

WAUCTALK

Wisconsin All-computer Users Club

<https://wauc.apcug.org>

Main@WAUC.Groups.io



VOLUME 43 Issue #4

APRIL 2025



Jackson Park Lutheran Church

4535 W. Oklahoma Avenue

Milwaukee, WI

May 1st

Annual WAUC Picnic

May 8th

Tutorial SIG

May 15th

Q & A SIG

May 20th

WAUC Lunch*

May 21st

Investment SIG**

May 22nd

Smartphone SIG

ALL SIGS ARE HELD ON ZOOM

<https://tinyurl.com/33xwntkv>

*The Forum

**Wauwatosa Library

4711 S. 108th Street

7635 W. North Avenue

Milwaukee, WI

Wauwatosa, WI

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

June – Bill James – SPYING

June 12th – Waukesha County

Sheriff's Department – DRONES

***515 W Moreland Blvd.

Ac260 Door 8

Waukesha, WI

July – Francis Chao – TETHERING YOUR
CELL PHONE

August – Ray Baxter—ANDROID AUTO

September – Judy Taylour - ACCESSIBILITY

October – Al Williams – SCAMMERS AND
OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES

November – Hewie Poplock – SD CARDS

December—Christmas Party

MARCH 2025 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear WAUC Members,

**I LOVE BEING A MEMBER OF
WAUC!! I hope you do!!**

In the March newsletter I had this published, *"I am doing a quick survey in this newsletter! If you read this newsletter, PLEASE send me an email! Ddsjr33@wi.rr.com."* The response was underwhelming! What does that mean to you?

We are working on an email that you can send questions to, send emails that you want checked, any other questions you might have and more. Be looking for that in May or June. Hoping you will be attending the May Picnic! Hope to see you all there! Let's all have a great time!!

Thanks for being a member of this club!!

Don Skarda



Aging gets better the more you forget.

Robert J. Banerian, CPCU, ARM

Personal and Commercial Insurance

Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter

Banerian & Associates, Inc.

8626B W. Greenfield Ave. #A-300

West Allis, WI 53214

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414-259-1396

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MARCH 2025 TUTORIAL SIG

Those attending were Jim Hempel, John Schwarzmeier, J.J. Johnson, Mark Nies, Julia Rice, Terry Harvey, Kathy Schnagl, Betty Robinson, Jan Mlagan, Bill James, Louise Bozek, Richard Durand, Brian Behling, and Kathy Mueller.

Julia has been contacted on Facebook, by a man who thinks she's "interesting". She Googled his name and found that he does indeed exist. She asks the group if we think it could be a scam.

Ummmm. First off, just because she was able to locate a name and picture, it doesn't mean he was "real".

Flattery will get you everywhere.

We had a good amount of fun with this, and Julia is always such a good sport. But getting serious we warned to be wary of excessive flattery, quick advances, requests for sensitive information, requests for gift



cards or money, lack of verifiable details or a willingness to video chat. Look at the other person's Facebook account to see if it's a new account. Check to see how many friends they have, if they have recent posts and photos. If it's a

rather new account with few friends that would be a red flag. If they refuse to video chat it could mean they're trying to hide who they really are or their age. Scammers try to create a sense of urgency to pressure you into making a quick decision. They may claim they have something of worth but are unable to access it due to a circumstance. Do just as Julia did and share your concerns with a friend, family member, or trusted authority. Under no circumstance send gift cards or money or click on any link they provide. Be vigilant! Julia is the poster woman who did everything right.

Jim showed us a most informative YouTube video, "How to Change Your Roku



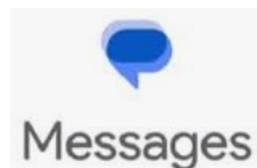
Privacy Settings Right Now." This is particularly important if you have a Roku smart television. But anyone with a Roku or Firestick need to check their privacy settings. + When you get to the ADVERTISING and AD TRACKING settings, be sure they are turned OFF. If your device has the option to FACTORY RESET TO REMOVE AD TRACKING PREFERENCES select it as this will act like clearing your cache. In the video they recom-

mend doing this every few months to keep your device responding quickly. Unless you change channels using voice on your remote, OPT OUT of any microphone settings. Remember...everything is connected!

SPAM® The conversation moved on to spam phone calls and spam text messages.

Everyone is touched by this in one way or another. In an effort to stop them there are a few options you can utilize built-in call blocking features on your phone. Open the Phone app, select the numbers you want to block, tap the three dots and elect BLOCK or BLOCK/REPORT SPAM. In addition, open the MESSAGES APP tap and hold the conversation with the spammer, and select BLOCK/REPORT SPAM.

There is also spam protection in Google Messages. OPEN Google Messages. TAP your PROFILE ICON, then select MESSAGES SETTINGS. Scroll down to SPAM PROTECTION and turn on ENABLE SPAM PROTECTION.



hiya Brian uses Hiya app. He hadn't received any spam calls on this day. Other third-party apps are Trucaller or Robokiller for additional blocking features.

Spectrum Mobile offers a feature called "Call Guard" to help block unwanted calls, including robocalls and spam calls. If you have Spectrum Mobile and are bothered by intrusive calls and texts, contact Spectrum Mobile to enable Call Guard.

Terry recently read an article by Ron Brown which directed that Wi-Fi calling should be OFF. It was my recollection when we discussed this in the past that Wi-Fi calling should be ON. It's really a personal preference depending on your needs and circumstances. If you frequently experience poor cell reception but have access to a stable Wi-Fi network, keeping it on is beneficial. However, if you have a strong cell signal, turning it off can save battery life. Some members



change the setting as their needs change. Most of us leave it ON.

Jim had another short video for us, this one by Ron Brown on the Amazon Fire Omni Series TV. He demonstrated how it's connected to his Ring doorbell, how he uses it for Zoom and picture-in-picture. What makes it so novel is it's Alexa driven.



Bill talks on a Tech for Senior video, TFS 99A, about "Edge Browser Secrets." In the video, he discusses how to use Collections, how to save your Edge tabs in Collections, how to pin websites to the

taskbar, instructions on how to import settings and tabs from Google Chrome, and how to change the font size in Immersive Reader. This video may be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apM4XymWUOQ>

If you're interested in saving good food from going to waste? Jim demonstrated an app called, Too Good to Go. This cool app is the world's largest marketplace for surplus food. They help users rescue good food from going to waste, offering great value for money at local establishments. This app makes it easy to make a positive impact on the planet while saving money on your favorite foods. Who knew? Your favorite restaurant may be on the list. Download the app from the Google Play Store or the Apple Store.



If you are shopping for a different cell provider you may want to consider Mint Mobile. For new customers, they have

plans as low as \$15 per month (5GB plan). They also offer \$20 (15 GB), \$25 (20GB), and \$30 per month for an unlimited plan. The reviews are generally very good however as when making any purchase, it may pay to investigate a little.

An eSIM, an embedded SIM, is a digital SIM card built into a device, eliminating the need for a physical SIM card, allowing you to switch between mobile plans or carriers easily without physical card swapping.



MARCH 2025 QUESTION & ANSWER SIG

Those present included Don Skarda, Jim Hempel, Louise Bozek, Jan Mlagan, Betty Robinson, Margaret Cortez, J.J. Johnson, Marcia Zientek, Terry Harvey, Bill Vlach, Bill James, Richard Durand, Julia Rice, Brian Behling, and John Schwarzmeier.

Marcia uses Blogspot, formerly known as Blogger, a free app owned by Google, which allows you to post, edit, save, and view your blog posts. She's very proficient at using this app as she's been using it for years. However, suddenly the area used to record the content, is too narrow. She thought possibly she could just grab the corner of the text box to enlarge it however, no luck. She Googled the problem and found various solutions that temporarily worked but as soon as she left the settings screen the text box went back to very narrow. Very frustrating! Marcia directed us to the settings menu, shared her screen on Zoom, and we changed the size of the box. We realized, in small text at the very bottom of the screen, was a SAVE box. Once she clicked on that she was able to save her changes.



CNET recently published an article regarding Amazon's changes to Alexa's commands and readers aren't impressed. Amazon is

touting a new improved, smarter Alexa, called Alexa Plus. It's designed to tackle more complex commands. It comes at the price of your privacy. No longer will Echo smart speaker or Echo Show display users be able to block Amazon from saving their commands; they will automatically be recorded, processed and analyzed and sent to Amazon's cloud. After March 28, 2025, Amazon will disable your privacy settings and can hear, and keep, everything you say. Does that mean real humans will be listening? Possibly. In 2019 Amazon was found to have ordered employees to listen and mark recordings. Not good. Additionally, as you may have already concluded, there will be additional fees coming up. This all is mainly regarding Alexa Plus (AI). We look forward to seeing how this plays out.



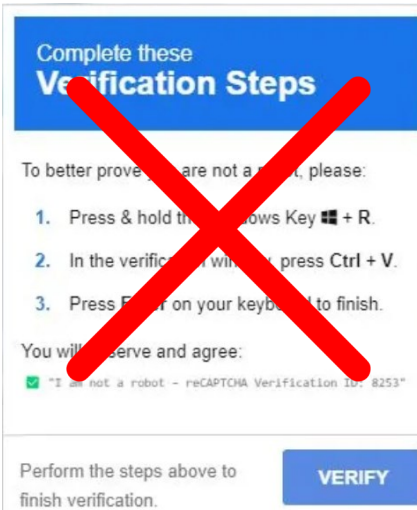
Julia asked if these new policies will have any effect on the video recordings she may take using the camera on her Kindle Fire tablet. Good question, Julia. We're going to have to wait and see on this.

Louise B asked if anyone had a recommen-



dation for a sound bar for their television. She's had a bar ordered but it has been a very long time and she's not heard anything. Bill J recommends a Bose. Jim and Louise D both have ZVOX bars and would recommend them.

Beware of fake CAPTCHAs. A CAPTCHA (Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart) is a challenge-response test used in computing to determine whether a user is human or a bot, designed to prevent automated spam and other malicious activities. Now, we need to be mindful of fake CAPTCHAs. They are most likely on websites that promises the user some wanted content such as movies, music, news, etc. After the CAPTCHA another box will appear asking you to complete additional verification steps. The box pictured, is the box that pops up.



The instructions direct you to prove you aren't a robot buy holding the Windows key + R (which opens the Run dialog box), then Ctrl + V (this pastes), then VERIFY. This may all appear harmless enough, however if you complete these steps you will actually be infecting yourself with

malware designed to steal sensitive information. The best way to avoid this problem is to stop and think about this warning before you continue on and make sure your browser is always updated, have an active anti-malware app such as Malwarebytes (which is free), use a browser extension that blocks malicious domains and scams such as Malwarebytes Browser Guard, Microsoft Defender Browser Protection, or Guardio, which will scan for threats and prevent ac-

cess to harmful sites. Disable JavaScript in your browser before visiting unknow websites. When in doubt...don't click.

We watched a video telling of the differences between Windows 10 and Windows 11. Here are some of the redesigns in Windows 11:

The Start Menu and taskbar are centered at the bottom of the screen. There's a new widget system for quick access to information.



There's enhanced multitasking with Snap layouts and improved virtual desktops, along with features like Android app support and Microsoft Teams integration. The Snap layouts make for easier window arrangement and multitasking. Android apps may be downloaded from the Microsoft Store.

Gaming performance has been improved with features like Auto HDR and DirectStorage.

Security features have been enhanced, including improved malware protection and hardware requirements like TPM 2.0.

Performance has been improved due to better memory management, better efficiency for background tasks, and faster waking from sleep mode.

Richard asked if there have been any compatible issues with older programs in Windows 11. Brian states, if it worked in Windows 10, it will work in Windows 11.

Terry L Harvey

WHAT IS A KEYLOGGER?

A keylogger is a type of spyware that can record and steal your keystrokes with the aim of getting passwords and other sensitive information. You can use security software like Malewarebytes to find and remove keyloggers on your device.

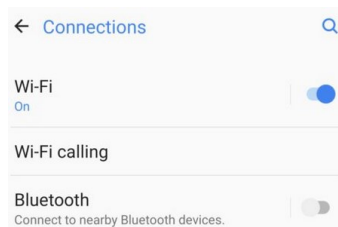
MARCH 2025 SMARTPHONE SIG

Those present included Don Skarda, Terry Harvey, Mark Nies, Louise Bozek, J.J. Johnson, Richard Durand, Don Gardner, Margaret Cortez, Bill James, James Schwarzmeier, Jan Mlagan, Louise Dahms, Julia Rice, and Brian Behling.

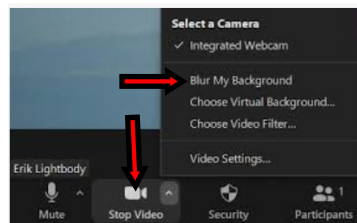
The first question of the meeting was, “How to stay safe online when traveling and staying in a hotel?” What’s commonly recommended is to use a VPN, ensure your devices and software are updated with the latest security patches, and avoid public Wi-Fi. The more you travel and use public Wi-Fi connections, the more risks you face. Make sure your information, contacts, photos, videos, and other data are all backed up to either another device or the cloud. While no one attending ever had any issues with using hotel Wi-Fi, the easiest way to stay safe online would be to use your smartphone to create a mobile hotspot. To create a mobile hotspot on your Samsung phone, go to **SETTINGS, CONNECTIONS, MOBILE HOTSPOT AND TETHERING, MOBILE HOTSPOT** and toggle it **ON**. You can then configure the hotspot settings like the network name, password, and security.



Wi-Fi calling should be **ON** if you frequently find yourself in areas with poor cellular reception but have access to a stable Wi-Fi network. It’s also beneficial for making calls without using your cellular data, particularly if you have limited minutes or are trying to avoid roaming charges while traveling. An advantage of leaving Wi-Fi **ON** is it extends the battery life of your phone: When your cell phone is constantly on the hunt for cell service, your battery goes to waste, especially when roaming is enabled. Wi-Fi calling has the potential to extend your phone’s battery life because it’s not draining itself searching for cell connections. A disadvantage is that those unaccustomed to the feature may run the risk of incurring data usage fees inadvertently. If you wander out of reach of your Wi-Fi connection, for



instance, your phone may automatically switch to your data plan without your knowledge.

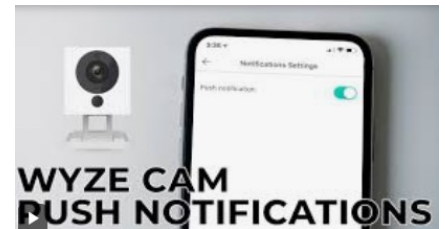


Louise D would like to know how to blur her background while in Zoom. In the lower left corner of your screen, put your cursor on **VIDEO**. There

will be a list of various settings, look for the **VIRTUAL BACKGROUND**, and select **BLUR**.

Don took us to a CNET article discussing the Amazon Spring Sale, which is going on now and all this week. The article highlighted a number of the great bargains available now. We were very impressed to see the Fire Tablet 7 on sale for \$45! Mark said that price motivated him earlier today to update both his and his wife’s tablets to this generation.

While perusing the bargains, we came across a sale on Wyze cameras. I said I had 2 Wyze cam-



eras and I wanted them to see what critters walked thru the backyard. However, the notifications went off any time the leaves blew. Bill replied that I should go into my settings and set them to the least sensitive setting. I’ve already done that but still found the frequent notifications to be bothersome. Bill agreed, and said he too turned his notifications off. We did see great bargains though on smartwatches, various types of cameras, dashcams, SSDs, laser printers, Kindles, numerous types of tablets, and many types of laptops. Very good buys.



Malwarebytes Next up was an article from Malwarebytes Labs on security and travel. While more than half the people vacationing are concerned with being scammed as they travel, not all follow through. Online security often gets overlooked as vacationers get wrapped up in flight numbers, connection gates, hotel reservations, rental car confirmation numbers and attraction

hours. It is strongly recommended that your operating system and all apps are all up-to-date. Backup your data before leaving home. Use caution when using Google searches as a site may not be what you think it is. Malvertising is short for “malicious advertising” and these sites are common in vacation planning. Beware of QR codes that aren’t for large companies you recognize. Check up close to the QR to make sure a fake QR code has been pasted over the original. Stay safe by booking directly with the airline, hotel chain, and known car rentals or use a travel agent. Don’t buy attraction tickets unless you’re certain of where you’re purchasing them.

Malvertising



We watched a video by Jeff Rossen, of Rossen Reports, regarding the performance of a brand-new Samsung S24 Ultra versus a refurbished Samsung S24 Ultra smartphone dropped into water.

In this video Jeff shows both phones dropped into a toilet and a swimming pool. After each test he towed off the phones and turned them on. Though they both fared well, the refurbished phone cost \$480 less. In addition, after 30 hours on, the battery level of the new phone was at 5%, the refurbished phone was 7%. Jeff declared the refurbished phone the winner!

With so much in the news lately regarding AI (Artificial Intelligence), Jim had selected a timely video on deep fake videos and how to know what is real. TODAY’s AI Roker recently received an email message with a link to a video of himself endorsing a solution to high blood pressure. His friend asked in the message if AI R. had really had a couple of heart attacks and if he was promoting this solution. All fake. It was AI R’s image and AI R’s voice, but none of it was really AI R. It was all Artificial Intelligence and a scammer’s attempt to sell weight loss gummies and diet pills. Other celebrities have also experienced imposter scams and in 2024 the Federal Trade Com-



mission declared people lost more than \$2.9 billion that year through this type of scam. But there are some tips to help consumers stave off scammers. It’s recommended you SLOW DOWN. Watch the video closely to see if anything seems weird, like the lip sync. Read reviews of the product and the company selling the item. See what other consumers have to say. Be very careful when clicking on any social media ads. Meta (formerly Facebook) tries to catch these fakes but isn’t foolproof. Seeing is not believing!

Another short video we watched was, “Top 5 AI Tools in 2025 – Increase Your Productivity!”. The tools recommended



were, Hume AI is a voice generator, Quadratic AI is an advanced spreadsheet platform, Guidde (this is the correct spelling) a video maker, Canva Photo Editing, and Microsoft Copilot and PowerPoint for generating presentations. Julia commented she may still find a personal use for AI!

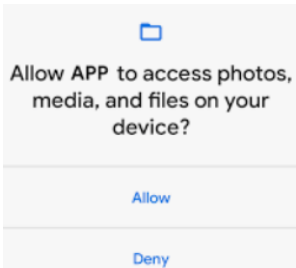
HOW TO UNINSTALL & DELETE ANDROID APPS

In the past, we learned to uninstall an app on our smartphone we just needed to long-press the app icon and to tap UNINSTALL. Another way is to pull down from the top of your screen, tap on the SETTINGS icon, scroll down to APPS & NOTIFICATIONS, SELECT THE APP YOU WANT TO UNINSTALL, tap UNINSTALL. In the past, our understanding was that all bits of the app would be removed. However, Jim Hempel recently read an article by Kim Komando, stating that doesn’t stop the app developer from accessing your data.

We have learned in the past that removing the Temu app doesn’t stop the Chinese-owned company from spying on you. This article states, “If you signed into an app using your Google, Apple or Facebook account, that connect is probably still live. That means the app is free to keep pulling data like your name, email, contacts and calendar.”



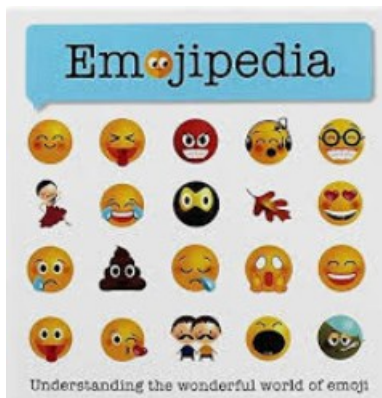
Here is a link to that article: <https://www.komando.com/tips/software-and-apps/tech-how-to-delete-apps-the-right-way/> If you sign into an app using any of the above mentioned ways, be advised it would behoove you to head to the article and follow the instructions on how to totally remove the app.



The question was asked, "When installing an app, if you refuse access to your microphone, contacts, and photos, will they still let you install the app?" The answer is yes, in most cases. However, the app may not be able to utilize cer-

tain functions that require them, but the core functionality of the app itself should remain operational.

Emojipedia.org is Home of Emoji Meanings. Here you are able to see the entire list of the Smiley Emoji List, the Apple emojis, the Emojipedia of every emoji that exists and their meanings, the Symbols Emoji Meanings, and the Most Popular. Who knew?



The Emojipedia is also available as an app in the Google Play Store.

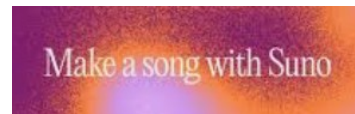


Even though Jim wasn't with us physically tonight, we all know how he loves to throw a little humor into each SIG. Tonight,

he included for us, a little video on Waymo cars (self-driving) honking at each other throughout the night in San Francisco. In the video it shows the parking lot of the Waymo cars, at 4AM, honking at each other. Hilarious unless your apartment faces this parking lot. Watch for yourself: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvsOK1LG1ac>

Jim also had a Facebook Reels, Walter Matthau "toilet joke" for us, told on December 10th, 1981, on the Johnny Carson Show. If you're into toilet jokes, head

to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpDu_FzZsYl



J.J. recommended a site Don G was familiar with called

Suno.com. It is an AI song writing site. You enter basic information you would like included in your song and AI writes it. While we were out of time, it looked like a very fun site to play with.

One last comment from Don S was, Make sure to sign up to bring something for WAUC's Annual Picnic in place of the May General Meeting.

Terry L Harvey

MARCH 2025

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Those in attendance were Don Skarda, Tom Martini, Jim Hempel, Terry Harvey, and Jan Mlagan.

I learned that the Brass Key was going to be closed for renovations, and the April lunch would need to either be rescheduled or a different venue found for the month. This will be addressed at the next lunch and the results will be in the newsletter.

We will be having a special presentation at our next 5th Thursday meeting which will be held on May 29th. We will have a person from the WI Division of Trade and Consumer Protection presenting. This will be open to the public and it will begin promptly at 7:00. The specific topic was not available at the time of our meeting.

We are looking for the sign-up sheet for the WAUC picnic. Terry sent Richard Durand message to find out if he has it. The Picnic begins at 7:00 on May 1st. It would be best if people with food donations come by 6:30 so the buffet table can be properly organized.

The group was unsure if a donation check was given to the church for 2025. Don is going to check with Bob Banerian.

While going through the calendar, we realized that there is a general meeting scheduled on the

3rd of July. Because of it being so close to the July 4th, Terry contacted Francis Chao, the presenter that night, and changed the date to July 10th.

The Investment Club will discuss a possible change of location because the Wauwatosa Library closes at 8:00. They are considering changing to Jackson Park Lutheran Church because it allows for longer hours and better transportation connections for the meeting.

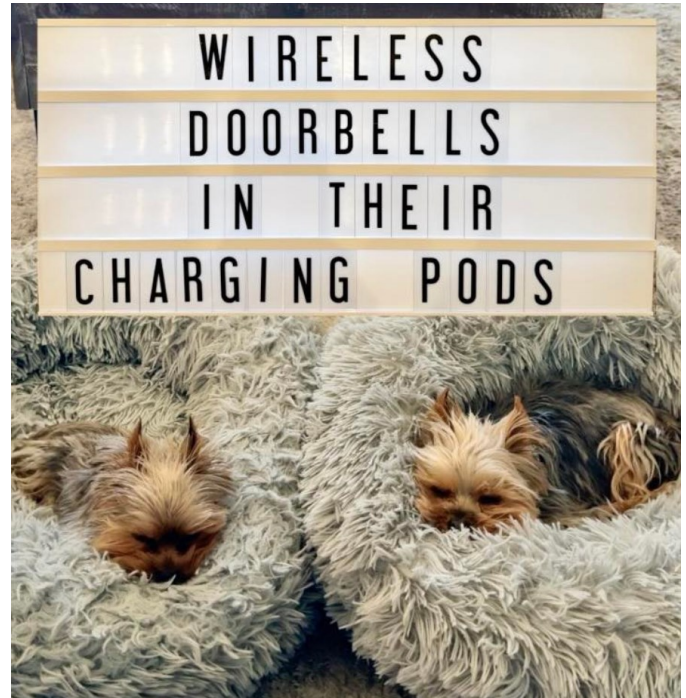
Pat Philips is a possible new member if she can get connections at her apartment. Brian Behling is going to help her get set up at Manor Park. She said that she would spread the news about WAUC to those she knows.

Tom is going to see if he can hold a ZOOM meeting from his new facility in Green Bay to drum up interest in the club.

He will also print up new trifold and send them to the WAUC General Mailbox because members have been asking for them to distribute around town.

The Leadership Committee decided that for the remainder of the year, we will be holding this meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30.

Jan Mlagan



**I'm terrified of elevators
and I'm taking steps to
avoid them.**

USB CABLES AND THEIR USES

USB cables come in various types, each serving specific purposes. USB-A is the standard connector found on most devices, while USB-B is commonly used for printers and external hard drives. Micro-USB is prevalent in older Android smartphones, and Mini-USB is found in older cameras and gaming controllers. USB-C, known for its reversible design, is now becoming standard for many devices, including smartphones, laptops, and tablets. Thunderbolt and Lightning cables are exclusive to Apple devices, providing fast data transfer and charging capabilities.



Ethernet



HDMI



Micro USB



Mini USB



USB Type A



USB Type B



USB Type C



USB 3.0

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, 2025.

WAUC
% Bob Banerian
P.O. Box 340883
Milwaukee, WI 53234-0883

First Class

It's
Picnic
Time

Your membership makes a difference