Bowie Seniors Computer Club Minutes for January 5, 2017

Carl Bulger presided.

Carl likes to play Solitaire. He signed in as a guest to play Solitaire on his Windows 10 computer when a message popped up asking him if he wanted X-Box. He replied, "No!" The message repeatedly popped up. Bob Blum suggested that he go to the Windows Store to download another Solitaire app. He says that there are several. When I searched the Microsoft Store for "Solitaire", five results were offered: Microsoft Solitaire Collection – X-Box; Solitaire HD; Simple Solitaire; Spider Solitaire HD; and Spider Solitaire 8. Blum thinks the MS Store offerings are safer then what would be offered by a Google search.

The new session of computer classes start Friday, January 6th. Dave Hackenberg requested classroom assistance for the classes, especially the Computers 1 & 2 classes to be taught on Mondays and Fridays, 12 noon until 2 pm. Computers 1 will be taught in January and Computers 2 in February. Dale Grant is the instructor.   Dave, the coordinator, recommends this as an excellent way to volunteer and to learn some things in the process. Students in these beginning classes frequently get frustrated or sidetracked and need help getting back in the flow of the lesson. If Dale, the instructor, has to stop and help each student, he is unable to complete the lesson.

Excel had only two people signup. When we can get five or more people to take the course, it will be taught.

Noah, a visitor, asked to know a little bit about the Apple Group. Vic Kiviat said that it meets on the second and fourth Fridays at 10 am. It primarily covers iPads and IPhones, not MAC computers.

Bill Long mentioned at the Holiday Luncheon that he was installing Windows 7 on a computer and going through endless updates. Bob Blum came across a brief mention in *Maximum PC* Magazine about a program that somewhat simplifies the job. It is called WSUS Offline Update. In a 13-minute You Tube video, Eli the Computer Guy (real name: Eli Etherton, 955 N. Howard St, Baltimore) describes the process: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXAOvbNJYyE   . The Google

results for the software gave links explaining the software and downloading it – but Bob recommends viewing the You Tube presentation by Eli the Computer Guy before actually using it.

Dick Henthorn uses Free Rip or iTunes to download MP3 tunes to a CD to play in his car, but there are no song titles displayed. Eric Hein and Tom McCabe said that the metadata associated with the tunes must be downloaded as well. iTunes songs are in MP4a format. There is a free MP4a to MP3 convertor.

iTunes (and audio players like the one in Dick's car) will play audio files without any metadata. Metadata (like song title, artist, year, genre,…) are only used for end-user sorting/filtering. But, that is desirable, so getting files with metadata is encouraged. Adding metadata to files that don't have it is encouraged. See the club website >Freeware >Multimedia >Metadata Tools.

Dave Hackenberg would like to convert a 7-inch reel to a current format. Someone recommended that he consult with Tony Young who volunteers at the front desk but also is a docent at the Radio & TV Museum.

Eric Hein has a new Lenovo laptop. Version 5.25 of CCleaner was incompatible with the version of Windows 10 on his computer. Piriform says they have fixed this but you may have to download CCleaner from the Piriform website, not from FileHippo or some other website which might not have the corrected version.

Eric had to call Microsoft to get permission to install Microsoft's Office on this computer. He has a license for two computers, and both licenses had been used – one on the computer he was about to replace. The installation program noted this, would not complete, and suggested he call Microsoft. He called the 800 number and got a computer which eventually gave him a new, very long license key verbally which he had to write down. The computer allowed him to have the license key repeated so he could write it down correctly. Dan Lee has experienced the same.

Eric bought a 120GB hard drive with the new computer which he uses for the operating system. He says it speeds up the computer significantly. Bob Blum did that with his computers when he found how much time they saved.

Tom McCabe says that computers can be sped up by defragging the registry and running CCleaner and Puran utilities.

Hibernation is a lot quicker than a cold reboot but the option doesn't always appear under Power options. Go to Settings > Power Options > Search for Hibernate.