

# Abort, Retry, Ignore...



## Computers Are Easy User Group



August 2003

Suggested Retail Price \$1.95

Volume XIV

Issue 8

Don't forget to fill out the CAEUG survey that was in the June ARI!!!



**!!! IMPORTANT !!!**  
Meeting dates for  
2003  
See page 10  
for all confirmed  
dates. Time and  
Place remain the  
same.

August 23  
CAEUG Picnic  
Map and  
Directions on  
pages 4 & 5  
SEE YOU  
THERE!!

Info about auction  
at September  
meeting of the  
BYOC  
pc on page 9

COD Dates  
2003 dates  
August 24  
September 28  
October 26  
November 23  
December 21

### Defrag — Three Passes by Larry Bothe, 7/27/03

I think most computer users know that their machines need a "tune-up" from time to time. In the Windows world that means deleting useless files, like Temporary Internet Files, and then running Scandisk (in XP you run Error Check) and Disk Defragmenter, better known as "Defrag". I perform these tasks about once a month. After the tune-up I always back my data up to 100-meg zip disks. I'm now running Windows XP but I believe the discussion below applies to the earlier Windows 9.x versions as well.

Since I broke my leg last week (don't ask) and now can't do much other than sit at my computer I decided to do my tune-up for July. When I got to the Defrag stage I recalled reading that running Defrag one time does not in fact completely defragment (consolidate) all the files in one pass. In order to get it completely done several passes would be required. This information was contained in a write-up touting a commercially available disk defragmentation program. Of course the gist of it was that you ought to buy their program because it would do the job completely in just one pass.

I was curious to know what would happen and if there was any benefit to running the Defrag in Windows more than once, back-to-back, so I tried it. As usual, the first pass took a while, maybe 5 minutes, and the graphical representation of my hard drive showed significant changes and consolidation of files. I then immediately ran a second pass. It took only about 2 minutes to complete. As I watched it was apparent that the first pass did not get the job completely done. There were noticeably fewer gaps in the drive structure after the second pass, although not nearly so dramatic as after the first one. I then tried a third pass. It also took about two minutes but very few changes were observed. I concluded that I had reached the point of diminishing returns and didn't run Defrag a fourth time.

I have no real way to quantify the results of this activity. My feeling is that the first pass accomplished maybe 90% of the possible consolidation. The second one got most of what was left, and the third one didn't do much at all. I'd say that a second pass is beneficial,

(con't on page 8)

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CAEUG  
Computers  
Are  
Easy  
User  
Group

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

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



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 HP Laserjet III. Our group's membership database is maintained using MS Access and address labels are printed using MS Access 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.

**Great Midwest  
Computer Show**

Next show date  
**SUNDAY, Aug 24**  
College of Dupage  
9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

The Midwest's oldest and largest  
Multi Vendor PC show and sale for  
Home & 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](http://www.CODSHOW.COM)  
E-mail address:  
[info@codshow.com](mailto:info@codshow.com)

Great Midwest Computer Show ©  
2003 dates

Aug 24, Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov 23, Dec 21

For Sale  
Price Reduced!

• Compaq Armada 1530DM Laptop, Pentium 133,  
• 32MB RAM, 1.2MB HD, floppy, CD-ROM, Sound,  
• Win 98. Battery does not hold charge more than 20  
• minutes. Runs fine plugged-in \$150 obo

For Sale

• IBM Wheelwriter 10 typewriter with memory built  
• in. It's in excellent condition, but no longer  
• needed. Would like to sell it....Best Offer. It has  
• the manual, 5 wheels and three ribbons to go  
• with it.

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 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

Hardware problems, Win 9x, NT, 2K & Linux.....John Spizzirri

**Membership Costs.....**

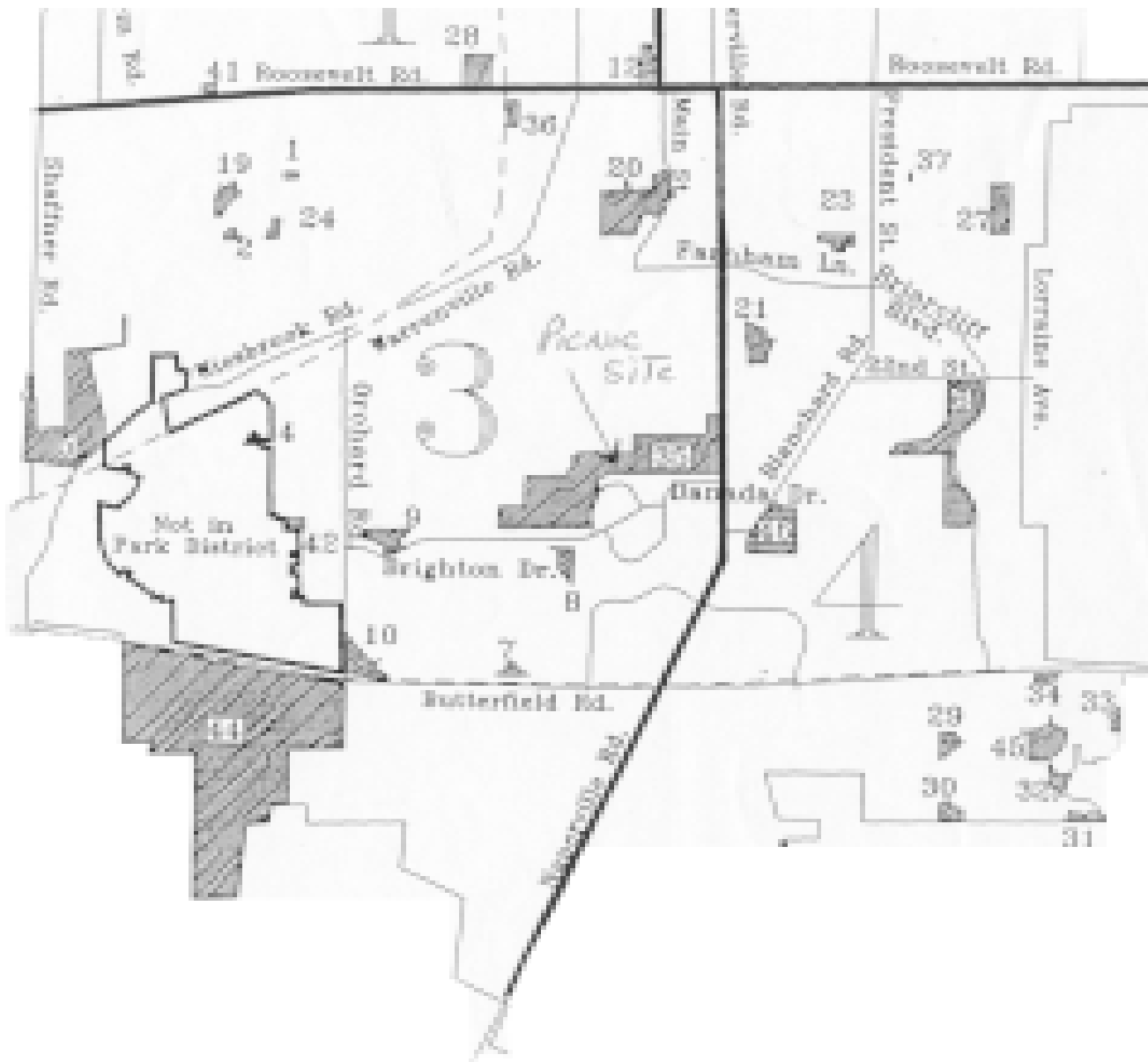
	First Yr.	Renewal
Individual	\$25.00	\$20.00
Family	\$30.00	\$25.00
Corporate	\$30.00	\$25.00
Associate	\$20.00	\$15.00

**Beginner's SIG**

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

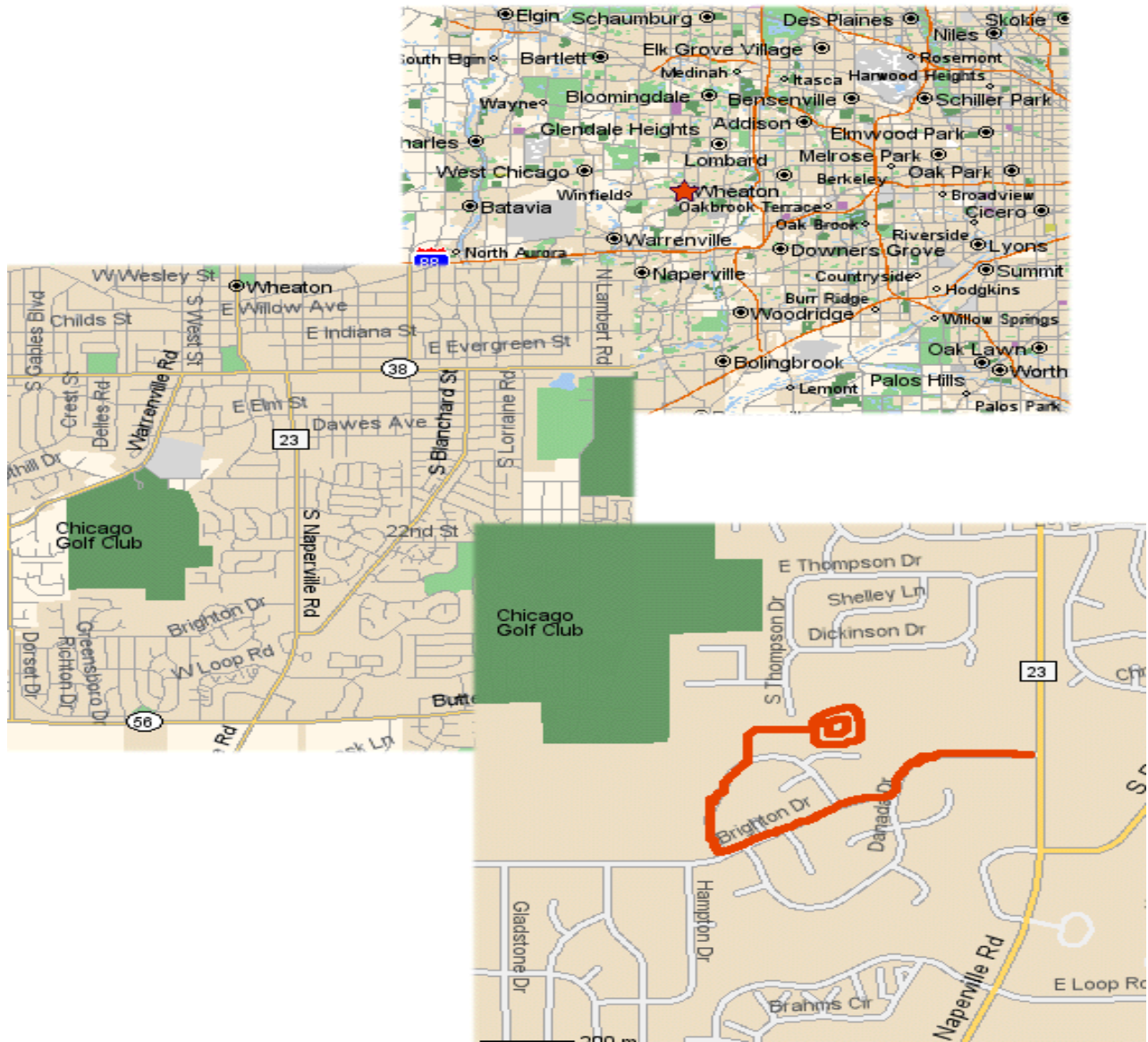
1. New to Computers? (basic topics)
2. How to use the Web or download information
3. How to install hardware/software
4. Discuss how to troubleshoot hardware conflicts, learn boot up emergency tricks
5. What do you want to know??

Meets before regular meeting from 9:05 to 9:45



CAEUG  
Picnic Directions

Directions to CAEUG Picnic at Seven Gables Park:  
 From Naperville and Butterfield Roads head NORTH on Naperville Road 0.8 mi.  
 Turn left (WEST) on Danada Road.  
 Follow Danada for 0.2 mi. to the stop sign at Brighton Road.  
 Turn right (WEST) on Brighton Road.  
 Stay on Brighton Road for 0.2 mi.  
 Turn right (NORTH) onto Winners Cup.  
 Follow Winner Cup 0.2 mi. to the entrance to Seven Gables Park . Entrance is on the left.  
 A short distance into the park is a stop sign, At the stop sign turn right. That road will take you past the football field. We will be at the EAST end of the football field in an area that looks like a refreshment stand. □



### Picnic Raffle items information

Anyone having access to any software or hardware that might be appropriate for raffle items at the picnic should bring them to the picnic and let the picnic Chairperson know.

Roger Kinzie  
or  
Michael Golberg

The Lamp Post    Number 43  
 by John Spizzirri  
 August 15, 2003



Soon college students will be heading for campus. PBS NOVA had a recent presentation on meningococcal bacteria (<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/meningitis/>) commonly called bacterial meningitis. One of the facts revealed during the broadcast was that there is a vaccine for this deadly disease. It might be worth looking into, if you are a college student or have a relative that is a college student.

John Dvorak, (<http://www.dvorak.org/>) a staff writer for PC Magazine had an interesting article on August 4th (<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,4149,1210067,00.asp>). In the article he paraphrases Bill Gates statement that five percent of Windows machines crash about twice per day. Through some statistical generalizations, Dvorak arrives at the figure of 30 billion Windows crashes per year. He then compares that figure to various non-computer statistics. A question that immediately came to my mind is how much lost productivity these crashes cause. The next question that came to mind is why would major corporations put up with such a drain on their bottom line when serious, stable alternatives exist (Linux and Mac).

Computer Business Review Online reported that SuSe Linux (<http://www.suse.com/>) is going after the desktop market in a deal it is working on with Dell (<http://www.dell.com/>). <http://www.cbronline.com/latestnews/6E7F44EB390B3FAF80256D820018C8B8> is the article that all the information including SuSe's claim that three of its customers representing 410,000 desktops want to convert to the Linux desktop.

I have heard that at least one of our members was hit with the Blaster worm, which is also known as Lovsan, MSBlast or Poza. This worm is NOT an e-mail attachment. The way it spreads is an infected machine will search the network (or Internet) for machines running WinNT, Win2K or WinXP that are not protected by a firewall and infect them. Last month, Microsoft (MS) published the security patch for this worm at <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/MS03-026.asp>. It is estimated that this worm has affected hundreds of thousands to millions of users, including many corporations such as German car manufacturer BMW, Swedish telco TeliaSonera, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and Philadelphia's City Hall. Paul Thurrott (<http://www.winsupersite.com/>), a writer for Windows Network and .NET magazine (<http://www.winnetmag.com/>), has blamed network administrators for not implementing the patch. I think the cracker who wrote this worm is responsible for the losses followed closely by MS. MS has burned network administrators at least twice in the last six years. Security patches that did not work or caused more trouble than the virus they were to prevent have caused network administrators to take a 'wait and see' attitude before applying MS patches. Why can't MS do it right the first time? Some companies have disconnected themselves from the Internet to prevent the spread of this worm <http://vmyths.com/rant.cfm?id=241&page=4>. For detailed Blaster information try <http://isc.sans.org/diary.html?date=2003-08-11> and <http://www.cert.org/advisories/CA-2003-20.html>. For instructions and a program to remove Blaster try <http://www.microsoft.com/security/incident/blast.asp>, and <http://www.visualante.org/msblast/>. The simplest protection against this worm is to enable the firewall that is built into Windows XP. The firewall is not enabled by default in the WinXP installation. MS is reportedly planning to change this practice. Another alternative is to get and run Zone Alarm <http://www.zonelabs.com/>. Blaster is programmed to flood <http://www.windowsupdate.com> with a DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) attack from infected machines this Saturday (August 16). This DDoS will probably not be successful because MS has had a week to prepare for it. A hoax that is going around is that MS is sending e-mail regarding this worm. MS NEVER sends e-mail warnings about anything see this site for full details

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<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/security/policy/swdist.asp>. Blaster was first detected on Monday August 11 and already other crackers have written variations of it. See <http://www.kaspersky.com/news.html?id=985370> and <http://securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/venc/data/w32.blaster.c.worm.html> for explanations of the variations. If you have Blaster and cannot get to the Internet, here is an explanation from Symantec on how to remove it from this URL (Uniform Resource Locator) <http://www.sarc.com/avcenter/venc/data/w32.blaster.worm.removal.tool.html>.

Restoring Internet connectivity and preventing the computer from shutting down.  
In many cases, on both Windows 2000 and XP, changing the settings for the Remote Call Procedure (RPC) service may allow you to connect to the Internet to obtain downloads, and will stop the computer from shutting down.

[Editor note: start your machine in safe mode]

- a. Click Start > Run. (The Run dialog box appears.)
- b. Type: SERVICES.MSC /S  
in the open line, and then click OK. (The Services window opens.)
- c. In the right pane, locate the Remote Procedure Call (RPC) service.

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CAUTION: A service named Remote Procedure Call (RPC) Locator exists. Do not confuse the two.

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- d. Right-click the Remote Procedure Call (RPC) service, and then click Properties.
- e. Click the Recovery tab.
- f. Using the drop-down lists, change First failure, Second failure, and Subsequent failures to "Restart the Service."
- g. Click Apply, and then click OK.

[Editor note: restart the machine]

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CAUTION: Make sure that you change these settings back once you have removed the worm.

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- h. Download the FixBlast.exe file from:  
<http://securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/FixBlast.exe>
- i. Save the file to a convenient location, such as your downloads folder or the Windows Desktop (or removable media that is known to be uninfected, if possible).
- j. To check the authenticity of the digital signature, refer to the section, "Digital signature."
- k. Close all the running programs before running the tool.
- l. If you are running Windows XP, then disable System Restore. Refer to the section, "System Restore option in Windows Me/XP," for additional details.

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CAUTION: If you are running Windows XP, we strongly recommend that you do not skip this step. The removal procedure may be unsuccessful if Windows XP System Restore is not disabled, because Windows prevents outside programs from modifying System Restore.

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(con't on page 8)

- m. Double-click the FixBlast.exe file to start the removal tool.
- n. Click Start to begin the process, and then allow the tool to run.

Note: If, when running the tool, you see a message that the tool was not able to remove one or more files, run the tool in Safe mode. Shut down the computer, turn off the power, and wait 30 seconds. Restart the computer in Safe mode and then run the tool again. All the Windows 32-bit operating systems, except Windows NT, can be restarted in Safe mode. For instructions, read the document "How to start the computer in Safe Mode."

- o. Restart the computer.
- p. Run the removal tool again to ensure that the system is clean.
- q. If you are running Windows XP, then re-enable System Restore.
- r. Run LiveUpdate to make sure that you are using the most current virus definitions. When the tool has finished running, you will see a message indicating whether W32.Blaster.Worm infected the computer. In the case of a worm removal, the program displays the following results:

Total number of the scanned files  
 Number of deleted files  
 Number of terminated viral processes  
 Number of fixed registry entries

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

(con't from page 1)

but I won't be bothering with a third one in the future. My machine seems to boot up faster and programs launch more quickly now that I have performed my tune-up. Since I didn't restart the machine between Defrag passes I can't tell you if there was any noticeable speed improvement between them.

This is one of those computer articles written by someone who clearly has too much time on his hands. The most important thing remains that you need to tune up your computer on some sort of regularly scheduled basis, and that shouldn't be any less often than once a month. Weekly wouldn't be excessive. Daily probably would. Whether or not you are sufficiently anal to run Defrag more than once is up to you.

Larry Bothe is an associate member of CAEUG and an "honorary" member of FVPCA. He was President of CAEUG for a while back in the 90's when he lived in the Chicago area. He presently resides in southern Indiana where he is retired from industry and teaches people to fly airplanes. He can be contacted at Lbothe@aol.com.

Minutes of CAEUG Meeting July 26, 2003

John Spizzirri called the meeting to order at 9:48 am.

There were 39 in members in attendance and no visitors.

The minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter.

They were very detailed and appreciated.

The Financial Report showed a starting balance of \$3,397.19, income of \$183.50 and expenses of \$101.89 for a balance of \$3,478.80.

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 is given at the next monthly meeting.

John asked for volunteers to act as backup for the coffee service and the newsletter production. John also asked for volunteers to work on articles for the newsletter.

Old Business:

The Picnic Chairmen reported that there are between 32 and 34 attendees expected at this time. The date for the picnic is 8/23/2003. It will start at 11:30 am. It will be in the same location as last several years.

The member area for the web site has been protected with a username and password. Please check with a club officer to get access to the user ID and the password.

The formal meeting was then adjourned.

Members' Forum addressed several problems that members were having with both hardware and software. Some of the issues were:

Can't open a pdf file received in an email with reader.  
Right click and save the file to the hard drive, then open the file.

Printer is out of sync with the computer.  
Delete the printer and reinstall.  
Check the manufacturer's web site for updated drivers.

How do you clear cookies on browser?  
TOOLS, INTERNET OPTIONS, GENERAL, CLEAR HISTORY.

Computer locks up when left on overnight  
Delete Norton 2002, the crash guard program could have been the problem.

There was some discussion on electricity and grounding.

Program requests registration each time the computer starts up.  
Check MSCONFIG from START, RUN, MSCONFIG, uncheck the program.

If you have an Anti Virus program is adding another a problem.

Yes, remove the first program.

We then had our traditional break with coffee and doughnuts, bagels, and muffins.

There was a CD of the month with many kilobytes of programs in addition to a CD with the basic club files.

Raffle items included 4Q Multimedia Speakers, Money 2002, Qmodem Pro, Pro Calc 3D. .

Ryan Noon, the son of member Brian Noon, made the presentation. Ryan shared with us his effort to select components and build a PC. The system will be available at an auction at the September meeting. Its cost was very close to \$500.00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Al Skwara

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### Auction Auction Auction

At the September meeting the club is auctioning off the computer that was built for the July BYOC (build your own computer) presentation by Ryan Noon.

Specifications --

Motherboard: ASUS A7V8X-X 3 PCI slots, USB ports, 10/100 Ethernet  
CPU: AMD Athlon XP2500+ w/333MHZ FSB  
Memory: 256 MB PC2700  
VideoCard: GForce 4MX440 w/128MB AGP 8X  
Hard Drive: Western Digital 80GB w/8MB cache  
Sound: SoundMAX Digital Audio 6 channel audio onboard MoBo  
Drives: 32X CD-ROM, 3.5 inch floppy  
Modem: 56K  
Case: ANTEC SLK3700SMB 350W MIDDTOWER  
Bays: 4-5.25", 7-3.5"  
Misc: Optical mouse, keyboard, monitor  
OS: Win98

Bidding will start at \$500 with \$5 increments. If you cannot attend but want to bid, send the president your top bid. The president will bid for you at the lowest possible price. E-mail: spizman@iwon.com

P.S. We already have a bid of \$500.

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

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

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### 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 August 23, 2003

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

Confirmed Meeting dates for 2003:  
August 23 CAEUG Picnic, September 27, October 25

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**\*\*NEW\*\*** CD OF THE MONTH FORMAT: IS now available in two (2) flavors. The Basic CD will be packed  
with the standard items, while the CD of the Month will have NEW and updated items. Both are  
available at the meeting or by ordering via the CAEUG website.

-> Our next meeting will be ~ Saturday, August 23 CAEUG Picnic  
Map and directions on pages 4 and 5

Hope to see you there.