Carl Bulger presided.

Visitors and New Members:

Alfred "Al" Johnson

Gail Turner brought her laptop. Gail wants to learn how to use a flash drive to transfer files from her desktop to a laptop. We tackled this near the end of the meeting. We attached her laptop to the Center's projector so we could all see what was going on. Gail said that she had been unsuccessful in transferring files via the flash drive. Bob Blum surmised that instead of transferring files she had transferred the file shortcuts. This turned out to be the case and we assisted her in transferring the files themselves. Another problem was that this laptop had originally belonged to someone else and he was the only user who was an administrator. To make Gail the administrator, we had to go to Control Panel/Users and make Gail an administrator. She could then change the previous owner to a standard user and then eliminate him as a user and establish a user account for her husband as well.

Bob Blum was probably the first member of the club to try Macrium Reflect backup and restore. He gave a presentation on it at our meeting on March 18, 2010 (See the tutorial labeled Macrium Reflect (3/10) near the bottom of the Training webpage. Recently, he has been trying EaseUS' ToDoBackup with good results. Maybe we can get him to demonstrate it at a coming meeting. To download it go to http://www.todo-backup.com/products/home/download.htm . For a recent review go to www.pcworld.com/.../review-**easeus-todo-backup-free**-is-the-most-comp...

Cached <<This is a Google cache of the PCWorld review article. Just ctrl-click on this.

Because I am a fearless explorer of cutting edge technology ;-), I acquired my first laptop and Windows 8 computer after my faithful Windows 7 desktop crashed. Many computer experts list getting rid of the "crapware" as one of the first things to do after downloading all Microsoft and computer manufacturer updates and installing anti-malware software. "Crapware" is all of the unwanted trial software, Wild Tangent games, and other applications that you are never going to use. Computer manufacturers get paid to install all of this stuff; it is a significant portion of their profit. But it can slow down your computer and may interfere with what you really use. For example, my computer had a trial version of Symantec's Norton Internet Security installed. It's a reputable security suite but I already had a 3-user copy of Kaspersky Internet Security which I wanted to use. So I downloaded and installed Revo Uninstaller and used it to uninstall Norton Internet Security. During the process, Norton offered its own uninstaller to accomplish the task. The Revo and Norton uninstallers accomplished the task and I was able to install Kaspersky Internet Security. But the new laptop's operating system is Windows 8. One of the tiles on the Metro interface is labeled "Norton Studio". I am unable to find any file associated with it and, so far, am unable to eliminate that tile. The Metro interface doesn't contain a tile labeled "Recycle Bin" that I can drag the tile to. Someone suggested that I right-click on the tile. Eventually I may be able to do that. Since I have a touch screen, I've been doing most things with the touchscreen, touchpad, and keyboard. I need to install a mouse. Well, that would be one way that I might get rid of the tile. Since Microsoft normally has three ways to do something, I'm looking for the other two. I am also looking for the method of installing a tile for the Recycle Bin on the Metro interface.

Bob Blum suggested that I return part way to the Windows 7 interface by downloading Stardock's Start8, which returns the Start Button and Start Menu in the Windows 7 format. It costs $4.99 after a 30-day trial. http://www.stardock.com/products/start8/

Eric Hein has found that Emco's MoveOnBoot file browser allows you to mark directories or files to be moved or deleted. He used it to delete two files that he couldn't delete using more conventional methods. http://download.cnet.com/EMCO-MoveOnBoot/3000-2094_4-10397293.html

Several people said that they had seen a pop-up on their screen advertising "New XP Drivers". The consensus was that this would probably drop malware onto the computer if it was clicked.

Some members have used Driver Update services that scan your computer and offer to download new drivers when they come out. I and others have found that they frequently download incompatible drivers. It's better to go to the vendor's website to download and install new drivers. Even then you sometimes get drivers that weren't intended for your computer.

BUSINESS:

The Election of Officers is coming up next meeting, the first meeting in October. The floor was opened for nominations and discussion. We all read Dan Lee's plea which was included in the meeting announcement:

"We, the members of the Bowie Seniors Computer Club, really, really, need to discuss how we are going to reinvigorate the leadership / management of the organization. The current officers have already been in office at least five years - maybe longer. The work isn't difficult. New officers, however, would bring some fresh ideas to how we do things and the types of programs presented. According to our by-laws, election of new officers takes place annually at the first meeting in October. This week's meeting, therefore, should be an opportunity for people to step forward and be nominated. Please volunteer!"

We did get one volunteer: Dennis Evans volunteered to be Membership Chairman. The other Dennis, Dennis Edgington has been doing a fantastic job for the last decade and he has promised to help Dennis Evans get adjusted to the job. Thank You both!

Several people pointed out that since the marketplace is rapidly changing to small portable devices such as smartphones, tablets, notebooks, etc., we should emphasize "computers", not just PCs.

Now that we have a website that serves ALL the members and a RESPONSIVE and capable webmaster, we should replace the offices of Club Librarian and Newsletter Editor with that of Webmaster.

Computer Classes are coordinated by Dale Grant. Eric Hein coordinates the hardware maintenance and updating. They are frustrated by the dearth of students for advanced classes in Excel, Web Development, etc., and by not enough helpers for the instructors of the courses we do give. Each course is generally 4 to 8 weeks. Often the instructor has to write his own syllabus, manual, and class exercises.

Here's your chance to volunteer and learn something!

Another way to develop your computer teaching skills is to volunteer to give a presentation at one of our meetings.

Irv Salzberg has volunteered to demonstrate backing up and restoring with Acronis True Image at a future meeting. He worked for Acronis for 10 years and is an excellent presenter, so he may not learn all that much, but WE will.

See you at the next meeting!

Submitted by Barry Hammond, Secretary