

WAUCTALK

Wisconsin All-computer Users Club

<https://wauc.apcug.org>

Main@WAUC.Groups.io



VOLUME 43 Issue #5

MAY 2025



Jackson Park Lutheran Church

4535 W. Oklahoma Avenue

Milwaukee, WI

May 29th

June 5th

June 12th

June 19th

June 24th

June 25th

June 26th

Community Event: ID Theft

General Meeting

Drone Presentation 6-8PM

Waukesha Sheriff's Dept.

Q & A SIG

WAUC Lunch*

Investment SIG**

Smartphone SIG

ALL SIGS ARE HELD ON ZOOM

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

*Brass Key

4952 W. Forest Home Ave

Milwaukee, WI

**Wauwatosa Library

7635 W. North Avenue

Wauwatosa, WI

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

May 29th—Community Event

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 – SCAM-
MERS AND OTHER INVASIVE
SPECIES

November – Hewie Poplock – SD
CARDS

December—Christmas Party

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

banerianassoc@milwpc.com

414-259-1396

Fax: 414-259-1398

MAY 2025 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear WAUC Members,



I LOVE going to the monthly general meeting! I get to interact with members face to face. We have some great conversations and help each other solve issues. I hope that you also like to meet in person at the general meetings!

I do like the SIGs each week also where I hope we all learn what we do not know and did not know to even ask about! I hope we are answering questions that help you learn also! I know I always learn new stuff.

Please feel free to email Jim Hempel, Terry Harvey or myself about ANY questions you have and we will try to get the correct answers for you!

Please talk to us about what you like and dislike about any of our meetings! We need to know what, YOU, our members want from us and how we can help you!

Our club is built on the Mission of "Members helping Members!"

Thank YOU for being a member of this club!! We appreciate you!!

Don Skarda

YOUR President, Wisconsin All-computer Users Club (WAUC)



APRIL 2025 TUTORIAL SIG

Those attending were Jim Hempel, Julia Rice, Louise Bozek, Margaret Cortez, Betty Robinson, J.J. Johnson, Karen Fenny, Jan Mlagan, Brian Behling, and John Schwarzmeier.



We opened the meeting with a comment from Karen. She didn't receive this meeting notification. After more questioning, she said she is missing other messages from the WAUC Groups.io system. Jim opened the Groups Member list and we shared it on Zoom. I explained what it contains and how it works to send out meeting notifications two days before the meeting, then again two hours before and finally at meeting time. We went through the member list and could not find Karen on it. J.J. and Jim got her added to the list and sent a Groups invitation to her. Jim told her to accept the invite and she would be added to the list. She did see the Accept request and did that. After the meeting ended, I checked the member list. She was on it and she will now be getting future notifications. If you're not getting notifications, be sure to contact Don Skarda.

For those using ATT, we went over their change in policy for discounts and AutoPay. They have been giving a discount to their customers who autopay with a credit card. They will no longer offer this but increased the discount if you sign up for direct pay from your bank account.



For this tutorial, Jim selected a potpourri of AskLeo videos. AskLeo is a well-known tech contributor and has weekly newsletters, technical books and videos. The first video we watched compared the use of a SD to a USB to a solid-state drive as your backup data.

This video was broken up into chapters for each option and then the pros and cons were described for each. It began with a statement on warranty. Some of these devices may offer a lifetime warranty. But that is just for the hardware, NOT the data you have stored on them. AskLeo has often-repeated the message - be sure you have some type of backup - any backup is better than none.

This includes the SD card which are the most suscep-

tible to errors and should be the last choice. A USB or thumb drive would be a step up. Of these options, the solid-state drive is the best option. It has another advantage and that is high speed. But for a backup, do you really need all that speed? He suggested considering



using an external hard drive, the mechanical type. This should provide good data protection and save some money. You should consider going a step further and using a cloud storage backup. JJ mentioned that a no cost app should be considered - FreeFileSync. FreeFileSync is a folder comparison and synchronization software that creates and manages backup copies of all your important files. You can watch the full five-minute AskLeo video here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ExvtSeyHLO>



We then talked about the use on One Drive which is a MS offering and can provide excellent backup storage for all your data. Depending on how much storage space you need, there may be a charge for this.

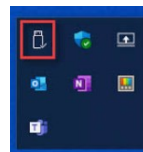
While we were on the subject of storage devices, we discussed another AskLeo video about Quick Removal. Removing or unplugging an external drive or USB stick while your computer is turned on can be risky. If anything is being written to it at the same time you unplug it, you risk corrupting the data stored on the drive.



Windows 10 Quick Removal

Unfortunately, this is directly at odds with a speed optimization that can make it look like your com-

puter has completed writing data to the drive when it has not. Windows 10 changed the default setting for many removable devices to "Quick removal," which disables write caching. This makes it safer to unplug USB drives without using the Safely Remove Hardware dialog. Write caching is a speed optimization designed to make your computer more efficient. While removing a drive mid-write can still cause data loss, the risk of thinking the data has been saved when it hasn't is lower.



After watching this video about Quick Removal of storage devices, there was more discussion with Brian and JJ. We came to the conclusion that it so easy to click in the bottom right corner of your computer screen. There you will see the various devices plugged in and can click on the one you want to remove safely thus avoiding any potential data loss. You can watch the entire video here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2DBHh6VPGo> .



Scams and more scams, it seems there is a new one all the time. Our next video discussed FaceBook. If and when you received a message saying that you need to reset your FB password, what do you do? Why did you get this message?



These confirmation messages with a link or code are sent to prevent others from changing your password. There are really multiple reasons this message may appear, some legitimate, some scams. Someone may have a similar email address and miss type it thereby mistakenly entering yours. It may also be an intentional login attempt, a hacking attempt or another scam.

Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)

Don't be overconcerned about getting this type of message. Why not? Because it is so important for you to have set up a two-factor authentication (2FA) beforehand. Make sure you do this. For complete details on this and additional possibilities and action plans, watch the entire video here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Eozix-48d0>

When I use my laptop, or especially my chrome book, I find I have difficulty hitting the right keys on the keyboard. Not only are these keyboards smaller than the keyboard I use on my desktop , they have some keys located in different places or even missing entirely. That leads us to the next topic of adding an external keyboard to one of these devices. It is absolutely possible to use a desktop style keyboard with your laptop, or even the ergonomic one you have been using!



Most modern laptops are designed to

allow you to plug the larger keyboard into a USB port on the laptop. Windows will automatically recognize it and disable the laptop keyboard. It's even possible to have two keyboards connected to it. Why? Maybe the laptop keyboard has keys for controlling the volume or more function keys, as examples. The touchpad can also be replaced by a mouse. In most cases, just connecting a mouse will disable the touchpad. In some, you



may have to go into Setting to disable it. Watch the entire video here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IlyCrAGazgk>

The last item we discussed before having some fun with trivia, was the Secure Delete. Deleting a file doesn't necessarily mean it's gone; it's just marked for overwriting.

SECURE DELETE

Secure Delete ensures data is unrecoverable by overwriting it with random data. For sensitive cases, Extended Secure Delete uses multiple passes to erase data completely. Tools like Secure Delete have options for securely deleting files or wiping free space.

Just knowing about this could be an advantage if you delete something by mistake. If you stop saving new material, the deleted material won't be overwritten yet and could be recovered. You can also check the Trash or Recycle bin.



A basic secure delete renders the data unrecoverable to most PC users by writing over the free space created by your delete. AskLeo went on to discuss the Extended Multiple Pass Secure Delete which really cleans things out. Now all of this only applies to the hard drives, the magnetic hard drive with spinning discs. These techniques are not needed with SSD and may in fact be harmful. To watch the entire process, check it out here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BR308Rg6T9w>



Jim Hempel



APRIL 2025 Q & A SIG

Those attending were Jim Hempel, J.J. Johnson, Julia Rice, Sue Holcomb, John Schwarzmeier, Kathy Mueller, Karen Fenney, Richard Durand, Don Skarda, Terry Harvey, Louise Bozek, and Brian Behling.

Richard just bought a new 16" laptop. It's a Wozifan (brand), has 16 GB RAM, an Intel Celeron processor, and a backlit keyboard. He purchased it on Amazon and it was priced under \$300. No other information is available. Richard will let us know how he likes it.



HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS Karen is thinking about purchasing a new laptop and asked what it should include. Brian recommends an Intel i7 or equivalent AMD processor, 16 GB RAM, an SSD hard drive, 14th Generation, Windows 11, resolution of at least 1920x1080, at least 6s hours of battery life, and at least a few USB ports and an HDMI port. If you travel or regularly carry it around, consider how much it weights and its overall size. Read the reviews of the particular model you're considering for additional information. To find information on the latest generation chip processors specifications, benchmarks, features, reviews and pricing, check out <http://www.intel.com>. Brian suggests the higher the generation, the better the chip performance. Generation 14 is recently out, he advises anything past 10th Generation

When Karen heads to her cabin up north, she uses an HDMI cable to connect her television to her laptop. Then she is able to stream Spectrum cable. Brian suggests she use a Roku stick on her television so she is able to use the Spectrum app directly on her television without having to connect to her laptop. The Roku Express HD Streaming Device with High-Speed HDMI Cable sells for \$19 at Walmart. He also advises to get the cheapest Roku device as they all function the same. The Roku devices are very simple install and there are so many additional channels available as a bonus.



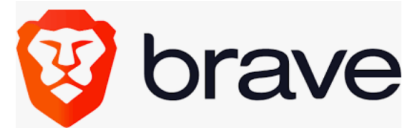
Louise has an older Samsung phone and recently is having problems with it responding to letters she taps. She has cleaned the screen and rebooted the



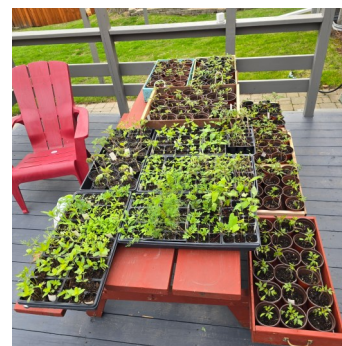
phone but the problem persists. No one has had the issue but Jim suggests she try changing the sensitivity. Go to SETTINGS, DISPLAY, TOUCH SENSITIVITY, and make the adjustment.

Kathy likes to use the Brave Browser on her phone. The Brave Browser offers several advantages, primarily focusing on enhanced privacy, speed, and efficiency compared to other browsers like Chrome. It blocks ads and trackers by default, resulting in faster page load times, reduced data usage, and improved battery life. Brave also provides built-in privacy features like Tor integration for private browsing and fingerprint randomization. Simply put, the Brave Browser is 3x faster on Android than Chrome, which also saves battery life. Kathy would like to keep a specific photo on her background but it keeps changing. She should navigate to SETTINGS, NEW TAB PAGE, either use a default Brave

background or choose USE YOUR OWN to own a custom image from your device. If you want to avoid sponsored images on your new tab, you can also disable the SHOW SPONSORED IMAGES option within the New Tab Page settings. Since that didn't work for Kathy, we also watched a very brief video called, "How to Change Background on Brave – Tutorial." That didn't work either. Kathy was advised to post the query on Brave's Community page at: <https://community.brave.com/c/support-and-troubleshooting/48>. In subsequent conversation with Kathy, she has been checking with Brave support and it is not customizable at this time.



For a quick break from technology, Jim showed us a few pictures of his seedlings. He has been busy!



He takes all the trays outside when the weather is nice and drags them all back in when the weather changes. His next project is to move all these seedlings from their plugs into 4."

Styrofoam cups. He's quite the gardener. He will be selling his plants later in May with all proceeds going to the Wilson Senior Center Garden Club.

He also shared with us the May 3rd Electronic Recycling Event.

If you have an event, sale, or



something else you think other WAUC members may be interested in, please email it to MAIN@WAUC.GROUPS.IO. The message will go out to all WAUC members.



Don sent an article from Kim Komando, regarding the removal of personal information from Google. In the article a writer asks

for Kim's help in removing her son's name, address, and phone number from Google. Her son is receiving harassing texts and vandalism at his home. They would like to remove all their personal information from the internet.

The first thing you need to do is to Google your full name, phone number, and home address, each in quotation marks, example: "My name" "My phone number" "My address". Take a screenshot of information that appears or write down the URL. You will need that. You can request to remove personally identifiable information from Google Search results. This information in-



cludes: Address, phone number, email address, Social Security number, Tax ID number, Resident Registration or Resident Identity Card number, bank account or credit card numbers, pictures of your handwritten signature, personal or restricted records (such as medical records), login credentials, and other types of personal information. Contact Google by searching for Google Remove Personal Information tool, https://myactivity.google.com/results-about-you?utm_source=google&utm_medium=owned&utm_campaign=removals_onebox&pli=1

Don sent an article called, "You Want to Learn About

Crypto?" but there wasn't any interest. If you would like the information, contact Don Skarda.

Jim wrote a cute song using Chat GPT. His prompt read: Create a little song using Hokey Pokey on tariffs. Very funny!

Don sent another article, this one on hackers who are using 2-factor authentication to infect us. We did discuss this recently, but beware, captchas (those little tests designed to distinguish between human users and computer bots on websites) are meant to protect us from spam, but now hackers are using these to turn the tables on us. If you are asked to use the Windows Run prompt or paste a captcha by using the CTRL

CAPTCHA and 2FA

key and the V key, don't do it! They're trying to paste a nasty little program onto your device.

Lastly, Jim took us to AskLeo.com, where Leo advises us not to trust valuable information or photos to the cloud. His words of wisdom are, "If it's in only one place, it's not backed up." His advice



is to protect your data in 3 various places to assure its

safety. Don't look to a cloud service to help you in the event of a catastrophic situation, particularly if the service is free. Backing up your important information is your responsibility. Download your information to an SD card, external hard drive, or USB stick (or all of the above) and keep it at a different location such as a friend or family member's residence. Do not depend on a cloud server as the only place to store a backup.

Terry L Harvey

**BEFORE CROWBARS
WERE INVENTED
CROWS HAD TO
DRINK AT HOME**



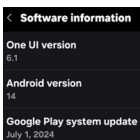
APRIL 2025 SMARTPHONE SIG

Those attending were Jim Hempel, Don Skarda, J.J. Johnson, Terry Harvey, Louise Dahms, Kathy Mueller, Jan Mlagan, Don Gardener, Louise Bozek, Julia Rice, Richard Durand, Margaret Cortez, and John Schwarzmeyer



I always enjoy a SIG meeting when there is a lot of member participation. This meeting got started with a bunch of questions and comments. The first one came from Kathy, who has a Samsung S25, if any of us got the latest Samsung update.

A few of the members checked their phones and compared the software version to hers. On most Android phones, you can easily find this information. Start by opening Settings, the gear symbol. Then scroll down the list to the very bottom and click on About Phone. There you can view such things as the Product Name, Model number, Phone number, Network and more. Scroll down and click on Software information which opens more details about your phone.



Kathy's phone displayed One UI version 7 and Android version 15. The other members that checked their Samsung phones, including mine, were on UI 6 or 6.1 and Android 14. This comparison showed that Kathy's phone had a recent update. Kathy expressed some concerns with the update including a different look to icons and a smaller size view of quick settings which she was unable to enlarge. Since no one else had the update, no suggestions fixed the issues. Perhaps a future fix?

Android 15 was released to Google Pixel devices on October 15, 2024. Samsung started rolling out One UI 7.0 (based on Android 15) to select Galaxy devices on April 7, 2025.



While some members had version 14, Louise B mentioned her phone is version 9 and asked what that meant. Some manufacturers, like Google, offer up to seven years of updates for certain phone models. Others, like Samsung, may offer four years of OS updates and five years of security patches. Since her cellphone was older, it will no longer be updated.

Jan mentioned she recently received something from ATT Support. It stated that she was required to do an update. It looked suspicious and she thought it was spam. A quick search of this got this response. "AT&T customers are being targeted by phishing scams that falsely claim they need to update their billing information or risk account suspension. These scams often involve fake emails or text messages directing users to insecure websites to enter personal and financial details."



AT&T

Along with this information, we were told to avoid interacting with suspicious emails or texts and to verify the source. Always go directly to your carrier's official website or app, in this case to ATT.net, to check your account and report it. For ATT, forward suspicious emails to abuse@att.net or report it to AT&T's fraud team.

Louise B is running low on memory on her cell phone. She doesn't think she will be using Spirit Airlines soon. She asked about deleting the app icon and she also questions if Spirit will keep her account open if the app is deleted. Deleting the app really gains no extra space. You should long press the icon and tap on Uninstall in the popup to delete the app from the phone. This will open some additional memory. Spirit will still have your account information and your sign in credentials so you won't need to create a new account with them.



How to free RAM on Android

Don S mentioned that to really get more open memory space, look at your photos and videos. They consume the most memory. Review them – you might find some that are blurry, out of date, or no longer needed. Delete them. Also look into your text messages. If you have photos there that were sent to you, they take memory. And if you download them to your phone, now you have double memory requirements. After you download the photo from your

text it will be saved with your other photos. Then, go to the text and delete the photo from that text.



My phone was showing up on the Zoom screen when I shared it, and I was asked how this happened. I was using an app in MS Win 10

and 11 called Phone Link. Phone Link is a feature in Windows that lets you connect your phone (Android or iPhone) to your PC, allowing you to access phone features like calls, texts, and apps from your computer.

It essentially creates a bridge between your phone and your PC, enabling seamless syncing of your phone's content and functionality. If you don't see Phone Link in your app/program list, you can go to the MS Store and download it for free. You'll need an Android (Android 7.0 or higher) or iPhone (iOS 14 or higher) and Windows 10 (May 2019 Update or later) or Windows 11. Those are pretty easy requirements to meet.



WINDOWS PHONE LINK You'll need to sign in to both the Link to Windows app on your phone and the Phone Link app on your PC with the same Microsoft account. During setup, you'll typically scan a QR code with your phone's camera (or you can choose manual pairing) to link the devices. A very detailed and easy to follow set of instructions can be found at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/sync-across-your-devices>

When you are using your computer and searching with a browser you may come across a website that you find very interesting and informative. In order to find your way back to it, it's a common practice to bookmark it or copy the link and save it.

The same is true for your phone. Sometimes doing that may involve other steps. But there is another way to save website URLs on your cell phone. Want to know how? So, we took a closer look at my phone over Zoom. To demonstrate this, I used WAUC as an example. Using the Chrome browser, I searched for WAUC



Groups. Results come up quickly and the desired site is usually right on top.

Click on it and you will go the WAUC Groups.io website. It will look something like this on your cellphone. Yours may be slightly different than mine and you may be directed to sign in.



 Next you want to tap the three dots in the upper right of your phone, and this popup will appear.

Scroll down the list to Add to Home Screen and tap it. Next, tap Create Shortcut and rename it to something you will remember, like WAUC Groups. After you have it named, click the Add button and go back to your Home screen where you find the icon looking like this one.

This will work with any website you want to save for future reference. I always use



Chrome for this. Other browsers may work but I haven't tested them. These are just icons that link to website and they take up a minimum amount of memory. As examples of other link icons, we looked at a few of the icons on my Home page including Bob Rankin's website about reverse phone number lookup.

Finally, we went to a website Terry suggested with a video titled "Is your Smartphone Spying on You?" This video, 9 minutes, was created by APCUG member Bob Gostischa who has previously addressed WAUC in General Meeting presentations.

From tracking your location to listening in on your conversations, your device could be collecting more data than you realize. In this video, we reveal the hidden ways your phone gathers information, and more importantly, how you can take back control of your privacy. Protect yourself and your personal data with these essential tips.

Watch the video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=333wjSVhZWk>

Jim Hempel

APRIL 2025 LEADERSHIP MINUTES

Those in attendance were Jim Hempel, Terry Harvey, Bob Banerian, Suzanne Holcomb, Don Skarda, and Jan Mlagan.

The club's picnic will be on May 1st, at 7:00, in the church hall. Suzanne said that all items on her list have already been purchased, except the hot dogs. Jim will be making Italian sausage. Don will bring assorted sodas, water, and ice. If you are bringing food, please be there early so the food table can be ready at 7:00.

During the picnic, we will be asking how many people will be attending the Waukesha County Sheriff's Drone presentation. The presentation will be held in lieu of the Tutorial SIG and will not be on ZOOM. Friends and family are invited to this presentation which will be held at the Waukesha Sheriff's Department, 515 W. Moreland Blvd., Door 8, on June 12th from 6:00-8:00. Deputies will demonstrate how drones are used in law enforcement.

We are holding a special event at the May 29th (5th Thursday) meeting, concerning Identity Theft. Don will bring copies of fliers for the event to the picnic so people can distribute them around town. This event will be open to the public, so spread the word.

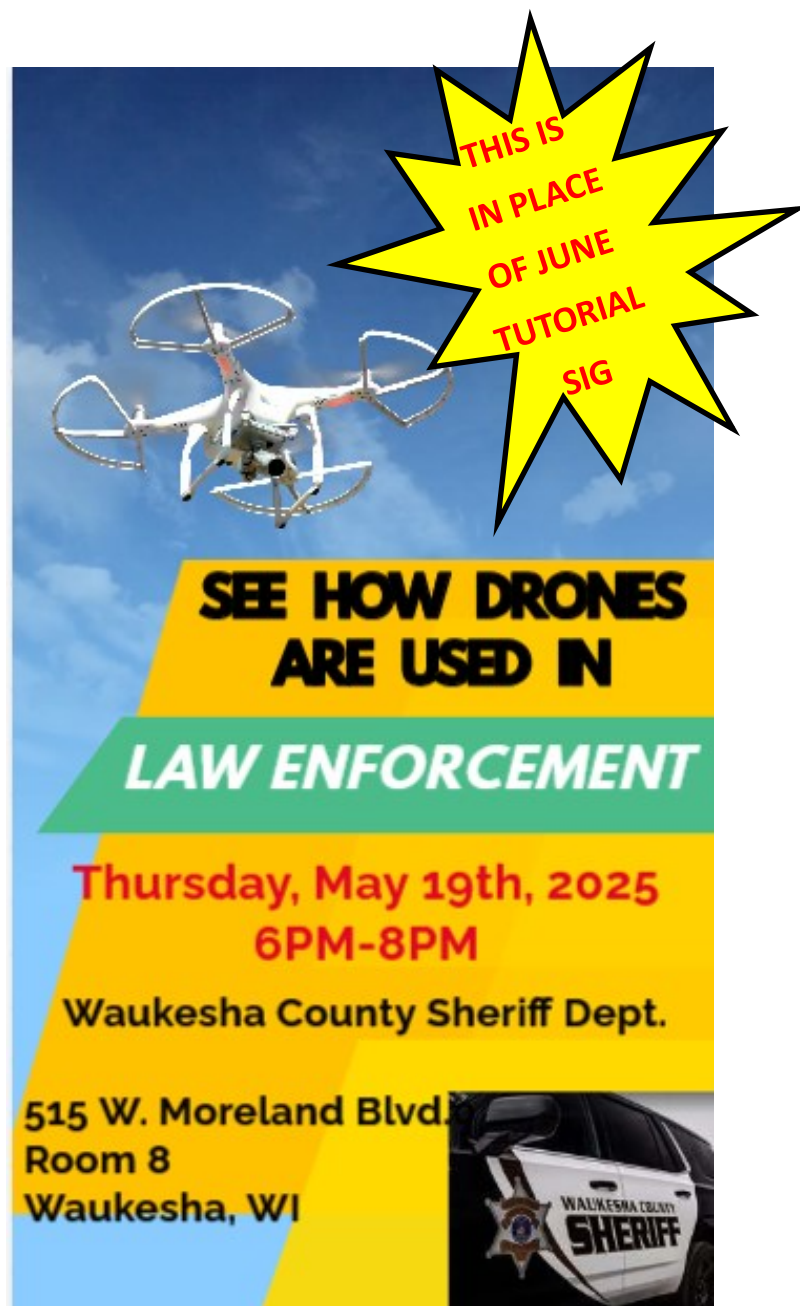
The club has not yet given a donation to the church this year. Don and Bob will write a letter and send a check for \$600 at the May Picnic.

Don contacted the Greenfield Library to set up possible dates for computer related help sessions. At this time, he has not yet heard back from them. He will follow up with them before our next meeting.

Tom questioned whether he needs to step down as VP of the club because he no longer attends meetings in person. It was agreed that he can still fulfill his obligations via ZOOM as he has been doing since moving up to Green Bay.

FYI, The May 27th Lunch will be back at the Brass Key.

Jan Mlagan



May 2025 WAUC Luncheon (the 4th Tuesday of every month)

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

Your membership makes a difference