



# SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

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Serving the Roanoke Valley

March 2003

## Searching the Web

By Ernie Arnett

This is a continuation of the presentation that I gave at the February Club meeting.

There are many different search engines, and ways to search the web. Most people find one that they like, and use it all the time. The best way to find something on the web is to put it in more than one engine and check out the results, you never know what you will find.

Helpful hint to search is to first key in a short qualifier (short description of what you are looking for) see what the number of results then add more words or take away words to see what results you may get, hopefully this will get you closer to what you are looking for. Leave out words like the, and, with. Be careful with words like adult, you get some undesirable results.

One of the better web sites that I have found for listing of search engines is <http://www.searchenginewatch.com/links/major.html> this list all the major search engines along with a very good description of each.

Below I have listed several that are listed on this page.

### Goggle

<http://www.google.com>

Goggle has a well-deserved reputation as the top choice for those searching the web. The crawler-based service provides both comprehensive coverage of the web along with great relevancy. It's highly recommended as a first stop in your hunt for whatever you are looking for.

### AllTheWeb.com (FAST)

<http://www.alltheweb.com>

If you tried Google and didn't find it you may find it with **AllTheWeb.com**. In addition to web page results, AllTheWeb.com provides the ability to search for news stories, pictures, video clips, and MP3s and FTP files.

### Yahoo

<http://www.yahoo.com>

Yahoo is the web's oldest directory and since October 2002 is being powered by Google.

### HotBot

<http://www.hotbot.com>

Hotbot provides easy access to the web's four major crawler-based search engines: AllTheWeb.com/FAST, Google, Inktomi and Teoma.

### Lycos

<http://www.lycos.com>

(Continued on page 4)

Join us for 2 powerful seminars, all in 1 information-packed day.

Attend one or attend them all. And make sure to let your colleagues know about the seminars – they're welcome to attend too!

8:00 A.M.–12:30 P.M.

Featuring Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional, Office XP Professional, Small Business Server, SharePoint™ Team Services, FrontPage® 2002, Tablet PC, and Pocket PC.

Share and organize resources more efficiently and help ensure the information you need is available when you need it.

Make your system more depend-



## MSBigDay Introduction

I recently attended another MSBigDay event from Microsoft. These events are designed to let you learn how Microsoft products can make your small business more productive. They are informative and you can pick up a few good tips. I thought it might be interesting for you to read their schedule to see if attending one of these events will benefit you. To learn more about the MSBigDay seminars check out their site... <http://www.msbigday.com/> Microsoft's BigDay advertisement follows - Tim...

able. Discover how to reduce system crashes, fix system problems, and help prevent losing documents.

Find out how to more efficiently manage your PC resources so you spend less time on your technology and more time on your business.

Automate your everyday tasks and save time by learning how to use productivity-enhancing Office XP Professional features.

Get mobile! Learn how to work remotely using tools like the Pocket PC and Microsoft Outlook® Web Access.

Collaborate effectively with fellow

(Continued on page 4)

## The Next Meeting

Place: Arnold R. Burton  
Technology Center  
1760 Roanoke Boulevard  
Salem, Va. 24153  
Date: Sat., March 8, 2003  
Time: 9:15 AM - 12:30 PM  
Room 105

*This newsletter is published by the RVPCC. Its contents are the views of individuals and not necessarily those of the membership.*

## Upcoming Presentations:

**March 8**  
**The Value of Laptop Computers**

**April 12**  
**To be announced**

### From The President's Desk

by Tim Johnson  
[president@rvpcc.org](mailto:president@rvpcc.org)



I like snow but... enough is enough. Hurry up spring time! Warmer weather is on the way and spring always brings in the feeling of change. We at RVPCC want to change and offer the SIGs again. These small Special Interest Groups are our best learning tool. Help us get these working again by volunteering your talents and lead a SIG!

Many of you already know how much I love working with computers. Don't we all? I would think so! Anyway due to being laid off in September of last year it seems I find myself once again facing change. This time it seems to be heading in a more positive direction. I have decided to form my own company and offer computer repair and support to people in their homes and to small businesses. It is an exciting time and gives me the chance to continue working with computers! The name of my business is Blue Ridge Computer Solutions and is located on the web at <http://BlueRidgeComputerSolutions.com>. So, once things take off I should have plenty of tidbits to share and help with our computer learning experience. There is nothing like getting in the thick of things to quickly learn what issues are happening and what it takes to resolve them. That's what I love most about computers!

This month's presentation will be looking at the value of used laptop computers. As companies upgrade to the latest and greatest that leaves many an opportunity for us to acquire a good used laptop at a great price. Remember that last year I bought a used Pentium 300 laptop that plays DVD movies and it has been working great. Checking email and surfing the web doesn't require a super fast, expensive computer. Tell us how you benefit by owning and using a laptop at the March meeting. ☺

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# Secretary's Report

By Margaret Hoag  
[secretary@rvpcc.org](mailto:secretary@rvpcc.org)



The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Ernie Arnett in the absence of Tim Johnson, President. Ernie welcomed everyone and passed around a notebook for questions to be answered at the Question and Answer part of the meeting.

Ernie announced that the officers had a planning meeting in January. Among other things, it was decided to give members a chance to write out their questions and also to have special interest groups meet after the main presentation. The dues would remain the same for this year.

## OFFICER REPORTS

Margaret Ann Hoag - Secretary - The minutes of the January meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Del Kirschner - Membership Chairman - No guests today.

Azella Tingler - Treasurer - The audit was completed and we are financially stable.

Lionel Melancon - PR - Passed around an article on how computers are effecting engineers.

Bill Scott - PR - Asked for ideas for future programs.

Homer Duff - Roanoke County Schools - The Winter

term of classes are under way and the Spring classes will begin in late March or early April.

John Yates - Webmaster - Info123.com has a menu of search engines and other information.

Newsletter - Check with Tim Johnson

Ernie Arnett - Vice President - He will have a place to hold the Christmas Party by the next meeting.

## DOOR PRIZES

Staples gift card - Margaret Ann Hoag

Regular paper - John Yates

Camera - Jack Cunningham

Floppy disks - Ira Chaffin

Fancy paper - Don Starkweather

CD - Bill Steele

CD - Hugh Martin

CD - Lionel Melancon

Pen - Phyllis Morris

CD - Bill Crowner

CD - Ernie Arnett

Pen - Azella

A Question and Answer period followed.

Del Kirschner mentioned a web site called - [freedomlist.com](http://freedomlist.com). Listed are free and low cost ISP's such as [neandertech.com](http://neandertech.com). \$5.75 a month for 200 hours. You sign up online.

Calvin and Betty Aliff announced a class on "Research" being given in the library at the Higher Education Center on February 20th. at noon. The class will last about 1 hour and is free. Please call and register if you plan to at-

tend.

## Programs:

Del Kirschner presented his Tax Aid Program. It is a tool to help check Income Tax Returns.

Ernie Arnett presented a program on using Search Engines.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Margaret Ann Hoag,  
 Secretary ☺

*(Continued from page 4)*

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To:

*(Continued from page 1)*

If you are looking for a specialty search engine try this link  
<http://www.searchenginewatch.com/links/specialty.html>

If you are looking for a medical search try this link  
<http://www.searchenginewatch.com/links/medical.html>

Looking for the best deal, try this link for a large number of shopping links.  
<http://www.searchenginewatch.com/links/shopping.html>

Since there is not room in the newsletter, please click on this link and print this 13 page article. You will be glad you did as it contains lots of information on the different search engines.  
<http://www.searchenginewatch.com/links/major.html>

Below are links to the websites that we covered in the presentation:  
[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)  
[www.profusion.com](http://www.profusion.com)  
[www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)  
[www.searchenginewatch.com](http://www.searchenginewatch.com)  
[www.alltheweb.com](http://www.alltheweb.com)  
[www.teoma.com](http://www.teoma.com)  
[www.officelinks.com](http://www.officelinks.com)  
[www.anywho.com](http://www.anywho.com)  
[www.superpages.com](http://www.superpages.com)  
[www.phonenumbers.net](http://www.phonenumbers.net)  
[www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com)  
[www.cyberjournalist.com](http://www.cyberjournalist.com)  
[www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)  
[www.space.com](http://www.space.com)

*(Continued from page 1)*

employees and customers. Learn how to use new communication tools that will save you time and help you be more productive. Get the full benefit of your first server. Learn how Small Business Server and Windows 2000 Server can streamline your business processes. Make your mark! Meet the exciting Tablet PC and see how it can make business outside the office more productive.

1:30-4:00 pm

Featuring Microsoft Business Solutions for Financial Applications, Sales and Marketing tools, Customer Relationship Management and Solutions for project-driven organizations. Move beyond basic business management tools and grow your business with integrated accounting, sales and marketing business applications – featuring Microsoft® bCentral™ and Microsoft® Small Business Manager. Assist your customers more effectively using the new Microsoft Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool. Solve the “big business” problems of your medium sized business using Microsoft Dynamics. Automate and simplify billing

processes in your professional services firm using Microsoft Solomon. Learn how Microsoft Business Solutions products can grow with your organization.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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