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# EXTONPC.ORG NEWS

Volume 24, Issue 10

October 2009

**THE EXTON PC COUNCIL** [www.ExtonPC.org](http://www.ExtonPC.org)

*All meetings are free and open to the public == Bring a friend*



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## Help Help Help

Yes, your computer club needs your help. The group is in need of a member who would like to help out by being the groups **Newsletter Editor**. Contact any of the directors for more information. It does not take a lot of time and can be fun, why not give it a try!! The Exton PC Council could not exist without your help and support.v

## < - - Next Meeting - - >

**Monday October 5th**

**Using Your PC to Watch TV Shows**  
with Izzi & George Bourrie



Have you ever missed out on a TV Show or not had access to a TV? Well, your computer can help with that. You can watch shows on your computer over the Internet. We will tell you how to do this and will tell you what web sites to use to find current shows as well as old ones. Do you miss the old Twilight Zone shows? You can watch them and many others on your computer. We will show you how. Also, we will demonstrate a program that will allow you to watch many channels on your computer.v

Need Computer Help?

Visit our Help Desk and Discussion Group at  
<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/epcc/>

## < - - Future Meetings - - >

**October 14**  
**Board meeting**

**Tuesday October 20th**  
**The Video Experience**  
with Charlie Eisenfelder

**Note: October 20th is a Tuesday and not the usual Monday**

With the falling of prices, the variety of storage mediums and HD becoming less pricey, it behooves us to carefully examine the market before parting with our hard earned dollars.

In other words come to this meeting to get the "Straight Skinny" on camcorders and how they interact with free and nearly free software to give you those all important memories.

The holidays are coming, so let's be prepared to make well thought out choices,

Preserving memories with a Camcorder is a modern link that closes the generation gap. It is now simple and quite affordable. At this session we will illustrate the simplicity using Movie Maker incorporated in both XP and Vista, and as an added attraction, the use of DVD Maker now available in Vista and Windows 7. Questions and experiences with other movie programs will be welcomed. Other people's experiences will raise the value of the meeting to a new level. Your help is needed.

My personal experience in this venue has been to convert film to digital, produce promo videos and travel logs. I am far from an expert, but I am an enthusiast eager to learn. I have had the privilege to lecture on a cruise and at 55+ communities.v

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## November 11 Board meeting

## December Open House

Watch this newsletter for more information.v

## Word of Thanks

We would like to give a public thanks to Rusty Tucci and Adam Weinstein for the timely and enlightening presentation on “NetBooks” and “Windows 7” at our two meeting in September.

Especially interesting was their insight into the battle between Ultra Light and Netbooks and the smoothness of installation and operation of Windows 7.

We are looking forward to future presentations by both of these young rising stars in the computing world in our community.v

## Notes from a Member

by George Bourrie

### Safe Websites for Finding Driver Updates



Smart Computing Magazine, the October 2009 issue, ([www.SmartComputing.com](http://www.SmartComputing.com)) has articles on the why and how of updating drivers, the pieces of code which enable the hardware of our computers, such as video cards, to interact with us and the operating system. As part of their coverage of the topic, they list websites they have found to be safe sources of drivers.

Websites that scan your computer and allow driver update downloads:

- Driver Detective: [www.drivershq.com](http://www.drivershq.com) (free)
- RadarSync 2009 Updater: [www.radarsync.com](http://www.radarsync.com) (free, with a Premium version available at \$29.95 for 12 months)
- Driver Magician: [www.drivermagician.com](http://www.drivermagician.com) (upgrades and tech support are free but initial download is \$29.95)
- Driver Scanner 2009: [www.liutilities.com](http://www.liutilities.com) (free scan with trial version but \$39.95 for full version that allows driver update)

- Driver Cure: [www.drivercure.com](http://www.drivercure.com) (scan for outdated drivers is free but updating them requires full version at \$39.97)
- Driver Genius Professional Edition 9: [www.driver-soft.com](http://www.driver-soft.com) (free trial or unlimited access license for \$29.95)

Driver Update Search Engines – for manual searches for drivers by device manufacturer and/or model

- WinDrivers: [www.windrivers.com](http://www.windrivers.com)
- DriverGuide: [www.driverguide.com](http://www.driverguide.com) (includes free system scan to find out-of-date drivers).v

## Have You Heard

Contributed by EPCC Member  
Charlie Eisenfelder from ZDNet’s Robin Harris

### Blu-ray is in a death spiral.

12 months from now Blu-ray will be a videophile niche, not a mass market product.

With only a 4% share of US movie disc sales and HD download capability arriving, the Blu-ray disc Association (BDA) is still smoking dope. Even \$150 Blu-ray players won’t save it.

16 months ago I called the HD war for Blu-ray. My bad. Who dreamed they could both lose?

### Snatching defeat from the jaws of victory

Delusional Sony exec Rick Clancy needs to put the crack pipe down and really look at the market dynamics.

In a nutshell: consumers drive the market and they don’t care about Blu-ray’s theoretical advantages. Especially during a world-wide recession.

Remember Betamax? SACD? Minidisk? Laser Disk? DVD-Audio? There are more losers than winners in consumer storage formats.

It’s all about volume. 8 months after Toshiba threw in the towel, Blu-ray still doesn’t have it.

### The Blu-ray Disc Association doesn’t get it

\$150 Blu-ray disc players are a good start, but it won’t take Blu-ray over the finish line. The BDA is stuck in the past with a flawed five-year-old strategy.

### The original game plan

Two things killed the original strategy. First the fight with HD DVD stalled the industry for two years. Initial enthusiasm for high definition video on disk was squandered.

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Second, the advent of low cost up-sampling DVD players dramatically cut the video quality advantage of Blu-ray DVDs. Suddenly, for \$100, your average consumer can put good video on their HDTV using standard DVDs. When Blu-ray got started no one dreamed this would happen.

### **Piggies at the trough**

The Blu-ray Disc Association hoped for a massive cash bonanza as millions of consumers discovered that standard DVDs looked awful on HDTV. To cash in they loaded Blu-ray licenses with costly fees. Blu-ray doesn't just suck for consumers: small producers can't afford it either. v

## **MEMBERSHIP 2009**

Thank you to those who have renewed and **Welcome** to new members who have recently joined. v

Presentation meetings - Struble Room  
Board meetings - Board Room  
All meetings start at 6:30 pm

### **Contribute a Newsletter Article**

All members are encouraged to submit articles or other items of interest for possible Newsletter publication.

Deadline for articles to appear in the next issue is the 1st Monday of the month. All articles gladly accepted at anytime for future 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:** Charlie Fote  
[CharlieFote@Hotmail.com](mailto:CharlieFote@Hotmail.com)

## **Who's Who at EPCC**

### **Directors**

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### **Program Contacts**

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<b>Microsoft Office/Works</b>	Salvatore Sano	

### **Staff Positions**

<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Open	
<b>Newsletter Mailing</b>	Sal Sano	
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Nate Rosenthal	
<b>Webmaster</b>	Bob Linaberry	
<b>CHESCO Library Liaison</b>	Diane Gring	

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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 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