

It's nearly the 4th of July and time for fireworks!



This picture was taken at the Salem Fair last year using manual exposure, ISO 100, at f8. (S. Johnson)

Photographing Fireworks

Taking good photos of aerial fireworks can be fun. Here are some basic things to consider when shooting aerial displays with a digital camera:

- Arrive early and find a good location.
- Always use a tripod and a remote shutter release.
- Bring a small flashlight for working with the camera.
- Bring extra batteries and memory cards.
- Set the camera to landscape mode so you won't have to worry about focusing.
- Use the highest megapixel setting to avoid compression.
- Exposure -- open the shutter at the beginning of the burst and close it when it reaches its peak.
- Control the exposure with the aperture size.
- Use a 1 to 3 second shutter

opening. B (Bulb) is better if you have it.

· The following are suggested apertures:

ISO 50, use f/5.6 to 11

ISO 100, use f/8 to 16

ISO 200, use f/11 to 22

· Take a few test shots and then review the pictures. The colors should show clearly and not be washed out to a yellow or clear tone.

Aerial displays are spectacular, but there's another type of fireworks display that you may be able to photograph – the one that takes place in your backyard.

You can do "painting with light" as a child sweeps a sparkler around or you can shoot the fountain displays that are fired on the ground.

Photography of fireworks is covered in detail in newsletters published by Ritz Camera. Go to <http://www.ritzcamera.com/static/articles/tips/digital-fireworks.htm>. After reading the first article, go to the end and click on the link to

Next Meeting—Sat. July 8

Topic: Using WordPad & Word by Homer Duff

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

Time: 9:15 a.m. - noon

RVPCO Officers

President:

president@rvpcc.org

Vice President: Ernest

Arnett, 483-4854,

vicepresident@rvpcc.org

Secretary: Margaret Hoag,

secretary@rvpcc.org

Treasurer: Azella Tingler,

989-7808,

treasurer@rvpcc.org

Public Relations: Bill

Scott, pr1@rvpcc.org; John

Yeatts, pr@rvpcc.org

Membership Chairman:

Del Kirschner, 989-8913,

membership@rvpcc.org

Roanoke County Schools:

Homer Duff, 774-6862,

rcschool@rvpcc.org

WebMaster: Tim Johnson,

562-0140, web@rvpcc.org

Email: info@rvpcc.org,

members@rvpcc.org

officers@rvpcc.org

Web: <http://rvpcc.org>,

Newsletter Editor: Sandy

Johnson, 774-3979;

editor@rvpcc.org

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.

Secretary's Report

ROANOKE VALLEY PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB MINUTES

The June meeting of the RVPCC was opened by Earl Abbott, former president, at 9:15 a.m. He introduced our visitor, Helen Turner.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Secretary - Margaret Ann Hoag stated that the minutes of the last meeting were published in the newsletter. Sandy Johnson moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer - Azella Tingler reported that a check was given to Homer Duff for the Roanoke County Schools. She also stated that we needed an officers' meeting as there were several points of business to be discussed.

Roanoke County Schools - Homer Duff said that the Adult Classes have finished for the summer. New classes will start the 2nd or 3rd week of September. The Roanoke County day students wished to thank the RVPCC for their new External Hard Drive. Homer again asked us to promote the Adult Classes. The Roanoke County Schools are downsizing and they provide us with our meeting space. Homer also reported that we are scheduled for our meeting space for next year except for 1 conflicting meeting.

Newsletter - Sandy Johnson thanked the club members for sending her items for the newsletter and asked that we continue.

SHOW AND TELL:

Bill Scott showed and talked about his 2 Gigabyte Jump Drive.

DOOR PRIZES:

1. Margaret Ann Hoag - Floppy disks
2. Azella Tingler - Money
3. Robert Johnson - Money
4. John Yeatts - Paper
5. Bill Farmer - Mouse pad

A QUESTION AND ANSWER
PERIOD FOLLOWED

PROGRAM:

Bill Scott showed the pictures he took at last meeting's tour of the Roanoke Times Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Margaret Ann Hoag
Secretary

PRIVACY!

Most people have some data on their hard drives that they would rather not share with others – social security numbers, passwords, personal information, classified documents from work, financial records, etc.

The Internet recently carried a story about a man who had his PC's hard drive replaced under warranty by Best Buy. Some months later he got a call from a person who had gotten his old hard drive with all his confidential information still on it. A reader had added a comment that the same thing had happened to him.

Before you replace, trade in, trash, or donate the hard drive or the entire PC, you should clean the confidential files off the drive, or perhaps wipe the drive completely clean.

Your first thought may be that when you "delete" the file, the data is gone. Not quite; when you delete a file, the operating system does not really remove the file from the disk; it only removes the reference to the file from the file system table. The file remains on the disk where it can be restored by any undelete or disk management program. It remains there until another file is written over it. Even writing over it won't completely hide the data from a scientific (think "CSI") search. The best way get rid of the data is to use a security program that writes and re-writes special patterns many times to the drive.

Kim Komando has recommended Eraser Version 5.8, a free program that will erase files with a method that meets U.S. Department of Defense requirements. It is available from www.heidi.ie/eraser ("ie" is Ireland). It will run on any Windows 95 to XP and on DOS.

After downloading and installing Eraser, you will be able to create a floppy "Nuke Boot Disk" that will completely wipe the entire hard drive. In a test, the "Nuke" worked well. Everything, including the partitions, was removed. It was slow, however; it took 90 minutes to wipe a 4-GB drive. It was one of those programs that you allow to run all night.

Del Kirschner has had good luck using Killdisk to completely wipe hard drives. Killdisk will wipe the entire hard drive but not individual files. It is available free from www.killdisk.com. It runs from a floppy and will work with any Windows 95 and later, DOS, Linux, and Unix for PC

Recycle Electronics

If you have computer equipment that the Elfuns can't use, you can take up to 5 items to the Tinker Creek Transfer Station on July 16. For residents of Roanoke, Vinton, and Roanoke and Botetourt counties. Preregistration is required. Call 387-6225

Diet coke and Mentos

Have you seen this video? Go to www.eepycbird.com and enjoy.

Web hosting provided by:

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



Meeting space provided
by Roanoke County
Schools

Newsletter created with
MS PUBLISHER

RVPCC

P.O. Box 322

Salem, Va. 24153

Web: <http://rvpcc.org>

Email: info@rvpcc.org