

DNA Interest Group Review - July 2022, by Randy Seaver

Colin Whitney was our guest presenter at the 13 July DNA Interest Group meeting, which had 36 attendees (including 10 guests). Colin's presentation was "Finding Common Ancestors From Your DNA Matches."

There are several steps to the process of finding common ancestors, and the relationship, you share with your DNA matches. Here are Colin's ideas:

- 1. Identify Known Relatives - Examine Match List, who do we know?; Use Tree Search Tools to Identify Other Relatives; Manually Search Trees of Promising Matches.**
- 2. Form Groups of Matches Using Organizational Tools - Leeds Method, Group by color dots, AncestryDNA ThruLines, MyHeritage Theory of Family Relativity, Genetic Affairs' AutoClusters, AutoTree.**
- 3. Evaluate Groups for Closeness and Good Trees - Prioritize Matches Trees; Build a Tree for a Match based on available information; If no tree, Google name, email address, username, and use Family Tree Now, Spokeo, BeenVerified, Intellius, Facebook to obtain more information; Build your tree down to meet matches tree; email the DNA match.**
- 4. Search Trees using Tools and Manual Resources - Ancestry Member Trees, My Heritage Family Trees, FamilySearch FamilyTree, WikiTree, Geni, etc.**
- 5. Build Trees - use Ancestry to help build a quick and dirty tree of a DNA match; use Record Hints (vital records, Find A Grave, online books) to add names, dates, places; Build your own pedigree in a spreadsheet or word table; use RootsWeb obituary search and WorldCat repository search; marriage and obituary articles from newspapers.com are very useful.**
- 6. Record Relationships - Use a spreadsheet or word processing table; Include notes on DNA matches that indicate relationship, shared centimorgans, number of segments, known common ancestor or probable family group.**
- 7. Add Information to Your Tree - do descendancy research from a known common ancestor to your DNA match; add notes about the DNA match username, shared cMs, and relationship.**

Colin's handout is his presentation slides and was emailed to members after the presentation. Request it from Randy Seaver (randy.seaver@gmail.com). It will be added to the website in the near future.

The next CVGS DNA Interest Group meeting will be Wednesday, 17 August 2022, in a Zoom meeting hosted by Randy Seaver. Please register on the CVGS website (<https://chulavistagenealogysociety.wildapricot.org/event-4912793>) to receive the Zoom link on the Sunday and the Tuesday before the meeting.