

WAUCTALK

Wisconsin All-computer Users Club

<https://wauc.apcug.org>

Main@WAUC.Groups.io



Members Helping Members

Member of



An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups

service

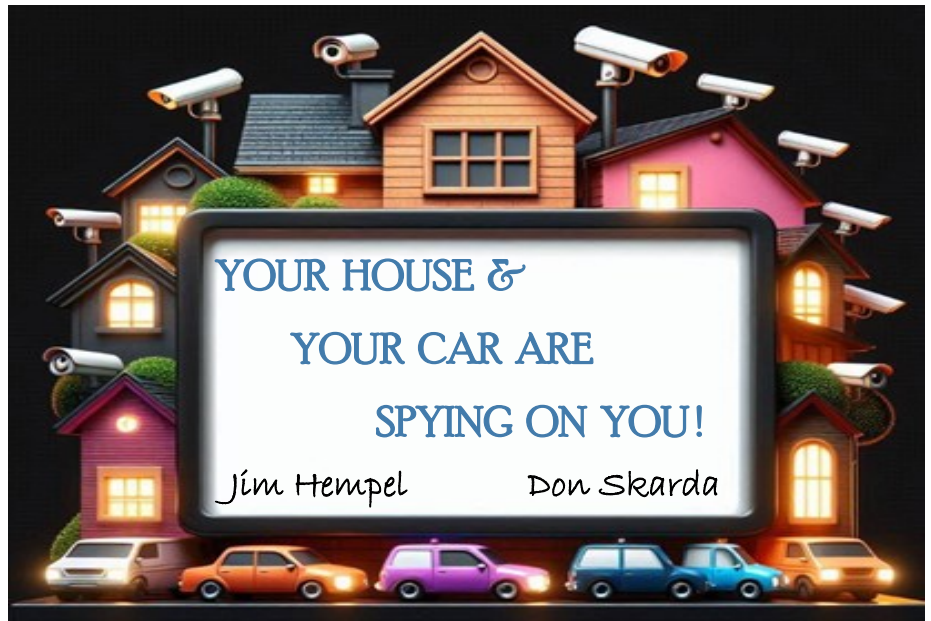
COMPUTER REPAIR



Brian Behling
414-313-3709
brianb50@gmail.com

VOLUME 42 Issue #10

OCTOBER 2024



**YOUR HOUSE &
YOUR CAR ARE
SPYING ON YOU!**

Jim Hempel

Don Skarda

Jackson Park Lutheran Church

4535 W. Oklahoma Avenue

Milwaukee, WI

November 7th

General Meeting

November 14th

Q & A SIG

November 21st

Smartphone SIG

November 26th

WAUC Lunch*

November 27th

Investment SIG**

*Brass Key Restaurant

**Wauwatosa Public Library

4952 W. Forest Home Ave.

7635 West North Avenue

Milwaukee, WI

Wauwatosa, WI

**DECEMBER
GENERAL MEETING
WAUC ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS PARTY**



September 2024 WAUC Lunch



OCTOBER 2024 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members of the Wisconsin All Computer Users Club,

Well, I finally did it , I got Covid from someone AND passed it to my Lady! Bummer! Well, done with that. I need to thank all from the club that were able to keep everything running at the church for me. Although, there was a small issue, that being, those with keys left before the church was locked, so Suzanne had to return to get it locked! Bob Banerian connected the computer and projector, Don G connected the Mic and opened the curtains and pulled down the screen, Richard did the registration and FREE TABLE while Suzanne did the snacks!

GREAT TEAM EFFORT! - THANKS MUCH!

GREAT TEAM EFFORT! - THANKS MUCH!

Our November presentation will be by members Jim Hempel and myself Don Skarda. Our topic is **Your House and Car Are Spying on You!** But we may go off topic a couple times. This will be interactive so it will be better to be there instead of on-line, although it will be on Zoom also!

Our upcoming events are designed to provide both valuable insights and hands-on experience. I encourage everyone to join our October 31 workshop where you can bring in anything for us to look at or fix, and any questions we can help with as far as email, documents, any technology and more.

What can the Leadership do to make you want to stay as a member? How can we improve? We are always looking to improve, please help us! Send me an email or text or call!

Membership dues, SPECIAL, pay your membership dues before December 31 and pay only \$25!!

PLEASE ask us what we can do to help you, please rejoin our club, and please have a great rest of the year!!

Don Skarda
YOUR WAUC President,
262-416-8210
WAUC2019@gmail.com

Robert J. Banerian, CPCU, ARM	
Personal and Commercial Insurance	
Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter	
Banerian & Associates, Inc.	banerianassoc@milwpc.com
8626B W. Greenfield Ave. #A-300	414-259-1396
West Allis, WI 53214	Fax: 414-259-1398

SEPTEMBER 2024 TUTORIAL SIG

Before we took the dive into the nights topic, we took a look at the Milwaukee Historical Society activity called Doors Open. This takes place on September 28 & 29. Doors Open Milwaukee is an annual celebration of Milwaukee's architecture, history and neighborhoods. The event opens 150+ locations throughout the metro area to tour for free. For more information on this event and for a full list of all the buildings that will be open, visit their website. <https://historicmilwaukee.org/doors-open/>



This tutorial was focused on buying and selling on the internet. To get us grounded in the basics of this activity, we looked at short videos on eBay, Craigslist, Marketplace and others.



The first one we looked at was called "How To Sell on eBay For Beginners | 2020 Step by Step Guide" by Ralli Roots.

He is a very accomplished seller on eBay and offers these tips. The other sites operate in a similar manner to this.

EBAY STEPS to take to be successful:

1. What accounts to open? You need an eBay account with managed payments active. This is easy to do and FREE. It is very similar to most other websites. All you will need is to have an email and password. There are no monthly fees, unless you might want to upgrade to an eBay Store to help your business grow. eBay has a strong set of guard rails to keep things safe for both buyers and sellers.



2. In the beginning, you are going to have limitations on your accounts, especially if they are brand new. Typically on eBay you'll be limited to 10 items for sale and/or \$1000 just be aware of that. You can ask for increases once a month. Signing up for an eBay store will NOT increase your selling limits.

3. Next you need to decide what items should you list for sale. Remember you are going to be limited to those 10 items and because your account will have 0 seller feedback, you want to list highly desirable items that sell fast! As a new seller, you can look around the house and try to find stuff like video games, consoles, electronics etc. those types of items

have great demand on eBay and buyers will look past feedback if the deal is good enough.

4. There's two ways that you can list your items. Those are Buy It Now or a simple auction sale to

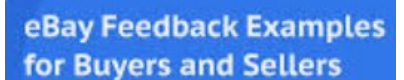


the highest bidder. 99% of listings currently are listed as buy it now. Only run auctions

when you want to clear out old inventory. That being said, when you first start out, auctions can be a good way to guarantee a sale instead of waiting around for a certain buyer, so your options are, list as an auction and take the risk of an item not selling for as much money as you'd like, or list as buy it now and wait. Again, if you list desirable items for a fair price they will sell as buy it now, it's suggested that you go that route to begin with.

5. How to research how much to list your item for? This is fairly easy, go to sold items on eBay, sort by recent sales and take a look at what's sold. Then go to currently listed and see what your competition is, at the beginning you'll need to ask less money because you're not yet a trusted seller. Buyers and sellers will be judged on each transaction that will be displayed for other buyers and sellers which leads us to Feedback.

6. So, as I said before, everyone starts with zero feedback, to get positive seller feedback you should list your items well, take good pics, ship fast and include a thank you note. While you're doing that, buy some supplies on eBay from sellers with high feedback that will automatically leave you positive feedback, it won't show as seller feedback but it does count toward your overall number.



7. Other things you can do to get off to a good start is to make sure you're taking clear pictures, you can use a phone for this, take your pics in square mode, adjust the brightness. Make sure your lighting is good, you can go to the dollar store and grab white poster board, that's all you need to get started.

8. What happens after I sell something? There are so many shipping options on eBay. To make it



super easy for beginners, lets keep it simple. Use First class mail, flat rate envelopes, flat rate boxes. Make sure your item fits and offer free shipping. For more details on this, take a look at the many videos that dive deeper into shipping method.

REMEMBER - eBay also charges other fees, including listing fees and optional upgrade fees. These fees can add up quickly, especially if you're selling high-value items or listing multiple products.

You can watch the entire video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= JQocyDB1d8>

From there, we moved on to Craigslist, perhaps one of the earliest entries into buying and selling on internet. Craigslist is a privately held American company operating a classified advertisements website with sections devoted to jobs, housing, for sale, items wanted, services, community service, gigs, résumés, and discussion forums.



It is not nearly as polished as eBay and it has a lot less guard rails to keep you safe. One safety measure is that your personal information does not appear in the listing. All back and forth communications between the buyer and seller go through Craigslist. Your email is not shown.

Craigslist offers different groupings. For example, you can select Craigslist Milwaukee and you will only get listing for items in and around Milwaukee.

There are many videos that will help you understand Craigslist. Here are a couple we looked at <https://www.wikihow.com/Sell-Items-on-Craigslist>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybjE7Elx3LY>



For the last tutorial on this topic, we looked at Facebook Marketplace. Facebook Marketplace is classified-ad section of the social network that specializes in helping individuals and businesses sell items locally. Marketplace is Facebook's expansion into markets to compete with services like eBay and Craigslist. Marketplace is a free to use e-commerce platform that connects sellers and buyers through unique goods, from home decor to trendy fashion.

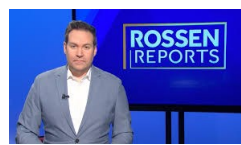
Operation is very similar to its competitors. Sellers

list an item for sale on Marketplace and offers shipping. Buyer finds the item through search or browsing categories. When the buyer finds something of interest, the buyer then places a shipping order or messages the seller first.

Like Craigslist, it offers the ability to sell and buy locally.

For more details on this program, take a look at <https://leadsbridge.com/blog/facebook-marketplace/> or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zp_PVjmTYCU

To close things out for this Tutorial, Terry provided a link to a video where Jeff Rossen reveals re-



tailers that will exchange your old electronics for cash or gift cards. It was quite interesting and informative, especially if

you happen to have electronics that are not being used. Take a look at https://www.wisn.com/article/trade-in-old-gadgets-for-cash-at-these-stores/62140390?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Email%20-%20Rossen%20Re-ports&utm_source=66e0eba7690f1beea8c19d2c0f52c456&brzu=946befb7aa8fa5f128b62e48a269e63f8bc748f46d5d0d6a5cce39800e173cec&lctg=5ef99d395aca2c736061bcb5&email_trigger=terryharvey@wi.rr.com

Jim Hempel

SEPTEMBER 2024 Q & A SIG

Those attending were Jan Mlagan, Jim Hempel, Betty Robinson, Julia Rice, Rita Bruce, Bill James, Bill Vlach, John Schwarzmeier, JJ Johnson, Richard Durand, Margaret, Kathy Mueller, and Terry Harvey.

This was the night to discuss strange things, it seemed. The meeting got started with a question from Jan about a text message her husband received asking if he really needed help or has his email account been hacked. After some discussion, Bill James said this looked like a phishing attack. The text was likely sent out to a lot of people in the hopes some-




one would click on a link.

Julia got a strange text from someone who has been deceased for a few years. We didn't have enough information about it for a positive answer. It could be another phishing attempt, with information obtained from an obituary.

Jim mentioned that all the board members of the Historic Society got the same email that appeared to have been sent by the society president. It asked if the recipient was busy and does the recipient have time to do a favor for the president. When that person responded they had time and can help, they received another email with a detailed explanation why the president was asking for help and needed someone to purchase gift cards as member awards. All communications stopped at that point.

Rita was at a Brewers game and set up a family Zoom. She was concerned it would use up too much data and cause her data cap to be exceeded. At the time, it was suggested that she use the Brewers Wi-Fi instead of her cell phone data plan. She wanted to know if this was safe, as she was told at the game to use an open Brewers Wi-Fi for this. As long as she didn't use it for personal data, we didn't think it was that bad. A much better alternative would have been to use a VPN which encrypts the data that was being sent over the Wi-Fi. There are a number of low cost and free services that would work well in this instance.

 Surfshark, IPVanish, Nord VPN, Proton VPN and Express VPN are just a few of highly rated apps for this.

Bill V had a question about Facebook. He had been getting friend requests from people that were already friends. Facebook is a wonderful venue for sharing information, photos and fun with friends, but unfortunately it is also a haven for scammers.

Every post you see and every message you receive must be viewed with a skeptical eye if you want to avoid falling victim to those who are out to cause you grief or separate you from your money.

Facebook is set up so that a person cannot friend the same person twice. If you receive a friend request from someone you are already friends with, search

your friend list to see if you are still friends with that person. If you are, you have just received a friend request from a duplicate (and probably fake) Facebook account. Bill should consider letting his friend know



that someone may have duplicated an account with their name. Rick's Daily Tips has some wonderful information on this scam and you can read more about it at <https://www.ricksdailytips.com/beware-duplicate-friend-requests/>

Bill V also had questions about the digital footprint we have when using internet and other applications. What happens to all this when we pass? What digital legacy is left behind? Jim mentioned he got a notice from a person he knows has passed away and noticed the person still has a Facebook page.



Bill J knows that APCUG has materials and talks about this subject and suggested we might pursue this with Judy Tylour. Bill mentioned she has been making frequent updates and keeps the presentation very current on topics like digital assets, estate planning and more.

There was a follow up question on a topic covered in a previous meeting on couponing. Probably most of us are familiar with setting up shopping accounts at various stores. These stores will have an app dedicated to their stores. Creating an account which is free will give you access to their specials and other discounts. These accounts usually consist of your email and a password that you select.

SHOPPING APPS

Besides these dedicated shopping apps, there are others that have more flexibility such as RetailMeNot, Rakuten, Capital Spending, and others. But what about the coupon clipping that seems to have disappeared. Every year there are fewer inserts and mailers about the special shopping offers.

Rita mentioned one she has used before, is called LOZO. Their website explains their company as.... "LOZO's goal is to save you money! As seen on The



Dr. Oz Show, TLC's Extreme Couponing, Good Morning America and more, LOZO saves you money by helping you find grocery coupons that are right for you.

There are plenty of coupon websites you can visit one at a time, but LOZO is the only way to find reliable grocery coupons from hundreds of trustworthy



sites and brands all over the web, listed all in one place. Even better: just enter your grocery list at LOZO.com and we'll email you links to coupons that match the items on your list. LOZO's founder, Jeff

Kaplan, comes from a long line of male couponers, starting with his grandfather and continuing on to his children."

Flipp is another similar app. They both seem to be a huge coupon aggregator with many affiliated stores and thousands of coupons for them. One of the first



things that happened when we looked at their website is that they ask for your zip code. Jim put in his Cudahy zip and it customized his store offering to those nearby. Give it a try at <https://lozo.com/> or <https://flipp.com/>

We have had a number of discussions about connecting your laptop to display on a television. We found a short video by Kevin Stratvert. We have watched his other videos before and found them to be worthwhile. This video dealt with both the wired



connections, which always seem to be easier and more reliable and with wireless which in some cases may be the most realistic

approach. The directions are simple and straightforward. Watch the entire video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4p3xQYwd0Qw>

We closed off the meeting with a discussion about all the offerings of AARP. They have a lot of good information on a wide range of topics and all for just \$12/year. Their information on travel, health, wellness, gas and auto, shopping and groceries, entertainment, restaurants, technology, finances, home and real estate and much more. You can find it all at

<https://www.aarp.org/membership/benefits/all-offers-a-z/>



J.J. is very active in Senior Planet which is part of AARP. Senior Planet specializes in live and recorded classes for seniors. J.J. went through many of the classes being offered. They describe the or-

ganization as ... **SENIOR PLANET** FROM AARP

"We're a distinctive, diverse collection of people aged 60 and older who are busy changing the way we age by embracing opportunities to reshape our lives, connect with and help one another, and change the world for the better—all while learning, growing, and having fun" You can read more about them at <https://seniorplanet.org/>

Jim Hempel

SEPTEMBER 2024 SMARTPHONE SIG

Jim Hempel, Don Skarda, Julia Rice, Betty Robinson, Don Gardener, Terry Harvey, Rita Bruce, Kathy Mueller, John Schwarzmeier, Richard Durand, Louise Bozek, Karen Fenney, Margaret Cortez, Brian Behling, and Bill Vlach.

After a brief discussion about the severe damage and destruction in the southeastern United States due to Hurricane Helene, we moved on to discussing SIG topics. If anyone has a suggestion or question for a future SIG, just put that idea into an email and send it to inhempel@msn.com. I have an email folder devoted to SIG topics and will simply move those emails to that folder for future use and discussion.

Karen started us off with a question directed to anyone who has Ooma. This is one of many of the VoIP (voice over internet protocol) systems for making phone calls over the internet. These systems all operate in a similar manner and are very low cost, ranging from free to about \$10 per month. Most of them require the one-time purchase of a piece of hardware to facilitate the service. This device has three simple connections – 120 V power, connection to your internet and output to your standard phone lines. You do not need a special phone. You can continue to use the existing phones in your house, from a simple phone to a more feature rich phone system



with voicemail, call waiting, and multiple phones in various rooms.

Karen wanted to know if other users ever have trouble calling their cell phone from their Ooma service.

Don and Jim responded that they don't experience this. Karen has had this happen on occasion, not consistently. Karen went on to add some details. She tried their website and called their tech support. She worked on the issue with little success. The only thing she found that sort of helps is shutting the whole system down and letting it reboot again. But that's not even necessarily the answer. Is there anybody else who has Ooma and has that problem?



Don has never had the issue and Jim tried calling his cell during the meeting. He used his phone that is on Ooma and after a short delay we could hear it ringing. While that phone technically is not a landline, some people still refer to it as their landline. A landline is technically a telephone line that transmits signals from one station to another directly along a wire.

Karen said that hers will sometimes go right to voicemail and doesn't even ring.

Don tried it with his system and found his phone is answering it right now.

Terry suggested that Karen try it. It seemed to work fine. One possible solution that should work is to call Ooma and have them turn off their voicemail. This would send future calls to your own voicemail on your own system.

We shifted to a question from Julia who has a problem answering her new phone with a swipe motion.



Terry said it could also be answered by tapping the Power button. We tried that several times until Julia had it working. Go to phone SETTINGS, ACCESSIBILITY,

INTERACTION AND DEXTERITY, SIDE KEY, then toggle on ANSWER CALL.

After several tries and Settings changes, we got her phone set up so she can tap on the screen to answer it. We also suggested that Julia bring her phone to the luncheon for help with other settings or to ask

for help in her own apartment complex.

Richard asked a question related to the background that was showing on other members Zoom picture in the Gallery. He was referring to the Virtual Background setting. We proceeded to show him how to access his settings for this.

Using the Virtual Background can stress your computer power and internet bandwidth. We were concerned that Richard might be short on resources. We pointed out



how the virtual background that Don Gardner is using was distorting his screen image.

We moved ahead and pointed out the video camera icon on the lower left side of the screen. Very close to it, on the right is an arrow head pointing up. Click on it to open a pop out to make changes to your video settings. These settings allow you to adjust the background and filters. Richard and others following along were able to change their backgrounds and/or use the blur filter. Make sure you have your camera turned on to use this feature. For example, Rita now has a Northern Lights and Kathy has the British palace as backgrounds. Some took this even further and created an avatar of their screen, like a cat face. It was now seen talking instead of the member's picture.

You just have to be careful. If you have a lot of stuff running on your system, or whatever. If somebody happens to be watching Netflix and somebody else is doing something else. Your display could be messed up.

AI has been in the news a lot. Karen asked about the new smartphones that have AI features built into them. Terry has been using AI for various things including writing a poem, making artwork for the newsletter and much more. She prefers Microsoft Co-Pilot for drawing and art – she uses this on her computer. She uses ChatGPT sometimes, also on her computer. She hasn't been thrilled with the poetry responses from her Samsung smartphone's AI called Galaxy AI.



Apple is introducing a new phone with AI

features. Samsung S24s have been out for almost a year and has some AI features built into it. We looked at one called circle to search. It should be available on the last 2 or 3 model years of Samsung. To initiate the process, long press the HOME key on the bottom of the screen. The display will change appearance indicating it is ready for the search. Touch your finger to the screen and move it around the item you want to search. The results will appear below.

For an example I used a picture of my deck and circled the picnic table. You can see the results in the picture to the right that AI feature created. Wow, I had no idea my picnic table was that costly!



Samsung Photo Assist is an AI-powered feature in the Gallery app on Samsung Galaxy devices that allows users to edit photos including the following actions:



- Erase objects: Remove distracting objects from photos - Adjust position and size: Move, resize, or reframe objects in a photo -- Edit reflections: Automatically erase reflections in photos-- Fill background: Fill in the background when straightening images or moving objects -- Generative photo editing: Regenerate an image as you resize, remove, or reposition objects-- Edit Suggestion: Analyze photos and suggest smart edits

We used a picture from the Munich 2000 Olympics.



The original is on the left.

The other one was quickly manipulated to move the tower off to the right. It operates similar to circle to search.

The last example of AI on the phone is called Live Translate. Live Translate is an AI-powered feature on select Samsung Galaxy phones and tablets that translates voice calls, text messages, and face-to-face conversations into your preferred language in real-time. We demonstrated this with text messages and with a German poem.



The last thing we discussed is a very thin white-out line that appears on the edge of the screen. It can be moved to either side; your choice. This is a feature of Edge Panels and the information displayed can be tailored to suit your needs. To operate it, place a finger on the thin line and slide to the middle. A panel will open. On my phone it is set to show favorite phone contacts.

Swipe it again and a second panel appears; I have it set to show weather. Swipe it again and a third panel appears with popular apps.



To edit what shows on your phone, open Settings. Scroll down and tap Display.

Scroll down looking for Edge Panels, make sure it is turned on to that thin line on the Home screen. Then you can tap on the words Edge Panel and more controls open for you make your choices.

Before closing, one more question came up. How do I delete an app on the iPhone? A long press on the app icon will bring up the selections. Simply tap Remove App and its gone.

Jim Hempel

OCTOBER 2024 LEADERSHIP MEETING

Those present were: Don Skarda, Bob Banerian, Jan Mlagan, Tom Martini, Terry Harvey, Richard Durand, Suzanne Holcomb, and Jim Hempel.

Expenses will be reported at the October General Meeting.

Terry continues to do a stellar job at creating the newsletter. Even though she still does this for the club, she had asked in the past, and would still like to know if there is someone who would be willing to take on this responsibility.

With that being said, there are open positions in the club that we ask you to consider, they are Program Chair, Newsletter editor, and iPhone/

iPad SIG coordinator.

Another stellar club member, Suzanne Holcomb, has coffee and treats at the ready for the October 2, 2024 General Meeting. Thank you, Suzanne!

Don Gardner will be asked to have the raffle tickets for sale at the registration table for all General Meetings. He will be asked to display the raffle items at that table for people to see.

The Christmas party will soon be here. There will again be a sign-up slip at the meeting for food and/or money donations. We also discussed meat selections for the Christmas party. Suzanne will check on prices and report back to the club.

The club will hold another 5th Thursday meeting on October 31st. There will be handouts for the beginner's class. Don suggested that we open up this meeting to anyone who is interested, including non-members. He felt that this would be a way to draw in potential new members.

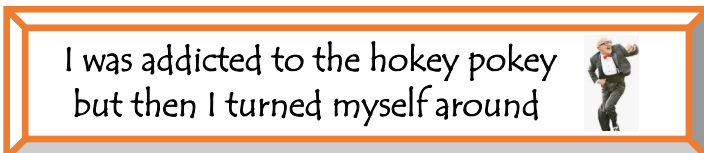
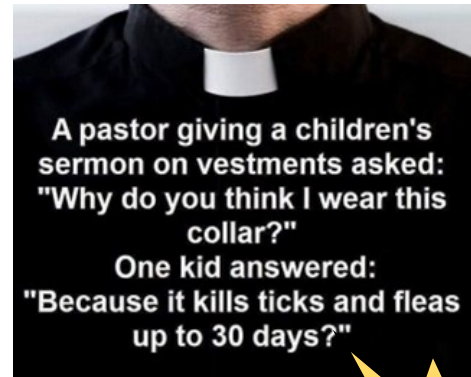
Terry asked if anyone had ideas for next year's speakers at the General Meetings. We took a quick look at ideas from APCUG. Don copied and sent each of us in attendance, the ideas from APCUG and some others he came across. We will report back to Terry with ideas we feel would benefit the club.

Everyone, please feel free to take and distribute tri-fold brochures of WAUC around town.

Don will not be at the General Meeting in October. He will write up and send a meeting agenda for Tom (Richard also asked for a copy). He will also drop off the projector at Jan's house and she will take it to the General Meeting.

Remember that it is time to pay dues for 2025. If you pay before December 31, 2024, the cost will be \$25. Dues paid after the start of the new year will be \$30.

At the end of the meeting Jim brought up a number of beginner classes that are available through Hewie Poplock at STUG. This is the amazing part of being connected with APCUG! We get to be connected to so many other organizations where we can learn about technology.



WAUC: Wisconsin All-computer Users Club, WAUC was established to provide an educational forum for people interested in learning about computers and related devices. WAUC provides educational programs and publications for its members, 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 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 (\$15 after July 1st) to cover dues from January 1st through December 31st, 2024.

WAUC

% Bob Banerian

P.O. Box 340883

Milwaukee, WI 53234-0883

First Class

