March, 1991

What's Inside

Obligatory Stuff 1 Editorial 1
Agenda 2 President's Message 2
Executive Meeting 4 Dial-a-book 4
PD Disks 5 Printer Drivers 6
Scratch 'n' Save 7 New Club Disks 8

Have a Happy Easter
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of System</th>
<th>Phone #</th>
<th>Baud</th>
<th>BBS Program Used</th>
<th>Sysop's Name</th>
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S—Commercial System  Z—Amiga  
G—Games (on-line)  I—IBM  C—Commodore  
T—Atari  A—Apple  *—7-E-1 settings  
1—Datareach is local from every phone in Saskatchewan

**ALL BULLETIN BOARDS** run at 8,N,1 modem settings unless otherwise stated.
Editorial
by
Jarrett Currie

Before I begin this month, I would like
to clear up any confusion about the
GeoAd that appeared in the last month’s
Monitor. I frequently use QLink, and
Berkeley (the makers of GEOS) have a
section devoted to them. They left the
advertisement that appeared in the
Monitor in that section. One member
called me asking why the address listed
was different than the one he had for
them. Unfortunately, I could not give
an answer, but as a word of caution,
call the customer service number listed
in the advertisement before making any
purchases.

I am sure that I am not the only one
that is keeping a keen eye on the
happenings in the Commodore world.

Take for example the latest Compute
magazine. I have only 2 things to say
about it: I was painfully wrong when I
thought it would continue to support
Commodore as fully as it did in the
past, and I am glad that I never
subscribed to it. I must admit that I
enjoy reading about other computer
systems, but when I looked at this
month’s Gazette, I was more than a
little disappointed that these few pages
were considered 64/128 support. Quickly
becoming a pessimist, I only hope that
Run will continue to support us after
Compute fails to.

But, on the brighter side, the club is
doing some wonderful things. Barry has
volunteered to keep up the club’s BBS. I
am sure this will be a considerable
undertaking, and I think we all should
thank Barry for his commitment.
Naturally, like any other BBS, it can
only be as strong as its users. If any of
you are interested in trying out
BBSing, then by all means, give the
new CUGS one a try. If you have any
problems, rest assured that if you leave
a question, someone will be able to
leave a suitable solution.
The club will also be purchasing some backup software and hardware. Many of the club members have some sort of copying program to backup the software they use, but as most are aware, very few copying programs can backup all the software. Hopefully, with Maverick and RamBoard, we will be able to finally duplicate those pesky titles. In my own collection, I have been able to backup most of what I wanted, except for Paperback Planner, which is the best spreadsheet program written for the C128. But, for whatever reason there might be, the company that created it decided to put copy protection on it. Copy protection on a game is forgivable, but not allowing backups of application programs is ludicrouss. Setting up any type of serious data with an irreplaceable program that is susceptible to being destroyed is like playing Russian roulette.

Our club continues to prosper, and as the editorial of the club’s newsletter, it is my sincere wish that it continues to prosper as well. I hope that each and ever one of you reading this Monitor is working on your submission!

President's Message

Hello all and welcome again to another CUGS meeting. I hope we all get what we are looking for when we attend these meetings. The executive has tried to please the majority of the members and has done a good job of it so far. We cannot feel that we have pleased everyone, as it is next to impossible. The agenda for the May and June meetings have not been filled as of late. I would like to ask YOU the member to suggest an idea for the May and June meetings. Let any of the executive know about it as soon as possible to allow time to prepare for it.

The March meeting will see Earl Brown showing off his new and improved 1990 income tax program. Earl has been working on this program over the years and has steadily improved on various sections of it. He tells me that he has incorporated a save routine in order for you to save your data from one year to the next, and several other updates. Real Charron will be showing off the newest program he purchased that takes advantage of the Video Display Chip (V.D.C.) RAM on his upgraded 128. This program has a very high resolution that approaches that of the Amiga.

The meeting in April will have Ken Danylickzuk explain some of the mysteries of disk copy protection schemes. This is one meeting I do not want to miss as I have always been mystified by the program manufacturers passion to prevent the end user from copying their programs. I know of a few schemes but they were the earlier ones and I hear they are easy to break.

Our club is growing slowly, member by member and our meeting room is being squeezed to the limit. When we decided to use the McDonald’s community room, we planned on about 25-30 people attending. It seems we under-estimated. The room has been filled to capacity and during the last meeting in

AGENDA

-- March 6 --

Presentations: Income tax program
by: Earl Brown

I PAINT
by: Real Charron

Door price

-- April 3 --

Presentation: Copy protection and parameters
by: Ken Danylickzuk

Door price: $30 gift certificate
February, we needed to find a few extra chairs to get everyone seated. If our club is to survive, we need to find bigger and better places to meet. So on this note, I call to all members to be on the look out for a room that is able to seat about 50-70 people.

Right now, we cannot be too choosy, but it would be desirable for all who attend to meet at some central location. The more desirable places would be in school class rooms or better yet, in a lecture theatre (dream on). It would be nice to have a place that has a projection TV so that presentations can better be seen (dream on some more). Perhaps one of our members knows of a business place that has a sort of board room that will allow us to use for a nominal fee. If you know of a place, or think you know of a place, even if you think you thought you knew of a place, let one of the executives know about it so we may be able to check it out.

In other news, I will be unable to attend the March meeting. Gord Williams will be up at the front getting the show on the road. Thanks Gord. Also, the club has decided to set up another BBS for club members. This board will be open to the public. The BBS will probably be the same as what Excalibur uses and will be set up the same way. Club members will have extra reserved areas for their use. This does not mean that Excalibur will not continue to support CUGS members. On the contrary, Excalibur along with the new one will compliment one another.

The purpose for the second BBS is to have a backup BBS to call for all the articles the members bring in (ha ha). Seriously though, Yves (the Sysop of Excalibur) has been out of town for extended periods of time and had to shut the board down in his absence. Any BBS should be taken down (even the new one) if the Sysop is not around in case of trouble (such as lightening, etc). Having 2 boards effectively doubles your chances to get logged on and to use the boards. Excalibur will remain as it has in the past and will remain as a second BBS for the club, a backup as it were.

At the same time, if the new BBS is busy or I were to go out of town for more than a few days, Excalibur will be up and running and be able to provide continued support. The new CUGS BBS number is 543-7683 or 543-PROUD (6/N/1) 300-1200 baud. The BBS should be up and running by the time you read this.

Also, the club has decided to purchase a copy of Maverick V5.0 for club and member use. Maverick was demonstrated as one of the better copy programs for the Commodore 64. Also we will soon be purchasing RAMBoard for one of our drives. With RAMBoard and Maverick V5.0, we can offer to club members only a copy service to back-up software programs previously uncopyable in the past. The most popular program series Pocket Writer, Planner and Filer are next to impossible to copy, but not for Maverick and the RAMBoard. There are several hundred programs that are copyable by Maverick and very few that are not so we feel this is a worthy addition to the club. We do not want this service to become a pirating mess, so a few rules should be outlined.

-Only original programs will be copied, and only one copy made from it.

-The copy is for the sole use of the owner of the original.

-The copy cannot be sold, given to another person or otherwise distributed in any way.

I hope the club members take advantage of this service as I am sure I will. I have several children under the age of 6 and they do not appreciate taking care of their own expensive belongings let alone a delicate thing like a floppy diskette of Dad’s. The service will start when the program and the RAMBoard has been ordered and installed. Stay tuned to this channel, same time, same place for future announcements.
Executive Meeting Minutes
by
Real Charron
February 11, 1991

Barry went through the mailbag.

Barry and Jarrett to print 15 copies of the CUGS disks catalogue for the next meeting.

Barry to purchase a good surge protector for the club computer.

Real to purchase Maverick v5.0 and the RAMBOARD for the 1571 drive. Make sure it copies 1541 disks.

Barry to install a dedicated phone line at his residence to support the CUGS BBS.

Meeting room discussed: The executive will search for possible alternatives.

Keith to print labels for the club.

CUGS disks library on disk discussed: It was tabled.

Executive meetings on Mondays was approved by the majority.

Barry on holidays the first two weeks of March, Gord Williams will chair the March general meeting.

Ken to introduce new members before the door prize draw.

Regina Public Library
"Dial-a-book"
by Shaun Hase

Remote Access to the RPL's Online Public Catalogue

The Regina Public Library (RPL) has had the RPL's Online Catalogue available via modem since last fall. The system, called VUCAT, allows anyone with a computer/modem to call the library and access the Online Catalogue. Since this isn't a training article, I won't be going into specifics on how to use the catalogue. The RPL has brochures that tell you everything you need to know. Although there is no online registration and registration is not necessary, the library has Registration Forms available that they would like you to fill out and return to them for their information.

The phone number for the Online Catalogue is 347-0463 and is accessible at any time, although item status can only be obtained when the circulation system is available. The terminal settings required are: 7 data bits (word bits), 1 stop bit, and even parity. The baud rate can be 300, 1200, 2400, 4800, or 9600. An 80-column screen is definitely recommended as the text is formatted for 80-columns, but not required. No special emulation is required. The Online Catalogue via the modem as a straight ASCII connection. Set your backspace/delete key to be chr$(8). Don't try to have the screen clear by adjusting the screen clear commands at your end. After using the system for a while and having all the control characters displayed as the text scrolls, a control-v was sent everytime a new screen appeared, BUT a control-v was also sent everytime you pressed the delete key. Everytime you pressed the delete key to fix something up, you ended up clearing the screen and not really accomplishing anything.

After dialing and connecting to the system, press the return key a few times, a second or two apart. The
connection should be made and the welcoming messages will be displayed. From there on, just do as you would if you were at the RPL using their terminals. As an example, say you wanted to look up all information on the commodore 64. First you would type CAT (begin a new CATalogue search), then type SUB (for a SUBject search), and then type COMMODORE 64. If your subject is found, then it will display all of the matches it has found. In this case, the computer found this:

Your subject: commodore 64 matches 3 subjects

No. of citations in entire catalog
1 Commodore 64 (Computer) 14
2 Commodore 64 (Computer) — Amateurs' manuals. 1
3 Commodore 64 computer — Programming. 58+

You would then either enter the number of the subject match you wish to see. There are other alternatives to doing this and as I don't want to drag this out by explaining to you how to use the system, I'll leave it at that. About the only other thing you really need to know is that when you are done using the system, enter END. This signs you off the system and drops the carrier. The RPL mentions doing this about three times in their brochure. One hint: you can stack commands by using the "/" (slash) character. So, using the above example, typing CAT/SUB/COMMODORE 64 will get you right to the listing above. Saves quite a bit of time, especially running at a low baud rate.

About the only problems I have had when using the system is that sometimes the lines of text are longer than 80 characters. The best thing to do to have "formatted text" is to have your terminal package strip the ">" (greater than) character. It isn't a necessary character and removing it will shorten the lines and stop the screen from scrolling part of the lists. Also, depending on your terminal package, incoming linefeeds may or may not be needed. It takes a little while to get your computer set up and used to how the system works, but it does save time.
the directory you make. The line above the columns is the file type and length of the file and the top of each column.

The program lists the files on the disk in three different colours: red files are locked, yellow files are scratched, and white are normal directory entries.

Pressing RETURN moves an entry from the top of the left column to the bottom of the right. Pressing the INST/DEL key moves an entry from the top of the left column to the top of the right. SHIFT-INST/DEL moves it back. Pressing the "R" key restores the left column back to the original directory. The cursor keys moves the old and new directories up and down. "L" & SHIFT-"L" lock and unlock a file. "S" & SHIFT-"S" scratch and unscratch a file. Pressing the space bar puts a separator at the bottom of the right column (more on this later). Pressing "C" will allow you to change the filename and "W" writes the new directory to the disk. The program will ask you if you’re sure before performing this command in case you hit it by accident. Pressing the RUN/STOP key will return you to BASIC. All of the above commands work on the top entry in the right column.

Be sure to always validate the disk after rewriting the directory. The program leaves the command channel (15) open using the file number 15 and returns you to BASIC after writing the directory to disk. So, to validate the disk simply press either SHIFT-CLR /HOME or RUN/STOP-RESTORE and then close the following simple command: PRINT#15,"V0"CLOSE15 and press RETURN. The disk will be validated and the command channel closed.

Now more about the separators mentioned above. Pressing the space bar inserts a zero block USR file after the entry at the bottom the the right column. It is given a length of 0 and a filetype of USR to remind us that it should be loaded.

Next month we’ll look at a program for the 64 called Disk Maintenance.
One the 64 version of GEOS, the printer driver MUST be on your work disk. On the 128 version, the printer driver is automatically loaded into memory. The one loaded is the one that GEOS comes across first on the "BOOT" disk. Any additional drivers that you may want should also be on your work disk. A printer driver can be called up at any time from the desktop by using the "GEOS" menu at the upper left hand side and selecting the ones available on the work disk. You can always find out easily what printer driver is currently being used as it is named under the printer icon when you are in the Desktop.

One very important recent improvement included in the club's library are several new printer drivers that can overwrite 2 or 4 or even 6 times to give you a NLQ (Nearly Letter Quality) type of print. It brings out a darker, fuller print (even with a well worn ribbon). The way these drivers work is rather neat and a good example of someone's ingenuity. It prints each line twice on a 2 pass driver. That is, one line is printed then the linefeed is intentionally left out and the print head makes a second pass over the first. This causes the print to come out darker.

This looks a lot better but still has the "dotty" look to it. Hence, the 4- and 6-pass driver. These work in the same principle as the 2-pass but with one major difference. On the 4-pass driver, each line is printed out twice as before, but just before the next two passes are to be printed, the printer does a micro line feed. A micro line feed is usually less than the width of one horizontal dot. The next two passes are very much the same as the last two, but are slightly off centered. This drastically reduces the dottiness of the print and is very dark. The print is darker and fuller but is rather jagged, or stairstep on close examination.

The enhanced 6-pass driver is much the same as the 4-pass with one major difference. The 6-pass, as you have already guessed, prints 2 lines, does a micro linefeed, prints another 2 lines overtop of the last two and does another micro line feed and prints out another two lines. This is the same as the 4-pass, but this time, the three, two line pair are not dot for dot the same. The driver somehow, through bit twiddling, is able to smooth out the "jaggles". It takes next to forever (about 18-28 minutes) to print out a page but is well worth the wait.

Not all printers can print out 60 Dots Per Inch (DPI). This means that to fully print out the full width of the picture (in Geopaint), you need a printer capable of printing 640 dots a page line (8 times 80=640). Some printers are only capable of printing 68 DPI (Dots Per Inch) and therefore prints only 480 dots of the full 640 expected. This causes the rightmost part of the picture to be cut off and unprintable. If yours is a 68 dots per inch printer then you will be missing the rightmost 1/4 of the picture. It can be overcome by avoiding drawing the right most 1/4 of the drawing screen.

Also in the Version 2.00 package comes a program that converts your printer driver into a paint driver and a paint overlay driver. If you were confused before, I would suggest you skip this and go to the next article. Each of these are to be used just like a printer driver. These drivers are very similar but have very distinct characteristics. And neither has anything to do with a printer (confused now?). With the paint overlay you can print out your GeoWrite document as you normally do to a real printer, but the driver instead prints out the geoWrite document to a disk file NOT TO THE REAL PRINTER. This disk file is the same only it has now been converted to a geoPaint document. Simply put, it has been converted from text to a graphic equivalent and ends up becoming a geoPaint file. With this option you can convert a geoWrite file to geoPaint and then add graphics around your text.

With the paint overlay driver you can overlay several files on top of each other. So with a little foresight you can print out 2, 3, 4 or more columns over each other and end up with very professional looking, multi-column documents. The driver simply converts each file to geoPaint and saves it on top of any thing that may already be there. By setting the tab and/or the left/right margin settings to correspond to the columns you select, you can print out a 4-page document and create a 1-page 4-column newspaper-like document. Add a few graphics, and you have a newsletter. It takes a little (lot) of preplanning but it can and is done. The idea of a simple printer driver has changed drastically since GEOS was first developed.

Scratch 'n' Save by Earl Brown

Here it is, Income Tax time again. And, as has happened in previous years, I have prepared the CUGS Income Tax Program disk for all those club members in good standing in our club. This year, however, the General program takes on a new approach. Many of you in the past have requested a method of saving your returns onto a disk. Thanks is here given to Richard Maze for including this routine into this year's 1990 GENERAL program. You now can save your variables as well as load them into the program itself or independently into the +PRINT PROGRAM. The GENERAL program also includes (menu driven) a method of reading disk directories, as well as a method to format (NEW) a disk, in case you forget to format a disk before you run the program. Mind you, there is plenty of room to save several returns on the CUGS INCOME TAX disk itself.

Something most of us will more than likely want to do. I wish, at this time, to also thank Byron Adams for his contribution in reducing the original block size of the program so that the save routine could be added to this year's program. He also included a unique edit routine (which I slightly modified) to make any changes to your return easier to do. With it, if you load new values from disk, you can easily press the left arrow key either in the main menu mode or in the edit mode and get a screen printout of the actual file ID etc. of the file you loaded into the program. Continuing to press the left arrow key will
Scratch 'n' Save

by Keith Kash

New in the library this month is Graphics 21. This disk contains some interesting graphics & sound demos as well as some good graphics utilities.

I'll let the demos speak for themselves, so try them! Included in the way of utilities are some viewers to display your favorite Mac or Koala pics and a Mac to GEOS conversion utility. Also included are 4 graphics subroutines that can be used to spice up the look of your own BASIC programs and a 3-d bar graph creator!

But, the best of all is the 5 graphics programs which you can use to create your own graphic pics with! You'll have to experiment with them yourselves - I didn't have time to delve into them too deeply, although what I could see was impressive! The best of the three that I could see was "u-8", described as a "turbocharged" graphics program! So check it out and have some fun, fun, FUN!!!