Inside this issue

Google (LG) Nexus 4

April General Meeting:

Tuesday, April 9

6:45pm – 8:45pm

Gateway Elks Lodge

711 NE 100th Avenue

Cascade Room

See map and directions on Page 3

This Month's Agenda:

Smart Phone Issues:
Google Nexus 4
Samsung GALAXY Note 2
First looks.

Website Changes will be discussed.

DOOR PRIZES

Get a ticket for just showing up

Wear your name tag and get an extra ticket

Bring a friend for the first time and get an extra ticket

Find the secret word in this newsletter for an extra ticket

Q & A – Answers to your computer problems

Door Prizes at closing
Know the secret phrase and get an additional ticket

Join us for a great evening!

PPCUG
calendar of events

1st Wednesday — Computer Aided Investing SIG
2nd Tuesday — General Meeting
2nd Tuesday — Board Meeting
2nd Saturday — Wildcard SIG
3rd Saturday — Audio/Visual SIG
4th Saturday — Hardware SIG
4th Wednesday — POLUG SIG

April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	*3*	4	5	6
7	8	*9*	10	11	12	*13*
14	15	16	17	18	19	*20*
21	22	23	*24*	25	26	*27*
28	29	30	*1*	2	3	4

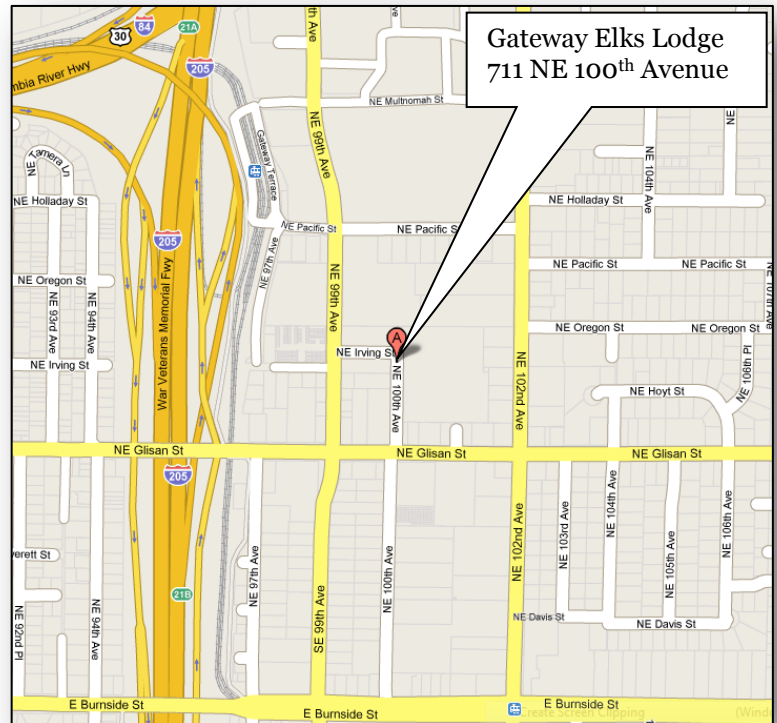|			
April 3rd Friday 6:00 pm May 1st	**Computer Aided Investing SIG** NW Branch Library 2300 NW Thurman St	**Sr. René Foster** cai(at)ppcug(dot)org	For people who have an interest in **C**onversations **A**bout **I**nvesting, like to monitor them and use a computer to get information.
April 13th Saturday 10:00 am	**Wildcard SIG** Legacy Emanuel Hospital 501 N Graham Street	**Speaker Varies** programs(at)ppcug(dot)org	Instructional session for programs of interest. Learn how to use the features of the programs selected.
April 9th Tuesday 7:15 pm	**General Meeting** Gateway Elks Lodge 711 NE 100th St	**Douglas Howard** prez(at)ppcug(dot)org	Regular General Meeting. Guest Speakers, Q&A, Door Prizes. See our web site at: www.ppcug.org
April 9th Tuesday After General Meeting	**Board Meeting** Gateway Elks Lodge 711 NE 100th St	**Douglas Howard** prez(at)ppcug(dot)org	Regular Board Meeting. Planning of our next General Meeting. All members welcome.
April 20th Saturday 10:00 am	**Audio/Visual SIG** Legacy Emanuel Hospital 501 N Graham Street	**Mike Hazlett** av(at)ppcug(dot)org	The Audio/Visual SIG covers a wide range of topics about Audio and Visual software, hardware and resources.
April 27th Saturday 10:00 am	**Hardware SIG** Legacy Emanuel Hospital 501 N Graham Street	**Gralof de Vries** hardware(at)ppcug(dot)org	Please arrange with Gralof to have your hardware problem or upgrade the topic of the next SIG meeting. This is a hands-on experience.
April 24th Wednesday 10:00 am	**POLUG SIG** Concordia University 2811 NE Holman Street	**Beverly Walker** polug(at)ppcug(dot)org	For people who have an interest in genealogy using Legacy software. See the web site at: www.legacyfamilytree.com

Maps & Directions

General Meeting

**Gateway Elks Lodge
711 NE 100th Avenue**

From I-205, take the Glisan Street exit and go East, then turn left at NE 99th Street.

The Lodge and parking lot are on the Northeast corner at NE Irving Street & NE 99th Street.

Cascade Room
Down the stairs, turn left, down the hall, and turn left again.

Smartphone/Android (future))SIG

Legacy Emanuel Hospital

501 N Graham Street

Wildcard, Audio/Visual, and Hardware SIGs Meeting Place

**Legacy Emanuel Hospital
501 N Graham Street**

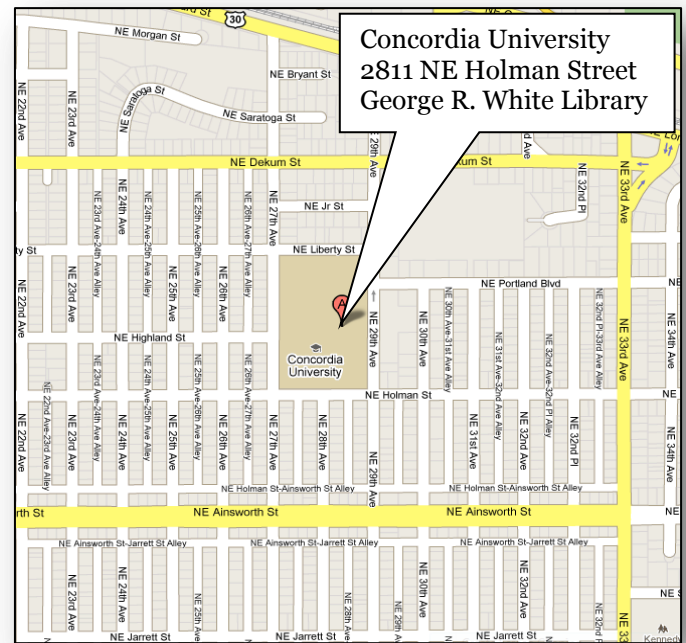Park in Parking Structure 2, South side of Graham Street

Enter at Emanuel Medical Office entrance, take elevator to 4th floor, turn right, take walking bridge to other side, turn right, then left at end of hall, look for room 4128 on left.

Gateway Elks Lodge
711 NE 100th Avenue

Legacy Emanuel Hospital
501 N Graham Street
Portland, OR 97227

POLUG SIG

Concordia University
George R. White Library
2811 NE Holman Street

Room 300 (Center for Volga German Studies) in SE corner of the 3rd floor of the George R. White Library Building.

Concordia University
2811 NE Holman Street
George R. White Library

Presidents Message, April 2013

The Board of Directors met after the March General Meeting and accepted the results of the annual elections, so this is my first report as the new PPCUG President.

A **priority** is to fill the open officer slots of **First Vice President**, **Treasurer** and Secretary. So volunteers are welcome to talk to us, even if you can't serve for a whole year.

- We noticed at the close of the March BOD meeting that we won't be able to have a **quorum** to conduct business, so we need another officer right away.
- At the general meeting I **will propose** that we vote to appoint temporarily, **Dean LaVoie** as Interim First Vice President, or Secretary, so we can have the board meet and vote on key issues. I'm hoping he will be able to do this.

The **PPCUG website** is another priority. There is an on-going discussion with Infinity Internet about hosting our website for free as a non-profit which advertises about them in return. The PPCUG website has been shut down multiple times because of misunderstandings. The reason we found is that **EasyStreet has bought Infinity Internet** and there may be different policies towards non-profits. Watch for further developments.

That is enough for the first month, so please **volunteer** and encourage others to volunteer in whatever ways they can.

Douglas Howard
PPCUG President

Board Highlights

The Board Meeting was held after the General Meeting on March 12, 2013.

The PPCUG annual elections had just been held during the General Meeting where it was unanimously voted to elect the following:
President – Douglas Howard
First Vice President – open

Second Vice President – Paul Cook
Treasurer – open – (interim Treasurer Madeline

Jewett)
Secretary – open

The Board voted to accept the results of this election. Board members take turns filling the Secretary role for a while.

The Board agreed to keep the current SIG Leaders and Service Officers. Dean LaVoie will continue to be the PPCUG Newsletter Editor.

It was unanimously **voted** that from this day forward a PPCUG President for 5 or more years gets free lifetime PPCUG membership. Dean LaVoie has served as President for 7 years and is the first president for this lifetime membership.

Douglas Howard
PPCUG President

FUD's Follies
SMART PHONES

I have a variety to observations regarding smart phones and telephone companies. For some this will be interesting and for others, not. I know this because sometimes I ignore the market for years and I fully acknowledge that you may be in a phase where you have little interest in this.

So, I'll keep this general and try to avoid much technicality and try to offer some insight into a very complicated and fast-moving aspect of modern electronics.

IPHONE SET THE PACE

There are shifts in the wind for several carriers. Verizon is in a good position, with good coverage and a huge network. They are reputed to have the most coverage nation-wide for 3G speeds and they have LTE 4G in many cities. They operate on the CDMA broadcast method, which is popular in the U.S. and parts of South America and Japan. The iPhone 4 finally came out in a CDMA version in early 2011, to the relief of many Verizon customers. Because the iPhone had been so successful with AT&T it equalized the customer loss to AT&T.

AT&T has had all generations of the iPhone from its start in late 2007. The growth of iPhone is the industry standard. Typically each first quarter of the year, their numbers spike and people go through an upgrade cycle. Telephone upgrades, in general, follow a 2-year cycle, partly because the contracts are for two years. So many users upgrade every other model. I'm not into iPhones, but you have an even-year model change and an odd-year change, a little like the Intel tick-toc upgrades every 18 months. So you have a minor upgrade and a major upgrade.

AT&T launched a nation-wide LTE network and it is doing well. iPhone came out with LTE 4G models for both the AT&T customers and the CDMA Verizon customers. The overwhelming popularity of the iPhone caused anyone wanting one to move to these two carriers.

T-Mobile has had no way to serve iPhone customers wanting GSM and LTE, and so, they have never offered an iPhone. For this and other reasons, T-Mobile has had a huge customer loss in recent years. Sometimes these things take a while because of the two-year contracts, but they have recently come to a head.

So, T-Mobile is launching an LTE network, but swapping around some of the "spectrum" they own and some they acquired as a result of the failed attempt by AT&T to buy them out last year. There are about seven cities that started T-Mobile LTE service this last month. Portland is way down on the list, but it should be operating sometime late this year.

I've been watching the "hacker" newsgroups and they are reporting 25 to 35 Mbits download speed and 8 or 10 upload speed these last few days (end of April), following the launch in mid-April. These are "good" speeds, but nothing spectacular. The numbers for other LTE carriers in Canada, like Rogers, are closer to 50 Mbits download speed.

T-Mobile has always had a fast HSPA+ "4G" network, which typically runs around 15 Mbits download and 3 Mbits upload in the Portland area, which is not bad, especially for HPSA. This T-Mobile configuration is called HPSA-42 (theoretically capable of 42 Mbits). So, while most cities are running LTE because they have to, maybe Portland is not in quite as much trouble. You hear a lot of talk about how much faster the LTE networks work compared to the previous 3G networks and so, LTE has totally won the 4G battle in the hearts and minds of most of the nation.

This new T-Mobile network makes it possible for people to unlock their late-model GSM-LTE iPhones (AT&T) and use them with T-Mobile. This goes for several other AT&T phones.

Right now is a rather tricky time in most cities, such as Portland, because a phone has to work on the HSPA standard until the LTE band is in operation. LTE and HSPA will operate in tandem for years on T-Mobile. It is also unlikely that the LTE rollout will have universal coverage. Phones will have to operate on both standards for some time until all the LTE coverage gaps are filled.

HOW MANY G'S?

Just to flesh that out a bit, coverage will be LTE, HSPA+, 3G, 2G and Edge, in descending order of speed. The "G" refers to the "generation" and T-Mobile claims that since their HSPA+42 network is so fast that it can be called "4G" along with all the LTE implementations. Because of the re-vamping of the T-Mobile "spectrum" some of the less-used Edge and 2G coverage will go away and be used for the new LTE. I'm not qualified to comment if these changes are "brilliant" or "desperate", but I think they will work.

Because of the heavy blood-letting, T-Mobile is re-vamping its pricing, also. Some of it is definitely lower that the competition at Verizon and AT&T. There will be no more 2-year contracts and no subsidized phones. They let you buy the phone for money down and so much a month with zero percent fee to encourage you to stick to the two-year cycle, but there is an outright price, also.

There is a much larger part of the website devoted to encouraging you to bring your GSM phone to T-Mobile and switch carriers, with specifics of how to move your iPhone.

I have been a pay-as-you-go customer, preferring to pay by the minute, with no data plan, except when I needed it for a week on vacation.

Lately, I have been investigating a joint plan with data and texting included as my needs have expanded in the last year. Well, to put it mildly, this is a complicated time to try to upgrade my phone and carrier plan. All this explanation so far, is so I can talk about the phones out there that will work with the current T-Mobile network

and the new T-Mobile 4G LTE network to be launched in Portland later this year.

There are two phones that will for-sure do the job. One is the new one just purchased by Douglas, the Galaxy Note 2. This is a top-of-the-line phone with a huge screen, almost the latest operating system (Android 4.1.1) and a data radio for both HPSA+ and LTE on channel 4. Its list price on T-Mobile is $679. The price was higher a week ago before the pricing changes on the T-Mobile website.

On May 1st, the latest version of Galaxy S, the Galaxy S4 will arrive at T-Mobile for something over $550, maybe $650. It will work with the new and old network out of the box.

There is a special version of Galaxy S3 that has the LTE radio added, and I think it's available now, but not talked about much. It should be a good phone, as is the S4. The Samsung Galaxy (and S2, S3, S3 lte, and S4) line is arguably the most popular line of Android phones. The closest thing to competition to the iPhone line. You can maybe get a T-Mobile locked S2 through Walmart for $329, but S2 is getting a little long in the tooth.

I started digging into the hacker forums to see if I could find something I'd missed in the lineup. There is a Google phone, the LG Nexus 4 that caught my attention. It sells directly through the Android Play Store (where you buy Android apps) for $300 for the 8 GB model and $350 for the 16 GB model. It has a 1.5 MHz quad core processer and a 4.7" display and the absolutely latest version of Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean. The only thing "wrong" with this phone is it doesn't claim to do LTE.

This phone was introduced the end of last year and immediately sold out. It has been in and out to stock for the first couple months of 2013 and is now only reliably in stock in March. The hacker community loves it for its build quality and its absolutely stock Android operating system.

In the last few months, investigators opened the phone and found it has an LTE radio and started using it in Canada and on AT&T and now, on the new T-Mobile LTE network in the few cities that have the system up and running. So, if you don't mind using a phone with an LTE radio that has not yet passed FCC, it's a real steal at half the price of comparable phones.

All of this explanation is so you understand why I'm going to talk about the new Google (LG) Nexus 4, because I bought one.

Before I go into the phone, I'll go into the carrier plan.

As a generality, the better you evaluate your actual usage, the lower you can get your price. I have friends who need unlimited voice and text and they go with Straight Talk for $45/mo and the price goes down every,

I think, 6 months by $5, to eventually be $35/mo in a year and a half. Not a bad deal. Straight Talk piggy-backs on T-Mobile and you use an unlocked GSM phone with HPSA channel 4 and a Straight Talk sim card.

I don't talk on the phone much and I use WI-FI a lot, so I'm going with the $30/month, 100 minutes and unlimited text and unlimited data with the first 5 GB a month at 4G speeds, then throttling down to Edge speeds after that. I think this will meet my modest needs and satisfy my penny-pinching tendencies.

If you talk a lot, this isn't for you. If you stream movies to your TV via your phone, this isn't for you. Many people can live with 5 GB of data a month. Some people can live with 100 minutes of talk a month. I use Skype, either on my phone or tablet or computer when at home, so just give Skype some nominal fee per year for that, I think around $25. I stream movies to my TV through the blu-ray machine via my "N" WI-FI connected to Comcast.

There is unlimited texting with this plan.

I like being able to check the road conditions and being able to send a movie or photo on the fly (not at home).

This is a plan for new accounts, i.e., new sim card activations. It is on the page where people go to use their own phone and bring it to T-Mobile, so it is an incentive offer. Once you change the plan, it goes away. Walmart customers will recognize the plan. It's a little hard to find on their website, so I'll give you the link: http://prepaid-phones.t-mobile.com/prepaid-plans

Like I said, you need an "activation kit", which is a T-Mobile sim card and some sort of activation "code" that comes with it, for $10 from T-Mobile. Then you need to (I'm told) activate the phone on line (from that page). The phone has to be either a T-Mobile locked phone or an unlocked phone that is compatible with the T-Mobile network and have the battery charged. They need the serial number of the phone, too (the "IMEI"). Most importantly, you need to select this plan, because it isn't offered on their regular web pages. There is a place to port your T-Mobile phone number or one from a different carrier.

One of the statements is that there is no roaming (to fill in the weak spots). Another statement is that a hot-spot is not supported. I've heard this both ways and will have to find out for myself. I suspect it's one of those situations where they cannot promise it for every location, so they say you don't get it.

NEXUS 4 PHONE

This is a real beauty. It is similar in build-quality to Galaxy S3 or Note 2. If you really want a remarkable build quality, check out the HTC One, with its metal skin. The Nexus 4 has Gorilla Glass 2 on the face and a

glass rear. Since it doesn't open (without a special tool) the back can be glass. I think it's a little slippery, but I planned to put a tough plastic case on it anyway, for grip and protection.

The screen is 4.7" which is large compared to iPhones and most phones a year or so old. It fits in my hand fine and has a wider screen than many, making vertical reading (column) a little easier. The resolution is 1280x768, a little "wider" than a standard HD screen of 1280x720 (720P). The screen does well in the bright sunlight, compared to the Galaxies, including the new S4. I can read the map or email or see who's calling outside on an overcast day. I haven't tried a sunny day, but it may be just serviceable.

The processor is equal to the S3 as so is the graphics processor. They are a little faster than the Note 2. The S4 has a faster quad core processor than the Nexus' quad core but you won't notice any hesitation on either. The battery life is good, maybe equal to the S4, but neither can compare to the Note 2, which is just, plane bigger.

You cannot put a micro SD card in the Nexus, so buy it with the 16 GB option. I think Google is trying to push their cloud services associated with Google+ by making it easy to upload your ohotos and movies directly to your cloud storage and making them available to your Google+ groups that you with to share them with. This works well with unlimited data or if you only upload things when on WI-FI. I haven't really explored this yet but it might all work seamlessly. One of my devices moved my photos and videos to the Google cloud, not sure which. Google+ is now asking me which to "share" with others.

The Near Field Communication comes with this phone and it will communicate a photo or movie by touching it to the back of an S3 or S4 and tapping the front.

This is one of the few phones that have wireless charging available by just sticking it to a small half-ball with a magnetic property, optional at $59.

Like I said, the operating system is the latest released version of Android, Jelly Bean 4.2.2. It has a small upgrade to Google Now, and a few bug fixes to the Bluetooth and a handful of things that make the interface smooth and almost intuitive.

The Nexus phones always get the Android updates first, so the next version (Key Lime Pie) will be coming in mid-year.

$30/MO, 100 MIN, UNLIMITED DATA, UNLIMITED TEXT

The T-Mobile "activation kit" arrived from T-Mobile. I followed the instruction for fitting the micro SIM into the phone (you have to buy the right size). I followed the instructions on the web page http://prepaid-phones.t-mobile.com/prepaid-plans. I put in the SIM #, the phone serial # (IMEI), the "activation code" that comes with the activation kit, and my name and birthday. This started the phone on the network. On the next page I told them I wanted to keep my old phone number. They listed a number to call. I did that and waded through the automated voice. I guess you have to deliberately screw things up enough that the machine finally gives up and asks you if you want a carbon-based life form to assist you. He transferred the phone # in seconds. Somehow I ended up talking to him on the new phone. He said things might take a couple hours to all work right.

I had hoped that the web page would let me select the plan I had intended because the automated selections didn't mention it (I told you it would do that). I got into a chat session and fiddled with an automated voice session or two and finally screwed things up enough to get a carbon-based life form on the line. I explained EXECTLY which plan I wanted and she said okay and set it up. Then I added some money to the account. I was a little surprised that after adding $50 to the account it showed $31, not realizing that the first month's activation subtracted $30 from the old plus new total (11 + 50 -30). I will set up auto pay when the dust settles.

The plan works. I have notices one quirk, which is that my phone automatically prefers WI-FI if it can find an open network (which is my preference). But sometimes the "open" WI-FI still needs a password or acceptance before it starts, so if I don't want it, I have to turn off WI-FI to get the data network.

By the way, the Nexus 4 phone works great, and I highly recommend it. It has the "Holy Grail" of apps, Google Now and the ability to take voice commands like "Send an email to Douglas: I'll be late because bananas are on sale at Trader Joe's for 19 cents each."

The secret phrase is "Jelly Bean".

FUD

Favorite Uncle Dean

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Our Yearly Dues are $40

Our Membership Year is:

Nov 1 – Oct 31

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