

# Bits and Bytes

September 2011

*Arkansas' Premier Computer Club*

## Bella Vista Computer Club - John Ruehle Center

*Highlands Crossing Center, 1808 Forest Hills Blvd, Suite 208, Bella Vista, AR 72715*

Web Site: [www.bvcompclub.org](http://www.bvcompclub.org)

**Nan DeLany, President**

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Don Hood, Newsletter Editor

### TEST YOUR INTERNET SPEED

Does your broadband internet connection give you value for your money? If you have an internet connection at your home, you should check the download and upload rates frequently. The U.S. government has mandated that high speed internet is essential to our economy and that it will be necessary to increase broadband speeds to 100 Mbps by 2020. Presently our local speeds with Cox range from a "Starter" of 1 Mbps, "Essentials" at 3 Mbps, "Preferred" at 15 Mbps, "Premier" at 29 Mbps to "Ultimate" at 50 Mbps. The majority of residents in Bella Vista use the "Preferred" program which allows for email, surfing the web, video or social media and photography. With the "Preferred" group, the program "Skype" works well.

The average broadband internet speeds in the U.S. rank 12th in the world. We're presently behind Romania, Korea and Japan and most of Europe. You can put your ISP to the test and find out how fast or slow your connection is and how you compare to other ISPs. There are several different speed test programs. Check it out by going to [www.speedtest.com](http://www.speedtest.com). You can also check different speeds connecting to different locations on the map.

**"Genealogy SIG members meet 10 a.m. September 17th at John Ruehle Center, Highlands Crossing"**

### JUDI SHANNON

A hearty welcome to **Judi Shannon** who has stepped forward and volunteered to serve as Treasurer for the BVCC. Judi replaces Lee Hehl who served in this position for the past year and deserves our thanks for a job well done. Thanks Lee!

**Richard Clark** and **Jean Anderson** have agreed to serve on the Programs Committee. Richard is the new Program Chairperson. He replaces Don Schatz who served many years of service as Programs Chairperson. Thanks Don!

**We need others to help on the Programs Committee.**

### A GREAT DICTIONARY

[Askdefine.com](http://Askdefine.com) is an online dictionary for looking up English words. It has many features such as

- ◆ An extensive library of words
- ◆ A very printer friendly mode
- ◆ Auto completion when searching for words
- ◆ Multisource lookups of words. Some which are user driven and frequently updated.
- ◆ Translations of words from English to German, Spanish, French and many more languages.
- ◆ List of words that rhyme with a given word.

◆ A synonyms dictionary and antonyms

The dictionary is very simple to use. If you want to search for a word you should use the top text entry field labeled "search". When you enter more than two letters, it will show you a list of words which start with those two letters. This enables you to find words even if you don't know their complete spelling. If you click a word from the dropdown list you will automatically be sent to that article.

If you already know the spelling of the word you can immediately look it up simply by entering the word followed by .askdefine in the address bar of your browser, like this test.askdefine.com, which will look up the word "test" in our list of dictionary references.

You can also browse for words that are similar by following the links up to the left and to the right of the top of the page. This will allow you to explore the dictionary words by word if you like, much like a synonyms dictionary, only by spelling. There is also a thesaurus included in the list of each word of course.

In addition, the site is absolutely absent of any popups and advertisements, which is commonly found in other dictionary programs.

Editor's note: I also keep this program as a "favorite".

**Renew your membership now!**

Join the Bella Vista Computer Club and receive computer club member benefits (free classes until January 1st, open house assistance for your computers and information to help you use your computer). A real bargain at \$20.00/year for a member and \$10.00 for a spouse.

The Bella Vista Computer Club assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained herein and will accept no liability for its application.

**SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER CLASSES**

Using Windows Vista

Vista - Windows Mail

Using Windows 7

Computer Maintenance

Windows 7 Live Mail

File Management & Security

Word

Digital Photography

Photo Editing

- Classes are currently free for members
- Check the web ([www.bvcompclub.org](http://www.bvcompclub.org)) for dates and times
- Sign-up at the General Membership Meeting on September 12th or call Marie Herr (479) 273-2558

*Ryan Smith (BCCC Webmaster) provided a new type of dangerous email received by an individual*

*The police stated this email was from France but @blumail.org was connected to the Nigeria Bank emails that request you send money. **Note: If you receive a similar email, alert the police!***

"Subject: Someone you call your friend, wants you dead"

"I felt very sorry and bad for you, that your life is going to end like this if you don't comply, I was paid to eliminate you and I have to do it within 10 days."

"Someone you call your friend wants you dead by all means, and the person have spent a lot of money on this, the person also came to us and told us that he wants you dead and he provided us your names, photograph and other necessary information we needed about you. If you are in doubt with this will send you name and where you are residing in my next mail. Meanwhile, I have sent my boys to track you down and they have carried out the necessary investigation needed for the operation, but I ordered them to stop for a while and not to strike immediately because I just felt something good and sympathetic about you. I decided

*Dangerous email continued: (copied exactly as received)*

To contact you first and know why somebody will want you dead by all means. Right now my men are monitoring you, their eyes are on you, and even the place you think is safer for you to hide might not be.

Now do you want to LIVE OR DIE? It is up to you. Get back to me now if you are ready to enter deal with me, I mean life trade, who knows, and I might just spear your life, \$8,000 is all you need to spend. You will first of all pay \$3,000 then I will send the tape of the person that want you dead to you to you and when the tape gets to you, you will pay the remaining \$5,000. If you are not ready for may help, then I will have no choice but to carry on the assignment after all I have already being paid before now.

Warning: do not think of contacting the police or even tell anyone because I will extend it to any member of your family since you are aware that somebody want you dead, and the person knows some members of your family as well. For your own good I will advise you not to go out once it 7pm until I make out time to see you and give you the tape of my discussion with the person who want you dead then you can use it to take any legal action. Good luck as I await you reply to this email Contact: (akajackbrown@blumail.org)

Mr.mark williams Brown.”

### **JUST BECAUSE....**

“Just because the company that made your computer installed McAfee or Norton on it, does not mean that McAfee or Norton are the best for your computer. It doesn't mean they're even good for your computer. It doesn't mean anything at all.

Do you know why Dell, HP, and other computer companies install McAfee or Norton more than other security software? No, it's not because it's the best. It's not because it works well with your brand of computer. It's not because it's

easier to use. It's not because it keeps you safer. It's not because of anything at all other than money. Computer manufacturers load your computer down with trial-ware hoping you will believe because they put it on your computer you'll assume it's good for your computer, you need it, or that you'll think it's the best software for whatever purpose it serves. But nothing could be further from the truth. Like so many things in this world, it's all about the money. You'd think when you buy a new computer they'd want that computer to run as well as it possibly could. However, loading up a new computer with all kinds of trial-ware only makes it run slower. When you add Norton or McAfee to the mix it's a sure recipe for a slower computer.

In recent days we've had a couple of users who were getting warnings about a Trojan in a perfectly safe program we had recommended. It was a false positive. Both were using McAfee; it was yet another false-positive. All anti-virus programs will occasionally show false-positives, but none more than Norton and McAfee. Anyway, when we suggested to these users that they use a better (and free) antivirus, like Microsoft Security Essentials, both indicated they had an extended “free trial” of McAfee and wanted to use it.

If you care about a better running computer - if you care about keeping your computer running at its peak, if you care about your security and safety on the Web - don't assume that what your computer manufacture put on your computer is the best for your computer - or the best for you.

The first thing we do when we get a new computer is eliminate every single trial-ware program. We wouldn't install Norton or McAfee on our own computers. So just because it came with your computer doesn't mean it's good for you or your computer.”

*The above article is copyright 2008 by Cloudeight Internet,  
<http://thundercloud.net/infoave/index.htm>*

## DIGITAL LIFEBOAT

*(Editors Note: Recently, I came across this free ware program information from Cloudeight. While I still use an external hard drive (image-based backup) in case my computer crashes. In addition, I am using Digital Lifeboat for a file-by-file backup using 256-bit AES encryption used by banks and other highly secure institutions like the military.)*

It's a new cloud-based backup service that allows you to backup your files to a Web server where they'll be kept safe and secure (as long as you have a strong password) for you. And what's really unique about Digital Lifeboat is that right now during their beta-testing phase, they're offering everyone unlimited (that's right - unlimited) backup space. So if you have 200GBs of stuff you need to backup - and you have a high-speed internet connection - you should take a look at Digital Lifeboat. We don't know how long the beta-testing phase will last, so now is the time to take advantage of this really great opportunity. Anyone who signs up during the beta-testing phase will have unlimited backup space for **life**. Pretty good deal! (Copy-write 2008 by Cloudeight Internet, <http://thundercloud.net/infoave/index.htm>)

Editor: I signed up for Digital Lifeboat and received the following letter from them:

*"Thank you for trusting Digital Lifeboat to protect your digital photos, music, video and other computer files on your pc. We are already working hard to backup all your digital treasures in our advanced and secure system. Our system automatically backs up all your photos, files, music and videos in your user directory.*

*We begin by backing up smaller files, and move towards your larger files. The amount of time it takes to back up your files will be determined by how much data you have, the speed of your internet connection and the amount of time you are online. Help us help you! Please keep your PC turned on and connected to the internet as much as possible. You will receive emails as we pass 25%, 50% and 75% completion of the backup.*

*You can also go to the Digital Lifeboat Tray Application on your Desktop and click it to see your status, pause our service, and visit your Account on our website."*

## RESETTING YOUR PRINTER INK CARTRIDGE

Helen Weeks offered the information gleaned from a "YouTube video" site shown below.....

- ◆ Don't you get tired of getting the message from your printer that a ink cartridge is running low and you need to run to the store to buy more ink?
- ◆ Before you do, pull out the suspect cartridge and check the end where the circuit board is. Right above the circuit board, look for a small hole. Use the end of a paper clip and carefully push into the small hole to reset, and replace the cartridge. Often, you will now see on the computer printer properties that you now have a quite a bit of ink still available. This often works for cartridges where you can-not see the ink level.
- ◆ (watch) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJQ1FQ68IU8&feature=reimfu>

### Club Officers

Nan DeLany	268-3264	President
Chuck Billman	855-4188	Vice President
Julie Storm	696-8867	Secretary
Judi Shannon	876-2400	Treasurer

### Board Members

Nancy Jones	855-3350	Marie Herr 273-2558
Jan Kaylor	855-6974	

### Committee Chairs

Jim Prince	855-6673	Membership
Richard Clark	202-4554	Programs
Nancy Jones	855-3350	Public Relations
Ryan Smith	876-2881	Webmaster
Marie Herr	273-2558	Education

Open House Help Clinic on September 21st (Wednesday) and October 1st (Saturday) at the Computer Club Classroom in John Ruehle Center, Highlands Crossing Center. **ONLY** club members are invited to participate between 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Someone will be available to help with problems and/or questions. Bring **only** desktop towers, and laptops with power cords.