



# PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP, INC GAZETTE



**February 2017**

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February 2017

“JOIN US FOR FUN AND LEARNING AT CROSSVILLE’S COMPUTER CLUB”

Volume 23, Issue 2

## This Month's Meetings

**Photo Editing Workshop**  
**Thursday, February 9 at 1:00 P.M.**  
**At FFG Library Bldg.**

**Plateau Photography Club**  
**Thursday February 16 at 1:00 P.M.**  
**At FFG Library Bldg..**

**General Meeting**  
**Monday, February 20 at 3:00 P.M.**  
**At Christ Lutheran Church FFG**

## **The February Program at** **FFG Christ Lutheran Church**

### **Cloud File Storage and Sharing**

Alan Baker, PPCUG member, will cover the definition of “The Cloud”, review the key uses for The Cloud and introduce some popular cloud applications for file storage and sharing, including back-up/restore.

The presentation will then cover details of Drop-box as a good file storage and sharing application and iCloud as a popular backup/restore application.

The audience will be encouraged to try one or more free file storage applications to learn more and evaluate the user interfaces. He will provide an online handout with resources to learn more, including video tutorials.



## **President's Day Monday, February 20, 2017**

### **Inside This Issue**

Club information and Phone numbers	Page 2
Upcoming Events	Page 3
Cool Tips & Sites—	Page 3
General Meeting Minutes January 16, 2017	Page 4
Deed Mapper	Page 5
Mouse Cleaning (Optical or Laser Mouse)	Page 6
What's New ?	Page 7
Tablet Checklist: What can it do?	Page 10
I Feel the Need, the Need for Speed!	Page 12
Microsoft Outlook shortcut keys	Page 14
PPCUG Application for Membership	Page 15
February 2017 Calendar	Page 16

**Winter Hours** start at **3:00 P.M.** (October through March)  
**Summer Hours** start at 6:00 P.M. (April through September)  
**Location:** Christ Lutheran Church  
481 Snead Drive, Fairfield Glade

## Join the Club!

Anyone interested to attend the general meeting or any of the SIG meetings as a guest will be charged \$3.00 per person for any or all meetings in that month. Afterwards, you are encouraged to become a member of the Plateau PC Users Group.

Our Club cannot exist without you, the members.

### Membership Dues

Our annual dues are now payable July 1st of each year. Annual dues are \$24 per single person / \$30 per family starting July 1, 2014, with partial years dues as follows:

Due Date	Jan-Mar 2017	Apr-Jun 2017	Jul-Sep 2017 Annual Dues	Oct-Dec 2017
Single:	\$12	\$6	\$24	\$18
Families:	\$15	\$7	\$30	\$22

Student memberships (21 and under) are \$10 annually. Corporate memberships are \$30 a year for the first two memberships and \$10 a year for each additional membership from the same company.

Contact the PPCUG Treasurer (931) 707-3677 for pro-rated dues of these types of memberships.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISCLAIMER

All members of the Plateau PC Users Group are willing to help one another in the area of advice and tutorial instruction over the phone. If you should require more involved services or instruction, we have a few members who are very knowledgeable in several areas. As a responsible consumer, it is up to you to discuss, before retaining a member, any and ALL charges for repair services and time consuming tutorial activities.

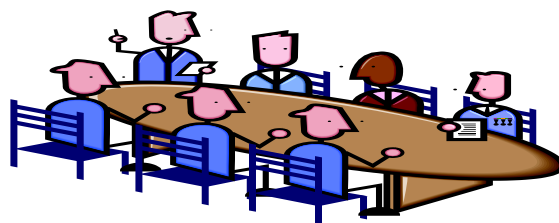
It is not the desire of this Board of Directors to set fees for individuals for services rendered, nor the responsibility to intervene between members who enter into a contract among themselves.

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All images used in the newsletter, website, blogs, class materials or handouts ("media") are obtained from a "free use" source, preferably images that have been released as "CCO Public Domain".

## 2016-2017 PPCUG, Inc. Board Members



President	Steve Rosenstein	(931) 742-0151
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### Directors at Large

Alan Baker	Gordon Botting	Richard Del Frate
Barbara Duncan	Bob Willis	Linda Yates

### Director Emeritus Don Lewis

### SIG Leaders

Photo Editing Workshop	Ed Thornblade	(931) 456-6020
Plateau Photography Club	Jim Mansfield	(931) 484-6920

## Up Coming Meeting for March 2017

### Note: Winter Hours & Location

The next General Meeting of the  
PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP  
Will be on March 20 at **3:00 P.M.**  
at Christ Lutheran Church  
481 Snead Drive FFG  
(corner of Snead & Lakeview Drive)

### Classes

Please send ideas for new classes to Alan Baker.  
( ambaker@citlink.net )

### Cool Tips & Sites

#### Take advantage of tabbed browsing

Take full advantage of tabbed browsing on all Internet browsers.

While reading an article or browsing a website, you may come across a link that interests you.

Any link to another page can be opened in a new tab so it does not interrupt your reading.

To perform this action, hold down the Ctrl key and left-click the link.

If you have a mouse with a wheel, click the link by depressing the wheel instead of rolling it.

Either of the methods opens a link in a new window.

Tip: To open an new blank tab, press Ctrl + T at the same time.

## News of the Special Interest Groups

The PPCUG sponsors several Special Interest Groups (SIGs) tailored to meet the varied needs of our many members. Each SIG is a small group whose leader prepares material for presentation and encourages open discussion and questions. We urge you to attend the SIGs and hope you will find one or more of interest to you. Ideas for additional groups are welcome, as are volunteers to form and lead new SIGs.

### Plateau Photography Clubs

A photo editing workshop is held at 1:00 PM at the Fairfield Glade Library Bldg. on the second Thursday of each month. Members meet to discuss & demonstrate various editing software programs available to enhance their photographs. The SIG leader is Ed Thornblade.

The Photography Club, a PPCUG SIG, meets the Third Thursday of each month at the Fairfield Glade Library Bldg. at 1:00PM. Topics vary each month but we show and discuss member's photos each month. The SIG leader is Jim Mansfield.

### The Photo Club/SIG website

The Photo Club/SIG website is now up. Access to it is through the PPCUG website, using the "Photo Club" navigation link at the top of each PPCUG page. I think that this is a big improvement, and could not have been done without the work of Dallas Richards.

### **PPCUG Website**

Visit our website at [www.PPCUGinc.com](http://www.PPCUGinc.com). The Learning Center class schedule and Gazette are all available on our web site.

Send your comments and suggestions to the Webmaster, Alan Baker  
[Webmaster@ppcuginc.com](mailto:Webmaster@ppcuginc.com) (931) 788-2201

## **PPCUG General Meeting Minutes January 16, 2017**

### **Comcast Services Available to Fairfield Glade Residential Customers Presented by: Kevin Cantillon and Dan Martin**

Comcast has been providing cable TV services for 50 years. It also provides Internet and telephone services along with home security capability under the brand name of Xfinity.

All are available in the Fairfield Glade and surrounding area. Currently high speed Internet download speeds of 10, 25, 75 and 150meg service are available for residential customers with additional capability in the future.

These speeds provide smooth buffering for simultaneous streaming to multiple devices. Depending on what you intend to use your system for, would determine which of the speed capable service levels would be appropriate.

High Definition streaming movies and or gaming, especially to simultaneous devices would require one of the higher speed service levels. Comcast internet service includes a number of available “apps” such as, X1 Remote allowing a smartphone to change channels, browse TV listings, use voice commands to search for programs, schedule DVR recordings and get personalized recommendations from iTunes.

The Home app allows staying connected to home and family, receive text, email alerts, or access your system remotely. The My Account app, makes it possible to pay your bill, manage appointments, troubleshoot technical issues chat with an expert on Twitter and manage your account from anywhere at any time. Xfinity TV Go app enables watching Xfinity on demand TV shows and movies on your tablet or smartphone, plus stream your favorite sports, news and other shows live. You can download TV shows and movies to your device and watch them when offline.

The modem provided with this system also has the capability for a battery backup in order to continue phone service during a power outage until battery depletion. Additional features and apps will be added to the modem in the future.

Free data usage included in the normal program is 1TB/month.

Online security software is included with internet service.

When traveling, you can connect to WiFi hotspots with the Xfinity WiFi app or at [wifi.xfinity.com](http://wifi.xfinity.com). With Comcast Xfinity Voice, unlimited talk and nationwide texting along with 12 calling features are included.

Comcast Xfinity Home provides the capability of 24/7 professional monitoring on a secure network, plus arm or disarm your system remotely. This also allows live inside and outside viewing with camera installation.

The current model DVR used in this system allow up to six shows to be recorded and watched at the same time with 500 GB of DVR storage space.

For more detailed information on what is available in this area from Comcast Xfinity service go to [www.Xfinity.com](http://www.Xfinity.com). or contact Comcast at 27 Druid Circle, or call (800) 228-8836.

Submitted by:

Dick Del Frate

Secretary

## **DeedMapper**

Presented by Mary Stewart, Northern Neck Computer Users Group, New Jersey  
Genealogy SIG Meeting Recap  
October 2016 issue, The Computer Link  
[www.nncug.net](http://www.nncug.net)  
[geocadjr \(at\) verizon.net](mailto:geocadjr@verizon.net)

Mary Stewart gave a presentation on DeedMapper and showed a case study on how she found a family home.

DeedMapper is software that one can plat old land patents, grants, and deeds, and place them on a modern map. It is particularly useful when surveys are done with metes and bounds as was customary in our area. It also works with public lands.

With DeedMapper, you can find the location of a particular plot by anchoring a group of neighboring plots against a stream. You can also discover genealogical relationships by showing that person X sold part of person Y's land. It can untangle people having the same name by analyzing their landholdings and transfers.

With DeedMapper you can create a map of original landholders in a region. You can also trace changes in parcel ownership over the years.

Mary told us about Land Records in Genealogy and explained what State Lands are. Twenty colonies and states did not cede the unclaimed land in their borders to the federal government when they became part of the United States. These states are known as State Land states and included the original 13 colonies, those states created from original colonies plus Hawaii and Ohio.

Why research deeds? By researching deeds, they can help you determine family relationships, establish death dates, and upon the death of a widow, her dower interest goes to her husband's heirs.

Mary demonstrated how DeedMapper works by starting with the survey of Gerard Alexander's land.

She showed how she took the information from the survey and inputted it in the Metes and Bounds function of the program. After entering the information, into the program, it created a map of the property boundaries. It also produced a map of what the property looks like today.

Mary advised all this information can produce a view of the property in Google Earth. Mary advised she was able to find Col. Gerard Alexander's home that was built in 1820 in Campbell County VA.

To learn more about DeedMapper, go to [directlinesoftware.com](http://directlinesoftware.com). A book Mary recommends for discovering your ancestors is *Locating Your Roots Discover Your Ancestors Using Land Records* by Patricia Law Hatcher.

More information about the book can be found at [genealogical.com](http://genealogical.com).

## **Mouse Cleaning (Optical or Laser Mouse)**

**Why?** A dirty optical or laser mouse can cause the mouse cursor to be difficult to move or move erratically.

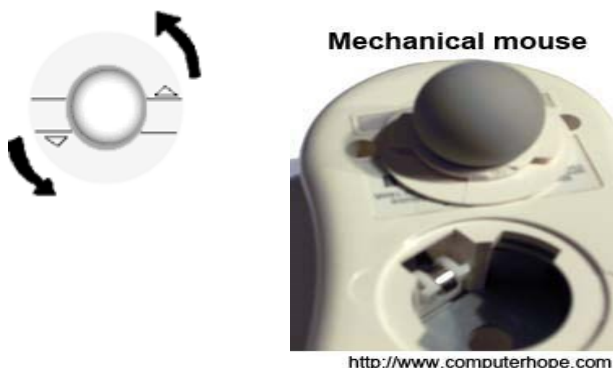
**Procedure:** Use a can of compressed air that is designed for use with electronic equipment, spraying around the optical sensor on the bottom of the mouse. Blowing air on the bottom of the mouse clears away any dirt, dust, hair, or other obstructions that may be blocking the optical sensor.

Avoid using any cleaning chemicals or wiping a cloth directly on the optical sensor, as it could scratch or damage the optical sensor.

### **Optical-Mechanical (Ball) Mouse**

**Why?** A dirty optical-mechanical mouse (mouse with a ball) can cause the mouse to be difficult to move, as well as cause strange mouse movement.

**Procedure:** To clean the rollers of an optical-mechanical mouse, you must first remove the bottom cover of the mouse. To do this, examine the bottom of the mouse to see what direction to rotate the cover. As you can see in the below illustration, the mouse cover must be moved counter clockwise. Place two fingers on the mouse cover, push down and rotate in the direction of the arrows.



Once the cover has rotated about an inch, rotate the mouse into its normal position, covering the bottom of the mouse with one hand. The bottom should then fall off, including the mouse ball. If the cover does not fall off, try shaking the mouse gently.

Once the bottom cover and the ball is removed, you should be able to see three rollers located inside the mouse. Use a cotton swab, finger, or fingernail to remove any substances on the rollers. Usually, there is a small line of hair and dirt in the middle of the roller. Remove as much of this substance as possible.

Once you have removed as much dirt and hair as possible, set the ball back within the mouse and place the cover back on.

If the mouse still has the same problems, repeat the above process. If after several attempts the mouse is still having the same problems, your mouse has other hardware issues and should be replaced.

**Note:** Cleaning your mouse pad with a damp cloth can also help improve a computer's mouse movement.

### **Any Type of Mouse**

**Why?** To help keep the mouse clean and germ-free, it can be helpful to clean the mouse.

**Procedure:** Use a cloth moistened with rubbing alcohol or warm water and rub the surface of the mouse and each of its buttons.



## What's New?

Reviews by George Harding, Treasurer, Tucson Computer Society, AZ

August 2016

[www.aztcs.org](http://www.aztcs.org)

[georgehardingsbd \(at\) earthlink.net](mailto:georgehardingsbd@earthlink.net)

### **Eton ...**

I received three products from Eton for review. Eton, incorporated in 1986, is a Canadian company providing products in partnership with the Red Cross.



Blackout Buddy is a small unit about the size of a cell phone and provides you with a night light, blackout alert and an emergency flashlight. It has prongs for a wall socket, which turns it into a nightlight. If power goes out, the flashlight automatically turns on and gives you a bright beam from its three LED bulbs. If you remove it from the wall socket and fold the prongs in, it is now a flashlight. This is a handy product for your home and is very reasonable priced at \$15.



FR1 is a combination radio and cell phone charger. It has an internal battery that can be charged with the included cable or by using the embedded crank. Four minutes of cranking gets you 10-15 minutes of radio time. There are three radio bands, AM, FM and Weather. Controls on the face of the FR1 allow you to change band, change radio station and change volume. There is a collapsible antenna on the side of the FR1. Another button on the face activates the cell phone charging port. When in Weather band mode, you can set a monitor to turn the FR1 on whenever the station issues an alert for hazardous weather. You can also set an alarm to sound at a particular time. This product is versatile and would be an essential item to have on backpacking and camping trips, or even on a driving trip. It's modestly priced at \$45.



- ◆ Satellite is a multi-purpose radio receiver with many features. It receives AM, FM, LW, shortwave and aircraft bands. It includes a clock and alarms can be set and there is a sleep timer, as well. There is capacity for up to 700 memory channels. It is powered by either a wall plug or by 4 AA batteries. If the batteries are NiMh rechargeable, running the radio on wall power will charge the batteries. A collapsible antenna is stored on the back of the box. The box includes a very nice carrying bag. Both audio in and out are supported. The unit includes a very thorough User Manual with sections in English, French and Spanish. With the many features and options available with this product, the complete manual is a necessity. Priced at \$230 through the company, although Amazon advertises the product at \$159 at this writing.

Eton Corp.

[www.etoncorp.com](http://www.etoncorp.com)

*(Continued on page 8)*

(Continued from page 7)

### **I-Sleep ...**

If you have trouble getting to sleep, this product may be for you. It is scientifically designed to use your brain's impulses to enhance the likelihood of sleep.

The kit comes with several parts. The first is a controller which outputs a signal to your circulatory system and ultimately your brain. It includes a control for you to increase or decrease intensity of the signal. It has an internal battery and a charging cable is included to enable this. The controller has a monitor screen which shows information.



The kit also includes a set of what might be earbuds if the ends were to go into your ears. In this case, though, the ends clip onto your ear lobes. There are cloth pads that fit onto the clips, that must be moistened for connectivity. The manual suggests eye drops as a moistening agent.

When you are ready to go to sleep, you attach an ear clip and turn on the controller. Twenty minutes' time is shown on the monitor and countdown starts. After twenty minutes, the controller automatically turns off.

While on, you may adjust the intensity of the signal put out by the controller. You increase or decrease as needed.

The Company description of operation is: "The product uses advanced bioelectricity to balance brainwave technology to increase the activity of Alpha wave, reduce the activity of Delta waves, in order to improve sleep quality. About 20 minutes after using it, you will fall into a deep sleep."

This innovative product is not yet available to the public. I received it for review as an Xberts Pioneer.

I-Sleep by Xberts

No web access at this time

Price: \$169

### **Nite-Ize ...**

This is one of the most innovative companies I've come across. They develop useful tools for you and me that are easy to use and reasonably priced. Here are a few that the Company provided me for review.

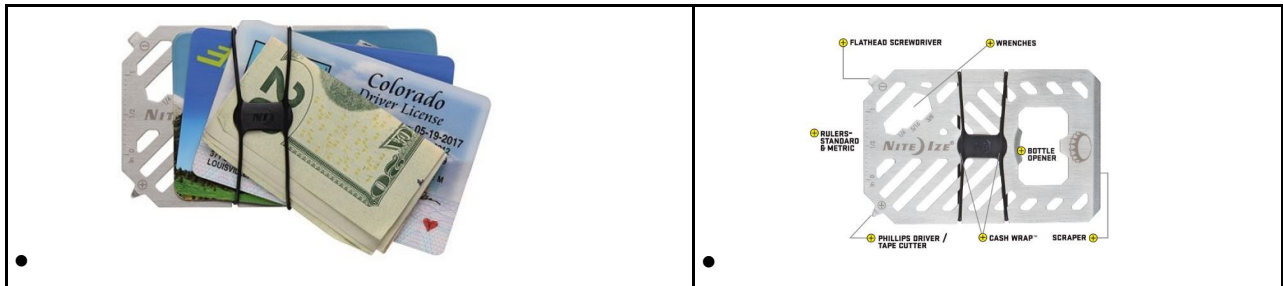
- **Steele Pedestal for Tablets.** This device is pretty simple, but fills the need for a support when you use a tablet on a flat surface. There is an adhesive-backed magnetic disc, the Steele stalk and mount for a desk or other flat surface. You attach the magnetic disc to the back of your iPad or other tablet and place the mount on a flat surface. The Steele stalk head fits into the magnetic disc and the end goes on the mount. The tablet can be rotated and tilted as needed. Price \$50

(Continued on page 9)





- Steelie Vent Mount Kit. This is similar to the Pedestal product, but has a mount that clips easily to most vehicle vents. It keeps any cell phone securely attached, yet is easy to manipulate. Don't drive and manipulate! Price \$40
- Financial Tool. Holds currency, driver's license and credit cards securely and serves as a multi-tool as well. Tools are: screwdriver, tape cutter, ruler, windshield scraper, wrench and bottle opener. All this in a stainless-steel frame! Price \$10



- Mini flashlight. Has functions for flashlight, lantern and safety light. The flashlight has two levels of brightness, high and low. The lantern also has two modes, high and low. The safety light has three modes, glow, flash and SOS. All this in a machined aluminum body and takes only one AA battery. Price \$12



- BetterBand. Stretch bands that can hold things together, link cords, bags of chips, etc., or use as a tie-down to something else. Price \$4 There are many other versions of these bands in different lengths. Handy for keeping thing together.

(Continued from page 9)

- PowerKey. A small container for a cable with an iPhone 5/6 attachment and USB plug. Price \$18



- GearTie. A flexible rubberized wire, useful for keeping items together. Comes in various lengths. Price \$4.50 for 6-inch pair.



There are many more useful products in the Nite-ize catalog. See <http://www.niteize.com>

## **Techspert Talk**

### **Tablet Checklist: What can it do?**

By Melanie Birnbom  
June 2016 issue, CVC Computer Club Newsletter  
[www.cvcomputerclub.com](http://www.cvcomputerclub.com)  
[nbirnbom \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:nbirnbom@yahoo.com)

#### **Tablet Checklist: What can it do?**

Q.A frequent question I get from users is: "What can a tablet actually do? Is it just for playing games?"

That is why I've put this checklist together using the three main operating systems for tablets: Android, iOS (found on iPads), and windows (this does not include the now discontinued Windows RT operating system.)

#### **Read and Write E-mail**

Android: Yes  
iPad: Yes  
Windows Tables: Yes

#### **Surf the Internet**

Android: Yes  
iPad: Yes  
Windows tablet: Yes

#### **Use Sites that Require Flash player:**

Android: No  
iPad: No  
Windows Tablet: Yes

(Continued on page 11)

### **Play Games**

Android: Yes (With apps downloaded from Google Play store)

iPad: Yes (With apps downloaded from Apple App store)

Windows Tablet: Yes (With apps downloaded from Windows store. If tablet model has enough computing power you can also download PC games. Windows 10 tablets will allow you to stream games from an Xbox One.

### **Use Office Programs**

Android: Yes (several office suites available including MS Office apps)

iPad: Yes (multiple office suites available as well as MS Office apps)

Windows Tablet: Yes (multiple office suites available and Microsoft Office apps. Users can also run the full desktop version of Office.)

### **Print**

All three tablets will allow you to print from selected apps with compatible wireless printers.

### **Listen to Music**

Android: You can stream from services like Pandora, Spotify, and Amazon as well keep digital copies of music on your tablet.

iPad: Designed to work especially well with iTunes; you can also stream using apps for services like Pandora and Spotify.

Windows Tablet: Works with streaming services and Groove Music.

### **Stream Movies**

All three operating systems will allow you to watch services like Netflix or Hulu, as well as view videos on websites. (If the videos require Flash Player, only a Windows table will work.)

### **eBooks**

All three tablets will allow you to download apps for reading eBooks including Kindle and Nook books.

### **Use Facebook and other Social Media**

All three tablets will allow you to use a Facebook app.

### **Make Video Calls**

All three tablets allow you to use Skype and other services for video calls and programs like Messenger for video or audio chats in addition to text chatting. Almost every tablet has a built-in front-facing camera.

### **Use a Keyboard**

Nearly any tablet will allow you to connect with a keyboard (usually via Bluetooth). There are keyboard cases available for carrying convenience. Make sure you get the compatible keyboard for your tablet. If it is a case, make sure it is the right size.

### **Use a Mouse**

Only Windows tablets are compatible with using a mouse and it is a fairly simple process to pair a Bluetooth mouse.

### **Use Desktop Versions of Programs**

Only Windows tablets can run full desktop versions of programs.

### **Access Cloud Storage**

All three tablets will allow you access cloud storage.

## **I Feel the Need, the Need for Speed!**

By Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA  
September 2016 issue, Drive Light  
[www.uchug.org](http://www.uchug.org)  
president (at) uchug.org



This quote from the 1986 hit movie “Top Gun” states what we all strive for in the end - faster and better. Though now thirty years old, this movie is still one of my favorites. At the time, it seemed to portray an exciting, high-tech world. Young naval aviators Maverick and Goose fly their F-14 Tomcat fighter jet off aircraft carriers and go supersonic, have mock engagements with “enemy” aircraft in the Top Gun Naval Fighter Weapons School and shoot down MiGs with guided missiles and sophisticated radars. Yet 1986 was a long time ago, before the commercial Internet, cell phones and a lot of the technology that we take for granted today. A lot of 1986 tech seems almost antiquated by today’s standards. We have come a long way since then in many ways, but in other ways not so much, and progress has usually come at a cost.

The cost of the Grumman F-14 Tomcat fighter that Maverick piloted thirty years ago was around \$38 million dollars. Today’s new Navy-version Lockheed Martin F-35C Lightning fighter costs \$337 million apiece. Though it is meant to perform the same job as the Tomcat, today’s Maverick would have to dump Goose, as the F-35C is a smaller single-seat, single-engine plane. For ten times the per unit cost, Maverick would get tremendously better radars, weapons and electronics in the F-35C. Based on that, New Maverick should be able to easily shoot down Old Maverick’s F-14. His need for actual speed may not be helped, however. Though the F-35C and other modern military aircraft have become more efficient over the years, the advertised top speed of the F-35 (1199 mph) is actually less than the F-14 (1544 mph). Sorry, New Mav!

Automobiles have seen progress in a lot of the same ways as military aircraft over the last thirty years. No, you can’t shoot a missile at that guy that just sits there at the light though it has turned green, but our cars are now packed full of electronics and technology. They can’t drive any faster, but they do cost a lot more.

The first new car I bought for my wife was a 1986 Ford Tempo, a five-passenger sedan with a four-cylinder engine. We had been married for a little less than a year, and were planning to start a family. We would need something a little bigger and safer than her old Pinto, and with more seating than my two-seat pickup truck.

Like the F-14, the Tempo had some electronics, but it was pretty basic by today’s standards. It was the first car I ever owned without a carburetor, having electronic fuel injection (how high-tech!), which I hoped at that point was a mature technology, as I performed my own auto servicing. The entertainment system consisted of a dial-tuned AM/FM radio and cassette tape player. All the instrumentation was analog; the only digital readout in the entire car was the LCD clock in the middle of the dash. We bought a fairly basic four-door model, but there were not many options available in those days, anyway. I was able to find the purchase contract for the car after all these years (I really need to scan and/or shred the contents of that old file cabinet); we paid \$10K for it brand new.

*(Continued on page 13)*

*(Continued from page 12)*

Fast-forward 30 years, and my wife just got another new car (unfortunately not the second new car I bought her). She now drives a 2016 Hyundai Tucson Eco. It is a compact SUV and so is a little bigger than that Tempo was. Unlike the Tempo, it is loaded with electronics and high-tech stuff. The 1.6L Turbo four-cylinder engine is a little smaller than the 2.0L engine in the Tempo, but is completely electronically controlled and has better performance (power and gas mileage). Our Tempo had a five-speed manual transmission. The Tucson has an electronically controlled seven-speed dual clutch transmission. For better fuel economy, the transmission, essentially a manual transmission, has standard clutches, instead of a fluid torque converter. The clutches and transmission are controlled and actuated electronically, so to the driver it acts like an automatic transmission.

The Tucson has a digital dash display, as well as a center display for the entertainment system. It has an integrated digital AM/FM radio and satellite radio, and can play digital audio files on memory sticks plugged into the dashboard USB connector. It of course has Bluetooth to integrate your smart phone into the sound system and display. It has a lot more capability than the old Tempo and should be more reliable, but it also cost around \$25K, and can't really get you there any faster.

It seems funny to think about it now, but in 1986 Maverick and his friends had no Internet and no cell phones. A movie about Navy pilots today would no doubt show them on their smart phones all the time. The only phone scene I recall from Top Gun showed "Wolfman" on a pay phone, a piece of technology you would be hard pressed to find today. The World Wide Web was born in 1991, with dial-up commercial Internet access starting in 1992. I remember as UCHUG secretary sending my meeting minutes to the editor, then Ray Ferbrache, via a dial-up connection to a BBS (bulletin board system). That 56K modem seemed fast back then, but as the Internet became more popular and filled with features, we all felt the need for more speed.

I found some old bills that showed I had EarthLink High Speed Internet through Time Warner Cable in early 2004. I don't know how fast it was then, but it cost \$42 per month. Over the years, TWC hid the cost of my Internet access in a "bundle" with TV. Adding in DVRs and other charges, my total bill grew to be around \$170. I did see an increase in speed over those years; my access got up to 17 Mbps download, 1.2 Mbps upload, which is pretty reasonable. Still, the bill seemed high and only seemed to go one way - up.

My parents have been complaining about how slow their computers have become over the last year. My dad thought their computers were just getting old and had bought a new one for my mom, but when I was there to help him set it up for her and performed an ISP speed test, I found their real problem was a slow Internet connection. Their basic DSL service was only giving them 1.7 Mbps download and around 200K upload. At those speeds, a Yahoo home page filled with photos and other fluff took a minute or more to load. It was like being back in the days of dial-up.

After researching their ISP's current DSL plans, we found they could up their speed considerably for not much more cost. Their old house phone wiring limited them somewhat in how fast a service they could get, but in the end they were able to increase access to 15 Mbps, which made their old computers work on the Internet just fine. Sometimes a little speed is all you need.

Meanwhile, my wife was approached by someone from AT&T, who reminded us that they had pulled fiber up our street a few years back, and now that they had bought DirecTV, they could offer much faster Internet and satellite TV for a lower combined cost. In the end, we saved \$40 per month and got better TV, a tremendously bigger DVR and 50 Mbps download, 5 Mbps upload Internet. Finally the speed I need!

The switchover was not without its issues, however. The change to DirecTV was easy and problem-free. The Internet access was a bit more challenging. Though they claim to have fiber in the box in my front yard, it still must come the 20 feet into my garage on buried twisted pair phone lines. It took two separate installation visits, but they were somehow finally able to get the 50 Mbps they promised (and I checked it) out of their box in my

*(Continued on page 14)*

(Continued from page 13)

garage (where the phone line comes in). Unfortunately, their equipment was a little different from what I was used to. I had previously used a TWC cable modem, followed by my own router. Since I have network cameras and network hard drives that require specific router settings to work, I wanted to continue using my old router as configured. Unfortunately, AT&T supplies a combination DSL modem / router with this service, and I could not figure out a way to bypass the router.

I tried many times to configure things so I could connect my router's WAN input to their router's LAN output. I was able to set this up with a spare router, but was unsuccessful in doing so with my old router. I finally gave up on my old router and tried to use the router in the AT&T box. After playing with the settings in their router for a few days (port forwarding was required), I was able to get almost all of my home network working. I still have a few network items to clean up, but I'm finally getting their advertised service speed and saving money. Now when I feel the need for speed, I have it. So far it seems fast enough (though not fast enough to "take my breath away"), but is anything really enough in the long term?

### **Microsoft Outlook shortcut keys**

Below is a listing of the major shortcut keys in Microsoft Outlook.

<b><u>Shortcut</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
<b>Alt + S</b>	Send the e-mail
<b>Ctrl + Enter</b>	Send the e-mail you're composing.
<b>Ctrl + C</b>	Copy selected text.
<b>Ctrl + X</b>	Cut selected text.
<b>Ctrl + P</b>	Print selected text.
<b>Ctrl + K</b>	Complete the name or e-mail being typed in the e-mail address bar.
<b>Ctrl + B</b>	Bold highlighted selection
<b>Ctrl + I</b>	Italic highlighted selection
<b>Ctrl + M</b>	Send and receive all
<b>Ctrl + U</b>	Underline highlighted selection
<b>Ctrl + R</b>	Reply to an e-mail.
<b>Ctrl + F</b>	Forward an e-mail.
<b>Ctrl + N</b>	Create a new e-mail.
<b>Ctrl + Y</b>	Go to folder.
<b>Ctrl + Shift + A</b>	Create a new appointment to your calendar.
<b>Ctrl + Shift + O</b>	Open the Outbox.
<b>Ctrl + Shift + I</b>	Open the Inbox.
<b>Ctrl + Shift + K</b>	Add a new task.
<b>Ctrl + Shift + C</b>	Create a new contact.
<b>Ctrl + Shift + J</b>	Create a new journal entry.
<b>Ctrl + Shift + V</b>	Move folder.



# **PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP, Inc.**

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

\_\_\_ **New Member**     \_\_\_ **Renewing Member**

Return this application, with check for annual dues payable to "PLATEAU PC USERS GROUP." Return to the club Treasurer during our meeting or mail to PPCUG Treasurer. P.O. Box 3787, Crossville, TN 38557. Our annual dues are now payable on July 1st of each year. Annual dues are \$24 per single person / \$30 per family starting 7/1/2014 with partial years' dues as follows:

Due Date	Jan-Mar 2017	Apr-Jun 2017	Jul-Sep 2017	Oct-Dec 2017
Single:	\$12	\$6	\$24	\$18
Families:	\$15	\$7	\$30	\$22

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_ :00, by Cash \_\_\_, or Check ( # \_\_\_\_\_ )

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name                                      First Name                                      Family Members (if family membership)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City                                      State                                      Zip Code                                      Phone Number

E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I have belonged to a Computer Club before. Yes     \_\_\_ No     \_\_\_

I have used PCs since (year): \_\_\_\_\_

I have knowledge in the following areas that I would be willing to share with club members:



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

January 2017



# March 2017



<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
			1  ASH WEDNESDAY	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 1:00 P.M. Photo Editing Workshop Mtg.	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 1:00 P.M. Plateau Photog- raphy Club Mtg.	17 	18
19	20 <u>3:00 .M.</u> General Mtg. Presentation Followed by Q & A Session	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**Note:** Please see page #15 for the Plateau PC Users Group, Inc. **Application for Membership form.**