Presidential Page
By Julie Barr

Hello Commodories

I thank you for your votes AGAIN! However, I am not going to say 4 more years that's to much for me. I really appreciate your support. Our CLUB will be greatly rewarded in seeing the results of your new efforts this year. What am I rambling about AGAIN?

Same ol' thing - try something NEW with your sixty-four!!! Let the officers know what you want to LEARN - that's what we all are here for, isn't it? Don't be afraid to speak up (or if your shy, tell David, we all know he's not afraid to speak up). You may be thinking everyone else know how to do this or that - most of us don't. some of us are not afraid to push the wrong button (Steve, I'm still looking for it, I think its somewhere near the left cursor (the other one is right).

It has been brought to my attention some of you DO enjoy those step by step directions/help that I have written in the past. Thank you, and keep them coming by giving your comments and suggestions. Without your input I wouldn't know what is appealing, nor would I know if anyone actually READS those articles. Maybe they will become like advertisements in a magazine or something, but for now, I'll keep pecking one stroke at a time.

Believe it or not, my most enjoyable meetings are those in which YOU participate. I really liked all of you showing interest in the LITTLE COMPUTER PEOPLE RESEARCH PROJECT. Even Carl who doesn't make it to all the meetings (yes, Menne I am talking about you this time - not some guy that "lives in your computer").

USING BIG BLUE READER
By Roger Hoyer

Prior to our May meeting, Robert Fischesser, a former Commodore user, saw our ad in the Computer User magazine and called me. He said he had a number of PETSII files that he wanted to convert to MS-DOS and asked if there was a way to do it. Of course I said yes and offered to do it for him if he would bring his 5 1/4" disks and some 3 1/2" disks onto which I could copy

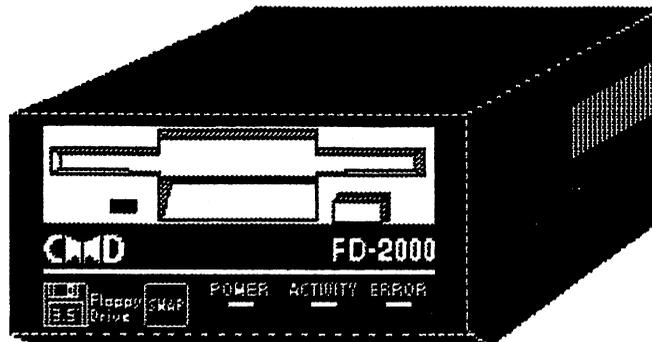the files to our meeting. I figured it would be a great opportunity for me to use my new FD2000 disk drive.

He brought the disks and said he had no idea what word processor he had created them with but they were sequential files. I took them home with me and booted The Write Stuff V1.0 with it's ability to translate fourteen of the most popular Commodore word processors plus generic sequential files. After trying all fourteen selections and the generic selection, the files turned out to be from a Word Processor that saves its files as screen code sequential files.

The 3 1/2" disks Robert provided were already IBM formatted and were the 1.44 megabyte High Density disks. I theorized that I would be able to copy the files right to them. When the Big Blue Reader 128 V4.01 is booted, the first screen offers three choices: 1. Normal ASCII translation; 2. Screen code translation and 3. 128 format program. I chose the screen code translation.

Using BBR's menus I set up the source drive 8 as a 1571 and the destination drive 10 as a 1581 (V4.01 doesn't recognize

an FD drive). I loaded the directory from the first disk in drive 8, selected "copy", toggled "All files" and pressed <RETURN>. Much to my chagrin, the screen displayed the error message "Improperly formatted disk" when I chose the MS-DOS selection for the destination disk.

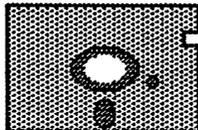Formatting the 3 1/2" disk as a 1581 disk from the BBR menu allowed me to proceed with copying/converting the files from the 5 1/4" disks. In all, thirty one files from three 5 1/4" disk were copied to the one 1581 MS-DOS formatted disk with about 330K left on the disk. I changed the source drive to the 1581 disk and "Printed" a file to the screen. Lo, and behold, the files had been converted perfectly.

It occurred to me that Robert's MS-DOS computer may not be able to read a 720k formatted disk. Some of the IBM compatibles that have 1.44 megabyte floppy drives will read only those disks. I still had one of the 1.44 megabyte disks that I hadn't touched left, so I (shudder!) read the BBR instruction manual and found out there is a separate program on the 128 side of the disk that allows you to whole disk copy like disks. In other words, I would be able to copy the 1581 720k formatted disk to the 1.44 megabyte disk I hadn't used yet. One function key (F6) allows you to toggle the

fill byte when
formatting/copying MS-DOS(MFM)
disks. Commodore disks
normally use $00 fill byte,
MS-DOS disk normally use $F6
fill byte and CP/M disks use
$E5. There is a note that
1571 and 1581 drives BBR has
tested will NOT format disks
using $F6. Since i was using
a FD2000, I decided to be
brave and select $F6 as the
fill byte and proceeded to
copy from the 720k formatted
disk to the 1.44 megabyte
disk. I booted BBR again and
"printed" a file to the screen
and it had copied perfectly.

I decided to copy the files to
one of my 1.44 megabyte disks
so that I could see if the $F6
fill byte would work again.
Much to my chagrin, I kept
getting an error message that
wouldn't let me proceed. I
change the fill byte to $00 as
the BBR read.me file suggested
and it copied the files fine.
(Don't you just hate it when
the instructions are right?).
The 1.44 megabyte disks that
Robert had provided were
Maxell brand and my 1.44
megabyte disks are generic.
That may be the difference
between why his worked with
the $F6 fill byte and mine
didn't. The files on my
generic disk printed to the
screen all right, so I guess
everything is OK.

I mailed Robert's disks to him
with an explanation of the
difference between the two
disks and told him to call me
if he had any
problems. I haven't
heard from him, so
I'm assuming
everything translated
to his satisfaction.

The Mortgage-Reduction Report Problem and the Rule of 72
By Don Parrish

Still I have not had the
opportunity to finish the first
program noted in an earlier
issue. I was sidetracked into
a more comprehensive program
that would figure various
payouts, rates, etc. Roger
Hoyer has one on spreadsheet
format. It worked fine after
he inserted a formula. He has
a demonstration benefiting
additional payments of
principal to payoff a loan
earlier.

I came across the old RULE OF
72 that tells how many years it
takes to double an investment.
You divide 72 by the annual
interest rate and get the
answer as if by magic. The
host of "On the Money"
mentioned it on his Saturday
morning radio program.

It seemed incredible that such
a simple solution would exist
for a problem involving powers
of different numbers. The load
amount or principal is to be
multiplied by the interest rate
and added to itself. The
result each year is the new
principal for the next year.
Let's start with $1 and double
to $2, and an interest rate I,
for N years. N is an exponent.
It represents the number of
times you multiply [1 + I] by
itself.

$2 = [$1 + I] N

Or 2 = [1 + I] ↑ N in BASIC.

We have to take the Nth root of each side of the equation to get N out of the exponent position. [Nth root of 2] = [1 + I] So far so good. Rewriting,

2 1/N = [1 + I]

To solve, take the logarithm of each side. My BASIC does not have the Log function, But my scientific hand calculator has it, and you can always use LOG tables if you have them.

(1/N)log 2 = log [1 + I]

Solving, N = (log 2)/ log (1 + I)

Now we want to find I times N or I * N in BASIC to see whether it is 72! Use, 100 * I * N if N is a decimal.

First, find LOG 2 = 0.30103 to use below.

Interest Rate I		Log 1 + I	N = LOG 2/ (log(1 = I))	100 * I * N
0.03	3%	0.01264	23.4	70.3
0.06	6%	0.02531	11.89	71.3
0.10	10%	0.04139	7.27	72.7
0.15	15%	0.06070	4.958	74.4
0.20	20%	0.07918	3.80	76.0

Well, 72 is close for normal ranges.

READER'S "BACK-UP" PROBLEM

James R. Cottrill of 3119 Pioneer Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15226-1740 (U.S.A.), Phone 1-412-563-2379 has written me a very appealing letter in which he expresses the view that one of my many readers of this column may be able to help him...so

here goes!

"I sure hope you can help me" he wrote, followed by the following troublesome problem:

He is the owner of a C-64 disk program that he bought sometime in 1986-7 right here in Canada from V.G. Data Shack in Brossard, Quebec which has gone out of business in the interim. The program's entitled "V.G. Shack Parallel Copier/Super Fast File Backup and Utilities Version 1.0".

James has searched all over the world for another copy (as a "back-up") of the program because it has served him so well.

The letter he wrote me has been sent far and wide all over the world on Packet Radio, with no success; he has written Mad Man Software TWICE (without getting the courtesy of even a brief reply) and TPUG Users Group of Toronto, Canada, which didn't reply but even kept the money he sent!

Furthermore, he has sent for TPUG's catalog twice (no replies) and telephone calls to their answering service is either full or nobody

answers the phone!

At time of writing to me, James had an advertisement running in DieHard's Traders Corner without result. He tells me a number of friendly people have contacted him with offers to copy the disk, but without success. Naturally James is leery about sending his disk around the country for copying because the risk of losing it is an ever-likely possibility.

In a direct telephone call with James I suggested he try making a copy using Loadstar's diskmagazine utility "Star Copier" or one of the best copiers of "protected" disks which is "MAVERICK" (a multi-disk utility which includes "KRACKER JAX"). In addition to these suggestions, James had tried many other "copy programs", but to no avail!

With his letter to me he had enclosed a photostat of page 6 from the June 1987 issue of the now-defunct RUN Magazine which featured a 2/3-page advertisement by VG Radio Shack extolling the virtues of his program!

It is hoped that, after this column appears, one or more of my readers who may conceivably have a copy of the program and would be willing to part with it will contact James at the address or phone number in the opening paragraph. If so, please let me know the results!   Harry Blake-Knox, Box 1, Grand Beach, Man. (Canada) R0E0T0.
****
P.S.-To the many readers

who've asked about my "best columns" disks: Every 5 yrs. I choose the best 45 out of 260 cols. to transfer to disks. Volumes 1 and 2 are available now in Canada at $10 each, in United States at $10 U.S. funds (both postpaid). Vol. 3 will appear in a matter of months! H.B-K.

(Commodore) MACHINE LANGUAGE ADDRESSES
by Louis Lockwood

In my article (DIRECT MODE COMMANDS), in the May 1997 FOUR "C"er, I specified Machine Language Starting Addresses. I also mentioned there were several ways to obtain the starting address of a M/L Program. Here is a simple BASIC Program to obtain the starting (and ending) address(es) of a M/L Program. Type the program in as a BASIC Program (in DIRECT MODE), and SAVE with your selected filename.

```
1 INPUT"FILENAME";F$:
    A$="0:"+F$+",P,R":
    OPEN2,8,2,A$
2 GET#2,A$:GOSUB5:L=A:
    GET#2,A$:GOSUB5:
    SA=L+256*A:
    PRINT"START";SA
3 GET#2,A$:
    IF ST=0 THEN SA=SA+I:GOTO3
4 PRINT"END";SA:CLOSE 2:END
5 IFA$="" THEN A$=CHR$(0)
6 A=ASC(A$):RETURN
```

To obtain the M/L addresses:
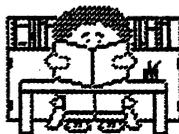
1) LOAD the above Program,

2) Have the disk (containing
   the M/L program needing
   the starting/ending
   addresses), in the Disk
   Drive (device #8),
3) RUN the above Program,
4) At the Prompt, Type the M/L
   program filename and
   <RETURN>.
5) The starting/ending
   addresses will be
   displayed. Record on
   disk jacket, or note
   elsewhere.

The above program appeared in
September 1985 COMPUTE!
Magazine.

On the subject of M/L
programs, the following is a
simple M/L Loader program:

```
1 IFA=0 THEN A=1:
    LOAD"[FILENAME]",8
2 SYS #####:NEW
```

The M/L Loader may be used for
any number of M/L programs.
Change the [filename] (in line
1), and put the (proper)
starting address
for the M/L
program, in place
of the #s,
following the SYS
in Line 2.

Editor Ramblings
By David Witmer

The C-64, some consider it a
dinosaur, others call it a
toy, some even call it their
Personal Computer. For years
there have been discussions as
to what the Commodore is, in
the age of microprocessors
that can perform instructions
10 thru 100 or more times
faster.

With the invention of the
SuperCPU by Creative Micro
Designs, the speed of our
computers can be increased
twenty-fold. Instructions can
be processed before the finger
is released from the return
key, or mouse button. How
much faster is needed? Or is
too much over-kill?

What do you do with your
computer? Play games? The
C-64 does that wonderfully,
with the only exception of
disk access. Today, hard
drives and RAM devices can
make the multi-level games
seem like cartridge based
games. Even JiffyDos is a
help in speeding up the 1541
drive into a more performance
instrument.

Should you upgrade your
exisiting equipment? That is
a question you and your own
pocketbook can answer. If you
are happy with the casual
speed of the stock machines,
imagine how much more you can
accomplish with enhancements
to your current system?

Some people consider Commodore
Users as "odd-ball" or not
with the times. I counter
that arguement with what
should a computer be able to
do, and what do I want it to
do? I use my Commodore to
host the Chat Area in the
Commodore RT online at Genie,
assemble and print out this
newsletter, and play games (I
had to mention that). My
demands are small, and the
Commodore satisfies those
demands. One might equally
place that question to a

person that drives a 1960s
vehicle, listens to LP records
(78 rpm records, or even
8-tracks!), or even take
photographs with film! All of
these options have high-tech
replacements, are these
high-tech options not
providing the same function?

Do I consider myself an
odd-ball? No, I consider
myself an enthusiast in
Commodore Computing! My
system today was only a
drooling dream of 10+ years
ago. Of course the whole
computing industry, not just
Commodore, has advanced in
those years. We can do more
things now, that wasnt even
considered as possible, even
in the Intel/Microsoft
circles.

Some question the availability
of programs for a machine that
was designed almost 20 years
ago. Can you still buy
programs for the IBM PCJr?
What about the early XT's?
C-64s are still enjoying newly
written programs, as well as a
wealth of previously
undiscovered classics at
garage sales, thrift stores,
and in the For Sale ads in the
newspapers. The C-64 was "THE
COMPUTER TO HAVE" in the mid
80s, and the software and
hardware vendors kept pumping
out wonderous ideas for this
machine in its heyday.

Regardless of whether you
call yourself a Commodore
Enthusiast, Collector, User,
Die-Hard, or just a miserly
person looking for a computer
to fit the bill, the C-64
still fits a niche in todays
computing arena.

Looking.........

I am trying to locate some
titles that have been eluding
me for years.

The first is "Death
in the Caribbean"
for the C-64, by
MicroFun circa
1984.

The second is "The Hobbit" for
the C-64, a game based on
J.R.R. Tolkien's world of the
Hobbit

The last one might not exist,
does anyone know for sure, if
there is a version of Tapper
(for the C-64) that shows Beer
Advertising instead of Mountain
Dew? Rumours indicate a home
version was available, not just
the Arcade Version had this?

Finally, an Amiga 1000 is being
searched for.

If you have any or all of the
above, please contact, Jim Huff
at 513-521-5151

Please note that the deadline for
next month's newsletter is

Friday June 27, 1997

I will be out of town for the
first two weeks of July. You
will get a newsletter in your
hands on time, but I must
have those articles before I
leave town.

The Four "C" ER

Official User Group ID# 00292

Dedicated to Serving All Commodore Computers

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Ike Geer	Membership	513-752-0512
David Witmer	Newsletter Editor	513-868-1344

The June meeting will be held on the fourth Sunday, due to Father's Day, from 2pm until 4pm, at Norwood Plaza Bingo. Located at 3825 Montgomery Road in Norwood, Ohio. If you have any questions, please contact one of the officers, above. Visitors are always welcomed.

Next Meeting
June 22, 1997