

## COMPUTER MICROPHONES

from [tipworld.com](http://tipworld.com)

There are now many reasons why you would want to attach a microphone to your computer; for example, you may be using speech recognition software, video teleconferencing, and Internet telephony, to name just a few applications. Over the next few days I'll mention some things to keep in mind as you purchase and install a computer microphone.

First, wireless handset microphones have improved dramatically in quality over the last few years. With the right system, you can now achieve the same level of recording quality with a wireless headset as you could with a headset directly attached by cable to your PC. Unfortunately, these high-quality wireless headsets still cost well over \$1,000. In general, the wireless headsets that cost from \$200 to \$500 don't offer the same high fidelity. Your best value in computer microphones is still the hardwired wired headset variety, which should cost less than \$150.

You'll most likely connect your new microphone to the microphone jack on your PC's sound card. Therein lies the problem: In recording, your microphone is really only as good as your sound card, because that's where your audio processing takes place. Whatever you do, don't spend a fortune on a microphone only to plug it into an inferior sound board. In general, it's best to install a microphone and sound board combination in which both products are at about the same level of quality.

Before you purchase a computer microphone, investigate your sound card and then read some product reviews and find out how that card stacks up against its competitors. This research will help you decide

what level of microphone is suitable for your particular system.

Here's a tip that comes from personal experience: Take care regarding your microphone's cable. In my office, my rolling desk chair ended up disabling my headset microphone because, as I rolled to and from my desk, the chair's metal casters rolled over the dangling cable from the headset I wore. After a few days of this, the cable separated internally and cut off all recording. To avoid this nightmare, mind your cable, and remove your headset before pushing away from your desk.

Most recording software features a microphone calibration component that adjusts the recording levels of your sound board, based on your particular microphone. Use this feature in any recording software, particularly if you change microphones. It is also a good idea to recalibrate your microphone as you switch from one software package to another. Each manufacturer may adjust recording levels differently, so the levels appropriate for one software package might not work for another.

Any audio engineer will tell you that microphone position is absolutely crucial to high-quality recording. For example, having a directional microphone a few centimeters off the optimal location can mean the difference between higher and lower accuracy in speech recognition software. Most recording software now comes with microphone position information in the documentation or online help. Some software even has video-clip demonstrations that show you optimal microphone positioning. Use these descriptions for your setup and enhance your recording.



## Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

L.C.A.C.E.

c/o Group Ambassador  
409 S. Elmwood Ave.  
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-5219

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1999-2000

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*The LCACE News Journal* is published eleven times annually. Members are encouraged to submit contributions and will be acknowledged in this newsletter.

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*The News Journal* is produced using an **IMaxx AMD K6-2 266mhz**, w/128Mb RAM, Hewlitt Packard 4P color scanner, using **MS Publisher 97** software. Graphics. Editing provided by *Pegasus Enterprises* using **Adobe Photoshop**, and **Hijaack Pro** and the Corkmeister using **Paint Shop Pro**. Photos taken w/**Epson Photo PC** digital camera. Printing is done on an **HP 1000c** printer.

#### Membership

Membership for L.C.A.C.E is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are \$20.00 per individual/family. Associate membership is only \$10.00 (out of state, unable to attend meetings). Membership includes a one year subscription to the L.C.A.C.E. News Journal and access to all club libraries, and functions. Applications for membership may be obtained at the monthly meeting, by request on the club Hotline and is now available on our WEB site at <http://inf-net.com/lcace>.

#### Meetings

L.C.A.C.E. meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at the Warren/Newport Public Library, 224 N. O'Plaine Road in Gurnee, Illinois. The meeting location opens at 11:30a.m, and the formal meeting begins at 12pm. All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend!

#### Advertising

Ad rates per issue: Full page - \$25, Half page -\$15, Quarter page - \$10, Business Card -\$5. Discounts are available on advance purchase of multiple issues. Please send Camera-ready copy and payment to the club address by the 21st of the month preceding publication. For more information on ad pricing, please call our Hotline. Ads are **FREE** to all paid members.

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#### ARTICLE DEADLINE

The deadline for all articles being submitted for the News Journal is the 20th of each month. Send your articles via E-Mail to Corky Bell at [corky@foxvalley.net](mailto:corky@foxvalley.net) or Vic Falkner at [rvf@se-iowa.net](mailto:rvf@se-iowa.net) or the Club's E-mail at [lcace@inf-net.com](mailto:lcace@inf-net.com)

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### NOTICE

If your E-Mail address is incorrect or missing or you want to add or change your WEB site url, please E-Mail us at [lcace@inf-net.com](mailto:lcace@inf-net.com) with the correct information.

# Member WEB Sites

**Corky Bell**

<http://users.foxvalley.net/~corky>

**Phil Grimm**

<http://public.surf.free.com/pgrimm>

**JJ**

[http://easyfoto.com/jj\\_johnson](http://easyfoto.com/jj_johnson)

**Nancy Larson**

<http://users.foxvalley.net/~mamanan>

# Time to Renew

The following members need to renew their membership. This information will be published in the News Journal and will be posted on our WEB site which is

<http://www.inf-net.com/lcace>

If it is time for you to renew your membership, please fill out a new Application and a Member's Profile Sheet. These forms can be obtained at the meetings or downloaded from our WEB site.

The following Member(s)  
need to submit renewal applications:

**Bob Allen 01/00**  
**Richard Bollmeier 01/00**  
**Ron Carlson 01/00**  
**Dan Huber 01/00**  
**Marianito Martinez 01/00**  
**Bill & Sue McLeran 01/00**  
**Jefferey Notter 01/00**  
**Nancy Preistly 01/00**  
**Leslie Salsburg 01/00**  
**Fred Schwarz 01/00**  
**Rodger Tweed 01/00**

**Mr. & Mrs. G 02/00**  
**Nancy Larson 02/00**  
**Lee Nordstrom 02/00**

If you have already filed an application,  
please disregard this notice.

# The PRESIDENT'S RAM

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Twass the day of the Party  
and while enroute in the fog,  
We were passing through Grayslake  
almost hitting a dog.

The people and members  
were in route to the affair,  
In great anticipation  
that L.C.A.C.E would be there.

We arrived at the location,  
and oh what a site.  
In the parking lot waiting  
were Jim, Linda and Dwight.

We went inside to arrange the prizes and food,  
and when we got finished, all looked quite good.  
Then guests started arriving, one by one,  
to join L.C.A.C.E. for some plain fun.

There was Leslie and Kerry, I can't name them all,  
Then came our member known as Chicago Paul.  
And it was good to see Donna Kalinoski  
and also our friends all the way from Milwaukee.

We listened to music, talked and began to eat,  
it seemed like a party that couldn't be beat.  
JJ announced the prizes we would draw,  
As everyone watched with a look of plain awe.

Tickets were pulled, winners called one by one,  
Bobby retrieved prizes and had lots of fun.  
The winners would pose, the cameras would flash,  
Then back to their seats, in a quick dash.

Prizes were won, emptying the bin,  
Everyone wishing that they would win.  
The final ticket was pulled for our event this winter  
And Steve Yeater of Waukegan won the Printer.

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Just a little poetic recap of our 1999 Annual Christmas party. Despite the weather, we had a fairly good turn out, including some of the members from Mil-

waukee. The winners of the Main Raffle were as follows:

### 3rd Prize

1 Year L.C.A.C.E. Membership  
**Bruno Rusanowski**  
from Round Lake, Illinois

### 2nd Prize

Paint Shop Version 10  
**Jim Rutledge**  
from Waukegan, Illinois

### Grand Prize

**Lexmark 3200 Printer**



### **Steve Yeater**

from Waukegan, Illinois  
Instructor: Electrical Common Core School  
Naval Training Center  
Great Lake Naval Base

The party was a lot of fun, for those of you who missed it. Everyone seemed to agree that the site we acquired was more than adequate and we will be looking into the same site for next year's party.

I would like to thank everyone who assisted in planning, setting up and working at the Party. A special thanks goes to American Imaxx of McHenry for their donation of the Computer Keyboard and the Jazz

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## LOOKING FOR CLIP ART?

If you're looking for clip art to liven up a document or presentation, you might want to check out Pedago Clips Clip Art Searcher. This site provides you with handy forms you can fill out to search for clip art on Lycos, Hot Bot, Filez, and Alta Vista. Drop-down boxes make choosing search options offered by each engine easy.

<http://www.pedagonet.com/clipart/clipart.eht>

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## THE USED CAR BIBLE

The Kelley Blue Book tracks the trade-in values of used cars, as well as the prices that dealers are getting for particular models. The trade-in value of your car takes into account its model, year, mileage, options, condition, and your geographical area information you can enter by pointing and clicking on the form. You enter information in much the same way to find the Blue Book Suggested Retail price.

<http://www.kbb.com>

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## SHORT COURSES

<http://www.shortcourses.com>

Digital cameras are fast becoming one of the hottest gadgets around today, due largely to the coupling of increased quality and lower prices. This free online book offers a quick crash course in the art of digital photography. The 12 chapters lead you through the history of digital cameras and quickly into helpful how-to sections. News flashes, software recommendations, and links to other resources can also be found.

### WINDOWS 98 PROBLEM WITH MICRONICS MOTHERBOARDS

Before you install Windows 98 on a system with a Micronics motherboard that has a flash BIOS, make sure you've set the BIOS read/write jumper to the read-only position. If you try to install Windows 98 with this jumper in the read/write position, it may cause BIOS corruption. For more information, contact your computer manufacturer.

## Year 2000 Calendar

The following are the dates, set locations, and the agenda for each of the L.C.A.C.E. Meetings for the Year 2000:

### January 8th

Warren/Newport Library  
LINUX by Lester Larkin

### February 12th

To Be Announced  
NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTIONS  
QUICKENS by Mr. G

### March 11th

Warren/Newport Library  
NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

### April 8th

Grant Township Meeting Hall  
**Elections**  
NETWORKING by Mike McEnery & Company

### May 13th

Warren/Newport Library

### June 10th

Grant Township Meeting Hall

### **July - NO MEETING**

### August 19th

TO BE ANNOUNCED

### September 9th

TO BE ANNOUNCED

### October 14th

TO BE ANNOUNCED

### November 11th

TO BE ANNOUNCED

### December 9th

TO BE ANNOUNCED  
Annual Christmas Party

(Continued from page 4 Presidents RAM)

Stereo Computer Speakers. Another special thanks goes to JJ for his hard work on getting the other prizes, the printing of the prize cards and the most important, getting the ICE CREAM.

We have been notified by the Library that we cannot have our meetings there for the months of February, April and June. I have made arrangements with Grant Township for the April and June Meetings, however I have been unable to find a spot for the February Meeting. Mr. G, don't think you're off the hook, as I am working on several alternatives.

Nancy and Sue from the Expo had suggested to me, a while back, about holding a meeting at the Expo. Being that we do not have a location at this time, I would like to suggest that we hold it at the Expo, which would be February 26. I know this would put us close to the March meeting, but it would also be an excellent Public Relations utility as we would be in the "eye" of the public. I have E-Mailed both Nancy and Sue about this and am awaiting their answer. I will also be discussing this with the Board of Directors to get their input. Hopefully we will have a resolution to the situation by the January meeting.

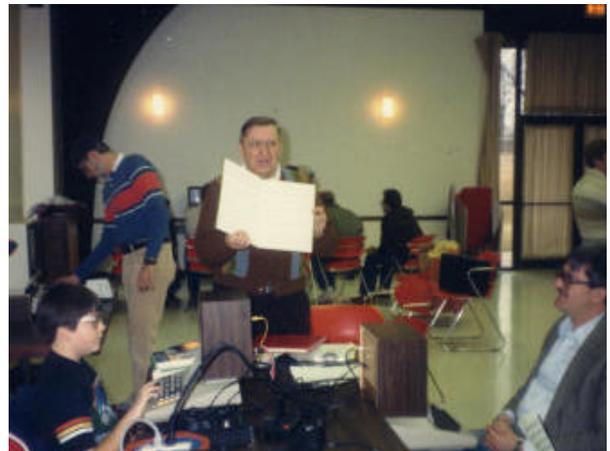
We are either now or will be (depending on when you receive this News Journal) into the New Year and Millennium. But we can't forget the past years and the great times we have had as members of Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts or for some of us, the original Lake County Atari Computer Enthusiasts. Here are some pictures from the past, just for the memories:



**Our Founder - JJ**

JJ started L.C.A.C.E. in 1983, originally as an Atari Users Group and they met at the Great Lakes Navel Base. JJ was operating a 24 hour BBS (Bulletin Board System) called Pegasus and hence I learned about the Group. Soon thereafter they began meeting at various locations, including the Fremont Library in Mundelein (my first meeting as a member). I was doing the Public Relations for the Group, but this was the first time that I was able to get out (due to very poor health) and meet everyone.

One of the first members, besides JJ, that I remember meeting is Mr. G. Always straight forward and "showing off" his Atari computers, especially his music programs. When we first moved into the Gurnee Library, he took Bobby, who was just about one year old at the time, over to his musical setup and had him playing on the keys in just a short time. And what would our meetings be like without the jelly beans?



**Mr. G and his Atari Music Machines**



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We continued with the introduction of the Atari ST systems and even held three of our own Atari Fests. The first one was held at the American Legion in Gurnee, Illinois, the second at the Hampton Inn in Gurnee and the third and biggest at the O'Hare Expo Center.



As time progressed on, the Atari computers started becoming a thing of the past. With the introduction of the "New" home PCs, we began to see the demise of our old Atari systems. And slowly but surely, the members began to obtain these systems and the group opted to change the name and format of the group from Lake County Atari Computer Enthusiasts to the Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts. As hard as it was to change, we did.

We continued meeting at the Warren Library, but then we became "nomads" for a couple of years moving from place to place because of the construction and renovations at the Library.



Mr. & Mrs. G relaxing at the 1996 Christmas Party

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# MEMBERS' PROFILE

## The Blue Man Group



### Web Site

<http://www.inf-net.com/lcace>

### E-MAIL

[lcace@inf-net.com](mailto:lcace@inf-net.com)

Here is a picture of some of our crew at a get together "feeding" after the Christmas Party. We normally have one of these after each meeting. It seems that the meetings really exhaust the nutrition supplies needed to enhance the survival of our species.

This is an example of the fun that we have at these events, this one being the "Blue Tongue Contest", which was originally started by Bobby and Linda, by racing to see who can make their tongues the bluest using only one Blueberry Blo-Pop. Hence the contest has become an epidemic and spread onto some of the other members. This is one virus that McAfee or PC-Cillin cannot "knock" out. The judge(s) for this contest are normally the poor waitresses at the restaurants we invade.

As strange as they may seem, these people are actually completely harmless to themselves and others. As much as we laugh at them, they are still a part of our fantastic Group, L.C.A.C.E.

# The *Linux* S.I.G.

by Les Larkin

Corel released their first version of Linux which is aimed at the desktop home/small office user. The goal of Corel is to produce a distribution of Linux that will rival Microsoft's Windows operating system offerings, especially in the 'ease of installation' department.

Their first version is now available for download from their web site: <http://linux.corel.com>. You can also purchase the downloadable version for \$14.95. That's \$4.95 for the disk and \$10 shipping and handling. As of 11/17/99, the Corel distribution of Linux is not available at Cheapbytes. Corel announced Monday, 11/15/99 at Comdex, three versions of Corel Linux OS including a free version that can be downloaded at <http://linux.corel.com>. The other versions, available at the end of the month, are a \$49 standard edition, which includes a light version of WordPerfect and 30 days of e-mail-based technical support, and the \$79 to \$89 deluxe edition, which will have full-featured WordPerfect, backup software, and 30 days of e-mail and phone support, according to Corel. The company plans to release an international English version, followed shortly by French and German versions, all by the end of February, officials said.

Another way to get a copy of Corel Linux is to buy a motherboard made by PC Chips, a Hong Kong based motherboard maker. PC Chips made the motherboard with which I am writing this article. I bought this board at Wintergreen Systems, located in Indiana.

I found a great web site for Linux neophytes, like myself. It is <http://www.linuxtopia.com>. Check it out.

The Linux demo scheduled for the January meeting may include the Corel version or perhaps the Caldera OpenLinux, or even Red Hat. Hope to see you there.

Happy computing!

## Linux SIG folks

You may have noticed that there is no Linux SIG article in the December issue of the LCACE News Journal. My wife's dog is not to blame. Corky told me that the article was due on November 17, but did not specify a time. So I saw nothing wrong with sending it at about 11:30 PM on the due date. But I do now. Oops! Here are some articles from LinuxWorld that may interest you. Your weekly email alert from the editors of Linux World November 30, 1999

### New this week:

Did Corel Linux 1.0 cook long enough to make you happy? [http://linuxworld.com/linuxworld/lw-1999-11/lw-11-penguin\\_1.html?11-30](http://linuxworld.com/linuxworld/lw-1999-11/lw-11-penguin_1.html?11-30)

Why Penguinista Joe Barr is thankful for Bill Gates [http://linuxworld.com/linuxworld/lw-1999-11/lw-11-vcontrol\\_4.html?11-30](http://linuxworld.com/linuxworld/lw-1999-11/lw-11-vcontrol_4.html?11-30)

Readers' love/hate relationship with GPL and other input! <http://linuxworld.com/linuxworld/lw-1999-11/lw-11-letters.html?11-30>

Coming up: Heroes game review, Corba 2, Kickstart, Anti-Spam with CommuniGate Pro, and more!

### Our most popular stories so far this month:

Integrate Linux and NT clients using NISGina <http://linuxworld.com/linuxworld/lw-1999-11/lw-11-integration.html?11-30>

Joe Barr and Red Hat 6.1 [http://linuxworld.com/linuxworld/lw-1999-11/lw-11-vcontrol\\_2.html?11-30](http://linuxworld.com/linuxworld/lw-1999-11/lw-11-vcontrol_2.html?11-30)

Richard Stallman talks about freedom and the GNU GPL <http://linuxworld.com/linuxworld/lw-1999-11/lw-11-rms.html?11-30>

The strange case of LinuxOne <http://linuxworld.com/linuxworld/lw-1999-11/lw-11-linuxone.html?11-30>

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Sorry about that Lester. I had the December News Journal all done at 9pm and didn't expect anymore articles that night, so I sent it to Vic Falkner for the proofing so that I could meet my mailing deadline of November 20th - 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

# Windows 95 Tips

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## CHANGE REGISTERED USER INFO

We frequently receive requests for the steps required to change Windows 95's registered user information--the name and organization that appears in the System Properties dialog box. (You all remember the shortcut to System Properties from a previous tip, right? Hold down Alt as you double-click My Computer.) All it takes is some quick Registry editing. (Note: As always, back up your Registry files--System.dat and User.dat, hidden files in your Windows folder--before proceeding.)

Open the Registry Editor by selecting Start, Run, typing

regedit

and clicking OK. Navigate your way to HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion.

In the right pane, you'll see Registered Organization and Registered Owner in the Name column. Right-click the one you want to change, select Modify, and on the Value Data line of the resulting dialog box, type the correct information. Click OK, repeat these steps for the other value, if desired, and close the Registry Editor.

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## MY MEMORY JUST KEEPS SLIPPING AWAY

What is it with Windows? If you clear everyone out of the house for the day, the house resources are basically 100 percent free. But when you quit all programs and reboot, Windows still shows only 70 to 80--or at best 90--percent of its resources free. Why?

Because Windows is actually made up of lots of small programs, and even when no official applications are running, these other programs take up and use resources. You can see what's running behind the scenes by pressing Ctrl + Alt + Del. Only Windows Explorer is absolutely necessary, though you should only close any that you know you no longer need running.

## BRING BACK THE OLD BOSS

Are you a Windows 3.1 fan who had trouble adjusting to Windows 95? The Win 3.1 Program Manager, that interface you used to run software, is still tucked away inside Windows 95. Here's how to get it back on the job:

1. Click Start and choose Run.
2. In the Run dialog box, type "progman" (without the quotes).
3. Click OK.

Although not identical to the 3.1 Program Manager, this Program Manager is close. When you're done with it, just click the close box (the X in the upper-right corner of the window). Doing so closes Program Manager, not Windows, as it did in Win 3.1

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## THE HARD DRIVE SPACE PROGRAM

How much of your hard drive have you used up--that is, how much is occupied with documents and programs and other files? Knowing is important so that you can judge whether you have room enough for new programs and documents and because a hard drive that's approaching full can slow down all your computing work. To check your hard drive space:

1. Double-click My Computer.
2. Right-click your hard drive icon.
3. Choose Properties from the pop-up menu.

The chart that appears tells you how big your drive was to start and how much of that space is still free.

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## WANTED:

### NEWS JOURNAL ARTICLES

E-MAIL TO [LCACE@INF-NET.COM](mailto:LCACE@INF-NET.COM)

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We held some of our meetings at the Grant Township Meeting Hall in Fox Lake and had our 1996 and 1997 Christmas Parties at the United Methodist Church in Ingleside.



**The 1996 L.C.A.C.E. Party Animals**

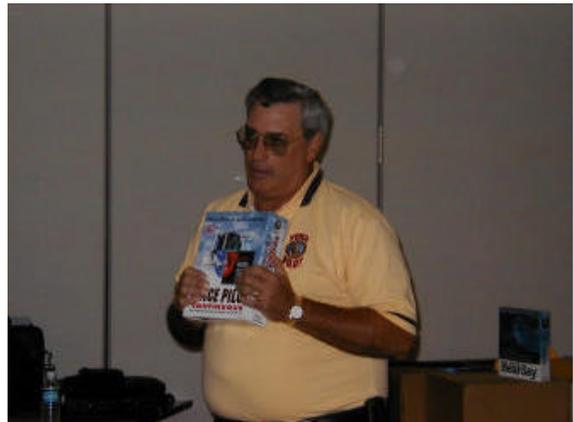
Even though we were inconvenienced because of the short notification to the membership of the meeting place, we still held together.

Then we received the notice that we were waiting for, the return to the Library. That was in 1998 and we had also been introduced to the new Computer Country Expo, which was being held at the Lake County Fairgrounds each month. We obtained a booth, which further exposed our existence to not only the Lake county community, but the surrounding Chicago/Milwaukee Metro areas. We met several people who have greatly assisted us with demonstrations at our monthly meetings. We also acquired some new members.

Besides Randell, we also had Ernie Garner demonstrate his use of a computer with his music business, the Voice Pilot people with their voice recognition programs and then our own members did several excellent demos.



**Bill Gaede and the World Connect personnel**



**The Voice Pilot Word Recognition Demo**



**Randell Durk teaches us  
"How to Build A Computer"  
at our April and October, 1999 Meetings**



**Computer Networking Demo by Jim,  
Mike, JJ & Lester**

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(Continued from page 10 - President's RAM)

As a group we have come a long way from the original days of the Atari machines. The majority of us have E-Mail addresses and Web Sites and the group has it's own E-Mail address and Web Site. .We are growing in size and experience. Definitely we have lived up to the group's motto, "Members Helping Members"



**Arnie, Tom, Mr. & Mrs. G relax and converse after the conclusion of one of our meetings**

As with all organizations, people come and go. Some members just never renewed their membership, others moved without any forwarding address or further contact. The Gayomali's were forced to move due to Deope's transfer. But we will be in touch with them as soon as they are completely settled into their new residence.



**Deope, holding their son Diamond, Joanne and Deanna Gayomali**



**Deanna and Corky**

One member that we lost this year was Bill Carter, who passed away from illness. He was a great friend to all of us, and had a remarkable smile that showed everyone what a freindly man he was. I cannot ever remember a time when I saw him when he was not smiling. He enjoyed a good joke (and he knew a few too). Even though he is sincerely missed, he will forever be remembered and in the hearts of every L.C.A.C.E. member who knew him.



**Bill Carter & Teri**

Well that will conclude this month's RAM. With all of that, I must say we have a lot of good memories as a group. I couldn't remember or include everything, but I gave it my best shot. Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped us prosper so well during the past year. Welcome to the New Year and Millennium and see everyone at the meeting on January 8th, 2000.

*Corky*



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January 22, 2000

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# Next Meeting!!!

*L.C.A.C.E Online*  
**View our Site**  
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- ◆ LCACE E-mail addresses
- ◆ LCACE information,
- ◆ LCACE history and pictures
- ◆ LCACE meeting location and map
- ◆ LCACE members e-mail addresses
- ◆ LCACE online membership application

**January 8, 2000**

Warren/Newport Public Library  
224 N. O'Plaine Road  
Gurnee, Illinois

**McCullough Meeting Room B**

**12:00pm - 2:00 p.m.**

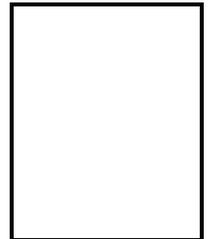
**This month;s presentation  
by Lester Larkin  
LINUX SYSTEMS**

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**L.C.A.C.E**

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