Carl Bulger presided.

New Members:

Lois Thompson has a new Samsung tablet with the Android operating system.

Debra Simmons has a Windows 8 Laptop.

Someone suggested that we take a field trip to see the process used by the County's contractor to recycle trash. The subject is outside of the mission of the computer club but you can arrange your own tour:
http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/WasteManagement/Services/Recycling/MaterialRecycling/Pages/default.aspx

PRESENTATION: Eric Hein was our presenter. He had lugged in and set up one of the computers from the computer lab/classroom next door. He demonstrated the Windows Boot Manager which offers you a choice of using Windows 7 or Windows 8 (requires a password which allows an automatic and personal login). If you don't make a choice, the system automatically boots into Windows 7. He showed how Windows 8 will display the same programs that you are familiar seeing on the Windows 7 desktop. In Windows 8 you have the choice of displaying each program as an icon on a rectangular tile that you can move around with your mouse (in our lab/classroom) and with your fingers on a touchpad or on a touchscreen, neither of which we have in the lab/classroom.

At home Eric uses two or more monitors to display more content simultaneously. At a previous meeting he demonstrated using two monitors and how the same computer, mouse, and keyboard can access both.

The computers in the lab/classroom and the public access computers in the main hallway are analyzed regularly by Eric using Belarc Advisor, one of the freeware programs listed on his Freeware webpage on the BSCC website. The program is extremely useful in recording in great detail the hardware and software that a computer is using. It records software licenses, Windows updates and how often and recently each program is used. All of this information is useful if you need to recover from a catastrophic computer crash, clean out your computer to speed it up, or transfer to a new computer. It's handy for Eric between computer sessions when he wipes everything clean and reinstalls a clean set of programs, class syllabuses, and class exercises.

Movie DVDs won't be played by Windows right out of the box. In Windows 7, Windows Media Player can be extended to play DVD's, but not in Windows 8. Some users use VLC to play DVDs but Eric doesn't like VLC because it doesn't recognize chapter marks. He recommends the free Easy Media Player which requires a free download from Microsoft of DirectX Runtime.

Microsoft Office 2010 can be used in Windows 8 by typing in the Windows 7 License Key, but Microsoft won't provide updates when it is used in Windows 8. Eric has installed Libre Office in the classroom's Windows 8 partition.

The classroom/lab uses an Iomega network server which contains two disks, each with 2 TB capacity. This makes backing up the classroom computers and downloading software, data, class exercises, etc., easy but slow (10Mbits/sec).

More touch displays are being produced. If you buy a touch display, be aware that there are more expensive MultiTouch displays that allow you to Zoom in and out, rotate images, etc. with finger gestures. Some are capable of responding simultaneously to the touches of all 10-fingers. The simpler touchscreen allow you to move tiles around, swipe the screen, and tap in the corners or edges to bring up menu items, etc. Some computers will respond to gestures that don't actually touch the screen.

Microsoft Reader can be substituted for Acrobat Reader which is regularly infested with malware.

"Apps" is an abbreviation of "Applications." Applications are programs, not processes. Apps often reside on servers in the "cloud". For example, Google provides Google Docs from their servers. When the internet is inaccessible, so are your Google Docs.

Dick Henthorn asked what "sync" means in this context. Eric gave an example of using the cloud storage app called Dropbox. When you save your data to Dropbox's network file server, your data is simultaneously saved to your computer; this is "syncing".

Dick uses "social media" in the form of Facebook and blogging. Someone asked, "What the definition of "social media"? Wikipedia has a definition which starts this way:

Social media refers to the means of interactions among people in which they create, share, and exchange information and ideas in virtual communities and networks.[1] Andreas Kaplan and Michael Haenlein define social media as "a group of Internet-based applications that build on the ideological and technological foundations of Web 2.0, and that allow the creation and exchange of user-generated content."[2] Furthermore, social media depends on mobile and web-based technologies to create highly interactive platforms through which individuals and communities share, co-create, discuss, and modify user-generated content. It introduces substantial and pervasive changes to communication between organizations, communities, and individuals.

 See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_media for the rest.

Bulletin boards, message boards, forums, and chat rooms encourage people to socialize online and to share ideas, knowledge, techniques, preferences, etc.

Someone asked how they can connect wirelessly via WiFi. Most portable computerized devices now come with Wireless (WiFi) capability, but if you have an older laptop or notebook without WiFi capability, you can buy a WiFi adapter that will plug into a USB port. If you have broadband service from Verizon or Comcast, their modem includes a WiFi antenna. Its range may be limited, so you'll have to test which areas in the house you can receive the signal. You can buy signal boosters. A company called Your Karma makes a portable, pocket sized, WiFi hub which you can take with you wherever you go and even share your signal with others. https://yourkarma.com/

Mark Laster pointed out that now even some cameras have WiFi capability.

An Apple app called We Print allows WiFi communication between Apple products and a printer.