

Bits & Bytes

Arkansas' Premier Computer Club



October 2023

The Bella Vista Computer Club - John Ruehle Center

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

Website: <http://BVComputerClub.org>

Email: editor@bvcomputerclub.org

MEETINGS

Board Meeting: October 9, 6pm, in John Ruehle Training Center, Highlands Crossing Center.

General Meeting: October 9, 7pm. Program: "Q&A: Panel of Experts", with Woody Ogden and Pete Opland. Another opportunity to submit your computer-related questions to our panel. If our panel doesn't know the answer, someone else in the audience may. Questions will be accepted from the floor, but you can also email your question to Q.and.A@bvcomputerclub.org in case research is required to give the best answer.

We will meet in-person in Room 1001 on the lower level of The Highlands Crossing Center, 1801 Forest Hills Blvd, Bella Vista, or you may attend the meeting on-line via Zoom. Zoom access information is published on our website.

Visitors or Guests are welcome.

Consider attending by Zoom if you are unable to attend in-person.

HELP CLINICS

October 7, 9am - noon at John Ruehle center

October 18, 9am - noon at John Ruehle center

Members may request Remote Help on our website at <https://bvcomputerclub.org> at menu path **Member Benefits ► Remote Help .**

Genealogy SIG: October 20, 1pm-3pm, Training Center

MEMBERSHIP

Single membership is \$30; \$15 for each additional family member in the same household.

Join on our website at <https://bvcomputerclub.org> at menu path **Get Involved ► Join/Renew**, by mailing an application (from the web site) with check, or complete an application and pay in person at any meeting.

CLASSES

(At BVCC Training Center)

Tuesday, October 3, 9am-11am, "Recordings, Movies and More, Part 1", with Pete Opland.

Tuesday, October 17, 2pm-4pm, "Basic Computer Security, Part 1", with Justin Sell

Advance sign up required for each listed class: For reservations: email to edu@bvcomputerclub.org, or sign up at the General Meeting. Classes are **free to Computer Club members.**

Check the monthly calendar and announcements for any last minute schedule changes at <https://bvcomputerclub.org> .

NEW OR RETURNING BVCC MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members or members returning as BVCC members after an absence:

Georgia Yanik

Kathy Newby

Jill Newby

Rhonda Davis

Joan Watkins

BVCC OUTSTANDING SERVICE PLAQUE

Some of you have no doubt noticed the plaque on the back wall of our Training Center that recognizes members for outstanding service to BVCC. This plaque was presented at the September 2006 General Meeting, with members Chuck Billman, Helen Weeks, and Ryan Smith being the first names added. Several member names were added every year up through September 2010, the next three in 2013, and then a gap of ten years.

This gap was not an intentional lapse, but more the result of the loss of some of the older members who had been involved with the establishment and continuation of the plaque tradition, plus the lack of any documented policy being available to the Board. From an examination of old Board Minutes and General Meeting Minutes, it was established when the various names were added to the plaque and that information was added to our website page at "About -> History". It was also established that some of the more recent additions to the plaque were the work of a committee headed by Chuck Billman. Since no notes have ever been found for the Recognition Committee, it is suspected that any notes associated with that committee were lost with the sudden death of Chuck Billman in December 2015. Chuck's death was followed in less than a year by that of Ryan Smith. Both Chuck and Ryan were still filling significant leadership positions within BVCC almost up to the time of their deaths.

The next several years were stressful times for the BVCC Board, trying to find volunteers to keep BVCC functional following the death of those two individuals and the loss of their technical expertise. Making additions to the recognition plaque was not on the Board's list of priorities.

Perhaps the History page on the website was partially responsible for a renewed awareness of the Training Center Recognition plaque. Whatever the cause, a motion was made from the floor at the August 14, 2023 Board meeting that the custom of recognizing members for outstanding service be resumed with the recognition of Joel Ewing and Woody Ogden and the addition of their names to the Recognition -of-Service plaque. That motion passed unanimously and the updated plaque was hung in the



Joel Ewing and Woody Ogden with Service Plaque

Training Center in September. A Summary of the service of these individuals to BVCC up through 2023 is as follows:

Joel Ewing: member since September 2011; served as Treasurer from Sept 2013 through August 2017 (4 yrs); served as Webmaster from Nov 2016 through the present (7yrs+); presented programs from 2017 to present (3-6 per year); served as class instructor since 2017 (3-9 classes per year); served as President from September 2017 through present (6yrs+); served as acting Bits & Bytes editor from October 2017 through present (6 yrs+); occasionally assisted at Help Clinics.

Woody Ogden: member since January 2007; Help Clinic problem resolver 2016 through present (7yrs+); Vice President from September 2017 through present (6yrs+); Director of Training Center from September 2017 through present (6yrs+); presented programs at General Meetings from 2017 through present (1-5 per year).

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

By Joel Ewing
October 2023, Bits & Bytes
<https://bvcomputerclub.org>



Since 2004, the month of October has been designated as Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a dedicated month to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity. The [Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency](#) is involved in creating resources and coordinating efforts to promote on-line safety.

Eliminating all cybersecurity risks in today's world is impossible, but you can drastically reduce your exposure by following these four simple steps:

- **Use strong passwords and a password manager:** The strongest passwords are long, random, and unique for each account. Password managers make it practical to observe that convention with the minimum pain.
- **Turn on multifactor authentication (MFA):** Use of MFA on those on-line accounts that provide it means that even if someone manages to get your account user name and password, they still can't login without having access to another email account, smart phone, or some special authentication app in your possession. When implemented properly, websites using MFA allow you to specify multiple ways to do the additional authentication. You don't want to use MFA that is so restrictive that loss of one phone, loss of one email service, or loss of one identity app could cause you or your heirs to lose access to your accounts.
- **Recognize & report phishing:** The easiest way for criminals to get access to your on-line accounts is by contacting you with phishing emails, texts, or phone calls, pretending to be a company with which you might do business, and tricking you into supplying your account credentials, possibly asking you to logon to a site that mimics a legitimate website, but belongs to criminals. Be wary of any unexpected or unsolicited communication that asks for personal or login information, or which supplies links and phone numbers as contact points, which then asks for personal information. Avoid using links or phone numbers from unsolicited emails, even if it looks like it is from a business with whom you have an account --

instead use known website URL's and phone numbers from trusted sources, like statements or your browser favorites.

- **Update software:** Software updates frequently contain new security patches. Keeping your software up to date reduces the likelihood your system contains a security exposure that is known to hackers that could be exploited to compromise your system and data. This is also why you don't want to use an Operating System that is no longer supported to browse the Internet. When an Operating System passes its end-of-support date, that generally means there will be no more patches to fix newly discovered security exposures. The farther you get past end of support, the more likely a new security exposure might be found which will never be fixed, and which could be exploited by hackers to compromise your system.

BVCC AND APCUG

By Joel Ewing, President, Bella Vista Computer Club
Bits & Bytes, October 2023
<https://bvcomputerclub.org>

What is APCUG?

At times we send out announcements to our membership of on-line events sponsored by APCUG. Occasionally our newer members may confuse these with our own classes and expect us to handle reservations or describe details beyond what was in the announcement, so it seems like it might be appropriate to say a few words about the relationship between BVCC and APCUG.



APCUG stands for the Association of PC Users Groups. The Bella Vista Computer Club (BVCC) is a member of APCUG. BVCC pays an annual membership fee to APCUG, and in return APCUG provides various services to its member organizations. APCUG and its activities are staffed by volunteers who are members of various member organizations, like ours.

APCUG provides us the ability to connect with and benefit from what similar user groups are doing -- providing us with a directory of other user groups, giving us easy access to their websites, newsletters, and officer contacts.

Members groups of APCUG that are too small to afford their own web hosting service can have their website hosted by APCUG. We don't currently utilize this service, as our web hosting service is also the provider for our club email and domain name services.

We periodically receive articles from APCUG that other APCUG member groups have written for their newsletters and have submitted to APCUG for other member groups to re-publish. We can select those articles we think would be of interest to our members for inclusion in our monthly newsletter. In turn, we contribute original articles we have written for our Bits&Bytes newsletter to that same pool for use by other user groups. APCUG has also obtained permission for APCUG member groups to republish in their newsletters articles by a number of on-line authors. This removes a significant burden from our newsletter editor, in that we always have a backup source of articles for occasions when additional articles are needed for a newsletter edition.

APCUG provides many on-line virtual Wednesday Workshops and four virtual Saturday Safaris throughout the year on a wide variety of topics, using Zoom for a virtual meeting over the Internet -- the Saturday Safaris were

formerly called "Technical Conferences". You must register to attend, but registration is free to members of organizations that belong to APCUG. Videos and slides for the presentation eventually become available on-line, and we have used some of these for our General Meeting programs.

APCUG has a Speakers Bureau of about 15 volunteers that will even do an interactive meeting presentation over Zoom on a number of specific topics. In many cases these presentations are similar to presentations given on one of the Workshop or Safari Zoom meetings, but unlike a video provide an opportunity for interaction between the speaker and the audience. So far it has been simpler for us to not have to deal with speaker scheduling and coordination issues. We have on occasion instead chosen to use parts of a videos of some APCUG presentations for our program presentation, sometimes adding our own Q & A at the end.

Our membership in APCUG allows us to have programs for our monthly meetings and articles in our monthly newsletter on topics that we might not otherwise be able to cover, and to make available to our members additional material beyond what we can include in our meetings or in our newsletter.

TECH-NO-PHOBIA – ARE YOU A VICTIM YET?

By Jim Cerny, Education Chair & Forums Coordinator
Sarasota Technology Users Group
<https://thestug.org/>
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How did all this happen so quickly? Some days I feel like I am left in the dust behind the high-speed train technology. Yes, I am glad technology is progressing. We all benefit from the advances in health care, safety, entertainment, and portability. But there is a downside too. What do you find overwhelming about technology? Let's compare some everyday things from the past to today's latest internet-connected mega-optioned computer-controlled devices.

There were no real "couch potatoes" watching TV in the old days; we got our exercise by having to get up OFF the couch to change the channel or adjust the volume. Today in my living room, I have four device controllers for the TV (the TV itself, the internet TV box, an old DVD player, Apple TV, and a few more I can't identify) – and all of them have dozens of buttons to push. My daily challenge is to figure out which one I should use before I even try to guess which button. Unfortunately, I usually guess wrong the first two times.

The big thing for young kids in the past was being able to read the comics in the Sunday newspaper. Remember Sunday comics in color? My parents would encourage me to read them, and I would pretend I could -- but my mom and dad were so proud I was learning to read at the age of 7 or 8. Today parents shove an iPad or iPhone into their kid's hands to amuse them at one-and-a-half. By age two, the child knows more about the phone than their parents. And by age four, they are answering tech hotline questions.

Learning to drive when I was a teenager was a real adventure. I learned the gas, brake, clutch pedals, gear shift, and the two-gauge dashboard (speedometer and fuel). Radio was a luxury. Today cars have several computers to monitor all the "systems" on the vehicle and, hopefully, keep you safe. And don't forget the ever-bigger TV screen on the dashboard -- it gives you access to thousands of options and a nice view when you back up your car. In a few years, there will be no need for car windows (see predictions later in this article).

Going grocery shopping was fun years ago; there were different stores for different things. You would walk to the downtown or shopping street (before malls) and get meat at the butcher's, bread at the

bakery, can goods and cereals at the market, and you had to hope fruits and veggies were available in season somewhere. Today it is all online, even fresh fruit and veggies. The downside is that you get what they deliver. Somehow, I find no enjoyment in ordering food online, where I see only a picture of what I may get.

So, what do you think the future will hold for our children or grandchildren with technology? Will you allow me to make some predictions?

All windows will be replaced with high-resolution TV screens (sort of like Disney's Star Wars hotel). So, you will see what you want or want someone else to see.

Food will be ordered based on your eating history and automatically delivered to you when you need it – even placed into your kitchen pantry or fridge by personalized food delivery services.

There will be no need for germ-spreading handshakes, touching, or personal contact.

All entertainment will be provided for you, including images for your sight, ears, nose, and nerve sensations by technology directly to your brain.

And shortly after all this, computers and robots will take over the world, and we will no longer be needed. So, I recommend we enjoy the technology we have while we can.

