

Cincinnati Commodore Computer Club

May, 2008 President's Page

Howdy Fellow Commodore Users!

Early one morning in May I had the news on my television as I was washing dishes in the kitchen. I heard a short announcement of a report coming up after the next commercial break. Did I hear that right? Oh, please, let it not be so! I had to hear it wrong, or at the very least it was somewhere else other than here. So, I stopped what I was doing, and sat riveted to the TV set as the report would be on shortly.

You know, I generally hate the current trend of TV station news saying: "Coming up, a report on...." I start to yell at the TV set and argue, you already have my attention, go ahead and report about it now. But, no, they have to do it thru at least half the newscast before they finally actually get to the report. I always wonder, what happens if something more important really does make breaking news? Will that other report that has been teased about for the last 20 minutes get bumped? Will I have to wait until tomorrow until I finally find out what was so earth shattering that they have to "promote" the story in such fashion? Sorry, but I digressed. Back to the report I heard.

I did hear correctly, and it was happening here. My most dreaded time is coming again. The arrival of the Brood XIV Cicada to Cincinnati is going to happen on Mother's Day, maybe a day or two sooner with the recent rain we have been having. If you have been a member of CCCC for at least 5 years, you have heard my previous story about them back in 2004. You can reread that story at our website at:

<http://www.geocities.com/c64-128-amiga/4-04.html>

Fortunately for me, it appears that this brood will only affect the East Side of Cincinnati. Sorry Roger, and other folks living on that side of town. But, I will not be visiting you folks for the next few weeks until those pesky critters end their life. I will be thinking of you folks driving down the road, covered in cicadas, hearing the scrunching of bugs under the tires. I will see traffic reports of cars skidding around the roadways, as the slippery bug mess makes it difficult to maneuver, like the snow we rarely see in Cincinnati. All the recipes I will gladly skip over in the newspapers for the next several weeks, showing such delicacies as cicada brownies, and cicada cookies.....yuck! BTW did I mention that I hate cicadas?

One good thing to look forward to in May is our nomination and election of officers for the 2007-08 term of office. We need you to show up, volunteer, and vote!

Keep on Commodoring!!

David Witmer Cincinnati Commodore Computer Club President

AKA Snogpitch

Webpage <http://www.geocities.com/c64-128-amiga>

snogpitch@prodigy.net

cbmusers@yahoo.com

ICQ 4989342

Editor's Report

I am still looking for articles from our members. Anything related to Commodore computers will do. Articles should be in the format of your choice (though plain old .txt would be great). Articles should be submitted by email to six@thedarkside.ath.cx, or by plain mail to the address on the cover of this newsletter.

Finally, there are two things that you should all take the time to make us aware of: 1st, if you would like to receive your newsletter via email instead of print, and 2nd, if you would like to receive the annual disk (and if so, which format, C64 or PC) that we will be releasing starting this year. See the address information above.

1541 Ultimate Plus test by Cadaver, reprinted from <http://c64.sk>

I received my 1541 Ultimate Plus in the beginning of May 2008. Here are some compatibility test results from running several demos and the game Turrican 3. Test equipment consisted of a **C64C**, [1541 Ultimate Plus cartridge](#), and a **Kingston 1 GB SD card** that was used as storage media.

Basically, the 1541 Ultimate should emulate the 1541 drive hardware as accurately as possible, enabling for example fastloaders to run correctly. The cartridge plugs into the C64's expansion port, and in addition to that a serial cable is naturally needed to actually transfer the data.



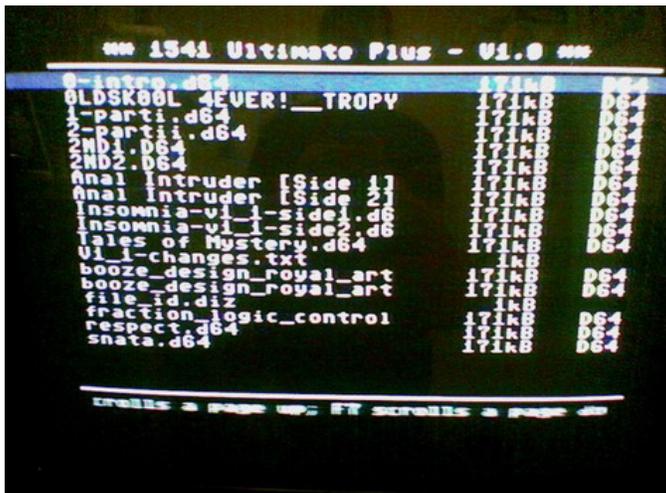
The Plus edition has the added capability of emulating a REU up to 16MB. Because of its overwhelming popularity over the standard edition, further batches made by Gideon will only consist of the Plus edition.

The cartridge interface contains 3 buttons: leftmost is reset, middle brings up the file selector for choosing the disk image to mount, and rightmost is freeze button - if not using the REU, you have the option to enable either Action Replay or Final Cartridge III hardware emulation. As I was used to Action Replay, I used it throughout the test, with the exception of testing the REU functionality with Cosine's Snata Claus demo.

(There's also a standalone mode possible, where the 1541 Ultimate is NOT connected to a C64; you use a USB cable to power it and use the buttons on the cartridge to select disk images blindly. This mode was not tested.)

While in the file selector, you can press F2 to enter the configuration screen. There you can set the drive ID (default 8) used by the cartridge, as well as a secondary "command channel" ID (default 9), and the cartridge hardware to emulate (REU, AR, FC III). There's also an option to simulate removing the disk from drive, when you pull the SD card out, needed for the "turn disk" parts in some demos.

The command channel can be used, among other things, to mount/create/delete diskimages without having to enter the file selector. However, it acts like a second disk drive on the serial bus and will interfere with fastloaders that use the ATN line for handshaking. Therefore it's good that it can be disabled.



Basically every time you enter the file selector, it's like using a freezer cart to freeze the currently executing program. The freeze function seems to be handled rather robustly; in the test none of the demos exhibited bad behaviour when selecting the next disk image at the "turn disk" parts.

The file selector can also be used to directly run PRG & T64 files and programs from within D64 disk images. In this form of operation, the C64 appears to reset itself; after this, you are able to run the file (it doesn't run automatically).

G64 images are currently not supported; that will possibly follow in future firmware updates. There are also reports of illegal opcodes not emulated 100% on the 1541 CPU; therefore more esoteric fastloaders, such as Krill's newest, may fail.

Ok, that's all for now! See <http://www.1541ultimate.net/> for more information and the official discussion forum (registration needed)

Author of the review: Lasse Öörni

Author website: <http://covertbitops.c64.org/>

Thanx goes to: MacGyver (Milo Mundt) for suggestions for testing.

VICEPlus 1.1 Released

VICEPlus, the C64 DTV Emulator has been updated with some new features.

Changes from VICEplus 1.0:

- Merged with VICE 1.22.8 (and a bit beyond)
- Many monitor features (coders, have a look at it!)
- New PAL emulation
- Support for more host architectures
- x64dtv:
 - added trueflashfs
 - vicii IRQ differences
 - PS/2 mouse on userport support
 - Pixel cell and FRED2 fixes
 - cycle exact DMA/Blitter
 - lots of bugfixes
- DTV programs now working: 2008 - A DTV ODYSSEY, Boulder Dash DTV

x64dtv uses a new snapshot format that is not compatible with the VICEplus 1.0 x64dtv format.

The x11/xaw UI has been changed to require Num, Caps or Scroll Lock to be on to use the menus.

San Diego GOP chairman co-founded international piracy ring



Any job applicant knows that background checks are routine – especially for jobs involving authority or oversight of money. So why didn't the San Diego Republican Party do a simple Google search before naming Tony Krvaric as its chairman?

Online research reveals that Krvaric is the co-founder of Fairlight, a band of software crackers which later evolved into an international video and software piracy group that law enforcement authorities say is among the world's largest such crime rings. After co-founding Fairlight in Sweden, Krvaric established U.S. operations for the organization, including an arm headquartered in Southern California—a major center for the computer and video game industry.

Krvaric has also been appointed by California Republican Party Chairman Ron Nehring to [head up the state party's budget committee](#).

[RAW STORY](#)'s investigation reveals the California GOP has put an alleged pirate in charge of its treasure trove.

An e-mail sent anonymously this week to a conservative listserv operator in San Diego County revealed an attached document titled "The Secret Life of Tony Krvaric." The attachment alleged that Krvaric, using the alias "Strider," founded Fairlight "to illegally crack and distribute copyrighted software." Fairlight evolved from "an adolescent obsession into a full fledged multinational criminal enterprise," the e-mail claimed.

Krvaric, alias Strider

Currently a financial consultant and licensed securities broker, Tony Krvaric was born in Sweden in 1971 to a family of Croatian immigrants. He arrived in the United States in 1992 on an H1B visa, wanting to leave Swedish social democracy. Krvaric had been known even in his teens as a conservative; his motto was "Kill A Commie For Your Mommie." In his official Republican party biography, Krvaric claims that he was inspired by the legacy of Ronald Reagan and criticized the European system for not providing an economic climate that would "encourage free enterprise and competition."

Krvaric obtained American citizenship in 2003 and joined the Republican Party, which [welcomed him](#) as a refutation of "those claiming the GOP is non-accepting and non-inclusive of immigrants." He made a meteoric rise through Republican party ranks, taking the helm of San Diego's GOP just three years later. Krvaric "credits the man he succeeds, Ron Nehring with teaching him much about the functions of the Republican Party."

However, behind this old-fashioned success story lies another and more shadowy version of Krvaric's life, his time spent as a video game pirate sporting the alias "Strider." In 1987, Strider and two buddies, using the names "Black Shadow" and "Gollum" founded Fairlight, devoted to "cracking" the copy protection on video games for the Commodore 64 and other early systems and redistributing them to acquaintances through electronic bulletin boards.

The "warez d00dz" of that time competed at being the first to get their hands on newly released games. Strider, who worked in a game store and would "borrow" new games to take home and crack, was one of the very best. According to [an interview](#) that a website claims was published in Scandinavian News in the 1980s, he quickly became "one of the most famous persons in cracking-scene ever seen: STRIDER of FAIRLIGHT."

A list of Commodore 64 games cracked by Strider is posted at a database of C-64 computer information -- complete with his photo, recent biographical details, and first name: Tony, described as a "coder, cracker, importer and organizer" for Fairlight. The listing confirms that Strider has since become a financial consultant and Republican in San Diego, married with four children. His impressive list of "accomplishments" includes cracking games ranging from PacMan to Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom. The site also lists Strider's motto: "[Kill a commie for your mommie.](#)"

This pirate site lists Strider's accomplishments chronologically including all the games he cracked in his formative years. It identifies Strider as "Toni K. (No. 1)" residing at Hallstorpsv. 38a - 212 32 Malmoe – Sweden. It also lists [numbers of people](#) he apparently recruited into the cracking business.

Although game cracking was already seen by the Swedish police as illicit in the '80s, trading cracked software was not made explicitly illegal in Sweden until 1993. By then Kravic was in the United States, finding new entrepreneurial opportunities for Fairlight in connection with the United Software Association. According to a [website that celebrates the scene](#), "Strider from the Amiga Fairlight joined up with the USA guys early on and USA basically became the Fairlight PC division with it's own identity and management staff."

Kravic formed Fairlight PC to specialize in games for the new PC's, but by the end of 1992, a set of high-profile arrests for credit card fraud among his American associates apparently led Krvaric to exit the PC game business as well and into a new operation called FairLight Trading..

According to an [archived Fairlight webpage](#), FairLight Trading was originally incorporated in Sweden in 1990. "For two years prior it operated as a sole proprietorship. As business grew, the need for incorporating was obvious. The decision to do so was made in the summer of 1990 when funding was obtained from additional investors. Business was mainly concentrated to computer parts such as microprocessors, simm modules and hard drives. A completely different facet also surfaced though; nonperishable foodstuffs. . . In January of 1993, FairLight Trading, Inc. was incorporated under the laws of the State of California as a wholly owned subsidiary. Soon thereafter all operations were run from our offices in San Diego."

However, even this new enterprise was operating in a legal grey area. According to a [1996 version](#) of Krvaric's webpage, "We are a trading company engaged in wholesale of various goods. Among our current offerings are Super WildCard DX 32MBiT Super Nintendo(tm) back-up units."

The Super Wildcard DX was a copier for Nintendo games, put out by a Hong Kong company as a backup system, but also used for illegal copying. That kind of circumvention device was made illegal by the Digital Millenium Copyright Act, which was already in the works by 1996, though not passed by Congress until October 1998. But by the end of 1997, Krvaric was apparently out of that business as well, and soon after obtained a [Securities Broker license](#).

After Krvaric's apparent departure in 1992, FairLight PC was reconstituted by others and continued to carry on software piracy. In 2004, several members of the group were arrested in an international operation that involved police from eleven countries and led to 120 arrests.

Fairlight co-founder Bacchus (Pontus Berg) implicated Krvaric as still in charge of in charge of Fairlight PC and C64 activities in [an interview](#) published in 2004—shortly before international stings by law enforcement. "So I'm on my 15th year as a fairlighter and I'm seriously considering having the Amiga logo drawn by Angeldawn tattooed on my arm. Fairlight is now controlled by Strider, JBM and myself. Currently active sections are the C64 demo section and the PC demo section. The PC ISO section was put to sleep recently, but who know what the future might hold."

Editor's note: It's a month too late for April Fool's Day. Believe it or not, it's a true story. Sad, but true, your geeky past cracking C64 games may come back to haunt you.

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Cincinnati Commodore Computer Club

c/o Roger Hoyer

31 Potawatomi Trail

Milford, Ohio 45150

<http://www.geocities.com/c64-128-amiga>

<mailto://cbmusers@yahoo.com>

Current Officers:

President	David Witmer	513-868-1344
Vice President/Newsletter	Oliver VieBrooks	859-485-6465
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**The Cincinnati Commodore Computer Club is proud to present the
3rd annual C4 Expo.**

June 28-29 at the Drawbridge Inn

located at:

**2477 Royal Drive
Fort Mitchell, KY 41017**