THE MARIS GROVE COMPUTER CLUB
A SHORT HISTORY (Oct 2016)
Jack Collette

A small group including Dave Hutton, Gerry Sorensen, Clarence Lynn, Dennis Funck and Sandy Baron established the Computer Club in the early years of Maris Grove. Dave served as Chair, Sandy was Secretary and Dennis was Treasurer. Dave and Gerry worked to find meeting and storage space for the club. Dave worked with Mike Hill the Maris Grove IT staffer to plan and run the meetings.

The club initially met three times a month at 7:30 in the evening, twice for PC topics and once for Apple topics. In addition, Clarence Lynn offered Computer 101 in the Computer Lab once a week to teach computer basics to residents and to help them set up their e-mail accounts. He also offered introductory courses on such topics as word processing and G-mail.

Over time, Ralph Delucia replaced Dennis Funck as Treasurer. Bob Miller took over the basic courses from Clarence. Bob changed the name to Computer One on One to focus on providing help to specific resident problems. The meetings were moved to afternoons to attract more participants.

Jack Collette became active in 2011 and took over as Chair after Dave Hutton passed away. Jack also brought additional attention to Apple based topics.

Mike Hill has provided exceptional support since the club began helping with the planning and providing lessons on a multiple topics.

The mission was revisited in 2014 to clarify organizational issues and to emphasize our commitment of keeping up with the rapid changes in digital technology.

Club Mission

The Mission of the Maris Grove Computer Club is to provide Maris Grove residents with a friendly, creative environment in which they can keep up with the ongoing changes in computer and related digital technology and are able to improve their individual competence to securely and safely use such technology.

Club membership has doubled since 2011, reaching more than 90 in 2016. Meetings typically attract 30-40 people for the presentation, a question and answer period and time for dealing with individual problems.

Members can also submit questions to our G-mail account for consideration at any meeting.

In 2013, the club initiated an effort to upgrade both the projection and the sound system in the Brinton classroom. In collaboration with the Photo Club and the Education Committee and support from the Treasure Chest, we contributed to the purchase and installation of better projector for Brinton classroom.

In 2014,the club worked with the administration and the TV studio to support installation of an improved sound system with speakers placed in the ceiling and a much improved control system for showing films, videos or accessing the internet.

To facilitate access to the lessons that were presented at our meetings, the club collaborated with the TV studio primarily through the efforts of Mary Ann Starkey. Each Computer Club program is taped, and then edited to show and discuss on the TV network. The tapes are also put on DVDs that can be borrowed for home viewing by any resident. In 2015, Mike Hill digitized the DVDs so they can be downloaded onto a thumb drive for home viewing. This served to further broaden resident access to this information.

In 2016 the Club established a club website (mg3c.org) led by the efforts of Mary Ann Starkey and a team of volunteers. We were very fortunate to get advice and help of several Computer Club members from Ann's Choice which already had an operational website. The website is growing rapidly and is proving to be a valuable resource for providing resident access to information about all types of digital devices.

Throughout this period, the topics, the equipment and the software have been changing. While we focus on such basics as backing up, security and using e-mails, we have covered such topics as Skype, Facebook, social media, getting and reading e-books, using Google Earth and getting the most out of new mobile devices such as I-PADS and smartphones. Most recently we have focused on the transition from Windows 7 and 8 to Windows 10 for PCs and the recent upgrades of the Apple systems to OS 10.10

We thank the members of the Executive Committee, the support of Mike Hill and of many volunteers who have contributed their time and energy to bringing the club to this point. We look forward to working together to meet the challenges of the ever changing digital world.