



SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

Volume 17 Number 12

Serving the Roanoke Valley

December 2003



BALLOT

Proposed Slate 2004 Officers

President:
Lionel
Melancon

Vice President:
Ernest Arnett

Secretary:
Margaret Hoag

Treasurer:
Azella Tingler

**Public
Relations**
Bill Scott

**Public
Relations**
Sandra Kelly

**Membership
Chairperson:**
Del Kirschner

WebMaster:
Tim Johnson

**Vote
Saturday,
Dec. 13**

Not a keyboard in sight

Secretary Margaret Hoag (above) was among nearly 50 members who dined and shared door prizes at RVPCC's annual holiday gathering. The event, held at Yearly Haven near Hanging Rock, also drew President Tim Johnson (right), standing behind member Phyllis Morris. Below, members Cal Aliff and Ira Chaffin posed with hostess Ann Nicely on their way to get coffee.



Unusual E Mail



Review by AZELLA TINGLER

Are you bored with the same old type of e-mail that you send and receive? Well, I have found the cutest way to do away with that.

Go to Incredimail.com. It is compatible with Outlook Express. The company has a free download of a program that



offers cute animations and different graphics, 3-D also, to add to your e mail. I have fun just creating e mail to send. AnimationFactory.com is the site where you can increase your inventory of pictures and other animations and backgrounds. Free downloads are available. Other areas of interest that they cover are, Power Point templates, which includes extra large animation and presentation backgrounds.

Incredimail offers a premium edition, which I have purchased.

Animation Factory has a purchase plan also.

Add some spice to your e-mail; check it out.

Need CD-ROMs for charity

By DEL KIRSCHNER

The Elfun Society, a GE retirees organization, has a small computer refurbishment operation in Salem where volunteers work on Monday and Thursday afternoons to refurbish donated computers that are then provided to non-profit organizations such as schools and churches.

Many of the donated computers do not have CD-ROM drives installed in these computers. If anyone has a CD-ROM drive to donate, please call or send e-mail to: George Lezan, 774-5132, grlezan@roanoke.infi.net; Bob Gasparoli, 774-5928, regasproli@juno.com; Charles Triebel, 387-2525, cft32@hotmail.com; or to Del Kirschner, 989-8913, delkir@juno.com

Next Meeting

(Meets 2nd Saturday of Month)

Date: Sat., Dec. 13, 2003

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

Time: 9:15 AM - 12:30 PM

Agenda: Election of Officers

Program: Another chance to see Microsoft 2003 and an opportunity to get your questions answered during group sessions.

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

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

The Christmas party was a blast! Thanks everyone for making it such a fun time!

Elections are coming up this meeting so be sure to come out and cast your vote. Then we will view a videotape from Microsoft as our presentation. Those are always good!

I would like to thank you for allowing me to be president during the past couple of terms.

I enjoy helping out in our club and will continue doing so as we head into 2004.

I am sure there will be plenty of exciting things to learn about next year. Staying involved and active in the club is the best way to find out what is happening in the computer world.

There's nothing better than members sharing their experiences. I can't wait to see what we discover together next year!

Secretary's Report

By Margaret Hoag
secretary@rvpcc.org



Saturday, Nov. 8, 2003

President Tim Johnson called the meeting to order and encouraged everyone to consider leadership roles in 2004. Johnson explained he was not a candidate for re-election, but wants to resume a former role as Webmaster.

A slate of officers was compiled with Lionel Melancon agreeing to run for the presidency.

OFFICER UPDATES:

Secretary - Margaret Ann Hoag was absent, but 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 - Encouraged members to pay for Christmas party.

Public Relations -- Lionel Melancon introduced guest speaker Sandra Workman from Hayes, Seay, Mattern and Mattern.

Public Relations - Bill Scott - Announced he will schedule programs on robots and Internet phones in 2004.

Roanoke County Schools - Homer Duff - Mentioned Second term classes start in January with a full schedule of classes.

Editor - Sandra Kelly - Encouraged people to send items for newsletter, especially questions that can be answered and featured.

PROGRAM: Sandra Workman, a former teacher who now is Imaging, Modeling & CADD Services Supervisor for Hayes, Seay, Mattern and Mattern, gave a rundown of technological

changes in the field of architectural design for her firm that has local, national and international contracts.

Perhaps the best known project recently for the firm was renovation of the Pentagon, and Workman noted that a family member of a government employee had thanked the company for saving "my daughter" because of its design that reinforced the Pentagon structure.

Other high profile projects for Hayes, Seay have included the Largo Transport Station in Washington, D.C., Workman said. Details about the firm's work can be found at its website, www.hsम्म.com.

In her rundown of how drafting has changed through the years, Workman noted that managers today find new employees are so used to technology that they don't really know the basics of drafting, so part of her training efforts have to address that. Mostly, though, employees working with design of structures and systems are learning to work with new software, which includes Architectural Desktop's "object technology." The beauty of this software is that it automatically changes an entire plan to adjust to changes, she said.

Engineers and draftspersons are also learning to work more via the Internet with subcontractors and clients who can view project changes at a distance and even make suggestions for further alterations, she said.

Q&A: Considerable discussion dealt with developing firewalls and trying to keep intruders off your computer. Tim Johnson once again reminded people of the value of the free version of Zone Alarm. Members also noted that Norton is free during December and January to anyone who purchases Turbo Tax.

Once again, members were advised to set up a hotmail account to use on those occasions when you don't wish to share your personal e-mail address.

It was noted, too, that the Gateway store at Valley View in Roanoke has the best price on a wireless router. Door prizes for the day went to Ed Mullikin, Bill Steele, George Lezan, Jack Morris, Marian Johnson, John Cook, Phyllis Morris, Bob Collins, Mike Marsh, Georgianna Cox, Del Kirschner, Ed Allen, John Yeatts, Connie Kirk, Homer Duff and Bill Padgett.

Respectfully submitted,
 Sandra Kelly, substituting for
 Margaret Ann Hoag,
 Secretary

RVPCC Officers

President:

Tim Johnson...562-0140
president@rvpcc.org

Vice President:

Ernest Arnett...540-483-4854
vicepresident@rvpcc.org

Secretary:

Margaret Hoag
secretary@rvpcc.org

Treasurer:

Azella Tingler...989-7808
treasurer@rvpcc.org

Public Relations:

Lionel Melancon
pr@rvpcc.org

Bill Scott

pr1@rvpcc.org

Membership Chairman:

Del Kirschner...989-8913
membership@rvpcc.org

Roanoke County Schools:

Homer Duff...774-6862
rcschool@rvpcc.org

WebMaster:

John Yeatts
web@rvpcc.org

Email:

info@rvpcc.org
members@rvpcc.org
officers@rvpcc.org

Web: <http://rvpcc.org>

Editors:

Sandra Kelly
 Del Kirschner
editor@rvpcc.org



ROANOKE VALLEY
PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB

RVPCC
P.O. Box 322
Salem, Va. 24153

Web: <http://rvpcc.org>
Email: info@rvpcc.org

To:

Home printer photo pleases

By SANDY CUNNINGHAM

Having recently purchased a digital camera, I decided to explore the best method of getting copies of the pictures, taking into account quality and cost. After seeing an ad at CVS Pharmacy for five free prints, I took my camera's memory stick to CVS and made prints. Without a coupon, CVS charges 39 cents a print. I then came home and printed one of the pictures from the memory stick on my own printer. The picture from my printer was better than the CVS photos, which cost from 8.7 cents to 14 cents each.

I next took the memory stick to Wal-Mart, which has a new machine, the Aladdin Digital Photo Center. Wal-Mart's prints are 26 cents each. The print made there was the best with the strongest color in my experiment.

My camera is a Sony Cyber-shot, 5 megapixel. I have it set on the highest possible resolution.



Photo by Sandy Cunningham

Photo of gravesite processed at CVS, Wal-Mart and home in print experiment: Wal-Mart was best, followed by home

The printer is an HP 7550 Photo Smart, and the paper I use is Kodak Premium Picture Paper, which I purchased from Sam's Club.

Even though the picture from Wal-Mart had better color, the prints from my printer are as good as any that I have had processed from a regular 35 mm camera. Of course, if you are on vacation and want prints immediately, Wal-Mart will come in handy.

Meeting space provided by:

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



Web hosting provided by:

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

ICONS