

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore...



Computers Are Easy User Group

April 2002

Suggested Retail Price \$1.95

Volume XIX Issue 4



Calendar
of
Events

!!! IMPORTANT !!!

Updated

Meeting dates for
2002

See page 10
for all
confirmed
dates.

Time and Place
remain the same.

Upcoming
CAEUG meeting
Saturday,
April 27,
2002

9:45-12:00

Our next meeting
will be a
presentation by
Rick Scalzo.

SEE YOU
THERE!!

COD Dates
2002 dates

May 26

PC Spring Cleaning Or Helpful Tips From Larry

by Larry Bothe

How long has it been since you have cleaned your keyboard? (You don't have to answer if you don't want too.)

Yesterday I was bored with my current project of creating yet another class for my instrument ground school so I decided to clean my keyboard. I knew it hadn't been cleaned since we moved here about 3-1/2 years ago. The first thing I did was to turn it upside-down and tap on it. You should have seen the crap that fell out!! Everything from cracker crumbs to cat hair (2 cats, no waiting). From that I figured just tapping on it upside-down wasn't good enough so I disconnected it from the computer and took it to the garage and blew it out. I have an air compressor so that's easy for me to do. I got this big cloud of crud that blew out all over the place. More hair, dust & crumbs. (I eat snacks at my computer, don't you?) In the absence of the compressor I would have vacuumed it with the dust brush attachment of the vacuum cleaner.

The keys themselves were filthy. I got a couple alcohol pads and went around the edges of each one to remove the body grease and dirt. Then I cleaned the flat areas between the keys. It looks almost new again.

My mouse (I use the trackball type) had been rough-rolling lately so I decided to clean that as well. First thing was to take it to the garage and do the blow-out trick with the air compressor. Then I used an alcohol pad to clean each of the 3 metal rollers on which the ball rides. Finally, I used another alcohol pad to clean the left and right click-pads (filthy!) as well as the rest of the plastic body. It runs much more smoothly now, and looks better too.

(con't on page 4)

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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.

COMPUTER MAINTENANCE, INC.
 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

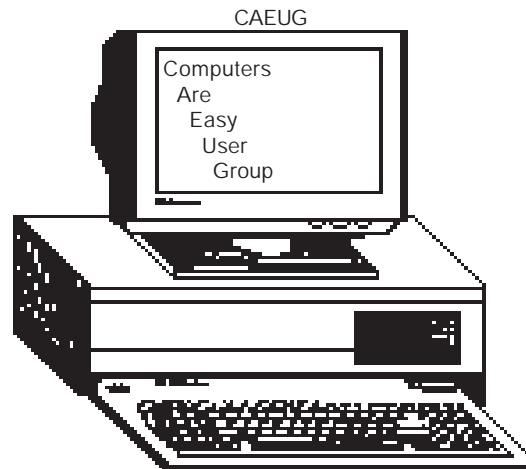
ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER:

This printed version of our newsletter was laid out using Adobe's Pagemaker Version 7.0 for Windows and was printed on a EPSON EPL-7000. Our group's membership database is maintained using MSWorks and address labels are printed using PostalSoft Desktop Mailer software. Our checking account records are kept in Quicken software.

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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, May 26
 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 - \$7.00
 (With this coupon admission \$6.00)
 www.CODSHOW.COM
 E-mail address:
 info@codshow.com

COMPUTER CENTRAL at COD

2002 dates

May 26
 June 30
 July 28

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 NEWS-
 LETTER EDITOR TO PLACE YOUR AD IN THE NEWSLET-
 TER.

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.

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

MEMBERS HELPLINE

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

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, Linux.....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

April 2002

You also have to beware that the inside of your computer does get full of dust [ed note: and dust bunnies]. In my situation I don't have a problem (yet) because mine is only a little over a year old, and I had it open more recently to install a network card. But older machines gather a lot of dust inside as the air circulates through them as it is pulled in by the cooling fans. Modern machines have 3 fans; one in the power supply, one over the CPU chip, and a general cooling fan for the whole case. I recently took apart a friend's machine that was about 4 years old and had quit working. The power supply fan was seized and would not turn at all. The little fan over the CPU chip was still turning but was so clogged that essentially no air was being circulated. The main case fan was dirty but still somewhat functional. I blew out the machine (had to open the garage door for that one) and then replaced the power supply fan and cleaned the other two. How the power supply ever survived I have no idea, but it did. I suspect that it must have had some sort of thermal overload (cutout) protection, but I don't know that for sure.

The point is that if you don't otherwise open your machine for an upgrade or other change (and cleaning) at least once a year, you are risking a failure like my friend had. Even if you don't know (and don't care) a thing about what goes on inside the 'box' you still need to open it up and evict the dust bunnies on an annual basis. [ed note: Besides they don't pay enough in rent to cover the cost of a new machine.] A soft brush (I use a shaving mug brush) [ed note: a clean makeup brush will work also] is helpful for loosening up dust lodged between electronic components on a printed circuit board. Once loose the dust can be picked up with the vacuum cleaner. Use the dusting brush attachment on your vacuum cleaner; you won't hurt anything.

Look at it this way. If you keep your computer clean so it cools properly and looks half way decent you won't be embarrassed if someone else has to work on it. And it just might last until

Abort, Retry, Ignore..

it is so obsolete that you just have to buy a new one.

Larry Bothe
3/3/02

Larry Bothe (Lbothe@aol.com) is a past-president of the Computers Are Easy Users Group located in Glen Ellyn (near Chicago), IL. He now resides in southern Indiana and in his semiretirement teaches people to fly light airplanes.

Minutes of March 23, 2002

Al Skwara called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM. 32 members were in attendance.

Al hosted the meeting because President Rick Scalzo was ill.

Lynn Johnson read the treasurer's report. The membership approved it.

Meeting minutes are published in the ARI... No revisions were needed.

Old Business

Al Sicora reported for the nominating committee that all current officers would run for their respective offices. In addition, Dick Seward would run for president.

Gene Kirby reported for the meeting timetable committee. Gene presented the following timetable:

9:00 AM	Library opens
9:05-9:45 AM	Beginners group
10:00 AM	Presentation
11:00 AM	Coffee Break
11:15 AM	Raffle
11:30 AM	New technology report
11:45 AM	Members forum

A motion to accept the timetable for a two-month trial period was made and seconded. The membership approved.

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My Favorite E-Mail Program
by Sigrid Foreman
Tyler Computer Club

Many of us use e-mail on a daily basis and we use different e-mail programs depending on what we want from it. Here are a few that are available.

Free Programs...such as Juno do not require you to have an internet account with anyone. They simply let you send and receive e-mail (including attachments) without any internet surfing. This means that you have no monthly or hourly charge to worry about.

E-mail programs that require an Internet account... this is what most of use, be it thru providers like AOL, Prodigy, MSN or an independent internet provider such as Gower, Ballistic, Flashnet, Cox-Internet etc.. where you would use programs such as Outlook Express, Netscape Messenger, Eudora or my favorite Incredimail. <http://www.incredimail.com/>

Many of you have not heard of it, and I would like to take this opportunity to speak a little about it. Incredimail is provided to you free of charge...unless you choose to get the full program (\$29), which basically provides support (which I have used and is pretty good) and allows you to preview your messages on the server prior to you downloading them. It comes with a demo program of Letter Creators (you're allowed to make 1-3 letters before you have to purchase the full version at \$39...or get both for the price of \$49). IM offers you e-cards, letter backgrounds, sounds and animation that you can add to personalize your e-mail. It also come with an mail notifier (of your choice) which will tell you when you have new mail. You can even make your own handwritten signature to add to your mail.

The thing I like about Incredimail (IM) is that I have such a large variety of letter backgrounds to choose from that I can add to personalize my e-mails. Besides the basic ones that come standard in the program, there are many more backgrounds, e-cards, animation and sounds that can be added (all free of charge) without having to make your own...if you're not talented enough like me...by going to Incredimails's multimedia web gallery, or to one of the many IM

websites where you can find a variety of all of these plus help with problems you may encounter. These sites also list other sites where you can learn how to make your own backgrounds using either Letter Creator or using a different program such as Paint Shop Pro.

One of the IM letter sites I went to (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/A_S-A-F-E_Place/) offers a link to tutorial classes at <http://enchanted1designs.com/abcs/about.html> that have at least 2 tutorial links every week for the following subjects: psp (paint shop pro), eye candy (plug-in for psp), blade pro (plug-in for psp), sig tags, making letters for LC/Incredimail & 20/20. Classes last for 8 weeks & have a top limit of 30 "students" per class. The owners of this tutorial site, Becky & Candy, said, "We have had great success with the classes so far & have high hopes of it's continuous success!" Hey... If I'm in the class, they can't be bad...right??? So check it out!!

Ok, some people (I won't mention any names Wayne) don't like me to use this program because it takes a little longer to download than a standard e-mail, but at least I don't use sound which DOES take a long time to due to the midi or wav file attachment..... All you have to remember is that the more you add to an e-mail, the longer it will take to download. If someone does not like receiving these "stationary" e-mails, ask them to let you know and you can then select a "no background" and they will receive a standard e-mail with a white background. Most people do not mind that it takes a little longer since there are so many neat backgrounds or sidebars (including your own pictures) that can be seen and that they can "snag" or add to their own collection just by viewing yours.

One thing about e-mail programs, you ****do**** have a few choices... you do not have to stay with the default selection that is given you. Use your imagination... use it in color... use it with pictures...it's all up to you!!

This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an International organization to which this user group belongs.



The Lamp Post Number 28
 by John Spizzirri
 April 15, 2002



Lightning – the death knell of electronic products. We are now entering the lightning season. Find out how to protect yourself at <http://www.lightningsafety.com/>. Surge protection and power conditioning are the means to protect your computer(s), modem, and other home electronics. You can protect individual components using surge protector power strips from companies like APC (<http://www.apc.com/index.cfm?ISOCountryCode=us>) or Sutton Designs (<http://www.suttondesigns.com/1index5.html>). You can protect your entire household using a contractor like Rob Humphreys of D&B Power in Batavia (630) 761-1400 however that protection is expensive. A comparison chart of options and how effective they are can be found on PC Guide at <http://www.pcguid.com/ref/power/ext/comp.htm>. Regardless of the hype you might encounter, the joule rating is the most important rating on a surge protector. The higher the joule rating the better your electronics will be protected.

I have just completed a very interesting weekend. It started Friday evening with a special meeting of Uniform Chicago (<http://www.uniform.chi.il.us/>). Uniform is a Unix/Linux club that meets at the College of DuPage. Eric Raymond (<http://tuxedo.org/~esr/>) was the speaker (<http://uniform.chi.il.us/meetings/ericraymond.html>). Eric is an 'open source anthropologist'. He has an interesting take on why Linux and the open source movement works as opposed to proprietary software model. He wrote The Cathedral and the Bazaar, which is available from O'Reilly books (<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/cathbazzpaper/>). The book is also available for on line reading free at <http://tuxedo.org/~esr/writings/cathedral-bazaar/cathedral-bazaar/>.

The second item on the weekend agenda was WGN's Channel Nine Tom Skilling Tornado Seminar (<http://www.asktom.org/>). It was held at Fermi National Accelerator Lab (<http://www.fnal.gov/>). I have been to this seminar in previous years. This time there were uniformed security personnel on the grounds and in the building. Tom Skilling told us that there was uncertainty about the location of this year's seminar. Fermi Lab has been locked down because of the bin Laden's attack. Other than that minor unpleasantness the seminar was great. Mary Ann Cooper, M.D. gave a presentation on the results of lightning strikes on human beings (<http://tigger.uic.edu/labs/lightninginjury/>). Doctor Joseph Schaefer talked about the new methods of storm prediction (<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/>). Jim Stefkovitch talked about the effects of a major storm on metropolitan areas such as the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex (<http://www.dfwinfo.com/weather/study/index.asp>). Brian Smith of the National Weather Service in Omaha talked about the type of damages that tornado and violent weather does (<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/oax/>). The last speaker was David Stillings, the Lightning Stalker (<http://www.lightningstalker.com/>). He has spent the last ten years photographing lightning. He sells his photos on his Web site. Other weather and storm sites: <http://www.lightningstorm.com/>

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<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov>
<http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/researchitems/>
<http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/~doswell/stchs.html>
<http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/~holle/>
<http://www.thomson.ece.ufl.edu/lightning/>

By the time you read this, the Soo Locks will have been open for about a month. I checked the Web cams (<http://www.crrel.usace.army.mil/ierd/webcams/soo/>) on March 26th and found lake freighters pushing through the ice. The Web cams are no longer the two minute delay of real time. The Web site reports the pictures as if they are two-minute delay but there is a variable delay because of Osama bin Laden's war on the United States. Just another small freedom he has taken away from us. (I checked again today – the ice is still there.)

Strategic Forecasting predicts that the al-Qaeda will start a series of 'low level' attacks in an effort to rally their troops (http://www.stratfor.com/fib/topStory_view.php?ID=204134). This prediction is based on the number and frequency of non-United States targeted low level attacks over the past few months. These attacks have not been centrally planned or financed by bin Laden. These attacks may make it easier for the United States to gain allies in the war on terrorism. StratFor is a private provider of global intelligence for its subscribers. It does have some free intelligence reports at (<http://www.stratfor.com/>).

Rick Belluzzo is quitting (he may have been fired, but no one is talking). He was the president of Microsoft (M\$ <http://www.microsoft.com>). He was interviewed last month by Information Week (<http://www.informationweek.com>) where he laid out the goals for M\$ in 2003. Two of those goals, I thought, were interesting. M\$ wants to "nurture relationships with developers and small businesses". I guess that is why they use the Business Software Alliance (BSA <http://www.bsa.org/>) to bully businesses in buying products they cannot afford and not offering small business the same options afforded larger businesses. The BSA Web site seems to be noble in purpose but it's media campaigns threaten businesses with lawsuits and prosecutions for even minor license violations. The other goal is to "convince developers to build applications for .Net". If M\$ has to 'convince' developers to do something, then, it would seem, that developers have not bought into the .Net vision. Developers may be worried about the security issues that are worrying consumers

Jim Rapoza, a writer for ZiffDavis publishing, wrote an article that has appeared in more than one magazine and on the Internet about the failure of Hailstorm. It appears that consumers and corporations do not see the benefit of the .Net services called Hailstorm. M\$ has changed their marketing direction on this one. This may have something to do with the Rick Belluzzo resignation as well. You can read Jim Rapoza's article at <http://eletters1.ziffdavis.com/cgi-bin10/flo?y=ePYd0DxXXe0E4K0mKu0Aw> .

Spam could be tracking you. Do you get e-mail newsletters or advertising in HTML format? According to ZDNet News, some spam in HTML format puts a cookie on your machine which allows marketers to track what you do and where you go on the Internet. If you use Outlook, you are able to turn off HTML. I do not use Outlook, so I do not know how to set that feature. You can

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set your Internet Explorer Browser to reject or prompt you when an HTML page wants to put a cookie on your machine. In version 5.5 select the Tools menu item then Internet Options. Click on the Security tab and click on the Internet Icon. Click the Custom Level button and scroll down to Cookies. There you can select whether or not you will accept or reject cookies or ask to be prompted. You can read the Stefanie Olsen story at http://clickthru.online.com/Click?q=15-mYP_IGcOI2mbJwCAVpMDLcNIqGeR . One of the things I do when subscribing to newsletters is to specify that they are sent in plain text. It may not be pretty but there are no cookies.

Novell (<http://www.novell.com/>) is spoofing the Windows XP commercials that show people flying. Catch the video at http://www.novellbrainshare.com/portal/content/home_video.jsp . Click on the picture of the flying boy.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation (<http://www.eff.org/>) put out an action alert last year about the Security System Standards and Certification Act (SSSCA). This is a proposed law by South Carolina Senator Fitz Hollings <http://www.senate.gov/~hollings/webform.html> that would effectively prohibit the sale of ANY open source software such as Linux and BSD. It would require digital rights management (DRM) technology that would prohibit copying and control the number of USES of DVD's and CD's that you might purchase. Because open source software cannot have copyright software included with it unless the source is available and DRM is copywritten, it cannot be included with Linux or BSD. Fortunately, the SSSCA has been holed up in committee because enough people have called and written their Senators. Don't expect the motion picture industry and the music industry to roll over and play dead. This will be brought up again and again until they get what they want or the public speaks with a clear 'NO WAY'. You can read the original alert at http://www.eff.org/alerts/20010921_eff_sssca_alert.html . There is a new bill very similar to the SSSCA called Consumer Broadband and Digital Television Promotion Act (CBDTPA). You can read about the new bill including the full text, if you wish, at http://www.eff.org/alerts/20020322_eff_cbdtpa_alert.html . If this bill (or one like it) passes, you will be restricted as to how you use movies or music that you purchase. This not only affects computers but DVD and CD players. Code may be included that will prevent them from playing more than preset number of times. I have used the EFF site in this article because it has many useful links for more information. The SSSCA and the CBDTPA are all over the Internet. Use the initials as a search term in Google (<http://www.google.com/>) to find other points of view.

Those of you who used Napster before their copyright troubles may have switched to KaZaA (<http://www.kazaa.com/en/kmdstart.htm>). Nicholas Weaver, a student and researcher at UC Berkeley, has written an article (<http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~nweaver/Own2.html>). The article covers the 'business association' between KaZaA and Brilliant Digital Media (<http://www.brilliantdigital.com>). If you have downloaded KaZaA software in the last eight or nine months, it includes a secret package of software from Brilliant. This secret software allows Brilliant to use your computer for distributed computing without your knowledge. The software works similar to the SETI project (<http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu/>). John Leyden, a writer for theRegUS, wrote about the controversy

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(<http://www.theregus.com/content/6/24572.html>). If you have KaZaA software, you may want to uninstall it.

M\$ has asked the court to reconsider its action against Lindows. InfoWorld covered the story at

<http://www.infoworld.com/articles/hn/xml/02/04/02/020402hnlindows.xml?0402tueb> .

M\$ claims that the name Windows is NOT synonymous with 'operating system' and that Lindows will confuse consumers. Lindows has other troubles. The Richard Stallman's Free Software Foundation (<http://www.gnu.org/home.html>) wants to know where the source code is. Lindows made a preliminary release of its software without source code, a requirement of open source. The story is at <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/4/24827.html> .

Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW <http://www.cagw.org/>) has published it's 2002 Pig Book. The book outlines all the pork projects by various congress people. The book may be read free online or can be ordered "free" by joining CAGW for \$25.

Has M\$ joined the enemy? Is M\$ really going to introduce their own distribution of Linux? Check this site <http://www.mslinux.org/> . I came across this site by accident during a Google search. I had to read almost the entire site before I realized it was a parody.

TechTV's Richard Statter has an interesting article about 602Pro PC Suite. It is a M\$ Office Suite alternative that is free. I have not tried it yet, but it may be of value to some of you. Read it at <http://www.techtv.com/callforhelp/freefile/story/0,24330,3378699,00.html> .

CodeWeavers (<http://www.codeweavers.com/home/>) has a product they call CrossOver Office. It allows M\$ Office Suite to run on Linux. It cost about \$55. I don't know how useful this is because you have to own Office (\$400+). It will run Lotus Notes which is extremely useful to businesses. If this product gets any kind of real attention, I would expect M\$ to sue for some reason or other.

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

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New Business

There was no new business.

John Spizzirri gave a presentation on Windows XP.

Calculators, McAfee virus scanner, and Windows 95 books were raffled off.

There was no new technology report.

Member's forum concluded the meeting.

Quote found on the Internet:

At the Computers, Freedom and Privacy conference in San Francisco on April 18 Brian Arbogast, vice president of Microsoft's .Net Core Services Platform, Services Platform Division said "You are never going to hear me guarantee security, because we can't," He added, however, that Microsoft was spending a lot of money to provide added security.

Source: <http://www.infoworld.com/articles/hn/xml/02/04/18/020418hnprivacy.xml?0419fram>

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 Glen Ellyn Library in Glen Ellyn at 9:45 am on
Saturday meeting April 27, 2002

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

Confirmed Meeting dates for 2002:
April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24 CAEUG Picnic,
Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov/Dec meeting December 7

CD OF THE MONTH: Available at the meeting or by ordering previous CD's via the CAEUG
website.

April 27th meeting - Rick Scalzo---A
presentation by Rick Scalzo. He will
demonstrate how to make digital audio
from vinyl records.

May 25th meeting - John Spizzirri
---Demonstrate backup procedures
using drive imaging software.