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FOUNDED 1984
The Official Newsletter of THE
COMPUTERS ARE EASY USER GROUP

Abort, Retry, Ignore...

August 2005 | Suggested Retail Price $1.95 | Volume XXI | Issue 08

Calendar of Events

!!! IMPORTANT !!!
Meeting date
Saturday
August 27
Time 9:45 - noon

September 17
****
PLEASE NOTE SEPTEMBER'S MEETING IS THE 3RD SATURDAY
****
October 22
December 3

* * * *
MEETING PLACE will be the Glenside Public Library
* * * *
SEE YOU THERE!!
* * * *

2005 COD Computer Show Dates
Aug 28

* * * *

Bio Presenter for August

My name is Tom Anzalone and I have been working with computers full time for 12 years. I have certifications from Novell (CNE and CNA), Microsoft (MSCE), and I am currently pursuing certifications from Checkpoint and Cisco. I work for an Investment firm as a Network Engineer and it is my responsibility to support and maintain all the computer systems that are vital for the company's day to day operations. I have had a love of computers since my early years. My first experience with computers was with the Apple IIE during my grade school years. My first computer was IBM's first consumer laptop. It had dual 3.5" inch floppy drives that were used to boot the operating system (Dos 3.3). It also had a whopping 128K of memory! I initially pursued a career in Public Accounting. I graduated from college with a Bachelors degree in Accounting and worked full time in the field for 5 years. After talking with a friend who had just started in his career in computers by receiving his Novell CNE, I decided to make a change. The rest is history and I have loved working with computers ever since.

I am a avid computer gamer and self professed geek. I am also the proud father of 20 month old twins Dominic and Maria. My wife Julie and I reside in Batavia Illinois. I can be reached at tanzalone@gmail.com with any questions.

29 Useful Bookmarks

By Richard Johnson, TUGNET
http://www.tugnet.org

The Web is a marvelous resource, and most of us come nowhere near tapping its full potential. I've attempted here to list 29 websites that without any necessary downloading provide exceedingly useful free non-specialized services and tools, that require no particular knowledge except how to navigate the World Wide Web.

1. Time Cave **http://www.timecave.com**

2. Memo to Me **http://www.memotome.com**
Using these two email reminder services you'll never forget another upcoming activity or

(con't on page 2)

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11. Password Generator **http://mistupid.com/computers/passwordgen.htm**
Random characters compose the safest passwords. This tool will create a password with random characters according to your specifications. On your instructions, will even avoid ambiguous characters [o and 0, 1 and l].

12. Zap2it **http://www.zap2it.com**
With Zap2it you can check out both TV and movie schedules. Various options let you permanently personalize each set of listings, to give you just the information you need, in the format you prefer.

13. Acronym Finder **http://www.acronymfinder.com**
Don't be baffled by acronyms and abbreviations you encounter on the Web and elsewhere. This sit e offers definitions for over 398,000 such terms. Optional downloading of any of a number of search tools (for various browsers) will allow you to view a definition almost instantly.

14. Restaurant health ratings (LA County) **http://lapublichealth.org/rating**
Avoid traveling to an appealing restaurant only to find that its health rating is below the level with which you're comfortable.

15. Translation Wizard **http://www.faganfinder.com/translate**
The Translation Wizard uses other sites' services to ease the process of finding a translation — that otherwise might require visiting ten or more sites to find the language of interest! It also has a neat button to identify a mystery language.

16. Anybirthday **http://anybirthday.com**
A fun site that can divulge your friend's birthday or even tell you where to mail the card.

17. TrackEngine **http://www.trackengine.com**
Notifies you via email of changes in Web pages that you select. You can preview the changes or view the whole page via email, with changes highlighted. Choose the Web address of a neighborhood theater, to see what plays are coming up. Or see every new installment of a favorite newspaper column, without having to buy the paper.

18. GovBenefits.gov **http://govbenefits.gov**
A source of information on over 400 government-funded programs that extend benefits for which you may qualify, including compensated volunteering. Features a confidential questionnaire designed to point you to the most likely matches.

19. AddALL **http://www.addall.com**
Use this site to find the very best price for a book you want to buy. Unlike most other comparison sites, it figures in shipping costs for your location. Links will take you to pages for magazine subs, music CDs, and videos.

20. jux2 **http://www.jux2.com**
Jux2 lets you receive and compare search results from two or three different search engines, or see what you're missing from your regular search results. (According to the site, competing search engines typically share fewer than 4 out their 10 top results.) Still in development, it's currently limited to Google, Yahoo, and Ask Jeeves.

21. Medem Medical Library **http://www.medem.com/medlb/medlib_entry.cfm**
Searchable and browsable medical library, organizing contributions from 45 medical societies. Features a complexity indicator for each article, from "introductory" to "professional."

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22. Metacritic **http://www.metacritic.com/film**

23. Kids-in-mind **http://www.kids-in-mind.com**
Metacritic is an excellent source for movie critiques. For each film, it arranges its large variety of reviews from most to least favorable, and then tabulates the opinions, for an overall "metascore." (Additional Metacritic pages cover videos, music, and games.) For evaluating movies for children, or if you have a concern about violence, sex, or profanity, Kids-in-mind will rate and describe each film's content in those three areas.

24. CardRatings **http://cardratings.com**
This site maintains information on over 700 credit cards, and will suggest the best cards in a variety of categories —low or no credit, no annual fee, low interest, rewards/rebates, etc.

25. The California Patient's Guide **http://www.calpatientguide.org**
A well-organized extensive guide to Californians'' health care rights, and what you can do if they're compromised. Assembled by medical, legal, and consumer experts, and published by the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights.

26. CheckFree **http://www.checkfree.com**
There are a host of good reasons for paying your bills online. It saves time, saves the cost of stamps, reduces the chance of late payment, extends the time in which you can use your money, cuts down clutter, eliminates the danger of checks lost in the mail, and facilitates tracking. With CheckFree you'll be able to pay many or most of your bills online, and the service is free to the payers.

27. Bug Me Not **http://www.bugmenot.com**
This site and the one following save you time and trouble while helping you cut down on spam. Bug Me Not keeps on hand log-in data (passwords with user names) for a huge number of sites that require registration. If you want access to such a site (like latimes.com), but don't want to bother registering, just visit the Bug Me Not site and log in easily.

28. Spam Bob **http://evil-wire.luvfeed.org/cache/1269**
Spam Bob offers a choice of three email addresses that you create, to protect your privacy. Anything@spambob.org is a phantom address, messages to which disappear into the ether. Use anything@spambob.com if you'll want to check on a reply message. (This is handy for registrations that require confirmation.) And you may want to use anything@spambob.net for all your correspondents. Mail from each such "net" address can be forwarded to you, and if it starts generating spam, just cancel the forwarding order!

29. Google Maps **http://maps.google.com**
Head and shoulders above the competition, these maps are much larger and far easier to configure. Zooming in and out is quick as a bunny, and re-centering is instantaneous. You can locate by category businesses in the map area, along with their phone numbers. Note that (at least as of this writing) these maps are not implemented in the regular Google search results, which will still point you only to Yahoo and MapQuest maps.

Richard Johnson is a writer and editor, and founder/administrator of FREE FOR ALL The Skills Pool, a 29-year-old membership organization (**http://theskillspool.org**). He is a volunteer with TUGNET HelpContact for assistance with Internet Explorer, Outlook Express, and Gmail. You may reach him at rj@theskillspool.org.

August 2005 Disk of the Month

Program Name	Program description
Acrylic - - - - - - - - -	Illustration, painting, and graphics tool from Microsoft
ARI - - - - - - - - - - - -	CAEUG current newsletter
AsynxPlanetarium - -	Good tool for beginners to to know more about the night sky
AutoSizer - - - - - - -	Automatically resizes any window you specify
BartPE - - - - - - - - -	CD-based “live” copy of Windows XP
BlogNavigator - - - - -	Freeware RSS reader with features found in commercial RSS readers
ClipboardMagic - - - -	Keeps a running history of things that you have saved to the clipboard
CounterSpy - - - - - - -	Shareware spyware detector/eliminator
ewidoSecuritySuite - -	Shareware spyware detector/eliminator
FastDefrag - - - - - - -	Releases unused memory
FireFox106 - - - - - - -	Upgrade of FireFox browser
FreeSnap - - - - - - - -	Move and resize windows with your keypad
FreeUndelete - - - - - -	Undeletes deleted files
Fundelete - - - - - - - -	Undeletes deleted files
ImageRenaming - - - -	rename pictures based on the date and time the picture was taken or created
ImgSeek - - - - - - - - -	Helps you organize your photos
InsertToggleKey - - - -	Makes a noise to alert you when you bump the insert key by accident
KarenCalc - - - - - - - -	High-precision calculator
LoneGunman - - - - - -	45 minute WMV movie about conspiracy intrigue
myDesktop - - - - - - -	Allows periodic capture your desktop and upload the image via FTP
nDVD - - - - - - - - - - -	Free DVD player
OldRadio - - - - - - - - -	Old radio shows
PalTalk - - - - - - - - - -	Enables free live video calls
PCInspector - - - - - - -	Data recovery program recovers lost files and finds partitions automatically
PCWizard - - - - - - - - -	Free hardware detector
Polyglot - - - - - - - - - -	Automatically identify the language used in a text
ProcessMaster - - - - -	Enables automatic adjustments of the process priority based on the process name
PsShutdown - - - - - - -	Command line utility lets you initiate a 20-second countdown sequence
RegClean - - - - - - - - -	Cleans your Registry of unnecessary entries created when you installed or ininstalled programs
RPictureResize - - - - -	Resize your pictures en masse
ScreenshotPilot - - - - -	Free alternative to SnagIt
SmartClose - - - - - - - -	Close all currently running programs
TabBrowser - - - - - - - -	FireFox extension to ease tab control
Thunderbird106 - - - - - -	Upgrade of Thunderbird mail client
Treesize - - - - - - - - - -	Utility accounts for the girth of your data files
uMarkLite - - - - - - - - -	Add a text or image watermark to your digital photos
WinPatrol95 - - - - - - -	Control what can run on your machine
XNews - - - - - - - - - - -	Find MP3s, photos, and information with this news reader
XsetupPro - - - - - - - - - -	Tweak more than 1500 functions in Windows, IE, and other programs with simple button clicks
ZotobWorm - - - - - - - - -	Zotob Worm removal tool

Lamp Post 65 By John Spizzirri
August 18, 2005

Rebates. This is a complaint about the shoddy rebate fulfillment centers employed by CompUSA (**http://www.compusa.com/**). I have used rebates at many different stores for computer and non-computer items. I find the rebate practice a marginally ethical ploy of retailers and manufacturers to advertise lower prices and garner greater sales while still charging full price. I think they should offer the discount at the check out, but that's another story. CompUSA is a moderately priced computer/peripheral/software retailer. Occasionally, they offer their own rebates. I made a purchase based on a CompUSA rebate a few months ago. Some years ago I was burned on a rebate. Since then I meticulously follow all the instructions, checking off each as I go. I make copies of everything. I have sometimes had a rebate refused, but with a phone call or letter the matter is resolved in my favor. This is not the case with my most recent event with CompUSA. The $20 they "saved" has cost them my business for the foreseeable future. I don't think I will be shopping there unless they are giving things away that I want. I will also recommend that my clients also avoid shopping there. In a metropolitan area CompUSA has a lot of competition such as Fry's (**http://www.frys.com/**), Microcenter (**http://www.microcenter.com/**), OfficeMax (**http://www.officemax.com/**), Office Depot (**http://www.officedepot.com/**), and Staples (**http://www.staples.com/**). Even rural areas have Tiger Direct (**http://www.tigerdirect.com/**) and Radio Shack (**http://www.radioshack.com/**) as competitors. I am not the only one with complaints. Check out these sites about the haphazard practices of CompUSA:
http://www.ripoffreport.com/reports/ripoff107782.htm
http://www.zpub.com/notes/compusa-sucks.html
http://www.outofthedark.com/CyberPagan/CompUSA.html
http://www.braytek.com/2005/07/30/compusa-you-guys-really-suck/
http://unxmaal.com/mt/archives/001865.php
http://forums.designtechnica.com/archive/index.php/t-133.html
Now I will grant that you can find similar sites about just about any retailer, but CompUSA seems to have gotten significantly worse since Grupo Sanborns acquired them. BTW (by the way) if you have a complaint you wish to register with CompUSA here is the name and address of the boss:
Mr. Hal Compton, CEO, CompUSA, Inc., 14951 North Dallas Parkway, Dallas, TX 75254. BTW, I was in a Best Buy (**http://www.bestbuy.com**) recently and heard a salesperson blatantly lie to a customer. The salesperson said that Best Buy would be doing away with rebates but that they had to "get their suppliers to agree" to it. The sale paper at the front of the store listed numerous Best Buy rebates. If they wanted to get rid of rebates, all they have to do is stop offering them. Duh!

Larry Bothe, past CAEUG President, e-mailed me a problem a computer newbie friend of his was having. He wanted to know if a default download directory could be designated in Internet Explorer (IE). I responded that I had stopped using IE for the more secure and feature filled FireFox (**http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/**). I checked the IE help pages and was unable to find any was to define a default directory. Each time a download is made from the Internet, IE asks for a directory. In FireFox, on the other hand, a default directory can be specified. Larry countered that some people may not know how to change browsers and that Kim Komando (**http://www.komando.com/**), who advises the use of FireFox, does not tell her readers how to do it. Larry suggested an item in the Lamp Post with the instructions. See the next item.

How to load and use FireFox browser from Mozilla.org (**http://www.mozilla.org/**). The steps are; Download FireFox, Install FireFox, and Use FireFox. To further explain, CAEUG members can get FireFox off the Basic CD of the month or go to the FireFox download site (**http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/**) and download the file. The file is 4.7 MB in size. Put the file in a folder, I usually put the file on the Desktop. Turn off all other programs and double click the file

(con't on page 7)

to start the install. The first screen to appear is the FireFox splash screen that explains that you are about to install FireFox. Click next. The end users license agreement screen appears. You may read the agreement and click accept then click next. The setup type screen appears. It asks it you want a standard or custom installation. Select standard and click next. The setup summary screen appears. It confirms your standard selection and tells you the folder where FireFox will be installed. Click next. The installing screen appears with a progress bar. When the install is complete the Install Complete screen appears with a selection of Make www.mozilla.org your home page and launch FireFox right now. I recommend against making Mozilla.org your home page. Its up to you if you want to start FireFox right away. The first time you run FireFox it will ask you if you want it to be your default browser. I recommend answering that question no until you try out the program and see if you like it. The feature list for the program is on the FireFox download site cited above. On that site is a link to plug-ins available for FireFox just like the plug-ins available for IE. Using FireFox is similar to using IE. The icons in the tool bar are similar. The address box is on the tool bar. If you are on line, just type in a URL (uniform resource locator) in the address box and FireFox fetches the page you are looking for e.g. www.google.com . I find the help is laid out better than IE. Some of the features I use extensively that are not available in IE are tabbed browsing, multiple search engines in the tool bar, and imported bookmarks. Tabbed browsing is the ability of the browser to have more than one URL open without having an instance of the browser open for each page. To have multiple URL's open in IE there would be one IE open for each URL. In FireFox a tab is opened for each URL (in most instances) with the tabs being mouse or keyboard selectable. FireFox runs only once conserving system resources. On the tool bar is a search engine box. The default is Google. You can add various search engines on the FireFox site. For instance, if I find something on a Web site that I want to investigate further, I do a control-t to open a new tab, put the cursor in the search engine box on the tool bar, type or copy in what I want to look up and press enter. the search engine that I have selected returns the results to the new tab that I started. I can find what I'm looking for and then flip back to the tab where I started with less keyboard or mouse interactions than had I been using IE. When I was using IE, I had a lot of favorites. Converting favorites to book marks has always been a problem when I used Netscape (**http://www.netscape.com**). Netscape was based on the Mozilla browser. FireFox has eased the transition. If you have been using one or more popular browser, you can import any or all of the favorites or bookmarks into FireFox with just a few mouse clicks. Other things I like are the improved security and built-in pop-up protection. If you are using AOL as your ISP (Internet Service Provider), you can use FireFox as a stand-alone browser while on line. The browser integrated into the AOL GUI (graphical user interface) is IE. It is subject to the same security problems that the stand alone IE has. In order to use it just start your AOL session as you normally do. To start FireFox click on the Quick launch icon or double click on the desk top icon or click start->programs->Mozilla FireFox->Mozilla FireFox. You will find you have slightly more screen real estate (a bigger picture) and you can easily get back to AOL by using the Alt-Tab to switch between programs.

Taxes on the Internet? Congress has promised that there would be no taxes on the Internet. Arkansas Democrat Senator Blanche Lincoln has taken the first step in breaking that promise. She has proposed a 25% on 'adult themed' Web sites. These Web sites have virtually no redeeming value other than making money for their owners. They are easy to attack. The implications of attacking them are many. If Congress is successful, the question becomes 'what other class of sites can be singled out for taxation' (perhaps computer clubs)? Taxation will put some of the adult sites out of business regardless of what any congressman might say. I found the article on CNet. It was strangely absent from the congressional tracking sites I follow. The article has all the standard arguments against such a tax with the Supreme Court precedents that support no tax. You can read it yourself at
http://netscape.com.com/Senators+seek+Web+porn+tax/2100-1030_3-5814309.html?partner=netscape&subj=ne_3-5814309&tag=ns_security .

ICANN (Internet Corporation For Assigned Names and Numbers **http://www.icann.org/**) is a regulatory creation of Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Kenya, Korea,

Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. It creates and regulates top-level domain (TLD) names on the Internet. TLD names are the extensions we commonly use like .gov, .mil, .com, .org, and .net. They rarely create new TLDs. They proposed a new one - .xxx reserved for pornography sites. I think this is about the best idea they have had since they started creating TLDs. I find it unbelievable that religious groups are objecting to this. .xxx will create a repository of adult Web sites that will be easy to filter. A few years ago, I inadvertently typed www.whitehouse.com when I wanted to write the President a letter. The site was then a porno site, which has since been converted to a private, government information site. In the course of the next few years the .com adult sites could be persuaded (coerced) to convert to .xxx. The problem of every parent and system administrator would be solved with a simple and fast filtering system. I think the religious community should wake up to reality. Prohibition of alcohol did not work last century. Arresting prostitutes and humiliating their customers costs much more than the "benefits" derived. Regulation works. There is not a bar and liquor store on every corner because of local regulation. In Nevada, prostitution is regulated for location and health standards. Why does this work? The people have figured out that banning this activity is fruitless. Some people will always do these things regardless of the law. If you cannot stop it, you can control it (and tax it). You can read some of the comments about this issue here **http://www.netpolicy.com/archives/2005/06/** and here **http://www.crmbuyer.com/story/45546.html** .
Robert Morris Sr., former chief scientist for the National Security Agency (**http://www.nsa.gov/**), gave a lecture at DEFCON (**http://www.defcon.org/**), the hacker's convention in Las Vegas last month. He said thieves have been able to dupe people out of their bankcards and passwords by changing the software in old ATM machines bought off eBay (**http://www.ebay.com/**) for $1,000 and placing the machines out in public places. Be suspicious of unfamiliar ATMs.

If you have your computer serviced, you should be aware of this case. A Gateway (**http://www.gateway.com/**) service technician took Robert Westbrook's computer for service. The tech saw what he thought were illegal files on the hard drive. He reported his finding to the police. The police examined the hard drive without a search warrant. The case is on appeal. The details can be found here; **http://www.eff.org/news/archives/2005_08.php#003900** .

Search Systems (**http://www.searchsystems.net/**) is a free directory of databases on the Internet that is searchable. It has a scary amount of information about just about everyone. Check it out.

RootsWeb.com (**http://ssdi.rootsweb.com/**) has a page called the Social Security Death Index, which can be searched ostensibly for genealogical purposes. Enter a last name and first name and it will display a list of people who are deceased. The problem I see with this database is that it also displays their last known address and SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER. I think this could be useful to all sorts of criminal elements (raiding estates, etc.).

Just incase you have not heard, Microsoft (MS **http://www.microsoft.com/**) has renamed the next release of Windows. Longhorn is now Vista. It will be released sometime next year. eWeek magazine has the story about it here **http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,1840015,00.asp** . MS will probably have to buy off the owner of the name. A computer company in Washington State has had that name and Web site since 2000 (http://vista.com/). That story is in The Register at **http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/07/25/vista_trademark_dispute/** .

Between you, me and The Lamp Post that's all for this month.

Great Midwest Computer Show ©
College of Dupage
Main Arena of Physical Education Building
Corner of Park Blvd & College Road, Glen Ellyn, IL
9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
FREE PARKING
Admission - $7.00
Kids 12 and under FREE
http://www.greatmidwestcomputershow.com
E-mail address:
info@greatmidwestcomputershow.com
2005 dates
COD August 28, September 25, October 30, November 20, December 18

CAEUG Officers & Chairpersons

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V.P. (Programs)	Frank Braman
Secretary (& donuts)	Dean Holste
Treasurer	L. Johnson
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Membership Chairperson & Circulation Manager	Pete Nicchia
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Webmaster & Technical Consultant	John St. Clair
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Reminder: You'll get better, faster service if you use CAEUG in the subject of your e-mail.

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER:

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The CAEUG newsletter is published eleven times annually. Contributions by members are encouraged and will be gratefully acknowledged in the newsletter. We have a policy of exchanging newsletters with other users groups across the nation. Several CAEUG member articles have already been picked up and reprinted.

MEMBERS HELPLINE

Any member with a specific expertise can volunteer to be on the Members Helpline.

Beginner Helpline . . . . . Billy Douglas

Beginner hardware problems .Dick Fergus

QuickBooks, Turbo Tax, IBM Lotus, MS Excel, Corel's Quattro Pro . . . Terry Moye

Hardware problems, Win 9x, 2K, XP & Linux . .

CD of The Month format: Is now available in **two** (2) flavors. The **Basic CD** will be packed with the standard items, while the **CD of the Month** will have NEW and updated items.

NEW Money Saving Offer for CD of the Month
Pre Order + Prepay = SAVE $$

The club will offer the CD of the Month on a pre order, prepaid basis. The charge will be $70.00 a year for 9 months. This is $20 annual savings over buying them for $9 each month. Lynn Johnson, the treasurer, will keep track of anyone placing a 9-month order.

Beginner's SIG

Ask questions and discuss computer experiences with this group.
Such as:

1. New to Computers? (basic topics)
2. How to use the Web or download information
3. How to install hardware/software
4. Discuss how to troubleshoot hardware conflicts, learn boot up emergency tricks
5. What do you want to know??

SIG meets before regular meeting from 9:05 to 9:45

Membership Costs.....

	First Yr.	Renewal
Individual	$25.00	$20.00
Family	$30.00	$25.00
Corporate	$30.00	$25.00
Associate	$20.00	$15.00

CAEUG
P. O. Box 2727
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Meeting place and date information:

The next REGULAR meeting will be held at the **Glenside Public Library in Glendale Heights** starting 9:45am on **Saturday August 27**

The library is located. Please park at the West side of the lot, away from the building. Thank you. The meeting(s) are not library sponsored and all inquiries should be directed to Mike Goldberg at MikeGold60137@yahoo.com. 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, Mike Goldberg at MikeGold60137@yahoo.com, at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be made for them.

CONFIRMED Future Meeting dates for 2005 at Glenside Public Library:

***** September 17 *** PLEASE NOTE SEPTEMBER'S IS THE 3RD SATURDAY ***, October 22, December 3**

Presenter for August will be: Tom Anzalone

He will show users how to create a "UBCD" or otherwise know as "Universal Boot CD". This CD will allow users to boot a pc having problems (hard drive, virus, spyware, etc...) and help repair it. It can also be used for CD burning, backup / cloning, defragmenting, password recovery and many more uses. (See Tom's bio page 1)

Next month (September 17) presenter will be Nancy Kinzie

CAEUG website has a new home.
Remember to change your bookmark to the new address at http://www.caeug.net