

Carl Bulger presided.

Carl thinks we'll have no problem meeting on November 7th. The pre-Veteran's Day celebration will be small, so there may not even be a shortage of parking places.

The Club's Holiday Luncheon will be Thursday, December 5th at noon at the Osaka Grill and Supreme Buffett in the Crofton shopping center where we had it last December. Go online at www.osakagrillbuffet.com/ You can also get a map and the address if you Google "Osaka Grill and Buffet Crofton". Vic Kiviat will have a map and details as we get closer to December.

The free update to Windows 8, called 8.1, just came out. Bob Blum downloaded and installed it in 1 hour and 27 minutes. Microsoft recommended that you first backup and store your backup on SkyDrive, their "in the cloud" storage space. Windows 8.1 restores the Start button, modifies the Metro interface and the organization of Apps.

Tom McCabe likes the Start8 mod for 8.0 as did Bob Blum a couple of meetings ago. Bob also likes the Classic Shell for Windows 8. We'll see how the 8.1 upgrade affects these recommendations.

MCCabe mentioned that Windows 8 is much faster than earlier versions of Windows.

We will have a Forum on Backups at our November 21st meeting being organized by Irv Salzberg. Someone (I believe it was Dan Lee) mentioned that he picked up a free copy of Smart Computing (no longer available as a subscription) at Staples recently which featured a story on Backing Up.

Dan Lee mentioned that the Washington Post reported that NSA intercepts emails in Europe.

Dan also mentioned that he visited Dennis Courtney, President of the Capitol PC Users Group at their Project Reboot facility in Shady Grove, MD in Montgomery County to give them an old laptop. Dennis spoke at our April 4th meeting <http://home.comcast.net/~bscclub/meetings.htm>. He watched as they wiped the hard drive clean, loaded the operating system licensed to them by Microsoft, and then used Ninite software (www.Ninite.com) to load some of the other software they were making available to recipients of their computers. Dan then demonstrated how Ninite is used. This could save us time and effort when we get a new computer or hard drive or have to wipe our hard drives clean to get rid of malware.

Tom McCabe likes Puran Utilities, a free download from CNET. http://download.cnet.com/Puran-Utilities/3000-2094_4-75764049.html The CNET reviewer says "Puran Utilities is loaded with programs that will improve your computer's performance, speed, and organization." They get 5 stars from both CNET and users. Tom says he usually runs CCleaner first, and then uses Puran Defrag.

Windows Sysinternals www.sysinternals.com offers another large selection of free advanced system utilities. The Windows Sysinternals website was bought by Microsoft years ago but allowed to operate independently. Two very useful utilities are Autoruns, which substitutes for msconfig in monitoring startup processes and programs and Process Explorer which substitutes for Task Manager in monitoring

what processes are using the processor and memory. Using the two can help you make your computer faster and more efficient.

Ten members said they use the free version of LogMeIn, which allows them remote access to their computers.

Submitted by Barry Hammond, Secretary