

# Bits & Bytes



Arkansas' Premier Computer Club

## February 2016

**Bella Vista Computer Club - John Ruehle Center**

Highlands Crossing Center 1801 Forest Hills Blvd Suite 208 (lower level) Bella Vista, AR 72715

Website: [www.bvCompClub.org](http://www.bvCompClub.org)

Email: [jrc@bvcc.arcoxmail.com](mailto:jrc@bvcc.arcoxmail.com)

### Taxes will be done at Computer Lab

The Board has approved the request to taxes to be done here. *Care Community Center*, Kimberly Porter, will be in charge of the details. She is asking for volunteers and may be reached at **479-903-3217**

### Meetings

**February 8, 2016**

BVCC Board Meeting

5:30 pm

Computer Club Meeting

Community Room at

Highlands Crossing 7 pm

**The Bella Vista Computer Club will host a panel of experts on Monday, January 11, 2016, at 7 P.M.** to answer your technology questions: hardware, software, applications, programs, etc. Make a New Years' Resolution - become more technology literate. The Computer Club can help you reach your goal. This public meeting is in the Community Room of Highlands Crossing Center (lower level), 1801 Forest Hills Blvd., Bella Vista.

### HELP CLINICS

**February 3 1-4 pm**

**February 6 10 am-1 pm**

**February 17 10-12 am**

*Bring your tower, laptop, tablet or smartphone for problem solving.*

We are in the process of re-vamping our class schedules. Please check frequently on the website for scheduling and re-scheduling.

<http://bvcompclub.org/February-2016.htm>

Be sure to check the class schedules at the meeting and sign-up for the ones you are interested in. There is no charge for classes to Club members.

### CLASS

Setting Up Windows 10 9 am to 12 noon 1 of 1

Genealogy SIG 10 AM John Ruehle Center

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 10-12 am

## A New Weapon Against Ransomware

Ransomware is a rapidly evolving breed of malware that scrambles a user's data and demands payment. Examples include CryptoWall4, CryptoLocker, Tesla, and CTB-Locker. There are variants of each of these, and bad guys are constantly revising, improving, and disguising their wares. Traditional signature-based [virus detection](#) cannot keep up with new signature variations. Thus, Malwarebytes Anti-Ransomware (A/R) focuses on what a program does rather than what it looks like.

Victims of ransomware generally don't know their data has been encrypted until a popup screen informs them. The message tells the victim that a ransom must be paid in [exchange](#) for the key that unlocks the data. Sometimes, the blackmailers want payment in untraceable Bitcoins, but they may also demand a wire transfer or prepaid debit card. Ransom amounts are usually \$500 or more.

Malwarebytes A/R constantly [monitors](#) the activities of all running programs, looking for behaviors typical of ransomware attacks. When a given program exhibits enough signs of ransomware behavior, Malwarebytes A/R blocks the program's actions and quarantines it before it has a chance to encrypt any files.

"During development, Malwarebytes [Anti-Ransomware](#) has blocked every single ransomware variant we have thrown at it," the developers said in an announcement. "We are extremely satisfied with its results and are excited to bring this technology to our user community for further testing."

Since this is the first beta (public test) version, it should not be installed on a mission-critical computer. There may be bugs in this early release, but if you want to give Malwarebytes A/R a try, you can [download](#) the Windows version from [this MBAM blog page](#). It's free of charge in the beta version.

## What Happens After the Beta?

In addition to the MBAM Anti-Malware products, MalwareBytes offers several other free downloads you may find useful. Check out Malwarebytes Anti-Exploit, the Junkware Removal Tool, Anti-[Rootkit](#) BETA, StartUpLite, FileASSASSIN and RegASSASSIN on their [Downloads page](#).

When Malwarebytes A/R passes beta testing, it will be not be a standalone product. It will probably end up in the paid version of the company's security software. This is just an educated guess based on the fact that the free version of MBAM does not include the real-time behavior monitoring protection of paid versions. Currently, the [Premium version of Malwarebytes Anti-Malware](#) costs only \$24.95 per year, a bargain among top-tier antimalware suites.

Ransomware is commonly distributed via compromised websites and [exploit kits](#). But ransomware is now showing up in malvertising - random ads [infected](#) with malware that may pop up on any site you visit. Some ransomware targets gamers; other breeds go after businesses and government agencies (including [several police departments](#)); but ransomware can also hit random home [computer users](#).

Anti-ransomware features in security software are nice to have, but the best protection against this threat is frequent backup of all your critical data. You don't need to pay ransom or protection money if you have a current backup; just wipe the infected machine clean and restore all but the most recent data.

Courtesy of ASK BOB.. Bob Rankin <http://askbobrankin.com>

## Scams, Hoaxes, Myths and Their Busters

"What... Mr. Rogers wasn't a Marine sniper? Oh, he was a Navy SEAL?" None of these statements is true, of course. They are examples of [scams](#), hoaxes, and urban legends that circulate via email and social media. The Internet is awash with misinformation for a number of reasons.

Some hoaxsters are just having fun, like the originator of Mr. Rogers' false bio. Others are doing it for likes, or up votes, or other social media "currency" that boosts their online visibility. But some are dangerous, like the Bill Gates "forward this link" ploy; people who click on that link may be vulnerable to surreptitious downloads of [malware](#).

Still others are politically motivated. One well-known fake news site said last December that the Charlie Brown Christmas special was preceded by a warning that it "contains strong Christian language that may be offensive to some viewers." At the same time, rumors were spreading on Facebook that President Obama and/or the FCC had fined ABC for airing the cartoon because of its religious themes.

There is so much misinformation on the Internet that some people have made careers out of debunking it. Barbara and David [Mikkelson](#) launched [Snopes](#) in 1995; today their site gets over 300,000 visitors per day. (Be sure to check their [Top 25 Hoaxes](#) page for some laughs.) David Emery earns his daily bread at [About.com's Urban Legends](#) page. And since 1994, [Scambusters](#) has tackled messages that can cost you money, such as "miracle cures," "insider stock tips," and even "virtual kidnappings."

The Washington Post's [Caitlin Dewey](#) started her column, "What Was Fake On The Internet" in May, 2014; she gave it up in December, 2015, when science convinced her that people cling to their cherished untruths like barnacles to a ship's hull.

Ms. Dewey explains, in her farewell column, that many hoaxes are purposefully perpetrated to drive traffic to hoaxsters' Web sites. The types of hoaxes reveal the mindsets of the people who are most likely to believe and share them. Thus, the viral success of "Alaskan judge orders U.S. Marshals to arrest Congress and Obama" illustrates the wishful thinking and consequent gullibility of older, conservative Americans. Another fake-news site finds profits in stealing strangers' mug shots - usually minorities - and attaching them to fake stories of bestiality and other abominations.

### *Unintended Consequences...*

One of the most famous cases of a real person's story that morphed into an urban legend involved [Craig Shergold](#). In 1989, Craig was a 10 year old boy hospitalized with a brain tumor. A family friend began a campaign to get him into the Guinness Book of Records for receiving the most post cards, and before long it started spreading by email. Cards began to pour in by the MILLIONS, year after year. Even though Craig was [cured](#) in 1991 and his family made public appeals for the cards to stop, their pleas were no match for the power and longevity of the [email chain](#) letter. The Craig Shergold chain letter morphed and spawned a wave of bogus "sick child" emails that have caused untold grief to other families who were the targets of pranksters, as well as financial harm to charities such as the Make A Wish Foundation.

The people who forward, repost and retweet these stories without engaging a single brain cell are a marketer's dream. They'll believe anything that sounds outrageous, tugs on the heart-strings, or confirms their prejudices. And once they find a source of confirmation, they'll keep coming back for more. Needless to say, it isn't hard to sell just about anything to such an audience.

Of course, there's also money to be made by debunking hoaxes. There are many debunking websites in addition to those mentioned above. Hoaxbusters.org, Hoax-slayers.com, UrbanLegendsOnline.com, and dozens more [sites promise](#) to set your cranky uncle straight. But the people who believe these stories don't go searching for proof they're wrong, and the rest of us are starting to give up on the believers.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Mary Heath  
 Dick Corcoran  
 Jeanne Deterding  
 John Deterding  
 Linda F. Scott  
 Jonathan Scott, Sr  
 Bill Tanneberger  
 Lou Anne Tanneberger  
 Deloris Beacom  
 Bill Davis  
 Wayne Saarela  
 Loretta Saarela  
 Amy Scott  
 Wilson Scott, Jr  
 David Strey  
 Jan Strey

**Reminders**

Be sure to check the class schedules at the meeting and sign-up for the ones you are interested in. There is no charge for classes to Club members.

Check your Membership to see if it is renewal time. We value each one of you!

**Chuck Billman**

It was with great sadness the Computer Club heard of the passing of our Lab. Director, instructor and a vital part of our organization.

It would please Chuck greatly to know the Computer Club will still exist with all the support from the Board and members. Thank you, Chuck, for your legacy.

**Club Officers:**

Bob Shewmake: President  
 Rich Clark: Past-President  
 Vice-President: Sylvia Hill  
 Secretary: Joe Tropansky  
 Treasurer: Joel Ewing

**Board Members:**

Marie Herr, Ken Nelson, Sylvia Hill, Marilyn Russell

**Committee Chairs:**

Jim Prince, Membership  
 Julie Storm, Newsletter Editor  
 Marilyn Russell, Programs  
 Earl Cummings, Librarian  
 Nancy Jones, Public Relations  
 Ryan Smith, Webmaster  
 Marie Herr, Education  
 Chuck Billman, Training Center Admin.  
 Bob Shewmake, Genealogy Liaison  
 Kathy Clark, Genealogy Communications

**As a Courtesy to our Club Members**

We are happy to list your computer related articles

that you wish to sell.

There is no charge, but it will be on space available.

*Classes and open house clinics are free to Computer Club members. Club membership fee- \$20; ½ price additional family member. Classes and help clinics are held at the John Ruehle Center located in the Highlands Crossings Center, 1801 Forest Hills Blvd., Suite 208, Bella Vista. Class descriptions at [bvcompclub.org](http://bvcompclub.org)*