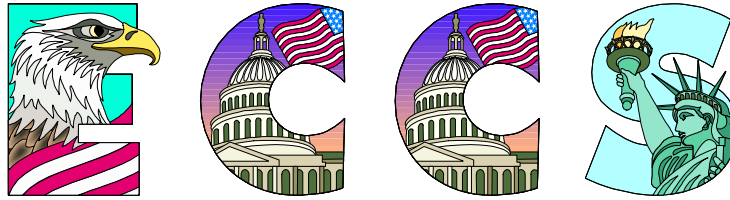


Meeting Reminder



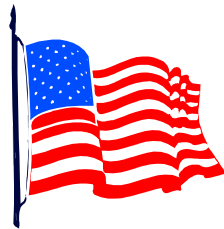
Emerald Coast Computer Society Mainframe--July 2006

Attention ECCS Members!
July 6, 2006 Meeting Notice

Ft. Walton Beach City Library
Downtown Ft. Walton Beach
Thursday July 6, 2006

6:30 PM Social and Snack Time
7:00 PM Business Meeting & Program

Main Presentation:
“Question and Answer Session”
Panel of Experts & Your Computer Questions



Internet Security Protection

Last month I did a presentation on Internet Security. At that time I promised to send you the 10 Steps to Better Security and a list of some of the top tested programs. I used resources from PC World and Smart Computing plus some information from a presentation that was done by Panda at the FACUG Conference. The general consensus of everything I read was that to win this battle and to keep the bad guys out of your computer, you should utilize an all-in-one Internet Security Suite which includes antivirus, antispyware, and firewall protection against today's worst threats. Most also have adware detection and malware cleanup.

In the July PC World was an updated list of the top suites that they had recently tested. I will list the top three for you. Each of these rated very good but each had their strong and weak areas. For a closer review of each suite go to the online review at find.pcworld.com/53488.

1. Symantec Norton Internet Security 2006
\$70 (\$35 renewal)
2. McAfee Internet Security suite 2006
\$70 (\$35 renewal)
3. Panda Platinum 2006 Internet Security
\$80 (\$60 renewal)

Now I will paste from my Word document the 10 Steps to Better Security. This may be longer than normal. I will say farewell for now and see you at the meeting. The minutes of our last meeting will follow this article.

Lois Vosmera
President

Steps to Better Security:

Don't take the bait! Fire up your own weapons against the enemy!

1. Patch and update automatically. Set Windows to update itself. Make windows update site your first Internet stop. Microsoft releases Win patches on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. If you are running XP be sure to install the XP Service Pack 2. Microsoft has incorporated numerous new security features in it's soon to be released operating system, VISTA.
2. Get Top Notch anti-virus, anti-spyware, and firewall software. Install and automatically update daily.
(Although Windows XP has a firewall, it protects you only from inbound pests; it doesn't alert you to suspicious outbound traffic. Disable it the XP firewall if you are using another firewall that will protect both ways. Use and regularly update your security utilities.
2. Configure your network hardware for optimum protection. Keep Internet Explorer safe by .click *Tools, Internet Options, Security, Custom level, select High* from the drop-down menus at the bottom of the Security Setting dialog box and click *Reset, Yes, OK*. If you find this setting unleashing a fusillade of warning and permission pop-ups every time you visit a site, then add the sites that you access often to IE's Trusted Site list.
4. Handle e-mails links with care.
Be skeptical: No matter whom the e-mail is from, if it concerns account information, don't trust it outright.
Make a phone call: If you receive an e-mail you find suspicious in any way, call the named organization.
If a virus infects your PC, chances are good it arrived piggybacked on an e-mail. To reduce your risk of an e-mail-borne infection, don't click links in suspicious messages. (The text in the message may mask an actual Web address.) Instead, navigate to the company's home page on your own.
5. Scan attachment for viruses:
Run each of the e-mail attachments you receive through your anti-virus software before you open them. Better yet, set your anti-virus software to scan incoming and outgoing e-mail automatically.

6. Close the preview pane:

Some maleficent messages need only be opened in your e-mail program's preview pane to do their dirty work. It has been recommended you close the preview pane in all of your inboxes. Outlook Express 6, *click View, Layout and verify that "show Preview Pane is unchecked.*

7. Read Your mail in Plain Text:

Since many e-mail pest rely on HTML code to achieve their nefarious goals, you can stop them in their tracks by viewing your messages as plain text. Outlook Express 6, choose *Tools, Options, Read and click Read all messages in plain text.*

8. Choose Passwords that consist of both letter and numbers and are at least six characters long. Change them frequently.

9. Stay away from unfamiliar Web sites. Ignore email from unrecognized senders. Delete unsolicited files that make it to your PC.

10. Scan your computer frequently for spyware and possible invasions unknown by you.

EMERALD COAST COMPUTER SOCIETY

MINUTES

June 6, 2006

On Thursday, June 6, 2006, in the Ft Walton Beach Library, after a social time of refreshments and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, the meeting of the Emerald Coast Computer Society came to order at the call of President Lois Vosmera at approximately 7:00 PM.

President Vosmera welcomed all those present, thanking guests and all members for attending. Attendees numbered 25 including one guest. Jerry Moore introduced Bob Kaiser. He became our newest member this evening.

For the Mini-Presentation, Jerry Moore related his experience with Symantec Help and how he learned to use the PrintScrn key to take a screen shot of open windows on screen for capturing and pasting into the Paint attribute in Windows.

Minutes of the May 4meeting were accepted as printed in the *Mainframe* and on the web site.

Harvey Hall gave a full Treasurer's Report stating that each meeting the report will be dated by about one month since the statement comes out just after the first Thursday.

Alex Ginzburg reported that the current class is graduating on Saturday of this week. Another class probably will begin soon, depending on demand, and might become more advanced. Classes at Westwood are on hold.

The Pot-o-Gold went to George Vosmera at \$22. Door prizes went to seven winners: Larry Bush, Harvey Hall, Hugh Gautier, Bob Blair, Dan Bubis, Bill Howard, and Diane Moore.

Thanks and kudos went to Bernice Cramer for continuing to volunteer as our dessert and social time hostess.

Board meeting date for June was undecided.

The Society would still appreciate others who want to serve as Chairperson for the Meeting-Greeter Program and a Door-Prize Chairperson.

The Refreshment Fund used \$8.40 for snack and beverage and gained \$6.50 in donations, putting the reserve at \$56.88. The Empty Cartridge Re-cycle Project has collected another 11 cartridges for a current value of \$54.

With old and new business accomplished, President Lois adjourned the meeting.

The Main Program: Lois had researched the Internet and other sources for information on computer security. She compiled a report of recommendations and reasons for strict vigilance against invasion by, not just young hackers, but worldwide criminal organizations interested in monetary gain through sensitive corporate and personal data. She furnished names and addresses of software for purchase or download to protect our computers.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernice Cramer