Cincinnati Commodore Computer Club

July, 2006 President's Page

Howdy Fellow Commodore Users!

I mentioned in June's meeting that with all of the excitement that was going on leading up to the C=4 Expo, we forgot to have our annual officer's elections. We will be rescheduling that for this month's meeting. So, if you want to be an officer, or know someone who wants to be (and is afraid to speak up), nominations will still be accepted.

We are in need of a treasurer, newsletter editor, and membership officer, but all offices can have competition, and sometimes new blood is good for the club.

Our usual summertime picnic is just around the corner, and because of that we will probably not see a newsletter come out for August. The picnic will be held at the same place as previous years in Caldwell Playground. It is located at the intersection of Dillward and North Bend Road in Carthage.

The time is our usual meeting time at 2PM.

This park is between Mill Creek and the railroad, so if you crossed both, you went too far. See the map detailing the site our picnic will take place. Don't forget your covered dish filled with yummy food. The club will be bringing soft drinks, ice, paper plates, cutlery, cups, and an assortment of chips. Oh, one other thing, bring your appetite, too! If you have a preferrence of a particular drink, let me know (as long as it is non-alcoholic).

See you at this month's meeting held on July 16th!

Until then, Keep on Commodoring!

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Cincinnati Commodore Computer Club President
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News from the June Meeting

News blurb - The club held a drawing at it's June meeting for the C= International posters that were displayed at the C=4 Expo with the names of those helping at the Expo in the drawing. Attendance at the meeting wasn't necessary. Winners of the four posters were David Fisher, Chuck Kern, Jim Oaks and Oliver Viebrooks. If the last three can come to the July meeting we will present the posters then.

News blurb - Our secretery and fellow CCCC Member Millie Cox is ill and will likely be retiring as secretery. I think I (Editor) can speak for all of us in the club when I say that we would like to thank her for her many years of service to the club, and that we all wish her nothing but the best and hope that she gets well soon.

Cincinnati Commodore Computer Club

CCCC Picnic Information

©2000 MapQuest.com, Inc.; ©2000 Navigation Technologies
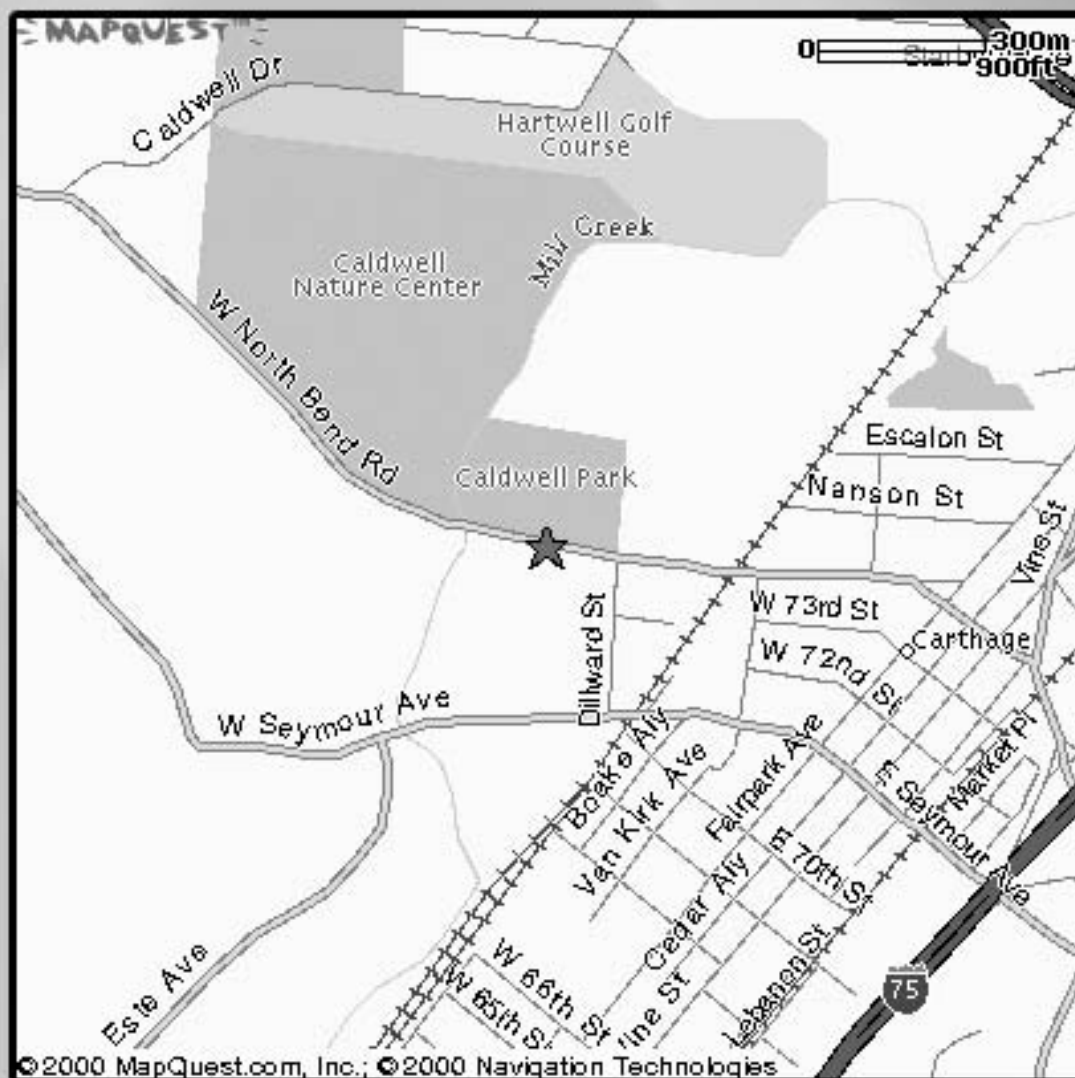
Date:
Sunday, August 20

Time:
2:00 PM EST

Location:
Caldwell Park,
Carthage, OH

Expect:
Sun
Fun
Camraderie
Commodore Talk

Bring:
Yourself
Your Family
Food

Don't Bring:
Alcohol
Drugs
Bad Attitudes
Sinclair Users

Directions from Indiana:
1. Take I-74 East - go 87 miles
2. Continue on I-275 N toward Dayton - go 2.8 mi
3. Bear right at Ronald Reagan Cross County Hwy and head toward Blue Rock Rd - go 3.0 mi
4. Continue on OH-126 E - go 6.4 mi
5. Take the I-75 S ramp to Cincinnati - go 0.8 mi
6. Take the OH-4 exit 9 to Seyour Ave (OH-561) - go 0.2 mi
7. Bear right at Paddock Rd - go 0.1 mi
8. Turn left at E North Bend Rd - go 0.1 mi
9. Continue on W North Bend Rd - go 0.5 mi

Directions from North of Cincinnati:
1. Take I-75 South
2. Take the OH-4 exit 9 to Seyour Ave (OH-561) - go 0.2 mi
3. Bear right at Paddock Rd - go 0.1 mi
4. Turn left at E North Bend Rd - go 0.1 mi
5. Continue on W North Bend Rd - go 0.5 mi

Directions from South of Cincinnati:
1. Take I-75 North
2. Take the OH-4 exit 9 to Seymour Ave (OH-561) - go 0.2 mi
3. Turn left at Paddock Rd - go 0.3 mi
4. Turn left at E North Bend Rd - go 0.1 mi
5. Continue on W North Bend Rd - go 0.5 mi

BASIC Tips and Tricks, Working With Sequential Files

Sequential files are files of text stored on the disk with each record (of a single character or "string" of characters) stored in a sequential fashion, one after another.

The only real difference between SEQ and PRG files is in the way the computer handles them. PRG files have a two-byte address at the beginning which specifies their load address, but data in them is also stored in a sequential format. In fact, you can save a PRG file in SEQ format, simply by appending a ",s" to its filename when you save it. (SAVE "PROGRAM,S",8)

Most of us have used a word processor such as my personal favorite, "Easy Script" to work with these files. Some poeple may even use more exotic editors, that allow insertion of color and graphics characters. Still others may do their editing on-screen, and use the save trick shown above (a messy way to make SEQ files at best).

What we will cover in this article are the basics of opening, closing, reading from, and writing to SEQ files from BASIC. MOST of this information can also be found in your 1541 manual.

To open a file:
OPEN LFN,DRIVE,CHAN,"FILENAME,TYPE,OPERATION"
(OPEN 1,8,2,"TEXTFILE,S,R" or OPEN 100,9,11,"TEXTFILE,S,W" , etc...)

The LFN specifies the LOGICAL FILE NUMBER, and this is the number that BASIC will use to refer to the file. You may use any file number from 1-127, but I find it easier to keep track of simple things if I always use 1 for reading and 2 for writing. Logical File Numbers 128-255 will add a linefeed to your text lines, and unless you want linefeeds (unneeded on the Commodore), you shouldn't use them.

DRIVE of course refers to the number of the drive that the file is stored on.

CHANNEL can be anything from 2-14 for SEQUENTIAL files. Do not use CHANNEL 0 or 1 as they serve special functions related to PRG files, and do not use CHANNEL 15, as it is used to relay ERROR information from the drive.

FILENAME is, of course, the name of the file on the disk that you are going to access.

TYPE refers to the TYPE of file that you are going to interact with. In this article we are working with SEQUENTIAL files, but all of the methods we are using also apply to PROGRAM (PRG) files. TYPE should be specified by a single letter, which is the first letter of the file type that you are working with. S for SEQUENTIAL (SEQ) files, P for PROGRAM (PRG) files, U for USER (USR) files, and R for RELATIVE (REL) files.

OPERATION can be either R for READ or W for WRITE. Unfortunately there is no A for APPEND, so if you want to append to a SEQ file, see the code snippet at the end of this article. If you try to write to a file that exists, you will generate an error, so to REPLACE an existing file, you should use WRITE, but prefix the filename with @: like so:
OPEN 2,8,2,"@:TEXTFILE,S,W"

To close a file:
CLOSE LFN

LFN is the LOGICAL FILE NUMBER, see above for a more detailed description. Just close with the same LFN that you opened, this one's a real no-brainer.

Cincinnati Commodore Computer Club
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BASIC Tips and Tricks, Working With Sequential Files, continued

Read a byte from a file:
GET#LFN,STRING (GET#1,A$ or GET#4,B$, etc...)

Read a line of text from a file:
INPUT#LFN,STRING
Note that the line of text should be terminated with a RETURN (CHR$(13))

Write a byte to a file:
PRINT#LFN,STRING;
Note the use of the ; to prevent writing a RETURN

Write an line of text to a file:
PRINT#LFN,STRING

The CMD Channel:
CMD LFN
This will basicly redirect output from the screen to the specified LFN.
I'm sure there is more to the CMD command than that, but for the scope
of this article, that is the sum of it's functionality.

The STATUS BYTE:
ST is a reserved variable in BASIC which holds the completion STATUS
for the last input/output operation which was performed on an open file.
The reason that this is useful to us is that bit 7 (64) of ST indicates
that the end of file (EOF) was reached. So if (ST AND 64) evaluates to
TRUE, then we know we have hit the end of our file.

Tip: LISTING to a SEQ file:
When BASIC saves a file, it saves it in PRG format, and "tokenized".
If you find yourself wanting a TEXT representation of your BASIC
program, for posting on a BBS or archiving in a platform-independent
format, the following techinque will allow you to do just that.
To turn your BASIC program into a TEXT representation of itself, you
open a file for writing, CMD specifying the LFN of the file you opened,
LIST, and close the file.

```
OPEN 2,8,2,"FILENAME,S,W"
CMD 2
LIST
CLOSE 2
```


Code Snippet: Quick SEQ reader

```
10 INPUT "FILENAME:",A$
20 OPEN 1,8,2,A$+",S,R"
30 GET#1,B$
40 IF ST AND 64 THEN 70
50 PRINT B$;
60 GOTO 30
70 END
```


Code Snippet: Appending to a seq file

```
10 OPEN 1,8,2,"OLDFILE,S,R"
20 OPEN 2,8,3,"NEWFILE,S,W"
30 GET#1,A$
40 IF ST AND 64 THEN 60
50 PRINT#2,A$;
60 CLOSE 1
[YOU MAY NOW APPEND TO NEWFILE BY WRITING TO LFN 2]
70 CLOSE 2
```

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From the "What in the world?" Department: A Wooden C64

Those of you who spend a great deal of time on the internet have probably already seen these pictures, some of you may not have. I won't bore you with the backstory, though it does demonstrate that an enormous number of people online today got their start on the C64. Pictured below, a roughly 1:1.25 scale wooden C64 carved by a man in Africa. Now you can honestly say that you've seen it all.

Cincinnati Commodore Computer Club

Current Officers

President	David Witmer	513-868-1344
Vice President	Steve Winkle	937-783-5559
Treasurer/ Publicity	Roger Hoyer	513-248-0025
Membership	Don Parrish	513-281-3079
Librarian	Edward Gase	513-829-0942
Newsletter	Oliver VieBrooks	859-485-6465

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c/o Roger Hoyer
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Milford, OH 45150

Next Meeting
Sunday
July 16, 2006

From 2PM to
4PM at

Norwood Retirement Community