

Vista Royale Computer Club

December 13, 2018

Members:

President Mike Johnson welcomed 23 members and guests to our 2nd meeting of the 2018/2019 season. We are almost to the 50 paid members so far and you can renew your membership any time the Lab is open. Use the calendar online and on the Lab door for hours. Dues are the same price, \$20 cash. Please bring your badge for a new sticker; they are due on January 1st, 2019.

The members present were treated to a great 3D printing demonstration by Jurgen Schwanitz and Christopher Martinson from ACT Computers. They set up Chris's I3 printer with its three motors which he said works on about the same principle of a hot glue gun, just stringy. He initially assembled it in about 2 hours from a kit which was essentially a box of unidentified parts made in China. The directions were in English but more or less backwards, a study in tenacity. You are able to sand, prime and paint your creations after they are made. These printers use PLA material but ABS can be used for outdoor applications or car parts. The \$20 spools of string type material is bio-degradable and food safe; there is also a flexible material. Other printers can use chalk, wood and even chocolate. It will print up to 4 colors at a time and there are thousands of free patterns available online; especially at www.thingiverse.com website which of course is currently featuring holiday items that you can download the directions for. NASA has released models of the space stations and you can also get one of the Starship Enterprise for those of you who are Star Trek fans. They are now putting 3D printers on the space station.

The key to getting started is getting everything level and making the finished product is time consuming. Some small pieces take a couple of hours but some of his items took up to 52 hours. It helps to have some expertise with more complex software such as AutoCAD type programs; and then you can look at the slicing software, Cura, which is open source.

Another great website is www.enablingthefuture.org which show how these printers are used to make hands for children who need them and cannot afford them. They have created over a 1000 and plan to make over 6000 in the next few years; this is a case of volunteerism at its very best. Check out this site for some heartwarming stories or do a 'google search' for some YouTube stories about these fantastic new hands.

Don't forget to return the current proxy to the Vista Association regarding the change in our community voting rules; it is very important. If you did not get one, please contact the office.

Because of the holidays, our next meeting is at 9:30 a.m. Thursday morning January 3rd, 2019 in the kitchen of Pine Arbor Clubhouse See you then, bring a friend.

Sandy McKenny, sec.

Vista Royale Computer Club, Pine Arbor Clubhouse, Vero Beach, FL 32962

Please go to our <http://www.vrcc.info/> website for archived Meeting Minutes, Calendar of Events, Genealogy Resources and more. You can also set your own computer home page to <http://www.vrcc.info/home.html> to make it match the home page on our Lab machines.