



RVPCC Officers

President: Earl Abbott,
president@rvpcc.org
Vice President: Ron Zoll,
vicepresident@rvpcc.org
Secretary: Kay Viskup,
secretary@rvpcc.org
Treasurer: Helen Trenor,
treasurer@rvpcc.org
Public Relations: Bill
Scott, pr1@rvpcc.org;
John Leary, pr@rvpcc.org
Membership Chairman:
Helen Trenor,
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
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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL

In this issue:

Stupid.com	1
November minutes	2
Prez Notes	2
Clean Install Windows 7	3
McAfee & Norton Removal Tools	3
Computer History	3
Watch Earth from Satellite	3
Lost Photo Gear	4
Water Saving Tips	4
Pics from Nov meeting	5
Error Messages	5

Next Meeting
January 9, 2010
9:15 a.m.

There is no regular meeting
scheduled for December



Stupid.com

Looking for an unusual or different gift? Try www.stupid.com. They have enough oddities to amuse anyone (also enough to insult, gross out, surprise, and embarrass anyone). Check out these examples:

- Titanic-shaped ice cube mold
- Star Trek communicator (beeps, flashes lights)
- Self-twirling spaghetti fork
- Sunglasses with rear-view mirrors
- Cologne that smells like old cigars
- Remote controlled rat

Secretary's Report

PREZ' NOTES

Minutes for November 14, 2009

President Earl Abbott called the meeting to order at 9:16 am.

Reports:

Treasurer: Helen presented the Treasurer's report

Secretary: The minutes from the October meeting, published in the November SoftTalk, were accepted without comment.

County Schools: Homer reported that tight budgets continue in the schools.

Program: The Christmas dinner on December 5 will replace the regular December meeting that was to have been held on Dec 12. The election of officers will be held at a brief business meeting after the dinner.

Door prizes were won by Helen Trenor, Stan Rogowski, Bill Farmer, and Ron Gordon.

Christmas dinner: The club members selected the \$14.95 roasted roast beef for the dinner. All attendees will be served the same meal.

Andy McLaughlin presented a program on high dynamic range photography, a system for overcoming too-dark shadows and too-light highlights. He first covered the basics of color digital photography. Then he demonstrated the free Qtpfsgui program that can blend different exposures of the same scene into an improved image.

Robert Johnson,
Acting secretary

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

DEC 8, 2009

I hope everyone is well, happy, and enjoying personal computing. It is time to look forward to our Club's future. We have a new set of elected Officers who are intelligent, skilled, and ready to GO! We need to give them our support and we can enjoy the learning and doing that technology offers us.

I hope that each of you selects a project, or two, to do, and then share the results with our group. We are intelligent and friendly. When we share project results, or project problems, the rest of the group can offer comments and suggestions which often lead to new directions and results.

I hope we continue to enjoy the solving of problems.

Earl Abbott

RVPCC Meetings

When: 2nd Saturday of every month

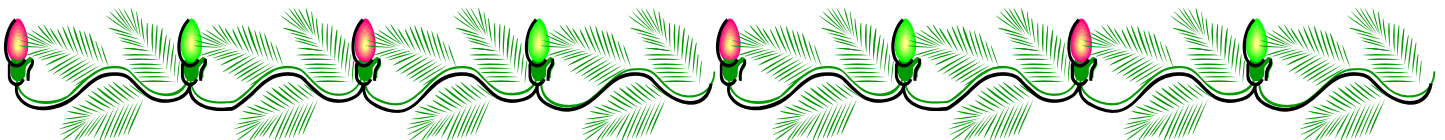
Where: Arnold R. Burton
Tech Center

Room 105

1760 Roanoke Blvd.

Salem, VA 24153

What time: 9:15 am until noon



Clean Install Windows 7

By Bill Scott

Here are the instructions my friend gave me for installing Windows 7:

Just did a clean install with the upgrade media alone using instructions I found on the Internet. Pretty simple really.

I connected the drive to my desktop using my USB interface, deleted the partitions on the hard drive using mmc diskmanager then repartitioned, then connected the drive to my media center pc. I set my bios back to where it sees the sata drive as a sata drive.

I booted from the Win 7 upgrade DVD and told it to do a custom install. It went fine.

When it got to the place where it asks for a product key I unchecked the validate automatically checkbox and DID NOT ENTER THE PRODUCT KEY and clicked next. It went on and finished installing.

Then I kept connecting to windows update until it had every update installed. (3 times I think).

Then FROM WINDOWS I navigated to the WIN 7 DVD and ran setup.exe. It started another install. This time I selected UPGRADE.

It went ahead and did the upgrade. This time it took a while longer since it was mucking with already installed files.

Again when it asked for the product key I didn't enter it and unchecked the automatic activation checkbox. I clicked next and it went on into Windows 7.

Then I clicked the start menu and typed "activate" into the text box that appears at the bottom of the start menu (you'll learn to love that box by the way). I entered the product key at the prompt and let it go ahead and activate which it did successfully.

McAfee and Norton Removal Tools

Have you ever uninstalled a McAfee or Norton anti-virus program from your computer? Later, did you notice your computer running slowly? Did you see references to the old program even after uninstalling it?

These anti-virus programs hate to let go – pieces of them are left on your hard drive, often enough to conflict with other anti-virus programs and slow down the computer's operation.

The solution to the problem is to run the removal tools that both McAfee and Norton provide. These tools will remove all those left over pieces.

McAfee anti-virus: google "mcafee removal tool" (without the quotes) and click on the article titled "How to Uninstall or Reinstall Supported McAfee Consumer Products..." Follow the instructions in the article. There is a how-to video as well as printed instructions.

Norton anti-virus: google "Norton removal tool" (without the quotes) and click on the article titled "Download and Run the Norton Removal Tool." Follow the instructions in the article.

Computer History

By Bill Scott

Here are a couple of interesting links to show how far we have come.

<http://www.4004.com/4004-ad.htm>

<http://www.4004.com/mcs4-masks-schematics-sim.html>

Meeting space provided by
Roanoke County Schools

Watch the Earth From A Satellite

For all of us who have wanted to be in a satellite and watch the earth go by, here is the next-best thing. You can watch a moving image of North America from the Landsat satellite.

The images are real-time when the satellite is passing over North America in daylight. Recorded images from recent passes are shown if North America is dark or cloud-covered. It is difficult to spot cities, so city names are superimposed on the images. A map in the upper-right corner shows the current location and path of the satellite, the area shown in the image, and whether the image is live or recorded earlier.

The resolution is 1 pixel in the image equals a 250-meter square section of the earth. Since the satellite “sees” in wavelengths beyond human sight, some colors in the images seem a bit strange. Water is dark blue and clouds are white, but snow is turquoise.

It is surprising how quickly the earth passes below, like from Denver south to the US-Mexico border in 2 minutes.

Take your own satellite ride now at www.earthnow.usgs.gov.

Watching the images requires Java 1.4 or later, which most of us probably have. If not, you can obtain the latest Java free at <http://www.java.com>. Java 6 update 17 was the current version in early November. The site includes tools that will report what version of Java you have installed and if it is running properly.

Lost Photo Gear

by Bob Johnson

If cameras or cards are misplaced, you can only hope that your property will be returned. You can help that return by putting your name, address, and phone number on each item.

A sticky-back mailing label can be used on items like the camera, charger, flash, battery packs, and tripods.

Media (tapes, mini-DVDs, and flash cards) are a different story since labels aren't a good idea for these. Instead, as the first picture on each piece, take a picture of your ID.

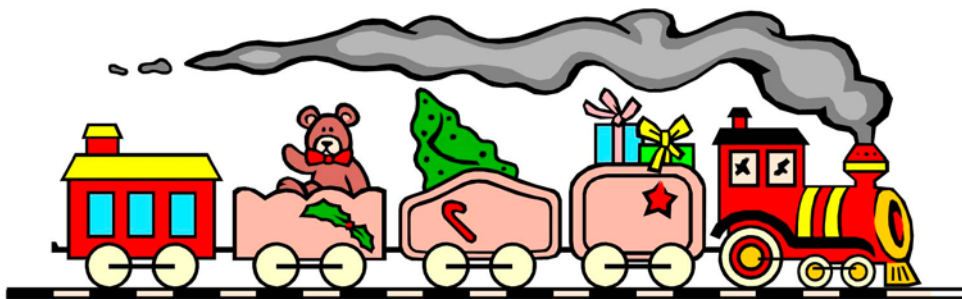
Print your ID (name, address, and phone number) on an 8 ½ by 11 piece of paper. Fold up the paper and store it in your camera bag. Then each time you start a new tape whatever, unfold the paper and take a picture of it.

When you transfer the pictures to your computer, delete all but that first picture. Or just shoot another picture of your ID when you reuse the media.

A friend who lost her camera in the Bahamas had followed these instructions. Believe it or not, her camera was returned to her a couple of months later.

Water Saving Tips

Visit www.h2ouse.org for an array of water-saving tips from the EPA and the California Urban Water Conservation Council. These tips can be applied anywhere in the U.S.



Pictures from November meeting

By
Bob Johnson



Andy McLaughlin at the screen during his presentation on editing high dynamic range pictures



Earl Abbott conducting the meeting



Error messages

Computers can be downright unfriendly sometimes. One of the more frustrating things they do is putting up a cryptic error message that doesn't have a clear meaning. Like, what does "Sync out of range" mean? What is a sync and why is it out of range? And more important, what do I do about it?

What we need is a dictionary that interprets these messages into understandable English. Never fear, your wish is granted. An error-message dictionary exists and better yet, it is free. The dictionary is in the Tech Support Center of Smart Computing Magazine. They list hundreds of error messages alphabetized by the first letter. Find your error

message in the list, then click on it to see a page that explains what the message means and what to do about it.

Try this link to get to the dictionary: [Error Messages](#). If that doesn't work, here's the long route: Go to <http://www.smartcomputing.com/>. About 2 inches below the center of the screen, click on [Tech Support Center](#). In the next screen, look at the list on the right side and click on Error Messages.

What about the "Sync out of range" message mentioned above? It means that the monitor doesn't have the synchronization rate you requested and the software is refusing to use that rate to avoid damaging the monitor.