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Information: (941) 585-0356
www.cccgc.info facebook.com/cccgc.info
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VOL. XL - No. VIII

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

Events Calendar

Charlotte Bytes

Editor: Fran Robitaille

Next Monthly Meeting
August 3, 2026

Presentation:
Angela Hemstreet of Goodwill, SWFL
AI Presentation

Family Services Center
21500 Gibralter 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

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President's Message
Jane McDonald

Dear Members:

I hope everyone had a nice 250th USA/4th of July holiday! The festivities and fireworks along Charlotte Harbor were spectacular!

Our office hours for August will be Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please call the office at 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, August 3rd 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 of Goodwill Industries, Angela Hemstreet who will discuss AI and training opportunities to use AI tools. I hope you can join us!

A future heads-up notice: Monday, September 7th General Meeting is cancelled due to the holiday. There will be no meeting in September.

Classes for August will be Thursday August 6th – Maintenance and Backup and on Thursday, August 20th 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. If you would like to attend, click the RSVP and fill out the form and click Submit or call the office 941-585-0356 to reserve a spot.

Please consider becoming a volunteer in the office. Check out the volunteer options within the Bytes.

We need donations of laptops and desktops, so we can refurbish them to give out to students, veterans, 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 because there are some changes concerning what we accept.

Thank You
Jane McDonald, President



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Welcome New Members

Debbie Ederer

Kathy Smith

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

Position Vacant

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. We will no longer accept printers. Here's a link to Staples recycling service. Note the prices at the end of the list. https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling

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

Staples Unfortunately Staples has changed some of their recycling policies. For bigger items such as monitors, they are now charging. Too bad.

Charlotte County E-Waste: Contact Waste Management 2 days ahead of you 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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July 6, 2026 Monthly Meeting

Presentation

Due to the 4th of July holiday, there was no monthly meeting in July. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 3, 2026 at the Family Services Center.

August 3, 2026 Upcoming Presentation

Angela Hemstreet of Goodwill Southwest Florida will present on AI. Goodwill provides education and training in various areas of study including Artificial Intelligence (AI). Should make for an interesting presentation.



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July 6, 2026 Monthly Meeting

Drawings

No drawings in July 2026

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Future Events & Presentations

[August 2026 CCCGC Classes & Programs]

August 3 Family Services Center
3:00 PM General Meeting
Angela Hemstreet
AI Presentation
General Meeting Zoom Link

August 6 Maintenance & Backup
2-4 PM
Lydia Rist

August 20 Windows 11 Q&A
2-4 PM
Stan Galpers

August 27 Board of Directors Meeting
2PM
Board Meeting Zoom Link



August 27 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

Microsoft Extended Security Updates Windows 10

Microsoft has decided to extend the issuance of security updates for Windows 10 computers for an additional year to October 2027. That's good news.

If you are still using Windows 10 you should be signed up for these updates. They cost nothing and help keep your operating system safe. If you haven't signed up for the Extended Security Updates, you still can. You must be signed in to a Microsoft account and your system must be up to date. If you go to Settings then Windows Update, there should be a link at the top of the page to sign up for Extended Updates. Again your computer must be updated and you need to be signed in to your Microsoft account.

Here's a link to information on the ESU program.

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/extended-security-updates?r=1

Point-In-Time Restore Point

Microsoft is adding a new recovery tool to Windows 11 in July. Windows has always had the ability to create Restore Points but the process was rarely automatic. Windows itself would often create a restore point when doing an update and you could manually create one. The process wasn't particularly clean. Now with Point-In-Time Restore the restore points can be created automatically and on a schedule. The issue is that I believe you have to turn the feature on to have it work.

So, go to Settings, System, Recovery, then Point-In-Time Restore to turn it on and adjust the settings.

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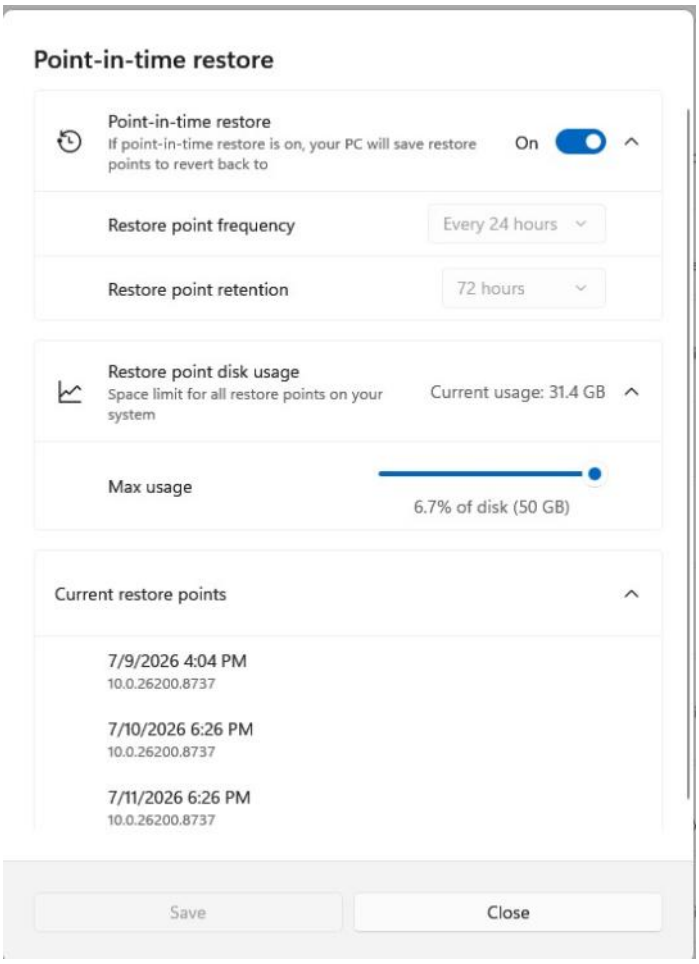
Editor: Fran Robitaille

Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

Tech Info Continued

Point-In-Time Restore Point Continued

Here's a picture of the settings from my computer. Restore points can come in very handy if your computer suddenly develops problems. This app will allow for the creation of restore points automatically on a schedule.



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Final Thoughts

There's someone I thought should be recognized for their many years of service to the Charlotte County Computer Group. That person is Harold Nixon. I searched old issues of the Bytes to try to see when Harold joined CCCGC. Here's a chronology of his activities to the best of my ability.

It looks like Harold joined the CCCGC in November of 2006. In 2007 he became more involved making presentations on Ebay and the Vista operating system.



June Meeting Presentation

Computer Group member Harold Nixon will make a presentation on E-bay at the June 5 meeting. He will show how to buy and sell as well as using PayPal, mailing services, how to list and bid and taking good pictures for selling your items on the website. While this will be an overview, it will get your appetite wetted for more.

Join us and learn.

Lydia Rist

2007 - Harold was named Director of Training arranging classes for members

2008 - Harold became VP, the Bytes editor, Members Help (instructor)

2009 - Harold was VP, the Bytes editor, Members Help (instructor)

2010 - Harold was VP, the Bytes editor, Members Help (instructor)

Somewhere along the line Yvette Pilch took over as Bytes editor.

2011 - Due to the unfortunate passing of Larry VanOsdol (former President) Harold assumed the Presidency in August 2011.

2012 to 2013 - Harold was elected and served as President

2014 - Ron Wallis took over as President, Harold didn't sit around however.

2015 to 2021 - Harold served as Treasurer

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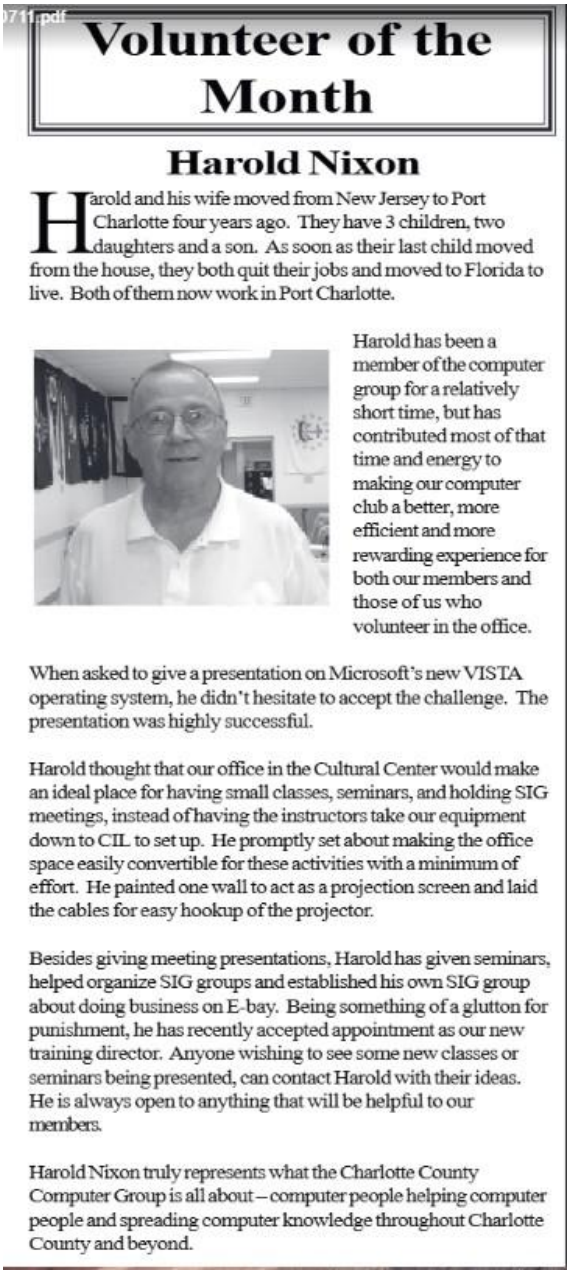
Computer Tech by Fran Robitaille

Final Thoughts

Here's Harold as Volunteer of the Month in November 2007 and again in 2016. He hasn't aged a bit.







Volunteer of the Month

Harold Nixon

Harold and his wife moved from New Jersey to Port Charlotte four years ago. They have 3 children, two daughters and a son. As soon as their last child moved from the house, they both quit their jobs and moved to Florida to live. Both of them now work in Port Charlotte.

Harold has been a member of the computer group for a relatively short time, but has contributed most of that time and energy to making our computer club a better, more efficient and more rewarding experience for both our members and those of us who volunteer in the office.

When asked to give a presentation on Microsoft's new VISTA operating system, he didn't hesitate to accept the challenge. The presentation was highly successful.

Harold thought that our office in the Cultural Center would make an ideal place for having small classes, seminars, and holding SIG meetings, instead of having the instructors take our equipment down to CIL to set up. He promptly set about making the office space easily convertible for these activities with a minimum of effort. He painted one wall to act as a projection screen and laid the cables for easy hookup of the projector.

Besides giving meeting presentations, Harold has given seminars, helped organize SIG groups and established his own SIG group about doing business on E-bay. Being something of a glutton for punishment, he has recently accepted appointment as our new training director. Anyone wishing to see some new classes or seminars being presented, can contact Harold with their ideas. He is always open to anything that will be helpful to our members.

Harold Nixon truly represents what the Charlotte County Computer Group is all about – computer people helping computer people and spreading computer knowledge throughout Charlotte County and beyond.

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Final Thoughts

For as long as I've known Harold, that's 8 or 9 years now, he has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to help keep the CCCGC running smoothly and efficiently. He would often show up at the office at 6:00am, work a couple of hours and then take a half dozen computers home to work on. He would set up those computers in his home shop to update or fix during his spare time. Harold was never looking for the spotlight. As a result, I found only a few pictures of him. He was just there, he did his job and then some. Fortunately for us, Harold has a supportive wife, Grace, who did her own thing while Harold supported the CCCGC.

Harold is winding down his activities with the club as he wants to spend more time with Grace and the rest of his family. He will be missed.

The club had a half dozen or so members who stepped up year after year to fill the leadership roles that CCCGC needed to thrive and grow. Most of those folks have wound down their activities and they are and will be very hard to replace. For me, Harold has to go to the top of the list of volunteers who supported us in a huge way for many years.

Some of the other names that come to mind are Lydia Rist, still active, Grover Mudd, also still volunteering, Ron Muschong, Yvette Pilch, George and Rose Kopenec and the late Dick Evans.
I often marveled at the many years of leadership continuity. That's an unusual thing to have that many volunteers willing to serve year after year after year.

Thank You Harold for your service and please thank Grace for putting up with us.

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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

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www.cccgc.info

apcug
An International Association of Technology and Computer User Groups

TechRegar
just tech stuff

dotTech

Digital Citizen

ghacks.net

The How-To Geek Daily Article
Daily Computer Help from your Friendly How-To Geek

MUO
makeuseof

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