

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore...



Computers Are Easy User Group



February 2005

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Volume XXII

Issue 02

In search of "VCR for radio"

by Frank Bollinger, ORCOPUG

<http://www.orcopug.org>

I recently began recording radio programs on my computer. Here's how it happened.

Background

This story began more than 40 years ago when I became addicted to talk radio. Over the ensuing years, I've enjoyed many hours of entertaining and informative programs. Topic oriented shows about personal finance, law, cars, and (of course) computers filled the weekends. Hog heaven until the radio stations rearranged their schedules. When the dust settled, three of my favorites were on simultaneously. On top of that, I'm also a baseball fan, so Dodger and Angel games sometimes presented five alternatives at the same time. Bummer. Why couldn't there be a VCR for radio?

First Solution

I heard about a special radio and tape recorder from C Crane & Co. The tape recorder runs at 1/4 speed, so you can get a 3-4 hour program on one side of an audio cassette. Two problems are that the recorder is a bit bulky to lug around and the tapes won't play in typical tape players. So, I also acquired a portable player capable of recognizing the slow speed.

Now I could listen to one program and record another. But, there are three programs. One night, I heard about something called Radio YourWay. This is a radio with a built-in timer that saves programs on a memory card. It also has built-in memory. Radio YourWay turns out to be one of those neat ideas that works, but is so aggravating to use that you wonder if it is worth it. For example, programming it is clumsier than any VCR you can imagine (I've had many, and mastered them all fairly easily). A couple other quirks added to my frustration. Fast forwarding is exceedingly slow. It takes several minutes to get to the second or third hour of a 3-hour program. Even worse, if you pause playback more than a couple minutes, it resets to the beginning and you have to wait even longer to get to your new starting point.

It was quite a shock to discover how much harder it is to "time shift" radio than TV.

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Calendar
of
Events

!!! IMPORTANT !!!

Meeting date
Saturday
February 26
Time 9:45 - noon

MEETING PLACE
will be the
Glenside Public
Library

SEE YOU
THERE!!

COD
Computer
Show Dates

2005
February 27
April 24
May 22

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Reminder: You'll get better, faster service if you use CAEUG in the subject of your e-mail.

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.

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??

SIG meets before regular meeting from 9:05 to 9:45

MEMBERS HELPLINE

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

Beginner Helpline Billy Douglas

Beginner hardware problems .Dick Fergus

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

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

Great Midwest Computer Show

Next show date
 SUNDAY February 27
 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
 Kids 12 and under FREE
<http://www.greatmidwestcomputershow.com>
 E-mail address:
info@greatmidwestcomputershow.com

Great Midwest Computer Show © 2005 dates

February 27, 2005 at COD
 April 24, 2005 at COD
 May 22, 2005 at COD
 June 26, 2005 at COD
 July 31, 2005 at COD
 August 28, 2005 at COD
 September 25, 2005 at COD
 October 30, 2005 at COD
 November 20, 2005 at COD
 December 18, 2005 at COD

NEW Money Saving Offer for CD of the Month
 Pre Order + Prepay = SAVE \$\$

The club will offer the CD of the Month on a pre order, prepaid basis. The charge will be \$50.00 a year for 10 months. This is \$20 annual savings over buying them for \$7 each month. Lynn Johnson, the treasurer, will keep track of anyone placing a 10-month order. Anyone wishing to place a prepaid order should contact:
 Lynn

CCleaner; A Free Clean-up Utility by Larry Bothe, 2/10/2005

I just "discovered" a really neat, free, utility to help clean old crap and registry entries off your computer. Logically enough, its full name is Crap Cleaner and can be obtained from their website at <http://www.ccleaner.com>. It is true freeware; there is no registration fee. The author does seek "donations", but none is required to maintain the full functionality of the program over time.

[Editor Note: ccleaner was on the January 2005 CD of the Month.]

This next part of the article, describing what the program does, I took right off their website.

CCleaner (Crap Cleaner) is a freeware system optimization tool that removes unused and temporary files from your system - allowing Windows to run faster, more efficiently and giving you more hard disk space. The best part is that it's fast! (normally taking less than a second to run) and Free. :)

Cleans the following:

- * Internet Explorer Cache, History, Cookies, Index.dat. Recycle Bin, Temporary files and Log files.
- * Recently opened URLs and files.
- * Third-party application temp files and recent file lists (MRUs). Including: Firefox, Opera, Media

Player, eMule, Kazaa, Google Toolbar, Netscape, Office XP, Nero, Adobe Acrobat, WinRAR, WinAce, WinZip and more...

* Advanced Registry scanner to remove unused and old entries (includes backup). Including File Extensions, ActiveX Controls, ClassIDs, ProgIDs, Uninstallers, Shared DLLs, Fonts, Help Files, Application Paths, Icons, Invalid Shortcuts and more...

* This software is completely free and contains no Spyware or Adware.

I believe all of the claims. It really is fast; fast to download and fast to run. The download install file is very small, and the installed program occupies about 2 megs on my hard drive. It only takes a second or two to run. Since it changes your registry it gives you an opportunity to back-up the registry before you continue. There is a one-click utility to do the backup so you don't have to know the several steps involved in manually backing up the registry yourself. CCleaner allows you to review and execute each recommended change one at a time, or lets you just do them all in one big operation. Personally, I just let 'er rip. I have now used it on three different machines with no ill effects. After doing my own machine I ran Adaware. Adaware did not find any new spyware so I believe the last bullet point.

As you can see from the description of

(cont'n on page 8)

But, even with these challenges, at least I could now record two and listen to the third live. Not perfect, but manageable, until the timer broke on the C Crane recorder. Now, I had to choose which program to miss. Not acceptable after being used to hearing all three.

The next solution

My next idea was to find a device like Radio YourWay, but easier to use. An Internet search led to something called "Replay Radio." Since I have Tivo for recording TV, and Replay TV is a competing product, this name was quite intriguing. It turned out to be PC software that claims to work like "Tivo for Internet Radio." I love my Tivo so I explored further, discovering that it could record programs and had an impressive list (several hundred) of radio shows to choose from. The only apparent drawback was that it recorded MP3 files. Remember, I'm a talk show junkie, not a music aficionado. So, selecting this approach would mean I'd need something to play back the recordings or be chained to my computer. (At this point, I wasn't sure, but it sounded like I'd need an MP3 player).

Alas, Replay Radio has a serious flaw — it can only record one program at a time (As noted above, I want to do three). An exchange of emails confirmed this shortcoming and led me to another program, called WM Recorder. Fortunately, its on-line documentation explicitly stated it can do up to eight concurrent recordings. One potential glitch — it doesn't create MP3 files. The same documentation did recommend a program to convert the recordings.

So, I downloaded the software and ordered an Apple iPod (MP3 player) from Amazon.com. Since I don't like using earphones, I also ordered a speaker apparatus that the iPod can plug into for playback.

Mission accomplished, right? Not quite. I successfully recorded several radio programs. All played well on my PC. The next step was to convert them to MP3 files. Guess what? The "recommended" conversion program didn't recognize the .asf files created by the recording software. Being the audio "expert" I am, my first question was "What the @\$% is an asf file?" Back to the Internet, where I researched audio file formats and found alternative software. Two allowed trial downloads that were able to handle the asf files. Curiously, after another email

exchange, I found out that I could simply change the asf file extensions to wma and the recommended program would make the conversions. Apparently, asf and wma are two different Microsoft audio formats. Still, it's easier to use a conversion program, since it can batch many at once.

With that problem solved, I'm now able to record several programs on a predetermined schedule. I can use the iPod with earphones when out walking and with my speaker apparatus around my home. I've even used the speaker gadget in my car.

This trip was a roller coaster containing numerous ups and downs with continuing challenges. For example, I found out where one of the originating radio stations is located when Bob Brinker's Money Talk turned out to be a Kansas City Chief's football game. Sometimes the recordings don't work, and one of the programs I want doesn't have an Internet broadcast.

Despite all that, it was a grand adventure, I had a lot of fun doing it, and am enjoying listening to programs I was missing before. The time from the cassette recorder failure to having all the components assembled and functioning successfully was about two weeks. Oh, yes. What about music? Can't say. I may be the only person who bought an MP3 player NOT to play music.

Here's the final hardware and software configuration:

1. WM Recorder (Records the programs) (\$29.95 from <http://www.wmrecorder.com>)
 2. WM VCR (Schedules the recordings) (\$9.95 from <http://www.wmrecorder.com>)
 3. River Past Audio Converter (Converts the asf files to MP3) (\$29.95 from <http://www.riverpast.com>)
 4. Apple iPod (MP3 Player) (Approximately \$230 and up, depending on source and model)
 5. Altec Lansing InMotion Portable Audio (Speaker gadget for the iPod) (Approximately \$110, from various sources)
-

Firefox:

A program popularized by
open source programmers
by Linda Gonse, Editor, Nibbles & Bits
Orange County IBM PC Users' Group
<http://www.orcopug.org>

The latest version of Firefox, an open source program, formerly Mozilla, and before that, Netscape Navigator, was released to popular acclaim near the end of 2004 from <http://www.mozilla.com>. Many people, tired of security problems and perpetual patching of Internet Explorer, have begun to make the switch to Firefox. I was one of them. It was an easy transition to import my bookmarks, favorites, and other items, and set up housekeeping in it.

But, it was a real surprise to find free "themes," a change of appearance for Firefox. Feeling the exhilaration of discovery, I downloaded Nautipolis, Red Cats, Gray Modern, and Littlefox, and others; finally settling on Littlefox. Then, I discovered "extensions." Extensions are little programs, originally called applets, that run from within Firefox. Their specialized capabilities add to the functionality of Firefox and quickly become features you just can't live without. There are about a dozen I use, including: Weatherfox, QuickNote, Titlebar Tweaks, SpoofStick, CopyPlainText, and Tabbrowser Extensions.

One extension that makes my online life simpler is called QuickNote. It allows me to copy and paste from browser pages into a tabbed notepad available right in the browser. It saves me from opening Word or Notepad and working back and forth from one of them to the browser window.

Fascinated with the free extensions, I tracked down QuickNote's creator, Jed Brown, to ask him to tell me how he got started and why he wrote the program. Also, QuickNote had earned five stars as a popular Firefox item, I wondered if Jed thought it might end up being incorporated into Internet Explorer.

He said, "I became involved with Mozilla back in the 90s. I was a frequent user of what was then the Mosaic browser when the World Wide Web had just begun. Netscape was born from Mosaic and I was instantly a user of Netscape Navigator.

"Once the "browser wars" began, I was a devoted Netscape user who really loathed how Microsoft used their OS dominance to spread use of their

browser. Unfortunately, after Netscape released its 4.0 browser, MS was right on their tail and produced an even better and more standards-compliant browser.

"Despite the better browser, I was loyal and stayed on NS as long as I could. Around the time when Netscape 5 was going to be released (1998 I believe), they decided to open-source their browser. That sparked my interest and I got my hands on the code as quickly as I could. Once the open source community realized that the NS code was a huge hack and badly organized, they decided to start from scratch and create what was to be the fastest most compliant browser ever. This was too good to be true.

Unfortunately this was no easy endeavor and would take over three years to get even close to a final product. In the meantime, Internet Explorer was the superior product (over NS 4.x) and was becoming the browser of choice for many — including myself.

"I wasn't hacking on any of the code, but I did start testing the releases from the first public beta release. Since that day, I used this new engine and code base as much as I could, but always had IE there for sites that did not work in the new, young and untested engine.

Once Mozilla had matured (version 0.8) and became usable on a daily basis, I switched over and said goodbye to IE for good.

"The folks at Netscape had a brilliant idea called XUL that would allow them to write the interface to the browser once, and allow it to run on any platform possible. This meant Mozilla looked the same on Windows, Mac, Linux/ OS 2, etc. This same technology allowed authors like myself to start creating programs that would live on top of the Mozilla platform and extend its functionality (now called "Extensions").

"As a high school student back then, I started a project called "QuickNote" that would allow easy access to a notepad-like sidebar for easy note taking.

"While my extension was popular and used amongst many Mozilla users, Mozilla was plagued with bad interface design decisions from Netscape and AOL who later bought Netscape, so it really never hit it well with anyone but "geek" users. A few talented programmers at Netscape (Hyatt, Blake, Goodger, etc.) realized this and in their free time started a new project based on

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Mozilla, but much more simple, that was meant to be only a browser instead of a full suite like Mozilla was. This eventually turned into what Firefox is today.

"Thanks to Firefox (formerly Phoenix and Firebird) much more attention was brought to it and a much larger user base. More interest in Mozilla, XUL, and extension development arose. This has led to over 200 extensions made for Mozilla applications, and has brought together programmers from around the world, like myself, to join in and help make Firefox/Mozilla better.

"For example, QuickNote was a project I was doing by myself in my free time. But now many different users contribute code and translation. A Russian programmer, Nickolay Ponomarev, has joined with me and contributes to QuickNote on a regular basis.

The whole idea of multi-platform and open source software is amazing as it has brought thousands of people together under one cause, despite language and cultural barriers. This in part, is thanks to Mozilla and its example that open source software can be just as good — and in this case — better, than priority software."

We asked Jed what he sees for Firefox in the next couple of years?

He said, "I think we will see a continuous trend in the growth of Firefox users. Once Microsoft won the browser wars, it dismantled its IE team, and left users high and dry. Firefox is filling this void, bringing a new and fresh idea to the World Wide Web and making it the place it should have been (virus/popup/spyware free) years ago.

"I also can see more and more companies embracing Firefox in their internal networks and products they offer to their users. Google, Amazon and many others are already starting."

We also wondered if Mozilla/Firefox will survive and grow through the efforts of the open source community. Or will Microsoft will gobble up talented program writers such as Jed, and IE will remain dominant?

"Mozilla/Firefox will definitely survive, and be vital for the years to come," Jed said. "Microsoft is far behind with Longhorn and even when it ships it will take years to get users to migrate over. In the meantime Firefox will continue to see growth in users on multiple platforms, and be extremely important to the survival of Linux as a desktop alternative. Sure MS will copy features and do its

best to find exploits in Firefox. No software is perfect, but I believe the very nature of Mozilla and Firefox appeals to users and gives the Web freedom from control from one sole company. As time goes by, I think the average user will begin to understand this and realize the importance of alternative products and that they are superior in many aspects.

"The other huge benefit that Firefox has as a browser and Mozilla, in general, as a platform, is their mutiplatform nature. As a programmer, I can create any application or extension based on Mozilla and easily make it work on every platform that Mozilla/Firefox runs on. This allows users to use any system they like, perhaps Unix/Linux at work, Mac OS on their laptop and Windows XP at home, and yet feel no difference when it comes to surfing the web and using the applications/extensions built on Mozilla. Microsoft has no real answer to this (although .Net tries) and it is a huge selling point to both users and corporations."

(You can email Jed at contact_me@jedbrown.net, and look for programs he has written for Firefox at Mozilla.com.)

Minutes of CAEUG Meeting January 22, 2005

- >> John Spizzirri called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
- >> The weather was bad; heavy snow, but there were 15 in members in attendance and no visitors.
- >> The minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.
- >> The Financial Report was not available. Lynn Johnson was not able to attend the meeting.

Old Business:

- >> Volunteers for the next COD show on January 29 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 write articles for the newsletter.

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The Lamp Post
 Number 59 by John Spizzirri
 February 15, 2005



Google (<http://www.google.com/>) has eyes. According to Fort Worth Weekly (<http://www.fweekly.com/>) interviewing Lauren Weinstein (<http://lauren.vortex.com/>), Google keeps track of every search you make. This make good marketing sense for them but could be misused. The government or a lawyer with a subpoena could find every Web site you have visited for years. The interview is at <http://www.fweekly.com/issues/2005-02-02/feature.asp> .

Symantec has issued a critical product warning involving its Norton and Symantec anti-virus programs at <http://www.sarc.com/avcenter/security/Content/2005.02.08.html> . Internet Security Systems (ISS) found the flaw. ISS provides network security that works in conjunction with Symantec products. The flaw they detected is also contained in the Symantec consumer products. If you own a Norton or Symantec product, check the above Web site or check <http://xforce.iss.net/xforce/alerts/id/187> to see if you are affected. You may have to upgrade or patch your product to be safe.

I occasionally have a problem with Win 98 or ME. The problem occurs when I overwork the machine by opening six or more applications and switch between the applications for a few hours. The machine's resources (RAM, virtual memory, and caches) are taxed. When I view the desktop the icons of various programs and files have changed. Until recently my only recourse was to reboot the machine. I googled this problem and found that Microsoft (MS <http://www.microsoft.com/>) knows of this problem and has a fix that involves modifying the registry. The ShellIconCache file needs to be re-created. The re-creation happens automatically when you change your display's color depth. To change the color depth to a new setting and then change it back to the original setting:

Right-click the desktop and then click Properties.

Click the Settings tab.

Change the color depth from the current setting to a new setting. For example, change from Highest (32 bit) to Lowest (16 bit).

Click Apply, and then click Yes to accept the changes.

Change the color depth back to its original setting.

Click Apply, and then click Yes to accept the changes.

If this does not work you will need to change the registry,

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;132668> describes the problem and the registry fix. Be aware that registry editing can be dangerous.

MS is getting into the anti-virus and anti-spam business. They purchased Sybari (<http://www.sybari.com/>) to compete with Symantec (<http://www.symantec.com/index.htm>) and McAfee (<http://www.mcafee.com/us/>).

Santa Cruz Operation (SCO <http://www.sco.com>) is suing IBM (<http://www.ibm.com>) and Novell (<http://www.novell.com>) for copyright infringement of the Unix operating system. SCO claims that they own the Unix copyright and that IBM and Novell knowingly distribute Linux products that contain copyrighted material from Unix. IBM filed a motion some months ago for a summary judgement against SCO. On February 10th the Federal Judge hearing that case denied that motion because it would be 'premature' to do so. The Judge then soundly chastised SCO for not bringing 'competent evidence' to the court of its allegation. This case has been ongoing for at least eighteen months. If this case goes against SCO (and I think it will), I would hope IBM and Novell counter sue for frivolous lawsuit to put this matter to rest once and for all. The Judge is not happy with SCO and this cannot bode well for them.

If you have an electronic device or appliance for which you have lost the manual, LiveManuals

(<http://www.livemanuals.com/>) may be able to help. There are manuals on line for free that you may view or download.

Firefox has a spoofing flaw (bug). It affects Mozilla 1.7.5, Firefox 1.0, Konqueror 3.2.2 and Opera 7.54. This flaw functions similarly in effect as some of the holes in MS Internet Explorer (IE) but is not the same (<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/356600>). This vulnerability allows Web sites (pharming) or spam (phishing) to redirect you to a site that you believe is a trusted site but is actually a phishing site. See <http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/p/phishing.html> for a definition of phishing. See <http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/01/31/pharming/> for the pharming story. Schmoos.com reported the 'homograph' in an International Domain Name (IDN) advisory at <http://www.shmoos.com/idn/>. A homograph is a one character that looks like another i.e. O (capital o) looks like 0 (zero). Secunia has a test to see if your browser is affected by this bug at http://secunia.com/multiple_browsers_idn_spoofing_test.

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA <http://www.riaa.com/default.asp>) is suing a West Virginia woman. Gertrude Walton was eighty-three when she passed away. The RIAA claims that Gertrude made 700 songs available on the Internet. Gertrude's daughter, Robin Chianumba, reported that her mother hated computers and that she sent a copy of the death certificate to the RIAA. The RIAA reported that it would try to get the case dismissed.

MS has once again made your computer less safe. By not allowing pirated software to update to SP2, those people who use pirated software pose a security threat to people who use licensed software because XP is subject to zombie attacks without SP2. <http://www.securitypipeline.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleId=58800006> has the story.

If you have not already done them, income taxes are coming up. I found one Web site that is most informative at <http://www.taxsites.com/help.html>. It has references to on line help, income tax software programs, and finding a tax professional. I would suggest contacting club members that are tax professionals before picking a stranger.

Speaking of taxes, the state senate has a bill on the docket that is modeled after last session's house bill 750 (HB750). It is called S.B. 2 (SB2). If you check the state senate's Web site (<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/default.asp>) and navigate to the text of the bill, you will see it contains only 5 lines just as HB750 did in last session. This type of bill is called a shell. No state senator knows what is in the bill. Generally, at the last minute (so to speak) in the session, the original sponsor brings the full text forward. The bill is 'explained' to the members of the senate and a vote is taken. This is part of the senate's and the house' precious rules. Rules that prohibit the public from seeing and commenting on a bill. Senators are denied a REAL reading of the bill before they vote on it. This sounds to me like a very bad way to make law. A site that talks about HB750 is http://www.geocities.com/taxed_enough/mtu50129v4.3.pdf. It has some dated items in it, but the gists of the arguments are still valid. The document references the <http://www.thechampion.org/> Web site. I do not think that Governor Blagojevich will sign SB2 if it were to pass both houses, but I do not trust my money in the hands of any politician.

Is that a national ID card in your pocket? It may just be if H.R. 418 is passed into law. H.R. 418 is a bill that will mandate a 'standardization' of state driver's licenses that will include a 'digital' photo and fingerprint. It will give the Department of Homeland Security (DHS <http://www.dhs.gov/>) all the information contained on that license as well as your driving record. I don't think the federal government needs to know how many tickets or accidents you have had. DHS may also require a tracking device in the card like a radio frequency identification (RFID). This will give the federal government unprecedented power in tracking your whereabouts. H.R. 418 also gives DHS the authority to give your information to other states such as Canada and Mexico. I know I don't trust my own government with this information let alone some bureaucrat in another country. An unusual array of organizations have banded together to fight this bill. The American Conservative Union (<http://www.conservative.org/>), American Civil Liberties Union (<http://www.aclu.org/>), Republican Liberty Caucus (<http://www.rlc.org/>), Gun Owners of America (<http://www.gunowners.org/>), American Policy Center (<http://www.americanpolicy.org/>), Electronic Privacy Information Center

(<http://www.epic.org/>), and Electronic Frontier Foundation (http://eff.org/Privacy/letter_to_house_on_sensen.php) have all come out against the bill. Unfortunately, the bill passed the House on 2/11/05 with a 261-161 vote. The bill must still pass the Senate and be signed by the President to go into force. Now is the time to contact your Senators (<http://www.senate.gov/>) to defeat this insidious method to a national ID card. If this passes the Senate, the President will surely sign it because he has indicated through his budget (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/usbudget/fy06/browse.html>) that DHS can do no wrong. If you think that a national ID card would make you safer, read what Bruce Schneier, an Internet computer security consultant, has to say (<http://www.schneier.com/crypto-gram-0404.html#1>) about such an ID system. I would recommend that you not have your Social Security number on your driver's license. If it is on your license, you can (for a fee) have your license reissued without that number.

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

what the program does, many of those things can be accomplished by running the Disk Cleanup utility that comes with Windows. The reason you need CCleaner is that it goes after all the crap that Windows leaves behind when you uninstall programs. Don't think for a minute that when you use Add/Remove to uninstall a program that everything relative to that program is removed, because it isn't. The amount of junk left behind can be a lot over time. CCleaner got rid of thousands of files and registry entries on my machine totaling just over 243 megs of space on my hard drive. I think it is a very powerful but safe program.

Usually at the end of a software review I note any shortcomings that I have found. In CCleaner I have none to report. Since it was so effective I decided to send the author \$20. Any utility that helps you ought to be worth at least that much. The CCleaner website has a hot-button allowing you to make a donation through Pay Pal. I find Pay Pal to be a pain in the neck (or maybe a place lower and to the rear on my anatomy) so I have e-mailed the author and suggested that he make a different arrangement for payments. The author is from Great Britain so Pay Pal wants to take your money in British pounds. I recall that the exchange rate used to be pretty close to 2:1, but I really don't know any more. Since I learned about the program from the current issue of Popular Mechanics (no, not Playboy this time) I imagine they will get a lot of download traffic. I told the author that if he wants to avoid confusing us "colonials" he ought to take "donations" in good old US dollars, and by some other means than Pay Pal.

Larry Bothe is an associate member of CAEUG and an "honorary" member of FVPCA. He was President of

CAEUG for a time back in the 90's when he lived in the Chicago area. Larry 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.

New Business:

>> The CD of the Month was reviewed. The basic CD is available at \$5.00 and the monthly CD is available at \$7.00. The new pre-order plan was reviewed. A pre-order for \$50.00 provides for 10 CD's making the new lower price \$5.00 a CD.

>> There was a discussion of the best date for the next club picnic. Choices were the 4th Saturday in June, followed by the 3rd Saturday followed by the 4th Sunday.

>> The club has been confirmed for the current meeting site for the next 5 months.

>> There was a call for volunteers for the nominating committee. No one at the meeting volunteered.

>> Members' Forum addressed several problems that members were having with both hardware and software.

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

>> Raffle items included speakers, a power supply center, a child's key board, and a scanner.

>> The presentation was a video presentation by Scott Mueller on computer hardware.

The next meeting will be on 2/26.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Skwara

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
Glenside Public Library in Glendale Heights
starting 9:45am on
Saturday February 26

The library is located. Please park at the West side 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 2005 at Glenside Public Library:
March 26, April 23, May 28, June 18 CAEUG Picnic (THIRD Saturday of June)

****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.

Presenter to be announced

Hope to see you there.