

# COMPUTER USERS OF ERIE

CUE Newsletter – January 2023 (Volume 40 Number 1)



## January CUE Meeting

The next general meeting is on Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, by a Zoom link in your email. Check the CUE website ([www.cuerie.com](http://www.cuerie.com)), for more information.

Happy New Year! 2023 = 7 X 17 X 17



Visit the CUE  
Website at:

[www.cuerie.com](http://www.cuerie.com)



CUE is a member of APCUG



An International  
Association of Technology  
& Computer User Groups

# CUE Calendar



Calendar events are subject to change. SIG stands for Special Interest Group.  
(look for notices outside of the newsletter for delays or special news on meetings)

**CUE Membership Meeting** (typically 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month)  
Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM  
Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

**Beginner's User Group (BUG) SIG Meetings**  
To Be Scheduled Upon Request

**Digital Photo SIG Meetings** (typically 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month except June/July/August)  
Saturday January 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM  
Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM

**Genealogy SIG Meetings** (typically 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month)  
Tuesday January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM  
Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

**MAC SIG Meetings** (typically 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month except June/July/August)  
Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM  
Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM

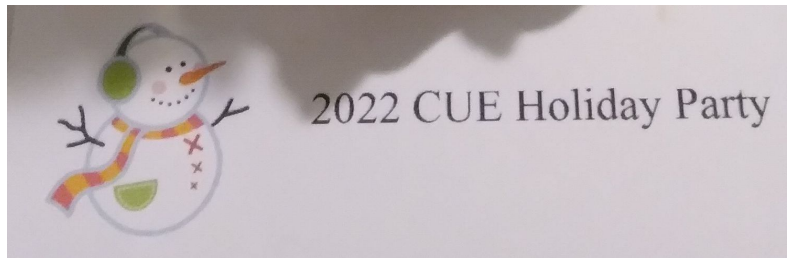
**Smartphone & Tablet SIG Meetings** (typically 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month) (RSVP John Fair)  
Monday January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM  
Monday February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

**Windows SIG Meetings** (typically 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month except June/July/August)  
Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM  
Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM

**CUE Picnic**  
Sometime in September

**CUE Christmas / Holiday Party**  
Sometime in December

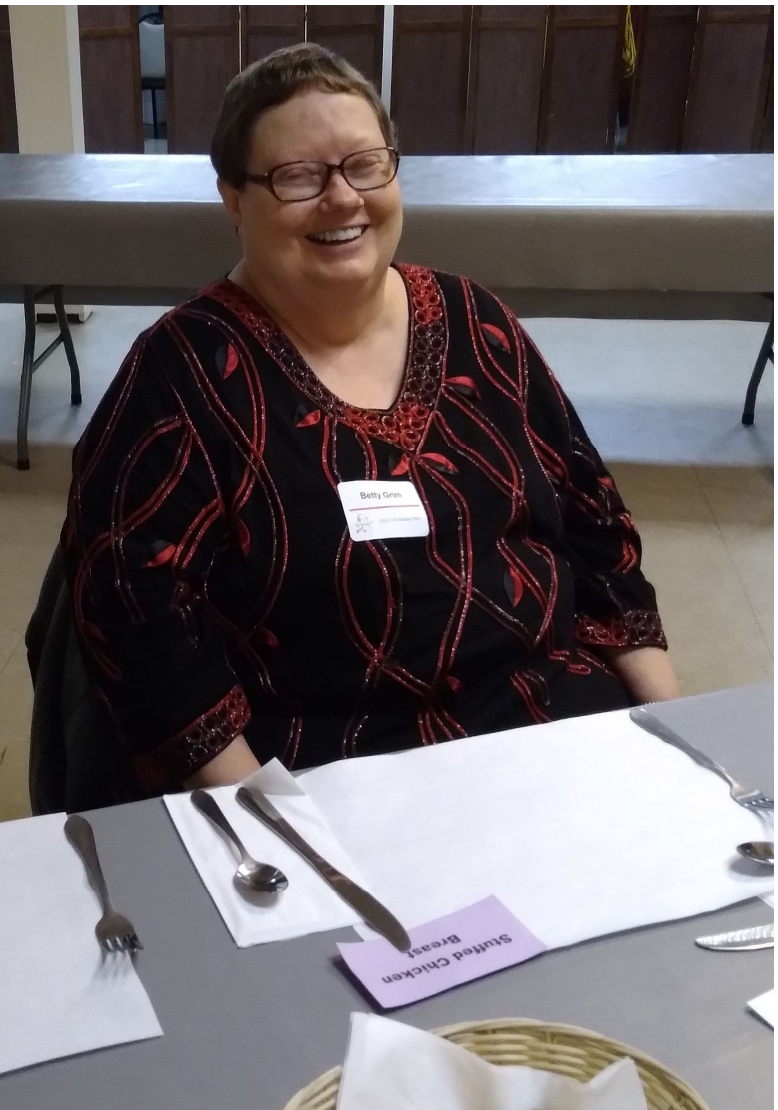
## CUE Christmas/Holiday Pictures



## CUE Christmas/Holiday Pictures Continued



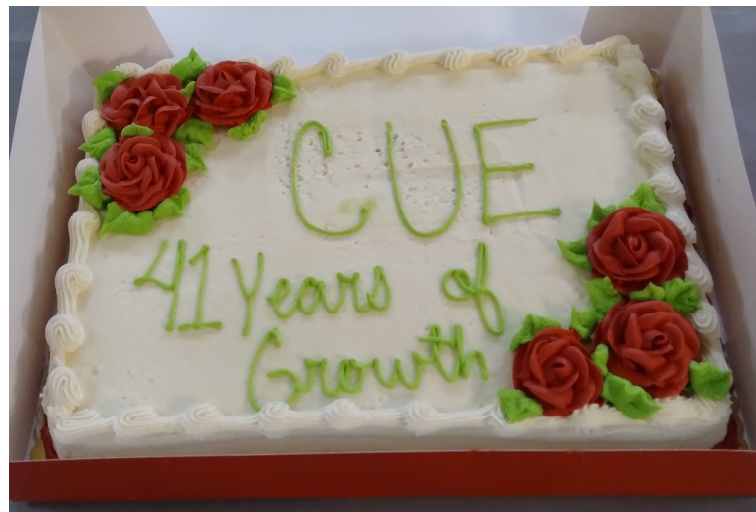
## CUE Christmas/Holiday Pictures Continued



## CUE Christmas/Holiday Pictures Continued



## CUE Christmas/Holiday Pictures Continued



# Buying a New Computer

By David Kretchmar at Sun City Summerlin Computer Club ([www.scscclb.com](http://www.scscclb.com))

From time to time, every computer specialist is asked, "What computer should I buy?" The answer is usually, "What do you intend to do with it, and how much can you afford?" This article addresses the major decisions required if you are buying a new computer.

## Apple or PC?



They will both do what you want, which is probably doing things on the internet.

Both systems run popular software, such as Office or Photoshop.

It can simplify life if you stick to one device operating system. For instance, an iPhone might be good if you have a Mac computer or an iPad with iOS. On the other hand, if you have a PC running a Windows operating system, then an Android phone will be the most compatible.

I use an iPhone and a PC together and have not had issues. I mostly transfer photos between my devices, usually using email, which allows me to transfer 8 – 10 pictures at a time. For mass transfers of photos, I use the Apple USB charger to connect my iPhone to my PC.

If you plan to do any action gaming, most games are at least initially written for a PC running Windows.

It's likely any PC you buy today will come with Windows 11, the latest manifestation of the Windows long-running operating system. A few vendors might still be selling old stock of Windows 10 computers, but it is a free and easy upgrade to Windows 11. Windows 11 is very similar to Windows 10; most users will notice that it now appears more like an Apple interface, and Windows 11 is more closely integrated with Microsoft's OneDrive.

Apple Macs are generally a little, to a lot, more expensive than comparable PCs. Still, they're less susceptible to viruses and other malware, mainly because 75% of all computers run Windows, making them a potentially more profitable target for hackers. The latest macOS version is 12.3 (Monterey), released in March 2022.

## Desktop Computer or Laptop?

Desktops, aka tower computers, generally offer more performance for the same money as laptop or notebook computers, and are easier and cheaper to repair or upgrade. However, desktop computers' price/performance advantage is not nearly as dramatic today as in the past, as computer designers and manufacturers devote more resources to miniaturizing components. In addition, desktops provide a more ergonomically correct working position, let you use a larger screen, and usually have better sound.

## All-in-One Desktop

All-in-one desktop computers, also known as AIO systems, combine a computer and monitor into one slick-looking package.

# Buying a New Computer Continued

These AIO systems have become increasingly popular as people want to eliminate as many parts and wires as possible. However, the major downside of AIOs is that their components are tightly packed in the display, making them difficult to upgrade or repair.

## Laptops



Naturally, laptop computers are infinitely more mobile than desktops since they are smaller and utilize a battery for power rather than requiring a wall socket. A laptop is a way to go if you plan on using your computer while traveling. Some users combine the best of both worlds by using a desktop system at home and taking a tablet-style computer, such as an iPad or Kindle Fire, on the road.

Another laptop option is using a "docking station" in your home. You can easily attach a full-sized monitor, keyboard, mouse, and even speakers to a laptop to gain the ergonomic advantages of a desktop.

No matter what PC format you choose, some component options exist.

## The Processor

Apple now manufactures its processors, and its weakest offering is the equivalent of an Intel core i5 processor. Multiple

cores can process more data simultaneously, and most computers today come with multiple-core CPUs.



In a PC, you have multiple processors from which to choose. For a system that will perform well today and into the foreseeable future, I recommend Intel's 11th generation Core i5 CPU, an actual six-core processor alternately known as the Rocket Lake series. You will still see manufacturers selling 10th-generation Intel chips, but without your budget, the 11th generation is 20% faster, making it a better value. In recent years the other major manufacturer of CPUs, AMD, has provided an excellent cost-effective alternative to Intel. Still, it appears that Intel has decided to compete in the personal PC space. The AMD Ryzen 5 series, at least 2600 speed, should be comparable to Intel's i5.

Any processor available today will be sufficient if you're shopping for a budget computer to browse the web, email, and maybe just work on documents.

## Memory

Generally, the more memory a computer has, the faster it is, at least when you have multiple windows open. In 2022, 8GB has become the standard, with 16GB or more found on more high-performance and future-proof devices.

## Hard Drive

## Buying a New Computer Continued

Go with an SSD (solid-state) drive. SSDs are a relatively new technology using flash memory that's 4 – 10 times faster than mechanical hard drives; there are no moving parts. As a result, an SSD is the single largest performance boost you can give a computer compared to one with a mechanical hard drive.

### Optical Drives (CDs and DVDs)

Optical drives are going away from the ancient 3½-inch floppy disk. Virtually any software support needed is available online, and most users are now streaming music and other entertainment. If you need one, for instance, to install an old program or watch a DVD, you can buy an external USB optical drive that plugs into a USB port for around \$25.

### Graphics Card

The graphics processing unit (GPU), or graphics card, is the hardware responsible for producing what appears on the screen. The GPUs can be integrated into the CPU or run on a separate, discrete piece of equipment.



Most computers sold today have integrated graphics, the cheaper, lower-performance option. Integrated graphics are OK for most of what you will be doing but not for things such as action gaming and video editing. On the other hand, photo editing and playing games such as Microsoft Solitaire work fine with integrated graphics.

### Conclusions

If you talk to 5 different computer geeks, you can get ten or more opinions on any computer issue, such as those discussed above. I have provided my opinions on things you should consider when buying a new computer system, hopefully to make this less confusing. Buying a computer will ultimately be based on your needs and your budget.



## Genealogy Report for 12/6/22 SIG Meeting

The December meeting of the Genealogy SIG met via Zoom on December 6th hosted by Sue Mueller. Nine people were in attendance.

Paul Francis started the discussion on the value of Wiki Trees. Sue commented that they can be okay but since anyone can change them, some parts may be well researched and others not.

Hal belongs to a discussion group at Spring Hill. Members were asked to discuss a topic that had changed significantly in the last 10-15 years. The work has to be written up and presented to the group. Hal chose genealogy research, of course. Hal asked for suggestions for the discussion and among the topics recommended were DNA, computer programs like Family Tree Maker, social media, Google Translate, technology to restore damaged photos, and tutoring videos such as offered by Legacy and YouTube.

Paul announced that 25 were signed up for the Christmas party. He also mentioned that Andrea at the Chautauqua County office in Westfield (716 / 326-3611) was a big help to him

The question of Family Tree Maker Guide books was raised again and unfortunately they are not printed yet. It's been frustrating for many.

New York State marriage, birth and death records were discussed. Generally, death records are available after 50 years but that is not always the case. The state of New York is also very slow and expensive for requested documents. Sue suggested trying to locate them at the county level where they can be purchased at a more reasonable price.

Carl was looking for a grandfather's date of naturalization and the local courthouse said he wasn't permitted to search for himself. ESGR (Erie Society for Genealogical Research) has two books on naturalization records listed on their website ([www.genealogyerie.org](http://www.genealogyerie.org)) under the Members Only section. They cover 1825-1906 (currently out of print) and 1907-1927. The Ancestor Hunt site <https://theancestorhunt.com/> has naturalization records available.

Submitted by Connie Edwards



## A Note from the Editor

As usual, feel free to contribute information for the CUE newsletter. Whether it is small, large, an article, a tip, information, or pictures, you can send it to me and I will plan to include it in the newsletter. You can reach me at [grimcyber@yahoo.com](mailto:grimcyber@yahoo.com).

Remember that you can find recent news at the CUE website ([cuerie.com](http://cuerie.com)). At times,

the website will have more recent news than the CUE newsletter since the website is updated continuously and the newsletter is updated monthly.

Stay Safe!

Editorially Speaking, Don Grim



PLEASE PRINT

**COMPUTER USERS OF ERIE  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>
<b>Address</b>	
<b>City, State</b>	<b>Zip</b>
<b>Home Phone</b>	<b>Cell Phone</b>
<b>Your Email</b>	

The yearly dues are payable in August of each year. The dues are \$24 annual.

For NEW members only, when you join outside the annual cycle your initial dues are based upon the month you join. Follow the schedule below.

August \$24	September \$22	October \$20	November \$18
December \$16	January \$14	February \$12	March \$10
April \$8	May \$6	June \$4	July \$2

Information provided on this form will be placed into a CUE Membership Directory

What is your Computer or Device: (Circle)

Windows Mac Android iPhone iPad  
Tablet Linux Other

What is your level of expertise? (Circle)

Novice I know some I want to learn more  
Expert Geek

Send your completed application  
to:

Computer Users of Erie

PO BOX 8941

Erie, Pa 16505-0941

What do you wish to gain by joining Computer Users of Erie?

Student membership is just \$15 per year (provide proof of student status)

# CUE Officer Information

## Officers

President	Conrad Sobczak	<a href="mailto:cjsob16511@hotmail.com">cjsob16511@hotmail.com</a>	814-899-9699
Vice President	Paul Francis	<a href="mailto:pdfflyer@roadrunner.com">pdfflyer@roadrunner.com</a>	814-882-1175
Secretary	Susan Mueller	<a href="mailto:suepasta@roadrunner.com">suepasta@roadrunner.com</a>	814-622-1262
Treasurer	John Fair	<a href="mailto:johncfair@gmail.com">johncfair@gmail.com</a>	814-474-3055

## At-Large Board

Lawrence Brown	<a href="mailto:larrybrown0191@icloud.com">larrybrown0191@icloud.com</a>	814-323-1067
Don Grim	<a href="mailto:grimcyber@yahoo.com">grimcyber@yahoo.com</a>	814-461-8289
Marcia Keller	<a href="mailto:dekmak43@gmail.com">dekmak43@gmail.com</a>	814-449-4682
Hal Kelley	<a href="mailto:hal_kelley@outlook.com">hal_kelley@outlook.com</a>	814-836-1803
Suzanne Matthews	<a href="mailto:pdxmatthews@aol.com">pdxmatthews@aol.com</a>	814-790-4185

## Alternate At-Large Board

Lou Cioccio	<a href="mailto:lcioccio@mac.com">lcioccio@mac.com</a>	814-868-1320
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## Special Interest Groups

Beginner's (BUG)	Lou Cioccio	<a href="mailto:lcioccio@mac.com">lcioccio@mac.com</a>	814-868-1320
Digital Photo	Lou Cioccio	<a href="mailto:lcioccio@mac.com">lcioccio@mac.com</a>	814-868-1320
Genealogy	Susan Mueller	<a href="mailto:suepasta@roadrunner.com">suepasta@roadrunner.com</a>	814-622-1262
MAC	Lou Cioccio	<a href="mailto:lcioccio@mac.com">lcioccio@mac.com</a>	814-868-1320
Smartphone & Tablet	John Fair	<a href="mailto:johncfair@gmail.com">johncfair@gmail.com</a>	814-474-3055
Windows	Lou Cioccio	<a href="mailto:lcioccio@mac.com">lcioccio@mac.com</a>	814-868-1320

## Other Resources:

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Membership Chair	John Fair	<a href="mailto:johncfair@gmail.com">johncfair@gmail.com</a>	814-474-3055
Webmaster	Tom Kuklinski	<a href="mailto:tkuklinski@gmail.com">tkuklinski@gmail.com</a>	814-746-9165

## CUE Disclaimer

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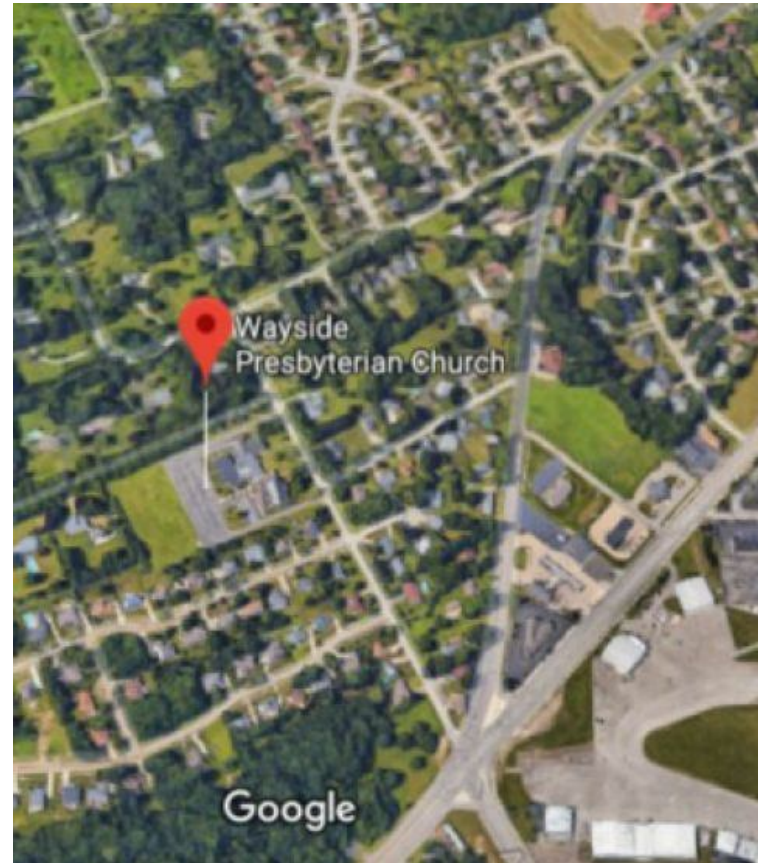
# Directions to Wayside Presbyterian Church for CUE Meetings

Wayside Presbyterian Church, at 1208 Asbury Road, is approximately three blocks north of the intersection of Asbury Road and Route 5. This intersection is at the northwest corner of the Erie International Airport property. Following Asbury, turn left at the first marked driveway for the church. During the afternoon winter schedule (10:00 AM for the months of November, January, February and March), entry is through the two sets of blue double doors. Use the buzzer to gain entry if the doors are locked. During the normal evening schedule (7:00 PM the remaining months) use the double doors on the south side of the Christian Education wing. Signs are posted in the building to direct you to the meeting room.

**From West of Erie International Airport:** Follow Route 5 to the intersection of Asbury and Route 5. Turn hard left onto Asbury Road. Look for the church on the left approximately 3 blocks north of the intersection.

**From South of Erie:** Take Interstate 79 north to the 26th Street (Route 20) Exit. Bear left onto 26th Street (Route 20) west. Follow Route 20 about 3.4 miles west to Asbury Road. Turn right (at the Sheetz Gas Station) onto Asbury and follow it straight across Route 5. Look for the church on the left approximately 3 blocks north of the intersection.

**From East of Erie International Airport:** Follow 26th Street (Route 20) west to Asbury Road. Turn right onto Asbury and follow it straight across Route 5. Look for the church on the left approximately 3 blocks north of the intersection. OR, follow 12th Street (Route 5) west past the airport to Asbury Road. Turn right onto Asbury Road. Look for the church on the left approximately 3 blocks north of the intersection.



## About the Newsletter

The CUE Newsletter is published monthly by the Computer Users of Erie (CUE), an independent nonprofit computer user group, dedicated to the education and support of our members. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors or the editor, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of CUE. This publication is Copyright © 2018 by the Computer Users of Erie. All rights reserved. Permission to reprint is hereby granted to any Nonprofit Organization, as long as proper credit is given, or not restricted by the original author or source. **Advertising:** Advertising is welcome from both our members and commercial sources. For current advertising rates, please send an email to the Editor requesting a copy of the Ad Rates file. **Address Changes:** Any recipient of the newsletter is urged to submit a change of address notification to the Editor, either via US Mail to the address shown below, or (preferably) via email, so we may keep our records accurate. **Newsletter Exchange:** CUE welcomes newsletters from other user groups. If you would like to exchange newsletters, either by US Mail or via electronic (Internet) delivery, please send your newsletter to the address listed below. We will add your name to our mailing list and send you our newsletter in return. **Submissions:** Submissions are always welcome from our members or outside sources. Submissions may be articles, images, cartoons, etc. For first time authors, please request a copy of our Submissions Guidelines from the Editor, prior to submitting any items. This will help to eliminate publication delays. Submissions are due by the 5th of each month. **Correspondence:** General correspondence to CUE may be sent via US Mail to: Computer Users of Erie, PO Box 8941, Erie, PA 16505-0941 USA. Email to: [cuerie@gmail.com](mailto:cuerie@gmail.com). Editor Email to: [grimcyber@yahoo.com](mailto:grimcyber@yahoo.com).

# CUE Membership Benefits



As the largest computer users group in northwest Pennsylvania, CUE has served Erie and surrounding communities since 1982. CUE provides a forum for people to learn about computers and have fun doing so. The group meets the third Thursday each month, with the exception of the months of July and December. In July the group gathers for a picnic and December is the annual holiday party (dates vary). CUE meetings are at Wayside Presbyterian Church, 1205 Asbury Road, Erie. Meetings from April through October are at 7:00 p.m. From November through March, the meetings are at 10:00 AM in the morning, except it will stay at 7:00 p.m. during the Caronavirus Pandemic.

Our monthly meetings are open to the public regardless of age or ability. Many of our members are senior citizens who span a wide range of capabilities and interests but share a desire to know more about how to use computer related technology. Our role is to provide a forum for continuous learning from each other. CUE has a closed Google gmail group that is used to communicate with members and to post questions/problems to seek answers from the membership. Members pay an annual membership fee of \$24 to receive a membership directory, monthly newsletter, availability to monthly general meetings, and any of the Special Interest Group (SIGs) meetings, usually held in a member's home. Locations and times vary, so check the online EVENTS Calendar on the website for the latest information. SIG topics include:

- Digital photography [and photo safari]
- Genealogy
- Macintosh computers
- Computer troubleshooting
- Beginners users group (BUG)
- Handheld smartphones and tablets

CUE is a member of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG). APCUG is an International, platform-independent, volunteer-run, non-profit organization devoted to helping member User Groups offer enhanced services to their members. Some of the membership benefits include:

- Speakers bureau
- Free virtual technology conferences
- Regional conference
- Push newsletter articles
- Discounts and special offers from vendors
- User group newsletters online

Find us online at <http://www.cuerie.com/>. And Facebook @cuerie

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