

WAUC TALK

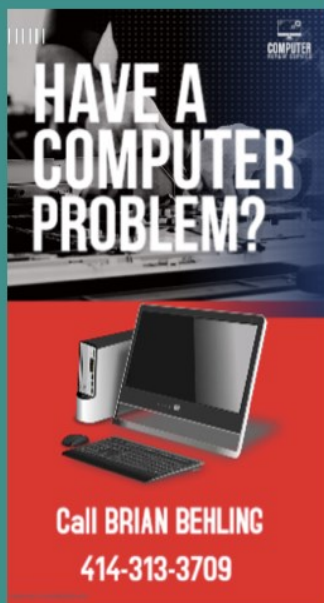
December 2022

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WAUC



APCUG



GENEALOGY AND COMPUTERS

NO MORE PAPER



Randy Ray, of the Milwaukee Personal Ancestral File Users Group (MPAFUG), will join us **in person** to teach us about genealogy.

Randy is a genealogy researcher. He retired so he could research and teach. He volunteers at the Ozaukee County Historical Society the Family History Library on Grange in Hales Corners. He teaches at the MPAFUG in New Berlin.

Genealogy is a lifelong passion he and his late wife shared for 43 years. He grew up on computers with the IBM punch cards in 1973, and hasn't stopped. He has two daughters in the tech business and his son is a retired policeman.

General Meeting

January 5, 2022 at 7PM

IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM

Jackson Park Lutheran Church

January 12th	Tutorial SIG
January 17th	WAUC Luncheon 1:00
January 18th	Investment SIG
January 19th	Q & A SIG
January 26th	Tablet/Smartphone SIG

WAUCtalk

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NEXT MONTH

Judy Taylour
Cybercriminals
are After Us



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Save yourself \$5 by sending in your 2023 dues before December 31st for \$25. Any dues not postmarked by 12/31/22 will need to pay \$30. Having a hardcopy of the newsletter sent to you remains at \$10. We have a lot of people that have NOT signed up yet!

As we close in on the end of the year, I would like to THANK everyone for being a member in 2022! I would also like to thank all the VOLUNTEERS for all the work they do for this club! We have outstanding volunteers that keep this club going and interesting!

The January general meeting will be a HYBRID Meeting! The February meeting will be only on Zoom as there will not be the technical personnel to set up the Zoom inside the church.

Please share with us, anything we can do to improve the meetings of the club and anyway we can improve. Also, let us know what we can do to recruit new members! How can we market better? How can we reach the public better?

Have an amazing Holiday Season!

People helping People!

Don Skarda

YOUR WAUC

Randy Ray
is presenting
IN PERSON



IN MEMORY

It is with greatest sadness we inform you of the loss of long-time WAUC member, Doris Regner. Doris passed away on November 27th, 2022 at the age of 92 after suffering a fall in her home 11 days prior.

Doris served as WAUC Vice-president for a number of years and accepted the responsibility of the WAUC Member Directory until 2021. She was a valued member who help shaped the club into what it is today and will be greatly missed.



PICTURES FROM ANOTHER GREAT WAUC CHRISTMAS PARTY



NOVEMBER 2022

TUTORIAL/Q & A SIG

Those attending are Jim Hempel, Tom McAndrew, Jan Mlagan, Richard Durand, Terry Harvey, J J Johnson, Louise Bozek, John Schwarzmeier, Rita Bruce, Kathy Mueller, Marcia Zientek, Brian Behling, and Betty Robinson.

The Tutorial SIG and the Question and Answer SIG were combined due to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

Jim started the evening with some funny videos on “cart narcs”. Cart narcs are individuals who actively pretend to shame someone for not returning a cart, but who is actually only doing it as a publicity stunt, usually for videos. They were pretty amusing.

I asked if anyone uses the app, “Telegram”. Kathy uses



it and likes it. Telegram is a globally accessible encrypted freemium cross-platform, cloud-based and centralized instant messaging service. The service also provides optional end-to-end encrypted

chats and video calling, VoIP, file sharing, and several other features. It’s simple, fast, secure, and syncs across all your devices. It’s one of the world’s top 10 most downloaded app with over 500 million downloads. You can send messages, photos, videos, and files of any type as well as create a group for up to 200,000 people or channels for broadcasting to unlimited audiences.

Another app I was curious about is called Mastodon. This app is the largest decentralized social network on the internet. Instead of a single website, it’s a network of millions of users in independent communities that can all interact with one another, seamlessly. No matter what you’re into, you can meet passionate people posting about it on Mastodon. Here you are able to find and follow fascinating people and read their posts in an ad-free, chronological timeline.

Express yourself with custom emoji, images, GIFs, videos, and audio in 500-character posts.

Jan doesn’t feel right about using apps that require her to allow the app to see her contacts. While that’s commendable, most apps do require access to your contact list and photos.

Kathy uses a MilwPC address. She’s having trouble deleting her emails. She deletes an email on her phone and still sees it in her account when she is online with her computer. Brian asked if she had a POP3 account or an IMAP mail server. Milwaukee PC does support both IMAP and POP3. Kathy will check her settings and if she has a POP3 account she will change it to an IMAP. With an IMAP account she will be able to synchronize her accounts so when she deletes an email it will be deleted across all her devices.

Over-the-Air antenna

Richard watches over-the-air television on his computer using a USB TV tuner and an antenna. It isn’t working well anymore in one of the ports on his laptop. He’s wondering if he needs a new USB port. Brian informed us USB ports are soldered to the motherboard and they aren’t easy to replace. He recommends carefully cleaning the port with air and/or a Q-Tip and isopropyl alcohol. Make sure none of the cotton fibers are left in the port. Jim has an over-the-air antenna he will loan to Richard to see if that makes a difference.

Louise asks if anyone uses Facebook Marketplace. She is mostly questioning how they pay. She would like to partially reimburse someone for something she sold. No one knew how best to do that.



Jim's Canon MX inkjet printer showed a B200 error. That error means the print head built into one or both of the ink cartridges has overheated. He removed and cleaned the print head but now one of the print heads is flashing red. There is a YouTube video that shows how to clear that error message. Jim thinks he may watch the upcoming Black Friday sales for a new printer.



TransferNow.net is a great website for transferring large files. The site is free for 5 GB per transfer and remains available for 7 days. MyAirBridge.com is another free large file transfer site. These sites are very easy to use. Just drag and drop the file onto the website.

LG Display, the world's leading innovator of display technologies, has unveiled the world's first 12" high-resolution stretchable display equipped with an outstanding free-form technology that enables it to be extended, folded, and twisted without distortion or damage.

VirusTotal.com is a website that will analyze suspicious files, domains, IPs and URLs to detect malware and other breaches. If you are suspicious of an attachment you've been sent or a hyperlink this site will check them to keep you safe. It's very easy to use by just copying and pasting the URL or dragging and dropping the attachment.

Terry L Harvey

NOVEMBER 2022 TABLET & SMARTPHONE SIG

Jim Hempel, Don Gardner, Marcia Zientek, Jan Mlagan, Julia Rice, Richard Durand, Terry Harvey, Brian Behling, and Donna Armitage were attending.

In the past, our combined Android and iPhone smartphone meetings could draw between 20 and 30 attendees. This past meeting, besides me, we

only had eight in attendance. I suspect many stayed away to watch our competition, the Green Bay Packer football game against the Nashville Titans. As it turned out, the Packers couldn't put together a whole, good game and lost to the Titans. For those who stayed away, our smartphone meeting would have been much less stressful. You missed a great discussion about these devices and the upcoming Black Friday deals.

We began the meeting with a comment from me about CCleaner. I have this program loaded on my PC and I like many of its features. But, I don't like its aggressive approach to push the premium version on me. I had a pop-up on my screen trying to coax me into upgrading. There was no visible way to clear it. I couldn't find it and neither could the attendees. I've seen this in the past and the only way I could find to clear it was through the use of CTRL+ALT+DEL which opens the Task Manager. There I could force it off. Brian suggested I remove this version from my PC and get the portable version. I later found it at the following link along with their other versions/builds. <https://www.ccleaner.com/ccleaner/builds>



We followed that with further discussion on Richard's QuickMemo app on his LG phone. We declared it to be bloatware since he could not find any way to uninstall it. Apps that cannot be removed or uninstalled are generally referred as bloatware and the only way to remove them is to "root" the phone.

Rooting is a process that allows you to attain root access to the Android operating system code (the equivalent term for Apple devices is

jailbreaking). It gives you privileges to modify the software code on the device or install other software that the manufacturer wouldn't normally allow you to.

The Samsung Business Insights offers this description of rooting. "In the Android ecosystem, since the platform is based upon Linux permissions and file-system ownership, rooting means gaining "superuser" access. Rooting is generally carried out using Android SDK tools to unlock the bootloader and then flash a custom image to the device. Some third-party applications may offer to root your device for you, but users should be particularly cautious of these as they have the potential to introduce malware or other security loopholes."

They go on to state, "It's also important to note that rooting is different from unlocking a phone. In the U.S. especially, phones are often sold with a subsidy provided by a telecom carrier. To help enforce the contract terms, phones may be configured by the carrier so they can only be used on certain networks. The phone is essentially locked to that carrier. Disabling these controls is called "unlocking" the phone, but this does not involve gaining superuser permissions.

Marcia had a question about using Google Maps while driving. Sometimes she may move her phone,

or inadvertently touch the screen and the map is instantly minimized to a very small size, usually in the lower right corner. This renders the map useless. The question is how to restore its size. When you are driving, it is very hard and even dangerous to spend time looking at your phone map. We did find a tiny angled line with arrow heads on both ends that maximizes it again. That's difficult to do when driving. After the meeting



ROOT ANDROID

I researched this and found a couple alternatives that can prevent the map from minimizing.

This tiny floating window was a feature added with Android 8.0. This feature may be great when you're at home and watching Netflix or YouTube videos while working on your email. But the picture-in-picture (PIP) isn't always ideal for every app, Google Maps arguably being the worst. I could not find a way in Maps to turn this PIP off. But I did find a way buried in the phone Settings. Here's what to do. Remember the different software versions may work differently.

On my Samsung Note 10, with Android Version 12, you start by going to the Settings, scroll down and tap on Apps. Scroll down and tap on Maps. Scroll down to Picture-In-Picture. There it will tell you it is allowed by default. Tap on Picture-In-Picture. You will now see Allow Picture in Picture. It is followed by a switch that is ON. Move it to OFF. I did this on my phone and it is a big improvement

On other versions of Android, you might try these steps: Open the Settings app. Tap on Apps & notifications. Tap on Advanced. Tap on Picture-in-picture. Tap on Maps. Turn OFF "Allow picture-in-picture".

Our following discussion was about Google Voice Assistant where we learned it can help with many things. It will open and close apps, listen to and play music, make a phone call, check and send a text message, check and create a schedule, set alarms and timers, search, check the news and weather, tell a joke, find your phone, read web pages aloud, search for an image, show nearby



restaurants, play your favorite Netflix shows and movies, get sports scores and so, so much more. For even more details, take a look at this website.

<https://support.google.com/assistant/answer/7172842?hl=en>

Terry suggested we look into ways that our old electronics can be reused. We looked at a CNET article on



old devices that discussed steps to take before donating them. We found ways to recycle smartphones and how Best Buy can help, what Home Depot will collect and the US

EPA. For more details on this topic, refer the entire article at: <https://www.cnet.com/tech/mobile/keep-your-old-tech-out-of-the-trash-how-to-recycle-outdated-gadgets-for-free/>

Then for our Scrabble players, these are some of the new words added to the Scrabble Dictionary this year: Guac, Fauxhawk, Zonkey and Zedonk.

Next we talked briefly about getting a different phone, maybe a new one. Then you have to ask yourself do I want to start fresh or do I want to transfer all the contents of my existing phone to the new phone. We looked at a Google article that covers the second choice that is moving data from the old phone to the new one. The article is very complete and a good resource for anyone making this decision. Here is a link to it: https://support.google.com/android/answer/6193424?hl=en&ref_topic=7313240&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email#zippy=%2Cswitch-from-an-iphone%2Cswitch-from-an-android-device

We looked at a few phones on Best Buy. Some Black Friday deals have already appeared. The Moto G Power is being sold for \$129 and its battery can last up to 3 days.

YouMail: 

We ended the meeting with a discussion

on how some incoming phone calls can go directly to voice mail without ever ringing your phone. The app YouMail, came up as a way to sort out spam calls on cell phones and it gets good reviews.

Spectrum cell service came up as an alternative that might result in some cost savings. The lowest rate published is \$29.99 but you should ask about packaged deals. Spectrum has some attractive plans that combine cell service with home internet.

Jim Hempel

VPNS QUESTIONS ANSWERED

In a recent newsletter I had an article on VPNs or Virtual Private Networks. That article must have stirred some interest and after that I got a couple questions about them.

Will a VPN protect the device it's running on from malware? Short answer, no.

A VPN can keep you safe from prying eyes. It will help cover your tracks and improve your privacy



through encryption of your Internet traffic However it cannot and will not prevent malware from being downloaded onto your machine.

Why? Because even when using a VPN, your device is still accessing whatever files are stored on a remote server.

If one or more of those files contains bad stuff, your VPN won't prevent it from going straight through the secure VPN "tunnel" and infecting your device.

That's why it always pays to surf the web with safety and security in mind.

This leads to next obvious question. Do I have to pay for VPN services? Can I use a free one?

You've probably heard there is no such thing as a free lunch. If you can find one, chances are it won't be real tasty. The same is true for VPN. They may not have the latest and greatest encryption software. They may have to resort to collecting your data and selling it in order to stay in business or may be tracking you through internet. They probably are ad supported. Free VPNs may even contain malware themselves that attach you. And the FBI recommends the use of a trusted service provider, usually this involves a fee to use it. Jim Hempel

BOARD MEETING REPORT

WAUC leadership members met via Zoom on December 5, 2022. Present were Don Skarda, Bob Banerian, Richard Durand, Terry Harvey, Jim Hempel, and Julia Rice.

We will meet in-person and on Zoom in January. The February meeting will be held only on Zoom, no in-person meeting.

Don Skarda will add a "celebrations" time to each month's meeting. During this time members can make announcements of personal celebrations, such as an anniversary or the birth of a grandchild or a promotion at work, etc.

The Picnic will be held during the May 4, 2023 General Meeting.

The Investment Club will meet December 28, 2022 on Zoom. 2023 meetings will be in-person at the Wauwatosa Public Library.

An annual audit of our finances needs to be conducted in February or March. Two volunteers to conduct the audit will be requested at the January General meeting. Dues for 2023 can be paid via PayPal, by mail, or in person. Dues will be \$25 if paid by December 31, 2022. After that date, dues will be \$30. Bob will be at the December 20th Luncheon. Members

can give him cash or checks for their dues at that time.

Since we do not have an editor, the newsletter will be created by a team consisting of Don Skarda, Terry Harvey, Tom Martini and Jim Hempel. Jan Mlagan will be the proof-reader. Terry Harvey will add a write up in the December newsletter about Doris Regner, a long-time member who recently passed away. (Also, Char will have a card at the January General Meeting that members can sign for Doris's family.) Ideas for a Public presentation were discussed. Jim will ask a friend of his who owns a computer shop in Cudahy to be a presenter. Bob Banerian mentioned that he could do a presentation on 3-D printing in the late summer.-Other issues discussed

The election of Officers will be held at the January General meeting.

Don Skarda has not yet received a copy of the church key for Romaine.

We discussed having information at Love Thy Neighbor events and presenting a one-minute speech about WAUC membership.

We again discussed creating a New Member packet and what it would include. This has been a thought for around 30 years and now we want to make it a reality. The Packet would include a member directory, information on our groups.io account and Facebook page, a calendar of events, etc.

The Newsletter Editor and the facilitator for the iPhone/iPad facilitator are open positions.

Tom Martini will be the backup person for WAUC's Groups.io account. A backup for the Program Chair is still needed.

The next Leadership meeting is tentatively scheduled for Jan 9th, 2023 at 3 pm.

Rita Bruce



NEW FOR INVESTMENT SIGS 2023

WAUC member, Bob Bialecki, reserved a conference room for the WAUC Investment SIG at the Wauwatosa Library starting in January to June next year, 2023. For this month, December 2022, our SIG will be held on Dec. 28th on Zoom.

We are confirmed to use conference room A on the following Wednesdays from 7 – 8:45 PM

- January 25
- February 22
- March 22
- April 26
- May 24
- June 28

Please check in at the information desk on the second floor.

GOLDILOCKS

The story goes that at 3M, several decades ago, researchers were looking for a new powerful adhesive for their various products. In the process, they came across a very weak, easy to detach, adhesive. Well, what can be done with this, they asked themselves? It ended up being used on one of the most popular and successful 3M products, the post-it note. Who among you has not used a post-it note? I'm not sure this story is true, or even complete, but I like it anyway, Just as it is here.

So what does this have to do with computers? I see the same thing happening. Researchers were looking at different kinds of radio waves. Of course the primary attribute of radio waves is distance, i.e., how far they travel. And there was one radio wave that had very little distance at all, maybe 30 feet at the max. Can there be a use for such a radio wave, with such a short range? You bet. The little transmitter and receiver can be built into a computer, or even a phone, and be used to connect the computer to other devices. Some of the devices that can be connected are such accessories as mice, keyboards, headphones and speakers, printers, sharing files, and many others. Of course, there have been enhancements to the ultra-short-range radio wave, and getting connected to the device, known as "pairing," can be a challenge, but

once done, the user experiences No More Wires! And that is really a big Improvement.

What I remember in reading about this, is that the researchers and developers needed something to call this useful short range radio. Until a better name could be used, it was known by the name of a Medieval Scandinavian king, Harold Bluetooth. Why this guy was known as "Bluetooth," I don't know. But I guess he was. Names have to come from somewhere. And I don't think another name for this was ever found and tried, because to this day, this ultra short range radio wave, used for connecting devices, is known to us all as "Bluetooth." I would bet a six-pack that this "Bluetooth" is more famous and popular than the Scandinavian king ever was.

One wouldn't normally use a Formula One racing car to pick up some bread and milk at a local store. Despite all the advances and improvements in the computer industry, sometimes all one needs is just the right level of technology for the task at hand. And that level, just right for the task, is what I call "The Goldilocks Solution." Be it Post-It Notes, Bluetooth, or anything else, today's can start to recognize things in this new way, as the "Goldilocks Solution."

Richard Durand



WAUC: Wisconsin All-computer Users Club WAUC was established to provide an educational forum for people interested in learning about computers and related devices such as smartphones and tablets. WAUC provides these educational program and publications for its embers, as well as providing social and charitable opportunities for the membership. While WAUC is a private club and doesn't share any member information outside the club, we encourage members to interact with other members of the club and to facilitate this we publish a membership directory, an email, and promote via a public Facebook group where we often add pictures of group events and our public website.

WAUCtalk is a publication of the Wisconsin All-computer Users Club. WAUC is a computer club dedicated to promoting and instructing the use of computers by WAUC members. WAUCtalk is emailed to all WAUC membership. Free advertising is available to all WAUC members. We are not responsible for omissions or errors.

WAUC Application for Membership / Renewal

Name _____
Address _____
email _____
City _____
State _____ **Zip** _____
What do you want to do with your computer? _____

To join WAUC, please send a completed form along with a check for \$30 to cover dues from January 1st through December 31st 2023

WAUC
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Paid by: New Member ____ Renewal ____ Check ____ Cash ____

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