

# Bowie Seniors Computer Club Minutes for Sep. 18, 2008

Dale Grant presided.

Nominees and Volunteers as Club Officers for next year:

Dan Lee volunteered to again be Vice President and Program Chairman after three members volunteered to serve on the Program Committee: Eric Hein, Gloria Melichar, and Carl Bulger.

Barry Hammond volunteered to be Secretary again; Dennis Edgington volunteered to be Membership Chairman again; Vic Kiviat volunteered to be Publicity Chairman again; and, in his absence, we volunteered Ken Godfrey to continue as Treasurer.

Carl Bulger was nominated for President, which he accepted after a little persuasion.

Dan Lee encouraged members to email him and the committee members (Eric Hein, Gloria Melichar, and Carl Bulger) with ideas for meeting topics.

Program ideas offered at the meeting included:

Bob Davis suggested Personal Book publishing.

He's also interested in putting pictures on a DVD or in a book or both.

Cynthia Bravo is interested in transferring a product of Microsoft Publisher into PDF format.

Eric Hein suggested advanced features of word applications, virtual printers and PDF export. He mentioned that he's had some experience with PDF 995 because that is what his tax preparation software Taxcut uses.

Ted Tuck mentioned that he bought the 2007 edition of Microsoft's Access for \$140. It is an excellent database application which he uses for medical records and tax deductions. (Although Eric Hein is an Open Office enthusiast, he observed that its database program is pitiful in comparison to MS Access.)

Someone mentioned Java Programming.

Another mentioned Bill Meenahan's beloved NoteTab (available free as NoteTab Lite or as NoteTab Pro). Ted Tuck mentioned that it is good for generating a line or row of semi-colon delimited email addresses from inputs from some other application such as Excel. Eric Hein suggested that NoteTab's major appeal to Meenahan is probably for html editing. Eric also mentioned that Smart Editor is good for editing html and other syntaxes, including Java.

Dick Henthorn suggested we have a program on Blogging.

Eric Hein added to the discussion we had last meeting regarding the differences between DVD +R and DVD -R formats. DVD +R format is more modern and reli-

able than the DVD -R format, BUT if you are recording something to share with others, the DVD -R format is more likely to be backward compatible with older hardware.

Presentation:

Dr. Norman Bohrer demonstrated Picasa 3.0 beta, Google's free photo album application, available at <http://picasa.google.com/>. It will organize the photos on your computer into albums according to the date that they were downloaded. You can label the albums and provide captions for individual pictures. You can attach a star to your best pictures so that you can find them easily or quickly assemble them in a display of your best photos.

Picasa works with other Google applications including Gmail, Google Blogger, and Google Web Albums. Gmail will allow you to send more photos in an email than other email programs. You can also assemble your photos online in Google's Web Album and share them with your friends and relatives.

Picasa provides basic photo editing: cropping, red eye reduction, contrast, color, rotation, etc. Now twelve more sophisticated photo modifications are possible, not as many as Adobe's PhotoShop Elements, but sufficient for the casual user.

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The metadata associated with each photo can be displayed using Picasa's EXIF display such as the camera model, date, whether flash was used, and a RGB histogram. You can even enter GPS coordinates so that Google Earth can map where the picture was taken.

For more features visit  
<http://picasa.google.com/features/index.html>

Next Meeting: Our next meeting is the Annual Business Meeting where we formally elect next year's officers.

Also, Eric Hein will discuss Backup Strategies and perform a demonstration of Norton's Ghost. He will backup a computer with a Windows 98 operating system, wipe the C: drive clean by re-formatting it, and restore the original contents of the drive from the image that he has backed up to an external hard drive. Eric does not consider DVDs a reliable backup medium and recommends that everyone take advantage of the relatively low prices for external hard drives.