Carl Bulger (left) presided.

Regarding the Election of Club Officers: Carl announced that the Club's present officers will continue to serve another year. We have received no nominations and no volunteers have stepped forth. This brought up a discussion of the need for more volunteers to help with the maintenance of the computers in the classroom/lab, maintenance of the public access computers in the main hallway, teaching classes, presentations at meetings, and as officers.

Two guests and potential new members:

Mark Lester has a small tablet computer, a JXD brand Model S18 with an Android OS and was seeking some advice on using it.

Gladys – wants to learn more about computers

A couple of comments on Steve Deming's talk on Windows 8 last time:

Bob Blum commented on the icons for apps and added that instead of double booting Windows 8 with Windows 7, he has double booted Windows 8 with Linux. He remarked that the configuration is "tough".

Carl Bulger mentioned that on You Tube Steve Deming has a 25 minute presentation of Windows 8, similar to the Windows 8 portion of his talk to us: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKKx0CSb9Qw .

Presentation: Eric Hein brought one of the Dell computers and monitors from the Computer Lab/Classroom in to talk about their capabilities, how they are configured for classes, and what he has been doing during the break between classes to prepare for the next class session.

These are high performance computers, each with a 750GB hard drive. Lately, there have been intermittent bootup failures with several of them resulting in a "blue screen of death". Eric has spent hours attempting to diagnose the source of these problems. Initially, he thought that they may be caused by faulty hard drives. He purchased two exact replacements. Substituting them in a couple of the computers did not eliminate the problem. Thinking that the problem was caused by a faulty graphics display, he swapped hardware and software between computers without luck. Eventually, Bob Blum suggested that the problem might be caused by run-down CMOS batteries on the

Submitted by Barry Hammond

motherboards. After all, we've had these computers for over two years and they were turned off for long periods during the holidays and class break allowing the batteries to run down. Apparently, depleted batteries were the source of the problem. No problems have been experienced since the substitution of new CMOS batteries. Bob also ran diagnostics on the computers and found nothing else amiss.

During the break at the end of each class session, Eric reformats the hard drive on each computer, re-partitions it, and reinstalls everything as it was at the beginning of the last session. Then, he and helpers (This time they were John Jones, Dan Lee, Vic Kiviat, Barry Hammond, and Dale Grant) update the software: Various Windows and Microsoft updates including Microsoft Security Essentials, Belarc Advisor, CCleaner, Macrium Reflect, Wise Registry Cleaner, Adobe Reader, and Adobe Flash, XnView, and FireFox. Microsoft 8 includes a PDF reader. Windows 8 can't access Microsoft Office 2010 in Windows 7 but it can access Open Office.

The lab has a 2TB network fileserver to store software, backups, profiles, and data. It is also a media server. For demonstration purposes, the instructor's computer and Student 2 (the one closest to the instructor) are outfitted with web cams

Steve Deming mentioned that Windows 8 could be obtained at a big discount if it was purchased before February 1st. Eric persuaded Kathy White to purchase Windows 8 for the lab and he installed it on all 13 computers.

During the few seconds after the computer is turned on, when the initial screen comes up, you can select Windows 8 or you can wait a few seconds and Windows 7 will automatically boot. We owe Eric a lot of thanks for all of the work that he did in a short time to make it possible to teach Windows 8. Our monitors do not have touch screens, so our instruction will be limited to mouse and keyboard inputs. Anybody want to develop a course syllabus for Windows 8?

The wireless router failed and has been replaced with a 2-channel wireless router. Reception distance is about the same as the old router, to classrooms across the hall and next door. Eric mentioned that they are thinking of installing several routers throughout the Senior Center to allow all classrooms to have wireless access.

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