

Need a Gift Idea?



Solar charger (left) and tiny hand-cranked Sidewinder charger

In the search for that different gift for a special person, consider the following:

If the power goes out, you could use The Sidewinder from TKNY in New York or www.tkny.com. This portable cell phone charger weighs only 2 ½ ounces and puts out power greater than a plug-in charger.

Two minutes of charging will equal more than six minutes of talk time.

The Sidewinder sells for \$24.50. The site includes other ideas such as the Interchangeable Connectors that allow you

to charge PDA's, phones, etc. Cost: \$29.

Zip-Linq offers a retractable universal wireless phone charger cable that lets you power up your wireless phone from the USB port on your laptop or desktop or you can download from a camera or MP3 player. www.ziplinq.com says it can be purchased online at PC Mall, Gateway, Fry's Electronics, tigerdirect.com.

ICP Global Technologies promotes solar power with iSun, a solar charger for small electronics.

The traveler can use it to charge a cell phone, PDA, handheld computer, digital camera, etc. The outdoors person can use it to help run a GPS, an FRS radio, a portable MP3 or mini-disc player. About \$100; site includes list of places to buy iSun.

www.icpglobal.com/html/isun.asp

In the spirit of Silicon Valley, <http://store.thetech.org/untecgif.html> include as gifts everything from a recycled circuit board money clip or drink coasters to spidery creatures that hold notes

Understanding game ratings helps you select

The Entertainment Software Rating Board points out it's important to check both the **rating symbol** (on the front of the video game box) and the **content descriptors** (on the back of the game box).

Look for the **rating/icon symbols** in the lower right and the lower left hand corner on the front of the box. **Descriptors** are found on the lower left or right hand corner

on the back of the box. Here is a sampling of ratings. A full list can be found at

www.esrb.org/esrbratings_guide.asp:

- **Alcohol Reference** - Reference to and/or images of alcohol
- **Animated Blood** - Cartoon or pixilated depictions of blood
- **Blood** - Depictions of blood
- **Blood and Gore** - Depictions

of blood or mutilation of body parts

- **Cartoon Violence** - May include violence where a character is unharmed
- **Drug Reference** - Reference to and/or images of illegal drugs
- **Gambling** - Betting-like behavior
- **Intense Violence** - Graphic and realistic-looking depictions of conflict. May involve

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Next Meeting

Date: Sat., Nov. 8, 2003

Place: Arnold R. Burton
Technology Center, Room 105
1760 Roanoke Boulevard
Salem, Va. 24153

Time: 9:15 AM - 12:30 PM

Guest speaker:

Sandy Workman
Imaging, Modeling & CADD Ser-
vices Supervisor
Hayes Seay Mattern & Mattern
(HSMM)

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

Upcoming:

Dec. 6

Party at Yearly Haven
6:30 start with dinner at 7 p.m.

Dec. 13

Election of Officers

Any software that will hide files on a CD?

Q: Is it possible to hide files I've copied to a CD. I'm creating a collection, and all I really want the user to see is the auto-run.exe file at the root. I don't see anything in my EZ CD Creator that allows that option. I do hide them in my Windows Explorer and then copy to a CD, but the files can still be viewed with View/Hidden Files command in Windows Explorer. Is there a software utility that will accomplish this for me?
--Weezie Rogers

A: I am not aware of any software that makes them hidden. Even if it did, the software would probably have to be loaded on the target computer in order for it to hide them there. You can zip the files and have the autorun.exe extract them before launching the program. Also, you can change the attributes of the files you put on the CD to hidden. But if the target computer has "show hidden files" set, it will see them. And you will have to have your PC set to show hidden files in order to see them to burn them.

Another option is to put

several folders deep so that a casual glance at the CD would not find them. You should place some sort of files in the root and subsequent folders to trick them in to thinking there is nothing of interest there. Also there may be a limited number of folder levels before the CD burning software will complain. I am not sure how deep that is but EZCD should let you know if it is too deep of if the file names are too long. If not then, when the target computer tries to execute the commands it will fail. It may do so without a proper error code to help understand why.
-- Tim Johnson

**Got a question you didn't get to ask at the meeting?
Submit it to editor@rvpcc.org.**

Sites to see

www.llbean.com

Free monogramming if you order by Nov. 17

www.barnesandnoble.com

Barnes and Noble discounting computer help books through Nov. 31.

From The President's Desk by Tim Johnson president@rvpcc.org

Election time is here!
The November meeting is the month we must select nominees to run for office. Their names will be posted in the December club newsletter and be voted on at the December meeting. Come to the next meeting for an exciting time of finalizing the 2004 candidates. Remember... we need your help to run the club. I am planning of stepping down as president this year. So please be thinking about which office you would like to take. There are plenty of talented members and we would love to have you help out as an officer.

The Christmas part is going to be December 6 at Yearly Haven this year. It is not far from I-81 and has a lovely country setting. The menu will be similar to what we have been accustomed to so there will be plenty of good food, prizes, and a great time of fun for all! The cost to members is \$7.00 each for up to two members. The club will pick up the rest. If you wish to bring another guest, the cost will be \$16.50 for each additional guest. To show appreciation to Roanoke County Schools and to all Homer does for us, the Duff's fee will be picked up by the club.
Each year we have had a grand time

and we expect this to be the same. This is one party you don't want to miss. So make plans on attending and join us in the Christmas festivities!

Directions To Yearly Haven:
Exit 141 to Rt. 311 at Hanging Rock. About 1.5 miles (next road past the Moose Lodge) turn right. Go about 1.5 miles and Yearly Haven is on the left. Phone: 540-384-6036

Look for Hayes, Seay, Mattern, and Mattern to be visiting with us this month. Sandy Workman will be presenting. So come out and see all the cool stuff she will show us!

Secretary's Report

By Margaret Hoag
secretary@rvpcc.org



October 11, 2003

President Tim Johnson called the meeting to order.

Opening remarks: Tim thanked Microsoft representative Richard Katz for coming. Tim gave a short history of our Computer Club.

He also announced that elections are coming up so be thinking how you may serve.

Officer Updates:

Secretary - Margaret Ann Hoag - Minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Membership - Del Kirschner - We have one new member today, Connie Kirk.

Treasurer - Azella Tingler - All bills are paid and we have sufficient money left in the account.

Public Relations - Lionel Melancon stated that he had several other programs in the works.

Public Relations - Bill Scott - Announced that he has some further ideas for future programs.

Roanoke County Schools - Homer Duff - said that some of the Fall programs are still running and encouraged people to sign up for these classes. He also stated that Roanoke County Schools give computer training to businesses, either at the business or at the schools. Second term starts in January with a full schedule of classes.

Webmaster - John Yeatts - announced that there are some good links on the webpage, so please use them.

Editor - Sandra Kelly



Speaker Richard Katz draws names for software giveaway

would like to start some new features in the newsletter.

Vice President - Ernie Arnett - The Christmas Dinner will be finalized next week.

PROGRAM:

Tim then introduced our speaker, Richard Katz, who spoke on "Microsoft Office 2003," which will be released on October 21.

Among the things he demonstrated were: Tablet P.C., which allows you to write on the screen; a Read function, which enlarges print; Taskpanes, which document recovery and business online research; PowerPoint; Office Outlook Express; Spam Filtering; Search Folder; Internet Folder; Calendars; Information Write Management; Contacts; Microsoft Publisher; and One Note.

A question and answer period followed. Mr. Katz then had members draw names for over \$1,000 worth of Door Prizes.

Major winners were: Ron Zoll, Jack Cunningham, Connie Kirk, Ron Gordon, Curtis Fuller, Sandra Brown Kelly, Diana Struven, Hugh Martin, Robert Collins, Jack Morris and Roy Wade. Others received T-shirts and pens.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted,
 Margaret Ann Hoag
 Secretary**

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To:



Photo by Sandra Kelly

Microsoft's Richard Katz came from San Francisco to speak to Roanoke Valley group in October.

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extreme and/or realistic blood, gore, weapons, and depictions of human injury and death

- **Mature Humor** - Vulgar and/or crude jokes and antics including "bathroom" humor
- **Mature Sexual Themes** - Provocative material, possibly including partial nudity
- **Mild Language** - Mild references to profanity, sexuality, violence, alcohol, or drug use

- **Mild Lyrics** - Mild references to profanity, sexuality, violence, alcohol, or drug use in music
- **Sexual Violence** - Depictions of rape or other sexual acts
- **Strong Sexual Content** - Graphic depiction of sexual behavior, possibly including nudity
- **Use of Drugs** - The consumption or use of illegal drugs
- **Use of Alcohol** - The consumption of alcoholic beverages
- **Violence** - Scenes involving aggressive conflict

Meeting space provided by:

www.rcs.k12.va.us/adulted/

Roanoke County Schools
Adult Continuing Education

Web hosting provided by:

<http://www.icn.net/>