



MCCC NEWS

Mid-Cities Commodore Club, Inc.

August 86 Vol. 4 Issue 8

LOST MENU

BY DAVE ROGERS

I soon realized the power of my C-64 when I first bought it almost 2 years ago. As one of the world's worst typists, things like word processing are now much easier and less frustrating. However, my enthusiasm began to wane when I started doing what I enjoy the most, programming.

I kept thinking, "There's got to be an easier way!". Why couldn't I just enter 1 or 2 keystrokes to automatically get a listing of my directory, for example, instead of having to type LOAD "\$", LIST, and then discover that I had just wiped out my BASIC program. Or copy an entire diskette without having to LOAD a program and then SAVE it, LOAD and SAVE, LOAD and SAVE, etc., until I had all but exhausted myself and the disk drive.

It wasn't too much longer before I joined the Arlington Chapter of the MCCC and discovered immediately the fruits of my search... free software, and lots of it! I watched the librarians at work and was surprised to see that they didn't take much time to copy large numbers of disks for club members. By utilizing what they called a 'utility' program, many of the preparatory routines were bypassed by the user, i.e., they were performed automatically by the utility program. The LOADS, SAVES, OPENS, CLOSES, etc. could finally be eliminated and one didn't have to remember anything except what was printed on the menu which appeared on the screen immediately after the utility program was loaded.

The 'UTILITY WEDGE' made home computing a lot more exciting. Here was a program that did everything except cook dinner. Lots of utility features were at my fingertips. I could get the directory, enable MICROMON, print a sequential file, read or write a disk block, and a whole lot more, (without interfering with my BASIC program) simply by entering a star (*) and 1 extra alphanumeric character. And if I forgot the required input to execute a task, I entered * and the menu automatically re-appeared on the screen.

Therein lies the reason for writing this article. When I received the third uploaded version of the program, I noticed that on the bottom portion of the menu was attached a note: 'NOT AVAILABLE AFTER BOOT. COPY NOW!' Did this mean that my trusty crutch was going to be knocked out from

underneath me as soon as I cleared the screen?. I soon discovered that the RAM area which had been set aside to store the menu had been moved and replaced by other functions, among them a text editor and the ability to delete a range of lines when programming in BASIC.

I made a printed copy as instructed but got to thinking that somewhere in the computer's memory remained the menu. Could it be located and printed out again? The first task then was to locate the menu and then write a machine language routine to print it out anytime it was needed, a handy feature for those operating without a printer. A *M got me into MICROMON and down to an instruction called HUNT. By typing in .H 'UTILITY WEDGE', I was able to locate the menu in memory starting at hexadecimal location \$9D44. Then, by entering .M 9D44 9FEE, the entire menu could be viewed in hexadecimal and interpreted ASCII.

The next step was to write an ML routine to print the menu. Knowing where to start (\$9D44) was easy since that location contained a decimal 147 (clear the screen), but knowing where to stop required closer examination. After the author's name was a 'OD', which is a carriage return and then came a 'OO'. By determining that no other zeroes were embedded in the menu, I decided to use the 'OO' as the stopping point for printing.

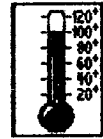
The following ML routine will print the menu on the screen as long as it still exists in memory, i.e., a BASIC or ML program is not so large that it has overlaid the menu. The routine can be accessed by entering SYS 972. It was inserted at this location so as not to interfere with the 'UTILITY WEDGE'. If you enter the program using MICROMON, exit from MICROMON after entering the program and then enter *; filename, \$03CC, \$03E9 to save it on disk. To recall the ML program enter *: filename, \$03CC. This will ensure that the program is always loaded into memory at the same location from which it was saved.

... LOOK ... LOOK ...

```

03CC A2 00      LDX #\$00      x = index for loop
03CE BD 44 9D   LDA \$9D44,X    load number at \$9D44 + x
03D1 C9 00      CMP #\$00      number equal to zero ?
03D3 FO 0E      BEQ \$03E3     yes, it equals zero
03D5 20 D2 FF   JSR \$FFD2    print routine
03D8 E8         INX          add 1 to x
03D9 EO 00      CPX #\$00      equal to zero ?
03DB DO F1      BNE \$03CE     no, so get another number
03DD EE DO 03   INC \$03D0     yes, so add 256
03E0 4C CE 03   JMP \$03CE     jump to \$03ce
03E3 A9 9D      LDA #\$9D      restore to original value
03E5 8D DO 03   STA \$03D0     store it here
03E8 60         RTS          return to basic

```



For those interested in loading and running the program in BASIC, load the 'UTILITY WEDGE' program and then enter the following:

```

10 BEGINNING = 972
20 FOR A = 0 TO 28
30 READ ML
40 POKE BEGINNING + A,ML
50 NEXT A
60 SYS 972:END
70 DATA 162,000,189,068,157,
  201,000,240,014,032
80 DATA 210,255,232,224,000,208,
  241,238,208,003
90 DATA 076,206,003,169,
  157,141,208,003,096

```

I learned quite a bit about 6502 ML by working on this small but enjoyable project. It's really true that you learn programming best by sitting down and doing it. The **UTILITY WEDGE** makes it even more enjoyable.

CP/M HINT

GREATER OMAHA COMMODORE
USER'S GROUP, JUNE 1986

(Excerpt from Library News, Greater Omaha Commodore User's Group, June, 1986)

In the March 1986 issue, TPUG has provided a way to print out the HELP file that is on your CP/M system disk. Here are the steps:

- A) Format a CP/M double-sided CP/M disk.
- B) Copy HELP.COM and HELP.HLP to this disk with the PIP command.
- C) Create the file HELP.DAT by entering HELP[EXTRACT].
- D) Print the HELP.DAT file with PIP LST:=HELP.DAT.

[PIP PRN:=HELP.DAT if you like line numbers and a page eject every 60 lines.]

This will take some time to print as it is a large file, so have plenty of paper and time to print it. This will give you a hard copy of the HELP file that can be used rather than going back to the HELP file for the correct syntax of a command. Try it; I think you will find it more useful than going to the HELP file all the time.

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LEADERBOARD

BY WALTER CLEMENTS

Even to the most experienced golfer, Leaderboard has to be the greatest thing since golf carts. Leaderboard offers such realistic shotmaking that you can almost feel the club striking the ball through the fire button.

As you progress in difficulty from novice to amateur to professional, you begin to get the feel of a shot similar to framing and composing a great photograph.

After spending several minutes with each club on the Driving Range mode, I played until 1:30 a.m. my first excited night with Leaderboard. I bugged everyone I knew to play with me until finally several days later, a neighbor who worked for Ben Hogan Company came over and fell in love with the program, too.

I discovered a couple of points to help lower scores right off for the beginner. The documentation includes a layout of the four 18 hole courses that you can play, distances to the water hazards can be determined by using a straightedge from the yardage chart to the left of the layout map. Knowing these distances can save plenty of strokes if you're just playing by yourself or for the Neighborhood Open Tournament Championship.

Another discovery that has saved me strokes around the green is to use the nine iron instead of the pitching wedge. The reason for this is that each club has a shortest and longest distance charted in the documentation. The pitching wedge hits longest to 83 yards and shortest to 11 yards. The nine iron hits to 117 but can cozy that short chip shot to the pin between 24 and 30 yards by just hitting the fire button for only a fraction of a second. The pitching wedge usually is more difficult to control on these delicate shots.

One of my more avid golf associates went so wild over Leaderboard that after his first experience playing it, he went out and bought his first C64-C the very next day.

The scene changes ... Leaderboard Tournament Disk #1 was brought home last night. Today, I played all four courses on this new program and enjoyed Leaderboard all over again. Some of these holes were more than a little difficult and almost impossible on the pro mode the first time through. Just for fun, I didn't refer to the distance charts. Some of my scores were terrible from experimentation to get the feel of these harder, problem holes. I did come back to the third and fourth courses to play for score. Now I'm looking for someone to come over and play Tournament Disk #1 with me.

Leaderboard is fun, challenging, and hard to walk away from ... whether you play golf or not. If you know the finer points of golf, this game will blow your ever-lovin' mind! Guaranteed!

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to continue writing
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ON-LINE

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ROCKVILLE COMMODORE USERS GROUP

ODDS AND ENDS: This month I'd like to cover a collection of different items that I hope you will find as interesting as I do.

Telecom Magazine: Look for a new magazine on telecommunications to premiere this October. The publication, called the On-Line Access Guide, is scheduled to appear quarterly. The magazine will reportedly cover modems, on-line services, bbs listings, and feature articles. The first issue will have an introductory price of \$4.95, compared to the normal tariff of \$8.95, or \$24.95 for a four-issue subscription. Contact On-Line Access Publishing Group, Inc., 53 W. Jackson, Suite 1750, Chicago, IL 60604; voice phone 800-922-9232. While not cheap, this new publication could turn out to be a valuable reference for telecomputing enthusiasts. Hopefully, it will extend beyond the bare-bones basics to which we are routinely subjected by the current crop of monthly computer magazines.

NAPLPS Casualty: It looks like yet another videotext service will have bitten the dust by the time you read this. This time it's Keycom Electronic Publishing of Schaumburg, IL. The subsidiary of Centel Corp. of Chicago offered the service primarily for businesses, via the NAPLPS (pronounced "nap lips") scheme, North American Presentation Level Protocol Syntax. This graphics-oriented proprietary approach has spelled doom for other services such as VIEWTRON and the Times-Mirror Videotext Service.

New Modem: Atari is developing a new modem which is supposed to be Hayes command compatible. The unit will reportedly run at 300 and 1200 baud and will accept the RS-232 connection, making it functional for many computers. The price for the new modem is targeted at under \$100, thus posing some potential competition, as a flexible alternative, to Commodore's 1670 modem (which lacks an RS-232 port).

GENIE Newsletter: The General Electric Network for Information Exchange, GENIE, has begun publishing a monthly newsletter for its subscribers. Named "Inside the Lamp" (clever), the newsletter is a 5 by 7 inch glossy print affair, replete with 3 punched holes that conveniently fit the GENIE users' manual--nice touch. The publication covers new and upcoming products, and offers tips and advice on getting the most from the service. For example, roundtables are reviewed, new commands explained, and there are excerpts from GENIE's feedback questions and answers. The new information on system navigation could save you much time on-line, in case you are not a frequent

caller. All in all, Inside the Lamp is a well done and welcome feature.

Computer Trespass Law: New federal legislation on computer crime is nearing enactment. The House of Representatives passed the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986. The law would make it a felony to maliciously trespass across state lines into a private computer and cause more than \$1000 worth of damages; no interstate movement need be shown, though, in the case of mischief done to computers run by the federal government, banks, and securities dealers. Lesser dollar damages would be classified as a misdemeanor. Furthermore, it would be an offense for a bbs sysop (system operator) to post passwords to other computer databases. Sysops take note.

Vocational Education BBS: Bulletin boards can be used to bring industry and education closer together, as evidenced by Foothill Community College of Los Altos Hills, CA. The college set up a 24 hour board called the Vocational Education Program Center, offering the scoop on program funding, job guidance and counseling, training and occupational programs. For a sample, call 415-941-7618 at 300 baud, full duplex, 8 bit word size, 1 stop bit, and no parity.

Reserve Power: Of interest to bbs system operators located in areas prone to electrical power failures is an offer by the Potomac Electric Power Company. As part of a limited experiment in the Washington area, involving only 500 customers, the utility firm is offering "reserve power service". The big deal takes the form of an uninterruptible power supply: a 35 pound box which provides up to 15 minutes of battery-backed power during black-outs. The device also fends off voltage sags, surges, spikes and other gremlins of the power lines. The unit plugs into a conventional outlet and offers two output recepticals. Capacity is 500 VA with shortcircuit capacity at 150% of full rating for 10 seconds. Output is 120 VAC, 60 cycle, single phase. The UL approved device also sports an audible alarm and an overload capacity of 110% for ten minutes. The cost is \$12 per month (not bad when you see the price of typical gizmos that do the same thing) and the unit remains the property of the power company. Look for similar offers from sister utilities in other parts of the country.

High Tech Job Database: BPI Ad Line by Business People, Inc., 100 North Seventh Street, Minneapolis, MN, 55403 is operating a free, 24 hour board which lists job openings, employee benefits, and corporate facilities on a host of high tech jobs. You can even enter your resume on-line for fast action. The outfit's modem can be reached at 612-941-5723. Use the password "BPI". If you prefer to speak to live people, the voice line is 612-370-0550. The company also sponsors high-tech job fairs around the country. News about the dates and locations of the fetes can also be found on

the board.

Stress Reduction: If all of this news only adds to your stress level, consider this. Now there's the Stress Management Bulletin Board. The system is operated by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University doctoral student in clinical psychology, Bruce Walker. Callers to 703-382-6472 must register and answer some questions designed to assess their stress. A special file is then created and individual programs for stress reduction are prepared. On-line sessions can be scheduled periodically so callers may monitor their status. The board was set up as a free service, but may later be run on a fee basis. Use full duplex, 300 baud, 8 bit word size, 1 stop bit and no parity. The last time I attended a "stress management" course, the only thing I learned was how to inflict stress upon others--now here's an opportunity to sooth your nerves on-line. With some imagination you can see how a wide variety of on-line consultative services may spring from the fertile minds of technically minded entrepreneurs. How about an on-line advisor in gardening, cooking, or shopping?

DAVID'S DIRECTORY DESIGNER

REVIEW BY COLIN THOMPSON
C64 WEST USER'S GROUP
SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

What's a directory and why would you want to design one? Good questions, class. Pay attention; we're going to learn something.

A directory is the disk's catalog of filenames. You can see a directory (and I'll bet you already have) by doing this from BASIC: LOAD "\$",8 and then LIST. You've all done that!

The information that marches up your TV screen is the contents of the directory. Every formatted disk has a directory. The directory has only one purpose. It holds the names of the files that are recorded on the disk. Every file has a filename. The filenames are recorded on the disk in the directory.

Are we straight on this?

Good. Now, why on Earth would we want to DESIGN a directory? By implication, David's Directory Designer would do that.

OK. "DDD" is a catchy name, easily remembered; but it is misnamed. To be completely accurate, Dave should have called it his Directory Re-Designer, because that's what it does.

You, in the back of the room. Are you still hung up on "what's a directory?" ...Let's all take a look at the DDD directory make a printed copy and bring it back here with you. While you are looking, pay close attention to all those filenames that look like a line of asterisks. Those things used to be impossible to put in a directory, but not now. Notice, they are "zero block" entries. Zero, as in 0.

```
0 *****" USR
```

Like that. The zero says the file called "*****" has no length. It's a

fake. It also says "USR" after the name. That's something you may have never seen. Usually you see PRG or SEQ, right? Well, USR is something else. Few use it and absolutely no one knows why Commodore invented it. USR is short for USer, or "user file". I don't use them, but David found a use for them. Don't worry about it.

OK, since you looked at a (DDD formatted) directory, it's time for a pop quiz. In 25 words or less, what's different about the directory? Is there something in that directory that you haven't seen before. Time's up. Did anyone answer "signpost"? How about "billboard"? Did you find yourself **READING SENTENCES**? Does the phrase self-explanatory mean something to you, now that you read a directory? Well, you are all close and I'll grade any of those answers with the "b" they deserve.

If you want an "A", I'll have to see something like, "Gee, I could read what's on this disk, just by looking on the directory." Go to the head of your class and add 5 points to your IQ.

Yes, kids, DDD adds something to the disk's directory that we teachers try to add to you: intelligence. All those user files are fakes! They aren't filenames of existing programs. They are NOTES to the reader pointing out useful tidbits of information, concerning the real files on the disk. How clever! Notice the large block of USR files at the end of the directory. That tells about the author(... and where to write for more information, etc.) Anyone looking at the directory for the first time could easily see what this disk is and what to do with it. Notice how all the "related" files are grouped together, under a little USR sign that tells what they are. The editor has been extravagant in his use of these USR signs which we will call LABELS. They really aren't proper filenames, although they sometimes might look like them.

Back to the printout. Look at the first filename, called "MENU".

```
8 "MENU" PRG
```

What's that to the right of the FILE TYPE? It says "PRG". What? Did I hear someone say "Scratch Protected"? Who said that? Raise your hand.

...Well, she's right, of course. DDD will let you "doctor" the disk's directory any way you like. You can protect or unprotect any file on the disk. You can move around filenames so they appear in any order you want and sorting filenames is a snap. You can make up your own labels or select labels from a library of them, all ready for you to choose from. There is a menu of 23 options to select from. One of them lets you read a SEQ file and another is a super expanded one-of-a-kind Disk Doctor utility. That's for advanced students only. My favorite option is "O" for OOPS. It will undo your last action.

DDD is certainly useable by novices. It comes with a text file on the disk that you can load into most word processors. This file is a complete list of instructions. Before you attempt to use DDD, print and READ the instructions. The program is self-prompting and bullet-proof. Every new

disk that is added to our C64 West library goes through DDD first.

Now for the important stuff. DDD is available from the Catalina Commodore Computer Club in Tucson, AZ for \$15.00. All proceeds go to the Search and Rescue Fund, a non-profit organization that is raising money to expand equipment used by David to find lost hikers in our national forests. David is really Mr. David Lovelock, an absolute wizard at math and programming. His Search program has already saved lives in the forest. If you would like more information about his efforts or would like to buy a copy of the DDD disk, write to:

CCCC Search & Rescue Fund
P.O. Box 32548
Tucson, AZ 85751

While David's primary affiliation is with the Tucson user group, he is also a member of the C64 West Users Group. (MCCC members will also be familiar with some of his ML and technical articles that have run in the newsletter and on Startext.) We wish him well and hope that DDD will completely finance a truly worthy cause. (Your \$15.00 is tax-exempt.)

Gather up your books now. It's time for the bell. Your next class is in room 102. Mr. Oliff will introduce you to Logarithmic Functions and Their Use In Polar Plotting. Be nice to him; he's old.

NEW LIBRARY DISKS

BY DON LAINGOR
AND CHERYL HOWARD

The TPUG disks you've been waiting for have arrived! A well deserved "Thank you" goes to Glen Ruud and our friends in the Minnesota Commodore Users Association, Minneapolis, MN.

MCCC DISK # 835

A collection of games and utility programs. Games include Dominoes, Checkers, Geography, WUG, Mystery Spell and a new version of LIFE. Mystery Spell is a variation of the game of "Hangman" with a new scenerio and animated sprites.

The utility programs include an address book and a nice program called T.V. Satellite which will provide the azimuth and elevation of the communication satellites based on your longitude and latitude. Bartender is a menu driven recipe file of mixed drinks which will sort by alcoholic ingredients and allows input of your own recipes.

MCCC DISK # 836

More games such as Creeps, Flags, and Double Pinball (Breakout with a twist). A program called FlexiSlideShow displays graphic pictures. Also some music demos and a couple of utility programs.

MCCC DISK # 837

Games include Tank Combat, a simple rendition of the old home video game, Pinball and a quiz games that will test

your knowledge of computer care and useage. The utility programs include a wedge, a disassembler and a DOS. There is a song demo called Karma Chameleon and a modem terminal program called XMOBUF 7.4.

MCCC DISK # 838

This one has a card game called Millebornes Card Game. Patterns will help you distinguish the different constellations as they appear in the sky. Well written and self explanatory, each screen displays both graphic and text description.

The utility programs include a compiler to change BASIC programs into machine language, one that changes your character set and one that stops the 1541 drive from shaking. A calendar program that prints in English and French. There is also a tax and a mortgage program but be careful as they may be based on Canadian principles.

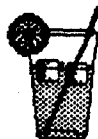
MCCC DISK # 839

The Darkterm modem terminal program was on the BBS download disk a short time back. A couple of games called Mindbusters and Starscanner. One is a mix and match game and the other shoots baddies in space. The tax program is for 1985.

MCCC DISK # 840

The Luscher Test is a psychological test based on your preferences in color. The original thesis maintains that certain shades of color reflect universal personality traits. Since the C64 is limited in color choices, this version of the test is highly questionable. Use it for fun and enjoy laughing at the results.

A game called High Risk (similar to Risk) is also included and there is a utility program that keeps an entire list of all your programs on disk. A program called AMIGA is the Amiga bouncing ball demo for the C64. It pictures an Amiga and drive with a ragged ball that bounces around. The Amiga original is much more impressive!



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Our meetings are open to all. Yearly membership dues are \$20.00 and entitle the member to a monthly mailed copy of the MCCC NEWS, the club newsletter, library copying privileges, attendance at any or all chapter and club meetings as well as participation in club-sponsored classes. Dues are paid on a calendar year basis and new members who join after March 31 of each year pay prorated dues for the months remaining.

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\$60.00 per full page ad, \$30.00 per half page ad, \$20.00 per quarter page ad and \$10.00 per business card. Non-members will pay commercial rates.

The deadline for submissions to the MCCC NEWS is the third Saturday of each month. PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY CAMERA-READY AD COPY. Make all checks payable to Mid-Cities Commodore Club and mail to MCCC NEWS, P.O. 1578, Bedford, TX 76021.

ARLINGTON CHAPTER

Our thanks to Barbara Cramer, Laura Clements and Dick Hedley for the demonstrations they provided at the last meeting.

The August meeting will be at 9 AM on August 16 instead of the usual 2nd Saturday due to difficulties in scheduling the Community Center. We will have a demonstration of the Library terminal program by Dave Rogers and some C/PM demonstrations by Everett Johnson.-Jonathan Riba

FORT WORTH CHAPTER

At the last FW Chapter meeting we were treated to an interesting demonstration of the mind-boggling capabilities of the AMIGA by Bill Raecke, for which we thank him.

The August meeting of the FW Chapter will be at the usual 2nd Saturday on Aug. 9th in the General Dynamics Recreation Area, Room 2. The program will consist of an in-depth look at the new version of GEOS.-Jill & Gary Campbell

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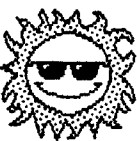
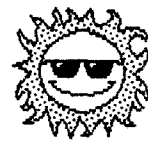
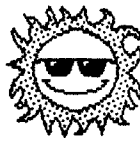
H. E. B.

PRESIDENT	ROGER HOGGARD	281-2608
VICE-PRES.	JOE PATTON	656-2426
SEC./TREAS.	BRUCE NELSON	498-0899
REPORTER	NANCY SPARKS	478-8534
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C64 LEADERS	ROY BAKER	283-0324
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	LAURA CLEMENTS	589-0659

AMIGA

PRESIDENT	JACK SMITH	926-3177
VICE-PRES.	JACK DETORE	
TREASURER	BILL RAECKE	465-2014
SEC./REP.	DAVID CAMPBELL	
LIBRARIAN	JACK SMITH	926-3177

AUGUST MEETINGS



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 BOARD MEETING 10 AM
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 GRAND PRAIRIE FORT WORTH
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 ARLNCTN 9 AM H.E.B. 1:30 PM
17	18 FORT WORTH NIGHT 7 PM	19 GRAND PRAIRIE 6:30 PM	20	21 AMIGA 7 PM	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- Aug. 2 **BOARD MEETING**, 10 am
Western Hills Inn
- Aug. 9 **Ft. Worth Chapter**, 1:30 pm
Gen. Dyn. Rec. Area, Rm 2
Grand Prairie Chapter, 1:30 pm
G. P. Public Library
- Aug. 16 **HEB Chapter**, 1:30 pm
Hurst Recreation Center

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE FROM USUAL DATE:

Arlington Chapter, 9 am
Arlington Community Center

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

- Aug. 18 **Ft. Worth Night Chapter**, 7 pm
St. Elisabeth Episcopal Church
- Aug. 19 **Grand Prairie**, 6:30 pm
G. P. Public Library
- Aug. 21 **AMIGA Chapter**, 7 pm
Arlington Community Center
- Sept. 6 **BOARD MEETING**, 10 am
Western Hills Inn

KEEP YOUR DISKS COOL IN THE SUMMER HEAT.



MCCC NEWS

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