



Computers Are Easy User Group

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore....

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

July 2020
Volume XXXVIII Issue 7

Confirmed
meeting dates

July 25
Zoom
meeting
10:00am
:: ::
Check
back for
dates

:: ::

Mailing address:
CAEUG
P.O. Box 3150
Glen Ellyn, IL
60138

:: ::

MEETING
PLACE is the
Glenside Public
Library

:: ::

Visitors
Welcome
HOPE TO SEE
YOU THERE!!

* * * Our July 25, 2020 * * *

NO LIBRARY MEETING
PER GLENSIDE WEBSITE
LIBRARY PARTIALLY CLOSED FOR Meetings
No food or drink are allowed inside

UPDATE MEETING INFORMATION

Our July meeting will be on the 4th Saturday at 10 AM using Zoom.
The Wheaton Park District canceled our picnic permit.
(We will get a full refund of the fee.)

There will be a meeting invitation e-mail Thursday evening
before the Zoom meeting on
Saturday morning at 10:00

How to install a Solid State Drive (SSD) in a PC Part 2

REMINDER: \$20.00 Membership dues for 2020 are due.
See Kathy, John or Mike at the meeting or
mail dues to CAEUG, P.O. Box 3150, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138



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Stay Home, Stay Safe, Wash your hands!!!!
Stay tuned for updates!!!



Lamp Post 226 July 2020 by John Spizzirri

The brown (grizzly) bears are now feeding on the sockeye salmon migration at Brooks Falls in Katmai National Park, Alaska (1). Some females bring their cubs to the shallows below the falls to teach them to feed on the salmon. Check the various camera locations along the river. The bears feed from dawn (about 9AM CDT) to dusk (about 2AM CDT) although some bears feed at night. The cameras are on at night but do not have a very good picture.

1) <https://is.gd/5XSkeR>

In an article in Dark Reading (1) it was revealed that The United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC (2)) and Canada's Communications Security Establishment (CSE (3)) along with the US National Security Agency (NSA (4)), and DHS' Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA (5)) had detected a Russian cyber-espionage group that is probably part of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB (6)) has targeted COVID-19 research and vaccine development. The group goes by a number of different names including CosyBear (7). Both the NSA and the NCSC have pages ((8), (9)) that announce the news. While both pages refer the reader to the joint report (10) aimed at avoiding cyber risks with details for IT administrators, the NCSC looks and reads better than the NSA page.

- 1) <https://www.darkreading.com/>
- 2) <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/>
- 3) <https://www.cse-cst.gc.ca/en>
- 4) <https://www.nsa.gov/>
- 5) <https://www.cisa.gov/>
- 6) <https://is.gd/skKgmz>
- 7) <https://is.gd/xqG86g>
- 8) <https://is.gd/kYeyHP>
- 9) <https://is.gd/l aotp9>
- 10) <https://tinyurl.com/yymukx7x>

Zoom (1) video conferencing software upped their security once again. Eric Yuan (2), the CEO of Zoom, reported that end to end encryption would be provided for both paid and free customers (3). Previously, it was only for paid customers. Yuan's story is very interesting. He was born in China to apparently college educated parents (geologists). He received his bachelor's degree in applied mathematics and went on to get a master's degree in geology engineering. Due to ten hour one way train ride to see his girl friend in college, he was motivated to make the sci-fi video telephone a reality. While getting his master's, he attended a four month training in Japan where Bill Gates spoke. Gates' speech excited Yuan enough to make him want to get in on the tech boom in 1997. BTW Yuan married his girlfriend. He applied for a visa to the United States nine times. Eight bureaucrats tried to keep him out. The ninth let him in. Yuan was one of the first 20 hires at Webex (4). Ten

years later Cisco Systems (5) acquired Webex. Sometime along the way he became a U. S. citizen and he and his wife had three children. Cisco tried to make Webex into a 'Facebook (6) for business'. Yuan tried to convince the management that videoconferencing was a better product placement (7). They did not buy it. He quit and started Zoom. He had major trouble securing funding but managed to get it off the ground. By the beginning of 2019 he was a multi-millionaire. In April of 2019 he became a billionaire (8) when Zoom went public! He is now worth about 11.5 billion ((9), (10)). I would like to shake the hand of that 9th bureaucrat.

- 1) <https://zoom.us/>
- 2) <https://is.gd/J0Jyfo>
- 3) <https://is.gd/hVai60>
- 4) <https://www.webex.com/>
- 5) <https://www.cisco.com/>
- 6) <https://www.facebook.com/>
- 7) <https://is.gd/nhl sLy>
- 8) <https://is.gd/ajvYi4>
- 9) <https://tinyurl.com/y5ojfyjtj>
- 10) <https://is.gd/aAAQ7s>

Comet Neowise (1) is visible now. Get a look at it while you can (2) as it will not be back for 6,800 years. It will be closest to the Earth on July 23rd (3). It will be just below the Big Dipper at dusk and just before dawn ((4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12)). You can see it with the naked eye but it would be better with binoculars or a telescope.

- 1) <https://is.gd/ZJsg2u>
- 2) <https://earthsky.org/?p=339781>
- 3) <https://is.gd/I7DVin>
- 4) <https://lowell.edu/?p=14569>
- 5) <https://is.gd/g6ZCVh>
- 6) <https://is.gd/ozzUnt>
- 7) <https://skyandtelescope.org/?p=255507453822>
- 8) <https://is.gd/BWSnhn>
- 9) <https://is.gd/S5dJYp>
- 10) <https://is.gd/gVHZVO>
- 11) <https://is.gd/72Hh2v>
- 12) <https://wp.me/p1CHIY-C6b>

Do you remember Kiddieland (1) in Melrose Park, Illinois? It seems a lot of people do. It's last day of operations was September 27, 2009. About two months later many of the rides were sold at auction. Arthur Fritz opened the "park" in 1929 on a different lot as just the pony rides. I could go through all the history, but there is a better way. If you are interested, Cheryl Brown is a historian and professor of Business and Computer Applications at Oakton College who does presentations on Kiddieland at various venues around Chicagoland. Currently, many of these are being done using the Zoom videos conferencing software. Her website is kiddielandremembered.com (2) where she has her upcoming appearances. Some

of these libraries require that you register with them in advance of the presentation. You do not necessarily have to have a library card. Cheryl's presentations last about an hour and there is a question and answer session afterward.

- 1) <https://is.gd/iyhvno>
- 2) <https://wp.me/Psf8d-2>

Americans for Prosperity (AFP (1)) is the non-profit conservative political education organization located in Arlington, Virginia. AFP was started in 2004 by and is funded by David Koch (2) and Charles Koch (3). David died last year. I am not sure if his widow, Julia Flesher Koch (4) still funds the AFP. The AFP has produced a six part Youtube video series called 'Lessons from the Pandemic - HealthCare Reimagined' (5). Each part is less than three minutes and explains why government regulation creates some of the problems we experience as unintended consequences. Each part suggests check the Lets Reimagine Healthcare website (6). It has some 'take action' suggestions such as letter writing and using social media. It might be worth a look.

- 1) <https://tinyurl.com/zqz4lrr>
- 2) <https://is.gd/7LEi6C>
- 3) <https://is.gd/VsRxVF>
- 4) <https://is.gd/x05BfE>
- 5) <https://is.gd/jsnS9w>
- 6) <https://tinyurl.com/y3tb4xkd>

Informationweek Magazine (1) had an article about how to determine if your smart phone had been hacked (cracked). When I clicked on that article, I was whisked to a Dark Reading article by the same name and author appeared (2). The companies seem to be owned by the same news corporation. Here is a rundown on what the article divulged. The first tip is if your battery usage goes up over a short period of time. This may be a sign that there is an app that is running in the background (3). It is also a sign that your battery is on it's last legs and needs to be replaced i.e. phone is not hacked. Check your permission settings and make sure that programs have only the permissions they need to operate (4). If your contact list is being contacted and you are not sending the messages, your credentials have been compromised (5). Change your password immediately and apply all security patches. If you receive a text telling you about a delivery that you did not order, that is an invitation to a text based phishing attack (6). Never respond by clicking. Go to the source if you must. I would not, because I did not order anything. Your data usage may increase substantially. A bad acting app may upload your data to some server some place or download ads or other wasteful data to your phone (7). If your password no longer works and you know it is correct, the device probably has been compromised (8). The best thing to do is to get the device reset and change passwords on all critical accounts. The article recommended that a VPN could prevent reconnection to a malicious gateway (9). The article went on with various common sense recommendations (10). The one thing you could do that works for me is I use my phone as a phone with no texting, almost no data use, and no GPS thus no worries.

- 1) <https://is.gd/GBeHZX>

- 2) <https://is.gd/o4g5SL>
- 3) <https://tinyurl.com/yy43z2g4>
- 4) <https://tinyurl.com/y34sgg94>
- 5) <https://tinyurl.com/yyxfoe9h>
- 6) <https://tinyurl.com/y5e8cjyl>
- 7) <https://tinyurl.com/yy3wf45k>
- 8) <https://tinyurl.com/y29gub66>
- 9) <https://tinyurl.com/y2qj4rzg>
- 10) <https://tinyurl.com/y69kdaj3>

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

President's Corner
Lessons from the Lockdown -
Tech and Other Observations While in Captivity
by Greg Skalka, President,
Under the Computer Hood User Group, CA
May 2020 issue, Drive Light
www.unchug.org
president (at) uchug.org

Tech to Stay Connected - Most people seek the company of others and want to stay connected, but all the stay-at-home, work from home, self-isolation, and social distancing prevent most of our usual interactions with others. Technology can help. Video conferencing, phone calls, text messaging, and, to a lesser degree, emails, can all help us stay connected with those we can no longer interact with in person.

Text messaging is the preferred method of communication for my son and daughter, who are millennials. Texting is difficult for my 82-year-old mother, so I call her. The most personal way to keep in touch without being there in person, however, is video conferencing. Services like FaceTime, Skype, and Zoom are used by businesses, schools, and individuals to communicate, learn, conduct business, and fulfill that need for personal contact.

I don't have an Apple device for FaceTime and have not used Skype much recently outside of work. I have used Zoom a lot. I've attended Zoom seminars, like APCUG's VTCs (Virtual Technology Conferences) and other meetings where there is mostly a one-way transmission of information, perhaps with questions and answers. I conducted our last UCHUG meeting on Zoom, which was mostly presentations, but with an open forum "Random Access" session at the end.

I've also run or participated in other Zoom meetings that were held more like a group discussion. Our last two board meetings were held in this way and worked nearly as well as in-person (no snacks or drinks, however, unless you BYO). I've had many Zooms with friends and family; it works great when you can't physically get together. My extended local (Southern California) family always gets together for

Easter dinner. This year we had to eat separately, but most of us got together on Zoom in the afternoon. It wasn't the same as sharing holiday food and drink together, but it was much better than having no connection at all.

Zoom works on most tech devices that can connect to the Internet, but some work better than others. As with most online activities, the experience is better with faster connection speeds and more processing power. I've connected with my smartphone, Chromebook, laptop, and desktop. A smartphone works, but the small screen limits what you can see. A tablet is a little better but similar. Chromebooks work pretty well, as do laptops. A camera and microphone are essential if you want to participate fully. For the best experience, use headphones or earbuds, rather than speakers, and a headset (headphones with a mic) rather than a device's built-in mic if possible. My gold standard for Zoom equipment is now a Win10 desktop with a big monitor (or duals), an external HD webcam, and a gamer headset.

Tech to Stay Alive - Internet services can help in many ways to keep up life's normal activities while restricted to home. A lot of things can be done online or ordered to be delivered, eliminating the risks in going out. Online banking and bill payment allow most financial transactions to be done from your computer or phone. Many institutions will even allow deposits of paper checks through a photo on your phone's banking app. You can get cash from ATMs (remember to bring a sanitizing wipe for the keyboard), but if you are not going out much, you probably don't need much cash anyway.

Online ordering and delivery services can help keep your household supplied with food and essentials, but they are not without issues. Most everyone used Amazon before COVID, but now, with greater demand and fulfillment also affected by the virus, all online deliveries are getting delayed. Gone is the two-day Amazon Prime typical delivery; even in-stock items can take weeks to receive. I've found items can be out of stock online while store shelves are full. I've been trying to buy some bar soap I like from Walmart.com but it has not been in stock since the crisis. I finally went to the Poway Walmart store yesterday and found it was readily available there.

Grocery delivery is something Amazon and others have been trying to bring into the mainstream for a while, and COVID-19 might help, though it seems the execution is still poor. I'm in the camp that wants to pick out my own produce, thank you, and so I don't have any interest in online groceries beyond packaged goods. My wife feels the same but has much greater concerns about going out to stores, and so has been trying for weeks to place an order through Amazon Fresh. Unfortunately, the demand for delivery times was very high in the first weeks of the quarantine, and she could never get one. She has had much better luck ordering online from Target and getting curbside pickup.

All restaurants are closed for dining, but some have stayed open for take-out and delivery. I've read that the delivery services are costly to the restaurants, so I won't use them. My wife and I have ordered meals for pick-up a few times since the

lockdown, but I am generally dissatisfied with the experience. I don't mind picking up In-N-Out or a pizza, as these places make take-out their business and their prices keep that in mind. I find take-out from normal sit-down restaurants to be expensive for so-so food. I'm more willing to pay \$10-\$12 for a sit-down burger as a significant part of the value is in the experience of going out. Having the same food in a box at home (perhaps cold or missing something) is not worth it to me at the normal menu price.

Unless you filed early, you probably didn't get your tax returns in before the restrictions hit. My daughter had an appointment with a tax preparer for after the lockdown that she canceled. Fortunately, all of us late filers caught a few breaks. The Federal and most state deadlines for filing and paying have been extended to July 15. Except for those very few with complex tax situations, almost everyone can fill out their returns online or through a tax program like TurboTax and file without involving anyone else. I'm using TurboTax again as usual, but without a near-term deadline, I've put off completing mine.

Shortages - We have all seen or experienced the shortages in some items since the pandemic. Toilet paper, water, gloves, cleaning supplies, and masks have been in short supply and are still often rationed in stores when in stock. A few other more unusual shortage items I have seen or heard about are laptops and USB webcams. I was fortunate enough to buy a new laptop in January for the prior, now insignificant crisis of Windows 7 expiring. I've heard that companies buying up laptops to supply their employees now working from home have created a shortage. I expect the same thing has happened to Chromebooks (especially the lower-cost models) and other items useful for remote learning since the schools closed.

I bought a new desktop PC for my mom to move her to Windows 10 in January. I wish I'd thought to buy her a webcam then. Since the COVID crisis, I've tried to get one for her, so she could more easily participate in family Zoom meetings. With everyone trying to videoconference, they are now out of stock.

Hoarding is Not Always a Bad Thing - It is reported that a lot of the shortages we have experienced recently were caused by hoarding, where some bought up large quantities of certain items, far more than for their immediate needs. Some were probably hoping to turn around and sell some at a profit due to the self-created shortage, but fortunately, price gouging laws, purchase limits, and strict return policies have limited these bad hoarders.

My wife calls me a hoarder, which is perhaps not totally inaccurate, though I don't rise to the level of things you might see on TV. I like to get full utilization out of the items I buy; value is usually the most important thing to me. I have lots of older tech gear, spare parts, and speculative items I got at very low prices. When we found we would have to move our group's meetings to Zoom, I was able to find in my stockpile two old Microsoft webcams I had kept from 2009 and 2012. They had no problems being recognized by Windows 10 and still work great, allowing the desktop PCs my

wife and I use to work well with Zoom. If I'd not saved them, I'd be scrambling now to find some webcams at any price.

I also have a garage full of extra fasteners (screws, nuts, etc.), leftover paint, wire, pipe, and spare lumber from prior projects. These supplies have allowed me to fix a few things and complete some household projects without making additional and possibly risky visits to Home Depot.

Price Gouging - I've always been suspicious of Amazon's pricing. It would be easy for them to show different pricing to different customers, determined by Amazon's perception of their likelihood to pay more. I have seen small price changes in items I have bought multiple times, but recently I've seen a 45% increase for one item. While California's legal definition of price gouging includes only "essential" consumer goods and services, it still stings when you see a big price increase on something you really could use.

When we started our planning for conducting Zoom meetings, I decided I wanted a better headset (headphones with microphone) and bought a NUBWO gamer headset with a noise-canceling mic for \$29 on Amazon. I made the mistake of showing it to my wife, who preferred it to her speakers and the mic in her webcam. I gave it to her and figured I'd just order another for myself but found the price for the same item had gone up to \$38 in about a week. I refuse to be gouged, so we have to share the one headset. I keep looking at it online, but it is now up to \$42.

Old Folks Get Some Perks - No one likes being called old, except when stores provide senior-only shopping hours and priority entrance for seniors. I'm just barely into the age group considered at greater risk for COVID-19, and so am happy to go right in while others wait in line to enter Costco. I've yet to take advantage of senior's hours as they are typically while I'm at work.

What I'm Doing More of - and Less of - I'm doing a lot less shopping, both in-person (to decrease exposure risk) and online (why wait two weeks for things). I used to enjoy "recreational" shopping at Costco and Fry's - can't do that anymore. I routinely delete all the Fry's ads and Groupon and Living Social emails I get; I'm not buying any experiences if I'm not sure when I'll be able to use them. I miss going out to eat and seeing family and friends. Zoom helps a lot, so I'm doing a lot more of that. I have a Chromebit (a Chrome OS stick computer) plugged into one of the HDMI inputs on our main TV, and I use it a lot more now (we watch our local Sunday Mass broadcast over YouTube on it).

Though I still go to work, we are now on ten-hour days so I'm driving a lot less. I'm stuck in less traffic and spend less time in line to buy cheaper gas. I have been driving more from San Diego to Orange County, however. Every few weeks I've been delivering batches of meals my wife has made to my parents there, so they don't have to leave the house as much. Though my evenings are typically free (nothing is open late anymore), I'm not spending more time on the computer or with the TV.

After a long day at work or at home trying to catch up, I'm beat.

Bad Things Don't Stop Happening Just Because You're in Lockdown - Dealing with life's problems can be difficult in the best of times. During a pandemic, everything gets harder. People may be deferring maintenance or repairs until after COVID; hopefully, a catastrophic failure won't occur. We discovered in the big day of rain we had a couple of weeks ago that we have a roof leak, but we will hold off on repairs, hoping social distancing ends before the next rainy season begins.

My wife had a crown fall out not long after the stay at home orders were put in place. Our dentist had closed his office to normal work but agreed to come in to deal with this emergency situation. I've had several recent medical appointments, including my annual physical, canceled, and rescheduled due to the coronavirus. I have a friend with cancer that is having to weigh the risks between having surgery now during a pandemic and holding off on treatment of a cancer that appears to be slowly growing. One of our members had a death in the family a few weeks ago; my heart goes out to them in having to deal with this tragedy in tragic times.

Life Still Goes On, So the Show Must Go On - With everyone under restrictions, life must still go on, in as normal a manner as is possible under the circumstances. Though we must be isolated, the needs of life must still be met. Food must still be obtained, bills paid, laundry done, and housing cleaned. We are seeing that our tech devices like smartphones and computers, along with connections to the Internet, are our lifelines. They help us get the news, order our food, manage our finances, apply for unemployment, and communicate with others. Keeping those lifelines in place is important. There are still backups to be made, scams to be avoided and devices to be maintained and recharged.

Though we all will have our own issues, with luck we can keep our group going through this pandemic. It may be some time before we can meet again at Wesley Palms (if ever, perhaps). With only a month to go, it is unlikely we will have a physical member picnic in June. Even the fate of our December party looks hazy. Having our newsletter arrive in the inbox, and at least getting together virtually on Zoom can help things seem somewhat normal. Now more than ever, we probably need that social connection

There will still be new tech items to be understood, computer problems to be solved, presentations to be given, questions to be answered, broken things to be fixed or replaced, scams to be warned about and software bugs to be debugged. Hopefully, our group can survive COVID-19 and continue to provide useful benefits to our members and the public. Our tech is based on microelectronics; I'd hate to see UCHUG become another casualty of this microorganism.

Editor Note: These last two paragraphs says everything. Lets all stay safe and well.

July 2020
DVD of the Month

AdataSSDtool - SSD information and toolbox
ARI - Monthly newsletter
AsteriskPasswordSpy - Displays onscreen passwords from asterisks
AudioBook - Free audio book

Brave - Brave Internet browser
Chromium - Chromium Internet browser

DesktopOK - Save Icon placement on Desktop
Drivel mage - Partition editor
DVDOMlists - Contents of CDs and DVDs of the Month

Gpg4win - Encryption software for files and emails

MemberContributions - Things members send me
Mouse-wo-borders - Operate up to 4 computers with the same mouse and keyboard
MovieMaker - Free video speed controller can easily speed up, slow down, or reverse a video

NotepadPP - Updated Notepad replacement
OBSSstudio - Free software for video recording and live streaming
OldTimeRadio - Old radio audio files

ProgramMgr - You set program defaults and restore them when MS messes with them
SamsungMagician - Controls for Samsung SSDs
uTubeDownloader - Free Youtube downloader to MP4, MP3, Wav, etc

VideoConverter - Free Video and Audio converter many formats supported
VirtualAudioCable - Any audio input is directed to the audio cable output
VoicemeeterBanana - An Advanced Audio Mixer Application
VoicemeeterPotato - The ultimate version of Audio Mixer Application
YUMI - Your Universal Multiboot Installer makes USB bootable OS drives

Meeting Location and Special Accommodations

The Glenside Public Library address is at 25 E Fullerton Avenue, Glendale Heights, Illinois. Please park away from the building. Thank you. The meeting(s) are not library sponsored and all inquiries should be directed to Mike Goldberg at

. 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 at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be made.

Mailing address:

CAEUG
P.O. Box 3150
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

Members Helpline

Any member can volunteer to be on the Members Helpline.

Hardware problems, Win 7, Win 10, Linux and Virus Removal
- John Spizzirri

CAEUG OFFICERS

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V.P. (Programs) Roger Kinzie

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