



# SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

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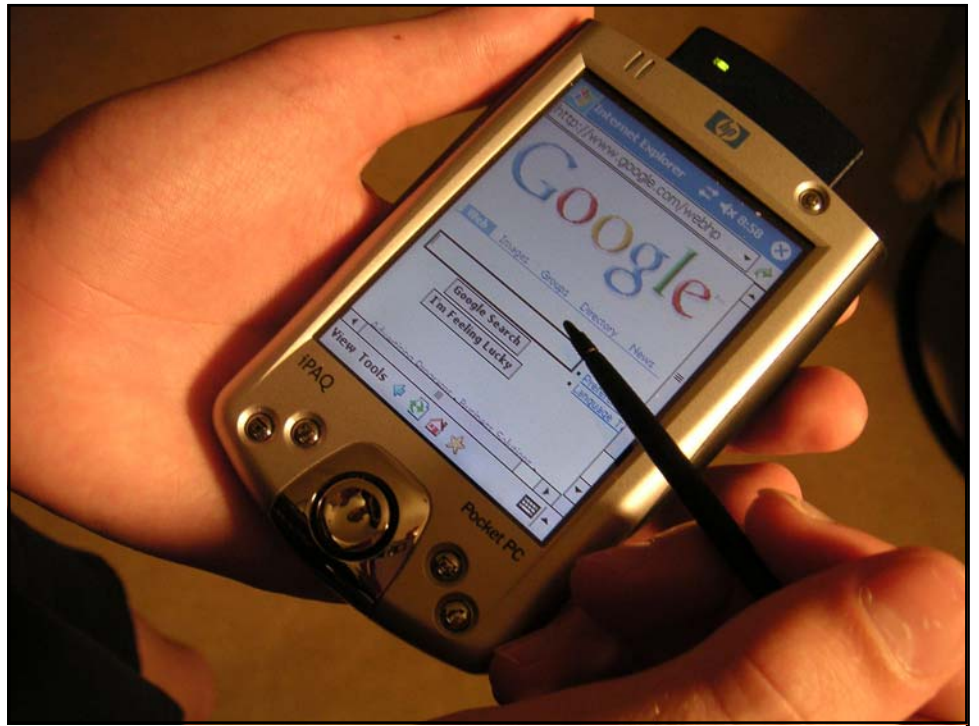
Serving the Roanoke Valley

May-June

HP 2215 (right)  
features wireless  
Internet card

Photo by John Cook

## Connecting With Next Generation



By **JOHN COOK**

I use my Pocket PC to take notes in school, to keep track of addresses and phone numbers. I also use this Pocket PC to record audio.



**Cook at April program**

When I connect the Pocket PC to my computer I can transfer the audio file to the computer and make an audio CD that I can play in a CD player.

This Pocket PC has two card slots; one is a Secure Digital card slot, and the other is a Compact Flash card slot. When you take pictures with your digital camera you can take the card from the camera and put it in the Pocket PC and view the pictures.

A wireless Internet card connects me to the Internet as long as I am in a wireless hotspot. I can browse the Internet, check email, and view pictures while online. There are also other cards that you can buy to convert the Pocket PC into a television receiver.

Included with the Pocket PC is a CD with the software needed to connect the Pocket PC to the computer.

Also on this CD are applications to view PowerPoint presentations, print to a wireless printer, and read books downloaded online on the Pocket PC.

There are Microsoft Windows applications that also have software versions for the Pocket PC. An example of this is Microsoft Streets and Trips a street map program that you can use to export maps to the Pocket PC.

For more information on the IPAQ 2215, visit [www.thegadgeteer.com/hp2215-review.html](http://www.thegadgeteer.com/hp2215-review.html).

(Meets 2nd Saturday  
of Month)

**Next Meeting**

Sat., June 12, 2004

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

**Time:** 9:15 a.m. - noon

**Today's Program:** Back-  
ing up your important files

**Upcoming, July 10:**

Richard Katz from Micro-  
soft speaks.

*This newsletter is  
published by the RVPCC.*

## Secretary's Report

By Margaret Hoag  
[secretary@rvpcc.org](mailto:secretary@rvpcc.org)



**Saturday, April 10, 2004**

Lionel Melancon, Presi-  
dent, called the meeting to order.  
He read a partial chapter, from  
his book, "Cousins" on that  
world transforming day, 9/11.

Officer Reports:

Minutes of the last meet-  
ing were approved as printed in  
the newsletter.

There were no new mem-  
bers or visitors.

Treasurer Azella Tingler re-  
ported all bills are paid.

Public Relations - Bill



Scott and Sandra Kelly suggested a  
program on picture organization as  
a follow-up to digital cameras.

**Please see Minutes, Pg. 3**

### The President's Desk

Lionel Melancon [president@rvpcc.org](mailto:president@rvpcc.org)



**Hi there, Guys and Gals,**

Forgive me for being so informal;  
I'm sure the Gentlemen don't mind  
being called Guys. If any of you  
Ladies object to being referred to  
as Gals, please don't hit me, just let  
me know.

I guess my salutation is better than Hi  
Geeks! I don't feel like a Geek, perhaps a  
couple of you do—if so, Hi.

I must share some of an article I just read in  
the March issue of *Discover Magazine*.

Its called *Digital Cache*, and is about a  
museum that's concentrating on hardware at  
present and will have a department which  
concentrates on programming and software  
eventually.

Of all places, the museum is in the Sili-  
cone Valley.

Anyway, the range of hardware ranges

from abaci to liquid-nitrogen-cooled-  
supercomputers. It is said that visitors flip  
over the double-floppy-disk-drive *IBM PC*  
that ate files in the late 1980s.

Also unimaginable is the fact that de-  
lay execution or computer technology is 40  
years old.

The article discusses the time when  
every byte was precious because there  
was just a little bit of memory and program-  
ming had to be clever.

Yesteryear's programming is com-  
pared with today's, which is awash with  
sloppiness because of gigabytes.

The museum is considering a section  
dedicated entirely to DOS and planning to  
call it "Bad Command or File Name."

This, of course, could go on and on, but

**Please see President, Page 4**

## April Minutes

### From Pg. 2

Roanoke County Schools - Homer Duff said the next session of Adult Education. Classes would start the week of April 20. He said the class on digital cameras was full but suggested a class on keyboarding would help those who had never taken typing.

Webmaster - Tim Johnson was absent but sent word he has set up a site for the officers on the web.

Newsletter editor Sandra Kelly said she needs articles for the newsletter. She also suggested that the club reconsider awarding a door prize ticket for anyone who provided an article for the newsletter.

Vice-President Ernie Arnett and Hugh Martin attended a "Computer Crimes" seminar sponsored by the police. They thought it was worthwhile. Ernie showed a piece of software called, "Mousetrap." It can be ordered free at: [www.vcpionline.org](http://www.vcpionline.org). It is great if you work with children.

Ernie again asked that we PLEASE keep our virus software up-to-date and not open attachments from strangers.

A Q and A period followed.

Bill Scott recommended a laptop-to-desktop drive converter. You may purchase it at PC Land for about \$10. It will return your computer to exactly as it was before, if a new piece of software goofs it up.

Sandra Kelly said that Ewald-Clark, Ritz Camera, downtown Roanoke, will take cameras and lenses to sell on consignment.

Bill Scott also showed a 2.2 amp power battery charger that you could order from maha.com.

Program: Ernie Arnett had each member show and talk about his or her digital Camera, or cameras in some cases. Members demonstrated a surprising number of cameras and their capabilities. A short period was allotted for members to talk to one another about cameras.

Door Prizes:

1. Sandy Cunningham - CD Case
2. Bob Johnson - Backpack
3. Ed Mullikin - Fancy Paper
4. Ernie Arnett - Paper
5. Sandra Brown Kelly - Pen
6. Mike Marsh - Pen
7. John Cook - Tool Set

Their being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

**Margaret Ann Hoag**

### RVPCC Officers

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## Minutes, RVPCC meeting, May 8, 2004

President Lionel Melancon said his health is improving and that he has completed therapy. Past-President Tim Johnson presented Lionel with the club's official gavel. There were no guests. The club has 77 members.

During reports, Newsletter Editor Sandra Kelly said she did not do a May newsletter because she did not have enough material to fill it. She encouraged members to send tips or reviews of software for the newsletter. She said a newsletter will be produced for June.

Because no newsletter was mailed, approval of the April minutes was delayed until June when they will

have been sent to members.

Officers also asked members for suggestions for program topics. The group discussed whether topics should go beyond computers and decided programs should remain computer-oriented.

An officers' meeting was scheduled after the general meeting. Since there was no formal program, a general question and answer session took place. Door prizes were presented.

Respectfully submitted,

**Sandra Kelly for Secretary Margaret Hoag**



ROANOKE VALLEY  
PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB

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To:

## View Frontline reports from home computer

The powerful shows done by PBS' Frontline can be viewed online at [www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline).

You can find other materials related to the programs under Teacher Re-

## President

**From Page 2** but some of you might remember the Commodore 64 and the TRS-80, but one of the most interesting antique PCs is the Kenbak-1 from 1971 with a 256-byte memory and sold for \$750.

I must mention the first 200 Apple-1s, which cost \$666.66 each and without monitor or keyboard, or case—the one in the museum signed by Wozniak is valued at \$40,000.

Is that what you're hoping for Bill?

**Bye(te), Lion**

## Tips from May Q&A session

The lack of a formal program at the May meeting produced a bonanza of tips from members who shared experiences on everything from designing software to be used in Iraq (Bill Scott) to finding inexpensive printing (at Sir Speedy, according to Lionel Melancon).

Other tips included:

**DUMPING MONITORS:**

Nobody fixes monitors and getting rid of one can cost you; Salem charges \$5 to take a monitor. Monitors include elements that are considered hazardous waste.

**MAKE CERTAIN WARRANTY IS FOR U.S.:** Some cheap deals on products don't always include a warranty recognized in the U.S. This is something to be aware of especially if you buy products via Internet.

**FINDING GOOD CAMERA PRICE:** Check AMPhoto-world.com for good camera prices; prices change daily.

**CANCEL DOESN'T ALWAYS STOP INSTALLATION:** When you hit 'cancel' on a popup, the installation of Spyware may still take place. For information about spyware, <http://simplythebest.net/info/spyware.html>.

**GIVE DEVELOPER A TIP:** Find interesting software at [www.mlin.net](http://www.mlin.net), site of MIT student Mike Lin; he takes tips through Pay-

Pal.

**DELL PRINTER LIKES DELL CARTRIDGES:** You'll have to buy your cartridges from Dell if you have a Dell printer.

**CHEAP USB CABLE:** Roanoke's own Computer Exchange a good spot to buy a cable for those products that don't come with them.

**EMPTY CARTRIDGES BUY PAPER:** Office Max will give you a pack of paper for an empty ink cartridge. (At least it was doing that in May.)

**WIRELESS:** Roanoke City Library downtown going wireless as is Elmwood Park. (All Roanoke County libraries have wireless connections that you can access from the parking lot.)

Meeting space provided by:

[www.rcs.k12.va.us/adulted/](http://www.rcs.k12.va.us/adulted/)



Web hosting provided by:

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

**ICONS**