

The Monthly Edition Of The  
**k-Byte™**  
Newsletter



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Users Helping Users

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### Meeting Previews On Page 6:

**June: Lights! Camera! Music! Action!**



**July: Hardware/Software ZOO**

## Quote of the Month

Whoever wants to know the heart and mind of America had better learn baseball . . .

Jacques Barzun [1954]

## Microsoft Security Essentials

by Brian K. Lewis, PhD, Sarasota Florida PCUG, <http://www.spcug.org>, [bwsail \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:bwsail@yahoo.com). Originally published in *The Monitor*, the newsletter of the Sarasota Florida PCUG

Over the years, ever since my first encounter with a computer virus in 1987, I have used a number of anti-virus applications along with firewall software. As the Internet grew in the late '90s I had to add anti-parasite software and other anti-malware applications to the protection arsenal. Some of this software was free; others were very expensive both to purchase and to maintain. Some used tremendous amounts of computer resources which slowed down the overall operation of the computer. The cost in money and/or resources wasn't necessarily directly related to the usefulness of the application. However such protection was probably a necessary evil to prevent problems on my computer from the "invaders" that existed then and now on the Internet.

Most anti-malware applications seem to be growing in size as each manufacturer tries to "cover all the bases". Unfortunately with the increase in size and coverage comes an increase in complexity. Now Microsoft has released an improved version of their Security Essentials (MSE) software that is easier for the user to install and operate. This application protects your computer against viruses, spyware, worms, trojans and other malicious software. In addition it is an easy to install FREE download from Microsoft. The only catch is that you must have a legal copy of Windows on your computer. The installation program does a check for Genuine Windows validation. The software runs on XP, Vista and Win 7 operating systems (OS). However, I have only been using it on Win7.

It does sound like it must be a resource hog to be able to carry out all of these functions. But the testing results I have seen show minimal effect on overall computer operation. Yes, there is reduction in the speed of processing web pages, e-mail, etc., when using the real-time protection. But compared to other software car-

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# About *k-Byte*

**P**ublished monthly, *k-Byte* is the official newsletter of the Front Range Personal Computer Users Group (FRPCUG). Our mailing address is PMB 152, 305 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521.

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## *Submissions*

Articles, letters and short items of interest on computer-related topics are welcome and encouraged. All items submitted for publication are subject to editing. Send your contribution to the editor via e-mail attachment or submit on disk. If you have questions about a submission, please contact the editor for information.

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## *About FRPCUG*

FRPCUG is an independent nonprofit computer society, so incorporated with the State of Colorado and open to anyone interested in personal computers using any operating system: Windows, Linux or MAC, and digital hardware (such as music/video players, smart phones, etc.). Its purpose is to provide an educational and scientific forum of mutual benefit for members of the community regardless of knowledge level. FRPCUG holds a monthly meeting and conducts various special interest groups (SIGs) and seminars. Members have voting privileges, subscription to the *k-Byte* newsletter, and access to SIGs and selected seminars. Annual dues are \$25 for individual/family membership (\$20 for students) and \$50 for corporate/group membership.

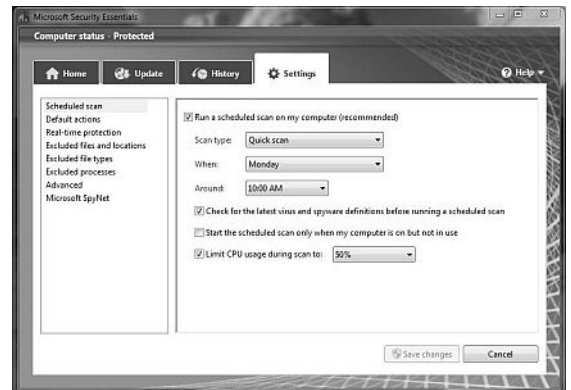


rying out the same functions, the difference in speed is insignificant and really wouldn't be noticed by most users. The only place where MSE seems to fall down is on hard disk scans. There I have seen reports of initial complete scanning taking 8 – 24 hours! I have done both a Quick Scan and a Full scan of my hard drive, about 50 GB of data on a 140 GB partition. The Quick Scan was done in less than 2 minutes. The full scan took about 25 minutes. So from my perspective, on my system, the scanning time is not excessive. I have used other malware checkers that have taken over an hour to accomplish a complete scan on the same drive.

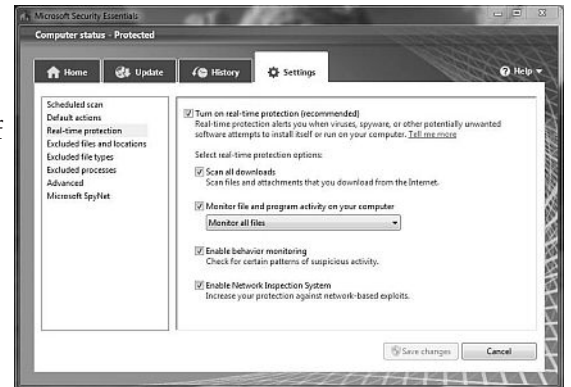
If you want to install this application, the first step is to download MSE from Microsoft's [web site](#). This page has the download link for the msi file which can be run automatically after downloading by selecting "Run" instead of "Save". If you have questions about the installation Microsoft has a video showing all the steps involved. Once the installation is complete the opening screen shows the current status of your protection and the date of the last update for the malware definitions. It also shows you the settings related to scanning your hard drive. From this page you can do a manual scan of your drive. The Update tab on the top of the page takes you to a page where you can manually update the malware definitions. MSE will automatically download updates when you are running Windows and are connected to the Internet. However, it may not occur immediately on connection. So if it has been some time since you connected to the Internet you may want to manually download the definitions.

The settings page, shown in the next figure, is one where you can mostly accept the default values. One you will probably want to change is the timing of the automatic scan. MSE defaults to midnight on one day, Sunday I think. You will probably want to change this to a time when you know that your computer will be turned on.

The list on the left of the window shows the additional settings categories for MSE. The "default actions" relate to what should be done with any malware detected. The various categories of default actions run from low threat to severe. In all cases I have set mine to remove the malware. If in doubt as to the effect on your computer you can set the lower threat levels to be quarantined. If you wish to later remove a quarantined item, you can do so from the history page. Select "Quarantined items" and you will then be allowed to remove all or individual items. You can also select to restore an item, but this is not likely to be a good idea. Read the description of the what the malware's actions are carefully before deciding to restore it.



This next figure shows you the protection being provided by MSE. In most cases it is best to leave the default settings so you will get the best protection. You will note the category for behavior monitoring. This allows MSE scan for possible malware that is not in its definitions list. This is referred to as the "heuristic" programming of the software. Any application that seems to be altering the functioning of the operating system, such as a rootkit, should be flagged by this function. This is the only way that any anti-malware application can attempt to stay ahead of the malware writers who are always coming up with new, more complex schemes for infiltrating your computer.



I hope you can see from this quick review of MSE, that it is designed to provide a simple user interface for a complete protection package. Now more tech-savvy computer users might want more control over their anti-malware protection, but for most users, I think this is a good fit and the price is right.

As I mentioned earlier, I have been running MSE under Windows 7. This is Microsoft's best operating system yet. I think this is demonstrated by the fact that the Win7 SP-1 has no really significant changes to the basic OS. Also, Win7 does seem to be more secure than earlier versions. So if you are still running Vista or WinXP, in my opinion, you should be seriously considering a change to Win7. At the very least, whatever OS you are running, be sure to practice "safe computing".

# Cloud Computing

by Dick Maybach, n2nd (at) charter.net

**A**lthough you can hardly pick up a computer publication without being assaulted by references to cloud computing, the term has been abducted by marketing organizations to the extent that it means almost nothing. Today, “cloud” is to computing as “natural” is to food. Although the term means little, the concept is very valuable, and is something that most computer owners use every day. I define cloud computing as using storage or processing resources on the Internet. Most of us already use cloud computing far more than we realize; for example, every e-mail we receive sits on our ISP’s disk until we download it to our PCs, and when we use Google Maps, much the processing and all of the storage occurs on Google’s hardware. In the extreme, cloud computing could evolve to the point where our computer would consist of only a keyboard, mouse, display, and perhaps a printer, with just enough processing power and software to support a Web browser. Google foresaw this as the future of home computing and began developing their Chrome operating system to support it.

A simple example of cloud computing is a backup service, which continually backs up all your data whenever you are connected to the Internet. You don’t have to think about it, and because your backups are stored at a different location, they are safe even in case of a local catastrophe. A similar use is synchronizing data among several computers, where the data might be files, contacts, and your favorite Web sites and (with care) their passwords. Many people also use the cloud to share information with others, for example by using Facebook for personal information, Flickr for photos, or Google Docs for documents. Cloud storage is both convenient and inexpensive; indeed, many vendors offer up to two gigabytes free.

All the above examples are data storage ones, but there are also cloud processing services, such as Google Docs. Google Docs supports the common office tasks such as word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations, which means you can perform these without purchasing an office suite and having to keep it updated. It also allows on-line collaboration (where, for example, several people edit the same document), although few home users are likely to need this feature. Like cloud storage, cloud processing is inexpensive or even free.

By now, you may be thinking, “What’s the Catch?” Somebody has to pay for these services, as providing them requires non-trivial costs for computer hardware, support staff, and communications. In some cases, the free service is a limited sample to entice you to purchase a more versatile one. In others, you are the product being sold. Your habits and preferences are valuable commodities that advertisers will pay to learn about. For many of us this is a fair trade; in return for the convenience of Google’s search engine, we tolerate the ads in the sidebar and being directed to sites that want to sell to us.

However, there are some security and safety caveats involved. Security is complex for a cloud vendor; your data are stored on the same disks, the same memory, and pass through the same processors as everybody else’s. The process is much like what happens in a commercial laundry or dry cleaner, where everybody’s clothes are tagged and thrown together into a large machine. Afterwards, somebody looks at the tags to get them back to their proper owners. Contrast this to a bank deposit vault, where only your key can open the box where you place your documents. Even at such competent vendors as Google, there have been instances of data leaking from one customer to another, and many cloud vendors are start-ups who have much less expertise than Google. This means that you should take responsibility for safeguarding your data. For example, if you back up your disk in the cloud, encrypt any files (such as those containing passwords or on-line banking data) that present security risks. I store my passwords using [KeePassX](#). Its file is always encrypted on your PC’s disk, and you can safely back it up anywhere. I also use [Gnu Privacy Guard \(gpg\)](#), to encrypt files and e-mail. (Both of these programs are available for the Windows, Mac, and Linux platforms.) By the way, when you encrypt a file, be sure that only the encrypted version is ever placed in a directory that is backed up in the cloud.

Safety also is not trivial. Vendors do go out of business and, even if they keep operating, they may find that providing cloud services isn’t profitable. Not all of them back up their storage, which means that their hardware failures and software bugs can destroy your data. If you use the service for back-up or synchronization, this isn’t a problem because the chances of simultaneous failures in the cloud and on your PC is negligible. However, if you store your only copy of your photograph or music collection in the cloud, you are risking disaster. In the case of cloud processing, you should also be concerned about the format in which your data is stored. It does little good to download the file containing your novel if it’s stored in a format that only the (now out of business cloud vendor) could read.

Finally, cloud computing is new, so you should expect some glitches.



# The Mac Corner

by Danny Uff, Lehigh Valley Computer Group, <http://www.lvcg.org>, danny.uff(at) gmail.com. Originally published in The LVCG Journal, the newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Computer Group

## Backing Up Your Photos with iPhoto

Digital photos are great. They allow us to save those memories onto our computers. Gone are the days of boxes and boxes of old, aged photos in some drawer (yes, I am old enough to remember them) or bent photo corners. Yep, it's great! Until your computer crashes, and you have no DVD or printed back up of those memories. Do you wish you knew a way to back up those photos that you spent hours importing into iLife's iPhoto application? Well, it's easier than you think!

First you'll need an external back up source. If you only have a couple photos, then a USB flash drive should do nicely. But if you're like me, you have thousands of photos (old and new) so you may need to save them to a CD, DVD, external hard drive or an Internet back up service. Secondly, there are two ways to back up your photos using iPhoto:

1. If you do not have them sorted into groups, events, etc., just highlight all the photos, and then use the File> Export command
2. If you do have them sorted, then your best bet is to save the actual data file that iPhoto uses

Backing this up is a snap:

- Open Finder, then select the Pictures folder
- Within that folder is a file called iPhoto Library. Make sure this file is saved to the external source you are backing up too. That's all there is to it!

Now, to restore the photos, just get the external source and copy the iPhoto Library file back to the Pictures folder, then go back into iPhoto and bingo! All of your events, places, faces and photos are back again.

## Printing from an iPad

By now, you may have seen the jazzy iPad TV Commercial that shows the device printing its output to an HP printer. Some Mac users have asked me if this was a real feature of the iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad? The answer to that question is, yes and no.

YES—It is a real feature for the said devices and by having the current update to its operating system. If someone does have an Airprint-compatible printer it does work like a charm. NO—It does not work if you do not have an Airprint-compatible printer.

What is Airprint anyway? It is a new printer protocol, developed by Hewlett Packard, that allows a user to print from a device such as a cell phone, to a compatible printer. If the user is on the same WiFi network as the printer, then the user's device can pick the printer "out of the air" and send it to the printer. However, if the person is not on the same network, he or she can still print to that printer by sending the document (or whatever else you're printing) to a special e-mail address for that printer. The user sets all this up when they first set up the device.

Hewlett Packard is the only company making such printers and they can range from \$100.00 on up. They can be found at major retail and online stores.

## In-app Purchases

Back in mid December, there were a slew of reports on parents letting their kids play with their iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad getting billed for what is known as in-app purchases.

*Continued on Page 8*

# Calendar of Events

## June General Forum Meeting

We will meet at the Fort Collins Senior Center on:

Day	Date	Time
Tuesday	June 7th	7:00 PM

### Meeting Agenda

Time	Topic
7:00 to 7:15	Announcements and Raffle
7:15 to 7:45	Open Forum
7:45 to 7:55	Break
7:55 to 9:00	Lights! Camera! Music! Action!

To check on FRPCUG events in 2011 using a familiar graphical calendar format, connect to the

[2011 Graphical Events Calendar](#)

## July General Forum Meeting

We will meet at the Fort Collins Senior Center on:

Day	Date	Time
Tuesday	July 5th	7:00 PM

### Meeting Agenda

Time	Topic
7:00 to 7:15	Announcements and Raffle
7:15 to 9:00	Hardware/Software ZOO

## See you at the meetings!

Get full membership benefits. If you are not a current member, download and complete a [Membership Application](#). Mail the completed application and your payment to the address listed, or better yet, bring the application to the next meeting.

## Future General Forum Meeting Notes

At the June meeting we will examine (briefly) the world of computer entertainment. OK, so the title of the presentation is a bit of hyperbole. But there are so many audio and video formats these days that you probably have encountered, at least once, the need to change a format in order to listen or view the file you want. We will examine a few of the available media conversion programs and demonstrate one or two.

The annual Hardware/Software ZOO is scheduled for the July Meeting. All members are invited to bring a demonstration of their favorite hardware or software. Remember, the ZOO is informal, entertaining, and you might even learn something! Think about what you would like to see . . . or demonstrate at the ZOO and bring your ideas to the June meeting.

## Future SIG's, Seminars and Other Meetings

### Digital Imaging SIG

The Digital Imaging SIG is a forum for discussion of digital imaging hardware and software. The meetings are held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Senior Center Lobby. The meeting format is informal, using the Shop Talk sessions as a basis. For more information, contact Mike Morris at [twriterext\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:twriterext(at)gmail.com).

### Shop Talk

One-on-one assistance. Drop in to the Senior Center lobby on any Saturday (holidays excepted) from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

### Technology SIG

The Technology SIG provides advanced support for all PC related operating system and telecommunication issues. The meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month at Bluebird Manufacturing Inc., 1421 Webster Avenue, in Fort Collins. For more information, contact Chuck McJilton at 970-493-2987.

### Board Meeting

FRPCUG's executive board meets on Wednesday of the week following the General Forum meeting. All members are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

These meetings are held at 7:00 PM in the Staff Board Room of the Fort Collins Senior Center.

## The Two Month Activities Calendar

# JUNE 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
5	6	7 General Forum Meeting 7:00 PM	8	9	10	11 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
12	13	14 Digital Imaging SIG Meeting 7:00 PM	15 FRPCUG Board Meeting 7:00 PM	16 Technology SIG Meeting 7:00 PM	17	18 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
26	27	28	29	30		

# JULY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
3	4 Independence Day Holiday	5 General Forum Meeting 7:00 PM	6	7	8	9 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
10	11	12 Digital Imaging SIG Meeting 7:00 PM	13 FRPCUG Board Meeting 7:00 PM	14	15	16 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
17	18	19	20	21 Technology SIG Meeting 7:00 PM	22	23 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Shop Talk 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
31						

In-app purchases let a user purchase items within an iOS application (such as more levels to a game, expanding an already purchased app, etc.) using the user's iTunes Credit Card or Checking Account.

One mother in the United Kingdom discovered that her 4 year old child spent more than \$80.00 (U.S. Dollars) on in-app purchases—story via CNN.

Fortunately, there is a way to disable this feature so that little kiddies (or even you) don't accidentally purchase something while in an application:



1. Tap SETTINGS
2. Tap GENERAL
3. Tap RESTRICTIONS
4. Enter a Restrictions pass code
5. Select "Enable"
6. Scroll down to "In-App Purchases" and make sure it is set to "OFF"
7. Exit Settings

Personally, I have to say that with all of the experience I have with computers, I almost made a mistake with the above and have disabled this feature on my devices.



## The True Origin of the Internet

*Author unknown.*

**I**n ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot.

And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she had been called 'Amazon Dot Com.'

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why doth thou travel far from town to town with thy goods when thou can trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale and they will reply telling you which hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever moving from his tent.

But this success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabia did secrete himself inside Abraham's drum and was accused of insider trading. And the young man did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Siderites, or NERDS for short.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to the drum maker, one Brother William of Gates, who bought up every drum company in the land. And indeed did insist on making drums that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others."

*Continued on Page 12*

# Photo Gallery

This month's featured photographer:

Mike Loughlin using a Nikon D40 camera

## Above Horsetooth

Mode = Auto, F Number = 16, Exposure time = 1/800 seconds, Exposure Program = Aperture Priority, Focal Length = 55 mm., ISO = 1600, White Balance = Manual, Scene Capture Type = Standard.

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# Ask Computer Tutor

**P**amela Tabak receives numerous computer-related questions via e-mail and during classroom presentations. She selects those she feels are of common interest to most members and forwards them to us for publication.



Pamela invites members to ask their questions at <http://tinyurl.com/ask-pamela>. More often than not you will receive an answer within 24 hours.

You can also connect with Pamela through her:

- WEBSITE: [www.computertutorinc.net](http://www.computertutorinc.net)
- BLOG: [www.computertutorinc.net/blog](http://www.computertutorinc.net/blog)
- RADIO TALK SHOW: [http://computertutorinc.net/ct\\_pge\\_radio\\_talk\\_show2.htm](http://computertutorinc.net/ct_pge_radio_talk_show2.htm)

Pamela also provides these two important resources for Seniors:

- Senior Help, [http://computertutorinc.net/ct\\_pge\\_seniors08.html](http://computertutorinc.net/ct_pge_seniors08.html).

This web page contains a number of U. S. (and Canadian) Government links to websites that provide information on such topics (to name only a few) as retirement, online security, health, housing, taxes (and more).

- Help Me Stop Senior Scams, [http://computertutorinc.net/newsletter/vol\\_2\\_5\\_2011.htm](http://computertutorinc.net/newsletter/vol_2_5_2011.htm)

This article provides tips on how to protect yourself (and others) from identity theft and avoid scams (whether online or not), especially those targeting seniors.

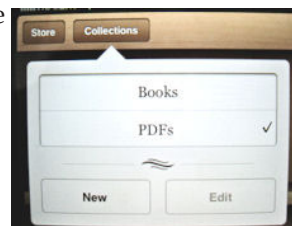
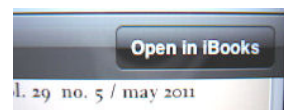
Have you ever felt that you would like to have more time to read all the tips and great articles that arrive each month in *k-Byte*? If you are an iPad user you are fortunate to be able to read each issue on the go.

When you see the newsletter publication notice in your email, click on the PDF link and open it on your iPad. Once it opens, tap once on your iPad screen and tap on Open in iBooks. This will cause *k-Byte* to appear on your iPad bookshelf.



It will be saved on a PDF bookshelf under the Collections button; quite separate from the iBooks that you may have downloaded.

Now you will have all the time in the world to read *k-Byte* whenever you are waiting in a Doctor's office, in a plane or at the airport or just relaxing.



*[Editor's note: For those readers who are convinced that only people under 30 years of age use iPads and iPods (or eReaders and portable media players in general), you need to know that this editor has personally witnessed a Senior pedalling away furiously on an exercise machine while reading an article on an iPad and simultaneously listening to music on an iPod]*



## FRPCUG Contacts Telephone Area Code 970

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FRPCUG Officer E-Mail				board(at)frpcug.org
Library Request E-Mail				library(at)frpcug.org

**Front Range PC Users Group Is Online at**

**<http://www.frpcug.org>**



And as Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or as it came to be known “eBay” he said, “We need a name that reflects what we are.”

And Dot replied, “Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators.”

“YAHOO,” said Abraham.

And that is how it all began. It wasn’t Al Gore after all.

[Editor’s note: this “story” has been posted in many different locations on the internet. A search using Google identified one posting as early as 2003. Despite its “advanced age” —in internet terms—the humor, in this editor’s opinion, endures.]



This article is copyright © 2011 by Brian K. Lewis, PhD. All rights reserved. It is also published as PDF file on the “Lewisfamily-pubs.net” website. Dr. Lewis is a former professor of physiology and has been working with personal computers for over 40 years. He may be contacted at bwsail at yahoo.com.



### Directions and Map to the Fort Collins Senior Center

The Fort Collins Senior Center is located at 1200 Raintree Drive. This site is situated at the northwest corner of the Shields and Raintree Drive intersection. It is on the north side of the Raintree Shopping Center, and just west of the bank building at the corner of Shields and Raintree (see map at right).

Check the marquee at the main entrance for directions to the specific meeting room

