



# SoftTalk

The Official Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley Personal Computer Club

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Serving the Roanoke Valley

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## RVPCC Officers

**President:** John Leary,  
[president@rvpcc.org](mailto:president@rvpcc.org)

**Vice President:** Bill Scott,  
[vicepresident@rvpcc.org](mailto:vicepresident@rvpcc.org)

**Secretary:** Ron Gordon,  
[secretary@rvpcc.org](mailto:secretary@rvpcc.org)

**Treasurer:** Helen Trenor,  
[treasurer@rvpcc.org](mailto:treasurer@rvpcc.org)

**Public Relations:** Andy  
McLaughlin, [pr1@rvpcc.org](mailto:pr1@rvpcc.org);

Bill Farmer, [pr@rvpcc.org](mailto:pr@rvpcc.org)

**Membership Chairman:**  
Helen Trenor

[membership@rvpcc.org](mailto:membership@rvpcc.org)

**Roanoke County Schools:**  
Homer Duff, 774-6862,  
[rcschool@rvpcc.org](mailto:rcschool@rvpcc.org)

**WebMaster:** Tim Johnson,  
562-0140, [web@rvpcc.org](mailto:web@rvpcc.org)

**Email:** [info@rvpcc.org](mailto:info@rvpcc.org),  
[members@rvpcc.org](mailto:members@rvpcc.org)

**Web:** <http://rvpcc.org>,

**Newsletter Editor:** Sandy  
Johnson, 774-3979,  
[editor@rvpcc.org](mailto: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](mailto:editor@rvpcc.org).

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Next Meeting  
Saturday, Jan 8, 2011

9:15 a.m.

Topics:

Show & Tell

(Bring your newest  
gadgets to show off)

plus

Free Software in  
the New Year

by

Andy McLaughlin

## “Don’t take my Kodachrome away”

“Makes you think all the world’s a sunny place”

Paul Simon sang these words in his 1973 song “Kodachrome.” Sorry Paul, but after 75 years, they’ve taken it way. Ever stop to think that a large portion of the younger population doesn’t know what Kodachrome is and has never seen a slide?

For a moment of nostalgia, read these articles written on Dec 20, 2010, the last day that a roll of Kodachrome was processed.

[http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/40853048/ns/business-the\\_new\\_york\\_times/](http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/40853048/ns/business-the_new_york_times/)

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2013799349\\_kodachrome30.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2013799349_kodachrome30.html)



## Secretary's Report

December 4, 2010

After a delicious dinner at Salem House, Vice President, Bill Scott, called the meeting to order.

Ron Gordon presented the slate of officers for 2011. They were:

President: John Leary  
 Vice President: Bill Scott  
 Secretary: Ron Gordon  
 Treasurer: Helen Trenor  
 Public Relations: Andy McLaughlin &  
 Bill Farmer  
 Membership: Helen Trenor  
 Roanoke County Schools: Homer Duff  
 Web Master: Tim Johnson

The slate was approved by acclimation.

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned.

Sandy Johnson, Acting Secretary

## What the Internet Killed

The Internet has made changes in our lives, both good and bad. Kim Komando has an interesting video describing some of the changes, such as the disappearance of movie rental stores, CDs, and phone books. For non-Komando-watchers, or for those who might have missed it, see her video at: [http://www.tvkim.com/watch/640/kim-on-komando-what-the-internet-killed?utm\\_medium=nl&utm\\_source=notd&utm\\_content=2010-12-20-article&utm\\_campaign=end-i](http://www.tvkim.com/watch/640/kim-on-komando-what-the-internet-killed?utm_medium=nl&utm_source=notd&utm_content=2010-12-20-article&utm_campaign=end-i)

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

## PREZ' NOTES

January 2011



Where do you stand on "*net neutrality*?" What is it? How will the government's emerging "regulatory activity" of the Internet come to affect your life over the next five years?

As usual, you can check out the Wiki, for a quick summary. It says in part that "*net neutrality*" is a principle that "... advocates no restrictions by Internet service providers and governments on content, sites, platforms, the kinds of equipment that may be attached, and the modes of communication." The Wiki article can be found at this link: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network\\_neutrality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network_neutrality)

This article goes on to say that "... on December 21, 2010, the FCC approved new rules banning cable television and telephone service providers from preventing access to competitors or certain web sites such as Netflix. The rules would not keep ISPs from charging more for faster access. Republicans in Congress have announced plans to reverse the rules through legislation."

At first glance, the FCC appears to have "consumer interests in mind. However there is a contrary view, which may be disquieting. Consider the way that conservative columnist, Michelle Malkin, sums up her observations on the FCC "decision." She says, in part that progressive politicians "cloak their ambitions in the mantle of fairness", but that their motives are simply about expanding government control. She and others argue that the non-governmental organizations, (e.g. W3C), which originated Internet standards are sufficient to preserve the openness and accessibility that "consumers" have come to expect, without preventing commercial activity based on an open market model. You can read more of her opinion at <http://www.gopusa.com/commentary/2010/12/malkin-internet-access-is-not-a-civil-right.php#ixzz19jJKMbph>

Another site worth checking is <http://tech.fortune.cnn.com/2010/12/16/free-minds-free-markets-free-networks/>

John

Meeting space provided by  
 Roanoke County Schools

## Newbie's Corner -- Computer Jargon



All those words tossed around by computer users can be confusing. A 10/19/2010 Kim Komando Question-and-Answer defines many of the words for us. You can read the entire article at <http://www.komando.com/tips/index.aspx?id=9007>. Or go to [www.komando.com](http://www.komando.com) and search for "jargon" without the quotes.

### RVPCCC 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

## Electronic Pick Pocketing

John Yeatts sent along a link to an interesting video that describes the latest in thievery technology – the ID chips in your credit cards and passports can be read without touching you. The reader seems cumbersome right now, but given time someone will make it much more secretive. Watch the video at: <http://www.wreg.com/videobeta/?watchId=8ba6f8fc-90a2-4711-90ea-1884ec348310>.

Snopes rates this story as a mixture of true and false. Read the Snopes 'rebuttal' at <http://www.snopes.com/fraud/identity/pickpocket.asp>.

OK, now that we have seen the video and read the rebuttal, are we amused or frightened? At least we can agree that we should be aware of this and pay attention to future developments.

## You Know You Are Living In The Computer Age When...

- 1 - You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
- 2 - You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
- 3 - You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
- 4 - You email the person who works at the desk next to you.
- 5 - Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have email addresses.
- 6 - You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.
- 7 - Every television commercial has a website at the bottom of the screen.
- 8 - Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't have for the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic - and you turn around to go get it.
- 10 - You get up in the morning and go on line before getting your coffee.
- 11 - You start tilting your head sideways to smile :-)
- 12 - You're reading this, and nodding and laughing.
- 13 - Even worse, you know exactly to whom you're going to email this list.
- 14 - You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list
- 15 - You actually looked back to check that there was no #9 on this list.

And now you are laughing at yourself!



# Pictures from December Christmas Dinner

