

EXTONPC.ORG NEWS

Volume 23, Issue 4

April 2009

*The EXTON PC COUNCIL www.extonpc.org
All meetings are free and open to the public in the Struble Room of the
Exton Public Library at 6:30 P.M.*



Vote for Directors Annual Meeting Notice April 6th

Exton PC Council's Annual Meeting will take place in the Struble Room at the Chester County Library on April 6, 2009 at 6:30 p. m.

All members present will have an opportunity to vote for six (6) Directors. Directors are elected for a one year term. Pursuant to our by-laws, proxy voting is not permitted; you must be present to vote.

Please bring the ballot attached to your April Newsletter and your membership card to the main meeting. Using this ballot and presenting your membership card will save the membership committee the time to verify and inconvenience to verify that you have your 2009 dues.

Please contact Gabe Preston at (610) 436-0311 or any Board Member if you are willing to serve as a Board Member of your club. We currently have vacancies on the board. Membership dues must be received on or before April 7, 2009 to retain your voting privileges. For your convenience, attached to your Newsletter is a membership form. If you prefer to renew your member by mail, please mail your membership form and fees, made payable to EPCC, to:

EPCC

310 N. High Street

West Chester PA 19381

Looking forward to seeing you at our annual meeting.

Vote for 2009 Board

Ballots in April Newsletter and at meeting

MEMBERSHIP 2009

Welcome to new members who have recently joined.
Thanks to those who have renewed for the coming year

April 6 Meeting Using Extonpc.org

With Bob Lineberry

Be informed about: Members Group
Help Desk at Yahoo
Presentations-Past & Present
Update information on Next Meeting
Newsroom-Events in the tech world
2nd Monthly Meeting-more detailed
And More

April 6 Continued Keeping Your E-mails Coming & Going While on the Road'

Lots of us like to stay in touch while traveling by using our laptops. Sometimes the travel is near to the library or coffee shop. Or it could be far and require an overnight stay. Most hotels are offering wifi connections. However, in many cases, email in particular does not work the same way it does at home with your own internet service provider. Jim McKittrick will share his on the road experience and provide some tips and practices that will help overcome most of the idiosyncrasies of hotel and other wifi hotspots and keep your email coming and going. Jim's wife wishes he had shared some of these tips with her before their most recent trip.

April 29th

Linux Operating System Presented by Nate Rosenthal

Did you know that there is an Operating System which has all the power of Microsoft Windows but without the high cost? The answer to this question is LINUX, an operating system which can be obtained for virtually no cost over the Internet.

LINUX has made great strides over the past few years and is almost ready to move from the "geeks only" stage to the mainstream. At the April meeting I will demonstrate two different varieties of LINUX: Ubuntu which has become one of the most popular LINUX distributions; and Puppy, a small but powerful distribution you can install on a thumb drive

Need Computer Help ?. Then ask for help
from your club members by

Visiting the EPCC Help Desk & Discussion Group

At <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group>

SMART COMPUTING SOFTWARE REVIEW

(April 2009 Issue) Excerpts from article by: Seth Colaner

Free Software

Getting More Than You Paid For

Is Free Software Worth It?,

Perhaps the hardest part of working with free software is finding the good stuff amidst all the clutter. Some software is in beta form meaning that the creators need people to test it out, find all the bugs and report back with their findings. Some betas are pretty solid, so you don't always have problems to deal with, but others may be rife with errors. (Granted, a buggy beta doesn't necessarily mean that the finished product will have problems; beta testing is how software designers discover flaws they can then fix.)

For instance, say you need a widget. Where do you go first to find a good one? Company X sells variations of the widget, and Company X has a solid reputation for making good widgets and you know your expectations will be met.

But if you are hunting around the Internet for a free version of the widget you are not assured of finding anything worthwhile.

When in doubt about a free program, perform a simple Google search. If nothing comes up about it it's likely very new, fraudulent, or both. Most free applications worth their salt will have been talked about in forums, on blogs and even on news sites. You can find more information about a particular application from a site such as www.opensourcewindows.org. This site will have collections of free software, often with descriptions and ratings to help you make sound decisions.

What You Get (& Don't' Get)

One glaring difference between purchased and free software is tech support. If you have problems with purchased software the seller is likely to offer a form of tech support, more so than makers of free software. Makers of free software commonly offer FAQs, help topics and user forums on their Web Sites, they rarely have human technicians to offer support.

Pros & Cons

A free application may perform the same function as the better-known retail version, but with even high-quality free software, you'll have to learn a new interface. For example OpenOffice.org, makes software that mimics the capabilities of Microsoft

Office, but it doesn't look the same thus, you are forced to learn a new interface.

Compatibility between the free and the retail version of a program that does the same thing can be problematic. A file created using the free software can't be opened with the retail version, and vice versa, but many good programs ensure that the files are compatible or a saved in a third party format that can be read by either program.

For all the potential headaches involved with finding and using free software, there are many positives. Unlike retail software, which by nature must have a sales-motivated agenda, the best free software is created by extraordinarily talented people who care about their work, take pride in its quality, and seek little in return. The resulting products are often of a superior quality---you just have to do a little leg work to find them.

Save on Software

From PC World (April 2009 Issue)

In detail on page 76

A few free software that competes with retail software.

OpenOffice.org	Microsoft Office
Gimp.net	Photoshop
Paint.net	
Linux.com	Windows
Gnucash.org	Quicken or Money Managing your money
InfraRecorder.org	Nero or Easy Media Creator Burn CD's & DVD's
Gliffy.com	Microsoft Visio
On line diagram software	

In various stages of evaluating.

Browser Wars II

Excerpts From Blog in Pitstop

According to Wikipedia, "The term "browser wars" refers to the competition for dominance in the web browser marketplace. The term is used denote two specific periods of time: the competence between market-dominating Netscape Navigator and its eventual defeat by Microsoft Internet Explorer during the late 1990s, and the competition from 2003 onwards between the dominating Internet Explorer and several other emerging browsers including Mozilla Firefox, Safari, Opera, and, since mid-2008, Google Chrome. I couldn't agree more, so now it's time to look again at browsers and their respective performance. I hope you enjoy the results as much as I enjoyed putting it together.

The summation of his testing:

Tested Windows XP, Windows Beta 7, IE 7, IE 8, Mozilla Firefox3.06, Firefox 3.2 Beta, Opera, Safari, and a non-working Google Chrome.

The testing involved mixing the above groups in technical evaluations to reach a comparison.

The article said the one thing that came from this comparison is that after in a couple of month's use I ended up with Windows Beta 7 and Firefox as being my favorite combination. It's the combo that worked best for me and was the most problem free. The features of Widows 7 and the reliability of Firefox make it the winner in my book.

One disappointing findings was that Google Chrome wouldn't run at all in Windows 7. It seems the excitement and fast acceptance seen at the introduction of Chrome is slowing, not much progress made since it's initial release. I'm still seeing the same problems now that I saw at the beginning even in combination with Windows XP

Next year should see some interesting changes. I can't Wait.

.EPCC editor: I have the article saved for those interested in its entirety. For a copy e-mail

jcharlebois2001@yahoo.com

Microsoft announced that Vista 7 will come out in six versions. No price or date mentioned

April Suggestions For Low - Tech Fixes for High – Tech Problems

Dry Ink Cartridge

If your printer's ink cartridge runs dry near the end of an important print, remove the cartridge, run a hair dryer on it for two, three minutes. Then place the cartridge back into the printer trying again whole the cartridge is still war.

The heat from the dryer heats the thick ink helping it flow through the nozzles in the cartridge. When the cartridge is almost dead, those nozzles are often nearly clogged with dried ink, so helping the ink to flow will let more ink out of the nozzles. The hair dryer trick can squeeze a few more pages out of a cartridge after printer declares it is empty.

Slate For 2009 EPCC Directors
Vote for 6 (six)
Add write in name
Bob Linaberry
Sal Sano
Jim McKittrick
Gabe Preston
Michael Shephard
Isabelle Bourrie

Who's Who at EPCC

Directors

Bob Linaberry	(610) 873-0204	rl55@verizon.net
Jim McKittrick	(610) 647-8188	JMcKit@ccil.org
Gabe Preston	(610) 436-0311	GabePreston@erols.com
Salvatore Sano	(610) 269-5096	SalvatoreSano@yahoo.com
Michael Shephard	(601) 857-2193	joelisester@verizon.net

Program Contacts

Digital Imaging	Bob Linaberry	
Microsoft Windows	Doug Fairchild	(610) 696-8223 db64fair@verizon.net
Microsoft Publisher	Jack Stretch	(610) 363-6328 JLStretch@comcast.net
Linux	Nate Rosenthal	(610) 970-5122 n2add@arrl.net
Microsoft Office/Works	Salvatore Sano	

Staff Positions

Newsletter Editor	Jig Charlebois	(484)-356-4401 jcharlebois2001@yahoo.com
Newsletter Mailing	Sal Sano	
Communications	Charlie Eisenfelder	Caeilop@aol.com
Membership	Joseph Holzman	m28@verizon.net
Treasurer	Nate Rosenthal	n2add@arrl.net
Webmaster	Bob Linaberry	rl55.verizon.net
CHESCO Library Liaison	Diane Gring	

Member Input

All members are encouraged to submit articles or other items of interest for possible Newsletter publication. . When sending as an attachment in E-mail please save your text file in text (*.txt), or MS Word Format (*.doc) and pictures in Jpeg Format.

Send to: Jig Charlebois
jcharlebois2001@yahoo.com

EPCC Swap Table

A table is set up at each meeting for members to give computer items they no longer want or need to give at no cost. Members can pick it up and take their new treasure home. One stipulation: if item not taken we ask you take it back. So, far it's been working fine.

The Who's Who of EPCC



Introducing Lola & Jack Stretch

Jack joined EPCC in 1993 after retiring from G.E. Space Division , with 35 years of service. EPCC was very active at that time with over 170 members being offered six to seven different presentations or classes at the library each month.

During these years Jack enjoyed holding many offices in EPCC while conducting presentations or classes like Publisher, Quicken, Digital Imaging and many miscellaneous programs.

After retiring, Lola and Jack purchased three – 1931 Model A Fords. They enjoy using these 78 year old cars for touring' plus being actively involved with two national and two local car clubs.

Lola and Jack have three sons and five grandsons. They are lucky to have two of the sons and the five grandsons living within ten miles of their home.

Lola is known to many club members as the- "Homemade Cookie Lady" at the EPCC semi-annual Open House meetings.

Editors Note: EPCC is lucky to have Jack who is still actively involved in the club. He is our concerned guiding force and historian.

This is the first blurb in a continuing bio of ECPP member's series.

Check next month
You may be on candid camera

March Board Meeting

Paid Members as of 3/10/2009

Daniel S. Berry
George Bourrie
Isabelle Bourrie
Jig Charlebois
Doug & Barb Fairchild
Lois Felldin
Kenneth L Hanson
Joseph Holzman
Vincent X. Hughes
Charles T. Kimber
James Kinney
Ted Kircher
Robert Linaberry
Donald Loverin
Charlene Morelli
John Neary
Gabriel Preston
Rick Procter
Rao Vemula
Nathan H. Rosenthal
Filip Sanders
Josephine Sanders
Salvatore Sano
Richard Schumacher
Michael Shepherd
Elise Shepherd
Alfred Streleckis
Jack & Lola Stretch
Paul Tabatschkow
Bob Walker
L. Wan Eck

Please check for your name if you are a paid up member, correct name spelling. If you do not receive the newsletter advise John Holzman at m28@verizon.net with your correct e-mail address

In an effort to better know each other a name tag will be available at the check-in table for paid up members. Blank cards for guests and new members will be available to handwrite the name.

Please leave the card after the meeting for future use.

Your EPCC Board in Action

Your EPCC Board in Action

With the winter doldrums beginning to disappear the board met March 18 and after shaking itself out began working on a continuing agenda for the balance of 2009. It had heard a few helpful comments from the members on the types of meetings they find news worthy or helpful. The computer world is changing so fast that the board has to weigh how to present topics that are not too technical but interesting.

One of the important issues was for meetings for the less than knowledgeable about computers. Now they are discussing where do we start? And "How and where do we fit in?"

Another issue the board feels they would like to address in depth is "freeware". The retail software can become too expensive for many to consider so the board will be investigating, testing much "open source" material. Right now it is delving into OpenOffice 3 and you will be hearing about their plans soon..

The editor will be calling you to develop a dialogue in search of any ideas, no matter how small, to relay to the board. There is much talent on this board and it wants to be a hands-on board directing in your behalf in a user friendly manner.

Get your thinking caps on.



Exton PC Council
310 North High Street
West Chester, PA 19380
<http://www.extonpc.org>

Place
Postage
Here



Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

Your Membership Is Welcome!

Non-members and former members are encouraged to join.
Please fill in the Membership Application below and mail it with your check now!

EXTON PC COUNCIL (EPCC) 2009 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Membership includes email notices, privilege to post on EPCC's Yahoo Groups, privilege to participate in special prize give away raffles at various meetings and affords additional benefits of special offers through the national APCUG (Association of Personal Computer User Computer Groups).

New Member: \$25.00 _____ Renewal: \$20.00 _____ Date _____

Notice of downloadable ExtonPC.Org News will be emailed monthly – Add \$5.00 to above fees to receive copy by postal mail and mark here. _____ (To cover cost of postage and mailing)

Last Name: _____ First Name _____

If you are a current member and renewing, fill in all changes only below. Otherwise fill in all information.

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____ (Optional)

EMAIL (please update and print clearly): _____

Please pay at the next main meeting, or mail this form with your check made payable to **EPCC**.

Mail To: EPCC, 310 North High Street, West Chester, PA. 19380