
MARCH MCCC NEWS ISSUE 12

BOARD MEETING

The MCCC Board of Directors met March 3rd at the Hurst Recreation Center. President Diane Dews called the meeting to order. The board delayed action on a request by TCJC South Campus to become affiliated with the MCCC while also retaining status as an official on-campus group. The discussion centered on whether or not this would restrict other members from attending the TCJC chapter meetings. The board will consider a general policy in regards to requests from schools for chapter affiliation.

David Glazener presented a petition for the formation of a Grand Prairie chapter and the board approved the request. Ken Widner is organizing the April club meeting and asks that anyone with ideas or requests contact him immediately. The board is also considering the disbursement of funds to the chapters in excess of paying ordinary expenses.

Mike Cramer will begin action through his lawyer regarding the incorporation of the club as soon as funds are made available. The board voted that directories of the total membership will not be distributed to club members. If members desire to have a directory of their chapter, the chapter will be responsible for printing their own list. In another matter relating to privacy, the club will not make directories available to non-members.

Our librarians are actively working to improve their service to members. Ken Widner will be working with them to improve delivery time as well as a general error check of all disks. The board passed a motion to purchase several new disks from TPUG as well as their "Disk of the Month" for both VIC 20 and the 64.

Congratulations to all the new officers and group leaders of our chapters! Thanks for volunteering to participate in the leadership of the club.

Due to the efforts of our club officers and members, news of the MCCC is spreading. We have been approached by several other groups wishing to affiliate with, and, become chapters of the MCCC. In fact, we are welcoming a new chapter to the club this month. A group from Grand Prairie petitioned to join the MCCC and was approved by the Board of Directors, Sat. March 3. The Grand Prairie chapter will have its first organizational meeting Sat, March 10, at 2 pm at the Grand Prairie Public Library. For information, call David Glazener (214) 642-3131.

The club library has become a matter of concern to me and the other officers. Although we have a fine library now, I feel it needs to grow in order to keep pace with the increasing needs of our membership. The Board voted to purchase 5 new disks from TPUG, 4 for the C-64 and 1 for the VIC 20. The Board also elected to begin purchasing TPUG's "Disk of the Month" which includes both 64 and VIC programs. However, this step is only a beginning. We also need input from our members in the form of software contributions, as well as revisions and improvements of our existing library. The new chapter librarians are excited and full of ideas for improvement but we should not expect them to do it alone. Please offer your help and understanding as they organize and upgrade the library.

Ken Widner, Vice-President and Activities Chairman, is currently working on the presentations for the April meeting. If you have an idea or presentation that you feel will be of interest to the members contact Ken at 924-8948.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the April meeting.

Diane Dews

EDITORIAL

The Mid-Cities Commodore Club was formed as a non-profit organization for the mutual benefit of the members. We were not organized to provide a captive audience for persons wishing to make a profit from the members. Business at our meetings is to exchange Public Domain programs and information, free of mercenary motivation.

We do invite local, reputable businesses to speak to us and we recognize their right to seek to do business with our members. However, these businesses are introduced as such and no secret is made regarding their motivation. Persons other than invited guests are asked not to solicit our members. To compound the problem, the solicitation for profit of unauthorized duplicates of copyrighted material is contrary to our constitution and totally inappropriate.

If someone solicits you in a manner you feel is wrong, please advise your chapter president or a member of the MCCC Board of Directors. We assure you we will investigate and do our best to see that no one imposes upon a fellow member.

It has come to the attention of the MCCC Arlington Chapter officers that the exchange of copyrighted material was attempted at the February meeting. Members are reminded that only public domain software should be distributed. The club will be forced to take action if this issue should arise again.

Tony Alvarez, who was elected to the office of chapter Reporter at the February meeting, has been disqualified due to the fact that he is not a member of the club. Dana Taylor has graciously assumed this position since he received second place in the election. Our thanks to Dana for assuming this position for us under these circumstances.

MARCH MEETINGS

The HEB Chapter will meet on March 17 at 1:30 pm at the Hurst Recreation Center on Mary Drive. Nick Eigsti from Byteworks will be presenting a demonstration of new products for Commodore computers. Among these new products will be the Cardco Light Pen, the Cardco Numeric Keypad and the Cardco Tax Package. In addition, he will include some of the new games and books currently on the market.

The ARLINGTON Chapter will meet on March 17 at 9 am in the Auditorium of the Community Center.

The FORT WORTH Chapter will meet on March 17 at 1:30 pm at the General Dynamics Recreation Center, Room #3. The program will consist of a demonstration of sprite programs, primarily Spritemaster, by Fuzzy Wiest.

The newly formed GRAND PRARIE Chapter will hold its first organizational meeting Saturday, March 10 at 2 pm at the Grand Prairie Public Library. The library is located at 901 Conover. For information, call David Glazener at (214) 642-3131.

EVENING MEETING FOR FORT WORTH

An organizational meeting will be held Monday, March 19 at 7pm. at the Precinct Line Garage in Ft. Worth for the purpose of forming an evening chapter of the club. If this time would fit your schedule, you are cordially invited to attend. For information and directions call 'Fuzzy' at 927-8301.

NARROW GAUGE LANGUAGES

by JERRY D. FRAZEE

While the American computer industry has been keeping wary eyes on developments in Japan, it may be that a stronger threat is blowing in from Western Europe. We are aggressively trying to maintain our share in the computer hardware market, but we are being left behind in the area of programming languages. In Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, or more generally, Western Europe, computers are being loaded with languages that are more efficient, faster and more powerful than those found in the Apples, PCs, and Commodores of the USA. What is more, the language is friendly and transportable.

While American microcomputers and some minicomputers are wired to handle Basic, the Western Europeans are standardizing on a super language called Comal. It is possible that in ten years most if not all European small computers will speak a compatible form of Comal. Meanwhile, our computer manufacturers tend to discourage languages that are transportable from one brand to another. A program written in Basic for the Apple will not run on the Commodore and vice-versa. Basic is not a bad language for beginners and it does have the property of easy editing (it is friendly). But it is far from being the best for home computers or any computer. Basic programs tend to be inefficiently written due to the nature of Basic.

Many of the best ideas on programming have come from Europe. The British gave us a pioneer in Turing. The Dutchman Dijkstra is credited with bringing sanity into programming by showing that well written (structured) programs are more efficient and understandable. The Italians and the French have contributed to programming theory. Comal comes to us from the Danes, especially Borge Christensen. In 1971 Christensen's modest school obtained a DG Nova

1200 from America. Borge loved the machine but he was too little schooled to cope with Basic. Together with a few college friends he created a hybrid of the friendly Basic and the fast, powerful Pascal. He wanted a strong language that was easy to teach and easy to learn. He called it Comal (COMmon Algorithmic Language) and it has proven to be a winner. The Commodore company produced a version with Christensen and put it in the public domain. The fact that it is almost free may account for its lack of hype and popularity. Versions are available for the Apple and several European computers. A Comal standards committee meets annually to seek industry wide improvements. The popular Turtle-Logo graphic commands have been added and it has become the approved language for school use in several European countries. Compared to the American's Cobol and Fortran, Comal wins in many working environments. Only Pascal is its match. Comal, however, provides aids to the novice user (such as automatic psuedo-line numbers) that make it much easier to code.

Currently, an advanced model of Comal is available for the Commodore 64 from some user groups for ten to twenty dollars. The disk version allows switching back into Basic to quickly use old software.

Comal is probably the only language that has a chance to break the hold of the much less tidy and slower Basic. Cobol and Fortran have their uses, but are not good general purpose languages. We still have a chance to stay in the race. Sticking with even the "new and improved" Basic will be similar to staying with narrow gauge railroad tracks, and we may find ourselves exporting computers and importing programmers.

ED.NOTE: Dr. Jerry Frazee is a science writer and is on the executive committee of an Austin computer society. Reproduction of this article is with the author's permission. The C-64 version of Comal has recently been acquired and may be requested through the club librarians.

SPEEDSCRIPT AND THE GEMINI 10X

by JACK HAGEMeyer

If you are using a Gemini 10X Printer-Tymac Connection Interface with your Speedscript Word Processor, you may have discovered that not all of the special features of the printer can be used. This is a result of the program defaulting to the 'emulate' mode for non-Commodore printers. To gain full control of the printer, it must be put into the 'transparent' mode. Fortunately Speedscript has a provision for this. Two changes must be made.

1. Each time you request a print, press the shift along with the Control-P. When the prompt asks for a "device #", answer 4. It will then prompt for "secondary address". An answer of 6 will put it into transparent mode and printing will begin immediately.
2. Using the format commands, place a lowercase "a" at the beginning of the document to transform PETASCII to standard ASCII. Do this before any printing.

The format commands allow you to define up to 9 codes for controlling the printer. The first four are predefined but can be changed if desired. By embedding these codes in your text, you can produce expanded or condensed type, italics, underline, add sub- and superscripts, etc.

Typical settings of the user-defined codes might be:

- (1)=27
- (2)=14
- (3)=15
- (4)=18
- (5)=45
- (6)= 1
- (7)= 0
- (8)=71
- (9)=72

The following effects could then be produced in the printed copy:

- (2) Elongated type
- (3) Condensed type
- (4) Pica type
- (1)(5)(6) Underline
- (1)(5)(7) Underline Off
- (1)(8) Double-Strike
- (1)(9) Double-Strike Off

In a similar manner these codes could be redefined to produce other effects.

FROGGER ADVICE

The following article was submitted by Michael Lee Widner, age 7 of the Ft. Worth Chapter.

Are you tired of having to use the fire button to advance your frog? I found that entering the numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 when prompted for the up key, down key, etc., allows you to use the up position on your joystick. This works for Sierra Vision's Frogger game. Be sure that your joystick is plugged into Control Port 2.

BITS AND PIECES

Cold Start	VIC	SYS 64802
(resets computer)	64	SYS 64738 or SYS 58260
Character Color	64	POKE 646,n
(n is a number from 1 to 15)		
Lower case text	VIC/64	PRINT CHR\$(14)
Upper case/Graphics		PRINT CHR\$(142)

These programmer's hints were reproduced from THE MONITOR, the newsletter of the Commodore User Group of Austin.

CHAPTER NEWS

All three chapters met on Saturday, Feb. 18 to conduct their first business meetings and exchange software. The combined minutes of each chapter meeting follow.

All three chapters approved a motion to incorporate the club as a 'not for profit' entity with expenses not to exceed \$450.00. Members were also informed that we are taking bids regarding liability insurance for all three chapters as well as the club as a whole. All three chapters elected officers. (The list of newly elected officers appears elsewhere in this issue.)

All three chapters voted to continue the practice of having regular meetings on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Reports were made that the current club membership is over 350 and the treasury balance stands at \$3800.00.

All three chapters included the traditional question and answer period and dismissed to exchange software.

FORT WORTH CHAPTER OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT, Larry Wiest (Fuzzy) 927-8301
- VICE-PRESIDENT, Mary Hagemeyer 732-0982
- REPORTER, Scott Payne 292-2106
- SECRETARY, Cory Scott 551-5538
- LIBRARIANS, Jill & Gary Campbell 297-4125
- C-64 LEADER, Ellen Triplett 295-4957
- C-64 LEADER, David Wiley 244-3700
- C-64 LEADER, Larry Magee 246-0746
- C-64 LEADER, Lance Franklin 738-8135
- C-64 LEADER, Bob Krause 292-6639
- C-64 LEADER, Joe Ostrokol 534-1990
- VIC 20 LEADER, Wes Hewet 246-9166
- VIC 20 LEADER, Bill Aiken 292-0287
- VIC 20 LEADER, Charlie Blair

HURST-EULESS-BEDFORD CHAPTER OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT, Roy Baker 283-8324
- VICE-PRESIDENT, Cary Blocker 838-6252
- TREASURER, Bruce Nelson 498-0899
- SECRETARY/REPORTER, Brent Metts 268-8374
- LIBRARIAN, Dan Branam 283-3621
- ASST. LIBRARIAN, Roger Hoggard 281-2608
- ASST. LIBRARIAN, Mike Swain 498-4244
- VIC 20 LEADER, Cary Blocker 838-6252
- C-64 LEADER, David Rye 284-5672
- C-64 LEADER, Brian Foley 498-6305
- C-64 LEADER, Dan Branam 283-3621
- MODEM LEADER, Roger Hoggard 281-2608

ARLINGTON CHAPTER OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT, Francine Wharton 467-7559
- VICE-PRESIDENT, Clem Countess 275-5072
- SECRETARY/TREASURER, Bill Raecke 465-2014
- REPORTER, Dana Taylor 457-9070
- LIBRARIAN, Roy & Judy King 451-7610
- ASST. LIBRARIAN, Pete Link 261-5328
- C-64 LEADER, Lyle DeVore 641-1746
- C-64 LEADER, Gerry Peterson 465-4216
- C-64 LEADER, Harold Williams 483-0537

MID-CITIES COMMODORE CLUB - OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT, Diane Dews 485-4747
- VICE-PRESIDENT, Ken Widner 924-8948
- TREASURER, Bruce Nelson 498-0899
- SECRETARY, Steve Stockdale 571-9187
- CO-LIBRARIAN, Loenard Parker 292-1090
- CO-LIBRARIAN, Jesse Carden 838-9530
- EDITORS, Barbara & Michael Cramer 284-3565
- EDUCATION CHAIRMAN, Joe Kent 281-7506
- PAST PRESIDENT, Garry Wordelman 281-7457

METROPLEX BULLETIN BOARDS

Here is an up-dated Startext list of the bulletin boards available to computer owners in the Metroplex area. Using your modem, you can call the desired number and receive a description of services. George Crowley has contributed this list and is happy to help anyone needing more information about their modem.

METROPLEX COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARDS REVISED 1/13/84

** NEWEST ADDITIONS **

DFWCISUG SIG (Compuserve Users Only) -
275-1467 (24 hours)
ASTRO-FLYER - 467-3612 (10 pm - 8 am
Mon.-Sat.)
TELECOMM III - 261-3315 (Nights after
6 pm)
PRIVATE POST - 485-7220
FWPCRBBS - 473-4064 300/1200
DIAL YOUR MATCH FORT WORTH - 457-732
(5 pm - 8 am)

** FORT WORTH BULLETIN BOARDS **

ASGARD - 498-1746 (24 hours)
ATARI ZONE II - 281-2406
GOOD NEWS - 483-1264
SOFTWARE TERMINAL - 244-4151
TEXAS CONNECTION - 283-3886
TRACK II - 244-4151

** METRO BULLETIN BOARDS (METRO NUMBERS) **

COMPUTALK - 595-3195
DAL-ACE - 498-1751
TELECOM II - 265-8220

** DALLAS BULLETIN BOARDS (AREA CODE 214) **

CHALKBOARD - 522-2529
DALTRUG - 289-1386
DESOTO IBM PC - MODEM: 223-0983
(24 hours) VOICE: 223-6382
DIAL A MATCH - 987-3547

12

ECLECTIC - 239-5842
ECLECTIC 2 - 239-5782
FANTASIA - 578-7041
HEATHKIT - 742-1380
MAGIC MANSION - 398-5672
PERCOM - 340-9226
PLAN'O (IBM PC) - 985-8889 (24 hours)
THE FULSE - 631-7747
RAVE BBS - 363-8503 (8:30 pm - 9 am)
RCFM - 931-8274
RPCC BBS - 996-6808
SOFTWARE EXCHANGE - 248-7757
TELEDUNJON III - 960-7654
TELEDUNJON IV - 241-3547
TEXAS TRADER II - 539-1231 (New
Number)
THETA LABS - 352-4147
WHITE PEGASUS - 680-9322

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE - Commodore 1525E Graphic Printer for the 64 or VIC 20. Prints upper/lower case letters, graphic characters and custom designed graphics and charts. 30 CPS, 7x9 dot matrix, 80 column, tractor feed. Excellent condition. Call Michael or Sandra at 281-7287.

WANTED : Articles for the newsletter. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! Take a few minutes to jot down your thoughts, review software or draw a cartoon. You provide the content and we'll put you in print!

COURSE OFFERED - "Education and Training in the Use of Home Computers" will be offered by COMPUTER INFORMATION SERVICES. For course information call 485-6979.

WANTED - OKIDATA ROM Chip for Tymac Interface. Call James 295-2946.

FOR SALE - CBM 2001/B V4.0 Basic Computer, Dual Disk Drive, Printer and Business Software. Call Ted 261-0641 or Nick 292-5598.

FOR SALE - VIC 20, Commodore 64, Datasette, VIC Modem and 801 Dot Matrix Printer. Call John Schweiger at 274-0095.

13

HINTS AND TIPS

SHIFT-RETURN

Have you ever tried editing a statement inside of quotes and had problems with cursor controls and insert/delete commands? Often the best thing to do is exit the line by pressing a shifted return. Shifted returns will not enter the current Basic line into memory; they merely put the cursor at the beginning of the next line. If you exit a statement with a shifted return, you can again return to the line to edit it. When it is correct enter it into memory by pressing 'return' as usual.

REM COMMANDS

Bet you thought REM statements were only for making remarks and that REM would not affect a Basic program. Well, that's not entirely true; you can put commands into REM statements. For example, if you want to prevent the listing of a line, you can type REM with several deletes after it that will cause the line to delete itself when listing.

NOTICE

Fellow M.C.C.C. members, this is in regard to the flyer mailed out on the Gemini 10X printer. I would like to appologize for the delay in delivery to some of you, as I was informed that some flyers were received on Tuesday the 28th. The flyers were mailed Thursday morning the 23rd and were expected to reach everyone by Saturday the 25th.

The \$240.00 price was a limited offer from the distributor who would allow only 15 printers to be reserved without a deposit. Even though \$240.00 was a super one-time price, I can purchase the printer for \$275.00 at anytime. The price on "The Connection" by Tymac of \$75.00 is their regular price. I'm also trying to find a good price on the bulk purchase of printer paper.

MASTER PROGRAMMER'S CONTEST

Don't forget our club's first programming contest which will become a quarterly event. For our premiere contest the subject will be GAMES and will be open to all members.

If you would like to have the title of "Master Programmer", this is the chance you have been waiting for. The rules are simple.

1. Your program must be original.
2. You must agree to make the program public domain.
3. You must be a member of the Mid-Cities Commodore Club.
4. Your program must be submitted to a member of the Board of Directors on disk or cassette by April 2, 1984. (Your disk or cassette will be returned to you after the contest.)

Prizes will be awarded in two categories - Youth (age 16 and younger) and Open (any member regardless of age.) The prizes will be an attractive engraved plaque AND the winner's choice of a T-shirt, a box of disks or a Commodore cap AND a mvsterv bonus.

To MCCC,

Please accept this original program as my entry in the first quarterly Master Programmer's Contest. I understand that it will become public domain and that the decision of the judges is final.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____
