

WAUCTALK

Wisconsin All-computer Users Club

<https://wauc.apcug.org>

Main@WAUC.Groups.io



VOLUME 43 Issue #7

JULY 2025



Jackson Park Lutheran Church

4535 W. Oklahoma Avenue

Milwaukee, WI

August 7th

General Meeting

August 14th

Tutorial SIG

August 21st

Q & A SIG

August 25th

Investment SIG**

August 26th

WAUC Lunch*

August 28th

Smartphone SIG

ALL SIGS ARE HELD ON ZOOM

<https://tinyurl.com/33xwntkv>

*Brass Key

**Wauwatosa Library

4952 W. Forest Home Ave

7635 W. North Avenue

Milwaukee, WI

Wauwatosa, WI



UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

September – Judy Taylour
- ACCESSIBILITY

October – Al Williams –
SCAMMERS AND
OTHER INVASIVE
SPECIES

November – Hewie Pop-
lock – SD CARDS

December—WAUC
Annual Christmas Party

JUNE 2025 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear WAUC Members,

I just had a **"Mid-Summer Night's Dream"** - ALL of my electronics were working perfectly!! Guessing that will not happen for all of us. Seems like there is always some advice that I need from

the experts at WAUC! Yes, even I sometimes ask others in the club for advice.

What makes the club good for everyone is the members have questions and we can answer them for everyone.

Our club is built on the Mission of "Members helping Members!" So, "Ask not what your club can do for you, ask what you can do for your club!" Does that sound somewhat familiar?

July means we are halfway through the year. I hope we have met your expectations! If not, please let us know what we can do!!

I am PROUD to be a member of WAUC!!! PLEASE let me know that you are also!

Thank YOU for being a member of this club!! We appreciate you!!

Don Skarda

**What is the biggest lie
in the entire universe?**

**I have read and agree to
the Terms & Conditions.**

Robert J. Banerian, CPCU, ARM
Personal and Commercial Insurance
Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter

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June 2025 WAUC Lunch



JUNE 2025 Q & A SIG

Those attending were Don Skarda, Jim Hempel, Terry Harvey, Julia Rice, J.J. Johnson, Richard Durand, Margaret Cortez, Louise Bozek, Karen Fenney, Louise Dahms, Bill James and Brian Behling.

Don asked how the drone presentation went the week prior. In lieu of the Tutorial SIG, some members went to the Waukesha County Sheriff Department to learn how drones are used in law enforcement. Louise B said she was particularly impressed with how they were also used for fires and are able to identify the “hot spots” of the fire. All agreed it was a most impressive and informative evening.



As so often happens, no one could think of a question, but I had one written down in my notebook. What is Zigbee? Zigbee is a wireless communication protocol specifically designed for low-power, low-data-rate applications like smartphones. Simpler said, it's a Wi-Fi protocol. None of us were interested in going any further.

Karen asked if Jim has a television at the lake. Yes, Jim has AirTV-2. It's a device that allows users to stream local broadcast channels over-the-air (OTA) to their televisions and mobile devices, using an antenna and the Sling app. It's a dual-tuner device, meaning it can record two shows simultaneously or watch one while recording another. It essentially acts as a network tuner, bring free local channels into the Sling TV ecosystem.



Jim has an antenna in his attic at his home in Cudahy. He also has a home up north on a lake. He purchased an AirTV-2, it's like a small router. It has 3 power connections; a power cable, an ethernet to modem cable, and a coax cable to the antenna in the Cudahy attic. This little device takes the signal off the antenna and moves it to the internet.



This enables him to watch live TV at the lake but from what is on his OTA television in Cudahy. Since Karen doesn't have an attic antenna, she would just

need to purchase a regular OTA antenna for less than \$30, and the AirTV-2 device for under \$100 and she would be able to watch television at her up-north cabin.

Amazon Prime Day is coming up soon! July 8-11, longer than in the past. Get your shopping lists ready!



Jim had an article for us he saw on CNET, about internet pricing traps to beware of. Many of us have seen our internet provider bills increasing. The article, “Protect Yourself From Internet Pricing Traps With These Tips”, warns us to watch for promotional packages expiring or a higher internet

Internet Service Provider (ISP)

speed that may have come with a promotional package or bundle. Maybe your internet, cable television, and mobile phone were all bundled together and now they're priced separately. They warn, “Spectrum is notorious for increasing overall prices for all customers.” Some people may have a contract term agreement and you may be charged hefty fees for cancelling your contract. Check each statement and know the details of the services you're receiving and look for others you may not need. Don't hesitate to call your provider to discuss pricing and your needs. If you're not a gamer or streaming you may be paying more for speeds you don't even need. The top 5 internet providers in Milwaukee are AT&T Fiber, Spectrum, T-Mobile Home Internet, Earthlink and Verizon Home Internet.

Reddit.com is another social media platform and forum-style website where users submit and vote on text posts, links, images, and videos. Brian says they have many different categories and he has found great information there. If you want to post something, you must have an account.



Quora.com is another site where users can ask and answer questions, share knowledge, and connect with others. It's essentially a platform for knowledge sharing and

seeking diverse perspectives on various topics.

Karen commented on something she saw on the Rosen Report, Rocket Money. Rocket Money is a personal finance app that helps users manage their money, budget, and track spending, as well as identify and cancel unwanted subscriptions. She pays \$6 per



month. Bill also has it. It has access to all your bills. They negotiate with companies to lower your bill and they keep 50%. Bill recently had a bill they saved him \$90 on so he received \$45 and Rocket Money took \$45.

Karen also uses the Rakuten extension on her browser. She just received a check from Rakuten for \$43 for money back on recent purchases. In addition, she also uses the Honey extension, which automatically searches for coupons and discounts and applies them automatically on purchases. In seconds they search 30,000 other businesses for a better price. Both Rakuten and Honey are free services.



Rakuten

SCAM Jim belongs to a garden club and is on that club's board of directors. He showed us an email he received, naming another person in that club needing money. The email also named Zelle and PayPal as a way of transferring the money. All a scam.

Bill shared with us something that recently happened using his name. He attended his high school reunion not long ago and was in a picture of those attending. He has maintained a friendship with one person in particular and they are casual friends. This person received a phone call informing him Bill had been in a horrible accident and now was needing \$8,000. The friend went to his bank and withdrew \$8,000 and took it to the place as directed by the caller. Now Bill feels terrible because it was his name used, but he didn't have anything to do with this scam. His friend has refused to contact the police because he's embarrassed, he was duped. Please, if anything like this happens to you, contact the police immediately. Don't let embarrassment get in the way.

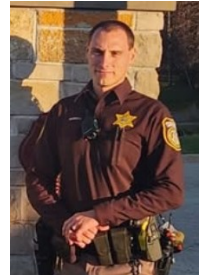


Terry L Harvey

JUNE 2025 SMARTPHONE SIG

Those attending included Don Skarda, Terry Harvey, Julia Rice, Jan Mlagan, Louise Bozek, Betty Robinson, Richard Durand, Margaret Cortez, Bill James, and John Schwarzmeier.

We discussed the drone presentation last week by the Waukesha County Sheriff Department. Everyone who attended greatly enjoyed learning how drones are used in law enforcement. Last evening, Channel 6 Fox News at 9PM showed various ways Milwaukee Police Department is considering expanding the use of drones in their department.

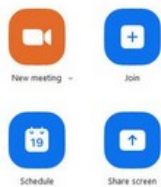


The question was asked, "How do I start my own Zoom meeting if I have a free account?" The first step is to sign up for a free Zoom account and sign in to that account.

Obviously, one would have already downloaded the app. And for members at this SIG, they already have Zoom up and on their screen. (If you haven't ever attended a Zoom meeting, go to <http://www.zoom.us> where you can download the app and set up an account. Your date of birth will be required as well as your email address.) From start to finish, here are the instructions: Click on your Zoom Workplace app. If you want to start a new meeting right now, click on the orange NEW MEETING icon. It takes a few seconds before you will see yourself in a screen that appears. Make sure the AUDIO and VIDEO don't have a line thru them. If there is a line thru either of them just click on it and it will change. Click on START. Now you will see yourself but you need to give others you would like to join you a link. To get a link go up to the top black bar and start looking right. The first icon is green with a check in it. Click on that green icon and a box with information will open. Scroll down to INVITE LINK and copy that (easiest way is just to click on the little icon that shows up which will copy the link to the clip board) and paste that link into an email to send to people who are waiting to join. Voila! There you all are.



I usually prefer to schedule a meeting time if possible. Click on the blue icon with a calendar dated 31, labeled SCHEDULE. In the box that appears you will see your email address and below that change the information to match the date and time of your choosing. In the box labeled INVITEES enter the email addresses of those you want invited. Under Meeting ID click on the radio button for PERSONAL MEETING ID----- . At the bottom click on SAVE. At the scheduled time you'll all meet on Zoom Workplace. You can practice this any time you would like with just yourself without anyone knowing you did it. Zoom has made accomplishing this task very easy.



Richard's Zoom invitations from WAUC's Groups.io are going to his trash folder. How can he prevent this? He uses Yahoo Mail. Don in-

structed Richard how to SHARE his screen so we could all help with this task. We were able to see Richard's email but Don instructed him to open his TRASH. In the trash we could see all the Groups.io notifications. Richard had to RIGHT CLICK ON EACH MESSAGE AND CLICK ON RESTORE TO INBOX. When those emails appear in his inbox he will RIGHT CLICK ON EACH MESSAGE AND CHOOSE NOT SPAM. He may have to do this a few times before Yahoo Mail learns where they belong.

If you would like to blur your house on Google Maps, there are a few things to consider. First, once blurred, the change is permanent. The other consideration is it makes your home harder to find for guest who have never been there before, and only the home owner is eligible to request a house blur. This option may only be done on a computer. You are not able to perform this task on a cell phone or tablet. At maps.google.com, enter your address in the bar at the top and hit RETURN, CLICK ON THE PICTURE OF YOUR HOUSE. Now you will see the street view of your house. In the very lower right corner, you will see REPORT A PROBLEM, click on it. It's in very small text so you will have to look very closely. A red box will appear directing you to MOVE THE BOX (with your



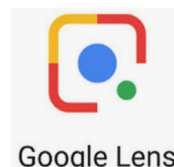
mouse) TO ALL YOU WANT BLURRED. Lastly, enter your email address, verify the captcha (if needed), and click on SUBMIT. That's it!

We watched a Meta Reels Short on how to alert us when we pick up our phone to when there is a notification, voicemail, or email when we have our phone set to DO NOT DISTURB. On a Samsung phone, go to SETTINGS, ADVANCED FEATURES, MOTIONS & GESTURES, ALERT WHEN PICKED UP.



Another Meta Reels Short showed us how to schedule our phone to schedule an automatic reboot. SETTINGS, DEVICE CARE, AUTO OPTIMIZATION, AUTO RESTART, SET A SCHEDULE. Choose the DAY OF THE WEEK and the TIME. That's all there is to it. Just tap the return arrow at the top of the screen to back out.

Google Lens is a powerful but underutilized tool allowing you to search for things just by pointing your camera at them, or by using an existing image. It is capable of identifying objects, translating text, finding similar products, identifying landmarks, plants, animals, and so much more. This is a tool you really want to know how to use and it's very easy. This app will instantly translate text in images, on menus or signs, and documents. It can help you find a similar product, provide a location to purchase the item, and compare prices. Now, let's get to how to use it. If you don't already have Google Lens on your phone, go to the Play Store and get it. Once it's installed, open the app and point your camera at a pair of shoes. Any pair of shoes. Make sure the shoes are within the shaded box on your camera screen and TAP ON SEARCH CIRCLE. Scroll down at the bottom of your screen and you will see the brand and style of the shoes, the price, and where you may purchase them. To use it with Google Photos, just select your photo and you will see the Lens icon on the lower portion of your screen. Tap it and adjust the bars (with your fingers) around the object you would like identified. It's just that easy.



Terry L Harvey

JUNE 2025 LEADERSHIP MEETING

Those present were: Jim Hempel, Tom Martini, Bob Banerian, Terry Harvey, Suzanne Holcomb, Richard Durand, Jan Mlagan, and Don Skarda.

Jim is going to purchase some meats from his local “up north” meat market to try for future picnics and Christmas parties. He said that they are very reasonably priced and he can buy and freeze them for the club.

The Waukesha County Sheriff Department Drone presentation was a success. After several people getting delayed because of the construction around the building, there were 16 people in attendance. The night started with a video presentation in the building and ended outside with a display of the drones and the mobile drone command post.

In lieu of the May 29th Thursday one-on-one help session, we had a speaker from the Wisconsin Consumer Protection Bureau talk with us about Identity Theft: Protect and Prevent. The speaker was Ben Merens, and he is a Consumer Protection Outreach Specialist. He talked with us about how to stay safe and not fall for scams and what to do if we’ve been the victim of identity theft. We had several people talk about how they have been subjected to some of the newer scams that are occurring around our area. Beware and don’t be afraid to delete messages, hang up on callers, or just ignore possible scammers. If you have questions, you can call and/or email Ben.

Terry voiced her disappointment about the low attendance for the extra programs she has set up for the club. She puts in many hours of research and “schmoozing” to get the special presenters and wonders if it is worth all her time. Do you think she should she continue or just do the regular monthly meetings?

We are trying to find ways to increase our membership, and Tom asked how we felt about daytime meetings. Unfortunately, that is not a possibility because Senior Centers around town already have afternoon computer meetings and some of our members are employed during the day. In addition, the church isn’t available as they have other events scheduled. We had a long discussion about ways to get our club recognized around town, but there were no other new ideas.

The WAUC monthly luncheon is in jeopardy of ending because of a lack of interest. It was agreed that nothing will change for now, and the same place (Brass Key) and time will occur for the upcoming months.

The newsletter had to be resent because no one got it with the first email. If you have any problems receiving WAUC messages, please notify one of the Leadership Members and we will get it rectified.

With that being said, if for some reason you change your email address, please notify Don. In that case, you need to be aware that you will need to notify all organizations that use your email as a contact.

Don is still playing phone-tag with the Greenfield Library to set up Tech help dates.

We will be printing off extra newsletters in town instead of having Tom print them and send them from Green Bay. This will be a more cost-efficient option.

Jan Mlagan

SECURING YOUR DEVICES: PROTECTING YOUR DIGITAL WORLD

In today's interconnected world, securing your devices is paramount to protect your digital life from potential cyber threats. From smartphones and laptops to smart home devices and IoT gadgets, ensuring the safety of these tools safeguards your personal information, financial data, and overall online experience. Here are essential tips to help you fortify the security of your devices:



1. **Keep Software Up-to-Date:** Regularly update the operating systems, applications, and firmware on all your devices. Manufacturers release updates to patch security vulnerabilities and enhance protection against emerging threats.
2. **Strong Passwords and Authentication:** Create strong, unique passwords for each device, avoiding common or easily guessable phrases. Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) whenever possible to add an extra layer of security.
3. **Use Reputable Antivirus and Security Software:** Install reliable antivirus and anti-malware software on your computers and smartphones. Regularly scan for potential threats and follow the software's recommendations for increased security.
4. **Encrypt Sensitive Data:** Utilize device encryption to protect sensitive data from unauthorized access. Most modern devices offer built-in encryption features that safeguard your files and communications.
5. **Secure Your Wi-Fi Network:** Change default router passwords and use WPA3 or WPA2 encryption for your Wi-Fi network. Avoid using public Wi-Fi networks for sensitive transactions, as they can be vulnerable to attacks.
6. **Be Cautious of App Permissions:** Review app permissions before granting access to your device's features and data. Only install apps from reputable sources to minimize the risk of downloading malicious software.
7. **Enable Remote Wiping and Tracking:** Enable remote wiping and tracking features on your devices, so you can erase data and locate your device if it is lost or stolen.
8. **Secure Smart Home Devices:** Change default passwords on smart home devices and keep their software updated. Ensure they connect to a secure Wi-Fi network and segregate them from critical devices when possible.
9. **Backup Regularly:** Frequently back up your data to



an external hard drive or a secure cloud storage service. In case of a cyberattack or device failure, you can quickly restore your important files.

Dispose of Devices Securely: When getting rid of old devices, ensure you wipe all data securely. Perform a factory reset or use specialized software to erase data completely.

In conclusion, securing your devices is a critical step in safeguarding your digital world. By staying vigilant, updating software, using strong passwords, and implementing security measures, you can minimize the risk of falling victim to cyber threats. Take the time to protect your devices today and enjoy a safer and more secure online experience tomorrow.

HOW TO SEND A MESSAGE TO ALL WAUC MEMBERS

Address your email to:

<https://wauc.groups.io/>



NAVIGATING YOUR OPTIONS:

WAZE VS GOOGLE

Technology for you *by Ron Brown*

Introduction: In today's interconnected world, navigation apps have become an indispensable tool for modern-day travelers. Among the myriads of choices, Waze and Google Maps stand out as two of the most popular options. Both applications are owned by Google, but they offer distinct features and functionalities that cater to different preferences and needs. In this blog post, we'll explore the differences between Waze and Google Maps to help you choose the right navigation companion for your journeys.

1. **User Interface and Design:** Both Waze and Google Maps sport user-friendly interfaces, but with different design philosophies. Google Maps features a cleaner and more streamlined interface, highlighting important information while keeping the display clutter-free. On the other hand, Waze embraces a more colorful and playful design, using icons and illustrations to create a unique visual experience.

2. **Real-time Traffic and Updates:** Waze is renowned for its real-time traffic updates and crowd-sourced data. It collects data from its users to provide real-time traffic alerts, road closures, accidents, and even police presence. This feature makes it particularly handy for navigating through congested areas and avoiding traffic jams. While Google Maps also provides traffic information, its data may not be as immediate or user-contributed as Waze's.

3. **Navigation Algorithms:** When it comes to choosing the fastest route, both apps employ different algorithms. Waze takes into account user-generated data to suggest shortcuts and alternate routes, often leading to quicker arrival times. Google Maps, on the other hand, leans on historical data and a broader network of mapping resources to determine the optimal route.

4. **Points of Interest (POIs) and Search:** Google Maps shines when it comes to searching for points of interest. Its vast database provides detailed information

about various businesses, landmarks, and reviews, making it a great tool for discovering new places. Waze, while also offering POI information, may not be as robust in this aspect compared to Google Maps.

5. **Integration with Other Services:** Being a Google product, Google Maps naturally integrates seamlessly with other Google services like Gmail and Calendar. This integration enables users to easily navigate to addresses mentioned in emails or event invitations. Waze, while under the Google umbrella, may not have the same level of integration with other Google services.

6. **Social and Community Features:** Waze stands out with its social features, allowing users to connect with friends, share their ETA, and even coordinate carpools. This community-driven aspect adds a layer of interaction and connectivity that Google Maps lacks. Google Maps, however, focuses more on providing a straightforward navigation experience without the emphasis on social interaction.

Battery Consumption and Data Usage: Waze tends to use more battery and data due to its constant real-time data exchange with its servers. Google Maps, while also utilizing data, is known to be more conservative with battery usage. This might be a crucial consideration for those who rely heavily on their phones for navigation during extended journeys.



Conclusion: Both Waze and Google Maps offer unique features and advantages, catering to different types of travelers. If you prioritize real-time traffic updates, community engagement, and a playful interface, Waze might be your ideal choice. On the other hand, if you value a clean design, integration with other Google services, and a comprehensive database of points of interest, Google Maps might be more suitable. Ultimately, the choice between Waze and Google Maps boils down to your personal preferences and the specific needs of your journeys.

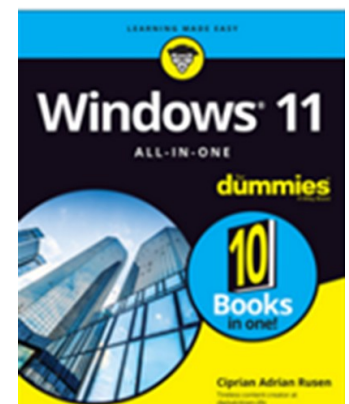


HOW DRONES ARE USED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

WAUKESHA COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



Another WAUC
membership
benefit
Hundreds of
free ebooks
<https://tinyurl.com/mrxbufmf>



WAUC: Wisconsin All-computer Users Club, WAUC was established to provide an educational forum for people interested in learning about computers and related devices. WAUC provides educational programs and publications for its members, as well as providing social and charitable opportunities for the membership. While WAUC is a private club and doesn't share any member information outside the club, we encourage members to interact with other members and to facilitate this we publish a membership directory, an email, and promote via a public Facebook group where we often add pictures of group events and our public website.

WAUCtalk is a publication of the Wisconsin All-computer Users Club. WAUC is a computer club dedicated to promoting and instructing the use of computers by WAUC members. WAUCtalk is emailed to all WAUC membership. Free advertising is available to all WAUC members. We are not responsible for omissions or errors.

WAUC Application for Membership / Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

email _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

What do you want to do with your computer? _____

To join WAUC, please send a completed form along with a check for \$30 (\$15 after July 1st) to cover dues from January 1st through December 31st, 2025.

WAUC

% Bob Banerian

P.O. Box 340883

Milwaukee, WI 53234-0883

First Class

Your membership makes a difference