

## May 2017 – Issue #2 - Cool Website Stuff

**Time for some cool/fun/practical stuff!** This issue we'll take a break from the recurring, dreary warnings about viruses, malware, and better passwords. I will relate my favorite websites that provide useful information, do cool stuff, or are great alternatives to doing things the same old same old way.

### **Cool Stuff: Mapping - <http://www.onthegomap.com/>**

I am a biker. No, not the leather-clad Harley type, the pedal type. I like to plan routes before riding to see what the route looks like on the map. Previously, I had been using Google Earth, which includes elevation gain/loss. But Google Earth is somewhat klunky because you have to snap a point at every turn. My son Andy suggested OnTheGo maps – it does the same stuff as Google Earth, but it already knows common routes, so you only to snap a few major endpoints, and it figures out the rest for you. There are Auto/Bike/Walk modes to customize the route to the mode of transport. OnTheGo also has elevation gain loss with a visual representation: very cool.

### **Practical: Do It Yourself Photo Sharing / Avoid Email Attachments**

If you like to share photos with friends and family, you could use email, but just a few photos will overload an email. The best way to share a lot of photos is to share them via the internet – and there are a gazillion photo sharing sites on the internet. I'd like to point out two that few people seem to use, but are hugely powerful: **Google Drive and OneDrive**. To use Google Drive, you need a Gmail account, and to use OneDrive you need a Microsoft Outlook account. Both work the same way: you upload some photos or even an entire folder full of photos, then create a link to share the photos via the link, rather than attach them all to one email.

**To use Google Drive**, open a browser to [google.com/drive](http://google.com/drive), and log into your email. At the top right will be a square "Waffle" menu. Click that, and select Drive. When Drive opens, there is a Google Photos folder on the left side list. Click that, and the Google Photos page opens. Here you can upload/annotate/crop your photos, then share the link via gmail to friends and family.

**To use OneDrive**, open a browser page to <https://onedrive.live.com/about/en-us/>, then login with your outlook email address. Look for the same "Waffle" menu but at top left of the page. OneDrive opens up to a left side menu with a Photos folder with the same upload/annotate/crop and share via link menu.

### **Useful: Online Graphics and Photo Editing [www.pixlr.com](http://www.pixlr.com)**

Want to have a powerful graphics editor but can't afford high-priced software like PhotoShop? Try the online [www.pixlr.com](http://www.pixlr.com) website. It has powerful editing tools that will make you forget about using PhotoShop for all but the most complicated graphics.

### **Fun: Interesting Finds (Products to buy) [www.amazon.com/stream](http://www.amazon.com/stream)**

If you like to see new things or "gizmos", the Amazon.com "Interesting Things" stream is for you. Hundreds, no Thousands, no Hundreds of Thousands of wacky, practical, funny, or just Interesting stuff... and you can buy them too, from Amazon.

-John Becker