



SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

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Serving the Roanoke Valley

March 2007



It's that time of the year again—**BUT** it's coming early



Daylight Savings Time 2007

Beginning in 2007, daylight savings time has been extended by 4 weeks. The old and new schedules are:

2006: start 4/01, end 10/28
2007: start 3/11, end 11/04

Your Windows operating systems may automatically adjust the time based on the old schedules, giving you the incorrect time for four weeks. The action you need to take varies with the version of Windows.

Windows Vista: Comes with the new schedule installed.

Windows XP with Service Pack 2: You can get an update from Microsoft. If you have automatic updates activated, you probably have the update now or will have it soon. You can check this if you use a program such as Belarc Advisor that lists installed updates -- look for KB931836.

To install the update manually, click "All Programs" and then click "Windows Update" near the top of the list of programs. Click "Custom" and let Microsoft scan your PC to see what you need. The (See Time page 3)

BREAKING NEWS!

End of XP Support Announced

Now that we have your attention, don't panic! The end of XP support has indeed been announced, but it won't end until 2014. Microsoft's policy has been to restrict or end support for a version of Windows two years after a new version is released. The new Windows Vista was released in January.

XP owners were entitled to get customer service on the software until 2009. Recently, Microsoft announced that users will be entitled to five more years of "extended support," or until 2014. During this five-year extension, users will get security fixes, but there will be fees for most assistance from the Microsoft help desk.



NEXT MEETING

March 10

TOPIC:
HDTV

A representative from Lee Hartman & Sons will be at the meeting to discuss HDTV.

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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.



PREZ NOTES:

I am thankful for the RVPCC. The members of this club are some of the most helpful and friendly people that I know. The RVPCC helps computer-challenged people in a way similar to the way the Alcoholics Anonymous helps people who need their help. I never had the need to belong to AA, but I did belong to Overeaters Anonymous at one time. Sometimes, I think I have bitten off more than I can chew in the computer world; but I am happy that there are people who must have the patience of Job to help some people like me. Those who want to help computer-challenged-people meet on the Second Saturday at Arnold Burton Technical School to help those who are not beyond help. I hope this helps to explain the RVPCC philosophy. Thank you. I hope to see you at the meeting.

Earl Abbott

**Meeting space provided
by Roanoke County
Schools**

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

**Secretary's Report**

**ROANOKE VALLEY
PERSONAL COMPUTER
CLUB**

Saturday, February 10, 2007

The February meeting of the RVPCC was opened by Earl Abbott, President at 9:15 a.m. He welcomed all members.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

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

Treasurer - Helen Trenor gave the RVPCC treasury balance and said that the club was solvent.

Roanoke County Schools - Homer Duff said that the new Adult Classes were underway and encouraged members to spread the word. He also stated that the Roanoke County Schools wished to thank our club for the digital camera and system we gave them.

Public Relations - John Yeatts announced the programs for the next few months:

March - Someone from Lee Hartman and Sons will come and explain HDTV and answer Questions.

April - Buying and selling on E-Bay.

May - Bill Scott will talk about robots.

PROGRAM:

Sandy Johnson gave a well prepared program on preparing Income Taxes. She said that there were more changes in the Tax Laws this year than in many years past. She also said that if you buy a tax program this year

to be sure you get all the updates as some laws were passed near the end of the year. She then showed us the changes. Some Income Tax information is available on the following internet addresses:

tax.virginia.gov
freetaxact.gov
irs.gov

Bill Scott took us down memory lane and showed us pictures and told us about "computers" from the late 1960's and early 1970's. What a difference between then and now!!

A **SHOW AND TELL** period followed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Margaret Ann Hoag
Secretary

**We Meet the 2nd
Saturday of the Month
Next Meeting**

Place: Arnold R. Burton
Technology Center, Room
105, 1760 Roanoke
Boulevard, Salem, Va. 24153
Time: 9:15 a.m. - noon

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published by the RVPCC.*

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(Time continued from page 1) daylight time update should be in the “High Priority” or “Software, Optional” lists, unless you already have it installed.

You can request a download of the daylight time update without letting Microsoft scan your computer first, but validation will be checked before the download begins.

Isn't it easier to have the automatic updates turned on? Go to Control Panel, Security Center, to see if your automatic updates are on. If not, find “Manage security solutions for: Automatic Updates” near the bottom of the screen. Click on it to schedule your weekly or daily updates. Updating daily isn't being paranoid these days.

For other Windows operating systems such as Win XP SP1, 98, 95, NT, or 2000, change the time manually when you change all the other clocks in your house. Be sure to turn off the automatic daylight time changes. Double click the time at the lower tight corner of your screen. (Or go to Control Panel, Date and Time.) Uncheck the block titled “Automatically adjust clock for daylight saving changes.”

Is daylight time really worth all this bother?

10 Puns

Did you hear about the guy who wrote 10 puns and entered them in a contest? He figured with 10 entries, he couldn't lose. As they were reading the list of winners, he was really hoping one of his puns would win, but unfortunately, no pun in ten did.

Missing Windows Commands:

By Bob Johnson

The PRINT SCREEN command: On your keyboard, usually to the right of the row of function keys, is the Print Screen key, often labeled PrtScr. In Windows XP, the Print Screen key does not work the way it did back in the DOS era. Back then, PrtScr sent whatever was on the screen to the printer.

In Windows, PrtScr copies whatever is on the screen into the clipboard. You then have to open a program like WordPad or Notepad, paste into it the image from the clipboard, and then print the image.

Think of it as a high-powered cut-and-paste. Note that what you paste will be an image, not text. You won't be able to edit any text that you copy and paste with PrtScr.

The DIRECTORY command: Windows doesn't have the equivalent of the DOS command DIR that we used back then to print a list of all the files on a disk or in a folder. I often used that old DIR command to print a file list to store with a back-up or archive disc.

DIR is available using the command line, but using (or even remembering) the DOS syntax is difficult. I have tried making lists using Explorer and print screen, but that was clumsy and took too long.

There is a better way to print a list for the DVDs that I use to archive photos.

Last August, a Kim Komando tip described a program that would do that listing. The program is “JR Print Directory” available free at www.spadixbd.com. I have tried the program and it does the job – a modern-day DIR.

Read and print the directions at the site since the instructions within the program are not very good.

TAX TIPS

Del Kirschner's Taxchk06, for checking taxes is available at the club website, RVPCC.org, under “Announcements.”

If you're over 70 1/2, taking the mandatory distribution from your IRA, and giving a charitable contribution, you can have the contribution made directly from your IRA and not pay taxes on that portion of the distribution. Of course, you won't be able to deduct the charitable contribution on Schedule A. No ‘double dipping’ allowed.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

April—buying and selling on eBay

May—Bill Scott's new robot

Fun Facts for the Trivia Buff

Did you know that in Indiana, it's illegal for monkeys to smoke?

Did you know that the mass of all the ants on Earth is more than the mass of all the people on Earth?

If you like trivia like this, go to www.didyouknow.cd and enjoy.

The only problem is that there is so much information that it is difficult to choose a category to browse. A good place to start is at another site that has extracted three pages of gems from didyouknow. See this at www.themedweb.co.uk/didyouknow/.

Viewing Videos

Have you tried looking at the sites that show videos that people upload? The "did you know" site had their list of 10 sites to try. Google the names to find the sites.

- YouTube
- Metacafe
- Yahoo videos
- Google videos
- UnCut videos
- Bolt videos
- Live videos
- MySpace videos
- Stupid videos
- Breach videos

A word of warning: there is a lot fun stuff at these sites, but even after clean-up efforts, there is also a lot of inappropriate stuff. Use caution. These sites are NOT for kids.

The Candidates on YouTube

An article by Amy Schatz in the March 2 Wall Street Journal reported that 9 presidential candidates have posted videos on YouTube. They feel that they can reach an audience that they have had difficulty in reaching in the past.

To see these videos, go to YouTube.com. Click on the Channels tab, and then click on Politicians in the list on the far left side. This will take you to YouChoose '08 where you can watch videos of your favorite candidates.



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



As St. Patrick's Day approaches, let us remember this old Irish saying: As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.



Our club officers at a recent board meeting.

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