

Bits of Blue



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January, 2019

NEW meeting date for January

Thursday, January 3, 2018, 6:30PM

NEW meeting date for January

"Protecting Your Digital Life"

by Bob Gostischa

We are changing the meeting date just for January only, to accomodate the presenters schedule

A Year-End 2018 Message
John Witmer, President, TPCUG

As this year draws to a close, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you who were able to come out on December 12th for the Holiday Party. This event was well attended by our members and in addition we had some spouses who also joined us this year. I think all who came out had a good time enjoying each other's company and meeting some spouses for the first time in quite a while. The menu this year was also influenced by several requests made by members, and I hope you enjoyed the food selection for this year's party. As usual, there was food available to be taken home afterwards, and I'm thankful to those who did so. I also want to thank my wife Donna in assisting me with the food preparation and setup at Pepin.

As computer clubs are becoming dinosaurs on the landscape of this country, our Club has managed to hang in there with 8-9 meetings held each of the last few years – taking the summer months off, and by having a few members who willingly step up to give us presentations each month. Occasionally, we are able to get an outside presentation such as the one held in November. Doug Mullis, in addition to being our Treasurer, is constantly looking for outside speakers of interest to our group. They are becoming very rare to find, but we do have such a speaker lined up for our January meeting that had to be moved to this coming Thursday evening, Jan 3rd. See the following article on who and what is in store for us this Thursday.

Our Club is in great shape financially with about \$6,000 still in the bank. We have suspended dues collection, and the monthly income from our affiliation with Amazon on our website has generated a nice stream of commission payments that help offset the minimal expenses we have each year.

Our membership unfortunately mirrors many of the other clubs across the country, as new members seldom join, and existing members for numerous reasons fall by the wayside. I was reminded of this situation while reading a Dec 14th article in the Lakeland Ledger about Polk County's last public computer group shutting its doors for the last time this month. As noted in the article, teens and young adults know more about technology than we in the older age category ever hope to learn. So I mention this demise of computer clubs because I think we may also have to address our being a viable computer group in the not too distant future. But it is not a topic to deal with for the present time.

If you are able, I hope to see you come out to Pepin for the Jan 3rd presentation by Avast.

Finally, on behalf of your Board of Directors for TPCUG, I wish you all a healthy, prosperous, safe, and fun filled New Year.

Warmest regards,

John Witmer, President

Protecting Your Digital Life



Between ransomware, data breaches, cryptojacking, supply chain attacks, and mobile malware, it's never been more important to protect your digital life.



Our security and privacy are constantly in danger of being attacked from many sources. Staying secure and guarding as much of our privacy as possible is a constant challenge.

This presentation will cover how we can protect our computers (Windows and Mac), tablets, smartphones and other smart devices.

Join presenter Bob Gostischa as he explains the importance of guarding our online presence. He'll also share what he uses to keep his computers, smart devices as well as connected Internet of Things devices secure.



About the Presenter:

Norbert "Bob" Gostischa, after a successful career in banking, enjoys his retirement as an enthusiastic IT security expert, most notably for Avast Software s.r.o., the global leader in cybersecurity products. The most known product is Avast Antivirus.

In 2016, Avast purchased AVG Technologies and in 2017 Avast bought Piriform (Ccleaner, Defraggler, Recuva and Speccy).

Avast has been making security software for over 30 years and has more than 400 million users worldwide. Avast prevents 2 billion malware attacks every month.

Avast Antivirus is the most used antivirus software in the world.

The Avast website has a [discussion and help forum](#), where Bob has been helping with security-related and general computer issues since 2004. He has contributed over 38,000 forum interactions. Bob's presentations are free-of-charge and are not a sales pitch for Avast, although mentioning Avast and their software in your announcements is appreciated. You can learn more about Bob's presentations and passions in his [Blog](#) and [YouTube](#) Channel. Bob is a proud member of the [APCUG](#) Speakers Bureau.

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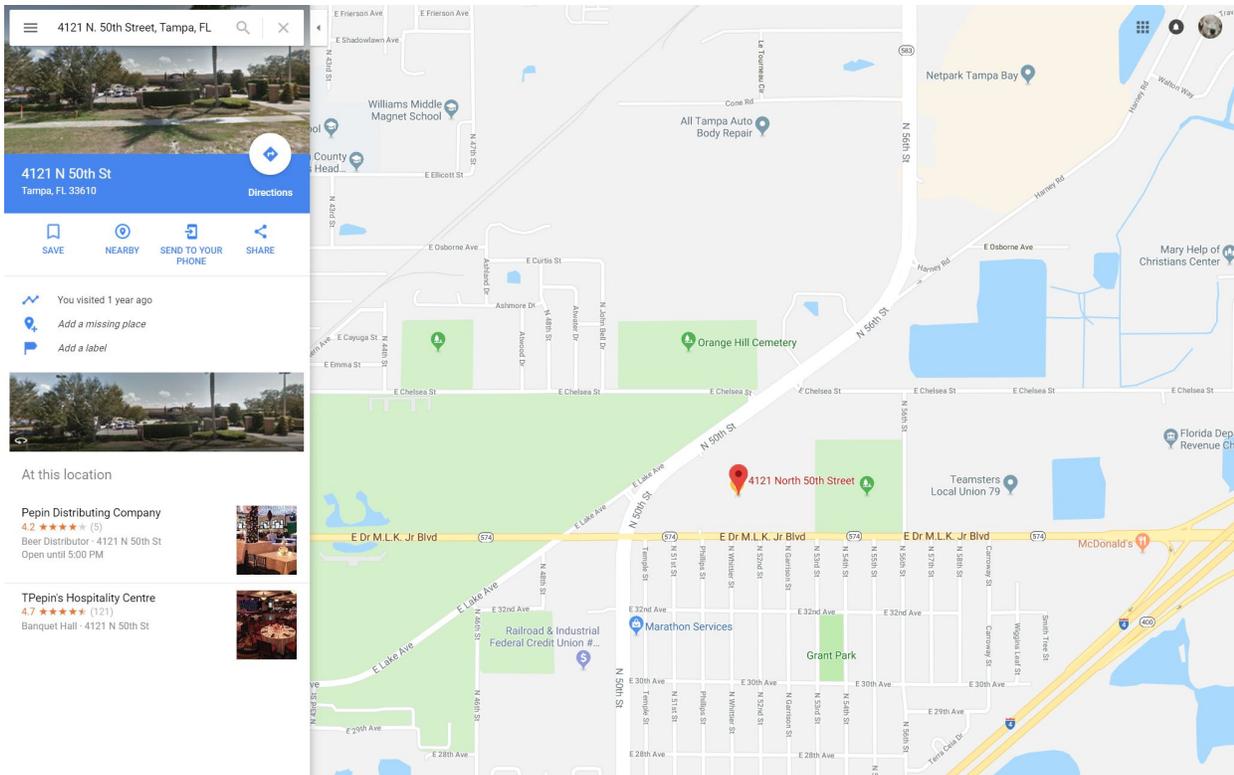
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We acknowledge Pepin Distributing Co. for their support. Thank You.

Affiliations

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Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) <http://apcug2.org>



Meeting Location: Pepin Distributing Company, 4121 North 50TH ST, Tampa FL 33610