Vista Royale Computer Club

March 12, 2026 -- Meeting Minutes

Sandy McKenny opened the meeting with a warm welcome and a reminder about the DirectStream TV booklets that Vicky created. Most members have already picked one up, and more are available in the computer lab. The booklet includes places to record your Wi-Fi name and password, TV provider information, user IDs, passwords, and security questions. Keeping everything written down in one safe spot—near your modem or router is an idea. Vicky did a terrific job putting this together.

We also heard that many members would like a repeat of our long-term care discussion. Eileen O'Donnell has agreed to return next season—likely in January or February—and will bring both a doctor and a representative from a nursing home. We'll reconnect with her in October to finalize the date.

Sandy then introduced our longtime friend Jurgen Schwanitz of ACT Computers, who has supported our club since 2009. He shared updates about his business, including an expanded inventory of refurbished computers, the ACT 365 monthly service plan, cloud-based backup options, and a redesigned website with online scheduling and a client portal. He also noted that the plaza where ACT is located is undergoing major upgrades, including new parking and additional retail space.

Jurgen's main presentation took us through the evolution of computers—from early mechanical machines to today's processors—and why modern performance depends more on efficiency and parallel processing than on clock speed alone. He demonstrated the Windows Task Manager, talked about how technicians use it to diagnose slow systems, and gave us a look at what's coming next with quantum computing and organic computing. While these technologies are still experimental, they will eventually reshape security, encryption, and how computers learn.

He also reminded us that traditional laptops and desktops aren't going anywhere. They remain reliable, affordable, and essential for many everyday tasks. Jurgen brought along his original Commodore 64, still in working condition, and showed how today's tiny desktop PCs compare to the larger towers in our lab. A brief discussion followed about phones vs. laptops, keyboard quality, and which brands tend to hold up best.

Jurgen's recommended brands: Dell and Lenovo. Jurgen's recommended brands to avoid: HP and ASUS.

Sandy emphasized the importance of increasing computer lab usage. The lab has all new machines, but participation needs to improve for us to keep the space. Please help spread the word. We are all in this together. Let's keep it going. 😀

We wrapped up with a lively Q&A covering AI, streaming frustrations, and safety concerns about fake QR codes placed over real ones.

Mangrove Sands & Golf Club gift card winner: Christine Geniusz! 👏

Next Meeting:

Convenience Apps ‼️ **— Uber, DoorDash, and more - let's learn MORE together!!**
Presented by Linda Briggs
9:30 a.m. sharp — bring a neighbor or friend.
All Vista residents are welcome!

See you there!

Nancy Dalley, Secretary

VRCC