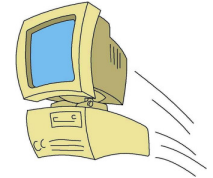




THE DATA BYTE



Official Newsletter of the Computer Users Group of Lincolnton

www.cugol.org

January, 2010

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Election Results

President:	Charles Mize
Vice President:	Mike Vance
Treasurer:	Jack Buff
Assistant Treasurer:	Sue Vance
Secretary 1:	Sue Brooks
Secretary 2:	Nancy Venable

Thanks to all of those who volunteered to help in setting up our meeting room and cleaning up afterwards. The greeters will help make visitors feel welcome. Rodney has volunteered to be a backup as newsletter editor or Web Master when needed.



Best Electronic Stores

The December issue of *Consumer Reports* rated various electronic stores on a number of factors. The best **overall for on-line stores** are: Vanns.com, Amazon.com, Newegg.com, Beachcamera.com, Costco.com, JR.com, Buy.com, TigerDirect.com. Last on the list are Walmart.com and BestBuy.com.

Check-rated walk-in stores: Independents, Apple, Costco, and Ritz Camera. **Not checked but rated:** Sam's Club, HH Gregg, Sears, Staples, Office Depot, Radio Shack, and Best Buy. Walmart was listed last.

The library subscribes to *Consumer Reports*. I have never heard of some of the stores listed and may be regional. I have ordered from Tiger Direct and visited their store. I was satisfied.

HH Gregg (Hickory and Gastonia) is small compared to *Best Buy*, but you can get a good deal on sale items. *Walmart* has good prices, but know what you're looking for. You can rarely find a knowledgeable clerk. *Best Buy* is pricy but has sales people who know their products. I have found that they have some prominently displayed name brand items selling for a high price but a cheaper version on a back shelf.

I have had good luck with customer support at both Staples and Best Buy.

Before buying, check for reviews online.

Club Notes

News from December

Twenty-nine members and one visitor from Durango, Colorado (**Walt Venable**) enjoyed our special December meeting: **Sue Brooks, Jack Buff, Rondel Burke, Becky Burke, Dorothy Carsley, Reba Cordell, Larry Cordell, Gale Deal, Rodney Eaker, David Foster, Lisa Gambini, Randy Henderson, Judy Hicswa, Bill Keever, Allen Martin, Charles Mize, Libby Mize, Humberto Ospina, Ann Perry, Nona Perry, David Rhyne, Francis Rhyne, Charles Rudisill, Christine Simmons, Rutha Simmons, Sue Vance, Nancy Venable, and Rebecca White.**



Birthdays for January

Sue Brooks, Bill Brooks, Rodney Eaker, Russell Hull, Gerry Leonhardt, Linda Motz, Peggy Norcutt and Maureen Tull



President's Notes

Time sure flies. It has been ten years since our biggest concern was "Will everything crash on New Year's Day, 2000?"

CUGOL had a good year in 2009. We now have 55 active members. Our meetings have been interesting, and we have learned a lot. I look forward to 2010.

Thanks to Sue Brooks for cooking the ham and all members who brought special items for the Christmas Party.

Every one took home a door prize and a 2010 calendar mouse pad.

The Data Byte is the official publication of CUGOL, the Computer Users Group of Lincolnton. Direct comments to:
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(CUGOL welcomes anyone with an interest in computers.)