

Meeting Minutes for March 23, 2017

Members:

President Mike Johnson welcomed 20 members and guests. He wants you to know that Verizon announced this week that they will be discontinuing their email service and moving their customers over to AOL.com. We have about 10 members who will be affected in this change-over.

In other news, Vicky Getz announced that Microsoft will no longer support the Windows Vista operating system as of April 11, 2017. This means that you will not get any more security updates from them. In addition, the safe browser, Firefox, will also stop working on those machines as of September 2017. For safety's sake, it is probably time to buy a new computer with an up-to-date operating system if you are still running this version of Windows.

One of our Apple products guru, Dick Anderson, demo'd a couple of his favorite sites for his Mac computer, iPad and iPhone. He told a very interesting tale of tracking his son's flight on www.flightradar24.com. It was quite a harrowing experience for the passengers which ultimately turned out well for all concerned. Dick suggests that you use Google to search for 'free college courses'. This is a great way to learn new things and the price is right. He also talked about how easy it is to buy books at www.amazon.com and wants you to know that if you put them on your wish list for a while, they usually offer you a better price. All in all, his mantra is: Everything is Knowable when you are able to tap into the internet. Thanks Dick for sharing your expertise.

Steve Getz, our Vista Royale Computer Club Webmaster, showed us the number of hits or visits to our site; noting that it certainly underutilized by members at home. He then gave us a very comprehensive tour through www.vrcc.info, pointing out all the resources that we have placed there for your swift and safe access. Our site is the default internet page for all Lab computers and you can set it as one of your 'home' pages as well. These are the various pages we have:

VRCC: A good over-view including our mission statement, membership & Lab info, plus announcements

Lab: Our Lab policies and procedures

Calendar: The calendar for the club and its meetings, plus the monitors and their time schedules

Contact Us: An email form to get in touch with the VRCC officers

Genealogy: A very comprehensive list of resources for a beginning or avid genealogist

Training: All you need to know about our free classes, links to handouts & tutorials, list of books to borrow, plus informative past classes info

Photography: Good links for free software.... still looking for a person to head up a photo group

Home: This has all the customary email providers in one place for you as well as current announcements.

Misc. Links: These links connect **safely** to various software download sites and many magazine & media sites.

Volunteers: Duties and instructions for our many volunteer monitors

History: How our club got started in 2002 and its evolution to our present incarnation

Minutes: Weekly information that is sent to members after every meeting

Member suggestions for Steve's request for additions and improvements included adding the subject matter to the minutes titles for better reference and adding safe links to Adobe Reader and the AT&T site. Please contact Steve with any other ideas; we appreciate all his weekly work. A website is worthless unless it is kept current.

As usual you can always check the 'calendar' on our website: www.VRCC.info for speakers/subjects of upcoming presentations.

Next week we will have a 'Potpourri' of multiple club members as our presenters showing us various websites and apps that you should consider exploring in your spare time. Vicky will be showing a ' Navigating your Personal Folders' tutorial from her fav site: Top Windows Tutorials [1st 15 are free]. Sandy will explain why you should be signing up for several computer related newsletters and show you a couple of favorites. See you on Thursday.

Sandy McKenny, sec.
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