

This SPAM history you can enjoy

By BOB JOHNSON

There we were, driving through Minnesota on the way home from Yellowstone, when a sign caught my eye, "Visit the Spam Museum." it said. Other signs told us more about the museum:

It was dedicated to the development, history, and uses of Spam, the building covered 16,500 square feet, there was a gift shop featuring 275 Spam items, and I would be able to take a Spam exam to test my



knowledge of Spam.

In June 2002, the SPAM Museum Jam drew 30,000 people.

How could there be a museum to something as disliked as Spam? We were hooked -- we



At the October meeting

Webb (foreground) and Alemena Hughes listen to program conducted by Vice President Ernie Arnett, who also distributed door prizes including one to member Connie Kirk (photo at right)



(Meets 2nd Saturday of Month)**Next Meeting**

Sat., Nov. 13

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

Time: 9:15 a.m. - noon

Program at 10 a.m.:**Editing digital photos**

Speaker Joe Huddleston, a member of the Roanoke Camera Club and a photographer for more than 35 years, does all of his editing and printing of photos. He converted to digital photography four years ago.

Huddleston will give tips on basic editing and enhancing of photos.

This newsletter is published by the RVPCC.

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Help your newsletter

You are invited to share favorite websites, reviews of software or just general computer experiences. If you don't want to write the article, just send your notes to editor at rvpcc.org.

The President's DeskLionel Melancon president@rvpcc.org

It's time for me to take the time to extend a sincere thanks to those of you who are working so hard to make this club a success.

Thanks for the programs that have been arranged. A special thanks and recognition need to be made to a few who always work so hard to see that we have a Christmas party — without their hard work I shudder to think where we'd meet for our Big Macs.

Ernie has always worked hard to make our Christmas party a success. Tim spends about as much time as he can and needs to be thanked. Azella is trying so hard this year too, and she always does such a fine job of getting prizes and gifts not only for our meetings but the Christmas

party too. These folks in particular should receive our sincerest thanks.

If I've missed anyone, please forgive me. I've been monitoring the officers' mail when I'm in town and believe me they are working hard to find something for us for our party.

Those of you who for some reason can't make the meetings, be assured there are some hard workers trying to make your club the special organization it is.

Sandra, thanks for continuing to make SoftTalk a great newsletter, and too, thanks to those of you that have submitted articles for it.

In all, thanks to all of you for being a great bunch of folks.

Lionel



Secretary's Report

By Margaret Hoag

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Lionel Melancon, President, opened the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

One new member, Candy Springer, was introduced and given the latest copy of our newsletter, SoftTalk.

Lionel thanked those who had submitted articles for the newsletter and stressed that more are needed.

Lionel announced that Del Kirschner would not be attending future meetings because he would be taking care of his wife. It was suggested that club members send cards or e-mails intermittently so he doesn't feel forgotten.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Secretary - Margaret Ann Hoag - Thanked Sandra Brown Kelly for taking the minutes in her absence and said that they were in the newsletter. Minutes approved.

Treasurer - Azella Tingler - Absent - Lionel stated that there is sufficient money in the treasury and that Azella had seen that there were door prizes.

Public Relations - Bill Scott - Next month's program would be on Enhancing Digital Photos.

Public Relations - Sandra Brown Kelly - Thanked people

for newsletter articles and asked for more.

Membership - Del Kirschner - Ernie Arnett and Homer Duff will take care of membership with Del Kirschner's help.

Roanoke County Schools' Adult Education - Homer Duff - Classes are currently in progress. Homer encouraged members to take classes and let the office know that RVPCC members were supporting them. Roanoke County Schools provides our meeting place free of charge and, with new administration, we need to let the them know who we are. The next session of classes starts about the 2nd. or 3rd. week in January.

Webmaster - Tim Johnson - absent.

Vice President - Ernie Arnett - Christmas Dinner location still not pinned down (details are to be in the November newsletter).

A Nominating Committee was appointed consisting of: Jack Morris and Earl Abbott.

DOOR PRIZES:

1. Connie Kirk - Portfolio
2. Georgiana Conklin - Floppy Disks
3. Jim Ruble - Paper
4. Phyllis Morris - CD

5. Bill Steele - CD
6. Ron Gordon
7. John Cook - CD
8. John Yeatts - CD
9. Jack Morris - CD
10. Sandra Johnson - CD Cases

A question and answer period followed.

PROGRAM: SPYWARE REMOVAL AND PROTECTION

Ernie Arnett gave an excellent program on Spyware Removal and Protection. He listed a number of Websites and pulled them up on the screen and went over each one, answering questions as he went along.

Some of the sites were:

www.vil.nai.com/vil/stinger
www.us-cert.gov/federal/
www.antivirus.vt.edu
www.trendmicro.com

www.snapfiles.com/get/coolwebshredder.html
www.spywareinfo.com/~merijny

www.how-do-i-stop-spam.com
www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware (get the se version)

Another site mentioned was:

<http://entertainment.howstuffworks.com/cdburner5.htm>

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Ann Hoag**



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HOLIDAY PARTY SCHEDULED DEC. 1

Wednesday, December 1, 2004

6 p.m. at Golden Coral near Sams in Roanoke.

Price \$10:33 includes your meal, drink and taxes.

Each member and one guest will receive a small cash refund at the party.

Please gather in the lobby by 5:45 p.m. so we can go through the food line as a group.

Bring your luck with you for the door prize drawings.

SPAM

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drove into the town of Austin, Minnesota to visit the museum.

We learned a lot about Spam at the museum, including the fact that Nikita Khrushchev credited Spam with saving his army during WWII. Wait, what was that? Spam and WWII? That gave the secret away – this was a museum not to Spam the computer stuff, but to SPAM the porky stuff in a can!

The museum covered the 66-year history of SPAM, including its role in WWII. Much of the information was tongue-in cheek. A five-foot Spamburger hung over the entrance, the Monty Python SPAM skit was shown, and the museum's decoration had a pig theme. There was a simulated SPAM production line where I could practice valuable skills.

There must be many people who like to eat SPAM -- the six-billionth can of SPAM was produced in 2002. Placed end-to-end, those cans would circle the earth 15 times.

Although the SPAM Museum wasn't just for computer-people, and I don't care for either Spam or SPAM, I enjoyed my visit. I would recommend it to anyone passing through the area. There is more information at www.spam.com.

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