



SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

Volume 22 Number 10

Serving the Roanoke Valley

November 2006

THE COUNTDOWN CONTINUES

Only **24** days until

The Annual Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 2, 2006

The Home Place

3:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.

\$17 per person



Make your reservations now!!!

Make checks payable to RVPCC.

Reservations can be paid at the meeting or sent to RVPCC, PO Box 322, Salem, VA 24153



Kathleen Wood, guest speaker at the October meeting



**Remember to vote on
Tuesday, November 7**

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, November 11, 2006

Topic: Microsoft Excel

Speaker: Homer Duff

CLUB ELECTION

The election of new officers will be at the December 9th meeting.

RVPCC Officers

President: Ernest Arnett,
483-4854

president@rvpcc.org

Vice President: Earl Abbott,
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 ideas or notes to editor@rvpcc.org. Note: You don't have to write the article—just give us ideas on what you'd like to see in the newsletter.

Secretary's Report

ROANOKE VALLEY
PERSONAL COMPUTER
CLUB MINUTES

Saturday, October 14, 2006

The October Meeting of the RVPCC was opened by Ernie Arnett, President, at 9:15 a.m. He welcomed all members. We had one visitor, Joseph Tomkuf and 2 new members, John Leary and Helen Trenor.

Ernie reminded us of the Christmas Dinner which will be held December 2nd. at The Home Place from 3 to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$17.00. Checks should be made out to RVPCC and given or sent to Azella Tingler or Ernie Arnett.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Secretary - Margaret Ann Hoag stated that the minutes of the last meeting were published in the newsletter.

Treasurer - Azella Tingler - was absent because she had to work.

Roanoke County Schools - Homer Duff said that the Adult Classes were in progress now and that the next classes would start the 2nd. or 3rd. week of January. He said that you could get a list of classes on the web.

Public Relations - Bill Scott

said that they still need new ideas for programs.

Newsletter - Bob Johnson said that the October newsletter was on the RVPCC web. He also stated that they could use more authors of articles.

Elections - Ernie appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of Earl Abbott and Bill Farmer. They will try to have a slate of officers by the next meeting. Election of officers will be in December.

DOOR PRIZES:

There were no door prizes.

A QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FOLLOWED.

PROGRAM:

Kathleen Wood gave an informative program on Power

Point. She also answered questions.

Ernie Arnett and several club members offered suggestions for cleaning up disks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
Margaret Ann Hoag, Secretary

Mac Mini review

John Leary has provided a review of Apple's Mac Mini. We "PC People" have ignored Apple, but John shows that the Mac Mini deserves consideration.

The Mac Mini is unique in that "... both Windows XP and Mac OS-X can be run, in native mode, simultaneously."

It uses an Intel 64-bit dual core processor that gives it a speed equal to a 3.3 GHz single-core processor. The included software package has many useful applications.

It's a tiny little thing, just 6.5" square by 2" high.

All this starting at a relatively low \$599.

Read John's full article at the club website at <http://rvpcc.org/ftp/MacMini.pdf>

We Meet the 2nd Saturday of the Month

**Next Meeting
Sat., Nov 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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RVPCC

P.O. Box 322

Salem, Va. 24153

Web: <http://rvpcc.org>

Email: info@rvpcc.org

**Meeting space provided
by Roanoke County
Schools**

Web hosting provided by:
<http://www.icn.net/>

ICONS

The New IE7

By Bob Johnson

After 5 years, Internet Explorer 6 has been upgraded to Internet Explorer 7. It is for XP with SP2, not for W98. It is available as a free download. You can request it now, or wait until next month when it will become one of Microsoft's automatic updates.

To load IE7 today, go to Microsoft.com, click on Downloads, then click anywhere in the IE7 block in the center of the screen. Your computer will be checked to make sure it has a legal copy of XP running.

The 15.2 MB download is quick with cable or DSL, but running the download to install IE7 will take several minutes. There will be some choices to make, such as a favorite search engine. Don't worry if you make the wrong choices – you can change them later.

When IE7 starts, you'll see that the appearance has changed a bit. I found that I had a new Google toolbar, but no longer had an icon for Read Mail. Those were easy to fix.

To add or remove toolbars, right-click on any empty toolbar space to bring up a menu that will allow you to add or remove toolbars. You can try them all to see what they do.

To add or remove icons, again right-click on any empty toolbar space, click on "Customize Command Bar," then click on "Add or Remove Commands." This will bring up a screen that adds or removes icons.

(Continued next column)

(IE7 continued)

Be sure to look at the short tutorial. Click on Help, then "Internet Explorer tour." The tour will explain features such as "tabbed browsing." This sounds complicated but is really just a way to have more than one site open without having to load multiple copies of Internet Explorer.

I think that IE7 is an improvement – I haven't found any negatives after several days of use. (Knock on wood.)

Windows Defender

Microsoft's Windows Defender program has completed its beta testing and is now available as a finished program. This is the anti-spyware program that is Microsoft's answer to Ad-Aware and SpyBot.

It is available free to valid users of XP with Service Pack 2. It will not run with W98 or W2000.

To get Defender, go to Microsoft.com and click on Downloads. At the bottom center of the screen (you may have to scroll down an inch or so), under "Popular Downloads," click on "Windows Defender." The download is 4.9 MB. It will be easiest to save the download, close your browser, then run the downloaded file. If you have the beta version on your PC, it will be replaced automatically by the new version.

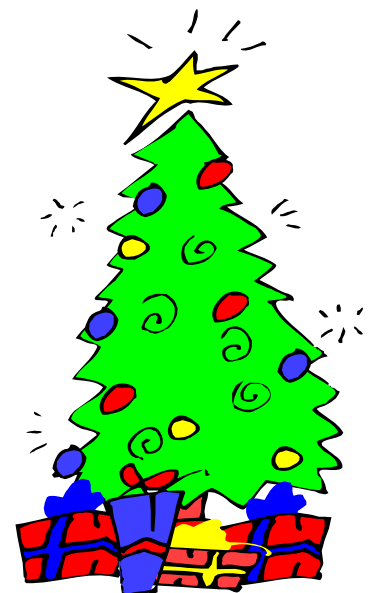
Defender appears to run properly and do what it supposed to do. If you want an additional anti-spyware program, or if you trust Microsoft more than other providers, give Defender a try.

Privacy concerns

Have you ever received an email with many names listed as recipients? Did you ever send an email to many people and include their names and addresses in the "To:" box or the "Cc:" box?

You should consider blind copies for all but the original recipient. This way all will receive the email but will not be able to see the list of recipients. Enter the names of the recipients in the "Bcc:" box. Or, if you have a group set up in your address book, just type the name of the group into the "Bcc:" box.

Setting up a group is easy – it is clearly explained in the Outlook Express help. Go to Help > Contents and Index > Index and enter "group" into the "keyword to find" block. Finally, double click "creating."



See you at the
Christmas dinner!