



Computers Are Easy User Group

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore....

Founded 1984 ARI is the
Official Newsletter of
Computers Are Easy User Group

September 2025
Volume XLI Issue 9

PER GLENSIDE Library (Masks are optional)

INFORMATION for Saturday September 27 start time in person at
Library Board Room is 9:30am or at home Zoom is 10:00am.
There will be a meeting invitation e-mail Thursday evening
before the Saturday meeting.

Our September presentation
We will have various videos about
life after MS Windows working with Linux

NEW MAIL ADDRESS!!!

NEW MAIL ADDRESS!!!

**CAEUG,
P.O. Box 153
South Elgin, IL 60177**

***Thank you! to all who paid the
low \$20.00 dues for 2025!
Your support helps pay for our
APCUG membership and CAEUG website***

Confirmed
meeting dates

2025

Sept 27

Oct 25

:: ::

Hybrid
Board Room
in person
OR Zoom

:: ::

Check
website for
dates and
meeting info

:: ::

**!!!! NEW !!!
Mailing
address:**

**CAEUG
P.O. Box 153
South Elgin,
IL 60177**

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Table of Contents

Page	
2	Lamp 283 September 2025 By John Spizzirri
4	President's Corner Tech in Unexpected Places By Greg Skalka

Join CAEUG meeting in Library or from Home,
Stay Safe! Update information on our website at
<https://www.CAEUG.net>

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The Glenside Public Library address is at 25 E Fullerton Avenue, Glendale Heights, Illinois. The meeting(s) are not library sponsored. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this program and who require certain accommodations in order to observe and / or participate in the program are requested to contact CAEUG president, at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be made.

Members Helpline

Any member can volunteer to be on the Members Helpline.

Hardware problems, Win 7, Win 10, Linux and Virus Removal

- John Spizzirri



Lamp Post 283 September 2025 by John Spizzirri

The brown bear cams are live (**1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, **5**, **6**). The fishing in Brooks River has played out. The bears still fishing seem more determined now that the days are getting shorter. If you are interested, tune in now because there are fewer and fewer bears as they prepare for hibernation. There is a highlight reel of bears feeding in the river.

- 1) <https://is.gd/5XSkeR>
- 2) <https://is.gd/8qsdz0>
- 3) <https://is.gd/BYn1NE>
- 4) <https://is.gd/5RsMdk>
- 5) <https://is.gd/c7jg58>
- 6) <https://is.gd/ERw674>

Are you concerned about your Internet browser privacy settings? There is a web site (**1**) that keeps track of various browsers and how leaky they are. No browser is perfect. This site uses a number of automated tests that can help you select a browser that suits your needs while keeping you 'safe'. Check it out.

- 1) <https://privacytests.org/>

Windows 10 ends support on October 14, 2025 (**1**). A ZD-Net article (**2**) reveals five options a user can take. The first option is buy additional support from Microsoft (**MS 3**). The instructions for applying for that support can be

found on the Win 10 ends support site (**1**) toward the bottom of the page. The second option is buy a new PC. If you have a few hundred to a few thousand dollars to spare, go for it. Microcenter (**4**), Best Buy (**5**), and New Egg (**6**) have many choices. The third option is to upgrade your incompatible hardware so that Windows 11 can be installed. ZD-Net provides a site (**7**) with instructions on how to do that. Forget about Windows and switch to a different OS. The article suggests Chrome OS Flex (**8**) and the various Linux distributions (**9**). The last option is the most dangerous. Ignore the end of support all together. If you do no serious or sensitive work on your PC this might be a reasonable option otherwise don't even think about it.

- 1) <https://is.gd/7Ryv6Z>**
- 2) <https://is.gd/lgC1qC>**
- 3) <https://www.microsoft.com/>**
- 4) <https://www.microcenter.com/>**
- 5) <https://www.bestbuy.com/>**
- 6) <https://is.gd/59a5x4>**
- 7) <https://is.gd/XTUI6E>**
- 8) <https://is.gd/XuHX9a>**
- 9) <https://distrowatch.com/>**

The East-Central Ohio Technology Users Club has a Linux Special Interest Group (SIG) that meets once a month. Its free. Its run by APCUGs, John Kennedy, and Ken Bixler. It is on line using Jitsi at 1 P.M. Eastern Time (Noon Central Time). To get on the mailing list for notification, email Linux "at" ecotu "dot" club. The club site is here (**1**). Ken is a Linux expert. John is experienced in Linux and can explain things well. Give it a try if you are interested in Linux.

- 1) <https://ecotu.club/>**

October is just a week or two away. The first full week in October (this year) is National Fire Prevention Week (**1**). It coincides with the days in 1871 when the Chicago fire (**2**), the Peshtigo fire (**3**), and the Great Michigan fire (**4**) took place. The Peshtigo fire is still the largest wildfire of all time in terms of loss of life at about 1,500 lives lost (**5**). The Chicago fire had about 300 lives lost with 2,100 acres destroyed. There is no known number of deaths in the Great Michigan fire because 3 million acres of trees were destroyed and the population was sparse. What to make of this? Check your smoke detector battery and replace it, if necessary. Check your CO detector, if it is seven years old or older, replace it. If your smoke detector is older than ten years old, replace it (**6**).

- 1) <https://is.gd/1c5a10>**
- 2) <https://is.gd/e1DI82>**
- 3) <https://is.gd/sQkX3c>**

- 4) <https://is.gd/V8TITk>
- 5) <https://is.gd/pswtbM>
- 6) <https://is.gd/UPRrjU>

Another thing to be aware of in October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month (**1**). The Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency (**CISA 2**) has various informational pages and videos to help you identify bogus emails and phishing schemes (**3**), pick secure passwords (**4**), and set up multi-factor authentication (**5**). CISA also has tips (**6**) for surfing the Internet safely. The site informs you on how to set up your browser to be safe and keep bad actors away.

- 1) <https://is.gd/bCSzKL>
- 2) <https://www.cisa.gov/>
- 3) <https://www.ftc.gov/node/28249>
- 4) <https://is.gd/32L0kD>
- 5) <https://is.gd/NHduiw>
- 6) <https://is.gd/vu9xbS>

Between you, me and the LampPost, that's all for now.

President's Corner
Tech in Unexpected Places
by Greg Skalka
President, Under the Computer Hood User Group
<https://www.uchug.org>
president (at) uchug.org

We all know that technology is almost everywhere and plays a significant role in our lives. Because most of us use the Internet, the media, and social networks, we expect specific tech in certain places. We all recognize it in our smartphones, laptops, computers, and Chromebooks - the devices we use every day to connect to information and others. Some of us may be able to recognize it in some less obvious devices and systems that power our modern lives, such as automobiles, e-bikes, smart TVs, smart appliances, and smart homes, which are now often full of new capabilities provided by technology. But, if you look even closer, you may find technology in more unexpected places, where it is enhancing our lives while changing them to some degree as well.

Musical Tech

We all use technology to play music; we can now have our personal soundtrack wherever we go. Home music systems have been around for at least a hundred

years; first radio, then phonographs, tape players, and now streaming. Car radios were first introduced in the 1930s; now, you can stream to your vehicle. Music became more portable and personal in the 1950s with the introduction of small transistor radios and then progressed further with tape players like the Sony Walkman in the 1980's and portable MP3 players in the 1990's. Today joggers often stream music or listen to podcasts on their smartphones while they exercise.

While technology has moved heavily into music delivery and the recording and mastering of audio, the actual making of music has not changed much. Although some high-tech instruments like electronic keyboards and music and percussion synthesizers, most music is still made in old-fashioned ways. Just as it was a thousand years ago, most humans' methods cause pressure waves in the air (sound) involve a mechanical vibration. These pressure waves can be produced by plucking, striking, or rubbing a bow across a string (guitar, piano, or violin), blowing on a reed (saxophone), or vibrating our lips (trumpet) or vocal cords (singing). While the instruments are often the same, it is in musical accessories where technology has taken hold. One such accessory is the electronic tuning aid.

Though I very much enjoy music, I've never felt musical. I grew up without any training on a musical instrument. I learned a little keyboard in an introduction to music class in junior college, but it never felt natural or easy. I'm an electrical engineer and feel I'm inherently more analytical and logical than artistic or creative. I can create accurate mechanical drawings with rulers and graph paper but have always envied my daughter's ability to draw wonderful pictures freehand, as my attempts appear stuck in kindergarten.

Most young males of my generation had dreams of playing guitar in a rock band; I was no different, just realistic. However, I liked Hawaiian music and thought perhaps playing the ukulele might be more of a possibility. Since it was smaller and had only four strings, it had to be more accessible, right? However, the prudent and conservative engineer in me never let on to this interest until my wife and I were on a Hawaiian vacation about six years ago. We wandered into a ukulele store in a seaside shopping center, and I mentioned that I was interested in playing the ukulele. My wise and sensitive wife remembered this and bought me a ukulele for a birthday present.

Even though I now had the instrument, it took me several years to even start to play. I initially tried to go through the training book I received but found I needed more personalized instruction. Poway Adult School offered a "Ukulele for Beginners" class that met for six weekly sessions for a modest cost; this seemed just what I needed. Unfortunately, this class was only offered on Wednesday nights for several school terms, which meant abandoning our group for about two months. I couldn't do that, and so I put the ukulele on a shelf.

This spring, the beginning ukulele class was finally offered on a non-Wednesday. Even though my life was hectic at the time, my wife pushed me to sign up, and I'm glad I did. So I took the class, and though I still can't play much (or well), I needed to get started and feel more comfortable with the instrument.

One thing my wife bought to go with the ukulele that proved to be very beneficial is a Snark tuner. This small electronic device helps tune stringed instruments. It identifies the note being played by the sound frequency and displays where your instrument is tuned relative to the standard notes. The class instructor used his Snark to tune our instruments before each class, so I was pleased to use mine to arrive already tuned. It clips on the instrument and makes tuning, which should be performed before each playing session, quick and easy. Without it, I don't know what I would do. I would have never expected the role that technology played in my musical interests.

The Snark is reasonably priced at \$12-\$40, depending on the model. However, it is powered by a small CR2032 coin cell battery, which I've found only lasts a few months in regular use. Because of this, the Costco pack of 12 batteries is a great value.

Electronic Traps

As I discussed in my presentation last month, high-tech has come to pest control. The Victor electronic rat trap is indeed a better mousetrap, killing pests with a high-voltage shock. It allows for simple disposal, is easy to clean (I've found so far that cleaning is unnecessary), and the Wi-Fi model I have sends a kill alert to my smartphone. Since installing one in my garage three months ago, it killed three mice right away and has been at the ready for more. In addition, it will alert me if it loses Wi-Fi or the battery gets low, so all I need to do is wait.

Remote Camera Control

Today when you think of a camera, it is a digital electronic camera. No one takes pictures with photographic film anymore. Stand-alone cameras are becoming less prevalent as more and more people use their phone cameras for all their photography.

I grew up with 35 mm film single-lens reflex cameras and prefer using a different camera to the lower-quality camera in my smartphone. My primary camera is a Panasonic Lumix "bridge" camera. This type of camera has the large body and lens of a DSLR (Digital Single-Lens Reflex) but with the smaller sensor (and lower price) of a point and shoot camera (it is a bridge between the point and shoot and DSLR). It also has a fixed (non-removable) lens like a point-and-shoot camera. I like this camera a lot, but it lacks one thing I miss - a bulb mode. This is a shutter setting that allows the shutter to stay open as long as you want. My camera shutter can be set for as short a duration as 1/16000

of a second, but the longest duration is 4 seconds.

I've searched the camera manual and on the web for a way to make longer exposures. With some limitations, I found a camera setting that can make a 60-second exposure, but no luck on a bulb mode. However, I found an unexpected capability in a Panasonic camera app in one of the web posts I read. The Panasonic Image App works with Panasonic cameras with Wi-Fi capabilities, which mine has. It can link to the camera and control it remotely. It can remotely change camera settings, take a picture, and even display what the camera is seeing on the phone. I installed the app on my phone but have not used it much so far. While I had hoped to find a solution to my problem, I was not expecting to be able to control my digital camera with my phone (which some would also consider a digital camera).

Temperature Camera for COVID

The COVID restrictions at my place of work have now been lifted for those employees that can prove full vaccination. Before that, I had to fill out an online health assessment before going to my workplace each day. When I arrived, I had to wear a mask and have my temperature checked in the building lobby. My employer had installed an electronic device on a tripod that each employee had to use. It looked like a large tablet, with the camera set to selfie mode. You first had to line your face up with a head silhouette on the screen, while a synthesized female voice said, "Please face the detector frame." It then measured your temperature with an infrared sensor. Unfortunately, it did not display the actual temperature measured. Instead, it spoke out "Normal temperature" and illuminated a green bar on the top of the device if your temperature was in the normal range. Fortunately, I never got to find out what it did when your temperature was not normal.

After over a year of using this device each workday, I can still hear that synthesized voice say, "Please face the detector frame" and "Normal temperature" in my mind. Another unexpected tech encounter that had a lasting impact.

Maritime Museum

Some midshipmen were tasked at the maritime museum to do the "dirty work" of restoring a 60-year-old destroyer. One day the Navy sent a crew of 20 men, while the Marines sent a crew of three.

The curator teased one of the Navy midshipman, saying, "You mean it takes twenty Navy guys to do the work of only three Marines?"

"Sir, no sir," he snapped back. "The truth is, sir, it takes six or seven of us to supervise each one of those Marines!"

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It is a miracle that curiosity survives formal education. Albert Einstein