



Charlotte Bytes

Editor: Fran Robitaille

Next Monthly Meeting February 2, 2026

**Presentation:
Cell Phone
Photography**

**Family Services Center
21500 Gibraltar Drive
Port Charlotte, FL 33952**

[Click Here For Directions](#)

**3:00 PM Q&A Session
4:00 PM Presentation**

[General Meeting Zoom Link](#)

[Board Meeting Zoom Link](#)

President's Message Jane McDonald

Dear Members:

I hope your 2026 is going well for you! Are you enjoying the beautiful weather we are having?

Our office hours for February will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please call the office 941-585-0356 or email cccgcoffice@gmail.com to schedule an appointment with one of our technical support volunteers (time slots are on the hour, for an hour: 10, 11, 12, or 1). Please specify the assistance you need.

The next CCCGC Meeting will be held on Monday, February 2nd from 3:00 to 5:00. We will hold a Q&A session from 3:00 to 4:00, and our presentation will be given by Jim Austin on Photography, specifically using the camera on your cell phone. I hope you can join us!

We have added a new class on Thursday, February 19th at 2:00. At our January general meeting, Allen Taylor gave an overview on Linux. Allen will present a demo of Linux with Q&A at this February 19th session in the office. We have a Maintenance and Backup class as well on Thursday, February 5th at 2:00. On our www.cccgc.info web page, click on Events – our monthly calendar will show – click on the class to get information and if you would like to attend, click the RSVP and fill out the form and Submit or call the office 941-575-0356.

We are in need of donations of laptops and desktops, so we can refurbish to then give out to students and non-profits. We are running quite low with the high demand of need. There is more information concerning donations later in this newsletter, so please read for there are some changes of what we accept.
Happy Valentines Day!!!

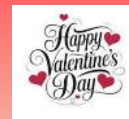
Thank You,
Jane McDonald, President

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Happy Valentine's Day





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Welcome New Members

Diana DeBruin	Randy Lee	Sandra Lee
Beverley Lewis	Harry Lewis	Don Smith
George Deitering		

The Executive Board of Directors and Members of CCCGC welcome each of you to the group. We're here to help. Membership has its privileges.

If you have any questions, concerns or need computer help, please contact us at the office, by telephone or via the website. We will endeavor to help you any way we can.

2026 Officers & Directors



President
Jane McDonald
 cccgcpresident@gmail.com



Vice President
Fran Robitaille
 cccgcvp@gmail.com



Secretary
Stephanie Eller
 cccgcsecretary@gmail.com



Treasurer
Lydia Rist
 cccgctreasurer@gmail.com



Mary Fleenor



Mark Krider



Vera Hendricks



CJ Metcalf



Gus Rivero

It is a pleasure to serve you in 2026 thru classes, presentations and individual assistance.

Please help to spread the word about CCCGC to your friends and neighbors.



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Important Notice - Changes in Recycling

The board of directors has voted to implement the following changes.

Due to many factors including a lack of space, lack of volunteers and more specifically, low prices for scrap materials, the CCCGC has decided to reduce the amount of recycling that we do. This means that we won't be able to take everything members would like to give us.

Effective immediately, we will continue to accept all computer related equipment, monitors, mice, keyboards, laptops, and desktops. We will also accept computer speakers and cables. Computers should be less than 10 years old. No Windows XP machines, they're too old. For now, we will continue to accept printers.

Things we won't take include iPads, home phones, cordless and corded, cell phones, appliances, light bulbs, televisions and radios.

Staples has a wonderful recycling service. If you are a rewards member with them, you can get points to use for purchases. Here's a list of what they will take. <https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling#rec>

Charlotte County E-Waste: Contact Waste Management 2 days ahead of your regular pickup day to schedule a pick up of your electronics. Their phone number is: 941-629-1106 or 941-697-0012

Also, many police departments will take old cell phones. They likely want them reset and unlocked.

Please call CCCGC for more information at
941-585-0356



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Charlotte County Computer Group (CCCGC) Needs Volunteers!

If you love technology, we need your help in any of these areas: teaching, presenting, troubleshooting, hardware, software and leadership of the organization. General office help is also needed. We can use your help.

CCCGC is a nonprofit with the mission to promote computer literacy. We are an all-volunteer run agency that refurbishes computers that are then distributed to non-profits, to students, and Veterans. Members can drop off their computers for repair and they can stop by our office if they have a computer challenge. Monthly, we provide computer classes and technical presentations.

Please call CCCGC for more information at
941-585-0356



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[Events Calendar](#)

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January 5, 2026 Monthly Meeting Presentation



January's presentation was about Linux. Our own Allen Taylor made the case for considering replacing Windows with Linux. Allen believes that with some versions of Linux, most of us would be hard pressed to see much of a difference. Some programs don't work with Linux but there are free alternatives to most apps that work just fine.

Special Class On February 19, 2026, 2:00 PM

If there's interest in learning about and using Linux, Allen will be holding a class on Thursday, February 19th, 2026 in the CCCGC Office. He will demonstrate Linux and provide time for questions and answers. Contact the office (941-585-0356) and let us know if you would like to attend or RSVP on the [Events Calendar](#) on the website for that class.

Allen is willing to work with members who are interested in setting up Linux on a computer. Please let us know.

[Click here for the Linux website.](#)





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January 5, 2026 Monthly Meeting

Presentation

Here's a brief history of Linux

Linux began in 1991 as a hobby project by Finnish student Linus Torvalds, who created a free, Unix-like kernel, combining it with the existing free GNU tools to form a complete operating system, eventually becoming dominant in servers, supercomputers, and mobile (Android), evolving from a student's idea to a global open-source phenomenon known for its stability and flexibility.

Key Milestones

1980's The Foundation: Richard Stallman launched the [GNU Project](#) in 1983 to create a free, Unix-compatible OS, developing crucial tools (like GCC) but lacking a kernel.

1991 The Kernel's Birth: Linus Torvalds started developing his own kernel for his PC, inspired by MINIX, releasing version 0.01 in September and announcing it publicly.

1992 The GNU Connection: Torvalds released the Linux kernel under the [GNU General Public License](#) (GPL), allowing it to be combined with GNU's tools, creating the first functional, free OS.

1994 Version 1.0: The kernel was considered mature enough for a stable 1.0 release, marking a significant step in its development.

Mid-1990's - Corporate Interest: Major companies like IBM, Compaq, and Oracle began supporting Linux, recognizing its potential beyond hobbyists.

Key Milestones Continued

Late 1990's/2000's - Growth and Distributions: The development of desktop environments (KDE, GNOME) and easy-to-install distributions (Red Hat, Debian, Ubuntu) made Linux accessible to everyday users.

Today: Linux powers most web servers, the world's top supercomputers, and is the base for the Android mobile operating system, a testament to its open-source collaborative success.



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January 5, 2026 Monthly Meeting

Drawings

Attendance at the January 2026 meeting was 38.

Susie Sterling - Amex Card



Linda Wilkinson - 50/50 \$30

You know what they say, never flash
a wad of cash in a public place. 😊





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Future Events & Presentations

[February 2026 CCCGC Classes & Programs](#)

February 2 Family Services Center
 3:00 PM Annual Meeting,
 Elections For Officers
 And Directors
 Followed The Holiday
 Gathering
[General Meeting Zoom Link](#)

February 5 Maintenance & Backup
 2-4 PM
 Lydia Rist

February 19 Linux Demo and Q&A
 In Office
 2-4 PM
 Allen Taylor

February 26 Board of Directors Meeting
 2PM
[Board Meeting Zoom Link](#)



February 26 Board of Director Meeting
 2:00 pm
 514 E Grace St, Punta Gorda
[CCCGC Board Meeting Zoom Link](#)



An International Association of Technology and
 Computer User Groups

As members of CCCGC, you are automatically members of Association of Personal Computer User group (APCUG) who offer free ZOOM classes and presentations to members. However, you must register with them to attend. Check the website for course options and registration: <https://apcug2.org/>

APCUG past presentations can be viewed on YouTube. These are handy links for review if you attended them or had to miss the original presentation. Click the link below to see all the options.
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=apcug

Please register for a class by first clicking on this link.

[Events](#)

Next, click on the desired class on the date you wish to attend. Finally, click on and complete the RSVP form.



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Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

Tech Info

Windows XP turned 24 years old in October of 2025. It's hard to believe. Some would argue that Windows XP was the best version of Windows Microsoft ever created. Here's an article that makes that case.

<https://tinyurl.com/5cyctexh>

Are cleaning tasks worth it? Many of us use Wise Disk Cleaner while others use CCleaner. They both do many of the same things. They are primarily cleaning programs, not security programs. The argument has always been that running these tasks will make our computers run faster and better. Do they really help? The following article makes the case that they don't. It even argues that running antivirus programs is a waste of time in that Microsoft Defender does a good job of that. My argument would be that none of the programs we recommend, Wise Disk Cleaner, Malwarebytes, and Super AntiSpyware, pose any danger to your computer and that periodically running scans with them won't hurt anything and might actually catch something Windows Defender has missed. Here's the article from Make Use Of.

<https://tinyurl.com/2kbdja4c>

Get rid of ads Win 11. Here are the settings to do just that. It's amazing how Microsoft has made it difficult to get this done. I wonder why.

<https://tinyurl.com/yw7p8tmp>

Poor cell phone service: If you often have only 1 or 2 bars, you're not alone. Personally I believe the phone companies have too many customers doing too much on their phones. Most phone companies now offer home internet service through their cellular system. Another heavy demand on their capacity. Anyway, here's an article that suggests ways to improve the signal you're getting. <https://tinyurl.com/57uyk4c9>



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Final Thoughts

Long Live The Internet

A few weeks ago my wife and I were out with a friend when she noticed that her phone said SOS and she had no service. We figured okay, that happens. That day it never came back on for her. It turned out it was a larger, nationwide perhaps, outage of the Verizon network.

A few days I was talking with another friend who experienced the same outage except in his case it was much worse. He, it turns out also used Verizon for his home internet service. He not only had no phone service but he also had no internet service. He uses streaming tv like YouTube TV which of course was out as well. He had go back to the olden days when you read a book if you had nothing to do. Maybe that's not such a bad thing.

It shows how dependent we've become on being connected with internet, email, phone service, tv service and so on.

Verizon tried to make up for the disruption by offering a \$20 credit to affected customers. Then the scammers started sending messages to Verizon customers trying to get in on the act. Anyway, here's an article explaining the outage and hopefully how to get the credit without getting scammed.

<https://tinyurl.com/mw224fca>



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Final Thoughts

Be careful what you wish for

A married couple in their early 60s was out celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary in a quiet, romantic little restaurant.

Suddenly, a tiny yet beautiful fairy appeared on their table and said, "For being such an exemplary married couple and for being faithful to each other all this time, I will grant you each a wish."

"Ooh, I want to travel around the world with my darling husband," said the wife. The fairy moved her magic wand and – abracadabra! – two tickets for the new QM2 luxury liner appeared in her hands.

Now it was the husband's turn. He thought for a moment and said, "Well, this is all very romantic, but an opportunity like this only occurs once in a lifetime, so, I'm sorry my love, but my wish is to have a wife 30 years younger than me."

The wife and the fairy were deeply disappointed, but a wish is a wish...

So the fairy made a circle with her magic wand and – abracadabra! – the husband was 92 years old.

P.S.: Fairies are female!



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[Events Calendar](#)

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Please register for a class by first clicking on this link.

[Events](#)

Next, click on the desired class on the date you wish to attend. Finally, click on and complete the RSVP form.

For more information

www.cccgc.info

The Charlotte County Computer Group Corporation

Is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization as classified by the Internal Revenue Service.

Donations, gifts, bequests, legacies, devices and transfers are deductible under federal laws.

Articles in the Bytes are courtesy of these Tech Sites

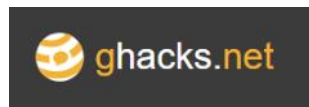
We're on the Web
www.cccgc.info



An International Association of Technology and Computer User Groups



Digital Citizen



DavesComputerTips

INTO WINDOWS



AskWoody

News, tips, advice, support for Windows, Office, PCs & more. Tech help. No bull. We're community supported by donations from our Plus Members, and proud of it