call their Security Center which I opened and was told that my computer was not protected because I hadn't installed the Virus Scan program (which didn't surprise me since I knew I hadn't installed it) and to click 'here' to go get it. Now I thought that was a good thing until the page clicking 'here' took me to would not load. Being stubborn I tried again several times with the same result so I went back to my original download page and downloaded the second program in the list that is called McAfee VirusScan Plus. This installation also seemed to proceed just fine except the install process detected the parental control program and uninstalled it as part of installing itself.

OK, I said to myself, I must have installed in the wrong order so I tried to install the Parental Control program again and was told 'The installation wizard cannot remove the previous version until you close McAfee Security Center' which tells me that this install process would uninstall the VirusScan program and I'd be in a loop. Because I don't really care about parental control I canceled that installation and kept the VirusScan. I couldn't count the number of programs I've installed over the years and this process is one of the weirdest I've seen.

Having survived the installation process I have to say the program itself seems to be well done. The user interface is simple and easy to follow and they seem to cover all of the basic functions one would expect from a virus protection program. I especially like the fact that you can configure which areas are scanned for viruses which allows you to skip your recovery disk and save a lot of scan time. However the lack of communication between the virus scan and the parental control program is still there in that there are several places where they tell me that I am missing some function and to click on 'Get full protection' to get it but all it gets me is a page not found error.

Bottom line here is that if you are a Suddenlink customer and want free virus protection on just one computer this is not a bad program. Just download the VirusScan program and ignore the Parental Control or if you want free parental control and don't need their virus protection you can do that too.

## Article

### The New ThinkPad Laptop

By Jerry Marr

This year I applied for an IBM cash grant to help pay for our new Vista laptop and was rejected because they had a laptop included in their hardware grant and their rules say they won't pay for somebody else's laptop if they are offering one. I pointed out that theirs was a mid-range XP laptop and ours is a high-end Vista laptop so they were comparing apples to oranges but they told me fruit was fruit and rules were rules but since I seemed to have a valid point they would think about changing things for next year which did me no good but I certainly can't complain.

I looked closer at their XP ThinkPad and saw that it was better than our Dell XP laptop and I didn't want to miss the grant program completely this year so I applied for it and was accepted. It has arrived and I've deleted their excess programs and installed ours so it's ready to go.

We then discussed what we should do with the old Dell and we decided that because its replacement was free we would donate it to one of the local service organizations. There are three that have significant club ties with two having past presidents on their boards and the third with multiple members as active volunteers so we had to do some heavy duty cogitating and we ended up with Kindness Inc because they need mobile computing power on a regular basis and their last laptop got fried. I dropped it off on 6/22 and hopefully they've learned what not to do so this one will last a while.

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### Welcome our new members from June

Jim & Pat Babcock  
Barbara Dugger  
Pete Wells

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### Computer Tips Common File Extensions

**.doc** Microsoft Word Document  
**.docx** Microsoft Word 2007 Document  
**.rtf** Rich Text Format  
**.txt** Plain Text Format

**.wpd** Word Perfect Document.  
**.wps** Microsoft Works Word Processor Document  
**.dat** Data File  
**.dll** Dynamic Link Library  
**.ppt** PowerPoint Presentation  
**.pps** PowerPoint Slide Show  
**.bmp** Bitmap Image File  
**.jpg** Jpeg Image File  
**.pdf** Portable Document Format File (Adobe)  
**.mp3** Audio File  
**.wma** Windows Media Audio File  
**.swf** Shockwave Flash  
**.exe** Windows Executable File  
**.zip** Zipped File

**Marie**

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[Likable Links](#)  
[Baxter County Library Databases](#)  
[Special Interest Group \(SIG\) Questionnaire](#)

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### Monthly meeting program schedule

**July:** See the President's Message above

**August:** To be announced.

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### Twin Lakes Computer User Group General Meeting Minutes June 17, 2009

The general meeting was called to order by President Jerry Marr at 2:00 PM

Jerry Marr gave the treasurer report with a balance in the checking account as of 6/5/2009 being \$5043.53.

Kay Hutchinson gave the member report and introducing Barbara Dugger and Jim and Pat Babcock as new members. There were two guests, Mary Hazel and Pete Wells. Pete Wells did

join after the meeting.

Jerry Wilcoxon said there would be no June 23, 2009 Digital Sig held at the library however those whom would like could meet him in Cooper Park at the Cabin weather permitting to take pictures.

The Program given by Jerry Marr was on "What can you do online at Suddenlink.net with your account.

Allison gave the same information but about CenturyTel.

July General Meeting will be given by Allison about Suddenlink Telephone Service.

The drawing was held for computer wipes and was won by Dave McConkey

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathleen Coulter  
Secretary

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## **Special Interest Groups**

### **The Office SIG**

There will be no meeting this month. The meeting room is unavailable.

### **The Digital Camera SIG**

Meeting plans will be available at the July meeting. If you have any questions call Jerry Wilcoxon (cell phone) @ 321-5074.

**Leigh Coulter**  
SIG Coordinator

# Members Photo Gallery

Click on the camera



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## Sunshine Lady

So, you ask, what is a Sunshine Lady, anyway, and what does she do?

She sends cards of congratulation, sympathy, and get well as required for members of the Twin Lakes Computer Users Group. But --- she can't do that unless she knows who needs a card for what, and that's where you members come in. Please let me know if you know of anyone of our members or their families who could use a card for any special occasion, and a card from the group will be immediately dispatched. Right now, she doesn't do birthday cards or anniversaries unless it's something memorable like a 50<sup>th</sup> or better. Maybe birthdays at 90 or above. We are not an uncaring group and want to be sure all our members know it - so please let me know if there is a need for a card of remembrance for any occasion.

Email: [ellielb@suddenlink.net](mailto:ellielb@suddenlink.net)

Phone: 870-508-4197

Ellie Bast

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### **Virus protection for your computer**

You are strongly encouraged to have an antivirus program on your machine, and to download the periodic updates from the internet. (If you do not update regularly you won't be protected from the most recent viruses.) Need help? Your mentor or other club member will assist you.

**PLEASE---It's your computer---keep it SAFE**

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See you next month