



SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

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Serving the Roanoke Valley

March 2006

March Meeting

The tax information program will be included in the March meeting. It will cover what's available for free on the Internet.

Ernie will discuss wireless networks and their security.

Presidents Desk
Ernie Arnett, Vice President

Dear Members,

This is a new year for the club. With the election in December we were not able to find a President so I am filling in for a few months, till we are able to elect a president to run the club for the rest of the year. If you would like to volunteer for this wonderful position, please e-mail me vice-president@rvpcc.org

The officers had a very productive meeting in January. You will be seeing several positive changes coming to the club.

All the officers are working very hard to make this a better club. The program committee is working to get a program for every month this year. We are also working to get more information

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Next Meeting: Sat.,
Mar. 11

Place: Arnold R. Burton
Technology Center, Room
105, 1760 Roanoke
Boulevard, Salem, Va. 24153
Time: 9:15 a.m. - noon

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

MARCH 11

Ernie will show how to set up a home network (both wireless and wired) and make it secure.

APRIL 8

Organizing and displaying digital pictures.

May 13

We will tour the Roanoke Times—more details will be given the next meeting and also in future newsletters

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Converting videos to DVDs
Using MS Word and Excel
Using Power Point
Changing LPs to CDs
Wireless Internet

Did you know that 'ask Jeeves.com' is now just 'ask.com'?

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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.



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to the members, in a more efficient manner thru e-mail. The decision was also made to start sending the newsletter by e-mail; this was done for several reasons, one to be able to get it to the members in a more timely fashion. If we do not have your e-mail please provide it to any officer.

With all the news coverage and several members/non members asking how to secure a wireless network. I have decided to do a program in March on Wireless/Wired network security. We will have a demo network setup to show how it works. If you have a laptop with a wireless card, feel free to bring it to the meeting. You will be able to connect to the test network. Please invite your friends to this meeting.
See you for a double program in March. Taxes and Data Security.

**Meeting space provided
by Roanoke County
Schools**

Digital Cameras Taking Over

By Bob Johnson

A recent quick check of websites of camera manufactures showed that most of them offer more digital camera models than film cameras. By model count:

16% digital – Konica-Minolta
67% digital – Canon, Fujifilm,
Olympus, Pentax
71% digital – Nikon
100% digital – Kodak, Sony

A selection of film cameras remains available now. However, Konica-Minolta, the manufacturer with the highest percentage of film cameras in my quick survey, has announced that it will withdraw from the camera business effective March 2006. Also, Konica-Minolta will end its production of film and color paper by March 2007. The reason stated was the decreasing market for film cameras and supplies.

Nikon has announced that it will stop production on all but two film cameras and most of the lenses for them. Production will be stopped one-by-one at unspecified future dates. The reason given is that film camera bodies accounted for only 3% of the camera division's sales in the last fiscal year.

Retailers today are still offering a few film cameras. A website check showed that 81% of the cameras listed by Best Buy were digital. Beach Camera was offering 91% digital.

As computer users, we know how convenient digital pictures are and

how much fun we have enhancing, changing, and sharing our pictures.

However, If you still want to buy a new film camera, move quickly. It appears that in the consumer market, the film camera survivors will be only the high-end and the low-end models.

NEWS ABOUT VISTA

VISTA to come in six versions

Vista will be Microsoft's first new version of Windows in 5 years. It is expected to be available in time to help the manufacturers sell new computers during the 2006 holiday buying period. Microsoft promises that Vista will have faster and better ways to search for data, improved security, a new look, parental controls, and a new media player.

Business Week Online says that Vista will come in six versions.

The "Vista Home Premium" version, due in the second half of 2006, will be able to watch and record TV and will have other entertainment features that are now included in XP's Media Center edition. There will also be a more basic consumer version.

The "Ultimate" version of Vista will be for those working from their homes.

There will be two versions for businesses, a basic version and one for larger businesses.

Finally, there will be a starter version for developing countries.

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