
EXTONPC.ORG NEWS

Volume 25, Issue 04

April, 2010

THE EXTON PC COUNCIL www.ExtonPC.org

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



Meetings Notice

< - - Next Meeting - - >



We are limited to one meeting a month for 2010 by the library. There were no dates available in July and November.

Therefore EPCC will have 10 main meetings in 2010.

All meetings will be held on the first Monday of the month except September which will be the second Monday because of the holiday. ❖

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



Your Support Appreciated

The lively participation of the 40+ people attending the “**Preserving Memories thru Scanning**” on March 1st, exemplified the interest of the members of EPCC. A special thanks to the 13 visitors that shared their time with us. For those who were not able to attend, there is an outline of the content of the meeting published in the Past Presentations link on the Home page of our web site.

<http://www.extonpccouncil.org>

April 5

Act One: Create an Entertaining Moving Picture Flick by Integrating Picture Gallery, Movie Maker and DVD Maker.

Act Two: Finding Your Way: Getting the most out of your GPS and your PC.

With Jim McKittrick

Please pencil in April 5th to see Movie Making with free programs and DVD Maker into an entertaining movie, along with GPS updating with your PC with several easy steps.

During Act Two, Jim will demo how to update your GPS software and use the features of your GPS unit. In the continuing evolution of the personal computer and its uses, one of the most common roles your PC assumes is that of a necessary helper. Your GPS which you use in your car is not dependent on your computer for everyday use. However, if you want to upgrade your maps you must do it in conjunction with your computer. It seems the personal computer usage has achieved such ubiquity, that other gadgets feel perfectly comfortable hitching a ride so to speak on the PCs capability and flexibility.

James will review the issues involved in using your PC to update your GPS. Areas we will touch upon will include which technical aspects are involved and how to make the upgrade versus new purchase decision. ❖

NOTICE April 5 Annual Meeting

Exton P.C. Council's **Annual Meeting** will take place in the Struble Room at the Chester County Library on April 5, 2010 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 and inconvenience to verify that you have paid your 2010 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 presently have vacancies on the board and would like to have new members and ideas.

Membership dues must be received on or before April 5, 2010 to retain your voting privileges. For your convenience, attached to your Newsletter is a membership form. If you would like to renew your membership by mail, please mail your membership form and fees, made payable to EPCC, to:

EPCC
310 N. High St
West Chester, PA 19380

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting. ❖



< - - Future Meetings - - >

April 21
Board meeting

May 3
Windows 7 & Internet Radio
With Nate Rosenthal

Are you curious about Windows 7? Come to our May meeting where Nate Rosenthal, a long-time EPCC member will report on his experiences with the latest version of the Windows operating system. He has used it on two different systems from the time it was released in October, 2009.

May 12
Board meeting

June 7
Browsing the Browsers
With Jim McKittrick

A few years back, there was much discussion about the rivalry between Internet Explorer and Firefox. While the skirmishes have died down, there is no clear winner.

Today, there are several fine contenders for favorite browser. At the June 7, 2010 EPCC meeting Jim McKittrick will discuss the browser options, including Internet Explorer, Firefox, Opera, Chrome, and if time permits, some good but lesser known programs.

Points covered will be differences, similarities, and quirks of the browser options.

June 9
Board meeting

July
No Monday Meeting
and
No Board meeting

August 2
Free Software-Overview

Watch this newsletter for more information ❖

August 11
Board meeting

September 8
Board meeting

September 13
Protecting Yourself Against
Identity Theft

Watch this newsletter for more information ❖

October 4
Watch this newsletter for more information ❖

October 13
Board meeting

November
No Monday Meeting

November 10
Board meeting

December 6
Watch this newsletter for more information ❖

December
No Board meeting

“Be a Part of Online Life”

Contributed by Bob Linaberry

There are many reasons people are staying around home such as high gas prices, parents caring for children, the elderly, disabled, dislike of crowded places or others help with social skills. People that are not going out a lot can go to web sites and be active in forums, groups and organizations online. Online groups and sites allow being a part of something without leaving home. You will want to check in regularly, be a contributor and people will get to know you. First you must consider if you want to be online only, meet people face to face or both.

Online Communications

Your Internet Service Provider (ISP) may have groups of their own. Google, Yahoo and MSN have online groups as you will make friends with someone you might find they are within commuting distance or just communicate.

Groups are a good idea for many things. I belong to a group that is for digital photography where we can upload our pictures for review or critique from other members. Sometimes though I just put a picture there that I like. As a member of that group I can also view other people's pictures and make remarks about them.

A good site for online conversation to try is Paltalk.com that has many topics there with people from around the world. Sometimes it is nice to video conference or use a microphone instead of talking to yourself how about trying here where you can have a conversation with others. When you enter a chat room you will not be the only one there others will be on and may be in other states or even other countries.

Meet People In Person

The first thing you do is meet people online then in person. Sites like Meetup.com covers almost anything you may have an interest in. The main point of this site is to get out to meet someone. You may start out reading posts from other members. When you feel comfortable - start posting or emailing others to meet these people. Using Meetup can search for groups by entering your zip code or set how far for the search to be (in miles).

A way to pick a site is by using Google or another search engine; put in your interests, if you want to limit what comes up enter the state or area you wish. This way you will find sites that are only about a hobby or interest you have. With the Web as big as it is you should find an interest area for yourself.

Do a similar search for forums. The sites mentioned here are free at no charge but check as others may charge membership..

USB 3.0: Separating Hype from Reality

By Keith Shaw, Computer World, March 3, 2010

Network World - The scoop: BlackArmor PS 110 USB 3.0 Performance Kit, It is priced about \$180, by Seagate.

What it is: This kit includes a 500GB BlackArmor drive, a USB 3.0 PC card adapter (ExpressCard size), cables for connecting the two, plus an additional USB cable for power. The kit allows notebook users with ExpressCard slots to connect the portable external hard drive to their notebook to achieve faster USB speeds, as compared with USB 2.0 systems. The drive also offers Seagate backup software and the ability to encrypt files via AES 256-bit encryption. If you don't want to connect the PC card adapter, the drive still works as a standard USB 2.0 drive.

Why it's cool: The first batch of USB 3.0 products are out, and they all promise faster speeds than existing USB 2.0 products. How fast is a matter of debate -- I've seen some vendors claim up to 10x speeds, when in reality it's much closer to a 2x or 3x speed upgrade. The USB 3.0 gear also gets data transfer speeds closer to the speed of the internal hard drive. If you have very large files that you transfer back and forth on a regular basis, the increased speeds of USB 3.0 can be very appealing.

In my tests on a Windows 7 Lenovo ThinkPad X200 Tablet (2.13GHz, 2GB of RAM), I got an average sequential read speed of 59.02 MB/sec with the USB 3.0 system, 30.13 MB/sec when using USB 2.0 and 71.99 MB/sec on the internal hard drive. Average write speeds were 61.74 MB/sec via USB 3.0, 16.92 MB/sec when using USB 2.0 and 71.12MB/sec on the internal drive (using CrystalDiskMark 2.2 freeware disk benchmarking software). So in reality, we got about 2x read speeds, and about 3x write speeds when comparing USB 3.0 to USB 2.0 on the same drive.

Some caveats: I had one minor quibble -- I had to install the USB 3.0 drivers off the hard drive by attaching it via USB 2.0 (without the adapter) first, and then reconnect the system via USB 3.0. I don't mind the process -- it just wasn't described in the quick start guide or the manual (I needed to call Seagate to figure out where the drivers were).

Bottom line: The big question is whether 2x read and 3x write speeds are fast enough for you at the moment to go through the process of using the PC card adapter. Eventually, USB 3.0 will be built into new PCs, eliminating the need for the card and cables. But for the person who transfers 30GB files on a regular basis, saving an extra 20 minutes could definitely be worth it.

The following article was forwarded by Ted Kircher. Thanks Ted. Charlie.

Who's Who at EPCC

**BALLOT FOR
EPCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VOTE FOR 6:**

- [] Isabelle Bourrie
- [] Bob Linaberry
- [] Jim McKittrick
- [] Gabe Preston
- [] Michael Shephard
- [] Sal Sano
- []
- []
- []
- []
- []

Directors

Isabelle Bourrie (484) 995-5012 ibourrie@voicenet.com
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Staff Positions

Newsletter Editor Stephanie Varis svaris@verizon.net
Newsletter Mailing Sal Sano
Communications Charlie Eisenfelder Caeilop@aol.com
Membership Joseph Holzman m28@verizon.net
Treasurer Nate Rosenthal (610) 970-5122
n2add@arrl.net
Webmaster Bob Linaberry
CHESCO Library Liaison Diane Gring

MEMBERSHIP 2010

Thank you to those who have renewed.

We welcome New Members who joined! ❖

Contribute a Newsletter Article

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

The deadline for articles to appear in the next issue is the 1st Monday of the month. All articles are gladly accepted at anytime for our future publications.

When you send your contribution as an e-mail attachment, please save your text file in text (.txt) or MS Word Format (*.doc); Images are to be saved in Jpeg Format. ❖*

Send to: Stephanie Varis
svaris@verizon.net



Need Computer Help?

Visit our Help Desk and Discussion Group
at

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

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) 2010 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