

New president also a music man



Photo by Sandra Kelly

President Earl Abbott plays tuba in two bands. His present personal computer equipment includes a Dell Dimension 8200 Desktop running Windows XP and a rebuilt desktop using an AMD processor running Windows 98.

Earl Abbott, the new club president, is retired from General Electric Co. where he “spent 37 years learning from many intelligent, motivated people.”

Approximately half of his time at GE was spent in laboratory evaluation where the devices evaluated ranged from microampere semiconductors to kiloampere power devices.

Abbott, 65, also enjoys volunteering in the community. He plays tuba in both the Shenandoah Baptist Church instrumental ensemble and in the Roanoke Valley Community Band.

“I enjoyed working three years as a mentor with Oakland fifth graders. ‘Work’ with these wonderful intercity kids included two field trips to Washington, D.C., where the kids got to see the Capitol, Aerospace Museum, and other points of interest. I built a gizmo for them which demonstrated motors, lamps, and magnetic fields.

“I am enjoying time spent at Roanoke Valley Christian Schools as a behind-the-scenes-facilitator and as a volunteer in Physics Class. Once a year, the Physics Class time includes a brief talk on electrical safety and the equivalent circuit of the human body.”

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**(Meets 2nd Saturday of
Month)**

Next Meeting
Sat., Jan 10

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 software or just gen-
eral computer experiences. If you don't
want to write the article, just send your
notes to editor at rvpcc.org or you can
send to the editor's other e-mail at
sbk@rev.net.

Enjoy Internet by shopping protected

By MATTHEW POOLE

Excerpted from Prime Living Magazine, January 2005

Before you begin surfing the Internet, the first thing
you will need to do is protect your computer against viruses
and other forms of online funk.

1. Get a firewall. If you are using Windows XP you
already have a firewall; all you need to do is turn it on. On
your Windows XP desktop click Start, click Control Panel,
click Network and Internet Connections, and then click Net-
work Connections. Click the Internet Connection that you
want to protect.

On the resulting pop-up menu click Properties, and
then click the Advanced tab. At the top of this menu you will
see a check box that says "Protect my computer..." Put a
check mark in that box, click "OK," exit all of your menus
and you are done.

If you are using an operating system other than than
XP, you can easily download and install a firewall program
from the Internet. I recommend Sygate Personal Firewall,
free from http://smb.sygate.com/products/spf_standard.htm.

2. Bring your operating system up to date.

3. Get some antivirus software, and make sure it is
up to date. If you need an antivirus program and, like me,
you are too cheap to pay for it, I recommend AVG for Win-
dows. It's free from

<http://free.grisoft.com/freeweb.php/doc/2> and seems to work
just fine if you keep it updated. Here are some com-
monsense rules to be followed when shopping or surfing
online.

4. If you are getting ready to make a purchase from
a legitimate online store, you will be directed to a "secure
web server." In the Internet Explorer address bar, this site
will generally have a header that reads "https," instead of
just "http." When you are connected to a secure web server,
your signal is being scrambled with a tremendously complex
algorithm, in effect creating a safe "tunnel" through the
Internet. If you click on File, then Properties in the menu bar
at the top of the Internet Explorer screen, you should see a
button labeled Certificates. Click this button and you can
examine the Digital Certificate for the secure web page you
are on. You will be able to make sure that it has not expired
and to trace the Certification Path back to the issuing Certifi-
cation Authority (which is usually going to be a company
called Verisign).

This Certificate verifies the identity of the site, insur-
ing that it actually belongs to a legitimate company. Re-
member that Digital Certificates apply to the actual
"checkout" page where you are directed to put in your billing
and payment information; it won't be elsewhere in the site.

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Secretary's Report

By Margaret Hoag

Saturday, December 11, 2004

Lionel Melancon, President, called the meeting to order and welcomed guest Harry Christy. Lionel also said that the club was doing away with the nametag box and that everyone would be accountable for his or her own nametag.

OFFICER UPDATE:

Secretary - Margaret Ann Hoag - Told the group that taking minutes wasn't such a big job and asked that someone agree to run for next year.

Membership - Del Kirschner - Absent

Treasurer - Azella Tingler - Since we had over 50 door prizes at the Christmas Party, there would be none today. There is still money in the bank. Also, two people are needed to audit the books. Tom Cook and Bob Johnson agreed to do the job.

Public Relations - Bill Scott - He asked for ideas for programs for upcoming meetings. Stated that any member could give a program. If anyone had a new piece of computer related equipment, they might bring it to show.

Public Relations and Editor - Sandra Brown Kelly - Sandra asked for articles to be submitted for the newsletter.

Roanoke County Schools - Homer Duff - He asked that we encourage people to take classes.

Webmaster - Tim Johnson - The newsletter is now available on the internet. If we want anything added, please let him know.

1st. Vice President - Ernie Arnett

- Ernie is already working on next year's Christmas Dinner and would like to have a place reserved by next month. He asked for suggestions for places to meet.

Ernie then conducted Election of Officers. The following slate was presented:

President - Earl Abbott

Vice President - Ernie Arnett

Secretary - Darrell Boles

Treasurer - Azella Tingler

Public Relations - Bill Scott and John Yates

Editor - Sandra Brown Kelly

Membership - Del Kirschner

Web Master - Tim Johnson

Sandra Brown Kelly moved that the nominations be closed. Azella Tingler seconded the motion. The vote for the slate was unanimous.

Lionel then presented the gavel to Earl Abbott.

A QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FOLLOWED

Program: Ernie Arnett gave our program. He illustrated how to use:

ipconfig/release

ipconfig/renew

ipconfig/all

These three are for Windows 2000, XP, and NT;

winipcfg is for Windows 95 and 98, and >ip.txt is for both

Then Ernie showed a few bargain sites:

bensbargains.net

ecost.com

wsls.com

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Computer Classes

Roanoke County Library, January

Main-419, call 772-7507

Word Processing I

Monday, January 24 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. or 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Word Processing II

Class times: Tuesday, January 25 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. or 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Hollins Branch, Call 561-8024

Making Word Work for You!

The Next Step in Microsoft

Word Skills

Class for users who feel comfortable working with both the computer and the intermediate features of the program. This is a hands-on class. Class times: Tuesday, Jan. 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. and Friday, Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Virginia Western Community College

<http://www.vw.vccs.edu/bussci/seminars/CollegeSeminars.htm>

ITE 195 INTRODUCTION TO MICROSOFT WINDOWS XP (1-Credit), Jan. 22, 28 and 29 or Feb. 25, 26 and March 4.
ITE 195 FIRST LOOK AT COMPUTERS (1-Credit), Feb. 12, 18, 19

Roanoke County Schools

http://www.rcs.k12.va.us/adulted/sch_class.shtml

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS FOR SENIORS (age 50 and over)

March 1-April 5 (skip March 29), Tuesdays 3:30-5:30 p.m. Cave Spring High Room 300
Instructor: Homer Duff, tuition \$69

WORD

March 1-May 10 (skip March 29), Tuesdays 6-9 p.m. Cave Spring High Room 300
Instructor: Homer Duff Tuition \$155 (textbook Inc.)



ROANOKE VALLEY
PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB

RVPCC
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To:



“The gavel’s yours,’ Outgoing President Lionel Melancon tells the newly-elected Abbott at December meeting. The photo also appeared in the January issue of Prime Living Magazine

Abbott

From Page 1

Earl lives with wife, Bev, in North Lakes where he spends considerable time in the basement in activities such as “surfing the Internet and cable TV to keep up with current events, reading periodicals, writing an occasional letter to the editor, practicing tuba music, and; occasionally, building a gizmo.”

“Once upon a time, I built a computer-controlled, electro-mechanical, successive approximation, analog-to-digital inverter.

“Once upon a time, it worked. That was a long time ago.”

Online

From Page 2

If you ever find yourself on a web page that is requesting your credit card number, and you have any doubts about being able to verify the identity of the company, don't give it out.

Matthew Poole is Information Technology Department Chair at National College of Business & Technology, Salem Campus.

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