



SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

Volume 22 Number 10

Serving the Roanoke Valley

October 2006

THE COUNTDOWN CONTINUES

Only 55 days until
The Annual Christmas Dinner
Saturday, December 2, 2006
The Home Place
3:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.



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

NOTICE CHANGE OF ROOM

OCTOBER MEETING

Saturday, October 14, 2006

Topic: Using Microsoft Excel

Speaker: Kathleen Wood

Arnold R. Burton Tech Center
Room 105

1760 Roanoke Boulevard
Salem, Virginia 24153

9:15 a.m. until noon

Room 105 will be used by another group. We will be meeting in the room right behind it, 101A — the second door on the left as you enter the building. We'll have signs up to direct you if you forget.

YouTube viewing:

According to an article by Lee Gomes in the August 30 Wall Street Journal, the total estimated time that the people of the world have spent watching YouTube since it started last year is 9,305 years.

(See **YouTube** page 3)

RVPCC Officers

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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.

Home inventory

We all know that it would be a good idea to have an inventory of all your household goods. After a disaster, preparing a complete list from (See **Home** page 3)

Secretary's Report

ROANOKE VALLEY PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2006

The September meeting of the RVPCC was opened by Earl Abbott, Vice President. He welcomed all members. We had one visitor, John Leary.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

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

Treasurer - Azella Tingler reported that the treasury was in good shape but that membership renewals had fallen off. She also stated that she will not be treasurer next year and that we should be thinking about officers for next year.

Roanoke County Schools - Homer Duff was absent but Del Kirschner reported that fall classes are starting and Homer is teaching several computer classes.

Public Relations - John Yeatts announced that next month's program will be a presentation on Excel. Bill Scott said that there is an ongoing need for program ideas.

Newsletter - Sandy Johnson said that the September newsletter is on the web.

DOOR PRIZES:

1. Georgiana Conklin - Money
2. Bill Scott - Money
3. Bob Johnson - Paper
4. John Yeatts - Paper
5. It was decided to donate

September Club meeting—just what were these guys going?



How many 'techs' does it take to attach a jump drive?

the floppies to the school

CHRISTMAS DINNER:

The Annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday 2, 2006 at the Homeplace from 3:00 P.M. until 5:30 P.M. The cost is \$17.00 per person.

PROGRAM:

Bill Scott gave an interesting program on converting LP's and Cassettes to CD's and/or DVD's using Audacity, a free program . He passed out a sheet of instructions.

SHOW AND TELL:

Bill Scott told about and showed a picture of Lego's new robot.

A QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FOLLOWED.

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

YOU KNOW YOU ARE LIVING IN 2006 when...

You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.

RVPCC
P.O. Box 322
Salem, Va. 24153
Web: <http://rvpcc.org>
Email: info@rvpcc.org

(Home from page 1)

memory of the items you have lost would be almost impossible.

Fortunately, we have computers to help us.

You could design your own inventory system using a database such as Access. Or, you could buy one of the many inventory programs available on the 'net. Better yet, there are two free household inventory programs that you can download:

1. [iii Home Inventory](http://www.iii.org) from the Insurance Information Institute at www.iii.org.

2. [Personal Property Inventory](http://www.libertymutual.com) from Liberty Mutual at www.libertymutual.com

Both programs guide you in entering data. Both will include a picture of each item if you wish. The iii program seems to be a bit easier to use, but it requires Windows XP. The Liberty Mutual program will run on Windows 98 and above.

(YouTube from page 1)

Be cautious in letting your kids look at YouTube. Although many videos are restricted to over-18 registered viewers, a lot of inappropriate material slips past YouTube's filters. Some is even included within what looks like a "safe" subject.

Other sites such as Iklipz and Dovetail have been started with the goal of fewer but better clips. How suitable those new sites will be for kids remains to be seen.

Web hosting provided by:

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



Dual Core? Old hat. Now it's Quad Core!

Seems like we have just heard about dual-core processors, and now Intel is announcing quad-core processors that will be about 70% faster than their dual core processors. The quad-cores will first be used in PCs for gamers and other high-end applications. Quad-cores for mainstream PCs are scheduled for the first quarter of 2007.

Intel has also shown a prototype chip with 80 specialized computing cores and roughly the power of a 1996 supercomputer that occupied more than 85 refrigerator-sized cabinets.

Intel has been facing tough competition from AMD whose chips have recently outperformed Intel's. In server chips, where AMD was stronger, Intel has shipped a million of its new dual-core models in three months and may have regained the lead from AMD.

More on slow PCs

When you save data to a hard drive, the information is fragmented and recorded wherever an empty spot is available on the drive. The fragments can be scattered all over the drive. This requires additional time for the hard drive to jump from spot to spot retrieving the information. This problem gets worse as information is added and deleted.

The solution is to run Defragmenter,

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by Roanoke County
Schools

which accumulates all those pieces and stores them together in one area.

Defragmenter can be found under Accessories > System Tools > Disk Defragmenter. However, before running Defragmenter, do a bit of preparation.

First, make sure you have at least 15% free space on your hard drive. Defragmenter needs space to move things around.

Turn off your screen saver (set it to None) and power management (set it to Always On).

Run Disk Cleanup, also found under Accessories > System Tools.

Defragmenter does not play well with others. If anything writes to the hard drive, defragmenter starts from the beginning again. Avoid this by running Defragmenter while in the Safe Mode. To get into the Safe Mode, shut down your PC and then restart. While rebooting, tap the F8 key repeatedly. When you see a menu, select Safe Mode and press return. If you don't get the menu, repeat the shut down and reboot while tapping F8.

Defragmentation takes a long time. Don't try to use the PC for anything else. You may want to start it and let it run overnight. With XP, you can choose Analyze to see if you really need to defragment.

Dr. Calculator

Here's a useful site recommended by Kim Komando: www.drcalculator.com has about 35 handy financial calculators. They range in complexity from "How much do you save carrying a lunch rather than buying it?" to "How much house can I afford?"

RVPCC meets the second Saturday of the month.

This newsletter is published by the RVPCC