Bowie Seniors Computer Club

Meeting Notes, April 15, 2010 by Charlotte Melichar

Inexperienced as I am in taking notes for others, and totally unqualified as a secretary, nevertheless I agreed to take notes, and here they are. I am embarrassed to admit that the following fragments are all I got, and I cannot imagine how Barry Hammond prepares such excellent minutes.

12:30 – 12:42   Multiple chaotic discussions. President, Secretary, and Treasurer absent.   Vice President Dan Lee presides.

12:44 Nancy Lewis offered corrections to the minutes of the last meeting, about the problem she reported at a previous meeting. Eric and Sam Duff and Bob Blum commented on the problem. The D partition is almost full, and is generating error messages. Suggested an upgrade to Windows 7? Back up the C drive and delete the D partition?

12:55 Review of plan for next meetings.

Laptop review for second meeting in June: several people bring laptops, discuss pros and cons of the particular brand and model and features, in case others are considering buying a laptop.

Microsoft is not going to make Steady State compatible with Windows 7, so we have to consider that fact in conjunction with maintaining the two public access computers at the Senior Center.

An HP DeskJet 842C printer was donated for public access use: 10 years old, probably will not use it because of the cost of cartridges and paper, and because of operational and maintenance issues that would arise with public use.

1:05   Dan reported that Elaine Brady wants to know is anybody knows how to unjam tape on a Beta-Max.

Bob Blum mentioned that someone wants to use a 5-1/4" floppy drive. Sam Duff has a 5-1/4" – to – 3-1/2" set-up, and will help Bob. Also, Bob Rapczynski has 5-1/4" drives.

Eric says there's an item on our freeware site called "Floppy Image" that lets you copy an old floppy as one long string.

1:10   Cherridine Birt updated us on her software called Carbonite, which she received with H&R Block software. She found out it's an online backup service.

1:15   Eric pointed out that our two public access computers use MS Security Essentials.

Bob Blum cites "Maximum PC" magazine: MS Security Essentials compares very well with other security software. Several others concurred. Dale Grant has given up on AVG and now uses MS Security Essentials.

1:22   Someone suggested we again offer "Bring problems to Sam" … perhaps have one or two computer clinics per year.

1:25   Herb Gillis wants to know if you could restore PC operating system to original state but not require re-installation of software. Answer is NO, you have to reinstall and re-update all the programs. Dan Lee described restoring a PC for his sister-in-law(?) and putting a bow on it as a Christmas gift.

1:30   Someone reported that Smart Computing reviewed a program called "Decrapifier" to remove unwanted leftovers after uninstalling a program.

Our freeware page offers "My Uninstaller." Also MS Registry Cleaner.

1:35   Herb Gillis asked about MS messages about updates. There was some confusion about "updates" vs. "upgrades."

Eric says after he upgraded to Windows 7, his PC runs faster.

1:40   Someone brought up photo-editing freeware. Sam Duff recommended Lorraine Warner to evaluate and recommend photo-editing freeware.

Discussion of possible PhotoShop course, Open Office course: problem is that when an instructor is available and a course is announced, nobody signs up for it, or maybe only two people. Plus, PhotoShop versions keep getting updated, and we have an older version.

Eric pointed out that one value of freeware is that it is more likely to be up-to-date.

1:50   Cherridine Birt asked about using Wi-Fi on planes, etc. Some airlines offer it free. Someone explained to her that if the laptop is not new, she would need an adapter to pick up Wi-Fi.

Dale Grant reported that Juno, which he has used for years, has become unable to finish "sorting" his messages, so he can't use it, and has to go through webmail. Sam Duff suggested checking the User Account file.

Submitted by Acting Secretary, Charlotte Melichar