Bowie Seniors Computer Club Minutes for Sept 4, 2008

Dale Grant presided.

Dale reminded everyone that our Annual Business Meeting will be the first Thursday in October. This meeting is when we nominate and elect officers for the coming year.

Because members are reluctant to volunteer for these posts, Vic Kiviat, Dennis Edgington, and Barry Hammond volunteered to remain as Publicity Chairman, Membership Chairman, and Secretary. However, volunteer replacements would be welcomed. Ken Godstrey, our Treasurer could not be at this meeting, but we assume his opinion is the same.

Dale Grant feels it is time for a new president. Also, Dan Lee wants someone to replace him as Vice-President and Program Chairman.

The Senior Chorale has outgrown the Art Room as its practice room necessitating its move to the Great Room. Since that space is occupied between 10 am and 2 pm by the lunch crowd and the seniors who are bussed, the Chorale's practice schedule was moved to 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm on Thursday afternoons, which conflicts with our meeting time. This would force some of our members to choose between attending our meetings or attending Chorale practices.

We discussed this with Kathy White, Senior Center Manager, and Laurel Raymond, Senior Center Assistant Manager. There are two time slots available for Classroom 1 where we now meet. One is 2:45 – 4:45 pm on Tuesdays; the other is 12:15 – 2:15 pm on Thursdays. There appeared to be more conflicts with the Tuesday time slot than with the earlier time on Thursdays. The consensus of those at the meeting was that moving the meeting time to 12:30 – 2:15 pm on Thursdays would probably be the most desirable time slot available. Kathy White and Laurel Raymond said that they were in the process of making up the final schedule of 70 Fall Semester SAGE classes. Since SAGE registration is next Tuesday, Sept. 9, they would have to have our decision by next week at the latest.

(I sent out a questionnaire to all of the members. By Tuesday morning I had received 19 replies. All but four were OK with the change. Of those four, two were outright opposed and the other two said it would be OK if it didn't conflict with classes they wanted to take, but were unsure whether the classes would actually take place at that time. Based on that response and the consensus of the members present at the meeting, **Dale Grant notified the Senior Center Managers that the Computer Club would like to move our meeting time up to 12:30 – 2:15 pm on Thursdays.**)

Computer Problems:

Vic Kiviat wondered what is the difference between DVD + R and DVD – R? The old Roxio program was better at recording inappropriate formats. CD-R is more reflective than CD-RW, said Sam Duff. Therefore it's better able to play back in other devices.

Albin Bielawsky asked if he could plug his 6 month-old printer into his old Windows 98 computer and expect it to work. There were various answers from "Try it." and "Read the manual." to "Load the proper driver from the disk that the manufacturer provided." "If you don't have a disk, go the manufacturer's website and download the appropriate driver."

When Norm Bohrer put a blank DVD – R disk in the drive, it wouldn't open, but it would open if he removes the blank DVD. Why? Sam Duff suggested that he right click on My Computer, open Device Manager and see if there are any exclamation marks indicating that something is not enabled.

Ezio Cerrelli was watching the U.S. Open on MSNBC but couldn't see it on ESPN. He had video, but no sound. Strangely, he doesn't have that problem in the daytime. Someone suggested that he contact Verizon FiOS; it appears to be a problem caused by their equipment. Dale Grant said he had a similar problem when he had Comcast cable TV. The filter Comcast used to block the chan-

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nels that Dale had not ordered gradually deteriorated until it was blocking channels he had ordered.

Norm Bohrer said that he has a Dell flat screen TV that loses its video if he leaves it off for more than a day. He then has to go through the setup process all over again. He also has an Apple computer on a wireless network. When he turns it on, his wife's Dell computer and his printers won't work.

Dennis Edgington had several strange things happen:
The words "Virus Alert" appeared in the task bar to the right of the clock and under the General (System Properties) tab when he selected "My Computer." The clock changed to 24-hour military time.

Then "Zlob = Trojan Downloader" "Windows Security Center" with a virus attack warning appeared in a pop-up window. Clicking "OK", "No", or "Cancel" activated the trojan download. Subsequently, the C: and D: drives were missing from Windows Explorer and the E: (CD drive) would not work. Also, in Windows Explorer>View>Toolbars> he sees "gksraemg".

He had about 10 variations of the Zlob family of Trojans in his computer. After running Windows Malicious Software Tools, AVG Anti-Virus, Ad-Aware, Spybot, CCleaner, Wise Registry Cleaner and Windows Defender in SAFE and NORMAL mode, he

finally got rid of all of the infections. The C and D drive, however, was still missing and the D drive (for CD's) would not work.

Later in the week, Dennis reported the solutions to his problems: "I posted my problems on a Tech Support Forum at www.computing.net and got several good suggestions within a matter of hours, which solved my problems. To restore the C and D drives, I downloaded and ran TWEAKUI from "Microsoft Powertoys for Windows XP". After running TWEAKUI, it showed a window of all of the drives on my computer with a check mark next to them. However drives C and D did not have a check mark, so I checked those boxes and clicked on "apply". Presto! They were fixed, visible and back to normal.

Secondly... to remove the words "VIRUS ALERT!" and "gksraemq" from appearing anywhere in my computer I had to go into the Registry by following this path...
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\ Microsoft\Windows NT\Current Version...

The shortcut to that is:
Start>Run>Regedit>Menu Bar --->Edit --->Find (type what your are looking for in this box) --->ENTER.

After I found the words "VIRUS ALERT!" and "gksraemq" I then deleted them from the Registry, reset the clock to AM/PM mode and everything is now running just fine.

I highly recommend www.computing.net for getting excellent and free advice from other experienced PC users. It also has a good database of other computer related information. And when someone posts an answer to your problem or question, you are notified automatically by email." – Dennis Edgington

Sam Duff had suggested that Dennis go to Task Manager and look for a strange process among the processes listed. Also, in Control Panel > Folders Options > Select "Show hidden folders."

Someone suggested a free computer scan with Prevx CSI.for free. They said that if an infection is found, there is a charge of $15.95. I didn't see any mention of that charge on their website: http://info.prevx.com/downloadcsi.asp

New Product:

Sam Duff said he bought a Magic Jack http://magicJack.com which he can use to call anywhere in the U.S. over the internet. The USB device is $40 plus shipping and handling and $20 for each additional year of service. It works well except in his 6 year-old laptop which may have something to do with its USB ports being version 1.1 instead of 2.0.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 18 at the new time **12:30 – 2:15 pm** in Classroom 1. Norm Bohrer will discuss Google's photo album application **Picasa.**