



# SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

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Serving the Roanoke Valley

January 2007

## HAPPY NEW YEAR



**Were you a Microsoft prize winner at the Christmas dinner? Be sure to be at the January meeting to collect your software.**

### Photo Sharing Sites

There have been some enthusiastic comments at club meetings about the various picture-sharing sites, such as the Kodak Gallery. These sites seemed to be the ideal way to share photos and to keep backups, at no cost.

However, a Wall Street Journal article stated that these sites can and will delete your pictures if you don't meet certain requirements. Kodak Gallery requires you to buy something once a year. Some other sites are even more restrictive.

The sites e-mail you a notice before they delete your pictures, but the notice is often ignored or lost in all the other e-mails that they send. Your first hint of trouble is when you go to the site and find that your pictures are gone and not retrievable. (See Photo page 2)

### NEXT MEETING

January 13

TOPIC:

Show and Tell

Bring your Christmas 'toys' to the meeting to show everyone what you got.

Bill Scott is bringing his Mindstorm NXT robot .

Tim Johnson will demo the new Microsoft Vista operating system.

### Work for the CIA?

Think you might like to work for the CIA? Are you suited for the job?

The CIA has put up a decidedly humorous, sort of James Bondish website replete with an amusing personality test to attract job seekers. The package is designed to show the unstuffy side of the agency and dispel a few myths, all while encouraging job applications. You don't have to know karate or look good in a tuxedo to work

### RVPC Officers

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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](mailto:editor@rvpcc.org).

at the CIA. Try the CIA website at <https://www.cia.gov/careers/CIAMyths.html>

**PREZ NOTES**

I hope everybody is experiencing a happy and prosperous new year. Being personal computer enthusiasts, we have a wonderful hobby to enjoy. Personal computers are getting smaller, faster and smarter.

The hardware and software used in PC's have enabled engineers to create personal music boxes, digital cameras, camera-cell phones, HDTVs, etc. Automobiles can be smarter, faster, safer, more comfortable, and more efficient. Our homes can be more comfortable and more efficient. Our work places can be more productive and less labor-intensive.

I, and the other RVPCC Officers for 2007, want each of you to enjoy our hobby.

We can do a better job if enough of you will let us know which program subjects interest you. We will try to get programs that members want. When something good happens, please tell the other officers. When something undesirable happens, or when something needs improvement, please tell me. I promise to listen, and seek fixes and improvements. I hope to see you at our meetings.  
Earl Abbott

(Photo continued)

Be sure to read carefully the terms and conditions of any site you are using. Kodak Gallery's policies are explained in the last two paragraphs in four pages of "fine print."

The bottom line: these sites are good for short-term sharing, but not for long-term backup.

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**Secretary's Report**

The December meeting of the RVPCC was opened by Earl Abbott, Vice President, at 9:25a.m. He welcomed all members.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Jim Ruble moved that Earl Abbott read the list of candidates if there was only one person per office and that we accept the slate by acclimation. George Lazanne seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President: Earl Abbott

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Margaret Ann Hoag

Treasurer: Helen Trenor

Public Relations: Bill Scott

John Yeatts

Webmaster: Tim Johnson

Membership: Del Kirschner

Earl stated that he would like to get someone to take the office of Vice President and then groom that person to be president next year.

**OFFICERS REPORTS:**

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

Azella Tingler moved that the minutes be accepted as published. Jim Ruble seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer**- Azella Tingler stated that the club needs to have the treasurer's books audited. She will get with the new treasurer after Christmas. Azella's computer was down, so there wasn't a 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 announced that the January program will be a Show and Tell of Christmas Goodies received. He again stated the need for more program ideas.

**Newsletter** -Sandy Johnson said that she was getting articles from people and thanked them. Keep the articles coming.

**DOOR PRIZES:**

1. John Yeatts -Paper
2. Bill Farmer -Fancy Paper
3. Bill Scott -Jewel Cases
4. Bob Johnson -Fancy Paper

**PROGRAM:**

Homer Duff taught the second half of a hands-on class on Excel. It was excellent as usual.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Margaret Ann Hoag, Secretary

**Meeting space provided  
by Roanoke County  
Schools**

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**Web hosting provided by:**  
<http://www.icn.net/>

**ICONS**

## Review of Office 2007

In the January 4 Wall Street Journal, Walter Mossberg reviewed the soon-to-be-released Microsoft Office 2007 and its “bold, radical changes.” He said that all of the old familiar ways of doing things are gone, and none of the familiar toolbars have survived.

After weeks of getting used to the new Office, Mossberg decided that the changes are an improvement. The new user interface is a logical layout that makes it much simpler to find commands that used to be buried in multiple menus. But, the learning curve is steep.

The new Office adds contextual spell checking, which enables it to flag errors such as using “their” instead of “they’re.” There is a live preview function to show formatting change before you commit to it. Also, many functions are quicker and easier.

The commands that relate to formatting, layout, graphics, and design are easier to use. However, basic composition and editing are not improved much. So if you do mostly plain Word documents, simple presentations, and plain spreadsheets, the Office 2007 may not be worth the effort needed to master it.

The Office 2007 uses a new file format that cannot be read by

earlier versions, but Office 2007 will read files from the earlier versions. Free software is available to enable earlier versions to read the new Office 2007 format.

The package of programs in Office 2007 has changed. Outlook is no longer included in the home version – it comes with the more expensive Office Standard version or can be purchased as a stand-alone version.

Office 2007 is due out on January 30, 2007

## Holiday Song Quiz

Now that the Christmas season is over and you’ve been listening to holiday songs for at least a month, can you name these songs?

1. Quadruped with crimson proboscis
2. Nocturnal noiselessness
3. Embellish the entryways
4. Listen, aerial spirits harmonizing
5. Monarchian trio
6. Assemble, everyone who believes
7. Creator, cool it, you kooky cats!
8. Colorless yuletide
9. Bantam Male Percussionist
10. Boulder of the tinkling metal spheres

(These questions gleaned from various websites.)

## One Terabyte hard drives

Hitachi and Seagate plan to sell Terabyte hard drives during the first half of 2007. A Terabyte is 1,000 Gigabytes or 1,000,000 Megabytes! Remember when 1 Gig was considered huge?

Hitachi says its drive will be available in the retail market near the end of March and will sell for \$399.

Seagate said that its drive will be available during the first half of 2007. Its new drive will go to system and PC vendors. Seagate didn’t announce prices or retail availability.

## We Meet the 2nd Saturday of the Month

**Next Meeting  
Saturday, January 13**

**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.*

Have you looked at the web site [www.NothingButSoftware.com?](http://www.NothingButSoftware.com?) You can get many familiar programs at discounted prices.