

# The Digital viking



**Twin Cities**

PC USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Minneapolis & St. Paul, Minnesota USA • Vol. 45 No.7 • February 2025

*TC/PC Exists to  
Facilitate and Encourage  
the Cooperative Exchange of  
PC Knowledge and  
Information Across  
All Levels of Experience*

**February 2025**

**Membership Info.....2**

**Board Meeting.....3**

**Show Us Your Gadget**

**Product Summary ..... 3**

**TC/PC Calendar. .... 14**

**Membership Application 15**

**Maps to Events ..... 16**

4

**General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 11, 2025**

**7:00 PM**

**Best of CES 2025**

**Via Zoom Only**

This month we'll take a tour of the CES show in Las Vegas via videos provided by people that visited the show and chose their best picks.

There are some more advanced robots, Roomba vacuums that pick up objects in their way, lots of AI, wheelchairs that can sense and avoid obstacles, impressive advances in batteries, an electronic spoon that can adjust the salt flavor of a dish, and lots of small gadgets, and much more. Grab your bowl of popcorn and enjoy! 🍿

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**Note:** All TC/PC Meetings and SIG Groups will be virtual until further notice. Visit [tcpc.com](http://tcpc.com) for info.

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**Tech Topics with Jack Ungerleider via Zoom at 6pm before the General Meeting.**

TC/PC is a  
Member of



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**24-Hour Information • [www.tcpc.com](http://www.tcpc.com)**  
Application form inside back cover

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# The Digital Viking

The Digital Viking is the official monthly publication of the Twin Cities PC User Group, a 501(c)(3) organization and an all-volunteer organization dedicated to users of IBM-compatible computers. Subscriptions are included in membership. We welcome articles and reviews from members. The Digital Viking is a copyrighted publication and reproduction of any material is expressly prohibited without permission. Exception: other User Groups may use material if unaltered and credited.

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## Advertising

Full page (7½ x 9½)	\$100.00
Two-thirds page (7½ x 6)	80.00
Half page (7½ x 4¾)	65.00
One-third page (7½ x 3)	50.00
Quarter page (3½ x 4¾)	40.00
Member Bus. Card (2 x 3½)	10.00

Multiple insertion discounts available.

Contact Sharon Walbran at: SQWalbran@yahoo.com

Deadline for ad placement is the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month prior to publication. All rates are per issue and for digital or camera-ready ads. Typesetting and other services are extra and must be requested in advance of submission deadlines.

Payment must accompany order unless other arrangements are made in advance. Place make checks payable to: **Twin Cities PC User Group**

## TC/PC 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Meets once or twice per year. All members welcome to attend.

Visit [www.tcpc.com](http://www.tcpc.com) for meeting details.

<b>President</b> —Lee Kaphingst	leekap@comcast.net
<b>Vice President</b> —Curtiss Trout	ctrout@troutreach.com
<b>Secretary</b> - Sharon Walbran	sharon.walbran@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b> - Sharon Trout	strout@troutreach.com
<b>Newsletter Publisher</b> Sharon Walbran	952-925-2726 sharon.walbran@gmail.com
<b>Web Master</b> Curt Trout	ctrout@troutreach.com
Board Members:	
Steve Kuhlmeier	skuhlmeier@hotmail.com
Lon Ortnier	612-824-4946 lon@csacomp.com
Lee Kaphingst	leekap@comcast.net
Jeannine Sloan	Ambassador for Friendship Village
Curtiss Trout	ctrout@troutreach.com
Sharon Trout	strout@troutreach.com
Jack Ungerleider	jack@jacku.com
Sharon Walbran	sharon.walbran@gmail.com

## TC/PC Member Benefits

Product previews  
and demonstrations

Special Interest Groups  
Monthly Newsletter

Discounts on products  
and services

Contests and prizes

## Business Member Benefits

All of the above PLUS:

FREE ½ page ad on  
payment of each renewal

20% discount on all ads  
Placed in the *Digital  
Viking* Newsletter

Up to 5 newsletters mailed to  
your site  
(only a nominal cost for each  
additional 5 mailed)

## Newsletter Staff Editor Sharon Walbran

# Board of Directors Meeting—January 2025-Member Dues Change

The Board met, prior to the General Meeting, and voted in favor of a change to Membership dues, reducing the dues from \$18.00 per year to \$9.00 per year. The change was presented by Curt Trout and was approved by a unanimous vote. The change is to take effect immediately.

## Show Us Your Gadget—Product Summary

At the January General Meeting of TC/PC, several members presented and demonstrated the use of gadgets they owned, some of which are featured on these pages. Note: the images featured are from similar products found online and may not be the exact product that was presented.

From Bill Ryder: Raspberry Pi Accessories 0 NVMe Base and Monitor

Type here to search...

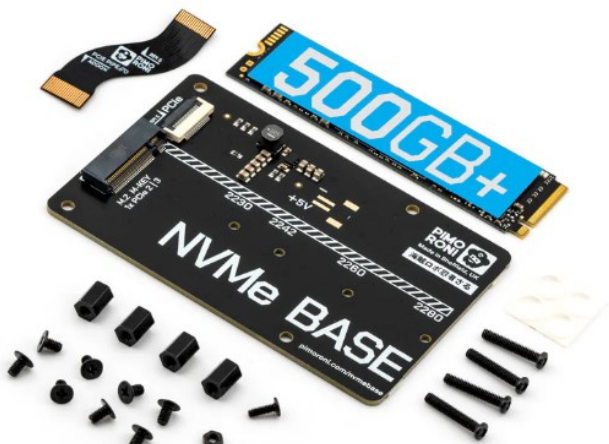
PIMORONI

Purveyors of Maker Goods

£0 0 items

Raspberry Pi 5NEW!DisplaysCamerasLED StripsSensorsAudioFeatherTeensyRoboticsRetro/ArcadeComponentsYukonTinyFXMerchandise

NEW!



500GB+

NVMe BASE

Add super-fast storage to your Raspberry Pi 5 allowing for lightning fast boots, NAS use, and snappy applications!

★★★★★ 812 reviews

login to add to wishlist

Add super-fast storage to your Raspberry Pi 5 allowing for lightning fast boots, NAS use, and snappy applications!

In stock – and ready to ship!

No Disk

PIM699

£13.50

250GB SSD

PIM701

£45

500GB SSD

PIM700

£60

1000GB SSD

PIM762

£81

2000GB SSD

PIM767

£129

Complete Your Setup

You'll need a Raspberry Pi 5 for your host, a microSD card, and we also recommend the Active Cooler!

Raspberry Pi 5 8GB RAM

+ £76.50

Raspberry Pi 5 Official Active Cooler

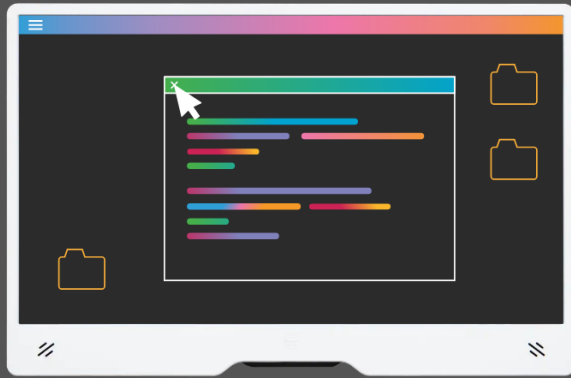
+ £4.50

Raspberry Pi 5 Official microSD Card (pre-installed)

3

The Digital VIKING

February 2025



## Raspberry Pi Monitor

Take in the great view.

A beautiful 15.6-inch Full HD IPS display that you can power from your Raspberry Pi computer.

Available for \$100.

Buy now

## Looking sharp

With built-in audio via two front-facing speakers, and VESA- and screw-mounting options as well as an integrated, angle-adjustable stand, the Raspberry Pi Monitor is ideal for desktop use or for integration into projects and systems.

## Specification

- 15.6-inch Full HD 1080p display
- IPS LCD with anti-glare coating
- 16.2M colour depth
- 250 nits brightness (typical)
- Standard HDMI® port (1.4 compliant)
- 3.5mm stereo headphone jack
- USB-C (power in)
- 2 × 1.2W integrated speakers
- Support for 44.1kHz, 48kHz, and 96kHz sample rates
- Integrated angle-adjustable stand
- Built-in audio via two front-facing speakers
- Audio out via 3.5mm jack
- Full-size HDMI input

From Jack Ungerleider: Fast Heyday Dual USB-C and USB-A Charger at Target for \$12

From Jack Ungerleider: Fast Charger

## Dual Port USB-C and USB-A 25W Wall Charger - heyday™ Black Agate

★★★★★ 13 ✓

**\$11.99** reg \$14.99

**Sale** save \$3.00 (20% off)



Categories

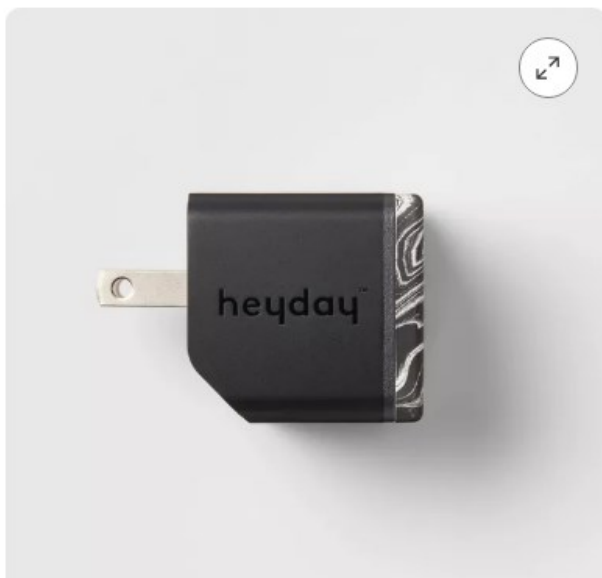
Deals

New & featured

Pickup & delivery



**heyday™**  
**Black Agate**  
**Dual Port USB-C**  
**and USB-A 25W**  
**Wall Charger**  
**- Black Agate**



From Lee Kaphingst—Low Cost Solution for spotty or weak WiFi—USB WiFi Extender from Micro Center for under \$25

## TP-LINK Archer T3U AC1300 Mini Wireless MU-MIMO USB Adapter

★★★★★ 4.7 (276)

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### Key Features

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- Wireless Standard: AC1300
- Encryption: 64/128 bit WEP, WPA/WPA2, WPA-PSK/WPA2-PSK
- Security: 64/128 bit WEP, WPA/WPA2, WPA-PSK/WPA2-PSK
- Modulation Technology: DBPSK, DQPSK, CCK, OFDM, 16-QAM, 64-QAM, 256-QAM
- Frequency: 2.4GHz, 5GHz
- Supported Windows Operating Systems: 32/64 bit Windows XP, 7, 8, 8.1, 10
- Supported Macintosh Operating Systems: Mac OS X 10.9 or Later
- Parts: 2 Year Limited
- Labor: 2 Year Limited



From Sharon Walbran: Re-chargeable hand warmers and guitar tuner from Amazon



2 Pack AI Hand Warmer Rechargeable,  
Portable Electric Hand Warmers  
Reusable, USB Handwarmers,  
Outdoor/Indoor/Work/Studying/Camp  
ing/Hunting/Golf/Pain  
Relief/Game/Warm Gifts for Men  
Women Kids

[Visit the FYTSE Store](#)

4.6 ★★★★★  3,970 ratings | [Search this page](#)

1K+ bought in past month

**-23%** **\$22<sup>97</sup>**

List Price: ~~\$29.99~~ 



Aodsk Clip-on Guitar Tuner for String Instrument,Digital Electronic Tuner,Large Clear LCD Display,Rotatable,Suitable for Acoustic Guitar,Ukulele,Bass,Violin and Chromatic,with 10 Guitar Picks

[Visit the AODSK Store](#)

4.2 ★★★★★ 267 ratings | [Search this page](#)

Amazon's Choice

1K+ bought in past month

**-33%** \$5.99

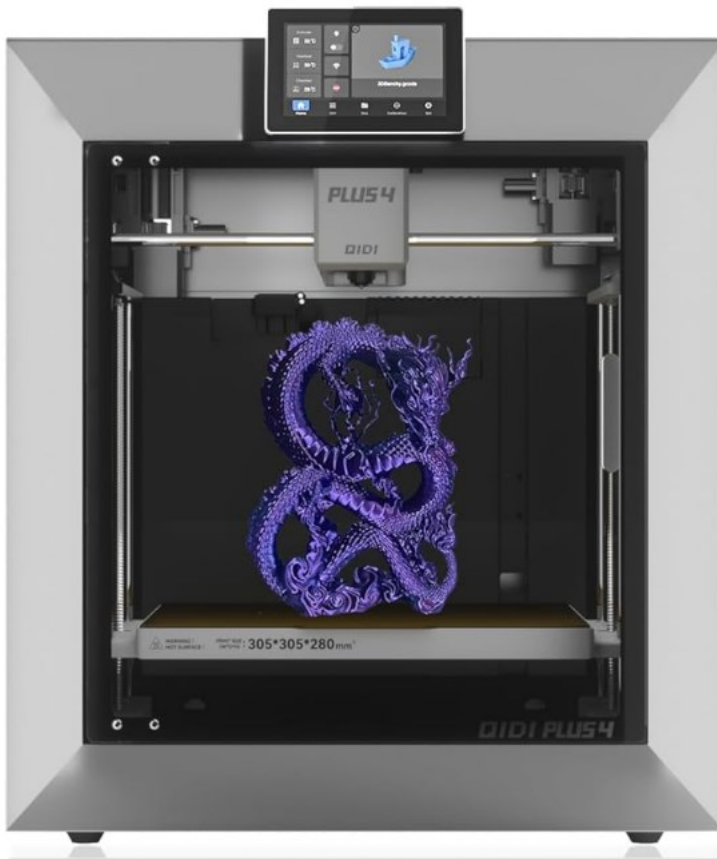
List Price: ~~\$8.99~~



- **[Multi-angle adjustment]:** Easily tune your guitar or bass with the aodsk guitar tuner. Features fast and accurate tuning, a sturdy clip, and a swivel screen that can handle any angle
- **[Wide Compatible]:** Clip-on tuners for acoustic and electric guitar, bass, ukulele, violin, mandolin and wind instruments
- **[Clearer color screen]:** The screen is a vertical full color display with unlimited viewing angles. Suitable for use in a variety of environmental conditions, the color display can clearly show the status of the tuning
- **[Easy To Use]:** The tuner clip on the guitar tuner can be installed anywhere on the headstock, the unique design fits most of the headstock without worrying about slipping off. Clip it on, and you're ready to tune



From Curt Trout: High-speed 3D Printer and several 3D-printed tools



QIDI PLUS4 3D Printer, Max 600mm/s  
High-Speed Printing, 65°C Chamber  
Heat, Fully Auto Leveling, 370°C Direct  
Extruder with Integrated Nozzle,  
Support PPS-CF Filaments, Large Print  
Size 12"x12"x11"

[Visit the R QIDI TECHNOLOGY Store](#)

4.4 ★★★★★ ▼ 334 ratings | [Search this page](#)

400+ bought in past month

\$849<sup>00</sup>

From Gene Olson—Portable SSD Drive - Plug in laptop and tablet.—  
4 USB-C ports and 3 USB-A ports



SAMSUNG T7 Shield 2TB Portable SSD, USB  
3.2 Gen2, Rugged, IP65 Rated, for  
Photographers, Content Creators and Gaming,  
External Solid State Drive (MU-PE2T0R/AM,  
2022), Blue

[Visit the SAMSUNG Store](#)

4.7 ★★★★★ 14,132 ratings | [Search this page](#)

Amazon's Choice

1K+ bought in past month

-40% \$169<sup>99</sup>

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B09VLJ7VBM/  
ref=ppx\\_yo\\_dt\\_b\\_search\\_asin\\_title?th=1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B09VLJ7VBM/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_search_asin_title?th=1)

Also from Gene Olson—Portable Hygrometer/Thermometer from Amazon.



<https://www.amazon.com/Digital-Humidity-Temperature-Hygrometer-Thermometer/dp/B07N1P47WD>

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## HT-86 Temperature Humidity Meter 2 in 1 Portable Digital Hygrometer Thermometer Humidity Gauge Monitor Indoor Outdoor with Wet Bulb Dew Point Double Display for Industry Agriculture Meteorology

[Visit the Walfront Store](#)

4.1 ★★★★★ 35 ratings | [Search this page](#)

\$28<sup>84</sup>

- [High Accuracy] The meter has double display and shows temperature and humidity simultaneously; resolution of 0.01% rh, 0.01°C.
- [Portable & Backlight Design] This thermometer has compact size and light weight, easy to carry and keep it in your bag, it is equipped with a white backlight LCD screen, can be used in the dark environment.
- [Application] The hygrometer is widely used in office, industry, agriculture, meteorology, medical, daily life, building engineer, paranormal investigator, wine cellar, machine room, traffic environment and data storeroom.
- [Function] The 2 in 1 humidity and temperature meter has many useful functions, such as maximum and minimum value measurement, data hold function, showing temperature and humidity at the same time, automatic shutdown function and disable automatic shutdown function.
- [Powerful] This humidity gauge can display two type of temperature, ambient temperature dew-point temperature wet bulb temperature. Wet Bulb Temperature Range: 0 to 80°C (32 to 176°F), Dew-point Temperature Range: -20 to 80°C (-4 to 176°F).

From Steve Parker: Terra Master RAID 5 System for up to 100 TB of storage for 4K video. \$339.00



## TerraMaster D5-300

Super-fast RAID Storage with Multiple RAID Modes

### Achieve Super Speed with the USB 3.1 Protocol

Relying on the USB 3.1 Gen 1 super speed protocol, the D5-300's transmission speeds can reach up to 220MB/s (Tested with Seagate IronWolf 4TB RAID 0).

Note: The USB 3.0 standard was renamed to USB3.1 Gen1 /USB3.2 Gen1 by the USB Implementers Forum (USB-IF) in 2015/2019 .

And one more from Bill Ryder—Adafruit USB Safety Tester \$25



## Multifunctional USB Digital Tester - USB A and C

**Mfr. No:** 4232

**Mfr:** [Adafruit](#)

This handy (pun intended?) tool can measure voltage, current, power, charge time, and other measurements for USB A, Micro B, and USB C! It features a colorful display that pops up when you plug in a power supply. Each click of the button gives you a different display and readout. A long press will reset the data for when it does Coulomb-counting (total power consumption). We like the simple display that comes up first with big Voltage and Current output, but you have lots of options.

There's 4 connectors so you can go from type A to C, type A to A or type C to C.



Meetings start at 7:00 PM (9:00 AM on Saturday) unless otherwise noted. \*Virtual Meetings during Covid pandemic.

## February

## March

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Linux on Saturday SIG 9am—Noon
9	10	11 7pm General Mtg Best of CES 2025  6pm Tech Topics	12	13	14	15 MS Office SIG (includes Access) 9am—Noon
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Linux on Saturday SIG 9am—Noon
9	10	11 7pm General Mtg Fraud Prevention  6pm Tech Topics	12	13	14	15 MS Office SIG (includes Access) 9am—Noon
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



## You have just read an issue of The Digital Viking.

*Would you like to receive this delivered directly to your email or business each month?*

As a member of TC/PC, the Twin Cities Personal Computer Group, one of the benefits is reading this monthly publication at [www.tcpc.com](http://www.tcpc.com).

As a member of TC/PC, you may attend any or all of the monthly Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings and be eligible for software drawings. The small membership fee also includes access to real-live people with answers via our helplines, discounts, and various other perks.

Does membership in this group sound like a good way to increase your computer knowledge?

It's easy to do! Simply fill in the form below and mail it to the address shown.  
(If you use the form in this issue, you will receive an extra month for joining now.)



2/25

### Here's the info for my TC/PC Membership:

Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Company name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Home ☐ Business ☐ Change address: ☐ Perm. ☐ Temp. 'til \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Online address(es) \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you hear about TC/PC? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I DO NOT want any of my information disclosed.

☐ I DO NOT want to receive any mailings

### I'm signing up for:

☐ Individual/Family Membership (\$9)

☐ Business Membership (\$100)

If an existing member your # \_\_\_\_\_

### Make checks payable to:

**Twin Cities PC User Group  
341 County Rd C2 W  
Roseville, MN 55113**

### Or sign up on our website:

<http://www.tcpc.com>

☐ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Bill me

☐ New member ☐ Renewal ☐ Prior member

I'm interested in:

☐ Training classes ☐ Volunteering

☐ Special Interest Groups: New User, Access, etc.

List here:

**Administrative Use Only** Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ Chk# \_\_\_\_\_

**February 11, 2025**  
**7:00 pm**  
**General Meeting**

**Best of CES 2025**

**Via Zoom Only**



341 County Rd C2 W  
Roseville, MN 55113

***FIRST CLASS MAIL***