



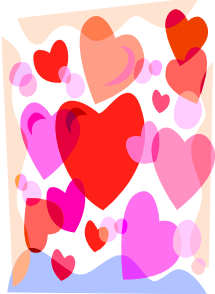
SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

Volume 23 Number 2

Serving the Roanoke Valley

February 2007



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

SHOW & TELL



Georgiana with her GPS unit

NEXT MEETING

February 10

TOPIC:

TAXES

Sandy Johnson, an AARP Tax Instructor, will discuss the changes in the 2006 tax laws.

Free Software

Check this site daily for free software:
www.giveawayoftheday.com/

WINTER WEATHER ALERT



Whenever ice or snow occur on our meeting day, check the web site, www.RVPCC.org, to see if the meeting has been canceled.



Bill with a digital picture frame



Helen with her GPS unit

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Help your newsletter

You are invited to share favorite websites, reviews of software or just general computer experiences. Send your article or notes to editor@rvpcc.org.

Another 'Show & Tell' picture on page 2.

PREZ NOTES

We had approximately 40 people attend our Christmas Dinner at The Home Place. The food was excellent, and the door prizes were worth hundreds of dollars.

We had approximately 20 people present for our January 13 Club Meeting.

Tim Johnson gave an excellent demonstration of Microsoft Vista.

I hope to see you at the February 10 Club Meeting.

Earl

TAX TIPS

Don't forget to take advantage of the telephone excise tax credit on your 2006 Federal Tax return. It will only be available for this one year.

Also the residential energy credit will only be available in 2006 and 2007. Use it if you can.

Another Show & Tell picture

Tim with his Ipod and FM adapter

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**Secretary's Report**

Saturday, January 13, 2007

The January meeting of the RVPCC was opened by Earl Abbott, President, at 9: 15 a.m. He welcomed all members and one guest: Bob Patrick. He also announced that there would be an Executive Board Meeting -1/2 hour following the general meeting at Golden Coral Restaurant.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Secretary -Margaret Ann Hoag stated that the minutes of the last meeting were published in the newsletter .

Treasurer- Azella Tingler had surgery and hadn't been able to turn over the Treasurer's Books to the new treasurer. So there was no Treasurer's Report.

Roanoke County Schools - Homer Duff said that the new Adult Classes have been posted on our web-site. Some start in January, some in February, and some in March. Please support these classes because the County Schools provide us with a place to meet.

Public Relations -Bill Scott gave out the Door Prizes, that his son contributed, to people who won them at the Christmas Dinner. He again stated the need for more program ideas.

Public Relations -John Yeatts asked if the club would be interested in a detailed program on HDTV at some future date. The club was agreeable. Several other suggestions for programs were given.

Newsletter -Sandy Johnson read and gave answers to the Christmas Carol quiz that was in the newsletter. Keep the articles coming.

Weather Policy: If the meeting is cancelled due to weather, it will be posted a our web site 2 hours before the meeting. John Yeatts volunteered to see if we could get our web site listed on Channel 7.

Webmaster -Tim Johnson noted that our web site is a good resource. If someone wants something listed on the web site, contact Tim.

SHOW & TELL:

Several people brought their "Christmas Toys" to show the club and explained how they worked. It was a lot of fun.

PROGRAM:

Tim Johnson gave a very interesting and informative program on Microsoft Vista. A question and answer period followed his presentation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Margaret Ann Hoag
Secretary

**Meeting space provided
by Roanoke County
Schools**

RVPCC

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Web: <http://rvpcc.org>

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Web hosting provided by:

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

ICONS

We Meet the 2nd Saturday of the Month

**Next Meeting
Saturday, February 10**

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

Time: 9:15 a.m. - noon

*This newsletter is
published by the RVPCC.*

Petabyte hard drives

In a January 17 article, the Wall Street Journal discussed the rapidly increasing capacities of hard drives. The article was inspired by the recent announcements by Hitachi and Seagate of a terabyte hard drive at about \$400. What's the next milestone? A petabyte hard drive. Yes, another new word to learn!

For comparison, the one gigabyte hard drive was announced in 1951 and sold for about \$2,000 initially. Sixteen years later, we have terabyte drives at a much lower price per byte.

To put these hard drive sizes into perspective:

If a byte represents one keystroke, then:

A kilobyte is a thousand bytes, 10^3 or 1,000 bytes

A megabyte is a thousand kilobytes, 10^6 or 1,000,000 bytes

A gigabyte is a thousand megabytes, 10^9 or 1,000,000,000 bytes

A terabyte is a thousand gigabytes, 10^{12} or 1,000,000,000,000 bytes

A petabyte is a thousand terabytes, 10^{15} or 1,000,000,000,000,000 bytes

16 years ago, it was said that since a gigabyte could store 1,000 copies of "Gone With The Wind," few people would buy such a large drive. Today, what application would make use of a terabyte drive? The answer is television, which requires vast amounts of storage. A terabyte hard drive will store 250 hours of high-definition TV. Just imagine having 250 hours of Buffy the Vampire Slayer!

It is hard for us today to imagine a use for a petabyte drive that will store a quarter-million hours of TV! Stick around another 16 years – it will be fascinating to see what happens.

There is a competitor for the hard drive, however; flash drive is coming on strong. The big brother of today's thumb drive is increasing in size. Thumb drives of 16 and 32 gigabytes are expected this year. Cost is dropping rapidly – you'll get twice as much flash memory per dollar a year from now.

E-Mail Tips

Most of us get (and send) those forwarded e-mails that have been though several "generations" and are cluttered with a large number of previous addresses. All these addresses may end up with complete strangers, or worse, be harvested for spam. Here are two easy ways to keep those e-mail addresses out of forwarded text messages:

1. Highlight and copy the text of the original message, but don't copy the addresses. Then paste the text into a completely new e-mail.
2. Erase those addresses before forwarding as you forward. After you select the option to forward, highlight the addresses with your mouse and delete them.

Consider sending your "mass" e-mails

using Bcc, or blind copy. Enter only your own address in the To: field.

Put the recipients addresses into the Bcc: field. Each recipient will see your address but not the rest of the addresses.

The BCC area may not show up in your New Message screen. In Outlook Express, click View, and then click All Headers.

There is a quick way to select e-mail recipients: At the top of the Outlook Express New Message window, click Tools, and then click Select Recipients. This pops up your address book. Click a recipient, then click To, Cc, or Bcc to add that name to the proper line. To pick more than one recipient, hold down the control key and click all the names you want, then release the control key and click the To, Cc, or Bcc.

Do you have a group to which you often send e-mail? Make a "group" in your address book and send e-mail to everyone in the group with one click. In Outlook Express, click Addresses near the top of the screen. Maximize the Addresses screen if necessary. Click New in the upper left corner. Click New Group. Enter a name for the group such as "Jokes." Click on Select Members. Hold down the control key and click on each name to be in the group. When you have selected them all, release the control key and click Select, OK, OK. The names you have selected will remain in your address list but will also be in your new group.

Now you can quickly send an e-mail to your group. In Outlook Express, at the top of the New Message window, click Tools, and then click Select Recipients. This pops up your address book. Find your group name and click it, then click Bcc to put the group name into the Bcc line. This will send the e-mail to each name in the group, but the recipients can't see the individual address.