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Charlotte Bytes

Editor: Fran Robitaille

Next Monthly Meeting March 2, 2026

Presentation:

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:

We had a nice turnout for our February 2nd meeting. The presentation and discussions with Jim Austin on photography were of much interest within our group.

Our office hours for March will be Tuesday – Wednesday – 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, March 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 a representative from the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections to present the process and security of our voting. I hope you can join us!

Classes for March will be Thursday, March 5th – Maintenance and Backup and on Thursday, March 19th will be Windows 11 – Q&A. On our 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 link, fill out the form and Submit or call the office 941-575-0356.

We also had much interest in the Linux class that Allen Taylor gave on Thursday, February 19th. Stay tuned and check the Bytes for further information concerning Linux. We need donations of laptops and desktops to refurbish and make available for students and non-profits. We are running quite low given the high level of demand. See Recycling Info on page 3 for more information.

Happy St Patrick's Day!!!

Thank You,
 Jane McDonald, President

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Two things to celebrate: St. Patty's Day and Pi Day





Promoting Computer Literacy and Education in Charlotte County. The largest gathering of computer knowledge in Charlotte County.

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Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

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Welcome New Members

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Aaron DeHart | Keri DeHart | Deborah Iappini |
| Richard Iappini | Barbara Albin | Gary Drew |
| Nancy Sincock | Maria Maldonado | Dale Montgomery |
| Deva Gene Dudley | Larry Wright | |

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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Events Calendar

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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



Charlotte Bytes

Editor: Fran Robitaille

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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February 2, 2026 Monthly Meeting

Presentation

Cell Phone Photography by Jim Austin

January's presentation was made by Jim Austin, a local photographer. Jim made the case that most of us have in our pockets a camera with terrific capabilities.

Jim teaches locally at the Visual Arts Center, 210 Maud St., Punta Gorda, FL 33950.

Here's a link to his classes at the VAC.

<https://tinyurl.com/4vduucw8>

Here's a link to his website.

<https://www.jimages.com/client>

Here's a link to Jim's presentation.

<https://tinyurl.com/2saub3wr>





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February 2, 2026 Monthly Meeting Drawings

Attendance at the February 2026 meeting was 37

Carolyn Brandef won the Amex Card



Rob Moore won the 50/50 - \$30
Here's Rob and Shirley Hammond
Enjoying the moment.





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Events Calendar

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Future Events & Presentations

[March 2026 CCCGC Classes & Programs](#)

March 2 Family Services Center
3:00 PM Annual Meeting,

[General Meeting Zoom Link](#)

March 5 Maintenance & Backup
2-4 PM
Lydia Rist

March 19 Windows 11 Q&A
2-4 PM
Lydia Rist

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



March 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.



Charlotte Bytes

Editor: Fran Robitaille

Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

Tech Info

Gmail + Aliases

At the February 2nd meeting I discussed how you could create a new Gmail email address very easily. This only applies to Gmail. It may or may not work with other email such as Yahoo mail or Comcast.net email etc. Gmail allows users to create a new email address without opening a new Gmail account. These are considered alias email addresses. One method is called the + sign method and the other, the Dot method.

Here's a link to an excellent article about aliases and how to use them to filter your email.

<https://tinyurl.com/mpwzfzch2>

Google Apps

I also talked briefly about Google apps. These are free apps that Google has made available to everyone. When you are in the Google.com page (Google search page), there are 9 dots in the upper right hand corner of the screen. Click on the nine dots to get a list of available apps. I counted 44 before hitting the see more button. Here's a list of 14 popular Google Apps and a short description of what they do.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Gmail - email service | 2. Google Docs - Word Processing |
| 3. Google Sheets - Spreadsheets | 4. Google Slides - Presentations |
| 5. Google Drive - Cloud Storage | 6. Google Calendar - Scheduling |
| 7. Google Maps - Navigation | 8. YouTube - Video sharing and streaming |
| 9. Google Chrome - Web Browser | 10. Google Photos - Photo storage |
| 11. Google Meet - Video Conferencing | 12. Google Keep - Note taking |
| 13. Google Translate - Translation | 14. Google Earth - 3D Globe and mapping |



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Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

Tech Info

Quick Assist

Ever wish you could get someone to look at your computer to tell you what's going on? Maybe a good friend or possibly a grandchild. It could even be one of the techs from the CCCGC.

It turns out that Windows 10 and 11 have an app available that allows a simple and safe remote connection between 2 computers. It's called Quick Assist. In typical Microsoft fashion, it's never easy. Sometimes Quick Assist is listed in the apps under Q. Makes sense. Sometimes it's in Windows Accessories under the W's. Sometimes it's not installed at all. The app can be installed directly from the Microsoft Store.

Keep in mind that in order to be able to use Quick Assist, at least the person offering to help has to have a Microsoft account and it's possible that both users will have to sign into their Microsoft account.

So, how does it work? Both users open the Quick Assist app. The person offering assistance clicks on Help Someone. The app will produce a code that the helper passes on to the person needing help (by telephone). The person needing help enters the code in the box on the app. After the number is entered the app will ask the person asking for help to allow the connection and to allow the screen to be shared. If allowed, the helper will now see the other person's screen.

The helper can then click on Request Control which may be allowed by the person being helped to allow the helper to actually make changes on the computer.

If things are looking complicated, here's a 2 minute Microsoft video explaining QA.

<https://tinyurl.com/2p9ut5h5>



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Final Thoughts



Don't forget that March 14th is pi day. Odds are pies will be priced at \$3.14 at Publix on Saturday the 14th. Check it out if you don't believe me. It's true.

Watch this video for pi out to 300 places. It's worth watching. I guess there are lots of ways to memorize a number out to 300 digits. This is one of them.

<https://tinyurl.com/35fmdt6x>



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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

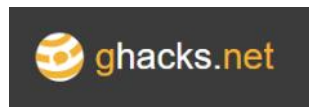
We're on the Web
www.cccgc.info



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