

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 248: What a Buy!

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In the Computer Corner article before last (#246, IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT), I told about the demise of my main computer, a desktop, during an electrical storm on the 4th of July 2018. The storm did no damage to the other four computers that were on at the time (three laptops and a desktop). Only my main machine was damaged; both the power supply and the motherboard were toast as confirmed by several electrical and substitution tests.

I was working traffic (parking) during our Ozaukee Radio Club Regional Fall Swapfest on 8 September 2018, but I had time to peruse the merchandise from time to time. I spotted a motherboard on the table of N9CBS, Curtis Smith, one of our ORC members. "How much" I asked. "Make an offer" he replied. "Three bucks" I responded. "Done" said Curt. I had the prize!

I took it home, replaced the button cell battery found on all motherboards to power the CMOS memory, and found some general memory sticks (RAM) for it, too. Then I put the motherboard it in my main machine carcass, along with a good used power supply from my stock. When I fired it up, everything worked perfectly! Even the hard drive was fine, with all my files intact (that didn't really matter; they all had been duplicated – see #246 for those details). But the point is, I had been made whole again, by Curt and the Swapfest. Thanks, Curt!

Happy Computing!