Carl Bulger (left) presided.

According to Article V Paragraph B of the Club's By-Laws
http://home.comcast.net/~BSCClub/BSCC%20Constitution%20and%20By-Laws%2020000803.pdf , the first meeting in October is designated the "Annual Meeting" when the Club's Officers shall be elected. The By-Laws also describe the officer's duties. Carl suggested that we might consider restructuring the list of officers and their duties.

Having received no nominations, President Bulger proposed that the election be postponed until the second meeting in January to give us time to discuss the election process, to encourage nominations and volunteers for the various offices, and to discuss revising the By-Laws with regard to Officers and their functions. For several years the officers have remained the same. Carl and others have suggested that this may contribute to lack of variety in the way we function and to a lack of interest and participation by the members. His proposal, or motion, was seconded and unanimously approved by the 17 members present.

An informal discussion followed: Ted Catterton suggested that we have two Program Chairmen to take some of the load off of one person. Dan Lee, our current Program Chairman, suggested instead that we all be on the lookout for potential speakers and presenters and invite them to contact the Program Chairman to discuss the schedule and any special requirements. That way, the Program Chairman could prevent possible conflicts and suggest optimal scheduling while the members could contribute to variety in programming by selecting and inviting speakers and presenters of interest to them. In many cases, our members have offered to present programs themselves. Examples: Irv Salzberg gave an excellent presentation a month ago on his transition from Verizon FiOS telephone service to Voice Over the Internet Protocol. Bob Blum periodically has presented talks about new versions of Linux and Windows operating systems and other subjects. Last year he made up a list of suggested topics for presentations which was emailed to members. Dan Lee has recounted his experiences solving the technical problems of his friends and relatives. Bob Rapczynski has demonstrated the use of Active Kill Disk to wipe, or erase, all content from a hard disk or floppy disk. He, too, has demonstrated versions of Linux. Ted Tuck has demonstrated several of his robots. Charlotte Melichar described her experience getting her laptop repaired after she spilled coffee on the keyboard. She also described some of the opportunities for free online college courses from

prestigious universities such as Stanford. Eric Hein has demonstrated video and audio editing and backup procedures. Ron Floyd demonstrated photo editing with Photoshop and Photoshop Elements as well as artistic painting over photos and tips on taking vacation photos (take lots of them; edit after you get home) and storing them. Dennis Evans described his Kindle(s), how they're used, and compared them to some of the competition. Bob Davis gave three separate presentations on the same day involving printing business cards, his wireless high fidelity stereo headphones for listening to TV, and setting up his new Blu-Ray 3D HDTV. Dr. Norman Bohrer, when he still lived in Bowie would frequently give presentations on Photography, Cameras, and topics of current interest. Dale Grant would also introduce us to new topics: Google Earth and pdf document generation are examples. When Apple introduced the iPod, Vic Kiviat gave an enthusiastic demonstration of the new iPod his sons, or grandchildren, had given him. Sam Atcherson would often recount some of his worst computer problems (He seemed to have a lot more than the average member.) and how he solved them. The list goes on and on. We're fortunate to have a lot of very knowledgeable members.

We discussed possible places to have our Holiday Luncheon in December. Vic Kiviat will check them out and provide a list for us, so that we can vote on them.

COMPUTER PROBLEMS or Topics of Interest:

I mentioned that a lot of computer owners had received malware that locked up their computers and demanded a ransom to unlock them. I urged anyone who received this malware not to give the criminals any money, but to clean their hard disk and reinstall windows. After everyone groaned, Dan Lee revealed that he experienced Ransomware in early September. Here's his account of how he got rid of it and a better description of the malware:

FBI Moneypak ransomware is ransomware that displays a fraudulent FBI warning as part of its attempt to steal money from the victim via MoneyPak. It is also referred to as Reveton Ransomware. An official looking warning claiming to be a notice from the Federal Bureau of Investigation blocks users' computer screens and tells them they've violated federal law and must pay a fine to get their computers unlocked.

The virus, labeled as Reveton ransomware by the Internet Crime Complaint Center, is aimed to intimidate victims into handing over their money. The viewer is instructed to go visit a "Money Pak" location to pay $200. Entering the Money Pak number on the screen within 72 hours is supposed to unlock the computer. There are a number of articles and news stories about this malware available on the internet including the following one from "spywareremove.com."

Submitted by Barry Hammond

http://www.spywareremove.com/removeransomwarefbimoneypak.html

The virus that claims to be the FBI blocking your computer has now changed to claiming it is the Maryland Comptroller blocking your computer. Following Washington Post article includes links to notices by MD Comptroller and the real FBI.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/rosenwald-md/post/computer-virus-targets-marylanders/2012/10/03/a3deec8c-0d95-11e2-bb5e-492c0d30bff6_blog.html?hpid=z16

The computer will normally be locked up i.e., won't respond to the mouse, no access to the task manager and no access to the Start button. Shut down must be accomplished by turning off the machine manually. Unfortunately, the computer will probably go back into the malware screen when restarted.

The solutions I found are to run your antivirus program plus Malwarebytes and to do a System Restore. The first time this happened to me, I tried various keys on the keyboard, and tried Control-Alt-Delete to no avail. After shutting down and rebooting the system several times, I barely touched the On/Off button on the front of my Dell (when turning machine off) brought back the normal computer screen from which I was able to run the installed Avast program. I also downloaded the free trial version of Malwarebytes. Believe the Malwarebytes program reported finding a Trojan. I also did a System Restore to a date a few days earlier. The second time I got it I knew what it was and immediately rebooted the computer into SAFE mode and used System Restore again to a point few days earlier. Of course I reran Avast and Malwarebytes. Neither program reported finding anything bad. I have not experienced any problems since.

Additional Note: Regarding comment above about barely touching the On/Off button and getting the normal screen back, I have no idea why that worked. Maybe it's just a coincidence. Is it possible to interrupt the circuit without turning off the computer?

Dan

Ted Catterton is going to buy a laptop. He asked for recommendations and specifications. Dick Henthorn and Dennis Edgington said them have been satisfied with their Toshiba laptops. Dick recommended that he check out the location of the USB ports. Dick is right-handed and plugs his mouse into a port on the right side of his laptop. It would be unhandy if there were no USB port on the right-hand side. Even so, he finds that the mouse cord sometimes interferes with the opening and closing of the door of his CD/DVD reader, which is also on the right side. Dan Lee likes his Lenovo and its keyboard. Samsung laptops have been recommended because Samsung makes all of their own parts. Should future repair or replacement be necessary, parts availabilities should be minimal. Somebody complained that their laptop could accept only one size of camera flashcard; some laptops have none. Dennis Evans said that for $10 he bought a USB adapter that would accept all sizes of flashcards. Bob Blum suggested that battery life was an important spec. Carl Bulger warned that Hewlett-Packard Corporation is in dire straits. H-P products are widely available, but for how long?

Submitted by Barry Hammond