

# Bowie Seniors Computer Club Minutes for Nov. 5, 2009

Carl Bulger presided.

December Luncheon Dec. 17  
There will be no meeting in December, but we will have a Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Old Country Buffet in Laurel (same place as last year). Cost will be \$8.79 per person (pay as you enter the buffet). Spouses and guests are welcome. We'll take a preliminary count at the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, or you can respond to Vic Kiviat at [vkiviat@comcast.net](mailto:vkiviat@comcast.net). Charlotte Melichar has suggested that we go "green" by carpooling to the event. The address of the Old Country Buffet is 9608 Fort Meade Road (Rt.198)

Laurel Plaza Shopping Center  
Laurel, MD 20707

Phone: (301) 725-5962

<http://hosted.why2getit.com/buffets/> If coming from Bowie on Laurel Bowie Rd (Rte. 197), go directly across intersection at Fort Meade Rd (Rte. 198), make a right into the shopping center, drive straight ahead to the restaurant.

Richard Henthorn suggested that we establish a private Google Group for the club. He suggested that it could be used as a discussion group to share computer problems/solutions, files, html pages, pdf files. He said that if we would like to see another computer user's group site, go to the Alamo Space Port Computer Users Group: <http://groups.google.com/group/alamospug/> This is a public Google Group, but we could have a private one

limited only to our members.

Google Groups are free.

Bob Blum, playing Devil's Advocate, said that there is a danger that it would become a tech site or that it will compete with the website. He suggests running the Google Group along with the website to see which wins out.

## Computer Problems:

Eric Hein relayed the fact that he had downloaded Windows 7. After he installed it, 2 or 3 of his 30 most critical programs failed to work. Eric wasn't at the meeting so we don't know whether he downloaded the 32-bit or 64-bit version. The 64-bit version is less compatible with 32-bit programs.

Bob Blum had a beta version of Windows 7 on his desktop computer. The installation of the recently released version of Windows 7 froze after 62% had been installed. He tried again and it worked!

Bob tried to upgrade his laptop from Vista. It hung up on Log Off. A clean install worked.

A major virus, called "Packed Hidden," zapped 27 files in Carl Bulger's Windows System 32 folder, all of them with .exe and .dll file extensions. The old version of AVG antivirus would not remove it. He downloaded and installed the new (paid) version of AVG antivirus which found and identified the virus and then removed it.

Bob Blum downloaded and installed Microsoft's Secure Essentials, a free anti-malware utility. It won't update.

Bob Blum recommends a FireFox add-on called Targeted Advertising Cookie Opt-Out (TACO) which eliminates tracking cookies but not the useful kind that are placed on your machine by your bank, ISP provider, etc., to personalize your screen when you sign on.

"Print Screen" on an HP laptop with XP does not appear to work. Someone suggested holding down the ALT key while pressing the 'Print Screen' key. It should print to the Clipboard (same as the Copy function). It can then be pasted into Notepad, Word, Open Office Write, WordPad, or a similar application. If the operating system were Vista or Windows 7, their "snipping tool" can be used to select what you want to copy.

Barry Hammond recommended a free utility **Fences** downloadable from

<http://labs.stardock.com/fences/>

It is a program that lets you organize your desktop and hide icons when they are not in use.