



# SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

Volume 23 Number 9

Serving the Roanoke Valley

September 2007



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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](mailto:editor@rvpcc.org).

## Do Not Call List

Did you know that your registration on the Do Not Call list expires after 5 years? Oh, good. We all enjoy those sales calls at dinnertime!

No problem, just re-register before the five years is up. Now, when did we register? Internet to the rescue! Go to [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) and click on Verify Registration. Enter up to three phone numbers and your email address. Within minutes you will get an email giving you the date each number was registered and the date the registrations will expire.

The five years will be up in 2008 for those people who registered immediately after the service began. Find out your expiration date and re-register a couple of months before your registration expires.

Re-registration is the same as an original registration. Go to [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) and click on Register a Phone Number. Enter up to three phone numbers and your email address. Click Submit, verify your entries, and click Continue.

You'll soon get an email from [Register@donotcall.gov](mailto:Register@donotcall.gov). Open it and click on the link. If you don't do this within 72 hours, your phone numbers will not be registered.

Detailed instructions and trouble-shooting tips are on the donotcall website.

**NEXT MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2007  
9:15 A.M.**

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## Secretary's Report

ROANOKE VALLEY PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB

Saturday, August 11, 2007

The August meeting of the RVPCC was opened by Earl Abbott, President, at 9:25 a.m. He welcomed all members.

### OFFICERS REPORTS:

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

**Treasurer** - Helen Trenor gave the treasurer's report. She gave the treasury balance and said that the club was solvent.

**Public Relations** - Bill Scott again asked for ideas for future programs.

Roanoke County Schools - Homer Duff said that school classes start next week.

**Newsletter** - Sandy Johnson reported that the August newsletter is available online.

**DOOR PRIZE:** \$10.00 - Sandy Johnson

It was brought up that we donate the door prize to the Roanoke County Schools. It was tabled until the end of the year.

A SHORT QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FOLLOWED

**PROGRAM:** The meeting was adjourned to straighten the cables on 20 computers at the Arnold Burton meeting site.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Ann Hoag  
Secretary



## PREZ' NOTES

We had a good time cleaning up the computer cabling in one of our meeting rooms during our August meeting. Our efforts benefited the School. We cracked jokes, traded puns, and had a good time while we worked. We need for someone to be Vice President next year. A viable Club needs live officers for each office, and the office of Vice President is an important office. The VP conducts the Club Meeting in the President's absence. This is an excellent position to train to become President the next year.

I believe each one of our Officers has done a good job this year.

I believe we have had good programs this year. Bill and John have worked hard to line up the programs that members have requested. The other officers have also done their jobs well. We have had excellent newsletters. Maggie, Helen, Tim, and Homer have done their jobs well. Del has done everything we have asked him to do. The collective efforts of these fine people has made my job easy and enjoyable.

I hope to see many smiling faces at our next meeting.

Earl Abbott

For all you folks who have difficulty converting units:

Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi

2000 pounds of Chinese soup = Won ton

1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 microscope

Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement = 1 bananosecond

Weight an evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram

Sent in by Beryl Middaugh

## Puns for the Literate

(1) King Ozymandias of Assyria was running low on cash after years of war with the Hittites. His last great possession was the Star of the Euphrates, the most valuable diamond in the ancient world. Desperate, he went to Croesus, the pawnbroker, to ask for a loan. Croesus said, "I'll give you 100,000 dinars for it." "But I paid a million dinars for it," the King protested. "Don't you know who I am? I am the king!" Croesus replied, "When you wish to pawn a Star, makes no difference who you are."

(2) Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. However, all the Swiss league records were unfortunately destroyed in a fire, and we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled.

(3) A man rushed into a busy doctor's office and shouted "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking!!" The doctor calmly responded, "Now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."

(4) A marine biologist developed a race of genetically engineered dolphins that could live forever if they were fed a steady diet of seagulls. One day, his supply of the birds ran out so he had to go out and trap some more. On the way back, he spied two lions asleep on the road. Afraid to wake them, he gingerly stepped over them. Immediately, he was arrested and charged with transporting gulls across sedate lions for immortal porpoises.

(5) Back in the 1800s the Tates Watch Company of Massachusetts wanted to produce other products and, since they already made the cases for watches, they used them to produce compasses. The new compasses were so bad that people often ended up in Canada or Mexico rather than California. This, of course, is the origin of the expression, "He who has a Tates is lost!"

(6) A thief broke into the local police station and stole all the toilets and urinals, leaving no clues. A spokesperson was quoted as saying, "We have absolutely nothing to go on."

(7) An Indian chief was feeling very sick, so he summoned the medicine man. After a brief examination, the medicine man took out a long, thin strip of elk rawhide and gave it to the chief, telling him to bite off, chew, and swallow one inch of the leather every day. After a month, the medicine man returned to see how the chief was feeling. The chief shrugged and said, "The thong is ended, but the malady lingers on."

(8) A famous Viking explorer returned home from a voyage and found his name missing from the town register. His wife insisted on complaining to the local civic official who apologized profusely saying, "I must have taken Leif off my census."

(9) There were three Indian squaws. One slept on a deer skin, one slept on an elk skin, and the third slept on a hippopotamus skin. All three became pregnant, and the first two each had a baby boy. The one who slept on the hippopotamus skin had twin boys. This goes to prove that the squaw of the hippopotamus is equal to the sons of the squaws of the other two hides.

(10) This one got deleted by accident!!!!!!

(By the way, the guy who wrote these puns entered them in a contest. He figured with 10 entries, he couldn't lose. As they were reading the list of winners, he was really hoping one of his puns would win, but unfortunately, no pun in ten did.)

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**Meeting space provided  
by Roanoke County  
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Newsletter created with  
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## Tips from Del

Dell Kirschner has used a pair of programs and recommends them:

Free Commander: This is an improvement to Microsoft's file-manager, Explore. It displays two pages on the screen, making the moving or copying of files much easier than juggling two copies of Explore.

Many other tasks are simplified. At first glance, Free Commander looks like it might be difficult to learn. However, the basic functions operate the same as Windows Explore, so the learning curve is short.

Free Commander is a free 2 MB download at [www.freecommander.com](http://www.freecommander.com). It works with any version of Windows. Help files and guides are available on the website.

CAMunzip: Since Free Commander downloads as a zipped file, you will need a program to unzip it. WinZip works, but it is not a free program. If you don't pay, there is a long delay each time you use it. WinZip seems "unfriendly" and difficult to use.

Get CAMunzip at [www.camunzip.com](http://www.camunzip.com). It's free and it works with any Windows from 98 up. It is relatively small at 884K. It will zip and unzip files quickly. It has a simple, uncluttered interface.

**We Meet the 2nd  
Saturday of the Month  
Next Meeting  
September 8, 2007**

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

## Show File Extensions

In Windows, a file name includes a period (dot) and a three-letter extension, such as George.doc. The extension tells you the type of file. By default, Windows does not show this extension. This makes it difficult to differentiate between files with the same name, such as a letter (George.doc) and a photo (George.jpg).

To show the file extensions: Open My Computer. In the drop-down Tools Menu, click on Folder Options. Click on the View tab. Un-check the box for Hide MS-DOS file extensions for known file type by clicking the box. Click OK.

Try this for a while. If you don't like it, you can easily get rid of the file extensions by following the procedure above and checking the box to hide the extensions.

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## Clear your web tracks

Web browsers remember what sites you have logged onto. Here is how to clear that history:

In Firebox: Press control-shift-delete. Or click on the Tools menu, then click Clear Private Data.

In IE7: Click on Tools, then click on Delete browsing history. This pops up a page where you can delete more than just the sites visited. Click Delete History – List of websites you have visited on that page. At the bottom-left of this pop-up page is a link to a help screen that explains the other options available.

The other options in IE7 can delete **all** your browsing history in addition to the list of sites visited. This does not delete your list of favorites -- It only deletes temporary files, browsing history, cookies, saved form information, and saved passwords.

You should close Internet Explorer when you're finished browsing to clear cookies that are still in memory. This is especially important when using a public or kiosk computer.

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### Scenes from our August 'working' meeting



The **BEFORE** mess



Beryl ankle deep in wires



Will we ever figure it out?



Now where does this wire go?



The group getting started



Georgiana's really getting into it!



The new assistant principal, Jason Suhr, stopped by to see our project. Shown here with our president, Earl Abbott.



**AFTER**—Now doesn't this look nice!