TPUG Newsletter

Views and News of Toronto Pet Users Group, Inc.
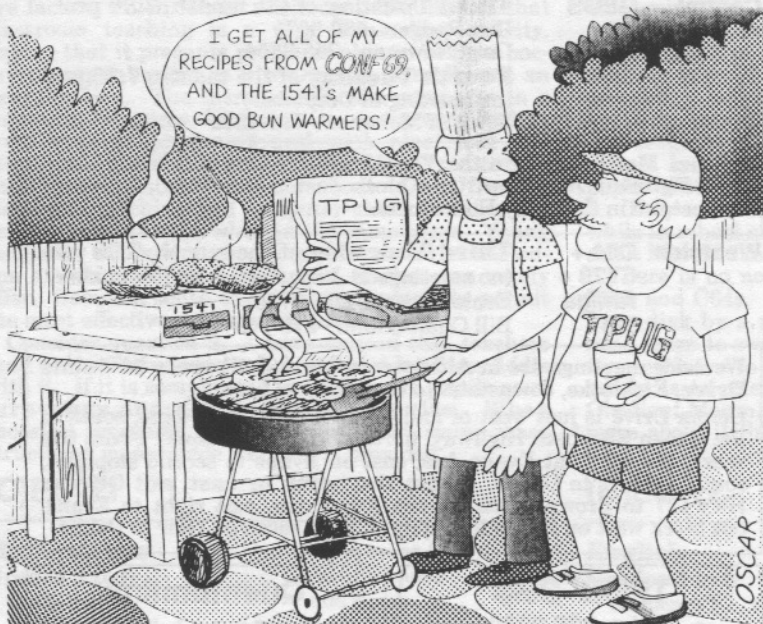
> I GET ALL OF MY RECIPES FROM *CONF '89*, AND THE 1541's MAKE GOOD BUN WARMERS!

Still time to get in some barbequeing

For users of all Commodore Computers

★ **Amiga**
★ **C128**
★ *Plus/4*
★ *C16*
★ **C64**
★ **VIC 20**
★ *B128*
★ **SuperPET**
★ **PET/CBM**
☆ **PC/MS-DOS**

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64 is 9

The C64 turned 9 in June. That makes it the oldest personal computer still in production (IBM's original PC *would* have been 10, but the pre-XT 64K twin floppy / cassette model hasn't been built for years).

Although no longer a serious contender for business use, the 64 is still a winner in the home and education markets.

Commodore has introduced ROM revisions, minor circuit board improvements, new disk drives, RAM expansion units, GEOS, and a more stylish case, but it's still basically the same good old '64.

We've seen cartridge adaptors for 80 columns, improved BASIC, faster disk interfaces, quadruple speed CPUs, CP/M operating system with Z80 CPUs, stereo sound, robot / gadget / home / industrial control interfaces, multi-user shared disk networks, video frame grabbers, digital sound samplers, MIDI interfaces, multi-megabyte memories, 1541 coolers . . .

Interesting variants have included the SX64 portable, and the Educator 64, with the C64 circuit board built into a PET case with a mono monitor. Despite upgrade paths like the C128 and several Amiga C64 emulators, the classic model is still loved by millions.

Member Information

Office

(416) 253-9637

Please leave a message

Membership Rates

Canada	$25
USA	US $25
International (air mailed)	US $30

To join, send the form on page 7

Board of Directors

President	Ian McIntosh
Vice President	Ernie Chorny
Secretary	Roman Kowalczuk
Treasurer	Al Farquharson
Past President	Walther Melamet-Vetter
Director	John Easton
Director	Art Evans
Director	Dan Forget
Director	Hermann Hartmann
Director	Michelle Hyland
Director	Paul Kreppenhofer
Director	Dug Rodger

Librarians

C64	Dug Rodger
C64 Education	Bill Cumberland
C128	John Milligan
GEOS	Tim Hyland
PET/CBM	John Easton
SuperPET/PET/CBM	Dan Forget
Amiga	George Skinner
MS-DOS	Ian McIntosh

Support

Mail	Art Evans
Telephone	Ian McIntosh
Disk Orders	Librarians
Member Records	Dan Forget
Meetings	Wilf Meissner
	and Ernie Chorny
Shows	Ian McIntosh
	and a cast of dozens
BBS SysOp	Sylvia Gallus
Q-Link SysOp	Dug Rodger
CRS SysOp	Dug Rodger

Newsletter

Editor	John Easton	251-1511
Asst Editor	Ian McIntosh	757-4628
Cartoons	R. Kowalczuk	462-3168
Printing	Artistat	
Binding	MIJAC	

Meeting Schedule

Call 253-9637 for info on or to register for our BBS Meeting, 6:30 pm on Wednesday November 20, near Pape and Gerrard.

Central	C128	**First Tuesday** of the month, **7:30 pm** (no meetings July and August) Ray Whidden - 297-0763 John Milligan - 694-1636
Central	Amiga	**Second Tuesday** of the month, **7:30 pm** George Skinner - 225-8538
Central	GEOS	**Third Tuesday** of the month, **7:30 pm** Dug Rodger - 588-9071 Gord Newman - 755-2354
Central	C64	**Fourth Tuesday** of the month, **7:30 pm** (no meeting in December) Dr. Wilf Meissner - 789-4335

Central Meetings are in the **York Public Library** Main Branch, **1745 Eglinton Ave West** (one block east of Dufferin), left then downstairs in the Story Hour Room.

Westside	**C64 +** **C128 +** **Amiga** **etc**

Westside C64 + C128 + Amiga etc — **Third Thursday** of the month, **7:30 pm** (no meetings in July, August and December) Ernie Chorny - 279-2730 Bill Cumberland - 278-7687

Westside meetings are in **Alderwood United Church, 44 Delma Drive**, Etobicoke, downstairs to the right.

Delma Drive is just west of and parallel to Browns Line, south of the Queen Elizabeth Highway, north of Horner Avenue. **From the west**, exit QEW at Evans Ave, east on Evans to second stoplight, south on Gair to Delma. **From the north or east**, exit QEW or Hwy 427 to Browns Line / Evans Ave ramp, exit right to Evans, one block west on Evans to stoplight, then south on Gair to Delma.

TPUG BBS

main **273-6300**
alternate **733-2933**

Please use 273-6300 unless using 733-2933 avoids a long distance call.

300 / 1200 / 2400 bps
8 data bits, 1 stop, no parity
PunterNet Node 2
Type "?" at prompts for help
Password not required

Quantumlink

The TPUG SIG is located in the Commodore Information Network User Group Support Center

TPUG signon is TPUGMAIL

Canada Remote Systems

TPUG conference via "J 74"
TPUG signon is TPUG SYSOP

Articles, letters, tips, questions, cartoons, etc are welcome. Send hardcopy or disks "Attn: TPUG Newsletter", or use our BBS, PN, Q-Link, or CRS.
Advertisements are also welcome. Members' small ads are free. Commercial ads are $200 per page with a $25 minimum.

Notes From The New President

There are two sides to keeping TPUG running smoothly - the boring financial, and the interesting activities.

Since the annual meeting in May, we have worked hard at continuing Walther's streamlining.

Changes already made or in progress (reorganizing phones, 24 hour BBS, smaller storeroom, different insurance, etc) will save us over $2000 per year. More improvements should be coming. The short term focus was less waste; the long term is growth.

Some of last year's publicity, and Danny's renewed contacts with former members have paid off in a 20% increase in membership, instead of the expected decline.

Other efforts have helped us by over $1000. Altogether, we are at least half way to the goal of breaking even.

Al has started computerizing our bookkeeping. We still need to set a realistic budget and track it.

The fun part is in doing a better job helping both our members and the public.

Last year we went to more shows than ever before, and this year will probably set a new record.

We've put together a new TPUG Info sheet, and information packages to answer some frequently asked questions.

Our Amiga, C64, C128, Education and GEOS disk libraries have grown considerably over the past year, and I think the quality is better too.

We expanded our meetings by adding a GEOS chapter in May, and continuing half our chapters over the summer.

The BBS has expanded to 24 hour service, and after increasing our Q-Link participation last winter, we recently started a TPUG conference on CRS.

Regrettably, financial improvement projects, illnesses and philosophical differences kept us too busy to do some things, including the Newsletter. But now we can almost afford the things we'd like to do for the club.

There's lots of room for improvements everywhere. My own favourites are more newsletters, better catalogs, better financial information, and more efficient operations. Let us know yours. Various projects are underway, and I expect several will be ready to announce in the next newsletter, coming soon. See you then.

Ian McIntosh

News

TPUG Telephones

For several years we have had our BBS lines call forward to our voice line from noon to 5, Monday to Friday. Since September 9, 733-2933 and 273-6300 are **BBS only.**

The only voice line is now 253-9637, which has been our main number for several years. It will usually be call forwarded to a volunteer's home or business - please leave a message.

We apologize for Bell's interruption to both our voice and BBS call forwarding in mid September.

TPUG BBS

Since September 9, the BBS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (minus maintenance and other down time).

Because of changes in our billing, calls to 733-2933 may cost us about 9 cents each. *Please use 273-6300 unless using 733-2933 saves you a long distance call.*

BBS Meeting ⋛SPECIAL⋛

We are planning a BBS / Telecomm meeting at 6:30 pm on Wednesday November 20, for users of all models. There will be demos, advice, handouts, video, and major BBS operators. Space is limited, so call 253-9637 to reserve a seat.

Membership Renewals

Don't forget to renew! We can no longer afford to send multiple reminders and free newsletters. You can renew at meetings, shows we attend, or by sending a copy of the order form on page 8. We accept Visa and MasterCard.

We'd like to welcome our many new members and welcome back those whose memberships lapsed briefly.

TPUG At The Shows

Since the last newsletter, TPUG attended the June Ontario Computer Fairs in Toronto and Markham and the September Computer Fest at the CNE.

We expect to go to the November 24 Toronto Fair, the November 22 - 24 Computer Fest in Pickering, and of course World of Commodore / Amiga on December 6 - 8.

Free discount coupons are available at many of our meetings, and we will have WOCA $5 discount tickets soon.

GEOS Chapter

TPUG started a new monthly chapter meeting in May, covering GEOS for the 64 and 128, and later also GeoWorks Ensemble for MS-DOS. See page 2 for location and schedule.

Commodore News

Commodore announced 4 MS-DOS computers recently: a 486 and 2 386 desktops, and a 386 laptop. Meanwhile, Commodore US is exiting the cut-throat MS-DOS market after losing money.

The Amiga 3000UX, one of the best low cost Unix System V Release 4 systems, is officially shipping.

There have been two CDTV promos, an Amiga upgrade offer, and a $25 to $200 rebate on Amigas so far this year. Commodore is also advertising more, on popular TV shows like Star Trek TNG and in the newspapers.

AmigaDOS 2.0 is finally available for Amiga 2000s. The replacement ROM, new disks and manuals are about $200. The optional enhanced chip set is not included.

AmigaVision 1.7 should be out Real Soon Now ...

Dealer News

Computer Variables has moved from Bayview to 165 East Beaver Creek, near Highways 7 and 404, 481-6807.

AMSOFT, the Amiga / CDTV store at 557 Markham Road just south of Lawrence, 431-9452, has a new owner.

Personal Keyboards in London has moved to 71 Wellington Street just north of the South Thames. Their Amiga part is now called Systems Centre, (519) 434-4162.

Dresser Electronics has moved to 1624 Bloor St East, Unit 67, Mississauga L4X 2S2, 625-0891. Dresser sells all CMD products, other addons, and C64 and Amiga software.

CMD now has a Canadian distributor, Holz Computer Supply, 12, 6120 - 11th Steet SE, Calgary, AB T2H 2L7, (403) 262-6896, fax (403) 255-3110.

[This is a summary of the 21 page minutes. Attendees received a free copy; others may order "1991 Annual Meeting Minutes". $3 for costs would be appreciated.]

There were 24 members present.

President Walther Melemet-Vetter reported on the year's activities, and Secretary John Easton major changes during the year: the reduced membership and disk prices, the resignations of Steve Punter, Richard Bradley and Ken Poulton, and the appointments of Art Evans and Dug Rodger to the board.

Treasurer Bill Cumberland presented the Financial Statement, noting an unresolved $7000 dispute and a possible $6000 debt, and the difficulty of producing monthly statements and paying PST with data not provided promptly. *[To save space, the presentation below differs a little from the official one.]*

Answers to questions:
AF: The potential debt is really < $2000 not $6000.
EC: A letter had been written trying to resolve it.
WMV: Developing a budget is up to the new board.
WMV: We are $600 more in debt than last year.
WMV: We moved to a less expensive office.
IM: We eliminated one phone line.
WMV: The $7000 dispute was unresolved.
WMV: Letters were sent about 1200 complaints.
IM: Apologized for late show reports.
IM: $200 net income is not in the Financial Report.

Show Coordinator Ian McIntosh reported attending 8 shows. At WOCA 90 profits were $580 disk sales, $260 Norland software sales, $53 magazine sales, $46 miscellaneous, and 37 memberships and renewals. ComputerFest totalled about $600 and the Toronto Fair $68. Other shows had been summarized in the Newsletter.

Joint Head Librarian (with DF) IM reported that Danny Forget had expanded the PET and SuperPET libraries significantly and produced a new catalog disk, that Bill Cumberland had created a new C64 Educational library, that the C64, C64 Ed, GEOS, C128, CP/M and TPUG Amiga libraries were growing by one disk per month, that most of the missing disks had been found, and that we now had duplicates of most libraries. John Easton reported correspondence

with a potential Plus/4 librarian.

Membership Chairman Danny Forget reported 318 members as of April, about 1/3 Toronto area, 1/3 other Canadian, 1/3 USA, and 13 international. He has been sending letters to expired members. The renewal rate of 1 in 8 makes this worthwhile.

Answers to questions:
IM: Magazine articles led to many callers.
?: We exchange with about 10 other clubs and expanding. *[We sent to 30 then, 39 now - Ian]*

Publicity Chairman Ernie Chorny reported advertising in Toronto Computes!, the Sun and the Star, and BBS notices.

Q-Link & CRS Sysop Dug Rodger reported on them.

Answers to questions:
DR: We make some money from programs downloaded, and get new members via QL.

Ernie Chorny, Wilf Meissner, George Skinner and Ray Whidden reported on the West Side, C64, Amiga and C128 meetings. A new GEOS meeting led by Gord Newman was approved.

In addition to the 8 listed in the Newsletter, Chris Schmidt was nominated for the Board of Directors. It was agreed to fill only 6 of the 10 vacancies, totalling 12 out of the limit of 16 directors. Elected were:

Ian McIntosh	Al Farquharson
Art Evans	Hermann Hartmann
Dug Rodger	Roman Kowalczuk

The new Board met briefly to elect the Executive. The current Board and Executive are listed on page 2.

Answers to questions:
?: At least 3 people can run the database.
IM: The Annual Business Meeting and election are announced to all members in the Newsletter. Toronto Computes! does not consider it news.
IM: Most financial records are in the storeroom.
IM: About 2/3 of our libraries are backed up.
IM: Newsletter backups are at JE's & IM's.
DF: Member database backups are at DF's & AF's.
JE: Sylvia Gallus is a volunteer not paid Sysop.

Roman Kowalczuk suggested we should discuss the whole situation *[with Sylvia and the BBS]* with Steve Punter and reexamine where we stand.

Abbreviated Financial Statement	July 1988 - June 1989 (for comparison)		July 1989 - June 1990		July 1990 - May 8 1991 (incomplete)	
Assets						
Bank of Montreal #1020-042	5,155.82		97.75		2,311.90 (BM+BNS)	
Bank of Montreal #4600-142		5,458.41 US		1,586.76 US		2,139.36 US
Bank of Nova Scotia #4600-142	2,242.56		3,402.83			
Bank of Montreal Debentures	6,201.90		6,804.61		7,169.36	
IOU					60.	
Total Current Assets	13,600.28	+ 5,458.41 US	10,305.19	+ 1,586.76 US	9,541.26	+ 2,139.36 US
Software Library	1.		1.			
Office Equipment	1.		1.			
Electrical Equipment	1.		1.			
Total Fixed Assets	3.		3.			
Total Assets	13,603.28	+ 5,458.41 US	10,308.19	+ 1,586.76 US	9,541.26	+ 2,139.36 US
Liabilities						
Unresolved dispute	7,000.		7,000.		7,000.	
Possible debt	6,000.		6,000.		6,000.	
Other (Unpaid Cheques & Expenses)					2,227.04	
Total Liabilities	13,000.		13,000.		15,227.04	
Equity	603.28	+ 5,458.41 US	(2,691.81)	+ 1,586.76 US	(5,685.78)	+ 2,139.36 US

President's Comments To The Meeting

Usually in my many years of experience in organizations, Canadian or ethnic, business, union or management, the Annual General Meeting had been always the highlight of my time in office as president of an establishment or corporation

As President of TPUG Inc. it is my pleasure to bid you a warm and sincere welcome, and I hope that this AGM will prove a memorable one for all of us. We are proud to have you with us tonight, because we do recognize the fact that we grow only through the medium of our members. We also know that you will bring to us new ideas, new inspirations and new strength. And by God that is what we need for what lies ahead of us.

We are meeting at a time of disturbed business conditions, when the future is somewhat clouded and certainly a most cautious approach to many problems is indicated.

It is no secret, our database went on the blink and it took too long for us to bring it back. That was the reason we lost contact with many members.

We work with and through our volunteers and that also creates problems at times. Some of our members take on more than they can chew, even if they have the best intentions.

We run into trouble when we turn out disks at the various shows and later the members discover that the disks don't work, because there was no time to check on the quality of the disk, or our customer did not give to our volunteers the proper notice what disk drive he is using at home.

It seems sometimes only little problems, but they add up to confusion and dissatisfaction. We have tried to establish a time in which we will return disk orders, membership renewals or information requests.

Believe me we all had the best intentions, but with Murphy's Law, it had to happen that we run into trouble.

Even if we have a great number of problems, sometimes even insurmountable difficulties, our club enjoys an enviable reputation throughout North America.

Tonight it is my sincere wish that this gathering will be a success and that your decisions will be wise and profitable for the club.

It appears to me that TPUG Inc. is still the focal point of interest for many, many people, members or non-members, who enjoy the existence of their various Commodore PET, VIC, 64, Plus/4, 128 and all the Amigas, and not to forget the riches and abundance of our own steadily growing library.

I know that each one of us hopes that such a desirable condition

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So that's what they do at Board meetings?
It's Hallowe'en, and another election creeps up on us.
Submit nominations to any director or meeting chair.

will continue.

We are a service club to and for our members. That is primarily the function of TPUG. I know we have many volunteers and in every individual, there is a streak of good that seeks an outlet. There is some desire to help. There is a touch of idealism even if it be given a scant chance to grow. Frequently the opportunity appears to be lacking or at least is obscured and much that is good and noble remains hidden.

Believe me, in TPUG we are trying to give you this opportunity in close association with other more experienced members. We are trying to organize our service.
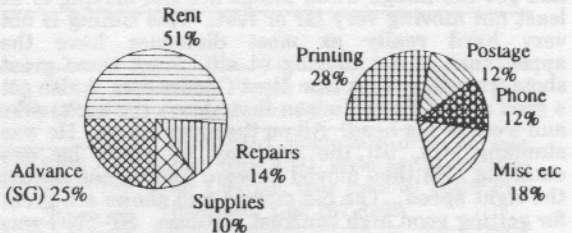
I wish to say thank you to all those many capable volunteers and workers who made our participation in so many shows, World of Commodore, Computer Fests and so on, a success. I feel indebted not only to those holding office, but to every member who gave his or her support and time to our work. I take this opportunity to say thanks to all of you who have served this organization and particularly those who have worked with me.

I really did appreciate very much your cooperation. Thank you!

Walther Melamet-Vetter

Income & Expenses	July 1989 - June 1990	
Revenue		
Memberships + Disk Sales	9,492.85	+ 1,701.90 US
Interest	605.43	
Total Revenue	10,098.28	+ 1,701.90 US
Operating Expenses		
Rent + Leasing	6,196.84	
Phone + Hydro	1,506.24	
Postage	1,361.83	+ 32. US
Office Supplies + Software	694.75	+ 477.54 US
Repairs + Parts	1,715.61	
Printing	3,407.06	
Advance Payment (SG)	3,000.	
Service Charges		49.85 US
IOU		110.85 US
Miscellaneous	2,020.33	
Total Operating Expenses	19,902.66	+ 607.95 US
Profit / Loss	(9,804.38)	+ 1,093.95 US

[These are for July 1989 - June 1990. Details for 1990-91 were not yet available.]

Rent 51%
Printing 28%
Postage 12%
Phone 12%
Repairs 14%
Misc etc 18%
Advance (SG) 25%
Supplies 10%

These charts show Total Operating Expenses breakdown. The left chart is the size of Total Revenue ($12055). The right one shows Loss ($8546 or 71% of Revenue). US dollars have been converted at $1.15 Canadian.

Review: Video Byte III   Dug Rodger

Video Byte III is a video digitizer for the C=64 with surprisingly good images.

It comes as a cartridge type affair that goes into the user port, which leaves the other port open for Super SnapShot and the like. More on this later. It is about the size of one of the CBM modems with a single cord running off of it with an RCA connector. This allows it to hook up to just about any video equipment like your VCR, some cable converters and of course video cameras.

At one of the TPUG 64 meetings I brought in Video Byte and another member, Vince, brought along his video camera. We had a ball catching everybody's mug shot and sticking it up on a 1702. When the image was just right I snapped it out to disk in a Koala format.

When the image was just right ... I must elaborate on that one. It has two modes, one is a constant scan every few secs in real time. This is perfect for getting the camera lined up, setting light levels and such. We had two sets of florescent lights in the room and so had three different light levels to play with, either set, or both. This setup proved to be plenty. The other mode is for the capture. When you are ready, you hit a key and the screen blanks to speed up the scan and a good quality image results. You could also grab one of the constant scans if you felt it was good enough or copy either one into a buffer and try again. Then you would have two to choose from before you kicked it out to disk. Pretty easy really. There is a disk in the TPUG 64 library, (C)HT, that has all the images from the meeting. The disk also has the latest slide show viewer so you can have some idea of the quality of the pix before you rush out and grab one.

Most of you do not have a video camera, but rather a VCR. This works well also, best if you have a clear freeze frame feature, I don't. Which led me on to a rather funny adventure ... getting still images from moving pictures.

Given the fact that it will take the C=64 a wee bit of time to process the scan in Video Byte and the fact that most video or TV images are moving some, hilarious pictures resulted. First off you want to try and get the image while things are not moving or at least not moving very far or fast. This timing is not very hard really as most dialogues have the appearance of not moving at all! I got some great shots from Star Trek The Next Generation. I also got a good one of Rock Hudson that shows the back, side, and front of his head! All on the same frame. He was standing still, till the scan got to where he was standing. He then moved forward and turned at just the right speed. The old movies and shows are great for getting good high contrast pictures. ST TNG was another story. As with most modern productions they tend towards the low contrast, shaded scenes which create atmosphere.

Picture quality is very good when you consider the actual resolution of the C=64 which is 160 by 200 pixels in multi-colour mode. Don't get the idea you are going to get pictures in colour per se, but rather 4

levels of contrast and those 4 levels could be any of the 16 colours available on the C=64. You won't get very good detail on parts of the image that are far away or very small on the screen, the dots are just too big due to the C=64's resolution. What you will get is a very good image that is easily recognizable and a computer picture that is more than 3/4s done for those of you that want to bring it up in your favorite paint program for the final touch ups. Like putting a moustache on Jean Luc Picard or eyes in the back of Rock Hudson's head! It is also a neat tool for those of you that produce your own home videos. Get the idea of a few Video Bitten images overlayed with text from a paint program with your title or credits. Some with just a shadow of what's in your video like Hitchcock's shadow or Madonna's curves or my favorite, getting a picture of my latest car and letting everybody and his kid sister "paint" graphics on it to their hearts' content. Long before masking tape and paint get near it. A friend came over with his camera and did just that. Liked it so much he wanted to borrow my C=64 system for a month. I got his Amiga for collateral! And it was only for a week. A similar system for it is over 10 times the cost! I didn't have the heart to tell him I could convert C=64 pictures to Amiga format, later I did.

There is an option I would recommend for those of you who don't have video cameras or a good freeze frame on your VCR, it's a control on Video Byte for adjusting the gain. This comes in handy for those newer low contrast productions.

Another option is the Explode V5 cartridge for the other port, but I'm spoiled already by Super SnapShot V5 cartridge. I even used SnapShot's screen dump to send the pictures out to disk. Video Byte saves them out as Koalas and SnapShot gives you a choice of 5 of the most popular, and a whole lot more that is not on the Explode cart.

The documents, for the most part, come on disk and are a wee bit skimpy but enough to get you up and running with confidence in no time.

All things considered, I give it a 10 rating. It does what it is supposed to simply and efficiently. In spite of the resolution limit you will be surprised!

Video Byte III $89, Gain Control Option $10. Equipment supplied by Dresser Electronics, 1624 Bloor Street East, Apt 67, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L4X 2S2 (416) 625-0891.

*Next issue:
Super SnapShot,
or
Where no 64
has gone before!*

]>ug..

TPUG
Toronto Pet Users Group, Inc.   Order Form

5334 Yonge Street, Box #116   Willowdale, Ontario M2N 6M2   (416) 253-9637

Membership Prices

Canada	$25.		USA	US$25.
	International	US$30.		

Disk Prices

Members		Non-Members	
5 1/4"	$3.	5 1/4"	$6.
Amiga 3 1/2"	$4.	Amiga 3 1/2"	$8.

	Disk Number / Code	Disk Name / Description	Price
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Attach additional sheets if necessary.   Prices subject to change without notice.

Add Postage And Handling	Canada & USA	1 to 5 disks	$1.00
		over 5 disks	$2.00
	Overseas	1 to 5 disks	US$2.00
		over 5 disks	US$3.00

Sub-Total

Provincial Sales Tax - Ontario residents add 8% - We do not charge GST

Membership / Membership Renewal

Total   (USA and International orders please pay in US$.)

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name
Address
City/Town/PO
Province/State
Country
Postal/Zip Code
Home Phone
Business Phone
TPUG Membership #

DISK ☐ 1541/1571/4040   ☐ PET 8050
FORMAT ☐ Amiga   ☐ CP/M   ☐ MS-DOS

PAID BY
☐ Cash   (Do not mail cash)
☐ Cheque   (Payable to *TPUG Inc.*)
☐ Money Order   (Payable to *TPUG Inc.*)
☐ MasterCard   Card #
☐ VISA   Card Expiry Date

TPUG is not liable for any damages that may result either directly, or indirectly, from the use of the software on these disks. Most of these products are Public Domain or Shareware, and ownership cannot be assumed.

SIGNATURE

91/04/02   *(If joining or renewing, please include a list of your equipment and special interests.)*

At The Meetings

The **Central 64** chapter meeting at the end of March featured a video from Commodore. The clip outlined their worldwide operations and focussed on multimedia in Europe, and on the CDTV. One interesting statistic was an announced sales figure of "10 million units" for the 64, worldwide.

The next demonstration came from Rutger Fick. Rutger showed two video titlers for the 64, one of which is being prominently advertised in Camcorder Magazine.

After that, members spent an enjoyable couple of hours watching as Vince Haluschak and Dug Rodger demonstrated the Video Byte III video digitizer package for the 64.

Vince and Dug took pictures of each person in attendance, saved them as Koala files, and, thanks to Al Weinstein, gave out disks to take home! (Moral: always bring a supply of blanks to chapter meetings.) The Super Snapshot cartridge is very impressive at any time, let alone when run in tandem with the digitizer . . . afterwards all of the pictures were reviewed in an instant slide show *[available on disk* (C)HT*]*, and a couple were even printed! Also shown were demos of pictures taken from network television, eg "Star Trek TNG". Naturally, all pictures made with Video Byte III may be worked on with a Koala pad and are viewable in various colours.

Video Byte III costs $89.99, with no shipping charges on prepaid orders picked up at the next meeting. Call Dresser Electronics Supply for info at (416) 625-0891. — *Roman Kowalczuk*

In June the **C64 Chapter** had a garage sale. A dozen people sold their surplus equipment and software to about fifty others. A good buy was had by all.

In September Lou Black started us off by using Snapshot to show us a mini mystery on the (C)M4 disk. Sector 0 of track 18 on Commodore format disks contains the Block Availablility Map, the disk name and ID, and the DOS version. Bytes 170 to 255 are supposed to be "Nulls ($00), not used", but on this disk contain "BLOCKS FREE". After some speculating we concluded that 1541 DOS doesn't always bother

clearing this area and that other disks may contain other leftovers. The group also investigated the "short" filenames on disk (C)AAB, which turned out to have DELETE as their second character. Lou then demoed SuperCat from Cornucopia Software (bought from Software Support International), which can keep track of over 5000 programs on 640 disks.

The feature speaker at the October meeting was Jim Butterfield. Check the next issue for a report.

The **C128 Chapter** meetings continue to draw interest and visitors. Two people came from Owen Sound in April, and others from Orangeville, Lindsey and Peterborough in May.

Gord Newman got the new **GEOS Chapter** off to a good start from May to August, featuring demos of hardware by Derek Dresser, GeoPublish by Bruce Vrieling, Gateway and GeoTerm by Malcolm O'Brien, and a fonts demo.

Both the **Central Amiga** and **West Side Amiga** meetings both saw an AmigaWorld video "*Desk Top Video Volume 1*" in March. Andy King, of LaserCraft Unlimited, the Canadian distributor for Adspec, gave a Draw4D demo in May and returned with the even more impressive Draw4D Professional in September.

Other **Central Amiga** events include the special BBS meeting in April, the October buy and sell, and the virus discussion in May where we learned that VirusX 4.4 is a Trojan, that is, trouble in disguise.

In August George demoed Ultra F-4 & Disk Probe, which format and test disks. Ultra F-4 wouldn't run, while Disk Probe declared "This disk I believe has previously been warped" when it encountered our (A)TBH disk. George's $30 could have been better spent on equivalent PD programs with almost enough left to buy a year's TPUG membership.

The April **West Side** meeting started with the Commodore video "*A Global Family*", lent to us by Vince Haluschak. The 8 bit group then saw a Data 20 Z80 Video Pak (cheap from Active Surplus) and Dug's slideshow of TV images captured live with Video Byte. The Amiga room got demos of our (A)TBD and (A)TBG disks, discussed hard disks and diskettes, and dug into the source code of a word count program written in C. — *Ian McIntosh*

Want Ads

Adventures With Commodore - Part 2   Herb Balfour

[In part 1, Herb explained how his HAM radio hobby led him to the world of Commodore computers.]

Enter The C-128

I traded up to the C-128 as soon as it appeared. Had one of the early power supply problematic models, soon replaced it with a slightly improved style. The C-128D (the separate keyboard model) never really was widely available in Canada. By the way, neither was the B computer line ever available in Canada to my or Commodore Canada's knowledge.

No sooner had I acquired the new computer, than the experimentation started. Built and installed two outboard adaptors: one, a signal level converter with BASIC software from a friend to allow use of the "C" as a strip chart recorder for a radio signal. This mod is implemented through a joystick port. It really saved on the high cost of strip chart paper, and allowed printouts of only the areas you were really interested in. The problem with strip chart recorders, after you swallow the bitter pill of their costs, is the terrible waste of paper even when you don't really need such a record. Recording directly to disk without a paper recorder saved much time, aggravation and money. Disks could be examined for interesting or pertinent areas and print-outs commanded where needed.

We were interested on the effect our earth's changing magnetic field and the solar flux cycles had on radio, especially long and very long wave signals. This, in order to draw a correlation between the science of radio propagation prediction and natural phenomena.

A second interface connected to the user port when the modem is not in use served as Morse Code / Radio Teletype decoder and encoder for transmit / receive.

The power supply was upgraded to a third party unit made by Phoenix Electronics, which has yet to fail after 5 years. The original 1541 5.25" SS drive has had its ROM upgraded, as has the "C" itself, twice. Also, front panel device 8 through 11 switches were installed in the 1541. A mouse was added, various printers and Centronic adaptors, modems etc. The modem on the "C" needed a current loop adaptor, as there is NO RS-232C port on it. The mouse was adapted to allow "on the fly" resetting via a small momentary contact switch, for mode changes.

The monitor was upgraded to the really useful 40 / 80 column CVBS / RGBI CBM 1902A colour style, a favourite of mine. This allows the "C" to really shine, as C-64 mode is well supported, as are dual screen choices for the C-128 mode and various word processors. Furthermore, practical CP/M 3.0 use is achieved only by use of the 80 column colour monitor, in my opinion.

I have tried various speed-up cartridges, only to discard all in favour of the ROM replacement style that Creative Micro Designs offers. With their optional external defeat switch, if problems ever occur between the CBM ROM and their speed-up version, you are able to de-select it. Skyles Electronics of California also offered a ROM dual select double socket for the internal ROM socket, specifically targetted at implementing their own IEEE interface ROM along with the original C-128 ROM. With the addition of that dual socket and second outboard switch, I can jump between upgraded "C" ROM, IEEE interface ROM, and the CMD JiffyDOS ROM at will.

Null modem cables and porting software have been used extensively over the last few years to share files with an IBM clone and the B-128.

To continue with the drives' description, the 1541 was soon relegated to "rover" status, seldom used except when true 1541 emulation was required. Two fabulous 1571 MFM-capable 5.25" drives were added, usually configured as #s 8 and 10. They were fitted with JiffyDOS ROM upgrades, also front panel MFM DSSD / DSDD switches to allow even more CP/M compatibility. Two 1581 3.5" drives were also added, normally configured as drives 9 and 11, to allow more MS-DOS and CP/M formats to be used. This numbering system has proven least problematic in all modes to date: GEOS, CP/M 3.0, word processor and native.

A Skyles IEEE interface was fitted to the expansion port, next a Skyles port extender / expander (1 to 3 switchable ports), this chained to a 1750 RAM expander, taking the C-128 to 640 K (also, 30" front to back!!!). The depth of the overall C-128 machine is quite something now. You need a "deep" desk space!

A favourite mode of operation has been CP/M on the C-128, augmented much by local programmer and CP/M wizard Mike Garamszeghy. Much of my operations, and most experimentation, have centered in this mode. CP/M 2.2 / 3.0 / -80 / -86 convert and read utilities give MS-DOS near-compatibility as far as read, write, etc. The RAM expansion automatically comes up as Drive M under the last version of the operating system, and Mike's various patches and compatibility programs now have the "C" fluent in about 160 or so foreign CP/M versions.

All in all, I have been very pleased with the C-128. Somewhere in this period of enjoyable use and experimentation with the "C" machine, I was forced through business incompatibilities to accept the predominance of the MS-DOS system, thus . . .

Next issue: **Enter The Commodore PC-10 . . .**

Parsec C=128 Upgrade   Dug Rodger

Parsec is collecting letters from 128 owners who are interested in a . . . 10 MHz chip! It has not been made yet. What is needed is letters of support from those who want this beauty, and a research and development deposit.

1. Get a form from TPUG.
2. Send your form to Parsec.
3. When they have enough letters, they will request a $50 deposit on a final price promised not to exceed $200, and promise a delivery date.

4. When it is ready, they will ask you for the rest.

The 10 MHz package will work in all 128 modes (at 9 MHz in 40 column mode).

It should include 1 MB of 10 MHz RAM and contain "the expansion CBM should have put in in the first place." Many already know that two banks of 64K are missing (have a look at the BANK command and related docs). Some of you might remember the B-128 machine, a cousin of the C=128 which was expandable to 1 MB.

C64 Library Update

librarian - Dug Rodger

(C)ABM - Mar 91

LOADSTAR demo (flippy - $1 extra)

(C)ABN - Apr 91

CCGMS 2400 - excellent terminal program, configured for TPUG BBS, CRS demo line, etc
HANDITERM 8.5 - excellent terminal program, configured for TPUG BBS, CRS Demo Line, etc
TAX 90 - Jim Butterfield's Ontario income tax program for 1990
ULTRA V7 - lists / prints seq files

(C)HT - Graphics

AUTOGRAPH - views / copies / converts pictures, in all popular non-GEOS high-res and multi-colour formats. Supports multiple drives, dual drives, REU RAMDOS, and CMD hard drives.
March 91 C64 meeting slide show

(C)U8 - Utility

ZIPCODE 2 - disk tools - pack complete disk into 4 files, disassemble programs and sprites, edit directories, more.

(C)C12 - Communications

Novaterm 9.3 - 40 / 80 col, colour / mono, PETSCII / ASCII / ANSI, Kermit / Punter / X Modem / Y Modem, 300-2400 baud auto-dialing terminal program

(C)D5 - Demos

Video Byte III / Explode! V5 demo from T.S.G. (see page 6s & 10)
[Press "M", then space bar to page.]

C128 Library Update

librarian - John Milligan

(Y)ABN - Mar 91

TAX90V1 - Jim Butterfield's Ontario income tax program for 1990
PAWNS 128 - challenging game with pawns on chess board (40 col)
NONLINEAR - curve analysis (40 col)
DTS 128 - disk database (80 col)
DPDFIX - tests JFK bullet theories
TEXTREAD - lists / prints sequential text files (80 col)

(Y)ABO - Apr 91

FRACTAL40 - creates and saves fractal landscapes (40 col)
FRACTAL VIEWER - views saved fratal landscapes (40 col)
LAND/SEA SCAPE#1...6 - 6 sample fractal scenes
PERFECT FONT 2.0 - creates custom fonts (40 col)
DEFONT - custom font
ITALIC - custom font
TURMITES - graphic simulation of computer Turing machine (40 col)
STRANDED - text adventure game
ESC > - clear window when ESC > keys pressed (80 col) (with source)
IPAINTFORMAT - documentation on IPAINT picture structure (text)
1571CHECK - reports 1571 ROM version

(Y)ABP - May 91

KEYDOS.128 - set up KEYDOS function keys for utilities (80 col)
AUTOBOOT MAKER - make a KEYDOS autoboot disk

KEYDOS.RAMDOS - set up KEYDOS for Commodore RAMDOS
KEYDOS.QBB.RAMDOS - set up KEYDOS for Quick Brown Box
RUN64.KEYDOS - run C64 program from 128 mode (40 col)
CLEANER - KEYDOS batch clean up utility
FASTCOPY - KEYDOS fast file copy
PRINTQ - KEYDOS print multiple queued files, with formatting
RENAMER - KEYDOS batch rename utility
TRADER V2.2 - strategy oriented space trading game (80 col)
COMP02.SFX - names / addresses / phone numbers of most computer companies (text)
MSPSX-1.10 - converts MS-DOS Print Shop graphics to C64/C128 format (80 col)
TEXTREAD - lists / prints sequential text files (80 col)

(Y)SAE - Expo 89

CAT.128.LOADER - loads current C128 catalog
VIDEO POKER - video game (40 col)
BURGER 128 - video game (80 col)
ALIGNCHK.V2 - test 1541 / 1571 / 1581 drive alignment
GRAPHICS V4.2 - graphics demo (40 col)
128/80 DISK UTIL - utilities (80 col)
DIRECTRIX - manages directories
SEQ READER 128 - lists / prints sequential files
DISK WHIZ V1.1 - disk utilities
TIERRABASE 128 - database manager (80 col)

(Y)SAF - WOC 89

ALIGNCHECK128 - test alignment
128 SEQ EDITOR - list / patch sequential files
COPY.128 V3.7 - copies disks / files
DATA FILE 4.9 - database manager
CHESS 128 - game
BURGER 128 - video game (80 col)
LOTTO 128 - picks number combos
VIDEO POKER - video game (40 col)
DISK WHIZ - list / print /copy files

(Y)SAG - WOCA 90

CALCULART128 - draws pictures from calculations (40 col)
80-COLUMN TRICKS - 80 col text programming techniques
NAUGHTY NOTIES - writes / transposes music (80 col)
PERPET CALENDAR - makes a personalized calendar for any year
CBMCALC.128 - excellent calculator
TIERRABASE 128 - database manager (80 col)
BACKGAMMON - game
INVADERS - Space Invaders-like game (80 col)
STARTREK - game (80 col)
COLOR TEST 128 - test video colors
SDIR31 - lists directory with scrolling (80 col)
DISK WHIZ - list / print / copy files (80 col)
NERDCOPY - copies files (80 col) (needs 2 disk drives)
DISKNOSER - sector editor (80 col)
CROSS-REF128 - cross-references BASIC variables etc

TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT TPUG

TPUG Newsletter - Fall 1991 - Vol 4 #3   11

Amiga Library Update

librarian - George Skinner

Most **(A)** *disks include:*
Muchmore - views text files

(A)TBM - May 91

SuperDuper - very fast format / copy / verify (1 to 4 drives)
SCSI_lister - identifies SCSI devices
Movie Madness - movie database (needs 1 MB)
Simpsons - Bart & Lisa at school video game (needs joystick(s))
BootMenu 1.0 - boot time menu to select NTSC / PAL video, enable / disable hard disk and expansion boards, preserve RAD (with source)
df - Unix-like display disks (CLI)
TimeZones - show time across North America (CLI) (fails on some)
UnDo2 - identifies and calls correct view / extract utility for Arc / Zoo / Lzh / Zip / Wrp / Lhw / Zap and user definable compressed files
opt - reorganizes disk for speed
Virus_Checker 5.08 - detects and removes most viruses (CLI)
Earth - picture
Moon - picture
Eclipse - picture
IO - picture
Voyager - picture
shuttle - picture
memorial - picture
(These pictures need DeluxePaintIII or an IFF / ILBM viewer)

(A)TBN - June 91

LabelBase3 - mailing label database manager / printer

RRD - ASDG Recoverable RAM Disk
M2Du538 - dual window directory utility
FastMem - reserves all Fast RAM for old A1000 programs
SysMon - shows CPU / RAM / I/O / task usage
VMK - detects memory viruses
SIND 3.03 - shows AmigaDOS system tables
DisKey - excellent sector editor, also detects bootblock viruses
req.library - file and other requestor and gadget library

(A)TBO - July 91

PowerPong - improved Pong game
STU - System Test Utility tests RAM and disk drives
Geneology - family history database

(A)TBP - Aug 91

memtest - tests RAM (CLI)
systest - tests disk drives, also spins head cleaner disks (CLI)
BootPic 1.0 - installs any picture as mouse pointer (with asm source)
SnoopDos 1.2 - shows most AmigaDOS function calls, eg files, fonts, environment variables (CLI)
Virus_Checker - detects most boot block and link viruses (CLI)
FixSaddam - detects and removes Saddam virus (CLI)
TextPlus 3.0 - configurable multi-window word processor, supports ARexx, international characters, colour printing
Klondike 1.1c - popular solitaire

game with 7 piles of cards
Diary 1.0 - keeps diary (with C src)
Accel - how to modify your Amiga to double its speed (text) (use at your own risk)

TPUG's new **(AV)** *series are* **AmigaVision** *disks. You must have AmigaVision to run them, although you may use many of the component text files, pictures, music and animations with the appropriate viewers or players. Most will also need >1MB RAM.*

(AV)AAA - AV Aug 91

demo.AVf - AV demo (needs 1.5 MB)
UGDB - User Group DataBase (needs supplied fonts)
fonts (usable separately):
  Courier - 13 point
  Helvetica - 11/13/15/18/24
  Times - 13/15/18 point

(AV)AAB - AV Sept 91

Centurian - newspaper demo with hot areas (needs 2.5 MB)
text articles (viewable separately):
  NewAgeProgramming - using AV
  DevCon1990 - Amiga Developer's Conference report
  FastFAX - FAX board review
  Singe'sCastle - game review
  MonsterText - about animations
animations:
  Dracula
  Wolfman
  Frankenstein
  Phantom of the Opera
Wolf-face - picture
Atom - picture
Mickey - picture
Lo-res Graphics - pictures

TPUG always has the complete **Fred Fish AmigaLibDisk** (past **540** and growing) collection, and **Amicus** (to 26) and **FAUG** (to 9) sets.

Plus/4 Library Update

The Plus/4 Users' Group

(+4)PLUG C1
+4 FUN & GAMES

BREAKOUT	FUN/4
CARS	HANGMAN
DOORS	PACER MAN
DUEL	POTHOLE JUMPER
EXPLORER	WESTWARD HO!

(+4)PLUG C2
+4 TOOLS/FINANCE

BACKUP	UNSCRATCH
BIG SCRATCH	AMORTIZATION
DIRECTORY PRINT	HOME INVENTORY
FORMAT DISKS	MEDICAL RECORDS
NUNAME-NUNUMBER	PROPERTY EVAL

(+4)PLUG C3
+4 EDUCATION

CASH REGISTER	PROBABILITY MATCH
DATE CALCULATOR	SOLAR SYSTEM
DRINK AND DRIVE	STATES & REGIONS
MATH QUIZ	UNKINGJAMES
PIEMAKER	WEATHERMAN

MS-DOS Library Update

(M)EZPOINT (2 disks)

EZPOINT - receives FidoNet echoes from Fido boss nodes.

(needs modem and boss node access; 640K and hard disk advisable)

Here are three questions to consider:
1) Where are the computers located in your school? Are they distributed in classrooms or are they clustered in a computer lab?
2) How much structured use is being made of the computers in your school to promote and enhance specific measurable learning?
3) How competent do you feel about computer-aided learning?

When computers are located in classrooms there are factors which inhibit their use. The first is that classroom teaching is a very demanding activity. Saying that it presents problems akin to being a one-armed paper-hanger in a windstorm is really not an exaggeration. The introduction of a computer in a classroom requires knowing its operation, dealing with bugs in programs and with electrical and mechanical problems, and having the time to help young pupils as they flounder about. Quite frankly, classroom teaching and computer-aided learning can be like cats and dogs when in the same space. Young pupils on computers need a great amount of one-on-one attention which a classroom teacher can rarely offer. Common sense says that computer labs permit the most effective computer-aided learning.

Consider question 2. I have noticed that teachers tend to hand students a disk and just let them fiddle with it. If it is complicated or boring, the pupils soon turn away and ask for something else. When choosing programs for your pupils, determine what structured measurable learning is provided.

I use addition and multiplication drill programs that take pupils from simple $1+1$ or 2×2 to mastery of multi-column addition and the times tables. Most pupils will work on good drill programs with a degree of prolonged concentration that few teachers could sustain. In fact, I have discovered that pupils who supposedly have limited attention span in the classroom will bite into drill programs with the intensity of young bulldogs. Computer-based drill allows the teacher to focus on the more subtle aspects of learning.

Word processors provide printouts which, when edited, guide pupils in correcting their files. Specific editing exercises also can be prepared. Word processing activity can have a positive impact on spelling, punctuation, and grammar. It can also encourage logical and creative thinking.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I believe pupils should be introduced to touch typing in grade 3. They will be confronted with QWERTY keyboards while in school and many will work with computers in adult life. Strike while the iron is hot and maleable!

There is no need for any teacher to be spooked by PETs and C64s. I was shown how to load a program from disk by a precocious grade 1 youngster. You can't learn to swim until you jump into the water nor can you learn to use a computer by sniffing at it. My advice is to relax, call your computer TOM (Totally Obedient Moron), and find somebody who knows a bit more about it than you do. Then simply dive in and have fun.

(C)ED-11

Mathematics
Grades 3 to 5
  Quick math
  Basic math drill
  Math test 1
  Bomb addition
  Brain crane +
  Brain crane x

Brain crane /
Addition tutor
Add & sub
Adds and subs
Times tables
Reducing fractio
Add drill
Teacher information

(C)ED-12

English
Grades 3 to 8
  Challenge 1 ... 11
  Saw 1 ... 3
  Crazy English
  Word Search
  The scrambler
  Z's and Q's

(C)ED-13

17 Math Lessons
Grade 3 to 4

(C)ED-14

19 Math Lessons
Grades 3 to 4

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  phone (613) 728-5911

Boston:
★ Progenius
  71 Washington
  (at Commonwealth)
  Brighton, Mass 02135
  phone (617) 789-4122

TPUG Discounts

*Several stores give discounts on
some items (typically software,
books, magazines, blank disks, etc)
to TPUG members:*
  Electronics 2001
  Comspec
  Progeni
Ask them for details, and save!

Want Ads

URGENTLY NEED replacement
Script 64 disk! Call Dave Oliver
889-0215 voice / 889-3100 fax.

SX64 $300. Al Bianco 754-0689.

2040, 4040, and high density 8050
PET dual disk drives $75, Cables $25.
PET 2001 and 4016 not working -
make an offer. Zenith monochrome
monitor $40. Call 757-8399.

DigiView 4 for sale. Call Michael
Phillips at 656-9829.

CBM 8296 Supplement To The 8032
Manual $5, User's Reference Manual
Commodore BASIC Version 4.0 $15,
PET/CBM Personal Computer Guide
second edition by Osborne &
Donahue $10. Call Bruce 757-8399.

Wanted Kaypro 2 boot disk. Call
Tim at 542-2181.

Turnkey Punter BBS installation
available for clubs and individuals.
Write to *TNSS*, Box 6238, Toronto,
Ontario Canada M5W 1P6 or call
(416) 462-3168.

Batteries Included 80 column card
for C64. David Robertson 694-9810.

Amiga MIDI: Soundscape sequencer
$25, MIDI Magic $10, CZMaster
editor/librarian for Casio CZ101,
CZ1000, CZ25000, CZ3000 $20. Call
Doug Pringle 240-8655.

At ComputerFest in mid September,
Jim Butterfield spoke about the new
CDTV and Commodore's prospects
in the emerging Eastern markets,
and later stopped by TPUG's booth.

Monochrome Electrohome composite
plus audio monitor with tuner. Also
VIC 20, monitor cable for VIC 20, and
BASIC Part 1 & 2 manuals and
cassettes. Tim 542-2181.

CRS voice info line 620-1439.

2 SFD 1001 drives, Buscard II, IEEE
cable, interface, 2 power cords, ref
manual for sale. Prefer package deal
or 2 way split. Gus 462-3168.

PET Manuals For Sale   542-2181

Commodore Business Computer Users Guide Series 8000	$15
User Manual for CBM 5 1/4" Dual Floppy Drives (for 2040 3040 4040 8050)	$15
Disk System User Reference Guide (for 2031 4040 8050 8250 9060 9090)	$15
SuperPET Manuals: System Overview, Waterloo 6809 Assembler, Waterloo Micro Pascal, Micro BASIC, Micro Fortran, Micro APL	$10
KRAM Keyed Random Access Method manuals (for PET or Apple][)	$10

Norland C64 Software From TPUG

Use the order form on page 8.

$3 each
Assorted Amusements
Trivia Bits
Screen Gem
Colossal Cave Adventure
Island Adventure
Mountain Palace Adventure
Adventure 's Six-Pack
Calc Right! *(spreadsheet)*
Norland Speed Term

Easy Assembler
Extended BASIC
Business BASIC
Add-On BASIC

$5 each
Moving Pictures *(animator)*
ESI Facsimile *(disk copier)*
Pro-Line CADPIC 64 *(drawing)*
Pro-Line POWER 64 *(BASIC)*
~~Pro-Line C POWER 64~~ - OUT OF STOCK!
Pro-Line PROFILE 64 *(database)*