

‘On the radio’ gains new meaning

By TIM JOHNSON

Music can bring joy to listening ears. That is until commercial interruptions break in. Satellite radio can help lessen the talking noise heard on the radio these days. XM Satellite Radio offers a variety of stations to please just about everyone. Music channels are set up by groups like Rock, County, Classical, etc. Finding something to listen to is as easy as turning a dial and selecting one with the push of a button.

The XM Radio can work in cars, in the home, or in a portable stereo. The easiest way to begin listening is to set the XM Radio to broadcast on one of several FM channels. Simply tune the stereo device to that channel and begin listening.

Other listening options include connecting the device by using the RCA type wire connections to a home stereo system. Another method is to use a wired cassette tape. Put the cassette into a player and hit play. Plug the other end of the wire into the XM Radio and start listening.

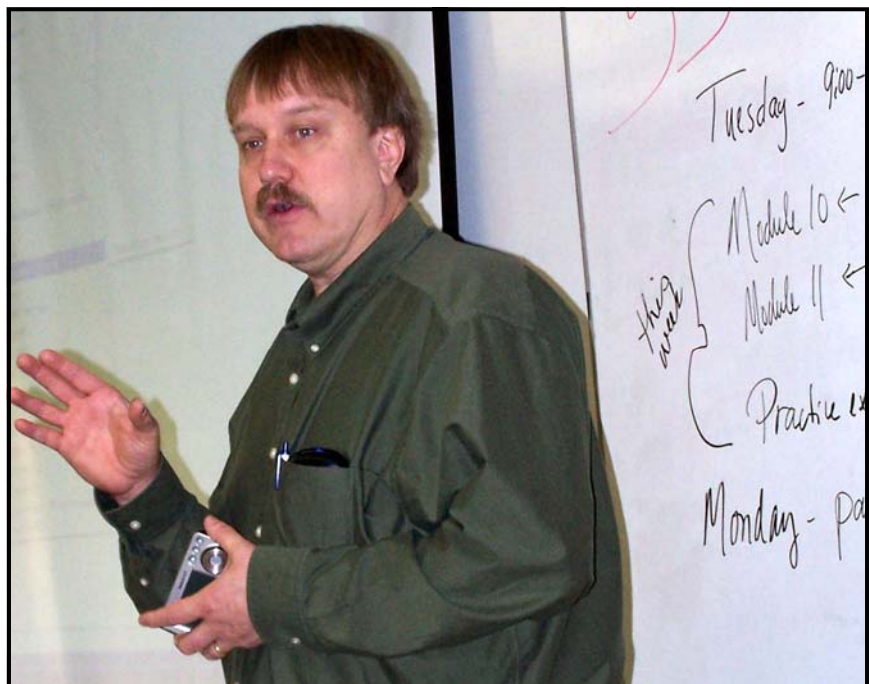
The XM Radio opens up a host of listening options. There are many talk stations as well as weather and traffic reports of large cities. Although XM Radio advertises it is 100 percent commercial free, there are occasional interruptions identifying which channel is being heard. Plus upcoming events are thrown in from time to time.

Back to back music would be a better choice for the music stations. The xmradio.com web site offers access to any upcoming events and the LCD display easily list, which



Photos by Ernie Arnett

Digital cameras, GPS systems and other gadgets in show-off by owners, such as Tim Johnson, below.



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(Meets 2nd Saturday of Month)

Next Meeting

Sat., Feb. 12

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.*

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Help your newsletter

You are invited to share
favorite websites, reviews of soft-
ware or just general computer ex-
periences. send your article or
notes to editor@rvpcc.org.

MEET MEMBER LEWIS WILSON



In about 1984, when I purchased my first computer, little did I know it would not only be the start of a continuing interest in computers, but also the start of the Roanoke Valley PC Club. I purchased my Tandy 1000 with 64K memory and two 5 ¼ inch, 360K disk drives, from Radio Shack. Radio Shack was instrumental in getting about eight of us Tandy 1000 owners together. Radio Shack gave us technical support and access to a room to hold meetings, thus the RVPC Club was born.

One of our small group members was a teacher at Arnold R. Burton Vocational School. She made arrangements for our club to meet in the room we continue to use today. At the time the room was furnished with Tandy 1000 computers.

Prior to that time, I had taken a class in BASIC Programming using a Radio Shack TRS80 computer through the Roanoke County Adult Education Program. Through the years I have taken classes in numerous computer programs, and now use a Gateway Computer running Windows 98. I use the Excel Program extensively.

When the RVPC Club

elected its first officers, I started serving as the club Librarian and with the help of Ralph Knight, cataloged over 1,300 disks of Shareware and Public Domain software (those were the good old days). When the club developed a Bulletin Board, it was located in my home, where Ernie Arnett, Tim Johnson and Rodney Burnett helped me keep it up and running.

I am currently in the process of updating my computer to the wireless network, and anticipate purchasing a Dell 8400 in the very near future.

My wife, Carolyn, and I have been married 37 years and have one daughter, Amy, who is married and lives in Belleville, Illinois. We have two beautiful granddaughters, Sydney 6 and Morgan 3. We love spending time with Amy and the girls and plan a Disney World trip and Disney Cruise with them in the near future. Carolyn and I love to cruise and will be visiting Hawaii this year on a cruise ship.

Since retiring from Norfolk Southern Corporation after 30 years service as an Electrician, I enjoy volunteering at my church, woodworking, gardening and traveling, and of course spending lots of time with my grandchildren.

Secretary's Report

By Darrel R. Boles

January meeting of RVPCC was opened by Outgoing President Lionel Melancon, who quickly handed the gavel to incoming President Earl Abbott who asked for reports from the officers present.

Homer Duff explained the clubs relationship with the Roanoke school system. Ernie Arnett then had a short Q&A session that went into Show & Tell, which also included more Q&A. Ernie demonstrated his new camera equipment and answered questions concerning it.

Bill Scott explained and demonstrated his Computerized GPS System and responded to

questions concerning it.

Lastly, Tim Johnson demonstrated his satellite radio system and also fielded questions concerning this technology.

A head count showed 28 members and one visitor (whose name I am sorry to say I didn't get).

After the Show and Tell session the meeting was adjourned. Oh yeah, Ernie says he is close to selection of a sight for Christmas Program but he is still open to suggestions!

DRB Club Secretary

Members' Tips

BILL FARMER:

Below is a link to Conexant, a chip manufacturer, I found when looking for modem drivers.

http://www.conexant.com/support/md_faqs.htm

<http://www.ccugpc.org/vendors/manufacturlist.htm>

List of computer vendors with web and phone contact information. _____

EARL ABBOTT:

Interesting article about possible cell phone risk for children:

www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-1436543,00.html

The news prompted calls for phones to carry health warnings and panic in parts of the industry. One British manufacturer immediately suspended a model aimed at 4 to 8 year-olds.



PREZ' NOTES by Earl Abbott president@rvpcc.org

Feb. 5, 2005

I hope each of you is well and happy and enjoying personal computing.

The January Program was interesting to me and, I hope, to a lot of others present. It featured new stuff that was related to personal computing.

Ernie's digital camera had many interesting features and uses. Bill's

global positioning system (GPS) had many interesting features and uses. Tim's satellite radio had many interesting features and uses.

These three gentlemen were responsible for last month's program. They agreed to share a portion of their knowledge and experience with us, and we benefited by their sharing of experiences.

The Club needs more people who will volunteer to give programs.

I know that in a group of our size there are numerous stories waiting to

be told. Please tell Bill Scott (public relations) or me about your ideas for a program. Bill's email is pr1@rvpcc.org and my email is president@rvpcc.org.

Programs should be of interest to a large part of our group, and programs should be related to personal computer hardware or software.

Please tell others about the Club if you enjoyed last month's meeting and please tell me if you did not enjoy last month's meeting, or have suggestions of any kind regarding the Club.

Thank you.



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PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB

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To:

**January
Meeting
drew 28
members and
one
guest**

**Photo by
Ernie
Arnett**



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channel is being played. So, the station identifications are simply unnecessary. Especially when a customer is paying \$9.99 per month for commercial free service.

To gain access to a multitude of music choices while traveling, the XM Radio is an excellent choice. To listen to uninterrupted music at home, the cable digital channel is another option. Cox Cable offers back to back music without anyone breaking in to identify which channel is playing. There are choices out there that are breaking into the traditional radio market. Finding something different to listen to or reliving the classics is easier than ever. Take time to listen to the music!

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Saturn swallowed by a computer game?

By BOB JOHNSON

I got a chuckle out of a Star Trek book, a printed version of the 1982 movie "The Wrath of Kahn." Carol Marcus, head of the Genesis Project, on board the Spacelab, could not save her final version of the Genesis Project software on "Monster," the main lab computer because storage was full despite frequent upgrades in capacity.

She was berating two of her scientists for designing a computer game that used the storage space she needed.

Referring to their game, she asked them, "How big is it?" The answer was, "Well...about 50 megs."

Someone else exclaimed, "The program that swallowed Saturn!"

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