Bowie Seniors Computer Club Minutes for August 5, 2010

Carl Bulger presided.

Vic Kiviat, who wrote the minutes of the last two meetings, commented that he put links in the minutes of the August 15th meeting for three internet speed testing sites. He suggests testing at different times of day, with different test sites, and different cities to get a truer measure of your internet speed.

Presentation: Video Editing by Eric Hein.

Eric has given presentations on Audio Editing. This was probably his first for Video Editing.

He raised the subject last winter when we were considering what computer specifications to recommend that the Senior Center ask for in the 2010-2011 budget. Eric pointed out that if we wanted to teach a course on Video Editing we would need computers with larger, or multiple, hard drives and multi-core processors and a separate server with a larger hard drive. Windows 7 is an excellent operating system for Video Editing. Resolution requirements for videos are modest: 320 x 240 pixels.

Videos require a lot of memory and storage. If you're going to have additional applications active at the same time as you're editing you'll need a fast CPU.

Eric demonstrated the free video editing application, Video Spin by Pinnacle (a division of Avid).

Eric has used Pinnacle's premier video editing tool, Studio, which is in its 14th edition and costs about $100. He says that there is usually very little discount when upgrading to the next edition approximately every two years. Studio comes in Basic, Plus, and Ultimate versions. Eric recommends Studio **Plus**.

Video Spin is offered free because Pinnacle hopes that it will entice you to upgrade to Studio. To download it, go to: www.videospin.com .

If you're hooked by VideoSpin and want to upgrade to a more capable video editing application, such as Studio, see the following website for reviews and comparisons of 14 video editors including Studio: http://video-editing-software-review.toptenreviews.com/

When you download Video Spin, it comes with Codecs (Coding/Decoding algorithms), some are free to try for two weeks, others are totally free. Eric has posted the link to K-Lite Codec Pack on the Freeware page of our website. Download the Full version and select Profile 4. However, after the 15-day trial period you still may need to buy the SpinPack for about $15 if you want to produce videos in MPEG or DivX formats. Video Spin will not burn DVD's but you can export your MPEG-formatted videos to Windows Movie Maker. Use WinFF for converting video-files to formats VideoSpin will accept. Gspot is a good tool for

determining what formats are contained in a file.

Pinnacle has tutorials for Video Spin on its website: www.video-spin.com. The best and most complete is probably this one: http://www.videospin.com/Re-design/tutorials/featured-tutorials_VideographyTips.asp

Into your video you can drop links to your video and audio files which can be edited without touching the originals. Since the video you are creating and editing is linked to the original files, the originals must remain at the same location on your hard disk.

File length can be changed in your video by clicking and dragging a border. You can set a default duration for items that don't have an associated timeline, for example, transitions and stills. File order can be changed by dragging and dropping into the video or audio tracks displayed in Video Spin. Transitions can be selected from a preview pane and placed between the files. Titles, music files and background audio files can be inserted on three separate tracks underneath the video track.

Now that even small digital cameras have the capability of making videos, we have opportunities to string them together and share them with our friends and relatives, or even the world. via You Tube or Facebook.