

COMPUTER TIPS



HHICC – Wow, what a resource!

**by
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If you're reading this article from the newsletter or from the web site, you're already experiencing a bit of the wonder of the Hilton Head Island Computer Club - HHICC. You probably already know, as I do, that the organization is a terrific resource, and an organization that can best be described as members helping members, and users helping users.

What I've learned since moving to the island a short time ago is whatever your question, whatever your interest, whatever your computer need, there are wonderful, knowledgeable people and numerous resources available, all very willing and able to help. In my mind, the goal of the club is quite simple – to serve members that range from brand new to computers, to beginners and novices, and even advanced computer users that have a wide variety of computer interests and needs.

I've seen the club accomplish that goal in many different ways. For instance, a monthly general meeting is held the second Wednesday of each month (mark your calendar) at 7 PM at the Hilton Head Island Middle School. This is an opportunity to hear about a broad range of topics such as new technology, new software, and new applications that are of general interest to the entire membership. For example, recent topics include Internet Security, Microsoft Office, Voice Recognition, and Creating A Family Photo Album.

Monthly workshops are scheduled to address topics like Quicken, TurboTax, Excel, and Photoshop Elements. These sessions attract

audiences who want to learn more about application software that they are probably already using. Special Interest Groups (SIGs) also meet monthly, and they provide an ongoing dialog for members with "Special Interests", in topics like the Internet, Windows XP, AOL, Music, Macintosh and Digital Photography to name just a few. After experiencing a recent Digital Photography SIG, I learned how easy it is to share pictures and other resources through a web site. It was explained so thoroughly, that I went home and made myself my first web site.

However, the most impressive way that I've seen users helping users is through the HHICC Resource Center, located in our new location with SHARE at 6 Office Park Road, just south of Sea Pines Circle and Wachovia, just before you get to CVS. This facility is equipped with a wide variety of computer equipment, and is staffed daily, Monday through Friday from 10 till 4 PM, with member volunteers. These volunteers respond to walk-ins with problems or members just wanting to use the resources, the three slide scanners are always in big demand! These volunteers also answer phone calls (842-4475), or are simply there to help members with issues or others who just want to try out new software. Members also have access to a list of telephone hot lines, with actual names and phone numbers of other volunteers who have been identified as having expertise in specific topics.

Most of the information I've shared here is readily available on the club's web site at <http://www.hhicc.org>. If you are not already a member, my recommendation is to please find and utilize the membership portion of the web site and join our organization as soon as possible. We'd like you to meet with us regularly, as we all strive to continue to help each other.