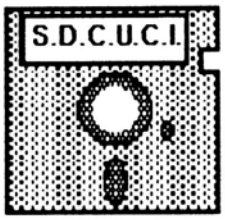
SOUTHERN DISTRICTS COMMODORE USERS CLUB INC.



DISPATCH DISK

DECEMBER 1990

NEWSLETTER VOL. 4 / NO. 12

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Editorial

Hello everyone,

This is the last newsletter for the 1990's, which happens to be our Christmas edition of the DISPATCH DISK. The past year has been quite good for the club in general and hopefully the new year will be as good as the past year, if not better. At this point I must thank Jeff, Ross and Robert, plus all those members and friends who have assisted me, plus sent in articles and reviews. One must thank Christine (my wife), who is now our club's secretary, for her time and effort in producing our monthly "COMPUTER PUZZLES", not an easy task I'm told.

Lately the club has been supplied some preliminary information about new products for 64/128 and a price list of articles available from H.P.D. Pty Ltd. The new products, RAMDRIVE and RAMLINK will possibly be available mid January 1991, for prices you will have to ring H.P.D. as they have not quoted any as such until the goods are available. I have included the relevant brochures in this newsletter, plus the price lists can be obtained from Robert Cloosterman. If any members has any information or knowledge of new products or suppliers, it would be an idea if they would pass it on to be published and be of benefit to other members.

In this edition of the DISPATCH DISK there are various articles, including the above mentioned RAMDRIVE and RAMLINK. Also R. Cloosterman has supplied CLUB NOTICES and BOOK REVIEW, an article about the club's magazine and book library. There is the KEY BOARD PRAYER,WHICH ARE YOU plus the usual COMPUTER PUZZLE ,POKES and PEEKS, EDITORIAL and DISPATCH DISK NOTES. The PROBLEM PAGE has appeared again, hopefully there will be some problems to solve as there has not been enough problems to publish the answers. At this point my family and I would like to wish every one a safe and enjoyable holiday plus a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

JAN VAN DE BELT EDITOR

CHRISTMAS EDITION

CLUB NOTICES

A short note to inform the club and members of a temporary change to the committee. Due to illness, Tony Heard will temporarily be unavailable as Treasurer but Alex Morrison has offered to take over his position until Tony recovers and resumes his role as Treasurer again.

****

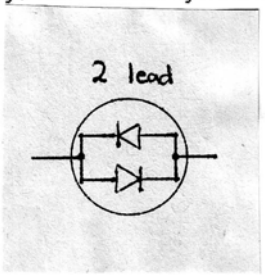
It has come to my attention that some members have not paid their Annual Membership Fee yet! To those, PLEASE do so as soon as possible so we can get our books in order. If this is not done by Xmas you can be classified as an unfinancial member and therefore considered no longer a member. If you have any problems in this regard let one of the committee members or myself know so we can come to some sort of agreement.

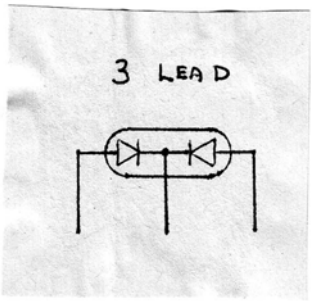
****

A bit of Trivia.....As you may know, the club has been bulk purchasing Blank 5 1/4 inch disks since May 1990, we have purchased 830 disks (83 boxes of 10) and they are being sold almost as fast as we get them, that is about 100 disks per month.

****

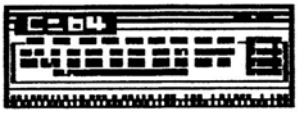
Terry Pitt has reminded me that I have forgotten to give credit to some people. The article on the Write Protect Switch that was published in Octobers Dispatch Disk was origionally done by Mark Leske and William Abel in the "computer Connection issue no 2. My apologies to these people and Thank You Terry for reminding me. Terry has also given me the correct symbol for the Dual or Tri Coloured LED published in that aricle. To the people that I may have confused at the time, I am sorry, the correct symbols are below.





Rob Cloosterman.....

THE KEYBOARD PRAYER



Our program who art in memory,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy operating system come,
Thy commands be done,
At the printer as it is on the screen.
Give us this day our daily data.
And forgive us our input errors,
As we forgive those whose logic circuits are faulty.
Lead us not into frustration,
And deliver us from power surges.
For thine is the algorithm, the application, and the solution.
Looping forever and ever.
RETURN

WHICH ARE YOU

Are you an Active Member
The Kind that would be missed,
Or are you just contented
Your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings,
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay at home,
And criticise and Knock?
Do you take an active part
To help the work along,
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belong?
Do you push the Cause along,
And make things really tick,
Or talk about the "Clique"?
Think this over Member,
You know the Right from Wrong
Are YOU an Active Member,
Or do you just belong?

POKES AND PEEKS

This month we have a few interesting POKES that you might find useful in your programs or just play around with. These POKES I have managed to scrounge out of an earlier edition of the COMMODORE AND AMIGA REVEIW. It would be appreciated if other members or their friends , assist me by suppling me with more POKES and PEEKS or ideas in this vein, as I'm running out of ideas.

POKES	DEFINITIONS
1 - POKE 788,80	1 - Enables you to use the cursor keys to draw in blocks like using reverse on and pushing space bar.
2 - POKE 788,52	2 - Use in programs like typing tutors and data bases. This makes the run stop key have no effect if you accidentally push it.
3 - POKE 774,0	3 - Use once finished typing in a program. When typed in you cannot see the listing of your program. This is good to use if you need a password. so if someone lists it to find the password they won't find it. Unfortunately there dosen't seem to be a poke to bring the listing back.
4 - POKE 650,128	4 - All this does is make the key repeat itself by holding down a key.
5 - POKE 773,0	5 - Once this poke is typed in you cannot use the list command. eg if you type in list a syntax error will appear.
6 - POKE 788,55	6 - Makes the cursor flash faster.
7 - POKE 769,164	7 - Prompt messages disappear (like ready). If you list your program a familiar ready will appear. But with the aid of this poke it will not appear.
8 - POKE 769,227	8 - Makes the prompt message reappear.
9 - POKE 646,c	9 - Enables you to control the cursor colour. The c means the number of the colour you want.
10 - POKE 53272,a	10 - Used for making your own redefined characters. The a is for the location where you want to store it.
11 - POKE 788,93	11 - This poke stops the cursor from flashing and makes it invisible.
12 - POKE 2048,13	12 - After this poke is entered the "RUN" command will fail.
13 - POKE 808,234	13 - Good to use after finishing a program. It makes so you cannot runstop restore programs.
14 - POKE 808,235	14 - This enables you to runstop restore programs.

GAMES HINTS

In line with is months meeting (a games night), here are a bunch of hints and tips. Hopefully these will keep you going over the Christmas and New Year break.

ROBOCOP

* Reset the game once loaded and type : -
  POKE 35028,173 (extra speed of game)
  POKE 33034,173 (no enemies)
  POKE 44179,96 (infinite lives)
  POKE 44392,96 (infinite lives)
  SYS 32768 restarts the game

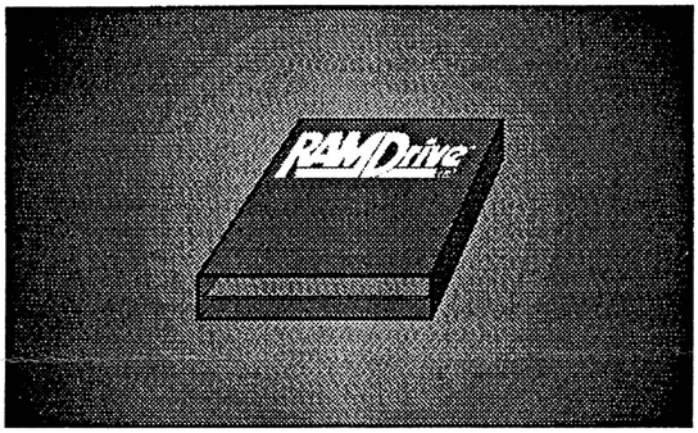
GHOSTBUSTERS

* When you are asked for your name, type OWEN. For your account number type LIST. This will give you plenty of spending money.
* Type your name as ANDY and your account number as 777 for a lot of cash.

RAMDrive™

Power-Backed RAM Expander with a Commodore Compatible DOS

Designed and manufactured by
PERFORMANCE PERIPHERALS Inc.



A Fresh New Approach to RAM Expansion

- Compatible with a vast amount of commercial software as a high speed RAM based disk drive.
- Installable DOS operates up to 20 times faster than Commodore's RAMDOS and provides full Commodore DOS command compatibility.
- DOS includes JiffyDOS Kernal routines for high-speed disk access with JiffyDOS equipped disk drives.
- Software for copying and GEOS compatibility included.
- Power backup eliminates loss of data files upon powering down the computer.
- Battery connector included for battery-backup.
- Reset switch allows computer to be reset while retaining data in the RAM disk.
- Disable switch allows the RAM disk to be disabled at any time.
- Available in capacities of 512K, 1 Megabyte and 2 Megabytes.
- Compact design housed in a standard cartridge case.

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

H.P.D. PTY LTD
5-7 RAILWAY TERRACE
P.O. BOX 121, DRY CREEK S.A. 5094
TEL: (08) 349 8486 FAX: (08) 349 4667
DISTRIBUTORS OF COMPUTER HARDWARE & SOFTWARE

What is RAMDrive?

RAMDrive is a new approach to RAM expansion for the Commodore 64 and 128 computers. RAMDrive may be used as a stand-alone RAM expander or may be combined with RAMLink for a more flexible RAM disk system. RAMDrive plugs directly into the C-64/C-128 cartridge port and provides a RAM disk drive system which, when used with the supplied DOS, is compatible with standard Commodore DOS commands. RAMDrive greatly enhances the capabilities of your system by providing high-speed loading, saving, and many other standard DOS functions. The RAMDrive hardware/software interface provide a high degree of compatibility to allow vast amounts of current software to utilize RAM as if it were a disk drive. RAMDrive is power-backed to protect the contents of RAM when your computer is switched off or may use a battery in place of the power unit to protect data when power failures occur. RAMDrive will also work in conjunction with a Commodore REU on a modified Aprospand Bus.

Performance

RAMDrive uses RL DOS to give you the speed you expect from a RAM disk. Unlike Commodore's RAMDOS, RAMDrive is not bogged down by constant memory swaps. This enables RAMDrive to perform up to 20 times faster than RAMDOS for most types of file access. In addition, RAMDrive's version of RL DOS has built-in JiffyDOS Kernal routines to provide greatly increased speed and other features when accessing serial drives equipped with JiffyDOS.

Compatibility

RAMDrive's specially-designed hardware interface combined with the RL DOS operating system give it the ability to work as a RAM disk with almost all commercial software. RAMDrive's DOS is active immediatly upon power-up after the initial setup procedure and does not require the use of any RAM or vectors in the computer. As a result, RAMDrive's DOS cannot be accidentally disabled or overwritten by software. RAMDrive's version of RL DOS also supports all Commodore DOS commands (including block reads and writes), enabling it to be compatible with the many programs that utilize these commands.

Why Choose RAMDrive?

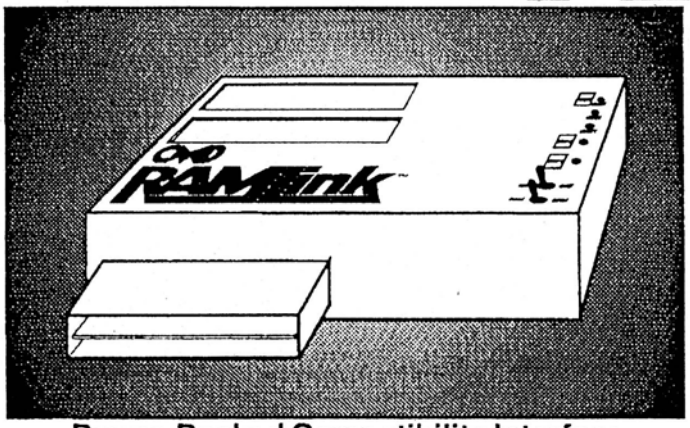
RAMDrive, with its extensive DOS and power-backed features, is an obvious choice over any other standard RAM unit available. For those who don't need the extensive capabilities of RAMLink, RAMDrive provides an affordable alternative without sacrificing compatibility or speed. RAMDrive may also be used in combination with RAMLink to battery-back a portion of RAM without RAMLink's optional battery backup unit.

Commodore C-64, Commodore C-128, Commodore 1700, Commodore 1764, Commodore 1750 and Commodore RAMDOS are trademarks of Commodore International. GEORAM is a trademark of Berkeley Softworks, Inc. RAMDrive is a trademark of Performance Peripherals, Inc.

RAMDrive is distributed by

Creative Micro Designs, Inc.
50 Industrial Drive, PO Box 646
East Longmeadow, MA 01028
ORDERS ONLY: 1-800-638-3263
Information: 1-413-525-0023
BBS: 1-413-525-0148
FAX: 1-413-525-0147

CMD RAMLink™



Power-Backed Compatibility Interface for C-64 and C-128 REU's

- Allows a vast amount of commercial software to access your RAM Expansion Unit as a high-performance RAM Disk.
- Supports Commodore 1700, 1764 and 1750, Berkeley Softworks GEORAM and Performance Peripherals' RAMDrive RAM Expansion Units.
- Optional RAMCard allows RAMLink to be used as a RAM disk with or without separate RAM expansion units.
- Built-in RL DOS performs up to 20 times faster than Commodore RAMDOS and provides full Commodore DOS command compatibility.
- Includes JiffyDOS Kernal routines for high-speed disk access with JiffyDOS equipped disk drives.
- Software for copying and GEOS compatibility included.
- Separate power source eliminates RAM data loss when turning off the computer.
- Pass-thru connector allows a second cartridge-port peripheral such as a MIDI interface or utility cartridge to be used at the same time as the REU.
- Parallel port provides ultra-fast data transfer when connected to CMD HD Series Hard Drive.
- Reset, Disable and Direct REU Access Mode switches, and device number SWAP functions are standard features.

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P.O. BOX 121, DRY CREEK S.A. 5094
TEL: (08) 349 8486 FAX: (08) 349 4867
DISTRIBUTORS OF COMPUTER HARDWARE & SOFTWARE

What is RAMLink?

RAMLink is a multi-purpose hardware interface designed to overcome the limitations of C-64 and C-128 RAM expansion units while providing other substantial benefits. RAMLink delivers the performance and compatibily lacking in other RAM products by providing a highly compatible and efficient DOS interface. This interface allows vast amounts of current software to utilize any Commodore REU (1700/1764/1750) Berkeley Softwork's GEORAM, Performance Peripherals' RAMDrive or CMD's RAMCard as if it were a disk drive. RAMLink may also be used as a stand-alone RAM expander and provides a parallel interface for the CMD HD series of hard drives. RAMLink plugs directly into the C-64/C-128 cartridge port and provides a special REU port and a pass-thru port for attachment of other types of cartridges. It is also possible to combine the use of RAMCard with any of the other RAM expanders mentioned for a total of up to 16 Megabytes of RAM storage.

Performance

RAMLink gives you the speed you expect from a RAM disk. Unlike Commodore's RAMDOS, RAMLink is not bogged down by constant memory swaps. This enables RAMLink to perform up to 20 times faster than RAMDOS with most types of file access. In addition, RAMLink has built-in JiffyDOS Kernal routines to provide greatly increased speed and other features when accessing serial drives equipped with JiffyDOS. RAMLink also provides a parallel port for connection to CMD's HD Series Hard Drives, for ultra-fast hard disk access.

Compatibility

RAMLink's specially-designed hardware interface combined with a built-in operating system (RL DOS) give it the ability to work as a RAM disk with almost all commercial software. RAMLink's DOS is active immediatly upon power-up (no software to load) and does not require the use of any RAM or vectors in the computer. As a result, RAMLink's DOS cannot be accidentally disabled or overwritten by software. RAMLink also supports all Commodore DOS commands (including block reads and writes), enabling it to be compatible with the many programs that utilize these commands.

RAMLink Options

RAMCard - Internal RAM expansion for RAMLink which may be used in additon to REU memory or by itself.
Battery-Backup Unit - Protects against data loss during power failures or when RAMLink is unplugged.
Parallel Cable - Connects the CMD HD hard drive to RAMLink for high-speed parallel data transfers.
1 Mb SIMMs - Allows end users to add RAM to RAMCard.

Commodore C-64, Commodore C-128, Commodore 1700, Commodore 1764, Commodore 1750 and Commodore RAMDOS are trademarks of Commodore International. GEORAM is a trademark of Berkeley Softworks, Inc. RAMDrive is a trademark of Performance Peripherals, Inc.

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BBS: 1-413-525-0148
FAX: 1-413-525-0147

COMPUTER PUZZLE

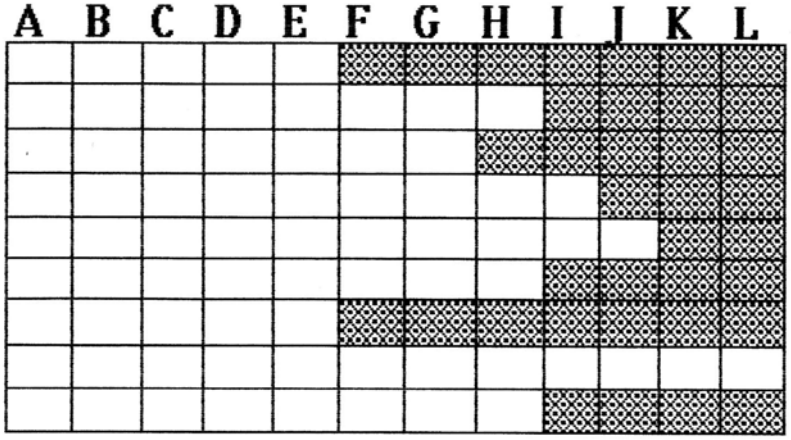
CHRISTMAS PUZZLE

DOUBLE CROSS

UNJUMBLE THE WORDS AND PUT THE ANSWERS ON THE RIGHT. THEN TRANSFER THE LETTERS, INTO THE LOWER GRID, CORRESPONDING WITH THEIR REFERENCE NUMBERS, TO FIND THE MESSAGE. COLUMN A WILL GIVE YOU A WORD FOR WHAT SEASON IT IS.

ACROSS CLUES

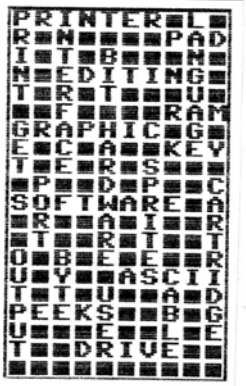
1 LBAEC
2 DAWERHAR
3 TREORES
4 FINECEATR
5 SEERHSYNTI
6 NAIMLTER
7 SEUMO
8 TLPAINPACOSI
9 TFWREAOS



D3	A2	H9										
F8	J8	A7	D6	G5	H8	D9	I4	E7				
F9	K8	D2										
A6	E5	E1	A4	C6								
C9	G8	D6	G5	D1	E8	F5	L8					
E2	I8	H5	A2	B6	H5							
G6	H6	D1										
D6	F5	A7	C1	E7	C2	C3						
F9	B4	D2										
D9	E5	G3	I8	G2								
C9	A8	D6	E6	H6	A4	D4	D7					
F9												
D6	B6	F3	G9	B5								
F8	E5	J5	I8	L8	D9	A7	E2	A5				
G8	C5	D2										
B1												
A2	G6	C8	B8	B5								
F6	I4	E9										
B5	H9	F2	C2									

NOVEMBER'S SOLUTION

JUMBLE WORDS



BOOK REVIEW

At the November Meeting I went through the clubs magazine library to see if there was an article in one of them that might interest me! Before I realised it I had picked up a half a dozen magazines to be followed by a suggestion from Jeff to take the whole lot home to brows through at my own leasure. At home I picked out 2 magazines at random and found an article in each which with a small amount of time spent on typing the programs in, could become quite useful to me.

I am going to attempt to review a book or magazine each month. Hopefully there will be something of interest to everyone each time. At this time I am giving you a list (below) of most of the magazines and books currently in the Library.

NAME	DATE
Compute!'s Gazette	March '84
" "	Dec. '84
" "	June '86
" "	Dec. '86
" "	Aug. '87
" "	Aug. '88
" "	Jan. '89
" "	March '89
" "	May '89
" "	July '89
" "	Nov. '89
Compute	June '88
Ahoy	Nov. '88
Your Commodore	Nov. '88
" "	May '89
" "	Nov. '89
" "	Jan. '90
Commodore	Nov. '89
Zap 64	June '88
C= 64 Exposed (hand operators book)	
Commodore 1988 Hardware Byers Guide	
E.T.I.	Aug. '86
50 Basic Exercises for C=64	

NAME	DATE
Compute!'s Gazette	Nov. '84
" "	June '85
" "	Sept. '86
" "	May '87
" "	Dec. '87
" "	Oct. '88
" "	Feb. '89
" "	April '89
" "	May '89
" "	Sept. '89
" "	Dec. '89
Commodore User	Dec. '85
Ahoy	Dec. '88
Your Commodore	April '89
" "	Aug. '89
" "	Dec '89
Commodore	October
Commodore Mag.	V.5 No.4 iss32
Zap 64	April '89
Aust. Personal Computers	
Commodore 1987 Disk Users H/Book	
Aust. Elect. Monthly	Aug.'86
C=64 Ideas Book	

With this list I hope some of you can come and brows through them at the meetings and borrow one to take home for a month. Your help will be gratefully appreciated if you could write an article or summary on a magazine as we need different opinions to get a broader perspective on them.

In one magazine that I chose at random I found an Educational game that people of all ages can play and a Card Filling System that can be used for many applications such as cookbook recipes, names and addresses, phone numbers or whatever you may think of, also many articles of interesting reading. Some of the books may be a bit old but on browsing through them I started to pick up small amounts of information that become quite useful to me, as I have no doubt to you also. This information can be passed on to anyone who is just starting out with a computer and don't quite understand why certain programs do what they do.

Your help would be gratefully appreciated and also if you have any magazines or books that you may not want anymore you may consider donating them to the club.

Rob Cloosterman

?????? PROBLEM PAGE ??????
WHERE PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED

Are you having any problems?, such as Software, EG:- Programs, Processors, Games, Art, etc. Plus getting the programs to run or how they work and any problems you may have using the programs.

HARDWARE, EG:- Printers, Disk Drive, Keyboards, Mouse, etc, plus any enquires on what goes better with what and how does it work.

PROGRAMING, EG:- Basic, Machine Language and programing problems. Or any other problems you might be experiencing with the C64/128; plus suggestions for future WORKSHOP and.DEMONSTRATION.

PROBLEMS/QUESTIONS

(1)

(2)

(3)

DISPATCH DISK NOTES

COMMITTEE 1990-91

PRESIDENT -	R.Cloosterman	382-0781
SECRETARY-	C. Van de Belt	382-8660
TREASURER-	A. Heard	085 56-5828
NEWSLETTER ED-	J. Van de Belt	382-8660
64 LIBRARIAN-	J. Carey	294-8447
128 LIBRARIAN-	M. Tippins	381-3181
COM. MEMBER-	A. Morrison	085 56-5013

Our Disk and Magazine libraries are open at each general meeting from 7:30pm.

If you have any contributions for the newsletter, see Rob, Jeff or Jan.

NEXT MEETING

Our next general meeting will be held on the 16th January 1991 7:30pm.

SUBJECT:- BASIC AND BASIC WORKSHOP

LOCATION:- Meetings are held in the house behind the Salvation Army Hall at 186 Elizabeth Rd. in Morphett Vale, just in from Beach Rd.

MEETING RULES

1) **NO SMOKING**
2) **NO DRINKING**
3) **NO SWEARING**

Through the generosity of the Salvation Army, we are allowed to use the facilities in this house, in return for which we give them a relatively small donation. We ask for your co-operation in respect to the above.

While we can not control what people do away from our club meetings, Piracy of copyright material can not be condoned at our meetings.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers, and are not necessarily those of the club's committee or members.

The use of the word "COMMODORE" in no way implies any connection with any organization bearing that name.

No part of "THE DISPATCH DISK" may be copied or reproduced in any way without the written permission of the committee and the author.

WANTED

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED- THE CLUB STILL NEEDS THE ASSISTANCE OF SEVERAL MEMBER IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:-

1)Newsletter contributions

2)Expert Register. Please help us to help others with their problems.

DEMONSTRATION TOPICS - If you have any requests for topics you would like to see demonstrated, speak up. Even, if it has already been done, and you missed it let us now. If there is reasonable interest, it can probably be repeated.

FUTURE MEETINGS - Help us to spread the word of our existence. Write out some small notices and place them where people will see them. Your local supermarket usually has a notice board as do some newsagencies and Delicatessens.

FOR SALE

PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE - We have a large range of PUBLIC DOMAIN Software for sale through library. Prices represents very good value. Catalogue disks are also available for only $1.00. See Jeff or Michael (for 128), at tonight's meeting for any enquires.

CHEAP DISKS - How much do you pay for your blank disk?. The club is making bulk purchase of disks to help members save some money. The price of these disks is 70c per disk, which works out to be $7.00 for a packet of 10.

If you are interested in some, see Rob at tonight's meeting.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The scale of membership fees for this year will be as follows :-

Joining fee for new members	$5.00
Membership fee (to A.G.M.)	$10.00

All previous members who have not renewed their membership are unfinancial and will have to rejoin the club and pay the joining fee again in order to add items to the club's disk and magazine libraries, we need money, so please pay up promptly.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

A HAPPY NEW YEAR