Carl Bulger presided.

Visitors and New Members:
Terry Drown
Bill Long is interested in digitally recording Super8 movies.

Hurray! Someone stepped up to volunteer to be an officer. Dennis Evans volunteered to take over the duties of Membership Chairman from Dennis Edgington, who has done an outstanding job. He will coach Dennis Evans.

Irv Salzberg asked for ideas on how we should make an interesting presentation on Backing Up our computers. He is a long time user of Acronis, which is a backup software that you have to pay for, but he has found at least 90 free versions of backup software. He suggested that we have a forum of perhaps four knowledgeable users of backup software to discuss the topic and a moderator. Everyone agreed. Eric Hein thought this would increase the interest and participation (Question and Answer session afterwards) of the members. Eric also thinks that it would be advantageous for each of us to go home afterwards and perform a backup and a restore it to impress it in our memory and to start the habit of backing up and restoring regularly and properly. Irv signed up forum volunteers after the meeting.

Factors to consider in evaluating Back Up software include how well they secure data and the operating system, how easy are they to use, and their cost.

Ted Patterson would like to know more about the techniques and software required for partitioning hard drives. Partitioning and re-partitioning are involved in backing up to external and internal hard drives.

Computer Problems:

Vic Kiviat is looking for a new monitor and needs to know what cables, connectors, and adapters to look for. His desktop computer has DVI and VGA outputs for HDMI and VGA monitor inputs. VGA (Video Graphics Array) is the Video Graphics Association's specifications for video analog signals. DVI is a Digital Visual Interface (no audio). Some old DVI hardware include VGA. HDMI is a High Definition Multimedia Interface designed for HDTV. It includes audio. But if the HD signal is being fed through a DVI to HDMI adapter, you will probably have to supply the audio via an alternate source and cable. Dennis Evans showed the various adapters he carries around to allow him to hook up his Kindle 3G and Kindle Fire to projectors when he gives talks at technical meetings.

Are these acronyms driving you crazy? Consult an online encyclopedia. Wikipedia is helpful for technical terms. DVI is defined and discussed at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DVI . Each page has a search box so you can go from one query to the next without leaving Wikipedia. Type VGA in the search

box, read its definition and discussion, then type HDMI in the search box, etc. Pictures of the respective connectors are also shown.

Digital signals, especially High Definition digital signals, require good cabling; shorter is better because higher frequencies are harder to transmit.   Lower frequency analog signals can travel longer distances.

Displays have inherent resolution capability. For VGA, 1600 x 900 pixels is the highest. HD devices and HDMI can go much higher.

Bob Blum pointed out that Integrated Graphics circuitry is limited to 1024 x 768 pixels. It provides a nice clear picture but application displays run off the edge of the screen. 1280 x 1024 is more desirable. Higher end computers with a discrete (separate, dedicated) graphics card can do much better.

Tom McCabe has a 20 inch Hewlett-Packard LCD monitor which functions intermittently. Anybody want to use it or fix it? See Tom.

Dale Grant brought a Canon PIXMA iP4820 Printer which has a major problem. He had spare ink cartridges for it and the ones in the printer still have ink in them. He was afraid that if he removed the cartridges from inside the printer, they would dry out. So he brought in the spare ink cartridges and the printer. He said his wife wouldn't let him back in the house if he was carrying the printer. I can use those cartridges in my Canon printer, so I thank Dale and his wife.

Russ Vaughn has thousands of photos. He's using IrfanView to display them but finds that searching for particular photos is very slow. Several people suggested that he use Windows Indexing Service. Go into Control Panel > Folder Options to enable it. The indexing service will take a lot of CPU time initially but save time bringing up particular images. Irv Salzberg suggested using free Exif (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exif) software to tag image or audio files with data that will help with indexing and searching. "Tagging" is adding personally customized information to the metadata file associated with each photo.

Eric Hein is a Video Editing buff as he has demonstrated at a couple of our meetings. He recently acquired a Pioneer BluRay burner as part of an OEM package. He can now play back a standard DVD or a BluRay DVD. He now needs to acquire software and connectors for this BluRay player/burner. In the past he preferred Pinnacle's software. He now prefers Movie Studio's SCRF. If he was feeling wealthy he might use the $400 Sony VEGAS.

Tom McCabe cautioned that anyone burning BluRay discs should be prepared for more failures than when burning CDs or DVDs and the blank BluRay discs are more expensive.

Eric Hein has commented before that for a music player, he prefers Microsoft's Media Player 12 over VLC. One advantage is that Media Player recognizes Chapters. Both are free.

Submitted by Barry Hammond, Secretary