Hand Held Device Special Interest Group

The SIG for smartphones and tablets was held on Monday, March 27, 2017, the fourth Monday of the month.

We started the meeting by telling what phones, tablets and computers we had. **Apple** includes two Model identification codes which sometimes creates confusion. The Model Number is printed in the bottom right hand corner of the back of each device. Unfortunately the print is very small and hard to read, but the Model Number format is Axxxx, where the x's are numbers. You will have to **Google** the Model Number or search for that number on the **Apple** website to find the common identification of your device. The Order Number is found in Settings/General/About. Right above Serial Number is Model which is actually the Order Number. **Google** "Order Number" and what appears after Model and you will find your device, color, memory, etc.

The latest update to iOS was released the day of the meeting and is iOS 10.3. The most important component is this update is a new Apple File System which replaces a file system whose roots are over 30 years old. The AFS will save space, enable better backups, is more secure, and is optimized for solid state storage. One person had already updated successfully and another accidentally started to update during the meeting and was successful. My own tendency is to wait a week or so to see if there are glitches with the update and to avoid congestion on the update servers.

We also discussed how **Apple** switched to 64 bit devices several years ago. Support for Apps that only work on 32 bit systems will be stopped meaning these apps will be removed from the App Store.

We were to have two new iPad owners at the meeting but only one could make it. Because of the new device owner, we went over basics such as the Control Panel and the meaning and use of each symbol. We also showed how iOS 10 used a separate volume control screen accessed by swiping the control panel to the left.

Basic apps recommended for every new device owner were suggested by all present. **Google**, **Yelp** (evaluation of restaurants, bars, etc.), **Google Maps, Kindle** (for reading **Amazon** books), **Overdrive and Fandango** (movie schedules and reviews) were among the ones suggested by all. Since the new iPad owner liked photography, I suggested Investigator which provides access to metadata (camera id, camera settings, etc.) and to my surprise, to Albums I had set up on **iPhoto** on my **Mac**. He also liked **Overdrive**, which allows online borrowing of ebooks from any library for which you have a card.

I strongly recommended **Speedtest** to everyone so that they can find upload and download speed of their internet connections. I showed my new **Spectrum** internet speed and told those present that they had to call **Spectru**m to get higher speed at a lower cost from the new service provider. There was no automatic change in service; customers must call.

I turned on the coffee maker for our break midway through the meeting using **Alexa** voice control. It was an advertisement for the upcoming General Meeting Presentation on Voice Activated Digital Assistants.

The next meeting of the HHD SIG will be at 7:00 PM on Monday, April 24, 2017.

John Fair