

Carl Bulger presided.

Presentation: John Jones, the instructor for the Introduction to Windows 8.1 computer class, demonstrated some of the features of Windows 8.1 modified by the Classic Shell program that makes Windows 8 and 8.1 look more like Windows 7. The primary change is that it boots into a customizable Desktop familiar to Windows 7 users featuring a Start Button, rather than Windows 8's Metro interface featuring so-called "tiles". It also features an easy-to-find shutdown button that gives you the option of shutting down, sleep mode, or hibernate.

What's the difference between Sleep and Hibernate? Sleep mode supplies enough power to the memory to retain all of the information that was there. When turning the machine back ON, everything is ready to go just like when you turned it OFF. Hibernate copies the memory registers to the hard disk. This takes more time both when entering and leaving Hibernate mode but Hibernate requires less energy.

To see for yourself what changes are possible with Classic Shell: <http://www.classicshell.net/> It was introduced by Sourceforge.org, an organization of developers who make their software available as either freeware or shareware(donationware). For a review by CNET and by the developer: http://download.cnet.com/Classic-Shell/3000-2072_4-75553853.html . For a review in PCWorld of Version 3.6.4 (Current version is 4.1.0): <http://www.pcworld.com/article/2026719/review-classic-shell-brings-the-start-menu-to-windows-8-for-free.html> .

Eric Hein has set up the classroom computers to dual-boot either into Windows 8.1 or Windows 7.

John demonstrated these changes on the Classroom's Monitors that display what is on the instructor's monitor. This was also a chance for the Club to see the new large monitor on the wall above and behind the instructor showing the same thing. Viewers in the first two rows could watch the large monitor but those in the back found that it was easier to view the center monitors on each table.

Classic Shell seeks to smooth out the transitions from a familiar Windows operating system to its successor. We'll see what happens when Windows 9 comes out next year.

Carl Bulger has finally, with the help of his wife, been able to get his new Windows 8 computer operating. But now his Quicken program is incompatible. Someone said that they are able to use Quicken with Windows 8.1, so maybe Carl needs to get a 64-bit version of Quicken.

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS:

Barbara (Parthee?) who helps Dave Hackenberg teach computer classes.

Warren Sears, who's interested in learning how to setup a webpage. (Bob Blum said he had good luck with Weebly.com. Otherwise, he suggested Googling "Web Sites Setup".)

BUSINESS MEETING:

Carl Bulger opened the floor to nominations for next year's officers. As usual, there were none.

There were lots of suggestions for how we could take some of the load off of our Program Chairman and Vice-President, Dan Lee. He suggested that we email him with candidates for speakers/presenters at dglee2@verizon.net

Someone suggested we have a presentation or forum on Password Managers.

Short, sometimes impromptu, presentations are very helpful. The many excellent presentations of Bob Blum and Eric Hein come to mind. Bob and Eric have also given longer presentations and Bob recently combined three short presentations. If someone has the knowledge, energy, and desire to give a long presentation, be our guest! Irv Salzberg's presentation on setting up Voice Over the Internet Protocol

(VOIP) and Tom McCabe's presentation on software and techniques he uses to tune-up computers for himself and friends were well-received.

Tom McCabe pointed out that a demonstration in the Computer Lab is a better learning experience. Usually the Computer Lab is unavailable for demonstration during our Thursday meetings when computer classes are underway. In November, after computer classes are over, it may be available.

Dave Hackenberg is now the coordinator of Computer Classes. He reported that Computer I, II, and III classes are full (12 students). Surfing the Web is a popular class.

He needs volunteers to help students that have problems. Please contact Dave (dahackenberg@verizon.net) and then Laurel Raymond, the Assistant Manager of the Senior Center and coordinator of volunteers.