

WAUCTALK

Wisconsin All-computer Users Club

<https://wauc.apcug.org>

Main@WAUC.Groups.io



VOLUME 43 Issue #10

OCTOBER 2025



Jackson Park Lutheran Church

4535 W. Oklahoma Avenue

October 30th

One-On-One Help

November 6th

General Meeting

November 13th

Q & A SIG

November 20th

Smartphone SIG

November 24th

Investment SIG** **6PM**

November 25th

WAUC Lunch*

ALL SIGS ARE HELD ON ZOOM

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

*Meyer's Restaurant

**Wauwatosa Library

4260 S. 76th Street

7635 W. North Avenue

Greenfield, WI

Wauwatosa, WI

OCTOBER 2025 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

UPCOMING

PRESENTATIONS

November – Hewie Poplock – SD CARDS

December—WAUC

Annual Christmas Party



Robert J. Banerian, CPCU, ARM
Personal and Commercial Insurance
Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter

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West Allis, WI 53214 Fax: 414-259-1398

Dear WAUC Members,

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

We are a great club! **We are a team** and we share information and help each other.

What else do you want from our club? Are we all you want us to be?

What can we do different? Are we fun? Informational?

The Holiday party is coming up!! Be sure to sign up and come to this exciting event! Bring a prospective member! Enjoy the rest of the year!

Please come to the one – on – one event on Oct 30th! Bring a friend that needs help! Bring your questions and get help!

Be sure to visit our website and tell others!

<https://wauc.apcug.org/>

Don Skarda - **A PROUD member of WAUC!!!**

YOUR President, Wisconsin All-computer Users Club (WAUC) (I serve to help you)

Our club is built on the mission of "Members helping members!"

**When I was young,
I was poor.
But after years of
hard, honest and
painstaking work,
I'm no longer young.**



SEPTEMBER 2025 TUTORIAL SIG

Those attending included J.J. Johnson, Richard Durand, Louise Bozek, Betty Robinson, Julia Rice, Kathy Mueller, and Rita Bruce.

The meeting began with warm greetings, casual conversation, and updates about members who were absent. Birthdays were acknowledged, and personal anecdotes were shared, creating a friendly and supportive atmosphere. J.J. mentioned that his former club starts meetings with birthday announcements and jokes, reinforcing the value of humor and connection in group settings.

Technology questions and troubleshooting followed. One member had difficulty connecting a Bluetooth mouse to a Mac, and the group offered solutions such as checking Bluetooth settings, pairing devices properly, using dongles, and replacing batteries.

Troubleshooting

Phishing A discussion about phishing and spam alerts emphasized the importance of avoiding suspicious links, especially those pretending to be from Facebook or PayPal and containing personal information.

Members shared a wide range of recommended apps and tools for Windows and mobile devices. Brave Browser was praised for its privacy features, although few had used it



extensively. VLC Media Player was recognized for its ability to handle various media formats and being free.



ShareX is a screen capture tool and noted for its usefulness in capturing screenshots and recording screens. It has other useful tools such as screen recording to GIF or MP4 formats. Included are image editing tools to add annotations, blur sensitive content, or crop images.



WPS Office WPS Office and LibreOffice were discussed as free alternatives to Microsoft Office although professionals may require more intricate layouts or the many advanced features of Office. For most home offices, WPS Office and LibreOffice will more than suffice.



todoist Todoist, a popular cross-platform to-do list and task manager that helps people and teams



organize tasks, set deadlines and priorities, and collaborate on projects.



Google Calendar was highlighted for task management, with Google Calendar's integration

with smart home devices mentioned as particularly helpful. This app has automated reminders, easy event scheduling with built-in video conferencing and the ability to share calendars with others.

The Everything search tool was highly recommended for locating files on a PC. To use this app, open the app and type whatever it is you're searching for and the file appears.



Discord is a free communication app across Windows, macOS, Linux, Android, and iOS. It allows users to talk, play, and hang out together online via text, voice, and video calls. This app is popular among gamers.

The app called FreeLab has several different uses. It's a powerful mobile phone photo editor allowing the user to crop, edit colors, add effects, and remove backgrounds. There is another app called FreeLab which is an open-source software for working with sensors. Take note to use the correct FreeLab.



MyRadar MyRadar is used for weather forecasting and updates. It displays animated radar loops, proactively sends push notifications for when rain will arrive at your location and includes warnings for earthquakes and wildfires.



OneNote, Evernote, and Color Note are all note-keeping apps. They allow users to create notes with text, images, and audio.



MusicBee is a music library organizer and music player. Other functions include a digital jukebox, playlist management, audio playback controls, format conversion, CD burning, and will sync your music to other devices.



People use WhatsApp instead of texting around the world over Wi-Fi or data, group chats, voice and video calls, and file sharing in areas with poor cell service.

Use DuckDuckGo browser if you would like to block trackers from companies and protect your privacy. It's an alternative to Google Chrome, Firefox, Brave, Opera, and other browsers.



SHAREit

Share-it is a peer-to-peer file sharing, content streaming, and gaming platform that supports online and offline sharing of files.

Nano Banana is Google's image generating app. It's known for its ability to create and edit images from text prompts, as well as excelling at editing existing images. It will turn a single photo into countless new creations.

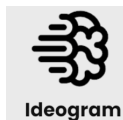


WEB BROWSERS

We explored the use of multiple

browsers including AVG, Firefox, Chrome, Brave, and DuckDuckGo, and discussed browser extensions for privacy and usability

Ideogram AI is used to colorize old photos, repair images, and generate short videos. Members shared their experiences using AI to restore family photos and create content quickly and creatively.



Throughout the meeting, the club's dynamic remained casual and interactive, with a strong emphasis on peer-to-peer tech help and resource sharing. Humor, curiosity, and adaptability were recurring themes, as members helped each other navigate new software and devices. J.J. emphasized that while search engines provide links, AI delivers answers.

WAUC

Members consistently expressed their concerns with privacy, free tools and apps, and valued the opportunity to learn together in a supportive environment.

This report is written in collaboration with J.J. Johnson, Richard Durand, AI, and Terry Harvey (who wasn't in attendance at the SIG)

SEPTEMBER 2025 Q & A SIG

Those attending were Jim Hempel, Don Skarda, J.J. Johnson, Jan Mlagan, Margaret Cortez, Karen Fenny, Louise Dahms, Kathy Mueller, Richard Durand, Terry Harvey, John Schwarzmeier, Bill Vlach, Rita Bruce, Bill James, and Brian Behling.



We started the meeting with a discussion of the library app, Hoopla.

Terry mentioned that her library has decided to not offer the service any longer. I found some public libraries are stopping their Hoopla subscription due to its unsustainable pay-per-use cost model, which becomes increasingly expensive as more patrons use it, leading to budget strain and higher costs for the library compared to other digital platforms like Libby. This unsustainable financial burden forces libraries to discontinue the service to better manage resources and provide other quality digital and physical materials to their communities. I mentioned that I can use this app through the library in Markesan WI. It is a small community library that I frequent.

Karen has tried different AI apps and asked about the differences.

We let AI tell the difference between ChatGPT, CoPilot and Gemini and got this response. The multiple responses would fill a book, but here is one of the shorter responses from AI about AI.

Artificial Intelligence

Choosing an AI assistant



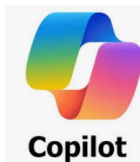
ChatGPT

For creative freedom:

ChatGPT is a good choice for creative writing, brainstorming, or a conversation-

al experience. It is the most flexible and not tied to a specific tech stack. It tends to put its response in bullet points unless you prompt it to do it differently.

For Microsoft integration: If you use the Microsoft 365 ecosystem (Word, Excel, Outlook, Teams), Copilot is the most productive option. It can securely access your organizational data to help with drafting documents, summarizing emails, and analyzing spreadsheets.





For complex research and Google-centric workflows: If you rely on Google services (Gmail, Docs,

Drive) and need an AI for deeper research, data visualization, or analyzing large amounts of information, Gemini is the best fit. Its advanced models and extensive context window are ideal for complex tasks.

J.J. mentioned he uses AI to adjust a recipe's ingredients list, say from 4 people to 30 people or from eight down to 2. He also said he is a fan of Perplexity and Claud.

Richard asked how to copy and paste. There are multiple ways to do this. One way uses only the mouse to select the text you want to copy, then right click the mouse, tap Copy. Then locate where you would it and right click and tap Paste. A second method uses a combination of the mouse and keyboard to select the text then simultaneously press both CNTL+C to copy. Then locate where you want it to go and press both CNTL+V to paste it.



Louise currently has an iPhone 11 and was given an iPhone 12. She wondered if it would be worth the trouble to move to the newer one. Both have the same amount of memory. We looked up a

battery comparison and learned the older 11 actually has a slighter larger battery (3100mAh) vs the newer ones 2815mAh. It went on to state the newer 12 has an improved processor, display screen and other components that make it more efficient and offers a longer operational time. There were other comments on their Apple devices from J.J. and Bill. I mentioned that my old phone, an S9, has a smaller battery but I have turned off for both cell service and Wi-Fi. It is no longer a phone but has all the other capabilities, like camera, games, word docs and other apps that don't need internet. It operates a very long time between charges.

Brian asked how often the battery needs charging and suggested Louise look into using Google Voice



which would operate off her Wi-Fi and may provide for a longer battery operation between charges. This could even be used on a phone with no service since it works only off Wi-Fi.

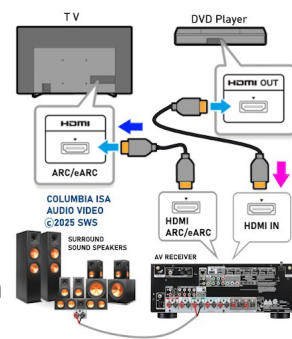
Google Voice is a VoIP phone service from Google that provides users with a free, dedicated U.S. phone number for making and receiving calls and text messages over the internet. It allows you to manage communication from various devices, including web browsers and smartphones, and offers features like voicemail transcription, spam filtering, call screening, and call forwarding. The service is free for personal use in the U.S.



Richard wanted to know more about using a DVD player to watch movies. The DVD player can be connected directly to a

television quite easily. This is a 2 minute video explaining the process. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDod9KXunG0>

The process is a little different to watch a DVD on your computer. Computers often don't have built-in DVD drives anymore, so you'll need to purchase an external USB DVD drive. Connect the drive to the computer: Plug the USB DVD drive into an available USB port on your computer. Your computer may need specific software to play DVDs, as Windows doesn't always have it pre-installed. This diagram from Columbia ISA Audio Video explains:



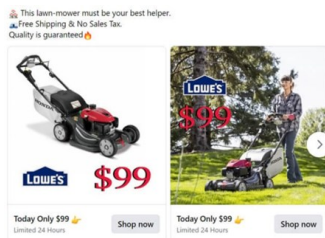
There on a lot of free programs to help. But this is not always needed. Next, insert the DVD into the drive, and your computer should recognize it and start playing the DVD. This short video explains it. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFsb_TtQE2s&t=101s



Our discussion switched to how rapidly AI is expanding and its ever-increasing need for more electrical power and cooling water. Microsoft is looking for a third site in Racine County for another data center.

We then moved on to some new and returning scams as identified by Ricks Tech Tips. If you use

Facebook, you've probably started seeing ads that appear to be from Lowe's Home Improvement offering to sell lawnmowers at ridiculously low prices. For example, lawnmowers that sell for as much as \$800 being sold on "clearance" or via a "Flash sale" for \$99. They are all scams. These scams typically start showing up in the fall when the retailers start closing out their mowers for the season. The ads may look like this:



Another one from Ricks Tech Tips is a scam using Facebook. What makes this scam so dangerous is the way it appears to come from Facebook themselves. It does not.



The scam is a fake warning that Facebook is preparing to disable your account. It may look something like this. It appears

that it could actually be legitimate but the poor grammar and sentence structure are dead giveaways that it isn't. Facebook would never use such poor English in their communications to you. If a post like this shows up in your news feed, DO NOT click the link contained within it. If you do, you will be asked to verify your login credentials and update your credit card information, which would of course would give the hackers access to your account AND your credit card info.

Another type of scam involves package delivery. CNET has a great article on these and can be found at <https://www.cnet.com/home/security/common-package-scams-to-watch-for-over-the-holidays/>

Getting a package you didn't order, also known as '**brushing**.' Brushing occurs when a fraudulent third party finds your address and sometimes even stolen credit card information online, and they use it to create a fake account for you at online superstores like Amazon
Getting a fake package delivery text, also known

as '**smishing**'. Smishing (and lots of related email phishing) attempts to mimic a package delivery text, often with complete details like a tracking number link or website like that looks like it's from a big carrier such as UPS or FedEx.

'Missed package' notifications or stickers. Another common package scam message is a warning of an all-too-common fear -- someone tried to deliver a package, but they need your signature and no one was home.

Mail tracking and hacking. There has been a rise in thieves who use insider information to steal very real packages during the delivery process. Sometimes these thieves get access to post office boxes and use the stolen information in various illegal ways.

We closed with a discussion about AI and whether we should use AI or simple web searches, like with Google. AI can still have 'hallucinations' so you should be cautious. An AI 'hallucination' is when an AI tool produces an incorrect, misleading, or completely fabricated piece of information, presenting it as if it were true. In general, it was suggested you may try both.



Jim Hempel



SEPTEMBER 2025 SMARTPHONE SIG

Those attending were Jim Hempel, Don Skarda, Don Gardener, J.J. Johnson, Margaret Cortez, Betty Robinson, Jan Mlagan, Terry Harvey, Louise Dahms, Richard Durand, and John Schwarzmeier.

Richard helped us get started explaining his internet situation and why he usually does not have his video enabled. To ensure a good connection, he prefers to keep video off so he doesn't lose connection and/or locking up his signal.

The next subject was tracking objects. Did you ever have to look for where you left your keys the last time they were used? These tracking devices can help you find them. Apple has a product called AirTags. There are other companies with similar products, such as Tiles. At the time of the meeting, Apple, which usually sells a pack of 4 Tags for \$100, had them discounted to \$75. Tiles are similarly priced and both may go down during Amazon October Prime Days.



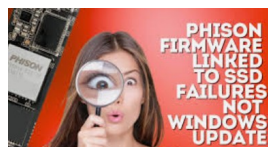
Apple AirTags work by using the Find My network, a vast network of Apple devices, to locate lost items. An AirTag sends out a secure Bluetooth signal that nearby iPhones, iPads, and Macs detect, sending the AirTag's location to iCloud. You can then see the item's location on a map in the Find My app. For precise location, AirTags use ultra-wideband (UWB) technology with compatible iPhones, and for playing a sound on the AirTag itself. The Tiles operate similarly. There are no subscription fees for either type.

Earlier AirTag models did not have a replaceable battery. Apple AirTags are now powered by a standard, user-replaceable CR2032 lithium coin cell battery, which provides power for about a year and depending on use, it can be much longer.



When the battery is running low, your iPhone will send you a notification in the Find My app, and you can easily replace the battery.

Over the past month, some Windows 11 users have been running into a problem with disappearing SSDs in both File Explorer and the BIOS, which started after installing the August 2025 KB5063878 update. Last week, Microsoft and



Phison both washed their hands of the issue, saying it wasn't reproduceable and that the issue wasn't actually connected to the update in question.

According to Windows Reports, new findings indicate that it isn't Windows that's causing the problem but rather preliminary firmware versions on certain SSDs. These unfinished firmware versions, which were never intended for end users, appear to have been triggered by the KB5063878 update and thus began causing the problems described by users.

If you're using an SSD that's disappearing after installing the August 2025 Windows 11 update, you should update the firmware. Make sure to back up all the data on the relevant SSD before initiating the firmware update.



Some people have been making the transition from Win 10 to Win 11 and not falling in love

with it. Frankly, they don't think they can live with it and want to go back to Win 10 even if it is losing MS future support.

To revert from Windows 11 to Windows 10, go to Settings > System > Recovery and select the "Go back" option. This method is only available for 10 days after the Windows 11 upgrade and keeps your personal files, but it will remove apps and settings installed after the upgrade. If it's been more than 10 days or the "Go back" option is unavailable, you'll need to perform a clean installation of Windows 10 after backing up your data and creating a Windows 10 installation media. Here is a step-by-step instruction.

Method 1: Rollback within 10 Days This method allows you to revert to your previous version of Windows without losing your files.

Plug in your PC: and make sure it's connected to a power source.

Open the Start menu.

Type "recovery" and select "Recovery options" from the results.

Under "Recovery options," click "Go back".

Select a reason why you're going back and click "Next".

Follow the prompts on the screen, being sure to remember your Windows 10 password.

Click the "Go back to Windows 10" button to start the process.

There is a second method for those that have gone past the 10-day period that is much more involved.

There is also another method using a tool called the UpDownTool. UpDownTool lets you downgrade from Windows 11 to Windows 10 even if you're outside Microsoft's 10-day rollback grace period, and even if your system was never on Windows 10 in the first place. Without this tool, your only option is to do a fresh install of Windows 10; with this tool, you can switch to Windows 10 while preserving all your data.

The only real catch is that UpDownTool converts your PC to Windows 10 LTSC 2021, which is a special "long-term servicing channel" edition of Windows 10 meant for businesses and organizations that need impeccable uptime, stability, and reliability. This Windows 10 version has a much longer support window than standard Windows 10, with Microsoft offering Windows 10 LTSC 2021 support until January 12th, 2027 and extended support until January 13th, 2032.



A question came up about outdoor security cameras. Basically, it was asked if the resolution was good enough to see inside another building. Jim opened the Wyze app and displayed the video feed from the Wyze pan cam that is located on his lake house. We tried to open magnification to objects a hundred feet away. The video lost quite a bit of resolution. These types of cameras typically use electronic magnification instead of optical lens magnification. So, the larger you expand the image, the fewer pixels there are to use.

From there Jim moved on to review some of the apps on his smartphone. Some were very well known to all, while others needed more explanation. Here is a list of the apps we looked at with a few comments about each. You can easily use your search engine to look these up and get a lot more details on the app, its user rating, function, cost, and other features.



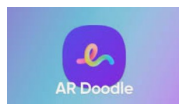
AARP - The AARP Now app is a free mobile application that provides users with

personalized news, local events, member-only benefits.



Google Keep

Google Keep - Google Keep is a free, cloud-based note-taking app from Google that allows users to capture thoughts, create lists, and set reminders.



AR Doodle - An AR Doodle app is a feature within a device's camera application allows users to draw or add virtual elements to their videos in real-time using augmented reality (AR).



Bluesky

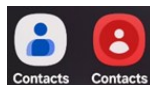
Bluesky - Bluesky is another social network, founded by Twitter co-founder Jack

Dorsey, that allows users to post text, images, and videos and interact with others in a familiar way similar to X (formerly Twitter). Its goal is to remain a cleaner alternative.



Checkout 51 - The Checkout 51 app is a cashback app that allows users to earn money on

groceries, gas, and other necessities by uploading photos of their receipts.



Google Contacts – There are a lot of Contacts apps available. For example, the blue one is from Google. The red one is Samsung.



Find - Samsung's Find app is a tool to locate your own missing devices like phones, tablets, and earbuds.



Fing - Fing is a network scanning and management tool designed to help users monitor, protect, and understand their home network.



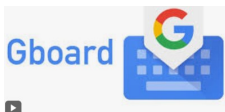
Flightradar 24 – It is a popular, free mobile application that lets users

track aircraft worldwide in real-time on a detailed map, providing details like flight number, aircraft type, speed, altitude, and photos by tapping on planes. We demonstrated what the Gen Mitchell airport looks like.



Galatea - The Galatea app is a mobile-based storytelling platform from

Inkitt that offers immersive fiction experiences with features like sound effects, visual effects, and character-based chat.



GBoard – Similar to Contacts, there are many keyboard apps. Gboard is a virtual keyboard app for Android and iOS devices that provides Google's typing and search features on your phone. Samsung phones usually come with their own keyboard, but you can change to any other one.

Many of the other apps on Jim's phone were not discussed, like ABC News, ACE Hardware, Aster, AuroraNotification, Battery status, CBS, Coinout, Culvers, CountyCat, EasyNotes, Fitbit, Flipp, and a few game apps.



Terry told us a story related to her use of AI. She used an app called STORYBOOK.COM to help her create a storybook for her granddaughters. The results weren't exactly what she was expecting based on something she saw J.J. do. He explained that he uses Gemini and their storybook function. She tried it and produced a very cute storybook to read to the granddaughters.

Jim Hempel

SEPTEMBER 2025 LEADERSHIP MEETING

Those present were; Jim Hempel, Jan Mlagan, Bob Banerian, J. J. Johnson, Don Skarda, Suzanne Holcomb, and Richard Durand.

We are waiting for the Investment group to set up their dates, times, and locations in order to finish the 2026 Calendar. Richard said that the SIGs for January and February will be on the 4th Wednesdays on ZOOM. He is still not sure of the times, dates, or locations for March 2026 through the end of the year meetings.

We will once again have raffles at the General Meeting starting October 2nd, a prize will be a \$5.00 Wal Mart gift card. Don Gardner will purchase gift cards for all future prizes through the upcoming holidays.

The fifth Thursday meeting, offering one-on-one help, will be on October 30th in the church hall. We need to

finalize who will be able to take charge of the meeting. Many of our regular leaders will not be available on that night.

Don was still not able to touch base with the Greenfield Library about setting up a date for helping those in the community with their devices.

We will need a sign-up sheet for the Christmas Party. Suzanne said that she has a sheet. I asked what was being done about getting set up with SignUp Genius, no one has looked into using it.

All future Tuesday Lunches will be held at Meyers. The lunch group agreed to this because the Brass Key changed hands and most did not enjoy it there any longer.

The Christmas party will quickly be here. Richard said he will bring coolers if they are needed. Don will check with Marilyn Schrader to see if she will entertain us with her music.

Paul Weiser took all the equipment after the September General Meeting. He offered to bring it back and set it up for the October General Meeting. Thank you, Paul!

Before the meeting ended, Jim said that he would check on how much pulled pork would be needed for the Christmas Party and he would order it for us. He also said that he would see if he is available to help out at the October 30th (5th Thursday) event.

Jan Mlagan



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

**REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR A DISH
TO PASS AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY**

TECH MADE SIMPLE—FOR EVERY GENERATION