PCC NEWS

Bring Your Tech Toys!

The holidays are over, and, at long last, you are able to sit back and enjoy your new tech toys.

You belong to PCC! Of course you got some tech toys for Christmas! Now that you've had a few days to explore them, you are probably more excited about them than ever.

Bring them to the Main Meeting and show them off! What good is all the knowledge you gained from them unless you can show it off to everyone else?

Excitement, pride, or compellingly practical, bring your latest and greatest to the Main Meeting and introduce it to the rest of us.

By the way, if it came with a cable that allows it to be connected to a projector, be sure to bring that too. We'll be showing off PCC's new tech toy, an HDMI to VGA adapter to allow smartphones and tablets to connect to PCC's projector, so you'll be able to really show your new toy.

Meanwhile, back toward the more traditional computers, Jan Fagerholm will be showing off a new interface that runs on traditional netbooks, notebooks, laptops, desktops and the like.

Linux Mint 12 breaks ground on the interface front with its implementation of the GNOME 3 desktop. If you are curious about the upcoming Windows 8 desktop, you will want to see this. Microsoft's year-away "tiles" is preceded by several Linux distributions that are based on the new GNOME 3 desktop. You don't need to know what any of this means to see what it means to your computer. See it now at the Main Meeting.

Raffle!

This month, a Patriot 32GB Supersonic Xpress USB 3.0 Flash Drive. The Supersonic Xpress brings the speed and performance of USB 3.0 at an affordable price. Featuring a stylish cap-less design that hides the USB 3.0 connector when not in use, the Supersonic Xpress works like a pen to reveal the USB connector. Transfer data in a flash with speeds up to 60 MBps read and 25 MBps write when connected to a USB 3.0 port. No USB 3.0 port? The Supersonic Xpress is backwards compatible to USB 2.0/1.1 and comes with a 2-year limited warranty. And, it's YOURS for the price of a raffle ticket!

Tickets are $5 each, available where you sign in. Need not be present to win.

What's Inside:

pcc
PC Community

PCC News is the monthly newsletter of

PC Community (PC Clubhouse)
P.O. Box 55513
Hayward, CA 94545-0513

About PC Community

Adobe InDesign CS2 is used to publish PCC News

PCC Officers and Staff

Clubhouse Information

Please check page 3 for information regarding the Clubhouse. Communitcation with the Clubhouse should be directed to PC Community, P.O. Box 55513, Hayward, CA 94545-0512.

PC Community is a computer users group for people who wish to expand their knowledge and experience of personal computers and software. This is accomplished through monthly general meetings of the full membership where major industry vendors present information, and through smaller focus groups (Special Interest Groups, or SIGs) where members meet to share common computer interests. The group's monthly Main Meeting takes place at Calvary Baptist Church, 28924 Ruus Road, Hayward, at 7:30 P.M. on the first Friday of each month.

PC Community is dedicated to community service, providing enabling technology to people with special needs, working in the community to obtain computer equipment, and working with other computer groups to help people extend their lives through computer technology.

PC Community has a Web site at **http://www.pcc.org**.

Membership dues are $35.00 per year. $20.00 for educational and seniors (65 and over), and $45.00 for family per year. Call 510-213-8421 for more information, or write to PC Community at the address on this page.

PCC Announcements
O'Reilly - Books and Media

Review a Book: Review an O'Reilly book and get published in the PCC Newsletter and on the PCC Web Site. Find a book that interests you at www.oreilly.com, e-mail me the name of the book and ISBN so I can 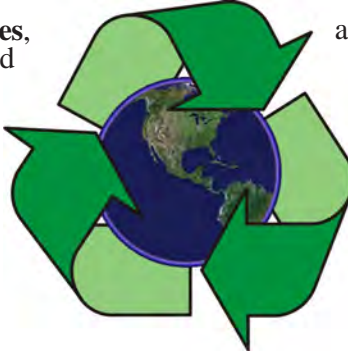order it for you. PCC requires a deposit from you in the amount of the User Group price, a 35% discount. You have 60 days to complete the review, at which time the deposit is refunded and you keep the book.

Elsie Smith - PCC UG Representative to O'Reilly

lcms@pacbell.net   or   510-545-2077

PCC Recycle Program is Back, Bigger and Better!

Your used **toner cartridges,** old **cell phones**, used **inkjet cartridges**, old **PDAs** and defunct **iPods** are valuable. Don't toss them in your trash to be used as landfill. They are worth something to PCC and other groups, either in the form of exchange or as discount on products at some local retailers. This not only helps PCC, but also helps our community. You can drop any of these items off at a Main Meeting or an EC Meeting. Do your part for PCC and your community! Keep the environment clean by taking a few extra moments to recycle these items with PCC.

contact:
Chuck Horner
churck@comcast.net
510-589-9677

Directions to the PCC Main Meeting

From All Directions: take 880 to the Tennyson Road exit in Hayward. Take the exit toward the hills. Proceed northeast on Tennyson Rd. about 0.7 mile to the 5th stoplight. This will be Ruus Road.

Turn right on Ruus Road and proceed southeast for about 0.4 mile. Look for Calvary Baptist Church on your left.

Turn left into the driveway into the parking lot. Parking is available anywhere from the driveway to the back of the lot.

Look for the PCC signs.

PCC Clubhouse Seeking House!

PCC's Clubhouse is temporarily without a -- house. With extraordinary effort, Clubhouse VP **Sid Jordan** and clubhouse regulars **Tony Cozzette, Don Feist, Bruce Hevelin, Charles Landsmerer, Bob McGeary, Del Parton, Ted Rosaro, AC Robinson, and Michael Wong** cleared out years of accumulation and took it to the recycle center for cash. Their efforts added $800 to PCC's finances.

That's the good news. The bad news is that the Clubhouse is temporarily homeless. We are working on a temporary location from which the refurbishing activities can continue, but we are still seeking a larger facility from which the Clubhouse's full set of activities can continue. We are setting up a contact phone number where you can call and find out about Clubhouse progress.

If you know of a facility that can house our Clubhouse, (think of the old Clubhouse for size) contact anyone on the Executive Committee and let them know. Contact information for the E.C. is on page 2 of this Newsletter, or go to www.pcc.org and click on Contact Us.

Fresh Fruit

Great Business Apps For Your iPad/iPod/iPhone

There's no shortage of impressive applications—some of them free—for Apple's popular family of mobile devices, and many of them are perfect for the home office worker or entrepreneur. Here are our favorite business-related mobile apps for the month. (Unless otherwise indicated, see the Apple App Store to purchase these apps.)

MyDirections

iPad iPhone iPod touch
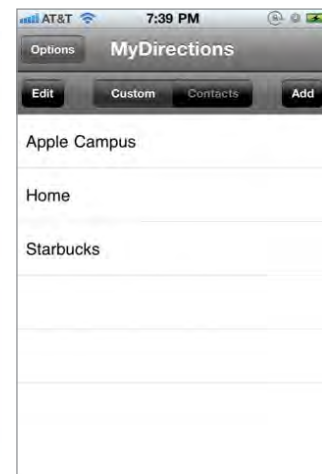
Planning ahead is always a good idea when on the road, but if you need directions fast, from wherever you happen to be, then MyDirections (free) from Aavees is the app for you. This app automatically provides directions from your current location to either a predefined destination or one you input manually. It's fast and easy to use, and you can even import destinations from your contacts list, which makes finding businesses, colleagues, partners, friends, and family easier than ever while on the road. Tapping the Options button also lets you access an FAQ for more information.

Norton Snap QR Code Reader

iPad iPhone iPod touch

Do you trust every website lurking behind a QR code's seemingly random jumble of squares? You shouldn't, which is why Symantec's

App Of The Month

Master Key

iPad **iPhone** **iPod touch**

Password managers are only useful if you use them, but Hung Tran has made Master Key ($4.99) versatile enough that you'll want it on your first Home screen. Master Key lets you store the details of your personal financial accounts and online identity, such as passwords, account numbers, usernames, PINs, credit card information, and more. Features include a dot pattern-based login scheme, 256-bit AES (Advanced Encryption Standard), preinstalled templates various types of data, and integration with Dropbox, which lets you backup and restore your sensitive information at will. You can also configure the app to wipe itself after several multiple failed unlock attempts.

got the right idea with the free Norton Snap QR Code Reader. Like any other QR reader, this app lets you scan QR codes using your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch, but before blindly launching the Web site, this app performs a security scan on the URL. Trusted sites launch immediately, shortened URLs are lengthened so you can inspect the source before visiting, and you can access a full report for any blocked sites by tapping the rating icon.

Pocket MPG Lite

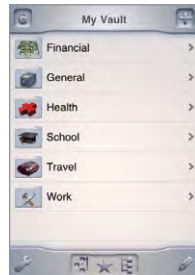**iPad** **iPhone** **iPod touch**

A fuel-efficient car might be good for the environment, but the benefits are most noticeable at the pump. James Poole's Pocket MPG Lite is a free app that lets you look up the city, highway, and combined MPG ratings for more than 600 vehicle makes and models. Use this handy app when choosing a rental, buying fleet vehicles, or when shopping for a new or used car. To tap into this database, you do not need an Internet connection, and once you've found an MPG rating you like, you can quickly add it to your favorites list by tapping the top-right corner of the screen.

Scan To Spreadsheet

iPad **iPhone** **iPod touch**

Scan To Spreadsheet ($2.99) from Berry Wing LLC is a quick and easy way to inventory virtually anything that has a barcode attached to it. You can create new categories to denote the type of inventory you're performing, configure the app to add each new scanned item to a new row on a spreadsheet, and add notes and quantities that describe the items you're scanning. When you're finished scanning, sending a resulting XML (Extensible Markup Language) or CSV (Comma Separated Value) file as an email attachment is as simple as tapping the email icon at the bottom of the screen.

TurboText

iPad **iPhone** **iPod touch**

This free time-saving app from Uber Touch lets you respond to messages with your own preset messages by quickly tapping the response you want without having to access the on-screen keyboard at all. Create messages such as, "I'll call you right back," "I'm running late, hold my seat," and "Can't talk right now, please send me an email." When you get a message, either from iPhone SMS (Short Message Service) or from iOS 5's iMessage application, just access Turbo Text, select the canned response you want, and send it along. You can input additional text before you send the message, and you can add, edit, remove, and rearrange your favorite messages. ▮

Mobile Marketplace

Business Apps *For Android & Windows Phone 7*

Some powerful business tools are floating in the sea of smartphone apps. Each month, we'll highlight some of the best ones for Windows Phone 7 and Android platform users. (Unless otherwise noted, Windows Phone 7 apps are available in the Windows Phone Marketplace, and you'll find Android apps in the Android Market).

Yivosoft Recorder

Windows Phone 7

Yivosoft Recorder ($1.99) is an audio recording app that lets you make short audio recordings for reminders, to do lists, and more. The intuitive interface lets you record a new message by tapping Record and listen by tapping Play. You can also access all of your messages by swiping to the Search menu. Press and hold your finger on a recording to edit the title, add comments, and more. With the Easy Sync Desktop software, you can sync your recordings to your PC over the Internet, Wi-Fi, or via a USB cable.

Thumba Photo Editor

Windows Phone 7

These days, it's not uncommon to leave your digital camera at home because

your smartphone's camera is just as good, but to take your smartphone images to the next level, try the Thumba Photo Editor (99 cents). This app lets you resize, crop, flip, rotate, add borders, fix red-eye, and warp your images in fun ways. Other settings include auto contrast, normalize, brightness, hue and saturation, color balance, remove noise, and many more. The app also makes it easy to share your mobile masterpieces on Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr.

Connectivity Shortcuts

Windows Phone 7

Battery life is everything for smartphone users, and we all know
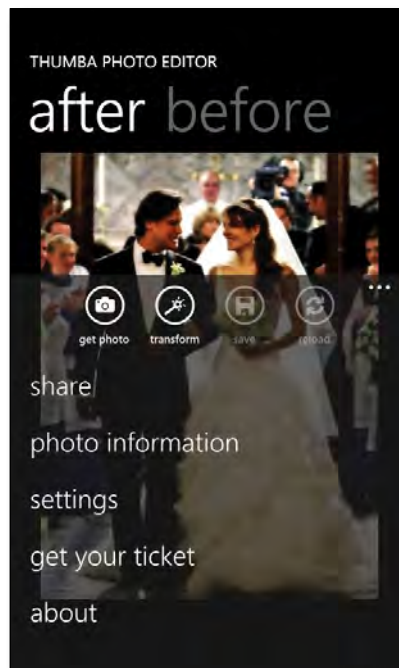
that wireless radios have a big impact on it. Connectivity Shortcuts is a handy little free app that lets you pin on/off switches for your various wireless radios right to your Start screen. There's a button for Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Cellular, and Airplane Mode. When you launch the app, tapping any of the icons takes you to the corresponding settings page, but tap and hold your finger to add the shortcut to your Start screen, so you can dramatically improve the phone's usage time.

MyBackup Pro

Android

We're advocates for backing up your data whenever possible, and your smartphone is no exception. MyBackup Pro ($4.99) lets you quickly create backups of your phone data, including applications, images, contacts, call logs, browser bookmarks, SMS (Short Message Service) and MMS (Multimedia Message Service) messages, calendar entries, system settings, Home screen shortcuts,
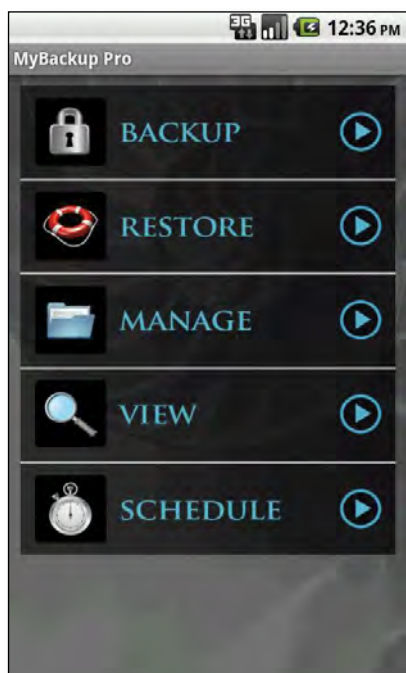
alarms, music playlists, and more. You can create a backup on an SD (Secure Digital) card or to RerWare's servers for safe keeping. You can also schedule regular backups, remotely trigger backups from the Web (Android 2.2 or newer), and restore your backups on a new or existing phone.

JuiceDefender Ultimate

Android

Battery life on powerful smartphones is always at a premium. With JuiceDefender Ultimate from Latedroid ($4.99), however, it doesn't have to be. This power-saving app gives you extensive control over the biggest drains on your battery life, namely the 3G/4G cellular radio and Wi-Fi radio. Features include location-aware Wi-Fi controls; the ability to set usage schedules, such as night, peak, and weekend; and the option to force 2G/3G/4G network mode. And as long as your phone supports it, JuiceDefender Ultimate can tweak the CPU frequency, display brightness, and more. ▮
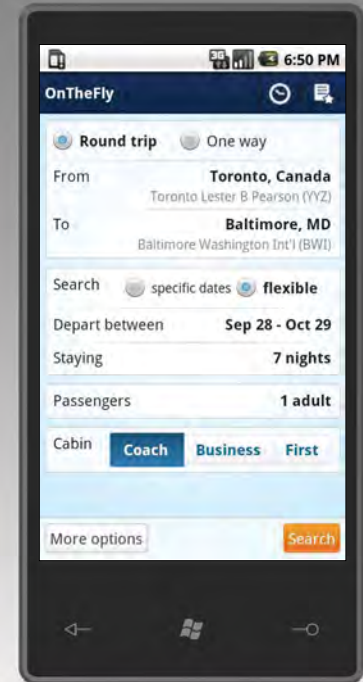
Door Prizes

Congratulations to all the members who won door prizes at the Main Meeting!

General Drawing:

Compaq Microsoft luggage lock.. George Kornbluth
EdCamp tee shirt..Bob McGeary
E Instruction tee shirt...Verne Perry
Estee Lauder case.. Diane George
FWB Drive UP! ....Dan Peterson
GDGT tee shirt...Chuck Horner
Habitat for Humanity bear .... Bud Gallagher
PC FM Auto-Scan Radio ....Stan Sorensen
PC FM Auto-Scan Radio ....Joy Somerville
Sysgen bag .... Dan Dolgen

Raffle Prize:

Plantronics K100 Bluetooth in-car Speakerphone..Chuck Horner

Door Prize Donations

O'Reilly Media generously donates the books for our door prizes. Go to www.oreilly.com and pick books you'd like to see on our door prize table. E-mail the names and ISBN of the books you want me to request.

Elsie Smith
lcms@pacbell.net

Membership Dues

Regular...$35.00
Family (same household)............................$45.00
Educational, Seniors....................................$20.00
Corporate (maximum 5 memberships)...$100.00
Make a check payable to PC Community in the amount listed above to:
PC Community
P.O. Box 55513
Hayward, CA 94545-0513

Dues Expiring This Month!

The following members dues expire this month:

Paul Cooper   Bill Huston
Duane Cromleigh   Sharon King
Charles Dumm   Anita Schmidt
Bob Dunn   Carl Webb

Special Interest Group Meetings

Del Parton -   (510) 276-4292
delpa@pacbell.net
Saturday after Main Meeting:8pm

Dan Dolgin - (510) 895-8845
dandolgin7@comcast.net
3rd Monday of the month:7:30pm
http://www.pcc.org/mobile

David Graham - (925) 997-9646
dmgraham98@yahoo.com
3rd Monday of the month:7:30pm
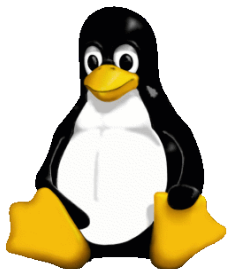**http://www.pcc.org/mobile**

Bud Gallagher - (510) 269-3623
budgall@comcast.net
2nd Saturday of the month:1pm

Room for more SIGs here- start one!

Jan Fagerholm - (510) 213-8421
pcc4me@gmail.com
Last Saturday of the Month:2pm

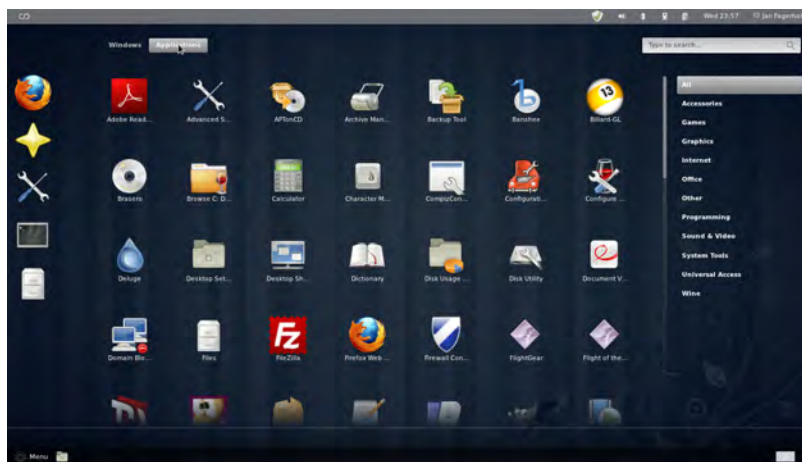# The Penguin Partition
Linux for Human Beings
by Jan Fagerholm, PCC Penguinista

With all of the major changes that have taken place in Linux these last few weeks, it has been a scramble for the penguinista programmers to keep up. Just two examples: everybody has had to wrap themselves around new versions of the Linux kernel, and rewrite everything for the new GNOME 3 desktop. Admittedly, the kernel change was just an adjustment of the versioning scheme, but the GNOME 3 desktop required everyone to rewrite to utilize the new features and recompile to the new libraries.

Results have been mixed, with Ubuntu going their own way with their Unity interface (released before GNOME 3 went gold) leaving all the distros based on Ubuntu scrambling to figure out which path they should take.

My favorite distro, Linux Mint came through with what is certainly the best implementation of GNOME 3 yet. Rather than decide between the new interface and their old interface, a Windoze-like menuing system, they actually implemented both. This way, you don't have to decide which to use. You can either go to the traditional menus or go to the new icon-based method of navigation. After using this for a few weeks, there are many things I like about the new interface, but habit sometimes sends me to the traditional location of the desktop for the start button. The logic structures of the two interfaces are very similar, so regardless of which you use, the same things are usually found in the same (logical) place.

The icon-based interface of GNOME 3 is doubtless influenced by tablet and Smartphone interfaces, and is a preview of what Microsoft calls its "tile-based" interface for Windows8.(Blame the "tile" vocabulary on Microsoft's NIH (Not Invented Here) culture, which discourages using vocabulary invented by some Apple else on the non-Microsoft iPad.)

Linux being what it is, we can expect to see several expressions of the new GNOME 3 interface. Some will be opaque and some will be brilliant. There is an interesting year coming up.

PCC Main and Executive Meeting Highlights

Secretary — Bayle Emlein
pcc@ix.netcom.com

Treasurer — Tom Smith
smith-tf@pacbell.net

Main Meeting Highlights

December 2, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by President Chuck Horner. Harold Smith at the ticket table has 3" x 5" cards to write questions for discussion/answers at the end of the Meeting. We have two first-time visitors.

Del Parton described the current Clubhouse facility, which is in a two-car garage. They are setting up and have their electricity and other infrastructure in. They are currently short of monitors and are looking for donations, preferably flat-screens.

SIG Announcements:

The Hardware SIG has been canceled tomorrow night.

The Windows 7 SIG will meet at Bud Gallagher's at 1 p.m. on the 10th, the customary second Saturday after the main meeting.

The Spectacular Linux SIG will look at the Linux Mint 12 distribution. Mint has done a better job than Ubuntu in creating a user-friendly interface. The SIG will not meet Christmas Eve or New Years Eve. Stay tuned for 'December' date clarification. Be sure you're on Jan's e-mail list if you want to get updates.

Mobile SIG is on vacation over the holidays and will start again the 3rd Monday in January.

Go to the PCC Web site if you want to contact a SIG leader and/or ask to be put on a mailing list to get information for a specific SIG.

Nominations for the Board of Directors election were closed. Ballots were distributed and explained. Diane George and Del Parton volunteered to count votes.

Presentations: Diane George presented Ultrabooks, which have specifications defined by Intel.

Intel has invested heavily in development of Ultrabooks, small light competitors to tablets.

Intel is further optimizing future generations of processors for this platform. Ultrabooks have SSD drives, which are typically smaller than those of current laptops. With successive developments, the Ultrabooks will use less

and less power. Diane will put the PowerPoint of this presentation on the PCC Website. You will find several links to sites with ongoing updated information about ultrabooks.

One advantage of SSD is that they are instant-on. On the other hand, SSD memory is still relatively expensive.

David Graham pointed out that battery memory improves with "indexing." Indexing means to charge the battery fully and run it down to 10 % three times in succession.

The question came up about whether or not it is safe to move a laptop while it is on. Diane pointed out that because an SSD (Solid State drive) has no moving parts, the risk is less than with a mechanical hard drive. It is also better to unplug a laptop and let the battery run down to 10% occasionally.

After the break Chuck announced the 2012 PCC Board of Directors. They are: Jan Fagerholm, Sally Holt, Chuck Horner, Elsie Smith, and Bayle Emlein.

Why, asked Jan Fagerholm, are we suddenly seeing Ultrabooks? Look at the tablet market: No Intel tablets. Intel is running to catch up in the market place. After the processors have been modified to use less power in future generations, battery life will be less disappointing.

Jan showed a Windows Tablet that has a tab interface similar to upcoming Windows 8. One can download EasyBits to try out the interface.

Sally mentioned a TigerDirect Black Friday sale that included a tablet and a computer. If they have something you want, these sales are worth the trouble of following sites and newspaper announcements.

On his Android phone, Chuck has been using an app called GoRequest for Hayward community access. He uses ColorNote for a notepad. He also has a voice recorder app and is enjoying the app for his local newspaper. Everyone appreciated the spray-can graffiti app. Chuck liked QuickOffice on the Palm platform and is looking forward to trying it out in Android.

Jan acknowledge Chuck's contributions to the community, which were recognized by Chuck's designation as a

Main Meeting Highlights

Hometown Hero. Several newspaper stories covered his graffiti abatement efforts which have saved significant amounts of money in the city budget by reducing the need for clean-up.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

The next meeting will take place at the same time and location on January 6, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Bayle Emlein, Secretary

Executive Committee Meeting Highlights

December 17, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 2:14 p.m. by President Chuck Horner.

Members present: Bayle Emlein, Jan Fagerholm, Sally Holt, Chuck Horner, Sid Jordan, Elsie Smith, Tom Smith. Absent: Diane George.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Old Business:

Jan is exploring purchase of an HDMI to VGA cable. The problem he's having is that most cables are VGA to HDMI. The only candidate he's found so far costs $100. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed that he acquire the cable as soon as possible.

Jan is working on the new membership form.

President's Report - Chuck Horner: The Penny Saver charges $28 for 25 words. Sally was told that we would fit into Neighborhood News. Elsie noted that eBay Classified is free. Chuck said he will donate one ad to test the efficacy of advertising in the Penny Saver. He will explore which category we fit under.

Executive Vice President – Sally Holt: Nothing special to report.

Treasurer - Tom Smith: As of December 17, 2011:

Checking Account	$3,836.77
Total	$3,836.77

Tom noted that in 2011 our expenditures exceeded our income. At the current rate of, we will run out of money in 2013.

Elsie noted that the number of people have opted out of receiving a paper newsletter is so few that this option does not represent a significant saving.

For the past few years, the Clubhouse has brought in significant income.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that all members be asked to pay dues regardless of their position or service to PC Community.

Secretary - Bayle Emlein: Nothing special to report.

VP Clubhouse - Sid Jordan: Jan will coordinate with Sid about the RRP procedure. Chuck is working on locating a new Clubhouse space. He noted that the Clubhouse refurbishing project not only serves the community with recycled computers, it improves the quality of life of those who participate by doing the refurbishing.

VP Marketing – Position open:

VP Membership - Jan Fagerholm: Member count as of December 17, 2011:

Type	Number	%
Regular	27	43.55
Senior	31	48.39
Student	2	3.23
Associate	43	4.84
Total	62	

Elsie will mail membership renewal forms to several members whose membership is expiring. The purpose is to encourage renewal.

VP Newsletter - Elsie Smith: Newsletter submission deadline:

December 17, Saturday midnight, January Newsletter

January 21, 2012, Saturday midnight, February Newsletter

VP Special Projects - Bayle Emlein: Nothing special to report.

Webmaster - Diane George: Sid will let Diane know that the Web site information about the Clubhouse needs to be updated.

Calendar: See the Web site for the latest updates and changes in SIG meetings. The December Linux SIG will change from 12/31.

Programs -

January: Short presentations - Linux Mint 12 by Jan Fagerholm, with an eye to comparing with Windows 8.

Show off the tech toys you got for the holidays. Bring them in and get some help getting them up and running.

Fund Raiser: January: Patriot 32 Gb 3.0 Flash Drive

New Business: None.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 2:00 p.m., 28924 Ruus Road, Hayward.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bayle Emlein, Secretary

PCC NEWS

www.pcc.org

Happy New Year!

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 *New Year's Day*	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6** **7:30 pm** ***Main Meeting***	**7** 8 pm-Hardware SIG
8	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14** 1 pm-Windows 7 SIG
15	**16** 7:30 pm-Mobile Computing SIG	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21** 2 pm-Exec. Committee Mtg.
22	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28** 2 pm-Linux SIG
29	**30**	**31**	*Check the calendar at* ***www.pcc.org*** *for up-to-date information!*		*See Page 9 for SIG Meeting information.*	

The **February 2012 Main Meeting** will be at 28924 Ruus Road, Hayward CA, on **February 3, 2012** at 7:30 P.M.