

Technology Corner 12
By: George Champine

Quailrunners attend Computer Class

Several Quailrunners have attended the Computer Class that I teach at the Hudson Senior Center. Recent attendees include:

- Richard and Mary Ebens
- Ken Rauhala
- Kevin Fitzgerald
- Keith Gordon

Previous attendees have included Richard Hsu, Claire Davis, Theresa Bosio, Frank Monte, and Jim Durben. The class will be offered again starting in mid September, and we would like to see both new and previous Quailrunners in that class. You can enroll by contacting the Hudson Senior Center at 978-568-9638. We do not require much knowledge about computers beyond being able to turn it on and do a few simple operations. We do a lot of review of the basics.

E-mail Acronyms

In these days of constant pressure to do everything faster, people are starting to use abbreviations in e-mail and especially in cell phone instant messaging. You may need these to understand your children and grandchildren. Some common ones are:

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Translation</u>
BTW	By the way
CUL	See you later
FYA	For your amusement
FYI	For your information
FWIW	For what it is worth
IMHO	In my humble opinion
LOL	Lots of Luck or Lots of Laughs

Free, high quality software

Two new software packages have become available that are free and high quality. The first is Picasa, a package for handling digital photos. It will organize, retouch, and print your digital photos. It will also do a slide show and allow you to upload your photos to a processor to make prints. Another package that I find useful is the Google toolbar. It gives instant access to the Google search engine from the browser, blocks popups, and assists in searches. Both packages can be found at <http://www.google.com/downloads> and can be installed in a few seconds.

Speaking of Google, they have started a new free map service similar to Mapquest but (IMHO) better. It is at <http://maps.google.com>. You can also see satellite photos of Hudson and elsewhere there.

Keeping your E-mail address if you change vendors

If you change ISP service, your mailbox address will change. This can happen if you change from dial-up to DSL, DSL to cable, or if you go to a lower cost provider. This is a big hassle if you exchange mail with many people as I do. If you do not have an e-mail address, or if you are willing to change, you can get e-mail service free from a supplier independent of an ISP. That way, even if you change ISP suppliers, your e-mail address will not change. Free e-mail services include the following – all but Gmail have virus scanners, and all have many ads except Gmail:

- Gmail from Google: (my recommendation): at <http://find.pcworld.com/47098>
- FastMail: 10 MB storage: at <http://find.pcworld.com/47096>
- HotMail from Microsoft: 250 MB storage: at <http://find.pcworld.com/47100>
- Yahoo Mail: 250 MB storage: at <http://find.pcworld.com/47102>

These browser-based mail systems can be reached from any computer with internet access.

If you do not have an antivirus scanner, or want to stop paying the yearly service fee for Symantec/Norton or McAfee, I recommend AVG as a high quality free antivirus scanner. It is available free to individuals at: <http://find.pcworld.com/42742>. Be sure to uninstall your old virus scanner before installing this package.