

Bits & Bytes

Arkansas' Premier Computer Club



September 2024_{v2}

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: September 9, 6pm, in John Ruehle Training Center, Highlands Crossing Center.

General Meeting: September 9, 7pm.
Program: "Useful Apps From the App Store, Play Store and Google Play", presented by Geri Hoerner and Ginny Vance. The discussion will cover widely used apps for communication, navigation, entertainment, and productivity on both iPhone and Android smart phones.

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

September 7, 9am - noon at John Ruehle center

September 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** .

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, September 19, 1pm-3pm, "Basic Computer Knowledge: What is a Computer?", 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:

Jerilyn Gemberling

Charles Taunton

Susan Sage

Michael Mabry

Robert Gromatka

Randy Davidson

Nancy Cunningham

Judi Corn

RESULTS OF BVCC AUGUST GENERAL MEETING ELECTION

The August General Meeting is when we elect BVCC officers for the next fiscal year, which for BVCC begins on September 1. There being no nominations from the floor at the August 12 meeting, a motion was made and passed without any dissenting votes to accept the following officer candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee for terms starting in September 2024:

President: Joel Ewing

Vice President: Woody Ogden

Secretary: Barbara Maybury

Treasurer: Russ Ogden

Board 2026: Loretta Ostenso

The terms of all but the Board position run from September 2024 to August 31, 2025. The term of the Board2026 position is two years and runs from September 2024 to August 31, 2026.

There are three two-year Board positions, but with two-year terms that overlap. The other two Board positions continue to be held by Carmen Greenup and Geri Hoerner and their two-year terms don't end until August 31, 2025.

There are various other appointed positions within BVCC and the current holders of those positions have also consented to continue for now 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.

WINDOWS 10 END OF LIFE

By Woody Ogden,
BVCC Vice President & Training Center Admin

Microsoft ends support (patches) on Windows 10 devices in October 2025. Over 400 million PC's will NOT update to Windows 11. Those users will face the dire warning from Microsoft that the sky is falling unless they buy a new Windows 11 PC.

The reality is that those users will have choices: Running Windows 10 unsupported (understanding the risks), running a Linux OS, running ChromeOS Flex, or buying a new Windows 11 PC. It's even possible other options may be available by Fall 2025. Linux and ChromeOS Flex are both free and supported, so if they are able to meet your needs, one of those could be an inexpensive alternative.

I have Chrome OS Flex running on a recently restored laptop in our computer club lab, plus a desktop and laptop running Linux Mint 22. In my opinion, there are few negatives and many positives to using Chrome and Linux operating systems. ChromeOS Flex and Linux will typically install on older PC's that do not meet Microsoft's strict hardware requirements for Windows 11.

GERI HOERNER RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO BVCC

At the July 8 Board Meeting the Board approved a motion to recognize Geri Hoerner for Outstanding Service to BVCC and to add her name to the Outstanding Service plaque that is on the wall in our Training Center. She was unable to attend the August General Meeting, so she will be officially recognized at the September General Meeting.

It is believed that Geri was involved with BVCC in its early days in the 1990's, but we can't verify an exact date because BVCC membership rosters prior to 2010 are minimal. On the old membership rosters that have been retained, Geri shows up as a member since March 2010.

She took over the Membership Chair duties from Jim Prince in September 2017 and continues to serve in that capacity. That means she maintains the official BVCC membership roster, handles memberships at the General Meetings, keeps track of new memberships and member renewals, and sends out most of the BVCC announcement emails to the BVCC membership. With rare exceptions she has been at all BVCC Board and General Meetings since September 2017.

In addition, since September 2021 she has served as a BVCC Board member.

When the Genealogy SIG is actively meeting, Geri serves as the BVCC Board liaison to the Genealogy SIG and sees that they have access to the Training Center.

We are grateful to Geri for her continued service to BVCC.



BVCC FISCAL YEAR SUMMARY

Sept 2023-Aug 2024 Fiscal Year Summary

This the second year in a row BVCC has ended a fiscal year in the black, preceded by a decade of a decline in our cash reserves. Our membership continues to grow slightly, but is still in the 130 to 140 range.

The biggest difference over the last two years has been a more active approach in pursuing grants, awards, and other donations.

The biggest single item under donations is the annual raffle for a computer. Pete Opland has been instrumental in locating and enhancing decent computers for this raffle. Additional funds over the year come from donations for older equipment donated to BVCC that has been enhanced by our Help Clinic support people (Pete Opland, Woody Ogden, and Dean Peoples) to extend its useful life.

Grants that are applicable to BVCC and donations from other organizations in NWA vary from year to year and are difficult to predict. We also receive some donations from individuals.

In September we received a \$500 grant from the Bella Vista POA,

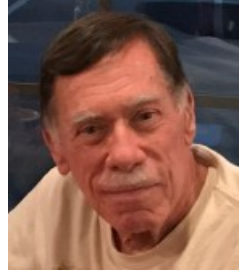
which is reflected in our projected funds for the current fiscal year. We currently participate in the Walmart Round-Up program and also with the PayPal Giving Fund, both of which are described on the BVCC website "Donation" page.

It is our hope that the trend of the last two years can be sustained.

	FY 2023 - 2024	Projected FY 2024 - 2025
Income		
Dues	\$3,706.96	\$3,720.00
Donations	\$5,287.82	\$4,500.00
Grants	\$1,175.89	\$500.00
Interest	\$230.84	\$200.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$10,401.51	\$8,920.00
Expenses		
Rent	\$5,880.00	\$6,240.00
Internet	\$1,260.00	\$1,260.00
Web hosting	\$112.95	\$112.95
Lab phone	\$65.62	\$65.62
Insurance	\$350.00	\$350.00
Safe Dep Box	\$28.00	\$28.00
Advertising	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$32.82	\$500.00
Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Software	\$0.00	\$0.00
APCUG dues	\$50.00	\$50.00
Other	\$212.59	\$200.00
Total	\$7,991.98	\$8,806.57
Net Gain/ Loss	\$2,409.53	\$113.43

RECOVER YOUR WI-FI PASSWORD

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Computer users often seek technical support when they cannot access the Internet via their home wireless system.

First, the technician will usually walk the user through the reset procedure for the router or router/modem (turn them off and on). If that does not fix the problem and it is determined the modem is receiving a good signal, the subsequent conversation often goes something like this:

Technician: What is your password for your router?

User: I don't have a password.

Technician: If your router is not secured (i.e., password protected), you should be able to connect.

User: I don't have a password. I click the Google (or other browser) icon and get online.

At this point, the Technician explains to the User that the password is stored on the User's computer and that a few steps are required to access that password. The technician might guide the user through the process of recovering the password using the following procedure:

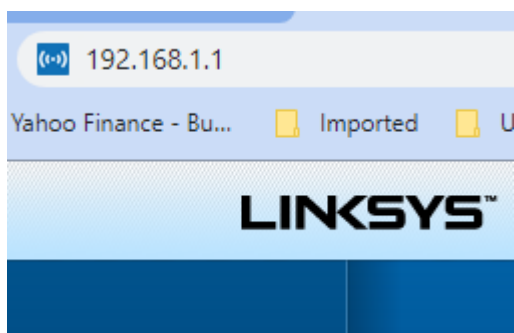
If the computer connects to the Wi-Fi, it automatically supplies the password.

Microsoft has buried the Wi-Fi password on a computer more deeply with the latest version of Windows 10 and 11 than with prior versions. It is the same procedure for both 10 and 11. You can still find your Wi-Fi password using the following steps (note ... where I use the term "click," I mean a single click on the left mouse button or a single tap on a touchscreen.):

Find your way to the "Wireless Properties."

Open your Control Panel (Type "Control Panel" into the search box to the right of the Windows button on your Taskbar and Enter). Click on Network and Internet. Click on Network and Sharing Center, then click on the name of your network, which appears in blue. In the Wi-Fi window that opens, click on Wireless Properties. In the new window that opens, click on the Security tab, then check the box on Show Characters.

If you only own a smartphone/tablet or have a PC that has not stored the Wi-Fi password



Log in to your router as an administrator. You can access your router by entering its IP address into your browser, such as Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge. You can research the default IP address of your router by Googling “IP address [brand name of your router]”. Every router I’ve dealt with had an address of “192.168.X.X”. The most common value for X is the number 1 (for both Xs). If that does not work, try substituting the numbers 0 or 2 for one or both of the Xs. After you log in, you should be able to find the Wi-Fi settings on the Administrative pages of

your router. There, you can look up your password.

IP settings

IP assignment:	Manual
IPv4 address:	192.168.1.211
IPv4 subnet prefix length:	24
IPv4 gateway:	192.168.1.1
IPv4 DNS servers:	192.168.1.1

Ed. Note. On Windows 10/11, you don’t have to guess. You can find the internal IP address of your network router by going to Settings > Network and Internet > Status and, under the name of your Wi-Fi (or Ethernet) connection, clicking Properties. A screen will display; near the bottom are the IP settings. The IPv4 gateway IP address is the internal address of your router.

If you are like many people

The Wi-Fi password is often written on a sticker on the back of your router. This is how I usually set up home routers, and it might be a good thing to do after you have recovered your Wi-Fi password.

This is a simple but effective strategy since it is easy to find.

A burglar would have to break into your home to steal your password, and they probably would focus on more tangible items.