Bits & Bytes

Arkansas' Premier Computer Club

March 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: March 13, 6pm, in John Ruehle Training Center, Highlands Crossing Center.

General Meeting: March 13, 7pm, "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 accepted in advance or from the floor; but If you know your question in advance, 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.

Because of the continuing presence of COVID-19, we recommend observing any current guidelines that may be in effect at the time of the meeting. Consider attending by Zoom if you or others in your family are in a high risk category.

HELP CLINICS

March 4, 9am - noon at John Ruehle center
March 15, 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: March 17, 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, March 14, 9am-11am, "Why, When and How to Backup Your C Drive", with Pete Opland.

Tuesday, March 21, 2pm-4pm, "Basic Computer Security, Part 2", with Justin Sell.

Wednesday, March 22, 9am-11am, "Building a Password Manager Using Excel", with Pete Opland.

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 to BVCC after an absence. Some of these were from several months prior to February that were somehow missed when manually extracting names from the rosters :

Carol Brewer	Tom Chiovoloni	Maureen Crowley
Jim Dennis	Myra Dennis	Gidget DeShields
Scott DeShields	Karen Dobbs	Fran Hamilton
Cheryl Kautzer	Will Keller	Molly Owen
Vicki Peoples	Peggy Pfeifer	Janice Renick
Kevin Sanders	Lisa Sanders	Vickie Schubert
Debbie Sheetrum	Becky Vanmeter	

RAFFLE WINNER!

The happy winner at our February General Meeting of the raffle for the customized Dell Optiplex 5060 Tower Desktop was Lisa Sanders of Bella Vista.

Lisa is a fairly new member of BVCC and was present at the February meeting.

DONATIONS

Although the Amazon Smile program has terminated, the Walmart Round-Up program is continuing. Also, for the entire month of March, Walmart has announced a 2:1 match for all donations made through their Round-Up donation program for online purchase transactions. This 2:1 match is not an overwhelming attraction -- might mean an extra donation of $10 - $20 dollars for us -- but at least give Walmart a look if you are doing online shopping. See the "Information ► Donations" page on the BVCC website for details on enabling yourself to participate in the Round-Up program.

We are also receiving some donations via the PayPal Giving Fund. This slightly-delayed contribution is advantageous for larger donations as there is no percentage-based transaction fee deduction from the amount. Details are also available on the BVCC website.

We also wish to thank everyone who participated in the February Computer Raffle. I don't have the exact amount at hand, but after deducting the costs involved I believe the net to BVCC was around $1,200; and in addition it served as advertising for BVCC and added some new members.

ARE FREE PUBLIC PHONE CHARGING STATIONS SAFE?

'JUICE JACKING' MIGHT LOAD MALWARE ON YOUR PHONE OR TABLET AS IT'S CHARGING

by Kurt Jefferson
Kurt Jefferson, Editor, Central Kentucky Computer Society
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You're on a layover at a major airport when you realize your iPhone or Android smartphone's battery is draining fast, and the battery power is down to single digits.

The battery icon has just turned from green to red, meaning your phone is nearly drained. Soon it will be as useless as an electric kettle in a cave.

There's a convenient public charging station nearby. You're in a bind. Your jet leaves in half hour. And yet you've read about the dangers of charging your phone or tablet at a public charging station. So what's a person to do?

How can you be sure the public charging station is safe? Reviewed.com reports, "As the latest security alerts prove, USB cables and chargers are like chewing gum—if you find it lying around in public, don't use it. It's not free candy. The Los Angeles District Attorney recently warned that charging your phone via those public USB ports can lead to "juice jacking." That's when hackers use the connection to transmit dangerous malware onto your device and steal your personal information or data."

Reviewed.com's executive editor, T.J. Donegan, recommends an alternative. He recommends you buy a USB portable battery pack, "many of which can even charge laptops on the go–so you don't have to crowd around the one outlet with 15 other people."

Reviewed.com recommends what's called the Jackery Bolt portable battery pack. It says the portable battery pack "has an incredibly high capacity that can charge your phone three times over (!!) before the charger needs to be recharged. Plus, it's slim and compact, so it's easy to tote around and has multiple ports so you can charge more than one device at a time." Amazon currently sells the Jackery Bolt for $32.99.

The Wirecutter, a website that reviews and tests nearly everything (and purchased by The New York Times), gives high marks to the Zendure SuperMini 20w Power Bank. Amazon currently sells this model for $45 (using the Amazon on-page clipped coupon.) The Wirecutter writes in its Zendure review, "about as small and lightweight as a power bank can be while still offering enough capacity to juice up most smartphones up to three times. Its USB-C Power Delivery (PD) port can charge most handheld devices (and recharge the power bank itself) at top speed with the included USB-C cable and a compatible wall charger (the one that came with your phone will work). The USB-A port can handle any older, non-USB-C devices you might have kicking around, too."

The HyperJuice 18W USB-C+ Lightning Battery Pack also gets a good Wirecutter review. It contains built-in cables, so you don't have to mess with cables that can easily get lost, tangled, or misplaced. It's currently $60 from the Hyper website.

The Wirecutter also gives thumbs up to the TravelCard Charger, which sells for $30 from TravelCard. "It has the lowest capacity of any power bank we've tested," writes The Wirecutter, but the review claims it's the best portable charger "for someone who wants to have an emergency boost of power always on hand."

Reviewed.com:
Here's Why You Should Never Use A Public Phone Charger

The Wirecutter:
The Best Portable Chargers and Power Banks for Phones and Tablets

FBI Issues Warning Over Public Charging Stations

The FBI says don't do it even if you're tempted to use a public charging station so your phone or tablet won't die on you.

It's a risky business, according to the team at the FBI, watching malware spread on mobile devices throughout the U.S. and abroad:

"Cybersecurity experts have warned that criminals can load malware onto public USB charging stations to maliciously access electronic devices while being charged.

Malware installed through a dirty USB port can lock a device or export personal data and passwords directly to the perpetrator. Criminals can use that information to access online accounts or sell it to other bad actors."

FBI tech experts add, "Don't let a free USB charge wind up draining your bank account." Here are some tips to help you avoid becoming a juice-jacking victim:

- Avoid using a USB charging station. Use an AC power outlet instead.
- Bring AC, car chargers, and USB cables with you when traveling.
- Carry a portable charger or external battery.
- Consider carrying a charging-only cable from a trusted supplier, which prevents data from sending or receiving while charging.