HAPPY NEW YEAR—2016!

As the MAPCC enters its' 35th year of existence let's all become more determined to grow our club! With just a little concentrated effort each of us is capable of attracting at least one new member, don't you think?

The past year has been a very good one for our club. We've held constant membership numbers, which is no easy task with many computer clubs falling by the wayside. Our group is made of a better grade of 'glue' and we're also a very stubborn bunch—determined to continue on, so let's jump into this new year with energy, determination and the will to do what we can to not only continue as is, but to increase the size of our 'family', ok? Hope to see you at the first meeting of this year, held at GODFATHER'S PIZZA on the 19th of this month.

Saturday, December 12th was party time for our group again. We held our 31st Annual Christmas party at Valley View Church Hall where a fun time was had by all. Before the festivities began the early arrivals relaxed and chatted as more members continued to arrive. Food, food, & more food - Pokeno - drawings for ten dollar bills and gold coin prizes plus great comradery made the four-hour event whiz by! Oh, did I mention FOOD? *(All photos by Photographer, Tammy Cooper)*

Mary, Joe3rd, Amy, Bruce, Fred, Cherry & Robert. (Rear: Gage & (standing), Dan.

Dee, Pat, David, George, Lynn, Dean and Peggy.
More party photos inside >>>>

Why, hello there, Foxy... BYE GOOGLE! Mozilla's browser is a video star

Online face interface minus the vendor lock-in

Review Firefox 34, just released, adds support for Mozilla's web-based Skype-competitor, [Firefox Hello](#). Firefox 34 also drops Google as the default search engine for US users, gives Mac fans the ability to play native H.264 video and eliminates a major security vulnerability.

Phew! But is it any good?

This is the first version of Firefox to ship with full support for WebRTC, the technology behind the browser-based video and audio calling tool, Firefox Hello.

Firefox Hello is a bit like having Skype or Facetime right in your browser, but with one major difference – the person you're calling doesn't need to use the same application. With Firefox Hello, all the other person needs is a WebRTC-capable browser like Firefox 34, Google Chrome or Opera.

That eliminates the headaches that arise if, for example, you've got Skype but your family prefers Facetime and your employer wants everything to happen over Google Hangouts.

With WebRTC and the Firefox Hello interface, everything is web-based. Replacing a desktop app with something web-based often means a series of compromises and half-working features, but that's not the case with Firefox Hello. In my testing, Firefox Hello just works and is very simple to use.

All you need to do is click the new Firefox Hello icon (the little chat bubble in your toolbar) and then hit the button to "Start a conversation". That will generate a link which you can click to open the video call in Firefox and copy and paste to the person you'd like to call. That's it.

If you'd like, you can create an account and have a contacts list that works just like what you're used to with Skype and Facetime. One shortcoming of WebRTC is you can't dial actual phone numbers as you can with Skype, though even with Skype that's not a free feature.

According to an article in ibtimes.co.uk

"The standards body for the microelectronics industry has found that Solid State Drives (SSD) can start to lose their data and become corrupted if they are left without power for as little as a week.

Today, consumers use several types of devices to store information – from computer hard drives, to external hard drives, to flash drives (also known as USB memory sticks or thumb drives) and SSDs.

While hard drives are mechanical in nature and make use of rapidly rotating discs coated with magnetic material, flash storage devices are completely electronic, making use of a chip to process the data, so that data can be transferred much faster into smaller devices that are also more durable if dropped.

According to a recent presentation by Seagate's Alvin Cox, who is also chairman of the Joint Electron Device Engineering Council (JEDEC), the period of time that data will be retained on an SSD is halved for every 5 degrees Celsius (9 degrees Fahrenheit) rise in temperature in the area where the SSD is stored.

Consumer class SSDs can store data for up to two years before the standard drops, but when it comes to SSDs used by enterprises, the drives are only expected to retain data for a period of three months – a fact confirmed by Samsung, Seagate and Intel's own ratings on their products.

Security firm KoreLogic is concerned that far too many people are now using SSDs in both consumer and enterprise applications, which is clearly not a great idea if the data is important and might be needed for a longer period than three months.

The firm advises that users make sure to regularly back up their data and create drive images or they will risk losing their data which can have disastrous consequences, for example if the data was part of evidence gathered by a law firm for a deposition.
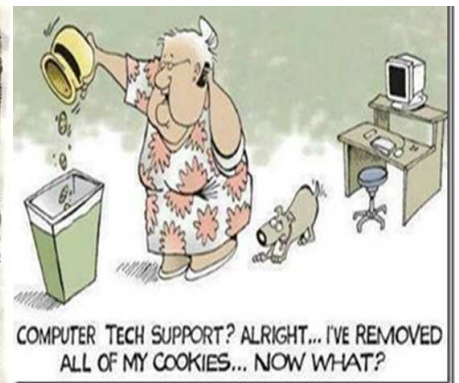
"If long term storage is required, image the SSD onto a mechanical drive and place that drive in storage as well as the SSD," KoreLogic writes in a blog post.

"If you maintain an online legal hold storage capability, image the SSD to that storage. Either way, you essentially eliminate potential data retention problems. The worst-case scenario is explaining to the court why your data cannot be accessed because the hard drive you placed into storage is throwing out errors."

This is the first I've heard of this issue but worth considering when thinking about long term storage of image files. Which is why I posted this article. (I think as photographers we tend to have large numbers of unique files that are irreplaceable.)

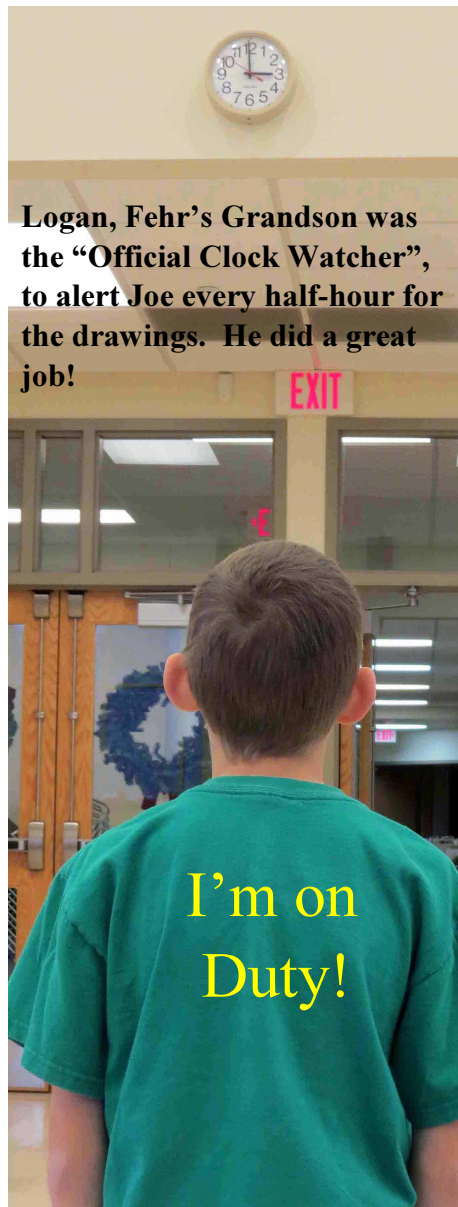**Next best to the real thing!**

Christmas Party photos

We're so thankful for Mary Alice and her very helpful family members who all pitched-in and offered so much welcome help. Connie & Marcia (above) "Million Dollar Helpers!" THANKS to <u>everyone</u> who helped.!

Connie & Marcia, are the Fehr's daughters.

Top Right: CHOW LINE!

More Chow Line!

Logan, Fehr's Grandson was the "Official Clock Watcher", to alert Joe every half-hour for the drawings. He did a great job!

Bruce, Cherry & Robert

I'm on Duty!

"Papa Dan" & Gage

Amy & Joe 3rd

…..and more!
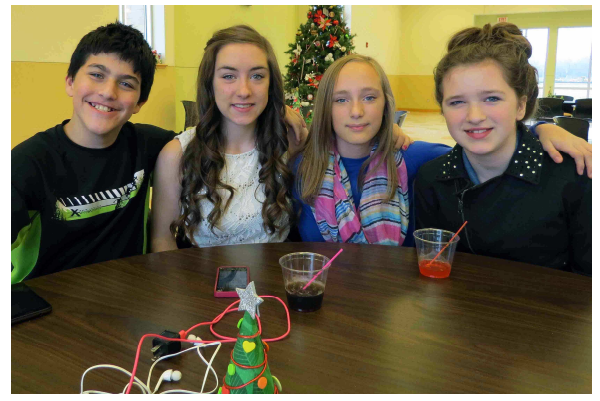

"OLD" Friends Joe & Fred

Mary plants a little 'sugar' on Joe!

George, Fred & Lynn (Cheryl in rear)

Bruce calling-out cards for the Pokeno players

Gage, Taylor, Abby & Ella

Three photos (above): Joe mixes 'pot' of names while (center) Logan draws another ten dollar winner.
Above Right: Dan receiving the 'ten-spot' that he won.

Bottom Left: Abby displays her TEN she won while RIGHT: Gage & Taylor show-off their Gold Dollars next to Abby with her winnings.

………. And finally the rest! THANKS TAMMY for your Photo work!

Top Row LEFT: TWO **MEAN** 'Grinches' sneak up on Taylor trying to steal her winnings!

Top Row RIGHT: They didn't succeed! Her Gold still 'in hand'.

Middle Row: Joe 'plunking' out a tune on piano with Taylor playing the rhythm as Ella & Abby watch.

Bottom Right: Saying Goodbye and Merry Christmas to the Cumpston's are Lynn Fehr & Cheryl and Wm. Pennington, as Bruce (rear) departs. The weather was cloudy, but no rain, no snow and mild temperature.

Ella and Abby enjoying game of hand 'sync'.

**Can't beat that for the 12th of December, eh?
A good time was had by all.**

Have a very Happy New Year!