DAVID CAMPBELL

The Dispatch Disk.
Southern Districts Commodore Users Club Inc.

<u>September 87.</u>

<u>COMMITTEE - 1986/87.</u>

President	: Ken Pilkington phone 382 7119	16 Anselm St.	Christie Downs.
Secretary	: John Hancock phone 381 7973	2 Pat Cres.	Morphett Vale.
Treasurer	: Julie Collins phone 381 7202	12 Resolute Cres.	Hallett Cove.
Assisting	: Austen Evans phone 387 0249	10 Galatea St.	Hallett Cove.
	Mike Griffin phone 216 9193	11 Dudley Cresc.	Marino.
	Sam Hancock phone 384 4231	4 Elsie St.	Christie Downs.
Librarian	: John Hancock - see secretary above. Library open 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm each general meeting.		
Newsletter	: Rob Price phone 270 5694	66 Bolton Court	Flagstaff Hill

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Next meeting : MONDAY 26th October at 7:30 pm. A.G.M.

Location : Salvation Army Hall Elizabeth Rd. Morphett Vale.
Subject : A.G.M., Paperback Writer.

November:***REYNELLA EAST HIGH SCHOOL***
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NOVEMBER MEETING.

Please note that the November meeting will be held at the Reynella East High School computer room.

Don't miss out on this special meeting it could be one of the highlights of the year.

TONIGHT'S MEETING.

Speakers at tonight's meeting will be Gregg Dodd, who will introduce us to "Paperback Writer" a word processor program, and Sam Hancock will be our Guest speaker for the night.

SURVEY OF CLUB MEMBERS

What were the results ?
What are we going to do with them ?

The first question is easy to answer, here are the results:-

Category	Score	Range	SIG's
Software reviews	136	4-10	-
Word processing	133	4-10	4
Hardware reviews	131	4-10	-
Books	123	2-10	-
Graphics	123	2-10	2
Data base	118	1-10	3
Games educational	116	1-10	3
Basic	103	1-10	5
Games adventure	102	1- 9	-
Spreadsheets	99	1-10	3
Music	97	1-10	3
Machine language	90	1-10	4
Games other	90	1-10	-
Modems	90	1-10	-
Fast load	87	1-10	-
Bulletin boards	77	1-10	-
Flight simulators	59	1-10	-
CP/M	57	1-10	2
Other languages	43	1-10	-
Pascal	42	1-10	-
Viatel	38	1- 6	-

General comments on the results

1. 18 survey sheets were returned, making a maximum possible score of 180.

2. There is a wide range of interests, with nearly every category rating a 10 from at least one club member.

3. A lot of people said they wanted to use their computer for a wider range of activities - This is great, because that is what the club is all about.

4. Machine language programs and modems did not score too well, does this mean that we forget about them ? NO ! They certainly won't recieve the same attention as word processors, but there is a good chance that some of the club members are not fully aware of what these topics mean.

<u>Where do we go from here ?</u>

1.   7 special interest groups could possibly be formed :
      Word processing
      Basic
      Database
      Games educational
      Spreadsheets
      Music
      Machine language

The committee will be approaching people who indicated an
interest in SIG's.

2.   Future meetings should address mainly the topics in the
top half of the list, hopefully the SIG's will be able to
assist in the preparation of demo material.

3.   If there is enough interest, tutorial sessions will be
held after the monthly general meeting, with the intention of
teaching people more about computers and computing.
e.g. Austen Evans has already volunteered to run tutorials on
Basic, and sessions will be held as soon as Austen has
prepared the details.

4.   If your main areas of interest didn't score too well,
how about giving it some publicity by preparing a demo ?
We can slip in a 15 minute demo at virtually any meeting,
just talk to any committee member.

Finally, thanks for the time taken to fill out the surveys,
thet will help the club decide the coontent of future
meetings.

Ken P.   August 1987

OCTOBER 26th – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The october meeting will be our A.G.M., and at that time we will elect a new committee to steer the club through 1987/88.

Before discussing the new year, I would like to look back on the first year of the club's existence. When the club was first formed, we started out with only about twelve members, which has steadily grown to its present level of 23 members – I hope we double our membership again next year.

Despite a relatively small membership, the club meetings have been very well attended, with about 80% of members attending each monthly meeting. This kind of support for the club is very much appreciated by the committee and has encouraged them to work even harder for the club's benefit. High spots for the year have included demos of Dolphin DOS, Amiga, Apple Macintosh, Viatel and Cockroach graphics.

The club's financial position at the end of the first year is best described as 'adequate', with the balance sheet (supplied by the treasurer) showing our assets as $80-00.

I would like to thank the outgoing committee for all their work during the last year, and though they were not elected to the committee, I would also like to thank my wife, Sylvia, and our editor, Rob Price for their efforts during the year. It has been my pleaure to have been working with all of these people over the last twelve months, Thank you all for a job well done.

Now ... on to next year's business, the A.G.M.

ELECTIONS

All positions will be declared vacant, and nominations will be called for Preident, Secretary, Treasurer and 3-5 Committee members.

Please give some consideration to accepting a nomination for any of these positions, the club needs as much help as you can give.

FEES

The committee have assessed next year's expenses, and can see no reason to increase the fees, which will remain at :-
    $10:00 for single membership,
    $15:00 for family membership,
    $ 5:00 for Corporate membership.
    $ 5:00 once only nomination fee.

Please note that fees will be due and collected on the evening of the A.G.M.

Looking forward to 1987/88,

Ken Pilkington, September 1987.

SPREADSHEETS ON THE COMMODORE 64

This is one of a number of business applications that many people avoid like some people avoid flying or spiders. Like other fears this fear of spreadsheets can be best dealt with through using them. They can be quite easy to use for simple tasks but they can be quite powerfull for more complicated applications.

There are a number available for the Commodore 64. Those that I have seen are MULTIPLAN and VISICALC for the 64, and SWIFT and SWIFTCALC for the 128. Swiftcalc has the advantage that it can print sideways on dot matrix printers, but more about this later. Spreadsheets are like Rambo movies, once you have seen one you have seen them all. I can hear spreadsheet users screaming "But what about....". Yes, some are better or faster or have more features but they all look the same, work in a similar way. When I saw Lotus 123 for the first time, (probably named after a car race) it took me about half an hour to feel happy with using it. The differences between this spreadsheet and others I have used were that small. I was certainly not an experienced user after just half an hour but most spreadsheet applications are not that complicated.

The computer spreadsheet was named after a large sheet of paper that is ruled into rows and columns and used for entering transactions for a business etc. Along the top of the sheet may be placed the months and down the sides may be placed the accounts int which the transactions go. An ideal example of a spreadsheet application is a home budget. Along the top will be placed the pay periods and down the side placed the areas of income and expenditure. These may be labled; Income, Utilities, Food & Household, Car, House Insurance etc. Along the bottom and sides will be placed totals for each pay period and area of income and expenditure. Now comes the part that makes the spreadsheet so powerful. All the totals are automatic. That is when a number is changed anywhere in the sheet the totals will change automatically to show just what the effect will be. Let us say that in our home budget above our income is $20,000 and our total predicted expenditure is $22,000. On looking at our expenditure we see areas that can be reduced. We can then gradually reduce these areas until we see our expenditure fall below $20,000.

The above example is what the spreadsheet was designed for. To make predictions about income and expenditure. Of course we can build spreadsheets on any one of these areas for example car expenses.

The users of spreadsheets soon discovered other ways to use spreadsheets. Thinking about buying a house. Go to any bank or building society and you will get different interest rates, maximum terms and minimum deposits. And then there are the second mortgages. Confused! Then design a spreadsheet to show them all at once and then change the purchase price of the house to see who will lend you the money at the best rate. Last year I

	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTAL
HOME BUDGET				
HOUSE				
Mortgage				0.00
Tax/Ins.				0.00
Improvement				0.00
TOTAL HOUSE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
UTILITIES				
Electricity				0.00
Gas				0.00
Telephone				0.00
Trash				0.00
Water				0.00
TOTAL UTILITIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CAR				
Loan				0.00
Insurance				0.00
Maintenance				0.00
TOTAL CAR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
EXPENSES				
Food				0.00
Entertnmt.				0.00
Gas				0.00
Clothes				0.00
Misc.				0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
HEALTH				
Medical				0.00
Dental				0.00
Eyecare				0.00
TOTAL HEALTH	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SAVINGS				
Passbook				0.00
IRA				0.00
TOTAL SAVINGS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CREDIT CARDS				
MasterCard				0.00
Visa				0.00
Dept. Stores				0.00
Gas Cards				0.00
TOTAL CREDIT CARDS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL HOME BUDGET	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTAL
BUSINESS BUDGET				
WAGES				
Salaries				0.00
Overtime				0.00
Commission				0.00
Temp Labor				0.00
TOTAL WAGES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
EXPENSES				
Rent				0.00
Utilities				0.00
Telephone				0.00
Computer Equip				0.00
Office Supplies				0.00
Copier				0.00
Travel				0.00
Insurance				0.00
Recruiting				0.00
Advertising				0.00
Entertainment				0.00
Automobile				0.00
Maint & Repair				0.00
Trade Shows				0.00
Depreciation				0.00
Dues				0.00
Subscriptions				0.00
Loan Payment				0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PROF SERVICES				
Legal				0.00
Accounting				0.00
Consultant				0.00
TOTAL SERVICES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL BUDGET	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00