

Abort, Retry, Ignore...



April 2001

Suggested Retail Price \$1.95

Volume XIV

Issue 4



!!! IMPORTANT !!!
Meeting dates for
2001
See page 10
for dates.
Time and Place
remain the same.

Upcoming
CAEUG meeting
Saturday,
April 28
2001
9:45-12 noon

COMPUTER
CENTRAL
2001 dates
May 27
June 24
July 29
August 26
September 30
COD

9:30am - 3:00pm
College of Dupage
Glen Ellyn, Illinois
Main Arena of
Phys Ed/Rec Bldg.
Park Blvd and
College Road

E-mail address:
compcent@megsinet.net

Digital Cameras

by Larry Bothe, 4/1/01

Have you gotten into the world of digital photography yet? It certainly is a natural extension of computing. I think I'm a little late getting started, but I finally did take the plunge a few weeks ago while on vacation. I have had the yen for a digital camera for quite a while. I'm the editor of a monthly newsletter for a local pilot's group, and I longed for instant gratification pictures to spice up the drivel I write each month. The only questions were when I would break down and buy one, which one it would be, and how much I would have to pay. If you're still thinking about getting in on the fun, here's what I found out.

A friend had gotten a Sony Mavica about 6 months ago and he let me take some pictures with it. The best feature of the Mavica is that it uses standard 3½" disks as its memory media. In order to transfer the images to your computer all you have to do is move the disk; no cables. However, in order to accomplish that there has to be a 3½" disk drive inside the camera. That makes it quite large and heavy. After using the Mavica I decided I wanted something much smaller and lighter.

But which one? I consulted Consumer Reports. What I learned there is that if all you ever want to do is e-mail pictures around on the Internet then one of the cheap (\$100-\$200) under 1 megapixel cameras will be OK for you. But if you want to print pictures with fine detail (high resolution) then you will need a 2+ megapixel model (and a high-resolution printer). Since I wanted to print pictures in my newsletter I had to go upscale. That decision put my cost in the \$500 range.

OK, I'm going to have to spend around \$500. There are many makes and models to choose from in that price/quality range. Which one? For me it was time to look at how the controls were laid out on the camera. Be careful here; some cameras are very awkward to use. The two controls you use the most are the zoom and shutter, usually under your right thumb and right index finger, respectively. Make sure the zoom is on the back of the camera in the upper right corner (not on top), and the shutter is at a

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CAEUG LIST OF SUPPORTING RETAILERS

The retailers listed below have in one way or another supported CAEUG and we thank them.

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 1433 W. Fullerton Avenue, Suite M
 Addison, IL 60101
 630/953-1555

AMERICAN COMPUTER
 330 S. Naperville Road, Suite 310
 Wheaton, IL 60187
 630/260-4020

BOOKS & BYTES, INC.
 Retail store is closed
 630/416-0102
<http://www.bytes.com/>

SOFTWARE EMPORIUM
 123 E. Front St.
 Wheaton, IL 60187
 630/653-0085

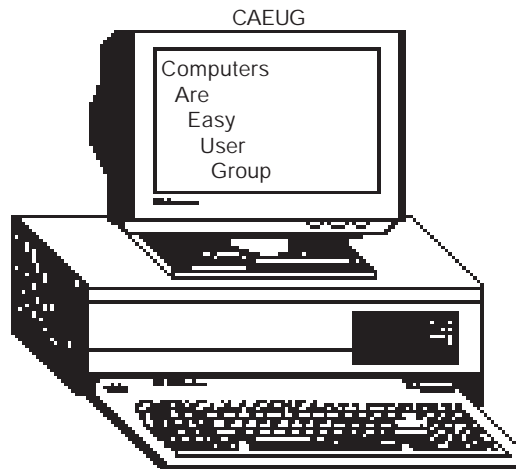
ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER:

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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.



Computer Central

Next show date
SUNDAY, May22
 College of Dupage
 9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
 Chicagoland's Oldest and Largest
 Multi-Vendor PC Show & Sale for
 Home and Business

COLLEGE OF DUPAGE
 Main Arena of Physical Education Building
 Corner of Park Blvd & College Road
 Glen Ellyn, IL
 FREE PARKING
 Admission - \$6.00
 (With this coupon admission \$5.00)
www.computercentralshows.com
 E-mail address:
compcent@megsinet.net

**PICTURE YOUR AD HERE!
 FREE !!**

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF CAEUG THIS SPACE
 COULD SELL ANY COMPUTER
 RELATED ITEM FREE OF CHARGE.

JUST CONTACT ANY CLUB OFFICERS
 OR THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR TO PLACE YOUR AD IN
 THE NEWSLETTER.

For Sale
 Laser printer for sale
 (works with PC's also):

Apple LaserWriter Select 360, 17 MB RAM,
 10 ppm, 600 dpi, Apple LocalTalk, PC serial
 (DB-25), PC parallel (Centronics 36), HP
 PCL-5, Adobe (not a clone interpreter)
 PostScript Level 2, 35 built-in PostScript
 fonts, Windows driver software, 15"x16"
 footprint, owners manual, power cord, ex-
 tra new toner cart/drum (\$95) and original
 shipping box. I'll take any reasonable offer
 (shipping extra). It's clean, in good shape
 and has printed less than 10,000 pages. I
 looked at eBay and one was going for
 \$100 + \$40 shipping. Will ship anywhere
 via UPS.
 Contact Ridge Prevost, RidgeP@aol.com,

In order to have your article or item for sale
 appear in ARI they must be received by the
 10th of the month prior to publication.

MEMBERS HELPLINE

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

Beginners Helpline.....Billy Douglas

Beginner hardware
 problems.....Dick Fergus

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

Win 9x, NT, 2K.....Rick Scalzo
 e-mail.....mitsufan@webcentrix.net

Hardware problems
 & WIN NT4.....John Spizzirri

Start UP Discussion Group

Ask questions and discuss computer
 experiences with the Start UP 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??

Meets before regular meeting from
 9:15 to 9:45

45 degree angle on the upper right front of the camera, again, not on top. The cameras with either or both of these controls on the top cause you to twist your wrist unnaturally to operate them.

Be sure to get a camera with a regular optical (look through) viewfinder to compose your shot. Some have only a video display in the back to show you what you are shooting. Digital cameras eat batteries in any mode, but when the display is running the batteries are gone in no time at all. If you have to run the display to take each picture you won't be able to lug enough batteries for a day's outing. The optical viewfinder extends your battery life several times over.

My regular film camera is a high-end Minolta point-and-shoot (Freedom Zoom 140ex) that I really like and I think has very logically placed controls. (I found that camera sitting on a guard-rail post along the Pacific Coast Highway in Oregon, but that's another story.) As I started to look at digital cameras at the various mass merchandiser stores (Comp-USA, Best Buy, Sam's Club, etc.) I was hoping for controls like on the Minolta. I finally settled on the Hewlett-Packard 618 digital camera since it had the control placement I wanted and met all the other criteria as well.

Those of you who know me personally are aware that I spent most of my working career in purchasing management. That means that now that I'm semi-retired I tend to shop things to death. Retired persons can sometimes spend time instead of money to get a better deal. So it was with the HP-618. Initially, everywhere I looked, it was for sale at \$499. I kept holding out hoping for a better deal, a sale, or something. While on vacation in early March we arrived in the Houston, TX area too late in the afternoon to go to the Space Center so we went shopping. While Pat was in a Burlington Coat Factory store I wandered into a Best Buy

to drool over digital cameras one more time. They had a 618 and got it out of the display case for me. I lucked out; it was the first one I got to handle that had charged-up batteries in it. I took some pictures in the store and was convinced more than ever that it was the camera I wanted. But I still wasn't ready to plunk down \$500 so I gave it back to the sales guy. He says "you know, I think this might be the last one we have." I say "oh?" He says, "yeah, it's marked down to \$479." I sort of shake my head, and then he says "we can't find the box with the manual and accessories." I say "oh?" He says, "I really want to sell it". I say "how much?" He says "how about \$200 off?" I counter by offering \$250 and he refuses; I end up "reluctantly" paying \$279.

But there's no such thing as a free lunch. I had to have a manual as the camera is fairly sophisticated and I needed to learn how to operate it. A trip to hp.com got me a download of the manual, all 129 pages. I printed it in "draft" to save time and ink, but I still thought my HP-932C printer was going to go up in smoke. I had to reload the paper twice. Several phone calls to different departments in H-P got me the software for free, and for about \$20 I bought all the missing accessories except a video cable. One of the camera features is the ability to show your pictures on a TV directly from the camera. For that you need this Audio/Video cable. But for some reason, known only to the H-P gods, it is a "restricted sale item", available only from an authorized H-P retailer. So I asked the tech guy to just give me one. He says he would have, if I had simply told him I didn't receive it with my new camera, but since I was honest and told him I bought it at a big discount as a "close-out" without accessories he can't give me one. So I went to Staples, the only H-P retailer in Seymour, IN. They blew me off and suggested I go to Radio Shack to get a cable. I did that, but it turns out that the jack in the camera is sub-

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miniature and they can't stick together a series of cables and adapters that will work. In the end I just called back to H-P tech service, talked to a different technician and told him what the first one told me to say, that I didn't get the cable with the camera. Now they're sending me one for free. And all this over a cable that H-P admits costs \$2.15. Restricted sale ???; give me a break!

One other thing that turned out to be a rip-off from H-P is the optional battery charger with a set of batteries. They wanted \$59 for the charger and 4 nickel-metal-hydride (Ni-MH) batteries; I bought the same thing from Radio Shack for \$21. I considered a battery eliminator (power supply) from H-P, also \$59, but I decided to try the \$14 one from Radio Shack instead. That didn't work. The Radio Shack one was apparently not sufficiently filtered/regulated. I ended up using a pretty fancy Lafayette Radio (we're reaching way back in time here) power supply I had on hand. That one works fine, even if it is a bit bulky on my desk.

Downloading pictures to my computer is very easy. The connection is with a standard USB cable. I plug the cable into the camera and turn it on. That causes the software in the computer to open, and 2 clicks gets the pictures on to my hard drive in an instant. No fuss at all. H-P provides basic image editing software so you can crop, brighten up, adjust color, etc. any of the pictures you take.

So that's my digital camera story, so far. I still haven't used it very much. I'll write a sequel to this article if I learn more or have interesting experiences. And yes, I did do some photos for the pilot's group newsletter. They looked real good in black and white (I used the software to remove the color) but the high-speed copier we use to print the newsletter badly degraded the image quality in the multiple copies.

Minutes of CAEUG Meeting March 23, 2001

Carl Schow called the meeting to order at 9:39 am.

Carl welcomed one returning visitor and invited him to sign in.

There were 44 in attendance.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2001.

Raffle items included: Pro Pilot USA, TAX Cut, Space Shuttle, an analog plus jot stick, and PFS Resume.

Volunteers for the COD show were discussed. Anyone willing to represent the club at the show can get a free admission. The show lets two members in free and the club will reimburse two other members who work at our table. The reimbursement does not happen until the next monthly meeting. The new banner for CAEUG was shown to the membership.

There was a correction to the February minutes. The report of the annual audit was omitted from the February minutes. " An independent audit of the books and accounts of CAEUG (performed by Nancy Kinzie) has shown that for the year 2000 all information has been recorded appropriately.

The Financial Report showed a starting balance of \$4,385.97, income of \$451.75 and expenses of \$241.72 for an ending balance of \$4,596.00.

Carl reported on a project to acquire a new digital projector and to sell the current projector.

There was an announcement about the Fidelity web site offering access to Turbo TAX for free.

The Nominating Committee reported that Carl has declined to run for re-election. Rick Scalzo has volunteered to serve as president and all other officers are willing to serve another term in their offices. Anyone interested in running for an office should contact the nominating committee.

OLD BUSINESS

None

New Business

There was a question about badges. The Board is continuing to work on this issue.

The club picnic has been scheduled for Seven Gables Park from 11am to 3pm on August 25, 2001.

Al Skwara gave the presentation on using Power Point software.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Skwara



The Lamp Post

Number 17 by John Spizzirri
April 10, 2001



As you read this, the Spring will have sprung, daylight savings time will have begun, and all of us will start to see the signs of the coming summer – increasing gasoline prices. The Internet has a site that may help you or infuriate you called <http://www.gaspricewatch.com/>. It lists the highest, lowest, and average prices in the country. You can search your area for the low price by zip code. It has pricing for fuel oil and will soon have pricing for marine fuels.

April showers bring - LIGHTNING, the computer killer. While attending Tom Skilling's Tornado Seminar at Fermi Lab in Batavia (<http://www.fnal.gov>), I was able to gather quite a slew of URL's about lightning as well as some advice about it. First, don't go outside in lightning storms – your house or car is a very safe place to be. Don't use your computer or telephone in a lightning storm. Unplug the computer and modem before the storm starts. It is unwise to touch telephonic or electrical cords during a storm. If you disobey the rules, your chances of getting struck by lightning are far greater than you think. Listed here are some of the URL's from the seminar plus some others I found entertaining.

<http://www.lightningsafety.com/>

<http://prazen.com/cori/>

<http://www.fema.gov/library/thunderf.htm>

<http://www.lightning.org/>

<http://tiger.uic.edu/~macooper/cindex.htm>

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/96/lightning/>

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/trwbro.htm>

<http://www-bprc.mps.ohio-state.edu/~bdaye/balligh.html>

<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lot/>

<http://www.lightning-strike.org/>

According to ZDNET 3COM (<http://www.3com.com>) will announce a network interface card with firewall technology embedded directly on the chip.

(<http://cgi.zdnet.com/slink?92292:14057653>)

Ever wonder who was the voice of an animated or radio character like Little Audrey, Betty Boop, or Olive Oyl? There is a site dedicated to letting you know whom they are, where they are now, and, occasionally, what they look like at <http://www.voicechasers.org/index1.html>. You'll find that the voice of Bart, the son on 'The Simpsons' animated show is actually that of Nancy Cartwright who has her own Web site at <http://www.thenancyshow.com/>. By the way, Mae Questel, who is no longer with us, was the voice of Little Audrey, Betty Boop, and Olive Oyl.

On April 5th AOL Instant Messenger (<http://www.aol.com>) users had their service interrupted for an hour or more. This second time in two days the service went down. AOL blamed the problem on a widespread power outage in parts of Northern Virginia that include the company's data centers. That caused a problem with AOL being able to provide customers access to

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applications that include the "buddy list." That is the database of user names that customer use to send and receive instant messages, and to be able to see which users are online.

Thinking about creating a Web page to let the world know what you think, start a business, or just for the sake of the experience? The site at <http://www.expage.com/> (Express Page) lets you do just that for free. The site has help on the creation process. It may be a way to get your feet wet before you commit to a bigger project. You may ask yourself, 'what do they get out of providing this free service?' They place advertising on your page.

Daytime talk radio has a new player. WJGG is the voice of Elmhurst, Illinois. It features the nationally syndicated Duke and the Doctor (<http://www.dukeandthedoctor.com/>) in the morning. Duke and the Doctor are a husband and wife team that talk about medicine and medical problems on their call in show. The Web site has a vast amount of data about drugs, herbals, and vitamins. Michael Medved (<http://www.michaelmedved.com/>) in the afternoon is a political, current issues show. Medved, also does movie reviews as he does in print and on television. The station has a lot of local programming that is supported via donations, personally, or by local advertisers. On Saturday, Trevor Bull has a shooting sports program at noon.

Our Governor, Republican, George 'Lyn" Ryan (<http://www.state.il.us/gov/>), has proposed an elimination of the tollways by the year 2021. As I recall I-294 when it was being built was to be made a freeway by 2001. I guess Republican, William G. Stratton and Democrat, Otto Kerner lied to us because I use I-294 everyday and I still have to pay tolls although I will grant that the year is not over, yet. Republican, Richard B. Ogilvie ran for governor against Samuel H. Shapiro. Shapiro promised to institute a state income tax. My parents must have voted for Sam Shapiro because we have a state income tax. Democrat, Dan Walker promised to raise taxes and did so. Republican, James R. Thompson promised to hold the line on taxes 4 times and 4 times raised them. Republican, Jim Edgar promised to hold the line on taxes twice and twice raised them. George 'Lyn" Ryan promised not to raise taxes but "changed his mind" just days after he had been elected, proposing the largest tax increase in the history of the state (DOUBLING many existing fees and taxes). What do we have to show for all these tax increases? Do we have the best roads in the country? Do we have good roads? If you drive in Illinois, you know the answer. Perhaps we have the best schools. You can ass or axe many 12-year-olds about that for an answer. [I have seen both of these spellings of the word 'ask' in the writings of 12-year-olds.] On the other hand we may have the most courteous and helpful public servants. A visit to virtually any driver's license facility will give you that answer. (Of course, you can buy courtesy at some driver's license facilities.) George 'Lyn" Ryan has told us that in order to rid this state of tollways we must INCREASE the tolls now by almost DOUBLE. Who's kidding who? Don't forget that the governor in 2021 may 'change his mind', too. George 'Lyn" Ryan in cahoots with State Senator James 'Pate' Philip (http://www.legis.state.il.us/addresses/senate_addresses.html#PHILIP) and his brother, chairman of the Illinois Toll Authority, Arthur Philip (<http://www.illinoistollway.com/>) are scheming to gouge the Illinois taxpayers AGAIN. Isn't 50 years of bad state government enough? Tell your State Senator and State Representative NO! Find their addresses and telephone numbers at <http://www.state.il.us/state/legis/>.

The Web site where you can find where your Illinois First tax dollars, the largest tax increase in the history of Illinois, are going is at <http://www.state.il.us/state/ilfirst/ilfirstmap/default.htm> . I'm sure you'll be happy to know the DuPage County Forest Preserve District received a

\$5,000,000 grant for the reconstruction of Oak Meadows Golf Course. The Bensenville Redmond Park Facility received \$700,000 to construct a parking facility and acquire land for a recreational site. In Sangamon County Mothers Against Drunk Driving received \$1000 for radio advertisement with regard to dangers of drunk driving and an additional \$10,220 for an anti-drinking and driving advertising campaign. That's just a few of the thousands of grants given to those deserving pols that turned out the vote for George 'Lyn' Ryan in the last gubernatorial election.

This October a Federal Communications Commission (<http://www.fcc.gov>) requirement will go into effect that states emergency services must be able to locate all 911 calls placed from a cell phone to within 100 yards. This regulation comes too late for the schoolteacher that was murdered, execution style, by a convicted murderer in March. The FCC calls this new service e911, with the E standing for enhanced. Last year 911 received approximately 150 million calls, with about 45 million placed from wireless phones. The question about this new regulation is whether the government is your friend or your master. With this technology, the government will be able to track your whereabouts if you have a cell phone. Friend or master? You be the judge.

I found a very disturbing site (<http://www.cphv.com/911/911flash.html>). It has a video of a simulated 911 call. Don't go there unless you want your stomach tied in knots. The simulation is not far from the truth. You will also find news stories about actual 911 calls.

After World War 2 there was a resurgence of optimism in the United States. It was manifested, in part, in the belief that technology could solve all our problems. One of those problems is that of the relationship between time and space. Getting from one place to another has been a problem since the dawn of time. After WWII many entrepreneurs tried solving this problem with the combination automobile/airplane concept vehicle. There is one of these individuals still at it. Paul Moller's design can be found at <http://www.moller.com/skycar/m400/> .

What's new on the Widows XP front? CD burner software will interfere with the installation of XP. Current versions of CD burner software like EZ CD Creator and Nero will not run under XP because WMP8 (Windows Media Player 8) is integrated into Windows XP. WMP8 does not allow other softwares to control the CD burner hardware. WMP8 also has 'license checking' as part of its process. Microsoft will check to see if you own the music that you want to burn on a CD. This can happen because the recording industry will put hidden licensing on audio CD's that "cannot" be copied. Other softwares that won't work on XP are:

Partition Magic (<http://www.powerquest.com/>),

Real Player (<http://www.real.com>),

RealJukeBox, MusicMatch JukeBox (<http://www.musicmatch.com/>),

Windows Media Player 7.0 or NullSoft WinAmp (<http://www.winamp.com/>).

These last two are interesting because I think Microsoft just purchased WinAmp.

More news on the XP front is that Clippy is "retiring". When Microsoft started inserting 'help agents' in its software i.e. MS BOB, users did not quite know what to make of it. In Office 97, the agent default was "Clippy the paperclip" which appeared on screen any time you started an Office application. In Office 97 it was hard to remove. People hated Clippy. In Office 2000, Clippy was easier to remove. In Office XP, Clippy is retired but you can turn him back on if you like his intrusions in your work. I think this is just one example of software bloat – putting useless animation and sound that most people won't even see but it will take up their hard drive space. Microsoft is

launching a \$30-million ad campaign in which Clippy will retire. The Microsoft Clippy Web site is the place to get revenge on him. At <http://www.officeclippy.com> you can play some game that attack him or just poke fun at what his next job will be.

The next bit of news on XP is FireWire. The connection of IEEE 1394a carries up to 400M bps; while the next generation 1394b will deliver 3,200M bps over a 4.5-meter cable IEEE 1394 can have up to 63 devices. IEEE 1394 does not use the CPU like USB. Peter Coffee's column at <http://eletters1.ziffdavis.com/cgi-in10/flo?y=eHdD0Bf8RI0DSm0CMY0A5> says "Microsoft urges PC makers to include at least one back-panel IEEE 1394 port, plus at least two more upfront along with the 'Designed for Windows XP' logo." It seems Microsoft has switched gears on us. Starting with Windows 98 USB was the rage. MS bullied PC makers into putting USB connections on every PC. Now they will do the same with FireWire. Now many of us have USB devices for our PC's. I think PC makers will gradually phase out the USB ports in favor of the cheaper FireWire over the next few years.

On April 5th Michael Dell told analysts at Dell Computer Corp.'s (<http://www.dell.com>) annual analyst meeting in New York, "Our competitors must learn to scale aggressively to compete or exit the market." This is another blast in the computer price war that started just before Christmas last year. Dell would not say but I think his sites are set on Gateway. Gateway just had a major change in management that will move them away from the Gateway Country stores and more toward the 'made to order' market that was their trademark. I think that this war will be great for consumers that are not afraid of the economy to get good deals on either Dell or Gateway (<http://www.gateway.com>) computers. The downside of the war is that stock prices of all the participants will fall for the next 8 to 12 months.

Microsoft has released a patch that eliminates a security vulnerability in Microsoft Internet Explorer Versions 5.01 and 5.5. This vulnerability could enable an attacker to potentially run a program of his choice on your machine. Internet Explorer 5.01 Service Pack 2 is not affected by this vulnerability. Previous versions of Internet Explorer are no longer supported and may or may not be affected by this vulnerability. You can get the patch by opening Internet Explorer, click Tools on the menu, and click on Windows Update. You will be taken to Microsoft's update site, your machine will be evaluated for what updates it 'needs', and you can select what you want to update. You will have to reboot after this process.

You will soon be able to search Microsoft's database in a number of languages including English. There will also be a new improved search engine that allows users to search the documentation of Microsoft and several other companies using plain English. I have always found it frustrating to know what I want but, not know how to describe it as Microsoft does. This engine retrieves meaningful documents, even if you don't know the exact words used in the articles. Answers can be retrieved in seven non-English languages. An early version of this search engine is now operating at <http://www.freeanswers.com/ask2.asp>. The technology underlying the search engine comes from WexTech Systems (<http://www.wextech.com>). Microsoft's search engines are very picky – find it at <http://search.support.microsoft.com/kb/c.asp>.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

Meeting place and date information:

The next REGULAR meeting will be held at the Glen Ellyn Library in Glen Ellyn at 9:30 am on
Saturday, April 28, 2001

The library is located 1 block west of Citibank at the corner of Prospect & Duane FREE PARKING
Directions: Park to Duane; go west on Duane to Prospect Street. Please park at the West end of the
lot, away from the building. Thank you.

The meeting(s) are not library sponsored and all inquiries should be directed to Carl Schow . 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,
Carl Schow , at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be
made for them.

Confirmed Meeting dates for 2001:	April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28 August CAEUG annual picnic Saturday, August 25, September 22, October 27, November (no meeting), December 1 (Nov/Dec meeting),
Confirmed Meeting dates for 2002:	January 26

Program for April 28:

Will be on-line gaming by Rick Scalzo and Erik Vandermey
