

CURSOR

NEWSLETTER of the COMMODORE COMPUTER USERS GROUP (QLD) INC.

Registered by Australia Post - Publication No. QBG3958

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FEBRUARY 1986

VOL.2 NO.7

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CLUB ROOMS: Playgr. & Recr. Assn. H.Q. Bldg. Love St. Spring Hill, Brisbane

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DIARY FOR MARCH

Group meeting on Tuesday, 4th March 1986, at 7.30 pm in our Club Rooms in Love St. (near Water St.) Spring Hill.

RON RICH WILL TALK ON "RTTY"

BERNARD TREWINNARD-SPEIGHT WILL TALK ON USING "MASTER 64" TO DEVELOP AN ORDER ENTRY SYSTEM

WE WILL HAVE A LOOK AT THE NEW C-128D COMPUTER AND 1571 DISK DRIVE

Workshop meeting on Sunday, 16th March 1986, from 1 pm till 5pm in the Guidance Officers Training Centre, Bayswater Street, Milton.
Bring your programming- or hardware problems, as well as your own computer equipment!

Opportunity to copy the group's Public Domain Disks.
contact Philip Parkin (Ph.378 5383 - a.h.) for further details.

PLEASE NOTE: Workshop Meetings are for MEMBERS ONLY!

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REGIONAL MEETINGS

Cannon Hill meets on the 4th Saturday of the month (7.30pm) in the Cannon Hill State School.

Contacts: Barry Wilson - Ph.399 6204 a.h. / Aug Norman - Ph.399 2080 a.h.

Pine Rivers meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month (1pm - 5pm) in the Strathpine High School (rear entrance).

Contact: Hugh Gane - Ph.205 1196 a.h.

Redcliffe Peninsula meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month (7pm) in the Redcliffe High School.

Contact: Paul Janek - Ph.283 1663 a.h.

Sherwood meets on the 2nd Friday of the month (7.30pm) in the Graceville State School.

Contact: Leigh Winsor - Ph.379 2405 a.h. / Philip Parkin - Ph.378 5383 a.h.

The Gap meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (7.30pm) in The Gap State School.

Contact: Julianne Fallen - Ph.300 2982 a.h.

Wavell Heights meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (7.30pm) in the Wavell Heights High School (library), Brae St.

Contact: Robert Adamson - Ph.266 8353 a.h.

Killarney meets on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Killarney State School.

Contact: Roger Frazer - Ph.(076) 64 1370.

Maryborough/Hervey Bay meets on the 3rd Monday in Hervey Bay.

Contact: Terry Baade (16 Mouquet Lane, M'borough, 4650) at 21 2271 (w) or 21 5059 a.h.

Springwood : Lack of regular support has forced the suspension of meetings at this group. If a sufficient number of local members are prepared to support this sub-group with their regular attendance, Terry Steer would be prepared to revive it. Prospective supporters should contact Terry Steer at 808 2424 (a.h.)

Are you interested in joining a new sub-group in Kallangur?
Contact Vince Lofaro - Ph.269 4573 a.h. or Paul Kelly - Ph.204 6805 a.h. for more details.

Would you like to start a sub-group in your local suburb or district? If so, give Terry Steer, our Sub-Group coordinator, a ring on 808 2424 (a.h.) for more information.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Primary Education Sub-Group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (7.30pm) in the Aspley State School.
Contact: Bill Weeks - Ph. 208 8620 (work) or 341 2823, a.h.

Programming Sub-Group meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month, (during main meeting - in our club rooms).
Contact: Jim Vick - Ph. 282 1377, or Tom Kelly - Ph. 277 9900

Superbase Support Group:
Coordinator: Ces Seymour - Ph. 359 9774, a.h.
Programming Advisor: Hank Deucker - Ph. (075) 66 1317, a.h.

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CONSULTANCY SCHEME

Quite regularly our group gets calls from new computer owners for assistance with operating and installation of their newly acquired computers and accessories. This particularly applies to those people who have purchased their equipment from chain stores etc, as the technical knowhow of their staff is usually rudimentary to say the least!

The group has decided to implement a scheme whereby selected members with a reasonably good working knowledge of Commodore computers and accessories will be available to spend several hours at night or at weekends to install and show the operation of these newly acquired systems. It is envisaged that a fee of \$25.00 could be charged for this service, thus enabling our members to earn some extra pocket money.

If you feel that you have the necessary knowledge and time for this scheme we would suggest that you supply your name, address and phone number to Maurice Hawkyard, who is prepared to keep a register of members throughout the Brisbane metropolitan area (and beyond!). Maurice can be reached at 343 5717 (a.h.)

We hope to have further details of this scheme in the near future.

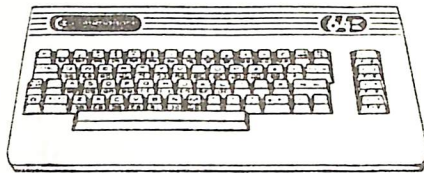
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CHANDLERS

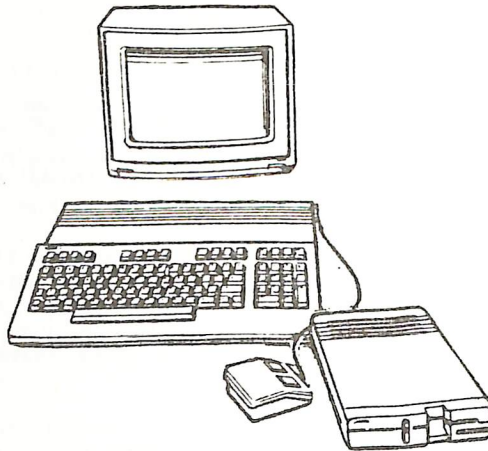
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& SOFTWARE



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AND THE NEW C-128D COMPUTER

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EDITORIAL

What a wealth of public domain software we have acquired all of a sudden. For most members who have obtained or ordered our library catalogue disk it must be a rather overwhelming task to decide on what to obtain.

It has to be realized that all the 47 TPUG disks have been collated over a period of years. The result of this is that quite a few programs are either duplicated or updated over this period. With these TPUG disks it is rather better to start with disk no. 47 and work backwards - that way you get the most up to date versions of some of these programs.

For newcomers to disk and disk drives it is important to realise that when you either buy or copy one of these public domain disks it does not necessarily mean that you have to keep every program on every disk. You may only find one or two programs on certain disks useful, and there is nothing to stop you from either scratching the unwanted programs, or transferring the wanted ones to another disk. You don't know how to do that? We will show you how during a workshop meeting, or alternatively buy yourself a copy of "Starting with Disk Drives" (see page 8), and you'll soon be an expert in disk handling.

We would also like to point out that some disks require that you have another program loaded first - I refer to the disks containing "Doodle" and "Koala" pictures. Normally these can only be used if you have the (commercial) graphics programs "Doodle" and "Koala Sketch Pad". For more information about these see your dealer.

The term "Terminal Programs" refers to special programs required if you possess a 'MODEM' to either upload or download information via your telephone. If you don't own a modem don't worry about these disks.

Interested in learning BASIC programming? Try the disks with the "PONZO TUTORS", particularly parts 1 to 4. You may find them quite useful. Of course there are many other tutorials available as well.

All in all there is enough material here to keep you going for months, and it does not have to cost you more than the price of some blank disks.

While writing the above it struck me that a whole new generation of computer owners are starting out who have never even typed in a program! Some overseas magazines are making their published programs available on disks and quite a few books also come with a disk which includes the programs listed in the book.

This is all very well, but if you do want to find out what makes your computer 'tick', learn something about BASIC programming and then type in well annotated programs out of books and magazines - and you will find that after a while you start getting some idea of what the programs are actually doing. You may never be a programmer as such, but you will acquire certain skills which in turn will allow you to modify existing programs. An example? Some years ago I owned one of the earlier Commodore computers, a PET model 4016. When I obtained my C-64 I spent some time converting old PET programs to work on my C-64. No big deal, but it gave me some satisfaction when they actually worked. So, give it a go, and you will be well rewarded.

Ralph De Vries

NOTES & GOSSIP

FEBRUARY MEETING

Our first meeting of the new year was held under very trying weather conditions, with humidity at an all time high. By 7:15 it looked as if most members were going to stay home; by 7:30 the hall was packed, with standing room only. Some 30 people attended their first meeting and Bernard Trewnard-Speight gave them an outline of the group's aims and services. Quite a few joined our group on the spot. We were also pleased to welcome our member from Roma, 'Chips' McPherson. We hope that Chips was not too overpowered by the rather massive attendance!

Maurice Hawkyard who, in conjunction with Nev Shelley designed our new disk cataloguing system (see last month's CURSOR), gave a short outline of the new system. Not content with cataloguing all our disks they have now done the same for our book library. Many thanks, gentlemen!

Our book & magazine library has also been enriched with two huge storage boxes (ably constructed by Graham Barlow - again thanks are in order!), which allow us to store our books and magazines in the club rooms.

This brings us to Cliff Yule our book librarian for the last couple of years, who has struggled manfully every month with loads and loads of books and magazines to our monthly meetings. Cliff, who now owns his own electrical contracting business, is no longer able to continue with the job of book librarian, and again we would like to offer him our sincere thanks for what has been at times a very trying job. Fortunately Maurice Hawkyard is prepared to carry on where Cliff left off, so there should be no interruption to our library services.

After the interval our treasurer Lester Bennett gave a talk to a small group of members about some of the features of the CP/M operating system on the C-128. Lester has been busy during the last couple of months collating as much information as possible (mainly with his trusty modem) on CP/M, so if he does not watch out he will soon be known as the CP/M expert!

PERSONNEL CHANGES AT COMMODORE

Mr. Tony Serra has recently been appointed as managing director and general manager of Australia and the Asia Pacific region. With Commodore still holding more than 60% of the home computer market we hope that Tony and his team will manage to improve on that figure!

We also hear that quite a few changes have taken place in the Brisbane office of Commodore. Verilyn Smith has moved on to greener pastures, and our good friend Tony May (known variously as technician, representative, demonstrator, administrator, etc.) is now in charge of business and educational sales, and Stephen Minton will look after the home computer market. Congratulations Tony and Stephen!

INTERESTING NEW GRAPHICS SOFTWARE

We read a review in the TPUG magazine of Oct.'85 of a new graphics package called "Doodle Visits Print Shop", from a US company called Software Link. This seems to be a very nice software package, as it allows an interchange between two of the most popular software programs on the market, namely 'DOODLE' and 'PRINT SHOP'. This program allows you to create a picture

with Doodle and overlay it with the character fonts of Print Shop. But it also works in reverse, and pictures created with the graphics editor of Print Shop can be converted to Doodle pictures, and then modified with Doodle! Hopefully some enterprising software distributor will soon make it available in Australia.

ALL ABOUT TEETH AND TOOTHPASTE

Greg Perry and Mark Wharton have been busy programming for Colgate! Your editor had a quick preview of a quiz program they wrote on dental hygiene, and very good it was too! After answering all the questions in the quiz and, provided you have a printer attached to your computer, you get a printout listing of ten dentists in your local district. Ugh, what a horrible thought, ten local torturers!

AMIGA WHERE ARE YOU?

What conflicting reports are flying around about Commodore's super computer. We read about an Australian release (preview only?) in March during the Sydney computer show, but other reports said there would be no Australian release before July 1986. In an American magazine we read that Commodore has decided to scrap the ABASIC language package (designed by a British firm called Metacomco) in favour of a new Microsoft Basic package! All very confusing. Well, the latest news is that a small quantity of Amigas will be on display in the showrooms of selected dealers as from the last week of February, while they should go on sale in April. Time to start saving up or pay a visit to your bank manager to arrange a loan!

RIBBONS FOR 803 PRINTERS

Our roving bargain hunter Barrie Wilson has discovered a new supply source for ribbons for the Commodore 803 printer. A company called PR Business Machines at 611 Wynnum Rd. Morningside sells 'Brother' ribbons No. M 1009, which fit the 803 printer for \$7.50 each (on production of your membership card \$7.00 each). Alternatively you can purchase them in multiples of 10 for \$67.50. Any better offers?

ABOUT BEARDS

Following upon last month's article of Terry Steer's disappearing beard, (did you notice that he sports an entirely new lot of face fungus?) your editor has been taken to task by Max Bean (one of our P.D. disk librarians), for not mentioning that he has the oldest and most beautiful beard in the group! My sincere apologies Max!!!

SIMON'S BASIC

Do you use Simon's Basic and have problems or queries regarding this utility? If so our member Angus Norrie is prepared to act as your guide and mentor. You can contact Angus at (07) 371 2945 or write to him at 269 Birdwood Tce. Toowong 4066.

BATTERIES INCLUDED

This Canadian Software company, which manufactures amongst other things the "Paper Clip" word processor and the "Consultant" data base, has at long last acquired a local distributor (E.C.P.). Their products are available through our regular advertisers Chandlers and C.W. Electronics.

PRICE LIST [Members Only]

PUBLIC DOMAIN DISKS \$ 6.00 ea (Postage Paid)
PUBLIC DOMAIN TAPES \$ 2.00 ea (+ \$1.00 Postage Per Order)
BLANK DISKS \$20.00 per box of 10 (+ Postage \$2.00)
DISK BOXES (hold 90 disks) \$20.00 ea (+ \$5.00 Postage)
"PUBLIC DOMAIN BOOK" \$5.00 ea (+\$1.00 Postage)
"STARTING WITH DISK DRIVES" \$2.00 (+\$1.00 Postage)

RESET SWITCHES (Plugs into Serial Port) \$ 4.00 ea
RESET SWITCHES (Permanent Fitting) \$ 5.00 ea
TURBO-ROM for C-64: Members price - \$40.00
Customised version (your choice of screen start-up colours + your name on the start-up screen): \$45.00
SERIAL SWITCHING BOX (Allows switching between two computers and the in/out switching of other serial devices (printers - drives). \$14.00
USER PORT PLUG (with Key Way) \$8.00 (+\$1.00 postage)
USER PORT PLUG BACK SHELL \$3.00 (+\$1.00 postage)

COMPUTER DESKS (2 shelves - steel frame) \$60.00

Address all orders to P.O. Box 274 - Springwood - QLD - 4127
Cheques to be made out to: C.C.U.G. (Q) Inc.

UPGRADE CHARACTER EPROM for 801/1525 Printers.
(Gives Descenders on p,q,g,y, and j. Also requires exchange of a ROM chip)
Price (supplied & fitted) \$30.00

For further information on the above contact Lester Bennett on 800 1243 before 8 pm on weekdays.

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE TO MEMBERS ONLY: 1526 COMMODORE PRINTER

For details contact Roger Haigh on 399 8037 (after hours).

EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS performed by Anthony Thyssen during main (Milton) workshop.
If this is not suitable contact Anthony (weekends only) at 075 451 717.

SERVICES OFFERED:

RESET SWITCHES	Serial Port	\$4.00
	Built in	\$5.00
DEVICE NUMBER	Printer/Plotter 4-6	\$5.00
	Disk Drive 8-9	\$5.00
TURBO ROM FITTING	Computer w. socket	\$5.00
	Socket required	\$7.00
DRIVE ALIGNMENT	(Works in most cases)	\$2.00

MODEM MODIFICATIONS - Part 2

by Lester Bennett

This month I would like to look at the features of the aM7911 (or aM7910) World Modem Chip. Table 1 shows the different modes of operation available with this versatile chip. Of the nineteen modes of operation the second nine are a copy of the first nine except that MC4 is set which causes the Tx (transmit) signal to be looped back to the Rx (receive) input to simulate an on line situation for test purposes. We, therefore, have in effect four Bell modes, that is, using the Bell Standard Carrier frequencies as used in the USA and on some BBS in Australia and five CCITT modes which use the carrier frequencies standard to Australia and Europe.

Programming modes

MC ₄	MC ₃	MC ₂	MC ₁	MC ₀	
0	0	0	0	0	Bell 103 Originate 300 bps full duplex
0	0	0	0	1	Bell 103 Answer 300 bps full duplex
0	0	0	1	0	Bell 202 1200 bps half duplex
0	0	0	1	1	Bell 202 with equalizer 1200 bps half duplex
0	0	1	0	0	CCITT V.21 Originate 300 bps full duplex
0	0	1	0	1	CCITT V.21 Answer 300 bps full duplex
0	0	1	1	0	CCITT V.23 Mode 2 1200 bps half duplex
0	0	1	1	1	CCITT V.23 Mode 2 with equalizer 1200 bps half duplex
0	1	0	0	0	CCITT V.23 Mode 1 600 bps half duplex
1	0	0	0	0	Bell 103 Originate loopback
1	0	0	0	1	Bell 103 Answer loopback
1	0	0	1	0	Bell 202 Main loopback
1	0	0	1	1	Bell 202 with equalizer loopback
1	0	1	0	0	CCITT V.21 Originate loopback
1	0	1	0	1	CCITT V.21 Answer loopback
1	0	1	1	0	CCITT V.23 Mode 2 main loopback
1	0	1	1	1	CCITT V.23 Mode 2 with equalizer loopback
1	1	0	0	0	CCITT V.23 Mode 1 main loopback
1	1	0	0	1	CCITT V.23 Back loopback

TABLE 1

The first two CCITT modes are 300 Originate and 300 Answer which are used for operation at 300 baud full duplex and are already implemented in the project modem. One party transmits at 300 baud on the Originate carrier frequency and the other transmits at 300 baud on the Answer carrier frequency. This allows transmission of data in both directions at the same time although you will find that this rarely happens. The next two modes are 1200 baud half duplex, the second of which includes equalization but is otherwise identical to the first. These modes also have facilities for a 75 baud back channel which gives the VIATEL mode. Finally there is the 600 baud half duplex mode.

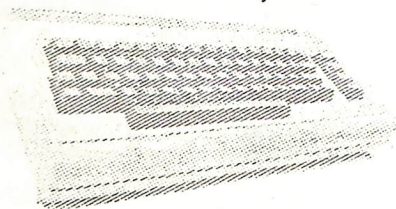
Apart from the control lines MC0 to MC4 to select these modes there is also the RTS (request to send) and BRTS (back channel request to send) lines which when low (0) indicate to the modem chip that it should transmit on either the main or back channel. Both RTS and BRTS should never be set to 0 at the same time.

Consider the possibilities for combinations of these lines described. There are many available and many not implemented in the standard project.

In future articles I would like to discuss how some of these other modes may be implemented.

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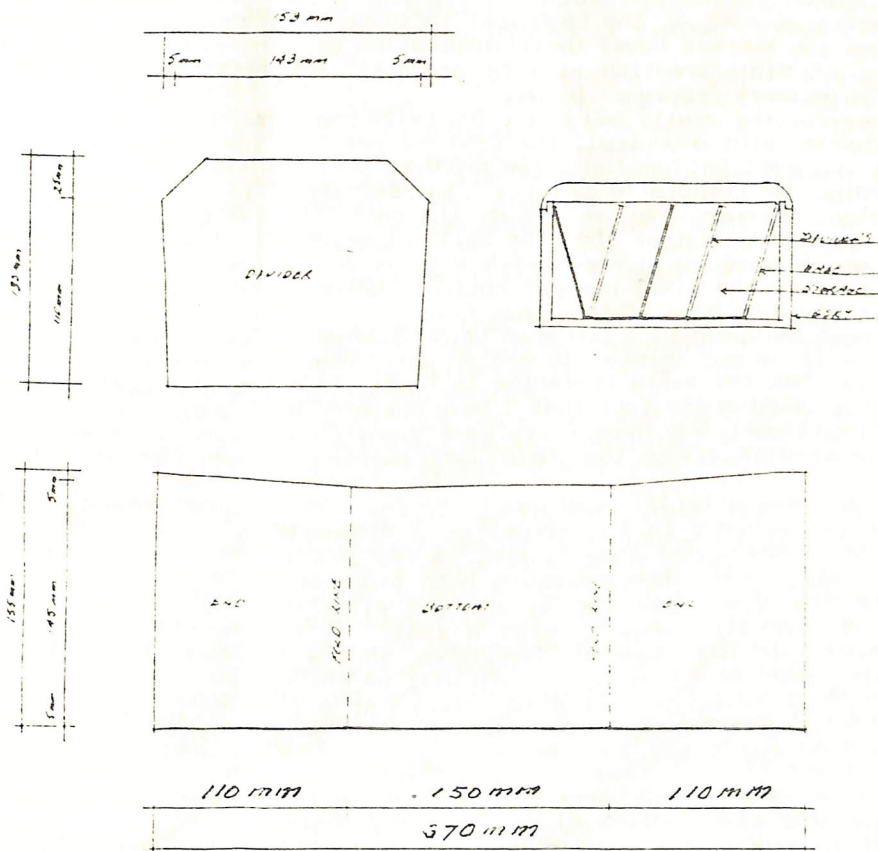
S P E C I A L R A T E S F O R

G R O U P M E M B E R S !

A CHEAP DISK STORAGE BOX

by Terry Baade

1. CUT OUT SHAPES IN CARDBOARD
2. COVER WITH CONTACT PAPER, MATERIAL ETC.
3. INSERT BOTTOM SECTION INSIDE A 6 PACK ESKY.
4. USE ABOUT 3 OR 4 DIVIDERS TO SEPARATE DISKS.
5. HELDS UP TO 50 DISKS.
6. REMOVE CHARD FROM ESKY
7. SWEDDE CONTACT PAPER CAN BE USED BUT IS EXPENSIVE



The Commodore C-128 - Views and Reviews

Slowly but surely the sales of C-128 computers are creeping up. According to Commodore over 6000 units have been sold in Australia which, considering the lack of both software and hardware is pretty encouraging.

It now appears that the C-128 was only released in the USA a matter of weeks before the Australian release. Apparently somebody at Commodore forgot to get approval from the electrical authorities! They also seem to have problems in Canada with the power supplies (not identical with our power supplies). Disk drives and colour monitors are not as readily available either as the adverts would like you to believe.

All this means that there is both a shortage of technical information and good software specifically written for the machine in 128 mode. When the C-64 was released in Australia they had been available on the American market for six months or more, which meant that by the time the machine hit Australia we had an immediate supply of software, plus Programmers Reference Guides etc.

Currently the only technical information on the C-128 comes in a few books from Abacus in the USA which are translations of German publications. It appears that most of the technical information is reasonably accurate, but because the authors based their information on pre-release models a certain amount of misinformation will be present. We certainly need Commodore's own Programmers Reference Guide.

And now for the really bad news: The C-128 has a bug in it!

Now that's nothing unusual, the C-64 was not bug-free, nor were the earlier Pets, and even IBM has had a few problems over the years!

According to Compute!'s Gazette (Jan 86) there is talk of a minor ROM revision, because when you engage the CAPS LOCK key the letter Q displays an unshifted Q, rather than the ball character (Shift-Q). Also LOCATE and some other graphics commands work with +x and +y, but not -x and -y in the 'relative to the pixel cursor' option. Neither are very serious problems, but it would be nice if they were fixed.

I am more bothered by a bug when using Superscript 128. When typing fairly quickly it is not unusual to see an extra character appear in a word. The snag is that the extra character is usually a number rather than a letter, and this despite the fact that I have not been near the numeric keys! Both Cliff Pottinger and Greg Perry have reported the same phenomenon. Also, for no apparent reason the 'Help' menu appears when not called for!

And now for the really good news! By the time you read this the 1571 disk drive has arrived in the shops, at a R.R.P. of \$599.00. This, as most regular readers will know by now, is the double-sided disk drive with two read/write heads, thus accessing both sides of the disk without having to remove the disk from the drive, and effectively giving you twice the storage capacity compared with a 1541. This will really make all the difference to the general acceptance of the C-128 as a small business system. Also released this month will be the C-128D computer. This is a 128 with a built-in 1571 disk drive. At a recommended retail price of \$1099.00 it means an effective saving of close on to \$200.00 compared with a separate C-128 and 1571 drive. Apart from the financial advantage it means fewer bits of leads trailing around, although it also means that if your disk drive needs servicing you are without your computer as well. However this also applies to the IBM's and their clones. Now it is only a matter of waiting for more and better business software to appear. Next month more about the 1571 drive and the C-128D computer. Hopefully we'll have some on show for our March meeting.

Editor

REVIEWS

'SWIFT' SPREADSHEET FOR THE COMMODORE C-128 - R.R.P. \$90.00

Review by Col Ramsay

Several weeks ago I was requested by our Editor to review this spreadsheet program written for the '128'. Well, what with staff holidays etc. this project was put aside until last Sunday week. This was to be the start of disaster - first my '128' (the one I have at home) decided to go on the blink. No problem, I just slipped down to the office and grabbed the '128' (at this time unused) from the cupboard - back home load 'SWIFT' and get on with the task at hand.

Wrong, this '128' managed to work for approx 30 seconds and bingo off on holidays as well, so next day off to 'Commodore' for repairs. Thanks to the staff at 'Commodore' we are now back on the road to reviewing this Spreadsheet.

I have been using the Microsoft program 'MULTIPLAN' for nearly two years with my 'C64' to handle a stock system. During this period I have tried other spreadsheets in an endeavour to improve my system, however to date my search had been unsuccessful.

'SWIFT' I believe is a step in the right direction. 'SWIFT' has a number of advantages for my application, firstly it is TOTALLY MACHINE HELD, which means no disk referencing during use. This saves a dramatic amount of time when setting up and moving around the sheet.

Because of the larger memory of the '128' nearly double the number of cells can be used in comparison to 'C64' programs. One thing that I find difficult to accept with all the spreadsheets I have used is that you can only use a limited number of the cells provided. However 'SWIFT' allows the use of many more of the provided cells, in fact more than double that of 'MULTIPLAN' on the 'C64'.

As for ease of use, I am not so sure that the use of a pop up type of menu is as convenient as that used in many other programs for COMMODORE, eg. some programs list a menu at the bottom of the screen and you merely press the first letter of the command you require.

Maths calculations with 'SWIFT' are very fast and quite easy to set up. Calculations can be set to calculate as you enter data or switched off and called upon when data entry is complete or when you, the operator require them.

One feature I am still trying to sort out is the column insert feature - it would seem that when you insert a column the program forgets to keep its column/width relationship. This means that after inserting a column you have to readjust your column widths. This is rather a waste of time, something the programmer must have forgotten about when writing 'SWIFT'. For those people like myself who had a little difficulty getting started with the 'MULTIPLAN' instruction manual you will find the booklet for 'SWIFT' a little easier to get along with, although some areas are described very well, some amount of time has to be spent just playing with features before you end up with the desired results. I called the manual a booklet because that is all it is, some more detailed explanations would be of great benefit.

It would seem that 'SWIFT' is rather a useful work tool with many good features and just a few that need a little sorting out. It is much faster to use for data entry than some spreadsheets of the past and will compliment your library.

NOTE - If you use a non 'COMMODORE' printer and are using an interface which requires a connection to the cassette port of your computer you could try (as I have done) picking up 5volts from your printer via an on off switch. This allows you to change dip switch settings and reset the interface and printer without resetting the computer
I have left the original cassette lead intact for those times when I need to use the interface with printers other than my own.

Col Ramsay

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TO ALL OWNERS OF C-128 COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS

If you have recently purchased a C-128 or C-128D with or without a 1570 or 1571 disk drive the committee would like to hear from you if you have experienced any problems with the unit(s). By problems we refer specifically to problems with Basic, interfacing, software which won't run properly or not at all etc.

We don't want to know about mechanical failure as such, which after all can be dealt with on a servicing level, but rather with 'bugs', such as the one mentioned on page 12 of this newsletter.

If you can assist would you please drop me a line, or alternatively let us know during the March meeting.

Editor

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THE C64 AS A CHARACTER GENERATOR.

by Barry Smith

For those members of the users group who are also home video buffs, a few comments on the C64 as a graphics generator might be useful.

Modern top-of-the-line video cameras have a built in capacity to generate titles, but are usually limited to one style of lettering displayed in a fixed format. Older and cheaper cameras are totally devoid of graphics capability. This poses a real problem for most experienced video enthusiasts, who find that their video skills are sufficient to make reasonably attractive programs which lack only in the area of titles, credits, etc. Your C64 is the answer to the problem.

The first necessary step is to acquire some good graphics software for your computer. A wide variety a programs are available. Some that come to mind are:

- Printshop (if you mainly want titles or word lists to appear).
- any turtle graphics program if you can use pretty patterns in your video program. Even Spinnaker's Delta Drawing is suitable here.
- Koalpad or Hesware Paintbrush for those with some artistic flare who want to create and video record "pictures".
- the animation program recently acquired by the user's group should be useful for creating interesting cartoon sequences.

The major requirement when selecting graphics programs is to ensure that screens you create can be saved to disk. This allows you to generate your graphics before the day of the big video production and quickly load each graphic as it is required. It simply isn't practical to sit down in the

middle of a production and create the graphic you need. In the 30 minutes you need to do this, your "actors" will forget what they were doing, get bored, or simply disappear. So plan the graphics beforehand, burn the mid-night oil to create and save them so that they can be called up quickly as needed during shooting.

The next major step is to make (or get a technician to make) a lead to connect your C64 direct to your video recorder. The necessary wiring diagram for the computer end of the cable appears on page 142 of the User Manual supplied with the computer. The equivalent diagram for the video recorder end of the cable should appear in the literature accompanying the recorder. Such a cable allows the composite video signal generated by the computer to be fed direct from the audio-video port to the video-in plug of the recorder - the computer is virtually acting as an alternative camera. What you see on the computer screen is exactly what is being recorded on the videotape.

In addition to the graphics so far discussed, the C64 can also be used to generate music and sound effects for your video program. Once again, the appropriate connection between the audio-video port of the computer and the audio-in plug of the video recorder allows any sound generated by the computer to be dubbed directly onto videotape. If your recorder doesn't boast an audio-in plug, a suitably damped signal can be connected to the microphone plug.

This sound connection can be used in several ways. For example

- music played directly on the computer via a keyboard overlay can be recorded.
- music programmed via a software package such as Commodore's Music Composer can be produced as required.
- sound effects can be created to suit the action in the video program. The sound effects in Introduction to Basic Part 1 can be easily modified to produce a wide range of sounds ranging from atmospheric to scary to explosive to rude.

To summarize, the C64 can be used effectively as both a graphics and a sound generator by the home video enthusiast. As with all video, the potential of the equipment is really only limited by your creativity in using it. So experiment, try new ideas, and pass on your successes (and failures) to others.

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WELCOME

It is with great pleasure that we welcome two new advertisers in "CURSOR".

Software 80 is one of the longest established computer dealers in Brisbane, and is now one of the small band of official Commodore educational dealers.

Don Computer Service is one of the most recently established computer repair services, but quite a few of our members know Don, as up till recently he was Commodore's Brisbane technician.

As can be seen from their adverts both companies offer discounts to our members on production of your current membership card. We always suggest to our members to support our advertisers at all times!

Editor

MEMBERS' ADVERTS

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FOR SALE

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300/300 & 1200/75 Baud MODEMS As Designed By Roger Haigh

Printed Circuit Board with Assembly Instructions, Photograph etc \$25.00

Modem Fully Assembled & Tested \$195.00

Postage extra on all items.

Contact Lester Bennett on 800 1243 before 8 pm.

1526 Printer - 2 years old - excellent condition - \$200.00

Xetec Super Graphics Jnr. Interface - Suitable for printing Printshop, Ultrabasic, etc. 1525 emulation or transparent modes. - Never been used - Normal retail price \$130.00 - My price \$100.00

Contact Richard Watt on (067) 521 753 (work) or (067) 524-568 (a.h.)

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ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS!

We would like to welcome the many new members who have joined us recently, and in the following few paragraphs explain certain aspects of group membership.

When you wish to make use of our book and magazine library we would like you to lodge a \$5.00 security deposit with our treasurer. This rule was introduced some years ago, because of substantial losses and damage to library material. If library services are no longer required, or if you terminate your group membership this deposit will be refunded.

Carry your membership card with you at all group meetings. Sales of discounted items such as diskettes etc. are only made to members who can show that they are financial at the time.

You can obtain discounts (usually in the range of about 10%) from Chandlers in Adelaide St., C.W. Electronics (all branches), Software 80, and Don Computer Service on production of your current membership card. Please do support our advertisers!

Most group sales and services are listed in this newsletter. If in doubt don't hesitate to call the personnel listed in our directory - you will find them very helpful.

Suburban sub-group meetings as listed on page 2 and 3 of this newsletter are open to all financial members. There is no extra charge to attend these meetings!

Our main workshop meeting is at Milton (see page 2 of this newsletter), always 12 days after our main meeting. This is the place where you can bring all your computer problems, both software- and hardware related. Milton is also the place for making copies of our public domain disks, but remember: BRING YOUR OWN EQUIPMENT!

The Management Committee

SOFTWARE 80 COMPUTERS



Courses of Instruction.

Venue: Software 80 classroom.

1. Commodore 64 BASIC, commences Tuesday
25/2/86 at 6pm.
2. Learn How to Service your Commodore 64
(also 1541 and monitor) commences
27/2/86 at 6pm.

Each Course: 6 weeks, 2 hrs. 20 min./week
- cost \$120.00 payable in full in advance.
Refreshments provided.

Note: Classes limited to 12 - enrol early.

Text book or Course notes provided at no extra charge.

Printers: Epson GX-80 with Commodore Interface.

Cables: C128 RGB to Monochrome Monitor - 80 col. \$8.50

Books: a large range on display.

Magazines: Both Australian Commodore titles.

Desks: high quality "Systemline" on castors - 3 sizes.

Photocopier: in shop, for use of customers.

Check out the Commodore 128D now. The Amiga soon.
Genuine discounts for current members with cards.

We're at -

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AMATEUR SATELLITES

Notes for non Radio Amateurs

by Ron Rich

Radio Amateur Satellite communication commenced on Dec. 12 1961 with the successful launching of OSCAR 1 (Orbiting Satellite carrying Amateur Radio), four years after the launching of Sputnik 1.

Satellites of the Amateurs of the Western World carry the title of Oscar and a number, those of the USSR are designated RS (Radio-Lioubiejnic Sputnik) followed by a number

Twenty one Amateur satellites have been launched so far. Oscar 1 to 5 were battery powered and as such their life was short. Oscar 6 to 11 and RS 1 to 8 carried Solar Arrays and could recharge their batteries. All had telemetry beacons and most carried transponders for two way radio communication between the Radio Amateurs.

The above satellites were launched into a circular polar orbit at a height of approximately 1600 kms. Due to the rotation of the Earth their apparent movement was in a westerly change of longitude of about 28 degrees per orbit of 90 to 100 minutes, this gave a working window of some 15 to 20 minutes if the satellite passed directly overhead, in this case they were also accessible for a few minutes on the eastern horizon as they approached and on the western horizon as they moved further west.

The latest Phase Three Satellites operate in an elliptical orbit with an apogee of some 36000 km which is inclined to the Equator at an angle of 25 degrees. This allows for many hours of contact via the satellite as it loops out into space and back. Oscar 10 is the first of this type.

Certain control stations can command the satellite to send back coded telemetry which when decoded gives details of the well being of the satellite, readings of temperature, battery charge rate, power output of transmitters etc, etc,.

Programs have been written for the C64 which can predict the passage of the satellites, a full description is beyond the scope of this article but if you are interested contact one of the Amateurs and they will help you to go further into this interesting hobby, various publications are available from overseas which specialise in this field.

The Oscar 10 Beacon operates on 145.81 MHZ.
Downlink frequency is 145.84/145.95 and 436 MHZ.
Uplink is on 435.05/435.160 and 1269 MHZ.

In some of the programs you will come across abbreviations, their meaning is below:-

ANT = Antenna.
QTH = What is your location?. My location is...
QRN = Your signal is being distorted (weather/atmospherics).
QRM = Man made noise interfering with the signal.
QSL = Can you acknowledge receipt?. I am acknowledging receipt.
This is done generally by means of a QSL card.
QSO = Can you/ I can communicate with.....
DX = Working stations in other countries.
RTTY = Radio teletype.
SSB = Single Side Band.
PACKET RADIO = Using computers to send 'packets' of data by radio.

SSTV = Slow Scan TV. Sending still pictures on HF frequencies.
MUF = Maximum usable frequency.
UTC = Coordinated Universal Time (replaces GMT).

AMATEUR PROGRAMS

ANT LINE LOSSES Solves feed line losses.
ANTENNA DESIGN Provides data for the design of most antenna types. Print out available.
ANTENNA SCALER Various options for scaling up/down in frequency from known design parameters or one on file.
BEAM HEAD/DIST Provides Great Circle bearing and distance to other parts of the globe from a fixed position.
BEARING CHECKER Gives bearing and distance (in mls/kms) between two positions.
C64 CW TRAINER Learn the Morse Code-sound and variable speeds, excellent pgm.
CONTEST LOGGER Advanced pgm for the experienced operator, many facilities, prints out QSL cards too!.
GRID LOCATOR Divides the surface of the globe into small squares which are coded. Uses this method of location instead of Lat/Long.
GRT CIRC CALC Another pgm to calculate Great Circle bearings.
MUF Provides maximum usable frequency between Australia and other parts of the Globe, requires Solar Flux readings.
PATHCALC-C64 Similar to above, requires Solar Flux for 7 days, Lat/Lon both stations or large pre entered list of cities on file, which may be added to.
RTTY Pgm for send/rec RTTY in Baudo or Ascii, Morse Code and tx/SSTV. Requires Mod/Demod and interface.
INSTR This together with LOG AND QSL, QN, QSL BURD A-1 and OA-9 all form part of advanced pgm for logging and QSL work. Load and run INSTR for details.

AMS DISK 64 2A Radio Amateur Programs.

AMS-2064

Tracking pgm for various Amateur Satellites, is not a fast runner so have patience when running it and take care with the entries.

TRAKTRACK 64

OSCAR 10 pgm which tells you which part of the globe you can contact at a certain time.

PLAN10 64

Another tracking program for OSCAR 10.

VR85

This is a pgm that displays a map of the world and shows the path of the satellite as it circles the earth. Data is also displayed at the bottom of the screen giving azimuth, elevation, distance and if the satellite is accessible by radio, lat/long during the flight etc., turn up the sound to get the full effect.

It also gives tracking data as well in place of the map.

Any member who is interested in any aspect of Amateur Radio and Commodore Computer should contact Ron Rich direct at (07) 355 2623 (a.h.) or write to P.O. Box 187, Everton Park, 4053.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

It is with some measure of regret that the committee has to announce the resignation of Cliff Pottinger as Chief Librarian. We extend our sincere thanks for the many months of hard work that Cliff has put into the organisation of the Public Domain Disk library.

We are fortunate in having found a worthy replacement for Cliff in the person of Maurice Hawkyard who, as most of you will know by now, has spent a lot of time in the cataloguing of our vastly expanded P.D. library.

We are doubly fortunate in the fact that Cliff Pottinger has accepted the post of C-128 Contact person. Members' inquiries re C-128 hardware and software can be addressed to Cliff.

The Management Committee

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FROM THE SYSOP

The bulletin board has acquired an additional disk drive (SFD 1000), as we are slowly running out of disk space on our existing drives. This will give us the opportunity to put several of our Public Domain TPUG disks on our bulletin board, thus facilitating access to these disks.

Attention to owners of 8250 disk drives who don't possess a modem: Ray King is able to prepare TPUG disks for your particular drive if so required. Contact Ray at 208 1409 (after hours)

Attention to C-128 owners who are interested in CP/M: We have obtained a new CP/M BIOS Disk which rectifies some shortcomings of the disk supplied with your computer. This disk can be downloaded via our bulletin board, or alternatively copies can be obtained from our P.D. software library.

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HOW PROGRAMMERS
SEE COMPUTERS



HOW COMPUTERS
SEE PROGRAMMERS

COMPUTER MAN

Down in the den
Lives a computer man.
High up above is his own turtle dove

All through the day
He'll play and he'll say
How important it is to view.
But, do you know his wife
Has a terrible life,
As all of work she must do.

Whilst he's in soft ware
She is tearing out her hair
At the phone that is ringing all day.
The fanatics come around
Like a pack of bloodhounds
Till she runs like a fox who is prey.

As week follows week
She silently weeps
Whilst he lovingly fondles his tapes
And as she wanders by with a sigh for his eye
He will give her a computer gaze.

Should a thief wander in
Says his wife with a grin, I'll show him the door to the den
It's on the shelf, take the lot, help yourself.
If you don't - I do myself in!

ANONYMOUS

We sincerely hope that our members will get the same emotional response as your committee did on first reading this poetic master piece!

Regrettably we were unable to trace the identity of the poet(ess), although we have a suspicion that Barry Wilson does know his/her true identity, but he is not telling!

If some of our more poetic members feel that they can improve on the above we will most certainly consider their artistic endeavours for future publication in "CURSOR", provided the theme is computers and/or their owners.

Sorry, but as we are not a literary magazine your committee is not prepared to pay you a honorarium!

Editor

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COMMODORE COMPUTER USERS GROUP (QLD) INC.

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:	PETER WYER	Ph. 38 3767
Librarian - Vic-20:	TOM KELLY	Ph.372 2689

Please Note: The above phone numbers are private numbers, and most of our committee members can only be contacted after hours!
Please contact Greg Perry only between 10 am and 4 pm.

Address for newsletter mail only: P.O. Box 384 - Ashgrove - QLD - 4060.
Deadline for any particular month is the Second Tuesday of that Month.
All other mail to: P.O.Box 274 - Springwood - Qld - 4127.

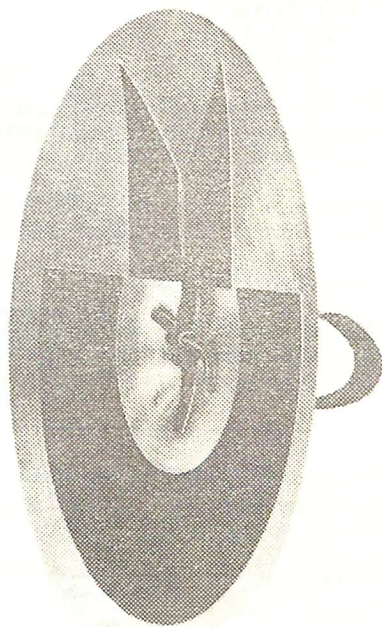
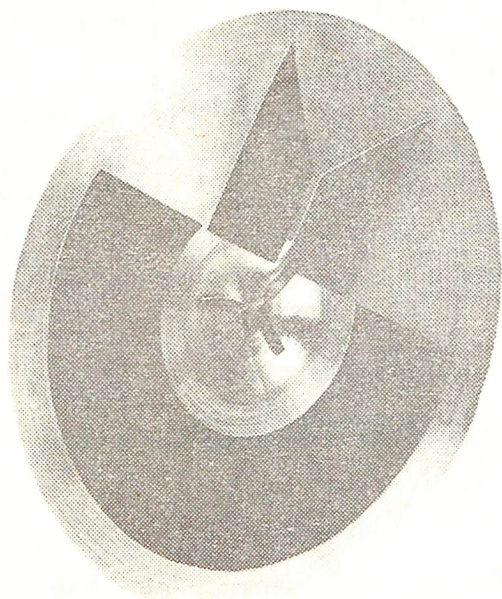
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Published by: COMMODORE COMPUTER USERS GROUP (QLD) INC. - P.O.BOX 274, SPRINGWOOD, QLD, 4127.

Printed by: BRISBANE EDUCATION CENTRE - P.O. BOX 84, SPRING HILL, QLD, 4000

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