

# NEWSLETTER

December 27, 2020

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Archived Newsletters are available on the club's website ([www.vptechclub.org](http://www.vptechclub.org)). Please pass this along to your neighbors.

[Click here to provide feedback](#) on how we can help you better use technology.

### Upcoming live virtual meetings & workshops

#### Virtual Workshops

- **Kate Gertz**—Kate is a resident of Sunland Village East in Mesa where she leads the Mac SIG.
  - \* **iPhone, iPad, Windows**—6 hrs each (three - 2 hour sessions)
  - \* **iCloud and iPhoto** —4 hrs each (two - 2 hour sessions)
  - \* [Dates, times, costs and registration information.](#)
- **Computer Booters** has arranged with the Microsoft Store personnel of Chandler to sponsor Microsoft virtual workshops. [Register here for all classes.](#)
  - \* **Avoid Scams** - January 12th @ 10am AZ time
  - \* **Get Organized with OneNote** - January 26th @ 10am AZ time

#### Weekly Virtual Meetings

- **Geeks on Tour**—Sundays at 12:00 noon AZ time.
- **Tech for Seniors**—Mondays at 9:30am AZ time.
- **Tinkering with Tech**—Wednesdays at 3:00pm AZ time

### Board Talk

A belated Merry Christmas and wishes for a better and Happy New Year from the board. We met via Zoom on Dec 18 and confirmed we will not offer virtual or in-person meetings and classes this season.

Looking for some technology self help? Our [website](#) has PDF handouts from previous Windows 10, iPad/iPhone and Smart Home classes ([click here](#)). It also has "How To" videos for iPad/iPhone, Mac, Windows and other technologies ([click here](#)). This season, these videos can serve as a replacement for in-person training classes. Periodically these pages will be updated to keep them current and fresh. Look for newer training videos in this newsletter before they are added to the website. Look

for them in each of the technology sections below.

**The Tech Hour now** has longer presentations similar to those normally given at General, iPad and Windows meetings. Sit back, watch and learn.

Let us know what you think of these changes by using the [feedback link](#).

Through ROVA, so far 30 people have joined the club. Thank you ROVA! Share this newsletter with your Viewpoint neighbors and friends. They can join on our [website](#). Just click on "Follow this link to join the club". We welcome all new members.

Until next time, please stay safe.

Bob King, President

### The Tech Hour

- ⇒ [Home Automation Workshop for Seniors #1, Why Do We Need It?](#) (76:24 min) Smart devices make it easier for us to perform certain tasks that might become more difficult as we age, giving us a new level of security, and enabling us to age in place.
- ⇒ [Keep Your PC Running Like New](#) (50:00 min) This presentation will help you understand what the technology is that goes into making your personal computer work. You'll learn some simple steps to improve the way you use your PC.
- ⇒ [Saving Your Life With Wearable Technology Part 1](#) (46:54 min) by Ron Brown MD. This presentation looks at common medical problems seniors encounter and how wearable technology can help identify and prevent emergencies. Part One focuses on "Heart Problems" and will discuss the New Apple Watch and cardiac monitoring devices.

### Top Tech Stories

[Cable companies can no longer 'rent' you the router you already own.](#) Is your internet service provider charging you every month for the cable modem or router that you purchased with your own money? Or, perhaps, have you never bothered to buy those items because you couldn't escape the fee? That fee will be illegal starting Sunday, December 20th, and you should contact your ISP to tell them to remove the fee.

[Cybersecurity attack: 5 things you can do right now to protect yourself.](#) Individuals don't need to worry – at least not immediately – that their personal information was rifled through or stolen in the recently discovered intrusion into U.S. computer systems that officials suspect was the work of Russian hackers, cybersecurity experts say.



### Apple iPad & iPhone

- **The iPhone Adapter Every Apple Store Employee Loves Because It Makes Your Battery Full In MINUTES.** Apple and Tech Expert Aqsa Tabassam, Editor-in-chief of InsideTechWorld, spoke about the one adapter he relies on time and again to quickly (and safely) charge an iPhone so that you can get back to the business of living your life. [Read the article here.](#)
- **Best apps to download now for your new iPhone or iPad** These are apps that make owning an iPhone and iPad even sweeter by helping you keep fit (even during a global pandemic), sleep better, remember everything that's important to you, and more. [Read the article here.](#)

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- **The Best Apps for 2021.** With almost 2 million titles available in the App Store, it's tough choosing which ones to install.. We help you decide with our top app picks in a dozen key categories. [Read the article here.](#)
- ⇒ **Training—Buttons** (4:16 min)
- ⇒ **Training—Homescreen** (6:38 min)
- ⇒ **Training—Accessibility** (7:56 min)
- ⇒ **Training—iOS 14 messaging features** (1:54 min)
- ⇒ **Training—Apple iCloud** (15:24 Min)

## Apple Macintosh



- **MacOS Big Sur: How to use all the new features in Messages, Maps, Safari and more.** MacOS Big Sur brings major updates to the Apple operating system. Here's how to use them now that you can download Big Sur, or if you got a new Mac for the holidays. [Read the article here.](#)
- **Best apps for a new Mac laptop or desktop.** Did Santa drop off a new M1 MacBook Air under the tree? MacOS Big Sur comes with many great apps, but there is a whole world of third-party apps that make the Mac even better. [Read the article here.](#)
- **Apple M1 Mac Review: Time to Recalibrate!** (14:30 min) The Macbook with M1 chip is... different. Time to think a little different about laptops.



## Windows

- **Looking for help with a computer problem?** Several Technology Club members are available to help other club members. Contact AI at # 4926 or Rick at # 0945.
- **Windows 10 cheat sheet — Get to know the interface.** Features and shortcuts in Microsoft's latest operating system. Whether you've upgraded to Windows 10 from an earlier version of Windows or if you've got it on a new PC, this cheat sheet will get you up to speed on it. [Read the article here.](#)
- ⇒ **Training—Windows 10 Beginners** (34:59 min) In this video we will review key features of Windows 10 operating system for beginners. We are starting from the basics and covering key features of the latest update: Windows Start button, Taskbar, Status Bar, Settings, Cortana, Desktop and File Explorer.
- ⇒ **Training—Windows 30 Ultimate Windows 10 Tips and Tricks** (34:21 min) The video is a compilation of Windows 10 tips and tricks to enhance your Microsoft Windows skills. You'll find these tips and tricks useful whether you're using Windows for the first time or just wanting to enhance your Windows 10 skills.



## Android

- **Android apps: Install these on your new smartphone.** Just got a new Android smartphone for the holidays? If it's your first one it could be a little intimidating so, to get you started, here are 5 apps you should immediately install or set up on a new Android device. [Read the article here.](#)
- **25+ forgotten or hidden shortcuts for your Android homescreen.** When you spend a lot of your day digging into Android, you start looking for ways to get to things faster. One shortcut equals several saved taps and seconds, which add up over a day, week, and more. In this article, are shortcuts you can use so you too can feel the small joy of reaching your favorite features and settings faster and more efficiently. [Read the article here.](#)
- **What is Android Auto?** Android Auto is a platform found in many modern cars that gives you access to your Android phone on the car's infotainment system by using hands-free voice commands. You can also access many of your favorite Android apps in your car using Android Auto. [Here's everything you need to know about Android Auto,](#) including which phones and car models it's available on.



## Streaming Media & Smart Homes



- **You just got a smart speaker as a holiday present.** [Here's what you need to know.](#)
- **Here are the must-have apps and services for your new streaming device or TV.** It's more than likely that one of the biggest holiday gifts this year are new smart TVs or streaming media devices so that people can stay at home and entertain themselves. But what are the best streaming apps and services you should get for your new streaming device or smart TV? [Find out here.](#)
- **Amazon adds real-time translation functionality to Alexa.** Right now, anyone with an Alexa-powered device can test out the AI's new "Live Translation" feature. As the name implies, this tool lets Alexa act as an interpreter for a pair of individuals who speak different languages. [Here's how.](#)
- **Google Home's 3 new tricks can make your day as smooth as butter.** Google has 3 snazzy new Home features you can start using now. Thanks to a trio of updates that make creating and -- more importantly -- triggering routine commands a little bit smoother. Fire off custom commands from inside the app or on your home screen, or set them to trigger automatically at sunset or sunrise. [Read the article here.](#)

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- **The best smart home products for 2020 that aren't made by Amazon or Google.** It's easy to forget that the smart home industry is bigger than these two companies. That's part of the purpose of this post -- to look at the smart home in a different way and to see what else is out there when you remove some of the most obvious players. [Read the article here.](#)
- **5 Amazon Fire TV security and privacy settings you need to change.** Worried about hacking? Any device that connects to W-iFi, including smartphones, computers, tablets or any other smart tech, is susceptible to being compromised by cybercriminals. [Read the article here.](#)
- **You can turn your Fire TV into a larger Amazon Echo Show.** This new update gives new hands-free features you've never been able to use on the Fire TV. [Here's how.](#)
- **Amazon's free news app on Fire TV now features local stations.** Amazon is adding local coverage to its Fire TV news app. Fire TV users can now access live and on-demand news from local channels based in 12 cities across the US. [Read the article here.](#)

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## Other Technology

- **8 Things You Should Be Automating On Your Smartphone.** Here are some of the best automations you can set up on your phone, freeing you from the task and giving you more time to do something else more interesting instead. [Read the article here.](#)
- **Google is finally making it easier to search your Drive cloud storage on mobile.** Google Drive has updated its search functionality for mobile users, which should make it quicker and easier for you to find the files you need. The latest changes will see intelligent search suggestions offered within the Android and iOS versions of the Drive app, based on factors like past searches and frequently accessed files. [Read the article here.](#)
- **CNET names the best tech products of 2020** Of all the new hardware and software products released this year, here are the ones that earned a CNET Editors' Choice badge. [Read the article here.](#)
- **The best TV for 2020: LG OLED, Samsung and TCL QLED, Sony and Vizio compared.** Looking for a new TV? [Start here.](#)
- **Google Photos Is Killing Free Unlimited Storage: 7 Top Alternatives.** Taking advantage of free unlimited photo and video storage with Google? That deal ends in June, 2021. [Here are your best options for storage if you don't want to pay Google.](#)
- **Essential Planning Checklist.** Get all of your (and your family's) essential information in order. Being stuck at home in the wake of COVID-19 can be a major disruption to our daily routines -- especially if you have kids, or are helping to care for aging parents -- but it's also an opportunity to put your time to good use and your mind at ease. This checklist will help you get organized. [Learn more here.](#)

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## More Learning Opportunities

- **NEW Technology for Teachers and Students** The videos on this YouTube channel will help you learn how to use a wide range of computer software applications, educational websites, and other technology tools. Watch for a new video every Monday! Named by [Feedspot](#) in 2017 as one of the Top 100 Technology YouTube Channels for Tech Lovers worldwide. Includes a playlist of videos on a variety of technologies.
- Visit our website for a list of websites that offer online self-study classes. These are free and most do not require you to register. The website also has a list of "How To" videos for Apple, Microsoft and other technologies. [Visit the website here.](#)