

Bristol Village Computer Club - May 2015

ISSN: 2327-2198

If you are reading this on your computer display, remember that **Acrobat Reader** has a *zoom* feature (under "View" in your top tool bar) for enlarging or reducing text and graphics.

Next Computer Club (BVCC) Meeting

Mr. Brock Clemmons, Payment Solution Consultant from U.S. Bank in Waverly will be presenting a program on credit card safety and security.

May 11, 2015, 7:30PM Glenn Center

Also on BTV

Quick Index

You can jump directly to articles in this newsletter. Just left click on the Index listing.

Newsletter Contents

Quick Index.....	1
Notes from Bill.....	1
New Special Interest Group.....	1
BVCC at Work.....	2
Kroger Rewards Program Registration Assistance.....	2
Picture Directory Production.....	2
Sight and Sound Equipment.....	2
Resident Computer Problems.....	2
Computer Refurbishing.....	2
New Classroom.....	3
Windows 10?.....	3
Computer Buying Tips.....	3
Laptop or Desktop?.....	3
Operating System?.....	4
New or Refurbished?.....	4
Still using XP:?......	4
The Coolest Nature Video Ever?.....	5
National Mall Cam.....	5
Charity Scams.....	5

BVCC Officers

President: Bill Webb
Vice President: Don Netzley
Treasurer: George Hartwell
Secretary: Nancy Seward
Newsletter Editor: Len Nasman
CLUB EMAIL: bvclub@bvres.org

Notes from Bill

By Bill Webb

Mr. Brock Clemmons, Payment Solution Consultant from U.S. Bank in Waverly, will be presenting a program on credit card safety and security.

He will be explaining the added security benefits of the new chips that are embedded in the new cards, and how they are an improvement over the magnetic strips. In addition, he will discuss general practices when using credit cards that may help to protect your financial account.

The public is invited and questions will be welcomed from the audience.

New Special Interest Group

By Bill Webb

Plans are underway to establish a Special Interest Group (SIG) that will focus primarily on Apple devices. A meeting was held on April 20th. The consensus of those attending was to continue to meet as an informal network of users.

Procedurally, we will schedule periodic meetings to address a specific topic. In addition, some members of the user group will list areas they are willing to teach to others on an individual or small group basis.

This list of names and topics will be distributed to the entire group as soon as the information is com-



piled. Our goal is to provide specific learning options to help the individual usage levels of all members. We plan to establish and maintain our linkage with the BVCC as a special interest group (SIG). The hope is to extend the services of the BVCC to an increasing number of individuals acquiring the devices.

If you are interested in joining this group or have questions, please contact Bill Webb at wjwebb@roadrunner.com.

BVCC at Work

By Len

The Bristol Village Computer Club provides services to members such as: operating the computer room with multiple workstations, a wireless network hub, fast color and monochrome printing, a high resolution scanner, a 35mm slide scanner, special keyboards and track ball for evaluation, a classroom setup with a large display screen, a workshop for repairing and/or setup of new member computers. The club also provides other services to Bristol Village. Here are some examples:

Kroger Rewards Program Registration Assistance



Dozens of Bristol Village residents have been enrolled in the Kroger program that provides funds for the Bristol Village Foundation.

Picture Directory Production

BVCC maintains the Picture Directory database using File Maker Pro software, and prints directory copies on our Ricoh color laser printer.



Sight and Sound Equipment

BVCC donated \$3,300 dollars toward the new video mixer for the Sight and Sound booth.



Resident Computer Problems

BVCC members provide technical support and information to residents who have problems with their personal computers.



Computer Refurbishing

From time to time residents buy new computers and have no need for their older computer hardware. BVCC accepts donations of old computers.



Sometimes it is possible to upgrade the old computers by adding memory or installing new hard drives or other components. We always clean the original hard drives to remove all traces of previous owners. We have recently seen a lot of older computers running Windows XP since Microsoft no longer supports that version of their operating system.

We frequently install the free, open source, Linux operating system to extend the life of older hardware. Linux comes with Firefox (an internet web browser) LibreOffice (a free alternative to Microsoft Office), email software, and dozens of free games.



Older donated computers are sometimes sold to other users. In the case of hardware that is no longer useful, we turn it over to one of the APCUG clubs for proper disposal.

The bottom line is that BVCC does more than hold monthly meetings and send out newsletters. It provides general computing support to Bristol Village residents. To keep providing this kind of service, we are always in need of new volunteers to add to our support network.

New Classroom



The computer room was recently re-arranged to create an improved setting for computer classes. A 55" display monitor allows instructors to connect their laptop and provide students with an enhanced view of instructional materials.

Windows 10?

By Len

It's hard to avoid news that Microsoft will soon be releasing Windows 10. Current guessing is that Windows 10 will be released at the end of July, 2015. Microsoft says that Windows 10 will be a free upgrade for current Windows 7 and 8 users (for the next year anyway). The question is...should you jump on the bandwagon and switch?



Microsoft is convinced that their operating system should work for both traditional desktop computers, touch screen based tablet computers, and smart phones. This is what upset many desktop users when they experienced Windows 8. It is possible

that Microsoft has found a way to satisfy the needs of phone, tablet, and desktop users, but that remains to be seen.



Microsoft is selling both software and hardware. It is clear that Windows 10 is designed to work on everything from desktop computers to tablets to smart phones. The trouble is what I call the Swiss Army Knife approach. You can have one knife that includes a cutting blade, a saw, a scissors, a screw driver, and more. The thing is that if you are a surgeon you need a knife, but you would not choose a Swiss Army knife. If you are a carpenter you need a saw, but you would not choose a Swiss Army knife. And so on. I am not sure that a computer operating system designed to work on a smart phone will also be the best tool for desktop publishing or for creating a newsletter like this one.

When Windows 10 is finally released, I might try it out on one of my computers, but if I only had one computer I would not make the jump too soon.

Computer Buying Tips

By Len

Is that old computer giving you fits, running too slow, or are you simply in the mood to upgrade? What should you consider when shopping for a new computer.

Laptop or Desktop?

One decision to make is whether to choose a laptop or a desktop computer. If you have a need for porta-



bility, then a laptop is a logical choice. Of course many computer functions such as email can be done by tablets or smart phones, but for this discussion we will assume that you need serious computer applications such as desktop publishing or computer graphics, and tablets or phones are simply not up to the job.

If portability is not an issue, then a basic desktop computer has many advantages. You can typically get more computing power for less money with a desktop. Also, if you think you might want to upgrade or add hardware, desktops are the better choice. Expanding memory, adding hard drives or other components is much easier with desktops.

When your computer gets sick and needs service (and every computer will need service if you keep it long enough), desktops are much easier to service than laptops. Replacing a display screen or keyboard for a desktop is simple, but replacing a display screen or keyboard on a laptop is next to impossible.

Operating System?

Before you run out to the computer store, take a serious look at what programs (Apps) you need, or want, to run on your computer. It may be that the special program you want to use is only available on a Mac or Windows computer. However, if you will be doing just the basics; email, web surfing, desktop publishing, spreadsheets, playing CD's or DVD's, or graphics or paint programs, then the choice of operating system is not important. All of the basic software can be found for every operating system including the free Linux operating system.

In the Windows world, Windows 7 is a proven and solid operating system. Microsoft will continue supporting Windows 7 through 2020. Windows 8.1 is OK unless you have been a serious user of an earlier version. The jury is still out on Windows 10.



New or Refurbished?



If you do not need the latest and fastest hardware, consider buying a refurbished computer. We have quite a bit of experience with refurbished computers at the BVCC computer room. All of our current computers are refurbished. The 6 main public computers in the computer room were acquired in July of 2012, and in that time the only required service was to replace a power supply on one of them.

There are companies that specialize in collecting computers that have gone off lease, or are from closed companies. They typically replace or reformat the hard drive and then install an operating system and basic software. We have helped quite a few BVCC members buy refurbished computers and there have only been one or two cases where we had problems. Refurbished computers with Windows 7 installed are available at this writing for under \$200. BTW, BVCC currently has several refurbished desktop computers for sale.

Still using XP:?

There are still some folks out there using Windows XP. Microsoft stopped support for XP some time ago. This means that they are no longer providing security patches or updates. Using XP on the Internet is a little dangerous. If you never go online, however, and if your XP machine is working OK, you can happily keep using it.

If you have an old XP machine that works OK, and you want to do a lot of email and web browsing, and you do not have any special software that only works with Windows, consider switching to Linux. BVCC tech folks can replace most XP computers with Linux. The version of Linux we install includes Mozilla Firefox for web browsing, LibreOffice for Microsoft Office type applications, a good media player, and a long list of games. Keep in mind that Linux and the associated Linux software is free.



The Coolest Nature Video Ever?

You be the judge.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0nDQOr-Bx4A>



National Mall Cam

By Len

They are digging up the National Mall in Washington, DC. You can get a live camera view of what is happening.



<http://www.earthcam.com/usa/dc/nationalmall/?cam=nationalmall>

There are other live web cameras in the DC area. Warning: you may have to watch an advertisement before you can view video from a particular camera.

Charity Scams

By Len

How can you determine if an organization asking for donations is worthy? One way is to check the Federal Trade Commission ([ftc](http://www.ftc.gov)) web site.



Another good web site is the [Charity Navigator](http://www.charitynavigator.org). This web site provides information such as the percentage of donations that go to a particular program.

