Bowie Seniors Computer Club Meeting on April 21, 2016

Presiding: Carl Bulger

No meeting on May 19th.

Bob Blum proposed that when for future presentations we hold interruptions and questions that aren't of general interest until the end of the presentation. Our presenter last time was unable to finish his presentation.

Dan Lee demonstrated how to create free passport photos at home or online. There are a number of websites including ePassportPhoto.com and travel.state.gov that make it possible to create your own passport pictures. Google "free passport photos." All that is required is a headshot taken against a plain white background. Must meet State Department requirements. Using one of the various websites, import the picture you want to use and adjust the head to fit within the template. When satisfied, save the image as a jpg on your computer/flash drive. The saved jpg image can then be used at a drug store photo department to make a 4x6 inch print containing either 4 or 6 perfectly sized 2x2 passport photos. The cost of a single print might be 39 cents vs. upwards of $13.99 at a store or AAA location.

He also noted the great convenience of the TSA frequent traveler passes for avoiding long waits for domestic flights. For international flights, Customs and Border Protection offer the Global Entry pass for $100, good for five years. The TSA pass costs $85.

Laurel Raymond, the Asst. Manager of the Senior Centers, announced that David Dasenbrock will offer several 1.5 hour sessions on Photo Editing this summer.

Dave Hackenberg agreed that there have been fewer crashes of the classroom computers when using Windows 10 than when they were using Windows 7. However, some of the embedded apps didn't work in the 68 student user accounts. Those included Calendar, Calculator, People, etc. After a Bowie City technician created a new account and got them to work, Eric Hein replaced the 68 user accounts with new accounts. The embedded apps now work for most accounts.

Bob Blum demonstrated Windows Blinds for Windows 10, a StarDock application. Bob likes the more definitive borders that he gets with this application.

One of our members tried extending wireless and ethernet reception in his home by using a Netgear Power Line Adapter, which superimposes the signal on the 60 cycle power grid.

Comcast Xfinity includes a publicly available wi-fi signal on their router. It doesn't compromise your own wi-fi or ethernet connection, provided that you have properly set up your account and password. However, if you are a Comcast customer you have access to many more wi-fi hotspots than a Verizon customer and your own router provides one of those hotspots.

Vik Kiviat got a newer model DVR from Comcast when he changed over to Xfinity X1 and two remotes that respond to voice commands. He had to ask for the second one (both at no extra charge).

Someone complained that 411 calls now cost $2.49 per call.