

Carl Bulger presided.

July 4th will fall on Thursday this year, so there will be only one meeting in July.

Dan Lee's announcement that Major Robert Liberati's talk on Prince George's CCTV cameras has been rescheduled for July 18th reminded Carl that he and his wife witnessed a traffic trap of another sort in Annapolis on West Street (MD 450) in the vicinity of Chinquapin Round Road where crosswalks were being patrolled by "Rent-a-Cops" in civilian clothing who would stand on the curb at a crosswalk. When a car came along they would take one step off the curb into the crosswalk. If the driver didn't notice and didn't immediately stop, they were given a \$75 ticket.

A visitor, Tom McCabe, a retired IT executive from the Maryland State government, has a desktop computer that he built with the Windows 7 operating system. He likes to have Gadgets showing on his desktop. Sometimes they come up on his desktop after he boots up and sometimes they don't. Bob Blum suggested that it might be caused by a corrupt registry. He suggested Wise Registry Cleaner (www.wisecleaner.com/) . If that doesn't work, try the more aggressive CCleaner (www.piriform.com/ccleaner/).

Bob Blum saw a Samsung Laptop for sale. He wondered whether anybody had one or knew of somebody who had one. He's especially concerned about heat generation. Dan Lee said that there had been lots of recalls of earlier models. Tom McCabe said that he had bought two HP laptops with 17-inch screen for his son and his daughter. One had an i7 Intel processor, a 750GB hard drive, and an empty bay for a Solid State Drive.

Jerry Kursban said that he was considering dropping his Comcast Triple Play TV, Internet, and telephone service. He asked what alternative Internet Service Providers are available in this area. The answers were Comcast, Verizon FiOS, and satellite. Or, if he doesn't need fast speeds, DSL might be available by more providers. Someone suggested that if he has a smart phone, he could establish a WiFi zone around that and get his internet via WiFi. Another suggestion was to share a WiFi connection with one or more neighbors (with their permission, of course).

We then got into a discussion of telephone service over the internet (Voice Over the Internet Protocol VOIP) which Irv Salzberg covered superbly in detail last September (<http://home.comcast.net/~BSCClub/BSCCMin120906.pdf>).

Bob Blum wants to connect three devices to his HDTV with HDMI cables, but there are only two inputs. Can he buy an HDMI hub? Bruce Crabill says there are none available. He suggests using a switch, but Bob wants to avoid having to physically switch whenever he wants to change signal sources. Bob said he may have to use a Roku Streaming Player (www.roku.com) to allow streaming of Netflix movies from his WiFi router. Roku boxes require only a WiFi or Ethernet signal. No computer is required.

Tom McCabe says he uses a Blu-Ray player with WiFi and a MOCA bridge box which provides a hardwired 25 megabits per second download.

Someone wanted to be able to read his email messages on any computer or mobile device, all of which download the messages to a local client email reader like Outlook or Thunderbird. His problem is that when he downloads the message to one computer or device, the message is erased from the server and not available to download and read on the other computers or devices. Bob Blum, Dan Lee, and Bob Rapczynski recommended going into the settings for the server and changing them so they aren't erased when downloading. Also, he recommended changing the corresponding settings on the local email reader.

I have a problem with some emails forwarded to me with lots of pictures. The emails have placeholders with captions, but I must go to attachments and open each picture separately. I only have the problem with emails forwarded by a couple of relatives. Is there any way I can force incoming emails to show the pictures in HTML format and not as separate attachments that have to be correlated with captioned blank placeholders?