

Carl Bulger presided.

#### NEW MEMBERS:

Barbara Swann

Rekha Ginde

Bill Alli mentioned that a new iPad will be coming out in March.

Prince Georges Community College is teaching PhotoShop.

#### COMPUTER PROBLEMS:

Earl Webb, who has Verizon email, complained that when he clicks on an attachment to a message it takes him to a folder with a Zip file. He was urged to bring in his laptop so we can see and, perhaps, analyze the problem.

Bill Alli wanted to know how he could listen to podcasts. Eric Hein said there were many ways to download and play podcasts. Someone with an iPod suggested that he download and install iTunes on his computer, then go to the iPod section, sign-up, and sync it to his iPod. But, as Eric pointed out, you can play them on your laptop, mobile devices, and any MP3 player.

Mary Moore wanted to know how to recycle computers and monitors and how to wipe the hard disk clean of sensitive information. Bob Rapczynski was sitting next to her. He often will take old unwanted computer gear and either refurbish it or cannibalize it for parts. He usually uses the Kill Disk utility to copy zeroes to the hard disk to overwrite any private information. There are other programs that will overwrite the disk multiple times. Whether this is necessary depends on how sensitive or valuable is the information. A PCWorld video suggests a couple of techniques. One is to encrypt all of the contents of the drive. The other suggestion is to break it up with a sledge hammer. If you're going to break it up, you could follow Dennis Evans' suggestion and take it to The Flying Turtle Recycling Center in Capital

Submitted by Barry Hammond

Heights where they have a shredding machine used to shred hard drives containing sensitive government and military data. [http://turtlewings.com/home/press\\_releases/flying\\_turtle\\_helps](http://turtlewings.com/home/press_releases/flying_turtle_helps)

Stanford University's Disk and Data Sanitization Policy and Guidelines, a must-read for understanding data wiping issues, recommends Darik's Boot and Nuke (DBAN) for secure hard disk wiping.

## Secure Wiping a Hard Disk with DBAN

Time Needed: several hours (varies with size and speed of drive)

Software: Darik's Boot and Nuke (DBAN); available from <http://www.dban.org/>

Media: blank CD (all versions) or floppy disk (version 1.0.7 and older versions)

Ref: <http://gizmodo.com/5489933/leave-no-trace-how-to-completely-erase-your-hard-drives-ssds-and-thumb-drives>

Computers, Monitors, TV's, and other electronics to be recycled may be taken to the county landfill on Brown Station Road Thursday-Saturday 8:00am-3:30pm. There is no charge for Prince Georges County residents. You must show them your driver's license. See [http://www.cityofbowie.org/Government/PublicWorks/hazardous\\_waste.asp](http://www.cityofbowie.org/Government/PublicWorks/hazardous_waste.asp)

Earl Webb wanted to know where he could get a listing of what the Function Keys (F1, F2, ...) on his computer are supposed to do. Dale Grant mentioned that in most applications the function keys to perform functions specific to their program. However, the BIOS of most computers use the F8 key to enter SAFE MODE where just the basic computer functions and the operating system are booted up. This allows you to start utilities or applications one-by-one to troubleshoot computer malfunctions. Many applications use the F1 key to bring up the Help menu.

Charlotte Melichar offered a tip she discovered when her mouse started to jump around all over the screen. She simply rotated her mouse pad 90 to 180 degrees. Barry Hammond had a problem with his mouse responding inconsistently. He substituted a mouse pad that had more detail. Other possible solutions are to update the mouse drivers or to go into Mouse Properties in Control Panel and click on Pointer Options to adjust the speed and distance that the pointer moves in response to a movement of the mouse.

### PRESENTATION:

Dan Lee discussed a Wi-Fi solution to a problem two of his aunts had while in Florida. His Aunt Rose lives there year-'round in a high rise apartment building. His Aunt Betty moved in across

the hall for the winter months only. Since Aunt Betty was going to be there only a short time, she didn't want to incur the high charges for TV and internet hookups.

Betty asked Dan and his cousins if they could run a line from her sister Rose's apartment across the hall to Betty's apartment. Knowing that the Apartment Manager would not approve of a line running across the hall, they suggested a Wi-Fi solution. They purchased a wireless modem-router (sometimes called a "gateway") for Betty that would receive signals generated by Rose's wireless router. This worked some of the time but Betty complained about noisy (static) TV pictures and problems in internet reception. Apparently, the cinderblock walls attenuated the signal too much. Relocating Betty's gateway to her kitchen, which is adjacent to the hallway, improved the signal. More needs to be done. Dan plans to visit them again in early February. We'll see what tweaks and solutions he comes up with.