

Vero Beach Computer Group

Homepage



Say...

Would you like to donate an afternoon each week to help the public with computers at the Main Library? There are now two sections which need your help badly. See page 5.

It's a lot of fun. It's good practice, and you meet interesting people.

Homepage, Your Newsletter

Yes, the Homepage is your newsletter and mine. Let's make it a real newsletter that everyone will want to read. How do you do that? Simple! Throughout the month I am sure each of you has read an article that really simplified a problem you have had in the past. Or found a fix for something that has been bugging you. Or you got a new Program that is just terrific and you would really like to share just how great it is with others.

The Vero Beach Computer Group provides support to all members interested in improving their knowledge and use of computers. Our motive is to share our experiences as a self-help group that gives everyone a chance to learn and help each other. That means that it is your responsibility to share anything that has made using your computer better or more enjoyable. Our eight SIG's are an example of just that. The Homepage can be another.

It should not be left up to the editor or one or two others to write articles that could benefit others. Think about it. The next time you come across something that is just GREAT – Share it!

Staff Writer Jean B Grider

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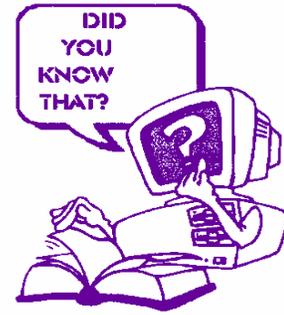
General Meeting - August 3, 2004

Speaker

Richard Hoyt, a member of our club, will be the featured speaker for the August meeting. His subject will be planning for long-term care. Mr. Hoyt states, "Be assured, there is nothing that will give your children and family more peace of mind than to know that you have taken care of the long-term care situation." His presentation will include traditional long-term care insurance, Medicaid protection and alternative ways to achieve protection.

Mr. Hoyt is an insurance professional who works in the area of long-term care, annuities, and life insurance.

Did You Know That? By Jean Grider, staff writer



How should you back up your computer?

Back in the days of DOS I used the Microsoft Backup all the time and it was great. Then when I got a computer with Windows 3.1, and I could not read the restore files, I had to go back to the DOS computer and get my files off using XCOPY. With the new Windows 3.1 System I continued to use the back up provided by Microsoft. Then when I got a computer with Windows 95, I tried to restore my new computer and found that the restore would not work. By this time I had already given my old computer to my daughter, so off to Sebastian to once again use the XCOPY. After that I never used the Microsoft Backup, but if you want to give this a try here are the directions. Personally I would not use it, I think that the next operating system will once again not be able to read the information stored.

One of the members sent me an article on Microsoft's Backup for Windows XP. It comes installed on the Professional version, but not on the Home version. It is on the Windows XP CD that comes with a new computer or one that you buy in the store as an upgrade. If you are interested in installing this on your system, here are the directions. Put the XP installation CD in your drive and then click on the drive letter for your CD ROM.. Navigate to this folder: D:\Valueadd\msft\ntbackup, then look for the file called ntbackup.msi. Double click this file and it will be installed in your C:\Accessories\System Tools\Backup.

The way I have been backing up for years is to just right click and send a file to a storage device or use the drag and drop method.. If you just copy the information, you can easily read it. For someone who needs to backup weekly, like the church secretary, I have her use CD's and make a new file folder on the CD with the week-ending date, e.g. 08-13-04. Have two Windows Explorers open and drag the folders she wants to backup into the 08-13-04 folder on the CD. We change the name each week to reflect the current week and when something is needed for any week in the year, you know exactly where to look for it. Personally I only back up at Month End, so I label a CD with XXXX Monthend BU. At year end I do a more complete backup. If I have a really important file that I have spent a lot of time on, I back it up immediately. If you are using Quicken you should back up each time you use it.

There are several mass storage devices you can use. If you don't have a CD-RW you can get an External one for less than \$100.00 now, or use an Iomega Zip drive. You can backup to a DVD, or if you have USB connections you can use the USB thumb drives, but if you have much data to back up they would fill up pretty quickly. They are great for taking data with you but not too good as a system backup. They come in 128, 256 and 512 MB currently that are not too expensive. Any larger than that, and you are talking big money. You can also get an external hard drive to back up or take with you. In any case the main thing to remember, whether you are using a Mac or a PC, be sure to back up your data. Back in the good old days I remember backing up to floppy disks. This is now a thing of the past. You can now put about 550 floppies on one CD.

Banking Online?

The following scary information came from the June 28, 2004 Newsweek magazine:

STOPPING AN E-THIEF

Watch your bank statement like a hawk. Nearly 2,000,000 people had their checking accounts raided in the past year, and most of them were paying bills and shopping online, according to Gartner, Inc. All that info allows tech-savvy criminals to skim your cash. "You have two choices," says Aviva Litan, who headed Gartner's study. "You can stop all of your online activity and withdraw from society, or you can be your own police. That's more practical." Here's what to do:

- ◆ Never answer an e-mail from your bank or credit-card issuer, because the vast majority of these e-mails are fake, even though they look real.
- ◆ If you get e-mail from what you think is, say, Citibank, asking you to verify your password (yeah, right), call Citibank directly. Or go to the Citi Web site yourself— though not by clicking on the e-mail embedded link.
- ◆ Read your statements right away, and carefully. You have 60 days to report suspicious checks or withdrawals if you want the bank to investigate false charges.
- ◆ Use a credit card instead of a debit card for online transactions. Debit cards don't have the same anti-fraud controls or protections as credit cards. Most banks will remove fraudulent debit-card charges, but that can take so long you'll have bounced a mortgage check or two before it gets straightened out.

WINDOWS XP SP2 COMING SOON

Microsoft says the long-awaited update will be finished next month.

<http://www.pcworld.com/news/article/0,aid,116850,tk,dn071204X,00.asp>

It looks like Service Pack 2 should be released sometime in August. The update will allow you to download it in several sessions and resume it later if necessary. It would take several hours using a dial up connection because the last beta release was 264 MB. With dial up this could take twenty four hours or more and probably about an hour with DSL or Cable.

This service pack will represent one of Microsoft's most broadly tested products to date. But it looks like it is going to cause lots of problems for many users. This Windows XP SP2 is more like a Windows upgrade. It contains bug fixes and updates and also offers many new features. It will make changes to the Windows software in four main areas: Network and memory protection, more e-mail security and Internet browsing security. It will have an improved Windows Firewall, previously called Internet Connection Firewall, which will be turned on by default and will close all ports. This may cause problems with software already installed and running on your computer. Some defaults are being changed in the new SP2 and may affect the way some of the older applications run. **It all sounds a little scary but so are all the bugs, worms and Trojans that have been infecting computers using Windows XP, which have been especially bad this last year.**

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Notice

Recycle old CDs, floppies, magnetic tape from VCRs, 8-track and cassettes. Bring them in, and we'll do it for you.

Meetings and SIGs

All meetings and SIGs are held in the Indian River County Library at 1600 21st Street, Vero Beach, Florida

August 2004

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3 <i>General Meeting</i> <i>7:00 PM</i> <i>Multimedia</i>	4	5	6	7
8	9 Computer Basics 1:30-3:30 PM Multimedia	10 New to Computers 2:00-4:00 PM History	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Mac 10:00-Noon Multimedia Room
22	23 Web Design 6:00-8:00 PM History Room	24	25 Digital Imaging 6:00-8:00 PM Multimedia	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Officers, Board Members and Chairpersons

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Important Dues Notice

The annual dues are only \$20.00 for either a single person or a family. They are payable in January of each year. Newsletters and communications from VBCG to you are delivered via web site and e-mail. However, if it is necessary, these things can be mailed. That is, sent to you by snail mail, so, if you require it, be sure that we have your snail mail address, **and** you specifically request it.

If you haven't heard from us, either you haven't paid your dues, or we don't have your email and snail mail addresses, so please go to your computer right now, and send us an email at webmaster@vbcg.org.

The Library needs help. Please Volunteer - Call *Lucia Robinson at 778-1838*

Library Volunteers - August 2004

Aug 4, 18 Lucia Robinson

Aug 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 Jesse Hendelman

Aug 6, 20 Eleanor Ryan

Afternoons (1-3 or 2-4 PM)

The Library needs your help. Can you donate one to four afternoons a month. Your help is needed in the Media section. Please contact Lucia at:

778-1838.

Remember to Recycle. Bring all your old CD's and Floppy Disks to the monthly meeting. Tim Glover sees to it that they are sent for recycling. Your data is safe.



Thank you