

Carl Bulger presided.

Visitors: Marg Bond

Richard and Ann Rohlfing

Joy Samuels

Janet Ciesielski (*Sha-shell-ski*)

Flash (or Thumb) Drives was mentioned as a possible topic for a future meeting. As subtopics, diagnostic tools such as Linux OS, Kaspersky, GParted, etc.; security software; and, use of flash drives as additional RAM equivalents in Ready Boost mode. (Too slow, if used in USB 2.0, but might be useful in USB 3.0.) However, Bob Long found that a Ready Boost flash drive helped with an old XP laptop that had only 1GB of RAM.

Microsoft will end support of Windows XP on April 8<sup>th</sup>. No more security updates after that. Support for their Security Essentials anti-malware app will continue until July 2015. Support for Office software will also continue.

This gives us an incentive to find a substitute operating system for Windows XP. If your XP computer is as old as mine (10 years old), then it probably can't be upgraded to Windows 7 or 8. One of the simpler distributions of Linux may serve.

Eric Hein noted that in the classroom next door, the Dell machines have a Dual Boot Manager that allows the student to boot into either Windows 7 or Windows 8.1. He asks, "Should we also install other operating systems such as Linux, iOS (the Apple OS), and Android? And should we ask the City of Bowie to purchase touch screen monitors or, possibly, tablets for more realistic instruction in Windows 8.1 or portable devices such as smart phones and tablets?"

Visitor Marg Bond asked questions regarding Google Earth and Google Apps. In particular, she wanted to know whether any real time information is available. For example, would Google Earth record the events surrounding a traffic accident or a crime? Answer: No. Google takes pictures infrequently. The pictures of your neighborhood may be several years old. Google takes pictures from satellites, aircraft, and vehicles. It's an expensive undertaking and, therefore, done infrequently. Since the vehicles cannot travel into your backyard, Google Maps typically will not have pictures of the back of your house unless it is visible from an adjacent street. Google Earth may have pictures of your entire property as viewed from an aircraft or satellite. Bill Long provided this URL for a short article discussing Google Earth vs. Google Maps or Streetview: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Google-Earth-vs-Google-Maps-65440.shtml>

Dale Grant wants to transition from Windows 8 to Windows 8.1. Before he can do that, he must get a particular Windows update to install. It has failed to install numerous times. Any suggestions? We offered at least four suggestions. Call Microsoft Support. Better yet, call Dell Support. (Computer manufacturers are responsible for supporting their OEM version of Windows.) Download the update and save it, then reboot into Safe Mode and install it there. Go into <http://www.update.microsoft.com>

and click on "Show update history." Look for a small icon beside the update that failed. Click on it for further advice from Microsoft. Make sure all other Windows 8 updates have been installed. Check to be sure there are no missing or old device drivers.

Eric Hein wondered whether we would be interested in a program discussing Video Cameras. He now has four very different video cameras, or five, if you count his smart phone.