Cincinnati Commodore Computer Club

October 17, 1999

President's page

Rampantly Rambling Ruminations

Howdy Fellow Commodore Users!

It's time to dig thru that overflowing closet, or storage bin, and bring out your unneeded Commodore equipment and accessories to our 11th annual swap meet.

Our Open House and Swap Meet is being held on our regular meeting day of October 17th. We charge no fee for space, and it is the perfect opportunity to find or sell that Commodore Item. If you've had your eye on a piece of software in the CCCC collection of items available for sale, this weekend will be the day to buy it. All of the prices will sell at 1/2 the marked price, if the total is $2 or more. If you choose $20 worth of software, you will only have to pay $10. It's a great time to add to your software collection, at half price....why not double your selection at the same price? After all, Christmas is only a few more months away.

We may attract more visitors to our swap meet this year, because that Sunday is the last day of Cincinnati's wonderful Tall Stacks celebration (of which close to a million people are expected to attend from points around the globe).

We won't be done showing off our club this weekend. We will be on display the following weekend at the Sharonville Convention Center for Tradeshow Production's Computer Show. We can still use a few volunteers to work the booth on Saturday and Sunday. Get with one of the officers for further details. Information was announced at last month's meeting and should be advertised elsewhere in this issue. You can also check out this and other shows put on by Tradeshow Productions at our own website. I have given them an area on our site to allow websurfers easy access to Tradeshow's site. Just go to the Tradeshow link and you will be transported to their site.

I'll see you all at the Open House. Let the buying and selling begin!

David Witmer

Cincinnati Commodore Computer Club President

Webpage
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The 4 C'r

Fresh from the Net

compiled by Robert Bernardo

On July 22, the New York Times newspaper published "Living the 8-Bit Dream in a 32-Bit World", an article by Jennifer Lee mainly about Commodore computers. The article takes a favorable look at how "thousands of people appear to have turned to old computers (or stuck with them) out of a feeling of nostalgia, a desire for simplicity and an appreciation for classic design." Several people are interviewed in the article, including Maurice Randall (Wheels 64/128, GeoFAX, Concept), Steve Judd (programmer), Doug Cotton (Creative Micro Designs), Robin Harbron (programmer), and Fender Tucker (Loadstar). The article can be retrieved from the New York Times website at: www.nytimes.com , though you must register and pay a fee to download archived material. Alternatively, the article is available at: www.student.informatik.tu-darmstadt.de/~mjk/local/8bit.html The author has released the article so that user groups can publish it in its entirety without any copyright fees.

Part of an announcement from Creative Micro Designs and published on comp.sys.cbm and in the August issue of GO64! magazine... Effective with issue 26, Commodore World will be produced by CSW Verlag, publishers of GO64!, and will become known as GO64!/Commodore World. The magazine will be produced in the English language and all outstanding issues due to Commodore World subscribers will be provided in the new format. CSW Verlag has shown us that they have the ability and expertise to provide you with a quality magazine dedicated to the Commodore 64/128. With their proven track record and staff dedicated to the full time publishing of a Commodore-specific magazine, Commodore World subscribers will benefit greatly. The magazine will now be received with greater frequency (once a month) and will have larger pages, a glossy cover, and will also be provided with a cover disk. CSW Verlag, Goethestrasse 22, D-71364 Winnenden, Germany. Phone/FAX: +49 (0) 7195/61120. E-mail: go64@c64.org

After over a year of inactivity, the software library of the Commodore Roundtable on Genie has new additions. As reported in Fresh from the Net last year, the original person in charge of screening the uploads and placing them in the library left Genie. Doug Cotton of Creative Micro Designs was to take over and make sure the library stayed current. However, after phone calls, e-mails, and faxes to Doug, nothing was done to update the library. This August, some two dozen files that had accumulated over the year were finally placed in the library. Thinking that the library was running again, users started uploading new files immediately. However, once again, the files are not being posted to the library in a timely manner. To voice your concern, contact Creative Micro Designs.

Arndt Dettke has released another module for GoDot, the graphics manipulation and conversion program for the C64. It is an improved version of mod.PixelEdit. The module can be downloaded by going to the GoDot website at-- http://users.aol.com/howtogodot/welcome.htm Click on "site news", page through the document, click on "koala svr", and from there you'll be sent to the FTP area in which you'll find the module and all previous-released modules not found in the original GoDot package. GoDot ($34.95, not including shipping) can be bought from Creative Micro Designs.

Creative Micro Designs has added items, deleted items, and changed prices to some items in its latest catalog addendum. More educational, entertainment, and productivity software and hardware have been added -- most notably Wheels 64/128 replacement o.s. for GEOS, Novaterm 9.6, and U.S.Robotics 33.6Kbps Faxmodems. Discontinued items include the SuperCPU 64 and 128 with 1 mb. SuperRAM card, 1 mb. SuperRAM cards, 1 mb. 72-pin SIMM's, the Video Digitizer cartridge, Handy Scanner 64, Pagefox, the Pocket series of programs, 170 and 500 mb. HD series hard drives, the Zoom 33.6Kbps faxmodem, and several software packages. To get the latest

catalog and addendum, contact: Creative Micro Designs, P.O. Box 646, East Longmeadow, MA 01028-0646. Phone: 800 638-3263 (orders), 413 525-0023 (info), 413 525-0147 (FAX). Website: www.cmdweb.com

The Chicago Commodore Expo was held on September 25 at the Day's Inn in Lansing, Illinois. In a phone conversation with Randy Harris, the president of the SouthWest Regional Association of Programmers (SWRAP), briefly told of how the day went. Though he did not make a count of the attendees, the Expo room was very crowded. Maurice Randall had several demonstrations throughout the day on easy programming with Concept/GeoProgrammer. He also showed the Web.It 64 computer, the 486 computer with C64 emulation. Dale Sidebottom showcased the latest version of a Randall creation, PostPrint II, the utility which simplifies and enhances Postscript printing under Wheels 64/128. Tim Lewis, president of the Lansing Area Commodore Club (Michigan), demoed how to utilize the Delphi on-line service. Robin Harbron, Mark Seelye, Steve Judd, and Nate Dannenberg were there with a bank of Commodores showing demos. Like at the last year's Expo, Nate brought his C128 Tower, but unlike last year, the Quickcam interface was not working, and so he was not able to show the latest version of his program for the Quickcam. Craig Chamberlain, creator of the Enhanced SID Player, gave a talk for 30-45 minutes about his Commodore recollections, and Jim Butterfield, programmer and writer, did the same. Throughout the day, an Archon tournament was held with the players going through elimination rounds. This year no C65's surfaced; last year three were on display. Sales at the various tables were brisk, though the hardware sent by CMD was not moving. Randy was so busy with the organization of the Expo that he did not much time to concentrate on what was happening. Randy Harris, SWRAP 64/129 User Group, Inc., P.O. Box 528232, Chicago, IL 60652-8232, U.S.A.. Phone: (773) 375-9017 E-mail: rgharris@aol.com or rharris1@genie.idt.net Website -- http://members.aol.com/rgharris/swrap.html

Todd Elliott, programmer of the Geowrite 128 2.2 patch, and Larry Anderson, sysop of the Silicon Realms BBS and avid Commodore collector, and Robert Bernardo, president of the Fresno Commodore User Group, are to appear at the Vintage Computer Festival, Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, California on October 2-3. Todd will be bringing his C128 set-up, Larry will exhibit a mint PET computer with "chiclet" keyboard and will act as docent for the display from the Computer History Museum, and Robert will be manning the FCUG table with its various demos of Wheels, the SuperCPU, Loadstar, and others. Vintage Computer Festival, 4275 Rosewood Dr. #29-161, Pleasanton, CA 94588, U.S.A.. E-mail: siconic@jasmine.psyber.com Website: www.vintage.org/vcf Larry Anderson, E-mail: foxnhare@jps.net BBS: 209 754-1363. Robert Bernardo, 502 Whitney Lane, Visalia, CA 93277-1940, U.S.A.. E-mail: r.bernardo@genie.com or rbernardo@delphi.com

The joint IEBA/WACCI event UK8 was cancelled when the WACCI half pulled out. However, there was to be an alternative event on the same day after all, to which all 8-bit users were welcome. This was organized on a far less formal basis than the UK8 event by a couple of CPC enthusiasts with support from others, and the following is an extract from their recent press release: CPC 99 is to take place on Sunday 26th September in Peterborough. The venue is the Copeland Community Centre, Bretton, from 9am to 5pm, with extra room in an afternoon lounge. There is plenty of room for trade stands. The rooms are on the ground floor, and there is a pub next door. Road and rail links are excellent; those arriving by train can get a bus or taxi from outside the station. Tickets cost 2 pounds, including buffet, and are pre-booked from: John Bowley, 97 Tirrington, Peterborough PE3 9XT, England; or paid on the door. All are welcome - CPC users or users of other formats, British or European. For more details, e-mail John Bowley (john@wacci.demon.co.uk).

At the DejaVu II demo party held on July 9-11 in Bradford, England, TMR/Cosine was the winner of the C64 demos. In fact, out of all of the Amiga, PSX, PC, and "Wild" demos, TMR/Cosine's demo was the only C64 demo submitted, comprised of music, a scrolly message, several effects, and several pictures. Jason Kelk, editor of Commodore Zone magazine and 1/2 of TMR/Cosine, was there to accept the prize of over 90 pounds ($145.80) -- far less than the 200

pounds ($324) first announced for C= winners (the amount of money gathered from ticket sales determined the prize amounts). He promised that next year there will be even more C64 entries at DejaVu III. Jason Kelk, e-mail: tmr@c64.org DejaVu website: www.dejavu.org.uk (not accessible by Commodore computers using Lynx on-line)

Reported in the last Fresh from the Net, Todd Elliott is distributing his patch to upgrade Geowrite 128 to v2.2. More information on the patch is now available. With the patch, Geowrite 128 now has complete 4-drive support in its file requestors, is bootable from any drive (A-D) when a datafile is clicked, has an improved boot sequence, loads completely into expansion memory when used with Wheels 128 (but not with GEOS 128 due to its limitations), is semi-intelligent in that it does not prompt the user to insert a new disk if non-removable media (e.g. hard drive) is used, displays the DISK icon of the disk device which it was loaded from, displays the DISK icon when a native ramdisk or a RAMLink 1581 partition is used, and autodetects whether it is running from GEOS 128 v2 or Wheels 128. Send a check or money order for $6 (plus $1 for Canadian orders) to: Todd Elliott, 2906 Kathleen St., Riverside, CA 92506, U.S.A. E-mail: eyethian@juno.com State whether you want the patch shipped on 1541, 1581, or FD-2000 disk. Also include your e-mail address, if available. Note the patch is for the North American version of Geowrite 128.

Development continues on the beta version of PostPrint II. Now up to v2.7, PPII is a Wheels 64/128 (not GEOS) utility which simplifies and adds new features to the printing of Postscript documents on level 1 or level 2 Postscript printers. PostPrint II is being distributed to owners of Dale Sidebottom's Laser Lovers Disk, which contains the original PostPrint. PostPrint II can be obtained in the following ways: send an e-mail to arca93@delphi.com , and Maurice can send back a file attachment to an e-mail message; if the user has an account on Delphi, Maurice can send it as an e-mail message that can be extracted to the user's workspace and thus be downloaded from there; or Maurice can attach it to an e-mail message left at his BBS. Maurice Randall, Click Here Software Co., P.O. Box 606, Charlotte, MI 48813, U.S.A.. E-mail: arca93@delphi.com BBS: (517) 322-2386 Phone: (517) 543-5202 Website-- http://people.delphi.com/arca93 Dale Sidebottom, P.O. Box 303, New Albany, IN 47151-0303, U.S.A.. Phone: (812) 944-9132. E-mail: luckykds@iglou.com

Maurice Randall is also developing SuperText, a text editor compatible with Wheels 64/128 and Postprint II. SuperText is described to be "Zed 0.77 on steroids" (Zed is a C128, 80-column, text editor by Craig Bruce.), which is compatible with the SuperCPU and makes full use of SuperRAM up to 16 megabytes.

Softdisk, the parent company of Loadstar, has become an Internet-only corporation, dissolving its PC disk magazine and software ventures. Back in its heyday, Softdisk published disk magazines for the Apple II, Mac, PC, and Commodore computers. However, Loadstar continues under the auspices of Fender and Judi Tucker. Loadstar thus becomes the longest,continually running disk magazine in history. The new address of Loadstar is: 443 Gladstone Blvd., Shreveport, LA 71104, U.S.A. The new order/info phone number is: (318) 868-8727. E-mail addresses are the same: fender@loadstar.com or judi@loadstar.com Website: www.loadstar.com

Loadstar has lowered the price on the Compleat Dave, an 8-hour collection of 250 musical melodies arranged by Dave Marquis. Available on three 1541 disks or two 1581 disks for $12. Also in the works, Fender Tucker is producing an audio CD of Dave's best tunes by using a C64, RAMLink, and MIDI interface to control a Yamaha TG-33.

Work continues in rebuilding Jim Brain's Commodore website. The website is one of the most famous in the Commodore community and has been reported in the press. To check on the current progress, go to: www.jbrain.com

First it was Errol Smith's Unzip64 and then Unzip128. Now comes Pasi Ojala's Gunzip.c64 v1.4. Gunzip.c64 is a GZIP/ZIP

are usually fixed to be more compatible, to run smoother, and to run faster (but not too fast to be unplayable). There are a few websites that have these fixed games; one of them is at: www.privat.kkf.net/~milo.mundt/

Binary Zone P.D., the publishers of Commodore Zone magazine, have released one CD-ROM and many audio CD's. The CD-ROM is called the "CD-ROM Collection", a PC-compatible CD of every BZ disk, over 700 disks converted to .D64 images. Also there are over 40 disks of PD adventure games included on the CD, that in addition to demos, art, other games, and utilities. For Commodore users to use the CD, each .D64 disk image file would have to saved to a 3 1/2" disk on a PC. Then the file would be converted from PC format to CBM format through use of Big Blue Reader or Little Red Reader. Then the file would be reconverted back to a Commodore disk using a utility such as GeoConvert '98. For those with a CMD hard drive and a SCSI CD-ROM drive, another method would be to use CD-ROM Commander 64 or 128 in order to read the CD and save each .D64 file to CBM format for later conversion with BBR/LRR. CD-ROM Commander 64 or 128 is available in Europe and is still to be distributed here by Dale Sidebottom. The CD-ROM Collection is ordinarily 39.99 pounds ($64.78), but through use of the "special offer" order form, the price goes down to 29.99 pounds ($48.58).

The BZPD audio CD's are advertised to "feature genuine C64 music which has been digitally recorded directly from the SID chip for optimum quality." Noise reduction techniques eliminate background SID "buzz". The various CD's offer music from such composers as Rob Hubbard, Martin Galway, Ben Daglish, and more. The CD's are "The Sound Interface Device Volume 1" (3.99 pounds, $6.46), "The Sound Interface Device Volume 2" (3.99 pounds), "The Sound Interface Device Volume 3" (3.99 pounds), "The Sound Interface Device Volume 4" (3.99 pounds), "The Epic Themes" (double CD - 9.99 pounds, $16.18), "The Best of Tim Follin" (4.99 pounds, $8.08), "The Last Ninja" (4.99 pounds), "The Last Ninja 2" (4.99 pounds), "The Last Ninja 3 (4.99 pounds), and "The Best of 'Ay-3-8912'" (4.99 pounds). If all three Last Ninja CD's are ordered together, the price is 11.99 pounds ($19.42). Checks or money orders/international money orders accepted (in British pounds sterling). Overseas delivery -- add 1 pound ($1.62) for each CD (2 pounds, $3.24 for the CD-ROM collection). Binary Zone PD, 34 Portland Road, Droitwich Spa, Worc's WR9 7QW, England. Phone: 01905 779274 (if calling from the U.S., delete the leading zero) E-mail: kenz@bzpd.freeserve.co.uk

Commodore Scene magazine is going bi-monthly in September. Previously, the magazine was a quarterly. Allan Bairstow, the editor, made an appearance at the DejaVu II demo party and also is attending the CPC 99 computer show. Commodore Scene, 14 Glamis Close, Garforth, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS25 2NQ, England. Phone/FAX: 0113 286-1573 before 9 p.m. E-mail: allanbairstow@compuserve.com

Allan Bairstow reports that after testing, these are the best GEOS printer drivers for use with a C64/128, Canon BJC-4100 printer, and GeoCable II (RAMLink and SuperCPU included but not necessary): Epson LQ (GC), HQ24low+Eps (GC), and Epson24Color (GC). The SuperCPU speeded printing from 2-4 times faster.

Nick Rossi continues steady development on Novaterm 9.6, the telecommunications program for the C64 and C128. Patch C fixes a few problems, including slowing down the modem initialization string so that it no longer outputs too fast under SuperCPU control. Also Nick reports that he has finished a SuperCPU buffer driver which allows the user to use the SuperRAM as a buffer (up to 16 megs.). Novaterm 9.6 is available from Creative Micro Designs and from Loadstar for $29.95, not including shipping. E-mail: voyager@eskimo.com Website: www.eskimo.com/~voyager/novaterm.html

MegaPatch 3 -- the 64 and 128 versions -- is now being marketed in North America. Megapatch is an enhancement to GEOS, both the German and North American versions. Many bugs in the original GEOS kernal are fixed, and new functions are integrated, such as a new file selector for use with up to 255 files, extra efficiency and compatibility with the SuperCPU,

support for SuperRAM up to 4 megs., printer spooler, printer driver for the 64 now in memory, no more swap files for the 64, task switcher for use with up to 9 applications, screenshot function with saving as a GeoPaint file, screensavers, the GEOS MegaEditor replacing the old CONFIGURE, new device drivers, and a new desktop in the form of TopDesk 4.1 (specially created for use with MegaPatch) with pull-down menus. The minimum requirements for MP3-64 are a C64, ram expander of at least 192k, 1541/71/81 disk drive, and GEOS 64. The minimum requirements for MP3-128 are a C128/C128D with 64k of video ram, ram expander of at least 192k, 1571/81 disk drive, and GEOS 128. MP3-64 with TopDesk 4.1 on a 1541 or 1581 disk is $50; without TopDesk 4.1, it is $40. MP3-128 with TopDesk 4.1 on a 1571 or 1581 disk is $55; without TopDesk 4.1, it is $45. Shipping in the lower 48 states is $4. Send check/money order to: Ryan Edward Adam Cezerwinski, 3525 W. Pershing Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85029-2148, U.S.A.. E-mail: merlancia@aol.com Website: www.merlancia.com/mersoft.html

For those who don't want to go the MegaPatch route, TopDesk v3.5 has been released for the C64 (the C128 version is not yet available). Compatible with the SuperCPU and RAMLink, TopDesk v3.5 is the latest, non-MegaPatch version of the desktop enhancement for GEOS 64. The complete program is 45 deutschmarks if ordered from Germany or $35 if ordered in the United States. If you are updating a previous TopDesk version, the price is 15 deutschmarks from Germany. Mastercard is accepted on orders to Germany. In the United States, the complete TopDesk v3.5 is available from: Ryan Edward Adam Cezerwinski, 3525 W. Pershing Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85029-2148, U.S.A.. Website: www.merlancia.com/mersoft.html From Germany, the complete package or update for TopDesk v3.5 is available from: MegaCom Software, Brita Grimm, Legenfelder Hof 1, D-78652 Deisslingen. Phone: 07420-1324. FAX: 07420-2608. E-mail: megacom.software@bluewin.de Website -- http://home.t-online.de/home/megacom_soft/

Werner Weicht announces that he will have Y2K patches available for certain GEOS applications and desk accessories. The patches will work with GEOS 64/128, Wheels, and MegaPatch. Y2K patches will be available for: GeoWrite 64/128 V2.1/V2.2 (V2.2 only German), GeoMerge V2.0/V2.1, GeoPublish, GeosLQ V2.16/V2.17/V2.18c German and US version V2.5 (PerfectPrint), TextPrint V3.3 (only German version), and Calendar (from DeskPack). The official publication of the patches will be at the yearly meeting of Geos User Club (a German user group for Geos 64/128 and PC/Geos) at end of October. After this meeting (in the first days in November), the patches will be placed in several BBS's and at Werner's homepage at -- http://home.t-online.de/home/wweicht The Y2K patches for Geos 64/128 are shareware; the fee for all Y2K patches together are $5 US or 10 DM. Werner Weicht, phone/FAX: 49 3944-64744. E-mail: wweicht@t-online.de

Ronny Bachmann has released ProfiLabel 64/128 v1.1, an update of the v1.0 program. ProfiLabel is a label program for GEOS, but unlike other GEOS label programs, it uses the text modes of an Epson ESC/P2 printer for faster printing. With ProfiLabel, you can choose any color, font style, and any of the 13 special GEOS fonts, e.g. Roman, Sans Serif, Courier, Prestige, Script, Roman T, and Sans Serif H. Windows printers, like the Epson Stylus Color 300, 400, 440, and 640, are not supported. You can put up to 126 labels on a page in each document. You can print the whole page or only some of the labels. ProfiLabel 64/128 v1.1 is 10.23 Euros, not including shipping.

Also at the Bachmann website is a new version of the GeoCable ESC/P2 printer driver. Listed among 19 p.d./shareware programs for downloading, ESC/P2_GC v1.5 is a parallel port, color printer driver without interpolation. It prints at 180, 360, or 720 dpi. It now works with Wheels. Ronny Bachmann, Ruhlaer Str. 83, D-99848 Wutha-Farnroda, Germany. Phone: 036921-93956. E-mail: bachmann@wartburg.de Website -- http://www.wartburg.de/homepages/r.bachmann/ (not accessible by Commodore computers using Lynx on-line)

Computer Follies

Life BEFORE The Computer

An application was for employment A program was a TV show A cursor used profanity A keyboard was a piano.

Memory was something that you lost with age A CD was a bank account And if you had a 3 1/2" floppy You hoped nobody found out!

Compress was something you did to the garbage Not something you did to a file And if you unzipped anything in public You'd be in jail for a while!

Log on was adding wood to the fire Hard drive was a long trip on the road A mouse pad was where a mouse lived And a backup happened to your commode!

Cut - you did with a pocket knife Paste you did with glue A web was a spider's home And a virus was the flu!

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper And the memory in my head I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash But when it happens they wish they were dead!

YEAR 2000 CANCELLED DUE TO Y2K

LIGHTER SIDE OF THE NEWS, June 2, 1999
Richard Markland

In a just released report from the nation's capital, legislation is expected to be passed this coming week by Congress not allowing the Year 2000 to occur. Sources close to the White House have confirmed as of this morning that the fear of uncertainty and possible panic has moved the president to call members of Congress into special session and ask for this most important emergency legislation.

"So far it looks good and this should not be a part of bi-partison politics amongst members of Congress in such a vital issue as this," stated an unnamed White House official.

New calendars are expected to be published by December if legislation passes and the main problem according to sources is just how to continue the year 1999. It has been reported that new names of months may be given, but the year 1999 will continue.

Names such as Janember, Febtember, Marchober are just a few of the new names that have been mentioned as of this morning.

The White House feels that this should give Y2K programmers a chance to fix the problems that still exist.

with members of Congress standing behind the President as he signs the legislation within as soon as two week. The President was quoted as saying that "I hope the American people realize that we are doing everything we can to prevent Y2K and a new calendar would give us time to prevent major problems."

Cincinnati Commodore

Computer Club

Current Officers

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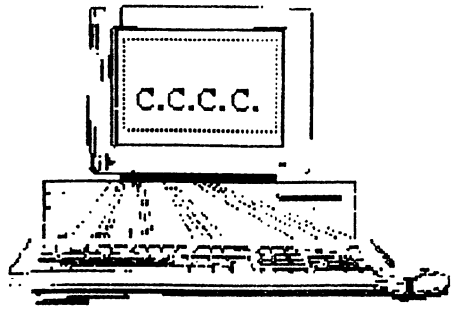

Making the world better one bit at a time.

Cincinnati Commodore Computer Club
% Roger Hoyer
31 Potowatomie Trail
Milford, Oh 45150

Next Meeting
Sunday
October 17, 1999

from 2 P.M. to
5 P.M.

at

Norwood Bingo Hall
3825 Montgomery
Rd.
Norwood, OH

address
label

Cincinnati
Commodore
Computer
Club