

Bits & Bytes

Arkansas' Premier Computer Club



August 2024

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: August 12, 6pm, in John Ruehle Training Center, Highlands Crossing Center.

General Meeting: August 12, 7pm.
Program: Election of officers for next fiscal year, and viewing of an APCUG presentation by Monica Tait, Asst US Attorney, on "Artificial Intelligence and Scams"

We will meet in-person in **John Ruehle Training Center**, Highlands Crossing Center, lower level, 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

August 3, 9am - noon at John Ruehle center

August 21, 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 .

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)

Thursday, August 15, 9am-noon, "Introduction To GIMP", with Joel Ewing.

Tuesday, August 20, 9am-11am, "MS Word", with Joel Ewing.

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:

Margaret Washburn

Ed Boling

Larry Borcharding

Sara Denning

NOMINEES FOR BVCC AUGUST ELECTION

The following candidates have agreed to accept nomination for the BVCC Officer positions that are up for election at the August 12 General Meeting. The Board position is for a two-year term, September 2024 through August 2026. All other office positions are for a one-year term, September 2024 through August 2025.

Nominations may be made from the floor at the August 12 meeting, but you must have prior agreement from the candidate before entering their name in nomination.

Officer Candidates

President: Joel Ewing

Vice President: Woody Ogden

Secretary: Barbara Maybury

Treasurer: Russ Ogden

Board 2026: Loretta Ostenso

There are three two-year Board positions, but the terms are staggered. The other two Board position terms don't end until August 2025 and will not be up for election until then.

There are various other appointed positions within BVCC and the current holders of those positions have also consented to continue as well. For a complete list of current officers see the BVCC website, menu path "About ► Officers". For a summary of the various positions within BVCC and their duties, see menu path "Get Involved ► Help Us". Note that teaching classes, giving meeting presentations, and assisting at Help Clinics are also essential volunteer roles at BVCC, but are on an event-by-event basis, not appointments for some specific term.

One of my continuing concerns is whether enough people will continue to volunteer to keep BVCC functional. Some of the roles at BVCC requires more on-job training than others, and some require a more technical mindset and/or a willingness to research and learn new tools and concepts. People sometimes are forced to step down from age or unexpected circumstances, and it's good for continuity to know in advance if we have members who would consider stepping up to the various positions.

I know from past experience that having too much dependence on only a few people puts BVCC at risk. Starting in December 2015, we lost two very active members by death in less than a year, and then in early 2017 the only

remaining class instructor had to cut back on his BVCC involvement. Those three losses in a little over a year represented a loss of three class instructors, two Board officers, our Training Center Administrator, our Webmaster, and a significant reduction in grant revenue from loss of many volunteer hours at the Bella Vista Recycle Center. Because of the difficulty in finding other members to fill the void, in May 2017 the BVCC Board seriously considered the dissolution of BVCC, and a motion to continue barely passed. BVCC only exists today because enough volunteers with the right skills finally came forward and made continuation feasible.

I still enjoy my involvement with BVCC, but I am also concerned that my level of involvement could at some point pose a similar problem. We have other officers who are also serving in multiple roles. None of us can predict when age or other issues may intervene.

Joel Ewing,
President, Webmaster, acting Editor, class instructor, meeting presenter

BVCC PRESENCE ON MEETUP.COM IS TERMINATING

BVCC started posting General Meeting announcements at meetup.com several years back as a form of advertising for BVCC. To host a Meetup group requires an individual to subscribe at meetup.com, which used to cost \$196 annually and allowed that individual to host up to three groups. That subscription model made some sense for an individual involved with multiple groups, but less sense when only a single organization is involved. Also, there was no obvious way for an organization to "own" a subscription, and a subscription associated with an individual could not be transferred to some other organization member if the group host left the organization.

When the BVCC meetup group was started, the group host was already managing a group for another organization, so in effect the cost for each organization was cut in half. That second group ceased operation in early 2023, so the entire cost of the subscription in 2023 was just for posting a monthly announcement for BVCC, making Meetup much less cost-effective for us.

Last month, Meetup's subscription cost increased substantially to \$358 annually. For our usage of Meetup, this increase clearly made Meetup no longer a reasonable option for BVCC. We are in progress of terminating our presence there.

BVCC continues to maintain its on-line presence on the Internet through our website and domain name (bvcomputerclub.org) and our Facebook page.

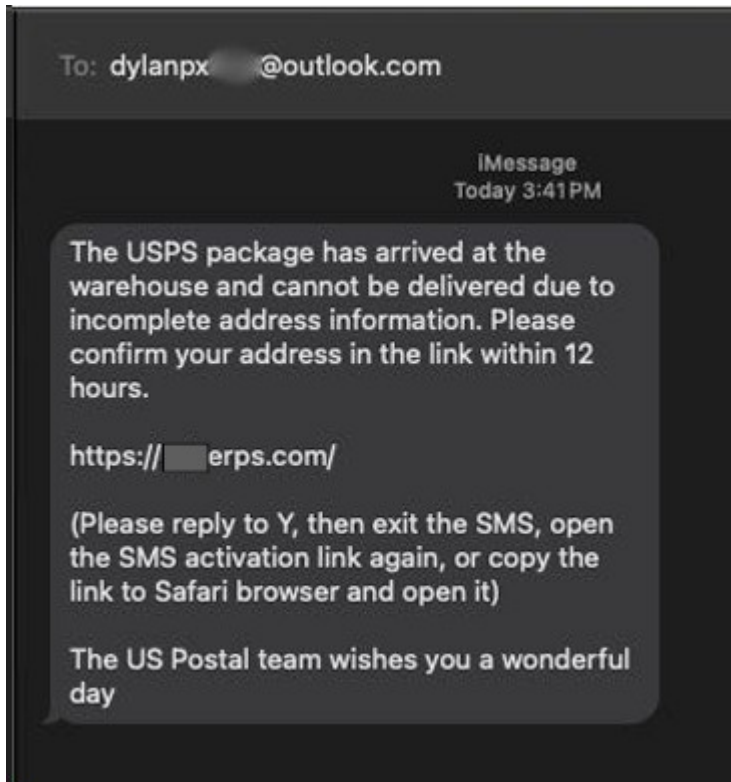
ANOTHER DAY. ANOTHER SCAM. DON'T FALL FOR IT.

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society

<https://newsite.ckcs.org/>

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I wonder how many Americans this very minute are being taken for a ride and giving away their personal information to a criminal. You might be surprised. At all hours of the day, people are turning over credit card numbers and more to thugs.



As Aura writes, “When Mary Anne May received a text from UPS on the day after Mother’s Day, she assumed a family member sent her a gift that she wasn’t home to receive. But when she clicked on the link in the text to reschedule the delivery, and was asked for her credit card number, she started to get suspicious.

While Mary Anne’s caution was well-founded, millions of Americans have fallen victim to package delivery scams like this one.” In recent days, I’ve received a number of bogus text messages on my phone. I simply report them as junk and delete them.

Here’s an example. The bogus text message alerts me that the US Postal Service is holding a package at its “warehouse” and cannot deliver it because it lacks complete street address details. Look who supposedly sent the text. It’s from a guy named Dylan. This is the

first red flag. Think about it. USPS will never text you using a bogus email address starting with “dylan.”

Second, the letter carrier has been delivering mail and Amazon packages to my house for years. USPS doesn’t have my address? Then who’s the guy who’s been delivering junk mail to my mailbox for years?

Third, the USPS doesn’t have “warehouses.” They don’t use that phrase. The USPS has distribution centers. And I’m very glad to know that the bogus US Postal team is wishing me a wonderful day! Finally, the USPS doesn’t use bogus web addresses, as shown in the text. A legitimate message would read usps.com or something similar.

If I click on the link shown in the text, I’ll get a website where I can easily enter my credit card number to be scammed by Dylan or whoever is trying to turn me into a victim. Hey Dylan, have a wonderful day!

PRINTING YOUR PHOTOS

By Lynda Buske

Published in Ottawa PC News (November 2023)

Ottawa PC Users' Group, Ontario, Canada

<https://opcug.ca>

Editor: brigittelord(at)opcug.ca

Despite our digital world, it is really nice sometimes to print a photo that you can stick on your fridge, display on your wall, or even frame and give as a gift. The main thing to remember is that the print size for a digital image may be limited.

All digital cameras and cell phones have sufficient megapixels to provide the resolution for a 4x6 or 5x7 photo enlargement. Many would have enough for much larger prints (e.g., 8x10 or 11x14). However, cropping in post-production will reduce your image dimensions.

The best starting point is determining what a good quality home or commercial printer will provide. In most instances, the gold standard is 300 dpi (dots per inch), which you can equate to 300 pixels. That means if you want to print an 8x10, the long side of your image would ideally be at least 3000 pixels (10x300). For 16x20, you would probably like the long side to have around 6000 pixels.

The table below provides a rough guideline for the maximum print size of good quality that you can expect based on the number of megapixels your camera has.

Camera resolution	File size at high resolution (pixels)	Max print size at 330 dpi
2 megapixels	1200 x 1600	4 x 5
3 megapixels	1536 x 2048	5 x 7
	2448 x 3264	8x 10
8 megapixels	2592 x 3888	8 x 14
	2800 x 4000	8 x 14
10 megapixels	3264 x 4920	11 x 14
	3744 x 5616	12 x 18
12 megapixels	4000 x 6000	16 x 20
16 megapixels		
21 megapixels		
24 megapixels		

If you have a 24MP camera, your images will probably be 6000x4000 pixels. This means you can do a lot of cropping before going under the 3000-pixel threshold. If you shoot with a 12 MP camera and then crop your images significantly, you may not be able to print an 8x10. However, if your cropped image dimension is still

around 1200x1600, based on the chart above, you could print a 4x6. Some older cell phones have only 5 or 6 megapixels, so be careful when deciding what size to print. Unfortunately, many family pictures we want to treasure are taken at social events with cell phones, so get close to minimize the need to crop. Unless you are sure your cell phone has an optical zoom on the camera, don't "zoom" with the finger spread as that is just cropping and hence losing resolution. Even if cell phones tout 20MP or 100MPs, almost all only output 12MP due to pixel binning [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pixel_binning].

The easiest way to see your image's dimensions in the Windows environment is to go to *File Explorer* and right-click on the photo. Then click on *Properties*, select the detail tab, and find the dimensions below.

One final consideration when making prints is the viewing distance. If you print a 4x6, there is a good chance it will be held in your hand or an album and, hence, very close to your discerning eye. If, on the other hand, you make an 11x14 print for your wall, it may never be viewed at less than a few feet, and therefore the resolution does not have to be as good.

You may have to experiment as to which image dimensions produce an adequate enlargement for your viewing needs and which printing service provides the quality you want. I recommend printing one 8x10 as a test before committing to a company. When submitting digital photos online, many services will warn you if the resolution is not adequate for the print size you requested.

I have found the quality of prints at Shutterfly and Photobook Canada to be very good, but there are significant delivery fees. On the other hand, Staples has the quality but no delivery fees if you pick it up at the store. However, it takes five business days. If you want a quick turnaround of 4x6 prints, a place like Walmart is probably all you need.