

Emerald Coast Computer
Society
Mainframe-February 2008



Happy Valentines Day

*Start your New Year with ECCS!
February 7, 2008 - 6:30 PM
Ft. Walton Beach Library
Membership Renewal Time!*

The Prez Sez!

Dear ECCS Members,

Let me begin by saying, "Happy New Year" to you and your families since I missed the January meeting! You may say this was for last month, but this is my January and February in the club all rolled into one month. So bear with me. I will catch up soon.

We had a wonderful time at our Christmas Party. The food was delicious, the fellowship was great and we had a good time packed with meeting, prizes, and fun program! Thank you to all of you who helped with the set-up and clean-up.

Thank you to all of those who served as officers this past year, to those who taught classes, helped with refreshments, presented programs and helped in some way at the meetings. Thank You!

I regret that I was unable to attend the January meeting but due to a family illness, I had to be out of town. I want to thank Jerry Moore for the outstanding job he did conducting the meeting and leading the discussions. I see that the entire membership present last month, voted overwhelmingly to continue the club in some form for another year. This is encouraging on one hand but disappointing on the other. We still do not have individuals that are willing to serve and lead the club. Since we were unable to get nominees for the office of President and 1st VP, we did not have elections for the current year. All of the remaining officers have agreed to serve you another year. In accordance with our constitution, we cannot exist as a club in our current format without a President and 1st VP. So I have decided to serve as your president for another year. I will serve only until the **end of 2008, replaced by an election or until I resign**, which ever comes first. Now with that said, I still need a 1st Vice President who will serve us as program chairman and an Education Officer. I will be looking for volunteers at the meeting. Jack Culwell has agreed to continue as the "Empties For Cash" chairman. Thanks Jack.

I want to thank Frank Szemere for taking the lead in putting together the survey, sending it to the members and collecting the results and a big thank you to Bernice for tabulating all of the results for us. (If you would like to have a copy of the tabulated survey results, email me with a request and I will send you a copy.) I will attempt to summarize the results for you. The majority stated that we need a continuing education program on computer usage with more Q & A sessions and some technical presentations. Everyone felt the dues are necessary and OK at \$20 per year, so no action was taken by the board to make any changes in this area. We had very few of the members who stated they would be willing to lead a discussion or a meeting. Everyone agreed that email was the best communication tool for ECCS and no one objected to having their email address available to all of the club

members. The majority did not want to merge with another club or have us sponsored by a business. Now that you have spoken, in order to make this happen **I need your help and support.** The officers alone **cannot** provide you what you have requested. We will not be teaching the classes and doing all you have requested. We are here to lead and guide you but we will be looking to you to volunteer to lead discussions, present classes or whatever your talents will permit you to do for the club. The board also decided to reinstate the policy of presenting program presenters with a \$25 gift certificate to a restaurant in the local area. This is not to be interpreted as pay for making a presentation but as a token of the club's appreciation for someone taking the time to share their knowledge and time with us. We also decided to have a sign up sheet for volunteers to provide refreshments for a monthly meeting. The provider will be reimbursed for expenses not to exceed \$50 provided they submit receipts to the treasurer. Also the refreshment provider for a given meeting will also provide the beverages and ice. Lois and I will continue to provide the coffee (regular and decaf) assuming the members want coffee.

Membership Renewal

It is now time for membership renewal. We are getting started a month late this year. January was the month that member dues were to be paid. But it is now February, so be sure to come to the meeting and get paid up for 2008. The yearly dues amount is \$20.00 per household. Please complete the following form and bring with you to the February meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting then complete the following form, include a check made out to the Emerald Coast Computer Society, and mail to ECCS, PO Box 504, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32549-0504.

ECCS Membership Data Base Card-2008

Date: _____ Phone # _____

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Date Joined _____

Dues paid: _____ CK# _____ Cash _____

Dues Rec'd by _____

Verified by Member _____

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Reminder: Bring empty ink cartridges to each meeting!

February Program Presentation

Our own Alex Ginzburg will provide us an interesting presentation on Microsoft Paint. If you are unfamiliar with this program, it is provided as part of Windows and can be found in the "ACCESSORIES FOLDER" on your computer. Please take a look at this before the meeting. Also, if you have a laptop, please bring it to the meeting so you can work along with Alex on your own computer.

We will have a guest speaker, Bob Davis, in March to present Digital Photo Editing with the Freeware Program- Picasa. April will find us with one of our own, Lloyd Battiste, who will talk about Email Management/Etiquette using Outlook Express.

The following subjects are areas that we have potential guest speakers to present. Specific dates and subjects will be released as arrangements are finalized: Hardware Questions and Answers, Genealogy, Creating Power Point Presentations, and Windows Vista.

Also ...Plans are being made to have short Q & A periods at most meetings to help iron out computer problems that the members are having. Your surveys indicated that you wanted the Q & A sessions so we will try and provide this for you. I will be looking to you for help answering questions as I am not the expert in this group.

If you have ideas for additional topics and presenters pass this information to me and I will attempt to try and make it happen. However, don't just give me a topic without a recommendation on who might be qualified or willing to make the presentation.

Just a final note, if you are looking for on line help with some of your programs, go to: <http://www.learningelectric.com>. They have some excellent tutorials here. Prior to the March presentation, you may want to take a look at this site as they have a Picasa tutorial. Thanks to Bill Frick for pointing out this site.

I hope to see you at the February Meeting !
Happy Computing this New Year!

Lendy Edwards
The Prez

EMERALD COAST COMPUTER SOCIETY
Minutes of the General Meeting
January 3, 2008

The Emerald Coast Computer Society was called to order by Vice President Jerry Moore at approximately 7 PM on Thursday, January 3, 2008, in the Ft Walton Beach Library, after 30 minutes of social time, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Vice President Jerry Moore welcomed and thanked all present. There were 14 members present. No guests signed in.

Treasurer Lois Vosmera's report was approved as published in the *Mainframe*. Lois was enroute to California, first leg of her and George's vacation to Australia.

Minutes of the December 6 meeting were accepted as published in the *Mainframe* and sent to all members.

Secretary Cramer read notes and information from a bulletin about the upcoming NWFACUG Expo 2008.

The business at hand was the future of the Emerald Coast Computer Society as of the current Constitution, approved April 2007. With new officers for 2008 not nominated, not elected, nor running, no installation would take place at the January meeting. Therefore, some motions and suggestions were voiced.

Bill Howard suggested that everyone present leave a list of their ideas or feelings about items for a plan or the direction of the club. A motion was made that Frank Szemere generate questions for a survey and email them to members for their feedback. This motion was seconded, received discussion, and passed.

Alex Ginzburg volunteered to oversee the meeting for March 2008, making the motion that until a new structure of the Society was formulated, other volunteers do likewise on a month to month basis. This motion was seconded by Frank Szemere, and it passed as a temporary beginning.

Alex also said he would do the main program for February 2008, using the *Paint* software application. He requested that those who have laptops bring them to have one to use. Also he stated that the Library January classes are scheduled to begin on the 19th, skip the 26th, and continue for three more sessions in February.

Some suggestions of the items to be in the survey included:

- How should the organization be structured
- Should we have leadership on a month to month basis
- Should we continue collecting dues
- Do we want to stay incorporated or become informal
- Why do we meet
- Should we have speakers, possibly paid speakers

Harvey Hall prompted the Club that it has law and tax deadlines to keep in mind.

Jerry summarized the discussions and with a fair idea of what work needing to be done by the February meeting, he called an adjournment to the January 2008 meeting.

**Respectfully submitted by,
Bernice Cramer**