

# THE FOUR "C"ER

## Official User Group ID# 00292

### Dedicated to Serving All Commodore Computers

August 2003



#### **Howdy Fellow Commodore Users!**

If you were one of the few that missed the picnic last month, we missed your company.

This month, and from now onward, we are no longer meeting at the Norwood Bingo Hall. You might remember in previous newsletters mentioning back in May the doors were locked with nobody in sight to let us in. Our meeting in June brought information to us that the Bingo Hall was under new ownership. I briefly met with the new person in charge, Mark Vonstein in June. It was his intention that the bingo hall was going to be using the space on Sundays, leaving us with no option to have a space we could call our own as we have enjoyed in the past many years. Even though there was no bingo that day, Mr. Vonstein declined on allowing us to meet in the hall, so we held our official meeting (short though it was) outside on the sidewalk near the no loitering sign.

This news was relayed to the members that managed to show up to our June meeting. After some discussion on what to do, I recommended our usual summer picnic be held in July so that additional arrangement time could be made for our August meeting. As I am writing this, I'm in Chicago on a business trip/vacation and so far we have examined a total of 3 options for future meetings.

The most favorable seems to be the Cincinnati Public Library downtown. We are attempting to arrange the next two meetings there. As of August 5th, it is still unknown if this can be arranged. Look at our club's website for last minute announcements, and I'll try to make sure that our location is announced on the cover of the newsletter this month (if it is finally arranged by then).

In the meantime, I would like to get some ideas on where you would like our club to meet. Keep in mind; we should be somewhat close to Cincinnati. It would also be preferable if we could arrange it to be our permanent meeting place. There are some clubs in the United States that do not know where they are meeting from month to month, so I'd really like to lock that down so that visitors would have an easier time trying to locate us and our meeting place. It would also be nice if we could have access to electricity so that demos can be run. Telephone access and broadband internet access would be nice, but not necessary.

If you think of a place, but hesitate to ask the owner/manager yourself, let myself or one of the other officers know. I'm not afraid to meet with the person in charge, if I can find out who it is.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate the officers that were in the running for the 2003-2004 elections. The previous slate of officers was elected to continue their office for another year. Installation of the officers will be during the August meeting. Also on the agenda for the August meeting is the amendment to our constitution. Be sure to make your opinions known during this important time.

Hopefully we will see you at the next meeting on August 17th. Keep on Commodoring!

**David Witmer**  
**Cincinnati Commodore Computer Club**  
**President**  
<http://www.geocities.com/c64-128-amiga>

**AKA Snogpitch**  
**snogpitch@prodigy.net**  
**cbmusers@yahoo.com**  
**ICQ 4989342**



The following email was posted on the Homestead email list on July 31st:

Here we are my friends, it's mid 2003! Commodore's death, announced in the begining of the 90's still didn't took place. Impressive, I know :) The loyalty of us, the Commodore users is beyond any limits I knew. We'll need a psichoanalist to tell us why we bonded like this with a machine :)

My story begins in 1998 when I got into highschool and discovered the internet. I won't elaborate on this because I guess most of you know my story, I am Mihai Barbat (Michael) the only active C= user left in Romania :)

Using the internet (email only in the begining) naturally, I guess driven by an inner instinct I came across COMMODOR discussion list. It was that time in my life when me and all my classmates were pushing the school email service to the limits (the only Internet service we had in the 1-st year of highschool). We were subscribing to every list imaginable. I used to get about 300-400 messages per day, 99.99% being pure crap. I used to love spam back then, every new message in my inbox was important :) Slowly I learned a few listserv commands and I sent a search command (I was searching 'Commodore') to the list server. I got only one result. After a few unsuccessfull tries of geting in, finally after a week I was in.

Very shy, I sent a message to this list. To my surprise, actual people, commodore users, answered me :). The regretted Ron Fick was the first to respond me and introduce me to this newly discovered world. I remember those times so well, I was absorbing all the information I could find. I was so moved and amazed by this strong conection that established between us, agaist the distance that separated us. I was asking questions like a machine gun here

and there. I guess that after some months poor Ron couldn't keep up with my frenzy and passed me to his friend Earl Cook. This also didn't stopped me and I continued to push on with my questions. Some of them were so hilarious, I remember the first time I heard about Jiffy Dos. I took me about 2-3 emails to fully understand what a 'jiffied C128 was :)'. The first blow was when Ron passed away. It really shocked me, as I got very closed with him and all the CCCC members. But life followed it way and I moved on. Naturally, slowly, as I gathered more information, my wild quest for C= knowledge slowed down a bit. I moved on to new email lists, the most important being Homestead. I guess COMMODOR list was dieing when I first appeared there, moving to Homestead was like a breath of fresh air, lots of new interesting people. I had the chance to upgrade my Commodore with the help of my great friends at an inimaginable level for a user in Romania, this put me on the same level with you guys. I can keep up with every technical challenge with this setup. In present I am still on those list, emerging from time to time with every occasion I consider worthy of sharing there.

Today I have received the June UCUGA issue from Dale. As soon as I began reading it, Dale's words stuck into my head' nothing seems to be going on !'. This started a storm in my head, why this happend I began asking ... After 4 years the discussion lists aren't what they used to be. Almost all of them are in a coma like state. I don't know what happend, the routine got all of us? Did we all reached the same level of knowledge that we don't need to further communicate? I don't think so. My idea is that we became lazy in a way, and we seem to like it. There is almost nothing left to keep the enthusiams high. I remember that back then in '99 there were so many people posting on those list. Look now, most of them got lost and misteriously dissapeard (hy Colin :))) )

We need something to motivate us, we need something to set us all on fire. Let's make the discussion lists active again people, do you need another

Ironstone/Tulip issue to awaken you? Even this major news didn't created much activity, just a few irritated individuals, including myself. What do you need to get active, tell me? What does it take to achive this? What will you all say if I write this to Homestead ' Hm, all the people here on Homestead just wait for Maurice to release something so they can wake up from the coma and say 'wow' Maurice is the best !!!' Will this be enough to annoy everybody, I mean come on, do we really need electro-shockes like this to wake up?

I am challenging you all. Start being active or remain lame and quiet. Yes those are my words, lame and quiet. Start writing about your C= experiences, start writing about your favourite activity on the C=, tell us about your C= dreams, help Dale and Allan with articles, start experimenting my dear friends, do something. Only I, Colin and Greg know how much I struggled to get your attention on Jos now Wings os. We spent many many nights talking about how can we make you curious about it. I myself wrote some very tasteful and adictive articles on homestead about our experiments (excuse my modesty).We all said that we'll achive victory when we'll bring Willis on the #wgs chanell to chat and amaze him with Jolse's creation. Yes Willis was the prototype of the user we wanted to attract to the modern part of the C=. You want to know the results? I don't think you will be very happy. Be shocked now, because we only got just one new guy, Geoff Sullivan. It's hard I know, this was a hard blow for me and for my motivation. I guess that is why I kinda dissapeard from the lists.

What happend guys? Commodore users were known for their native curiosity and lust for knowledge and experiment. I don't know what went wrong. Anyway the road we took is not in the right direction.

Dale, Allan you all need materials for your magazines. Why don't you launch topics on the lists, something like 'Hy guys. I am very curious to find out about '....' I want an article for my mag, is there anyone willing to

write it? I am willing to help and I am sure so are other people. Ask questions on the lists, ex: ' What do you think about Ironstone/Tulip, what does the C= means for you, why are you still using a C= in 2003 .... there are so many beautiful questions. Write more interviews (interview of the month, introduce newcomers, worst/best news, best/worst ideaa, ) do more reviews (demos, games), just ask ... DON'T JUST STAND, INNOVATE !!!

I hope you all got shocked, mad, awaken,... I will be very happy to know that I triggered any reactions. So I am asking you please react to this, don't hold anything, you can even attack me, I won't mind, you're all my friends :))

A sad Commodore user,  
Mihai

PS. Feel free to publish this reaction in your mags.



Maybe a little late, but here is the report from the LUCKI Expo 2003

Hi ALL!

The hotel here has a DSL line just off the main lobby, so I hooked up my Apple laptop to give you all a shout from the EXPO!

Most of the people either arrived early after driving all night long, or they stayed up too late the night before. So many are either groggy or they slept in and missed all the morning demo's!

Maurice started things off by stating his desires to get Wheels SC up and running. But he has been so behind in his auto repair business to do much of anything with the C= business lately. Once he gets caught up, he hopes to devote more time to C='ing.

I did a demo of geoSTART which is a work in progress. When finished (and Maurice and I hope to work on it more today and tomorrow), it will give Wheels users the ability to load commonly used apps via shortcuts like PC users.

Dale Sidebottom did a PostScript printing demo while demo'ing his new SONY CD digital camera.

Jason Peterson demo'ed his game sprite editor, also a work in progress, which can breathe new life into favorite games.

Jeri Ellsworth demo'ed her long awaited Commodore One board, giving us the 'low-tech' explanations of how everything will work. While it still is not ready to use, we could see the boot up screen with the new logo and name. Dave Witmer was the 'lucky' raffle winner of the C-One board.

Joe Torre demo'ed the geek tool for the guy who has everything, which was the result of a request by his friend Kermit Woodall. It is the Mojometer, an analog/LED HD activity light thingy. Ask Joe for more details on the availability of this device for your latest hack.

Greg Nacu answered many questions on the status of WINGS, and had free copies of WINGS (preconfigured) on disk for all who wanted to try WINGS, but didn't want to have to go thru the hassle of downloading and installing it. Greg will actually demo WINGS later.

Joseph Palumbo also came selling his wares, including the famous SuperSnapShot.

The CCCC group had several large sales tables in the sales room, as did Roger Lawhorn.

A guess of how many people are here is about 40 - 50.

We just got back from dinner a little bit ago, and Jeri is due to share a more 'high-tech' explanation of the C-One, so I better get back to the room and listen in.

LATER!

Randy Harris

Using a Commodore 128 with 'The Wave.'  
Bringing the Internet to GEOS users!

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Visit the SWRAP Commodore web site at:

<http://swrap.net>

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**SWRAP is proud to announce the arrangements for our Fall Commodore Expo 2003!**

**ABOUT THE EXPO:**

The Expo will be held from 9:00am to 7:30pm on October 11, 2003 at the Quality Inn and Suites in Lombard, IL. Lombard is one of Chicago's western suburbs, just 25 miles from the city!

Admission is \$10 per family. Sales and demo tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Dave Ross <watsonc64@attbi.com> to reserve a table. The room will be available at 8:00am for setup, and until 8:00pm for teardown.

We will probably continue our tradition of going out to eat at a local buffet afterwards, so be sure to bring a little extra money for dinner.

**ABOUT THE HOTEL:**

Quality Inn & Suites  
645 West North Ave  
Lombard, IL. 60148  
Phone: 630-629-1500  
Fax: 630-629-2957

Our rate for rooms is \$69.00 per night -- be sure to mention the Expo when making your reservations. The hotel is just east of I-355 (exit at IL-64/North Avenue) and features a "deluxe" continental breakfast with make-your-own Belgian waffles. A fitness center and a hot tub are available 24 hours a day.

Each room features a 27" TV, coffee maker, iron & ironing board, hair dryer, and

two phones with two phone lines for your voice and data needs.

The hotel is close to many stores, malls, and movie theaters. For information on the hotel and surrounding areas, see <http://www.qualityinn.com/ires/hotel/il160>.

If you are flying in from out of town, Lombard is conveniently located 20 miles from O'Hare International Airport, and 30 miles from Midway Airport. If you need a ride from O'Hare, please email Dave Ross <watsonc64@attbi.com> to see if one can be arranged.

We hope to see you there!

Dave Ross recently posted this to the Homestead Mailing List:

For convenience, I put up a web site with information on this year's SWRAP Commodore expo in Chicago, including information on the hotel. There are also links to pictures of previous expos, which I hope to expand to a full "retrospective" section soon.

You can find it at <http://www.swrapexpo.org>

If there is anything else you'd like to see covered there, let me know!

- Dave Ross  
SWRAP

## CommodoreOne Tower photos!



**Posted:**  
2003-06-23  
18:42:36  
**RobertB**  
writes:

Dave Witmer, a.k.a. Snogpitch, president of the Cincinnati Commodore Computer Club, already has his C1 tower put together and has shown it off to his club this Sunday. Clear case and glowing lights lovingly bathing the C1 board in blue-white light. His

webpage with photos and specifications of the tower is now up at

<http://pages.prodigy.net/snogpitch/c-one>

Looks good!  
Robert Bernardo  
Fresno Commodore User Group  
<http://videocam.net.au/fcug>



Have you wondered what kinds of information we can gather from our club's webpage?

Here is just a sample of the information we received from our "For Sale" list:

## Summary Report

This report highlights the overall page statistics.

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

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Total page views to date	<b>3068</b>
Highest monthly page views	<b>542 in May 2003</b>
Most popular browser visitors use	<b>54.11% use MSIE 6.0</b>
Most common screen resolution visitors have	<b>54.83% have 1024x768</b>
Top search engine used to access this page	<b>96.28% use www.google.com</b>
Top search word used to find this page	<b>43.24% typed "commodore+amiga+hardware+for+sale"</b>
This page is linked to most often from this URL	<b>53.53% of visitors link from Unknown</b>

# The Four "C" ER

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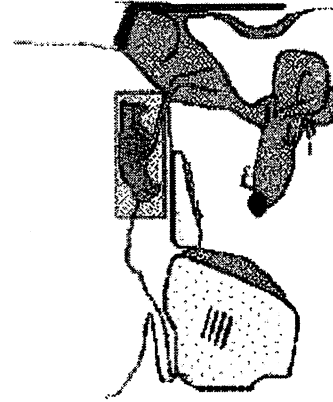
### CCCC Officers

David Witmer	President	513-868-1344
Steve Winkle	Vice President	937-783-5559
Millie Cox	Secretary	513-625-1355
Ed Gase	Librarian	513-829-0942
Jack Kemp	Treasurer	513-831-2338
Roger Hoyer	Publicity	513-248-0025
Don Parrish	Membership	513-281-3079

Meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of each month, from 2pm until 4pm. If you have any questions, please contact one of the officers, above. Visitors are always welcomed.

## Next Meeting August 17, 2003

For August and September, we will be meeting in room 3A at the Cincinnati Public Library located on 800 Vine Street, in downtown Cincinnati Ohio



Cincinnati Commodore Computer Club  
c/o Roger Hoyer  
31 Potowatomie Trail  
Milford, Ohio 45150