



WAUCtalk

Wisconsin All-computer Users Club
<http://www.wauc.info>

Volume 30, Number 3

February 2013

**General Meeting, 7 p.m.
 Thursday, March 7, 2013**

All Members: Please fill in an Application Blank and send it in or bring it to the March meeting with your dues. We will have Application Blanks at the meeting if you do not want to cut up your WAUCtalk. We need to be sure we have current addresses and email addresses for all members.

Digital Photography by Marcia Zientek



Marcia Zientek will share her knowledge and experience of digital photography at the February meeting. Those who have seen her travel blogs and enjoyed her pictures of members in WAUCtalk will get in on techniques and pleasures of taking pictures.

Don't forget to renew your membership. Keep WAUCtalk coming.

February-March at a Glance

February		March	
21 Q&A SIG, 7:00 PM	Speedway Station, 60th & Layton	13 WAUC Lunch, 1 PM, Old Country Buffet, 4902 S. 74th	RSVP: rgdurand@yahoo.com
27 Investment Tracking SIG, 7:00 PM	New Location: McDonald's, 5040 S. 76th St.	13 Mac SIG, 7:00 PM	Villas at the Station, 8935 S. Wood Creek Dr., Oak Creek
		14 Windows 7 SIG, 7:00 PM	Speedway Station, 60th & Layton
7 WAUC General Meeting, 7:00 PM	Jackson Park Lutheran Church 4535 W. Oklahoma Ave.	21 Q&A SIG, 7:00 PM	Speedway Station, 60th & Layton
	Topic—Digital Photography by Marcia Zientek	27 Investment Tracking SIG, 7:00 PM	New: McDonald's, 5040 S. 76th St.
7 Exec. Bd. Meeting, 6:15 PM	Jackson Park Lutheran Church	Future Presentations:	
		• April—Mac SIG	

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**From the WAUC ByLaws
Article 2 – Purposes**

The purpose of WAUC shall be to provide an educational forum for people interested in learning about small computer systems. In fulfilling this purpose, WAUC shall provide educational programs for members and the public, establish and maintain a library of software, provide publications as the club shall find useful, and engage in other educational, social and charitable activities as the membership may from time to time determine. However, neither WAUC nor any group or agency acting on its behalf or under its auspices shall engage in any form of political lobbying or in activities prohibited by law.

WAUC

WAUCtalk is a monthly publication of the Wisconsin All-computer Users Club. WAUC is a computer club dedicated to promoting and instructing the use of computers to WAUC members. Membership in WAUC is \$25 per year (\$12.50 if applying after June 1). WAUCtalk is emailed to all WAUC members.

Free advertising is available to WAUC members. We are not responsible for omissions or errors.

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President's Message—Snow!



Upon becoming the President of WAUC, someone raised the issue of what to do in the event of inclement weather. At the time, I thought the odds of weather being severe enough and of happening at the most inopportune time to interfere with a WAUC event, were much less than even. But it couldn't be ruled out, and the announcement was made to the members to check their email accounts if in doubt. And as you know, on Thursday, February 7th, the snowstorm we had was indeed bad enough to have our February WAUC General Meeting called off. I don't consider myself to be superstitious, but as you might have heard me say on previous occasions, I am a firm believer in Murphy's Law, and this definitely reinforced my belief.

Such a decision is not done lightly since so many members are counting on having a meeting. I waited as long as I could, hoping that the storm would stop and the streets would be cleared in time. In the middle of the afternoon, it became obvious that the best decision would be to err on the side of caution and call it off. An email announcement was sent to all WAUC members and it was also posted on our Yahoo Group, Board-WAUC. And then out of frustration disappointment and also necessity, I engaged in the only activity I could, shoveling snow.

I received a number of email replies from members with understanding and support for the decision, and to them, I want to here express my appreciation. Also, my own personal experience validates the decision. Thursday evening, I actually drove to the church, JPLC, to be there in case any members who didn't get the word and were determined to be heroes going out into storms, actually showed up. I got there and waited in my van from a little before 7:00 to a little after. I am so proud that not one of our members showed up anyway. Everyone had the good sense to stay home. The snow was still coming down, and even on the major streets, there were still several inches of loose snow, making driving conditions pretty dangerous. I should have stayed home myself, but one finds oneself doing unexpected things when one accepts a leadership position. Fortunately, I made it there and back without any mishap.

For WAUC, the impact of the snowstorm will now truly hit home in terms of the disruption of our planned schedule and I request all members to bear with the necessary changes. Marcia Zientek has graciously agreed to give the planned presentation on digital photography at the next General Meeting in March. Presentations in the following months have not officially been re-scheduled, but hopefully can be adapted to the new time frame.

It was planned that membership and renewal of Sam's Club through WAUC would be announced at the February General Meeting. Since that was not possible, any member interested in joining or renewing Sam's Club membership should, as soon as possible, contact our previous WAUC President, Bruce Kosbab, at bkosbab@milwpc.com.

All planned WAUC events and SIGs scheduled for the month of February will take place as planned, weather permitting naturally, with one small change. The location of the WAUC Investment SIG will change again, from Panera Bread at 7840 W. Layton, to a new location, the MacDonalds at 5040 S. 76th St. At the last Investment SIG in January, which was held at Panera Bread, the Internet signal there was disappointing, to say the least. I've had better Internet signals in the old days of dial-up. Thus, the

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change of location. This was also going to be announced at the February General Meeting but now has to be mentioned here.

Still another announcement that was to be made at the February General Meeting was that of the swapfest to occur on Saturday, February 16th, at 12560 W. Townsend St. in Brookfield, from about 8:00 a.m. to Noon. This is in the building used for the Channels 10 and 36 Auction, just off of 124th St., in the area of Briggs and Stratton. I want to mention these events to WAUC members because

they have a lot to offer computer users. Not only are there used computers and items of used computer equipment and software at very reasonable prices, but typically there are many computer accessories also such as connecting cables, adapters, USB hubs, mice, keyboards, etc. Just browsing around and seeing what's there can inspire possibilities in your mind. Unfortunately, the storm caused this announcement here to be of very short notice but we'll continue to announce subsequent local swapfests in the future. For more information, please visit <http://www.w9rh.org/documents/>

[MRAC_SwapFest_Flyer2013-1.pdf](#).

Lastly, if you have not renewed your WAUC membership, please do so at your next opportunity, at one of the SIGs if a WAUC officer is present, or at the General Meeting in March. Thank you again for your membership and support of your computer club, WAUC.

Richard Durand
WAUC President

Wi-Fi On the Road—Article from Florida User

(Hewie Poplock, APCUG Director, Vice President, Central Florida Computer Society
<http://www.hewie.net>
Hewie (at) Hewie.net

In the past, finding free Wi-Fi away from home was difficult, if not impossible. However, most of the fast food restaurants and many other locations now make Wi-Fi available. If that is true, and it is, that should be the end of my article.

However, in a recent column by a local newspaper, there is a growing issue of quality of that Wi-Fi. I have found McDonalds' connections consistently good. It has the AT&T name and their hotspots seem to be maintained.

I recently stopped at a Burger King, which had a sign advertising Free Wi-Fi. After I ordered my food and sat down, I could not find their hotspot. When I approached the employees, including the shift manager, my response was, "Oh, it doesn't always work." I guess this was one of those times.

While I was there, I noticed a man

who was bringing in his laptop and a printer to use the Wi-Fi to send a report to his boss. He set up on the floor as there was not a table near the electrical outlet.

Once he was set up, he also approached the employees about getting on line, without any more help than I had received. I told him where the nearest McDonalds' was located.

That brings me to my point. While many of these restaurants have Wi-Fi, the quality or the consistency of it working is not always reliable. To compound that, one of my friends pointed out that he recently stopped at a McDonalds, only to discover that his laptop battery was dead, and that particular location had no electrical outlets. The manager stated that they may be doing a remodel of the location and hopefully they will add some outlets.

Our computer user group has some meetings at a couple of local Denny's Restaurants, which also advertise inside & out that they have free Wi-Fi. One of our special interest groups meets at one Denny's

every month and has been doing so for several years. For several months we could no longer use their Wi-Fi, if we were available at all. The manager kept telling us that a third party took care of it and she reported it. A district manager from the franchise happened to be in the building the same night as one of our meetings. He promised it would get fixed. A few months later, when it was not, we contacted him again. He actually fired the 3rd party and hired someone else. We now have WiFi and he has happy customers, who were about to go elsewhere.

Merely offering free Wi-Fi to customers is not enough. Having it work consistently gets you repeat and happy customers. At a minimum, every shift manager should know how to reset a router, if they receive complaints. Certainly they should show the customer a concern and see that it get repaired by doing a follow up. It's called training.

I also carry an extension cord and strip in my car, in case there is but one outlet and it needs to be shared, or it is not near an open table.

The following articles have been sent to us from APCUG. Are you interested in any of these titles?

Customizing Labels in Word 2007
Get creative with Text Boxes
Q&A - I'm thinking about getting a tablet computer
It's almost here...when?...soon...when is soon? (2 parts)
Making Your Computer Easier t' Use

Microsoft Windows Telephone Scam – BEWARE!!
Webpage Font Size too small? - Think about Screen Resolution
Back to Basics: The System Tray Icons
Tablet or Laptop, a Popular Ques-

tion ...and "Cool App Reviews"
Text Messaging or "Texting" - Have you tried it yet?
The Tip Corner – July 2012
Where's the Technology?
Your Own Website
Let Julia know by email.

WAUC Membership Application

Date _____

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ e-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

How did you hear about WAUC? _____

What do you like to use your computer for? _____

What talents do you have that you would like to share? _____

To join WAUC, please send completed form along with check for \$25 to cover dues from January 1st through December 31, 2013 to:

Wisconsin All-computers Users Club
P.O. Box 340241
Milwaukee, WI 53234-0241

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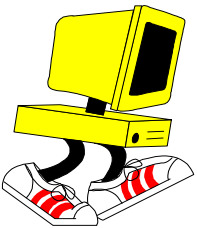
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