

Bowie Seniors Computer Club Minutes for Oct. 7, 2010

Dan Lee presided.

We held the Election of Officers as required by the Bylaws. We got no volunteers and no nominations. Result: the present officers will probably continue in their present jobs. Let's assume that the lack of volunteers and nominations is not the result of apathy or selfishness, but satisfaction with the way things are going. If that's the case, thank your officers:

President: Carl Bulger

Vice-President and Program

Chairman: Dan Lee

Secretary: Barry Hammond

Treasurer: Ken Godstrey

Membership Chairman:

Dennis Edgington

Publicity Chairman: Vic Kiviat

Webmaster: Dick Henthorn

We should also thank those that contribute so much to our meetings and activities:

Eric Hein

Bob Blum

Bob Rapczynski

Charlotte Melichar

Norm Bohrer

and the instructors of our computer classes.

Marcia Richard brought three guests prompting Charlotte Melichar to remark that the proportion of women attending was higher than any meeting she had previously attended.

Computer Topics and Problems:

Dan Lee introduced a topic that he would like to schedule a form-

al program around: How much disk cleanup is required to keep personal data from being revealed when a computer or hard drive is given away? Is it sufficient to do a full format or is it also necessary to use a program such as Kill Disk that writes random 0's and 1's to the entire disk, sometimes multiple times. Some have resorted to more extreme measures such as destroying the hard disk by hammering it or burning it. John Jones says that when he was at NSA they degaussed (demagnetized) disks that were being replaced.

Marcia Richard had a question about the use of Registry Mechanic. How useful is it to repair the registry periodically and how often should it be done? Eric Hein mentioned that Windows 7 does it automatically.

Nancy Lewis is looking for recommendations for portable printers.

A couple of the guests were interested in buying a new computer and wondered what brands, types, and features they should be considering. This invited all sorts of suggestions. Primary considerations should be what do you want to use the new computer for? Will it be used primarily for email, surfing the web, and word processing or will it be for something requiring excellent video and graphics processing or something requiring lots of memory and storage capacity? Does it need to be a portable or would a

desktop be sufficient. If you choose a desktop, do you want to build it yourself or buy it off-the-shelf? This is not an either-or question because HP and Dell will let you select the features you want incorporated in your computer. One of the guests is going to have Annapolis Computers build a computer for her.

Dan Lee mentioned that Dell, HP, and Lenovo will give an "Employee Discount" if you make the extra effort to get it. See Dan for details.

Charlotte Melichar would like to know more about Wi-Fi routers and how they can act as a "physical" firewall. How do they work and how must they be hooked up to function correctly?

What are the minimum requirements for a computer that will do Video Editing. Eric Hein suggested that there should be a minimum of 2GB of RAM, a fast CPU, and multiple hard drives. A video card with lots of RAM is also helpful.

Dan Lee just returned from a two week trip to Shanghai, Canton, and Hong Kong. He said he saw a lot of Dell computers. Of the eleven hotels he stayed in, five had ethernet hookups, three provided computers, and two provided nothing. Since Dan is not fluent in Chinese, the computers were not helpful. Next time he is going to take his portable along.