



range Bytes

Volume 49 No 10

October 12 2025

NOCCC meetings for Sunday October 12, 2025

MAIN MEETING

The primary topic will be on Routers
Presenter Robert Strain (our pres)

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) & Main Meeting Schedule

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Beginners Digital Photography**Science 131**

Questions and Answers about Digital Photography

Linux for Desktop Users.....**Science 129**

Beginners' Questions about Linux

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM Noon

3D Printing**Science 127**

Questions and Answers about 3D printing if requested

Advanced Digital Photography.....**Science 131**

Questions and Answers about Digital Photography

Linux Administration**Science 129**

More topics about the Linux operating system

Mobile Computing.....**Science 109**

We discuss smart phones, tablets, laptops, operating systems and computer related news. **Waiting for a new leader.**

12:00 PM Noon – 1:00 PM

3D Printing..... **Science 127**

Questions and Answers about 3D printing if requested.

PIG SIG **Irvine Courtyard**

Bring your lunch. Consume it in the open-air benches in front of the Irvine Hall or join the group that goes to the student cafeteria. Talk about your computer(s) and life experiences.

1:00 – 3:00 PM Main Meeting

There are many different functions that a router performs. A lot of these functions can have their parameters edited to support the needs of its user. Robert will be explaining what they are, how to change them and why you might want or need to change them.

Microsoft has announced that it is going to kill Publisher in October 2026.

If you goto: <https://microsoftgraveyard.com/>

You will be at a Site that lists 159 other programs killed by MicroSoft

BOD.....3-4PM..... Science 129

Verify your membership renewal information by checking your address label on the last page. If it is not right, let the treasurer know.

Mark your calendars for these meeting dates

2025: Oct. 12, Nov. 2, Dec. 7

2026: Jan. 11, Feb. 15, Mar. 1, Apr. 5, May 3

Coffee, cookies and donuts are available during the day in room 129 .

“Friends Helping Friends” since April 1976

Table of Contents

Main Meeting ___ 1

Special Interest Groups ___ 1

Again, verify your membership renewal information by checking your address label on the last page

Mark your calendars for these meeting dates ___ 1

Contact information and email forwarding addresses ___ 2

Editors Corner ___ 2

A Little More Humor ___ 3

Directions and map ___ 4

Special email addresses

Jim Sanders is: editor@noccc.org

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Our Website

WWW.NOCCC.ORG

Reminder: Membership expiration dates are based on the date that you joined the club.

Example, you joined or re-upped your membership in the club in November of 2024.

That means that in November 2025 you should pay your membership dues. In the address label area of the Orange Bytes is your join month/expiration month.

A thought to consider; The only reason the club has been able to continue functioning financially after Covid is a generous donation in the will of a former member. Could you do a small one?

Reprint Policy

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Editors Corner

This month's Editor's Corner was going to be a hodgepodge of different topics. Why? Because I just couldn't find a topic that I was sufficiently interested in to write a full column about. But after I got into hodgepodge #1: Television! That became the full column.

A couple of years ago, I finally got fed up with paying the cable/satellite TV bill. You know, the one that keeps going up by a lot. One aspect of those services is "The Broadcast TV Surcharge" which is a monthly fee cable and satellite TV providers charge customers to recoup costs from local broadcast TV stations (like ABC, CBS, FOX, and NBC) for retransmitting their signals. Although these stations use free government-granted spectrum to broadcast over the air, federal law in 1992 allows them to demand royalty payments from providers. Because broadcast stations can withhold their channels if fees aren't paid, providers pass these increasingly expensive fees to consumers as a separate line item on bills. The last time I paid that line item it was around \$26.00 a month. When I complained that I didn't want or need that service as I have a perfectly good OTA (Over The Air) antenna on my roof that pulls in nearly 200 channels (granted there are a lot of channels and subchannels you would have to pay me to watch).

I was told, "Sorry Charlie, if you do business with us, you pay the charge, need it or not." So, like a lot of us, I was paying the same company for the Internet connection that I had to have, and in one case, an additional monthly charge for the gateway/router that I didn't need. That got me to thinking about the streaming TV channels I was watching using my ROKU stick. And yes, there are several types of smart streaming sticks that have similar functionality. So, I did a little research. The Amazon Fire stick, the Google Chromecast stick, and the Apple TV 4K are in the same family as ROKU. The Google Chromecast stick has been replaced by the improved Google TV Streamer with enhanced intrinsic features. If you use an iPhone, stick with the Apple TV 4K. If you use an Android phone, the ROKU Ultra seems to be the top choice.

A big reason that was given as a plus for the ROKU stick was the extensive list of programmable options. When I read about that feature of the ROKU stick, the first thought was; what are they talking about. I knew about using the * feature to add, delete, or move the channel icons on the screen, but not the many other options. RTFM is an acronym that I am familiar with and was made painfully aware of many years ago. If you are not familiar with RTFM, let me introduce you to a more recent acronym, LMGTFY. If that is one more 'huh' for you; I'll spell it out for you right here: Let Me Google That For You.

Wondering if I had failed by forgetting about RTFM, I checked the original box. There was no FM, just a "Starting Guide" and one inconspicuous reference to "support.roku.com." I went there to see if there was a comprehensive PDF for my model of ROKU stick. Nope! Just a badly organized website that seems to go out of it's way to make finding the information I wanted difficult to find. First one has to get past a huge number of categories you can click on to learn about aspects of ROKU televisions or sound bars, not to mention smart home items. Thinking I might save time by clicking on the offered ChatBot, I did that. The responses of the ChatBot were so brilliant that I figure it must be running on at least a Z80. It turned out that if you know the exact title of the feature that you need information on, it might show up. What I was hoping to find was a PDF for a specific ROKU model. One that, section by section, of what one sees on the screen, starting at Home, explained what it did. That is needed as some models have more features and need an explanation of what each does to whatever depth it expands. That is especially true when one scrolls down to the Settings section, which has multiple subsections and a number of those subsections have multiple selections.

One pretty much needs to have the ROKU selections on the TV screen in front of you as you use the support.roku.com website to look up each of the items that are on the screen. But unless I was to create my own PDF as I copied down each of the explanations, for me personally, there is no way I am going to remember that many possibilities. For instance:

The standard Roku:

Settings > Home Screen sub-menu includes options to customize the layout, appearance, and content displayed on your home screen.

Menu items: You can choose to show or hide the rows that appear on the left side of the home screen, such as "Featured Free," "What to Watch," and "Sports".

Tile size: You can switch between a "Larger" (three columns of app icons) or "Smaller" (four columns) layout. I think that one is easy to remember.

Recommendation row: This allows you to hide the top row of recommended content suggestions from your home screen for a less cluttered interface.

Shortcuts: On some devices, you can show or hide shortcuts for tasks like adding channels or using the sleep timer.

Note: Your home screen can also be customized by selecting **Settings > Theme**, which allows you to change the wallpaper, screensaver, and navigation sounds.

An example of the difference between a basic ROKU stick and a ROKU Ultra are the buttons labeled #1 and #2. I had noticed that they were on the 2nd remote but they did not seem to do anything. On the side of the same remote is a small hole in the all black plastic case which I had not noticed before. I saw it watching a YouTube video on how to use some of the features of the ROKU remotes. Turns out it for plugging in a 3.5mm earphone jack for private and quite listening. The remote buttons labeled 1 and 2 can be programmed to be short cut buttons that perform any one (1) of a number of shortcuts that are available on the system. Now that I have learned about it, I programmed the #1 key as a short cut to the YouTube app. I haven't decided what I want to program the #2 key for.

A related topic that came up in my reading dealt with the ROKU icon on my "Smart" Samsung TV. The article said the Roku app on the Smart TV only has a subset of the capabilities of a Roku stick. If what I read is correct, I probably don't care. What was said was that the Smart TV version of the app can only deal with



the free streaming apps and not the paid ones like the Roku channel itself.

The major point about all of this is that if you are paying a substantial amount of money to a "cable" company for the television you watch, especially if a lot of it is programs you could be getting OTA free, you should consider streaming only as your source. Plus OTA of course.

A LITTLE HUMOR

A driver was stuck in a traffic jam on the highway outside Washington, DC Nothing was moving.
Suddenly, a man knocks on the window.

The driver rolls down the window and asks, "What's going on?"

"Terrorists have kidnapped the entire US Congress, and they're asking for a \$100 million dollar ransom. Otherwise, they are going to douse them all in gasoline and set them on fire. We are going from car to car, collecting donations."

"How much is everyone giving, on an average?" the driver asks.
The man replies, "Roughly a gallon."

North Orange County Computer Club

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To All Members:

The line above your mailing address now shows your joindate. Please use your join **month** to choose when to renew your membership.

Dated Material – Please deliver ASAP

Membership Level (\$)	1 Year	3 Years
Individual Member	35	90
Each Additional Family Member	15	40
Full-Time* Enrolled College Student	20	
Enrolled High School Student	15	
*Minimum 12 Semester Hours		
Business Member + Ad (Business Card)	25	
Business Member + Ad (¼ Page, ½ Page)	65,	100
Business Member + Ad (Full Page)	175	
Contributing Member	75	
Supporting Member	100	
Advocate Member	250	
Patron Member	500	

Directions to the NOCCC meeting location



Enter CA-55 N (Costa Mesa Freeway) crossing Interstate 5 toward Anaheim/Riverside for 9 miles. *Notice freeway and street signs stating "Chapman University."* Exit toward E Chapman Ave. Turn right onto N Tustin St. Turn left onto E Walnut Ave.

1) Turn left past N. Center St. for the **best place to park** in the underground parking structure (Lastinger under the sports field). Pay the small fee (\$2) to park Ask members or help@noccc.org about parking details, restrictions, and our price break!

2) Turn left onto N Center St. On the right is the Hashinger Science Center, 346 N Center St. Orange California. Parking on the University side is free. Parking on the residential side is a city violation that may cost you a **tow away and a ticket!**