"CUASOA"

NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMODORE COMPUTER USERS GROUP (QLD) INC.

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CLUB ROOMS: Playground & Recreation Assocn. H.Q. Bldg.
Love Street, Spring Hill, Brisbane.

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DIARY FOR JUNE

Group meeting on Tuesday, 4th June 1985, at 7.30 pm in our club rooms. Visitors are very welcome!

Public Domain Disk talk by Ray King
Question & Answer Session on Public Domain Software

The Beginners Corner session for new members will be conducted by Greg Canning.

Workshop meeting on Sunday, 16th June 1985, from 1 pm till 5 pm in the Guidance Officer's Training Centre, Bayswater Rd. Milton.
Bring your programming- or hardware problems, as well as your own computer equipment!
Opportunity to copy the group's Public Domain Disks.

Please note that workshop meetings are for members only!

SMOKERS: Smoking is *NOT ALLOWED* in the club rooms!

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Cannon Hill meets on the 4th Saturday of the month (7.30 pm) in the Cannon Hill State School.
Contact: Barry Wilson (VIC) - Ph.399 6204 or Augy Norman (C-64) - Ph.399 2060, a.h.

Pine Rivers meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month (1 pm - 5 pm) in the Strathpine High School (rear entrance).
Contact: Clayton Lancaster - Ph.285 4157, a.h.

Redcliffe Peninsula meets on the 1st Friday of the month (7 pm) in the Redcliffe High School.
Contact: Geoff Baillie - Ph.203 5088, a.h.

Sherwood meets on the 2nd Friday of the month (7.30 pm) in the Graceville State School.
Contact: Leigh Winsor - Ph.379 2405, a.h.

Springwood meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (7.30 pm) in the Springwood Central Primary School, Dennis Rd., Springwood.
Contact: Terry Steer - Ph.200 5926, a.h.

The Gap meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (7.30 pm) in the Gap State School
Contact: John Johnston - Ph.30 5240, a.h.

Wavell Heights meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (7.30 pm) in the Wavell Heights High School (library) in Brae St.
Contact: Robert Adamson - Ph.266 8353, a.h.

Killarney: meets on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Killarney State School.
Contact: Roger Frazer - Ph.(076) 641370

Maryborough: This sub-group is now up and running. Contact Terry Baade (16 Mouquet Lane, Maryborough, 4650) at 21 2271 (W) or 21 5059 (H).

Toowoomba: This sub-group is coming on line soon! See next month's newsletter for details.

Armidale: W. Peter Gadsby of 64 Galloway St. Armidale, NSW, 2350, would like to form a group in the Armidale Area.

Roma: Charles Mac Pherson would like to start a sub-group in the Roma district. For more information ring (074) 222161

We are still looking for one or more of our members to start a Sub-Group in the Sunnybank or Mt.Gravatt area !!!

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Copying of Commercial Software is ***not allowed*** at our meetings or workshops.
Failure to comply with this regulation will result in loss of membership!

SPECIAL INTERESTS GROUPS

Business Sub-Group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (7.30 pm) in the West End State School.
Contact: Max Bean - Ph. 208 1225, a.h.

Primary Education Sub-Group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (7.30 pm) in the Aspley State School.
Contact: Bill Weeks - Ph. 208 8620 (working hours) or at 341 2823, a.h.

Adventure Games Sub-Group meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month, (during main meeting - in our club rooms).
Contact: Trevor Mancktelow - Ph. 262 4602, a.h.

EDITORIAL

The important news for this month is of course our new meeting rooms. Accomodation problems in the Milton State School have forced us to look for a new venue, and the Committee had the difficult task of finding rooms which were reasonably central, as well as having a minimum of parking problems. Fortunately the new club premises - The Playground & Recreation Association of Q'lnd Hall in Love Street, (near Water St.) Spring Hill meet those requirements. However we do have to pay rental, which means less funds for other activities. Because of this reason our main workshop meeting will still be held in Milton, but NOT in the State School itself. To the left of the main school building is the Teacher's Guidance Centre, where we will conduct our workshop meetings as from Sunday 16th June.

The second important item is of course the new appearance of "CURSOR". The newsletter is the single most expensive item in our budget, and, like everybody else, we have to try to contain costs. Both the increased costs, as well as distribution problems have forced us to look elsewhere for the production and distribution of "CURSOR". We are now making use of the services of the **Brisbane Education Centre** who take care of both production and mailing of our newsletter. The trade-off is a different format, but we feel that this is a small price to pay for their all-inclusive service - besides we also save money in the bargain!

During my 21 months as editor it has been my main aim to improve our newsletter. We changed from a three-page roneo'd foolscap sheet to the half-foolscap booklet format, and now the new A-4 size. I wanted to end up with as good a newsletter as the English ICPUG newsletter. Not having a journalistic background it has been at times quite a struggle to achieve this sort of standard (and up to the present I have not achieved it as yet!). As I was self-employed however, I had a great deal of spare time to experiment. I have now rejoined the ranks of the workers again, which means that I work normal hours now. Result: less time to work on the newsletter. As I feel that more time should be devoted to the newsletter, I would like to make a plea for any prospective editor to come forward and offer his services to the group. There are no financial rewards beyond reimbursment of expenses, but a great deal of satisfaction can be obtained from doing an important job to the best of one's ability.

Ralph De Vries

CHANDLERS

43 ADELAIDE ST. BRISBANE

C-64
FAMILY PACK
AT A SPECIAL
PRICE FOR
C.C.U.G.(Q)
MEMBERS!

SEE US ALSO
FOR A GREAT
RANGE OF
SOFTWARE
&
PERIPHERALS

RING DREW AT 221 7822 NOW!

NOTES & GOSSIP

May Meeting

The meeting officially adopted the Rules of Incorporation and the group's By-Laws, during which Dennis Cheshire took the beginners under his wing.
Greg Canning gave an explanatory talk about F.D. Disk Uó - Roger Haigh & Ray King talked about Modems and Bulletin Boards

VIC-20 Software

That intrepid bargain hunter Barry Wilson, in association with John Johnston have managed to dig up quite a bit of VIC software at bargain prices for the VIC software lending library, including wordprocessors, spreadsheets, database programs etc.
VIC users, see John Johnston for further details.

Service Difficulties

Over the last couple of months more and more complaints have been brought to our notice about inadequate repairs to computer equipment.
We feel that the time has come to do a survey of members' own experiences with repairs, and for that reason we print below a questionaire, which we would like to see completed by members who have had repairs done in the last three months or so. The form is self-explanatory, but we don't only want to hear complaints! If you were particularly happy with a repair job we want to hear from you too!

The idea of this survey is not to start a witch hunt against certain suppliers / service-departments, but rather to see if certain patterns emerge, which we can than follow up.
Your co-operation will be appreciated.

Please post this questionaire to: C.C.U.G.(Q) Inc. - P.O.Box 274 - Springwood Qld 4127

****

REPAIR SURVEY

Equipment Repaired: Serial No.:

Repair submitted to (please tick)

A. Commodore (Brisbane) [ ] B. Hills (Brisbane) [ ]
C. Other (Give details) [ ]

Date of repair handed in: Date of repair completed:

Were you:

A. Very satisfied [ ] B. Satisfied [ ]
C. Dissatisfied [ ]

Please furnish us with your comments:

NAME: DATE:
ADDRESS:

If you wish this information to remain confidential please tick : [ ]

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REVIEWS

CHESS ON THE 64 - REVIEW OF 'COLOSSUS'

by Jennifer Goldsmith

Although chess is the most complex game in the world, there are numerous ways, involving hundreds of levels of skill, from beginner to expert, in which it can be played. Colossus has been written to try and meet many of the demands that a keen chess player would make on a program. Colossus can help a beginner by showing what legal moves are available; it can help the genius play blindfold; it can solve problems for the problemist; and much, much more.

Presentation
Colossus is available on both tape and disk for the 64. Whichever you buy, Colossus comes attractively presented in a video-style case with a 16-page well-written pocket-sized manual.

Display
Once the program has been loaded, the screen displays the board with algebraic notation around the border; the current move under consideration can also be seen. Yet by pressing the space bar a second screen appears. This one shows the time elapsed separately for white and black, the seven last moves, the number of moves ahead Colossus is thinking, number of positions examined, the best line of play found so far and the score, is divided into material and position.

Modes
The level of difficulty at which Colossus will play is determined by the time allowed per move or per game, i.e. the time control, to chess enthusiasts. Mode 1, called Tournament mode, provides the very useful facility for X moves to be played in time Y followed by a secondary parameter of A moves in time B. Mode 2, called Average Mode, asks for 'Move time'. This is useful for lightning chess and also for analysis if you do not want to use the infinite mode. It is also easier to enter as there is only one parameter to input. Mode 3 asks for the time for the total game, useful for playing 5-minute chess, while mode 4 makes Colossus play at the same rate as you. Mode 5 is the infinite mode and is useful for analysis of a particular position or for postal chess. Mode 6, which has two subdivisions, is the problem mode. Subdivision one will find normal mates in up to seven moves, which is not bad but keen players may need a program that can look further. Subdivision two will find self-mates which is a major advance, as many good chess computers do not provide this facility. There is no facility for help-mates.

Operation
o If you want to set up a position, the 'Alter position' command will let you do this with ease and if you make a mistake the original position can be recovered.

o You can step backwards and forwards which is useful if you make a mistake or if you want to replay the game from a certain point.

o Background, paper and ink colours can be altered.

o You can replay the whole of the game at the speed you want.

o Colossus can play against itself.

o You can set the elapsed time for each side.

o You can play both sides whilst Colossus supervises. This is useful is you want to run through the moves to get to a certain position or if you want to play someone else.

o You can play 'blindfold' chess by making the board go invisible. But do not worry- it is still there.

o You can even save the game to tape or disk which not only saves the current position but all the moves from move 1 to the current position as well (providing that is not more than 120). The biggest snag with this facility is that only one game per disk can be stored as Colossus always allocates the same name for the file. If this could be amended so the user allocates the file name this facility would be perfect. A minor snag is that when you save the position you do not save the line of best play which would be useful especially when you have had the machine running for hours. If would also be nice if one could get a hardcopy of the moves of a game, if not the final position.

In play
To play a game using Colossus is quite easy as there are two ways of entering your moves. You can either use the cursor or you can use the algebraic notation providing you remember to SHIFT the letters. Both methods are clearly explained in the manual. If the move involves promoting a pawn, Colossus will ask 'Promotion piece?'. Colossus is familiar with the 3-fold rule, 50-move rule and with stalemate as well as checkmate.

Conclusion
Colossus is a well-designed program including many features plus comprehensive opening theory not seen on other home micros. Colossus must be the best chess program available for home micros and at 9.95 on tape and 12.95 on disk, every chess player should have a copy. It is generally available in the shops.

--oOo--

This review was taken over from a recent issue of the I.C.F.U.G Newsletter.

Chess lovers may recall a review, which appeared in last June's issue of this newsletter, of Odesta's "How about a Nice Game of Chess" for the C-64.
At the time of writing the only other chess program for the C-64 was "Grandmaster". Of the two chess programs "Odesta" was by far the stronger of the two. During one of our workshops we had two computers set up, loaded with these two programs. After some thirty moves "Odesta" was appr. 6 pieces ahead! We gave up after that.

In a recent issue of the T.P.U.G. newsletter from Canada mention was made of a series of chess matches which were played between "Odesta", "Sargon 3" (not released in Australia as yet - improved version of Sargon 2), and "Colossus". After a series of games "Colossus" came out as a clear winner, followed by "Sargon 3", and "Odesta" coming third.

So, if you are in the market for a chess program, at this stage "Colossus" (on tape or disk) has to be the preferred choice.

Ralph De Vries

At the Heart of the Mountain - A Basic Adventure for the Commodore 64 by Nathaniel L.Scrimshaw
Published by Birkhauser - R.R.P. $11.75
Our copy by courtesy of the distributors D.A. BOOK (Aust) Pty. Ltd. 11-13 Station St. Mitcham V. 3132

This book is well suited to the young teenager who is about to begin to use a computer. It combines an exciting adventure story about a young girl, her uncle, and the mountains of New Hampshire, with simple tutorials about the simple elements of Basic.
The main feature of the book is that each chapter of the book "branches", giving you the option of continuing the story or examining a lesson using Basic to help solve a problem which the characters have encountered.

The book is both readable and completely enjoyable. It represents good value at $11.75 and would be a valuable addition to any home library.

Trevor Mancktelow

Make Your Commodore 64 Sing by Ed Vogas
Length: 92 pages - R.R.P. $10.95
Our review copy by courtesy of the publishers Prentice-Hall of Australia Pty. Ltd.

This book is basically an introduction to the Commodore 64 Sound Chip as seen through the eyes of a "famous computer composer" - P.J.Roberts.
It begins by explaining simple, immediate mode, poke instructions to the sound chip and goes on to develop the capabilities of the chip, using simple basic programs. The simplistic nature of these programmes suggests the book would appeal to people interested in the sound capabilities of the 64 but with little programming experience. It would possibly appeal to children of eight years and over with a limited knowledge of basic.
If however you are interested in investigating the sound capabilities in any depth, this is not the book.

Bob Walker

SHAKE HANDS WITH THE COMMODORE 64 by Pam Kelly-Hartley and Joy McKneil.
Our copy by courtesy of Pitman Publishing Pty. Ltd. R.R.P. ???

This book is a guide for the beginner who has little or no knowledge of computers or computing terms. It consists of 19 chapters starting off with an introduction to the Commodore 64 and finishing with a chapter on using EASYSCRIPT (a Word Processor).
The book contains numerous sample programs which the reader is encouraged to enter and run. Part of any learning process is a requirement that the reader gets feedback on their progress. This is achieved in this book by setting problems for the reader to solve.
There are two chapters on Colour Graphics and Sound which were written by Greg
Perry. In these chapters the reader is introduced to the Graphics and Sound capabilities of the 64.
The chapter on EASYSCRIPT is easy to read and takes the novice through the steps of using EASYSCRIPT. This chapter does not explain all the features of EASYSCRIPT, but enough is explained to get you started.

This book is recommended for the beginner and would be suitable for use as a textbook in an introductory course on the Commodore 64.

KERRY NAUMANN.

The Commodore Music Book - A Guide To Programming Music And Sound by J. Vogel and N.B. Scrimshaw
Published by Birkhauser - R.R.P. $14.25
Our copy by courtesy of the distributors D.A. Book (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.

This book is designed to teach you how to program music and sound on your C-64.
The book shows you, step by step, how to program music and sound ideas. If you are not a musician this book will teach you how to create sound effects that may be incorporated into your programs.
The book is divided into six sections.

The chapters in section 1 provide an elementary understanding of electronic sound synthesis as well as the SID chip.
Section 2 deals with how to control the SID chip via the POKE statement. Included in this section are numerous examples of programming, using POKE.
Section 3 introduces the READ/DATA statement as a way of encoding your music. This is a convenient format for use with short sound effects and simple songs.
Section 4 shows how the SID chip can be used to create sound effects. Examples are included for siren effect, blast-off effect and sound-colour effect.
Section 5 covers programming music using array format. Once the array is stored in memory you can access it as many times as you like without having to use RESTORE as you would using READ/DATA statements. Each element of an array has its own name. This means that you can go directly to any element of the array you desire.
For anyone interested in creating music or sound on the C-64, this book is worth reading. It uses a fairly regimented approach to the subject, starting at the basics for novices, as well as providing more advanced information for those who are more experienced. Recommended.

Warren Kerswill

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C.C.U.G.Q. UB

LOADME	Auto loader
TURBOTAPE 64 GEN	Creates fast tape loading program. From COMPUTE! Jan 85
TURBO/64	The fast tape program as created by the above program.
TURBODISK BOOT	Loads Turbodisk.obj which is a fast disk load program
TURBODISKCREATOR"	Creates Turbodisk.obj on your disk
TURBODISK.OBJ	Fast disk load program from COMPUTE! April 85
DISK OPERATIONS	A disk handling program by Leigh Crowther (CCUGQ Club menber)
RELFILE COPY.C	Backup relative files onto another disk
TAPETOTAPE COPY	Copy cassette tapes
DISKTOTAPE COPY	Backup disk programs to cassette tape
REVISED MLX/64	Latest version of Computes Gazette machine language entry program
XLM	Converts M/L programs to MLX format.
BASAD.BIN	Programmers Aid by Paul Blair. From Commodore Magazine Jan 85.
BASAD INST	SpeedScript file of instructions for Basad. Printed instructions available from Terry Steer.
HELPOUT	Assists you to enter program listings from Commodore Magazine
HELPOUT INST	SpeedScript file of instructions for Helpout
DRAWER 2.0	Draw, save and load pictures. By Scott Adamson (CCUGQ Club member)
DRAWER INST.	SpeedScript file of instructions for Drawer 2.0
DRAW-DEMO .S	Demonstration of above program
DRAW-DEMO .C	" " " "
SYNTH SAMPLE.C	9 catchy tunes
MUSIC SYS49152.C	Another tune. Load ,8,1 and SYS49152 to run
NUCLEAR PLANT	Nuclear Power Plant simulation game by R.M.Adamson (CCUGQ member)
ALPHADOT	Educational program for young children
TUNNEL MAZE.C	Adventure Game
TUNN.D	Used by the above game
ODIN	Shootem game
WINTERTAFAREEL	Something to look at next Christmas

CCUGQ COMMS .CM

This disk contains an assortment of programs and instructions that you will need to communicate via a modem.

Addition to Software Library

64 FORTH - Cartridge with comprehensive instruction manual. FORTH is a computer language.

Cliff Pottinger

MODEM CORNER

The big news of the month is that our Bulletin Board has now got it's own phoneline, which means that you should be able to access it 24 hours per day!
The phone number is (07) 8082125.
For further details ring Ray King (our Sysop) at 208 1409 or Roger Haigh at 399 8037.

It has been proposed that a special introductory registration fee of $20.00 will be levied for foundation members to our Database. Anyone who wishes to join at a later date will be charged an annual fee, the amount of which is still to be decided. Further details to follow.

Additional Modem Owner

Speight Bernard 3496677

COMMODORE TELECOMPUTING PT.3

RS 232 Terminal Parameters.

When using one of the terminal programs, a number of parameters or protocols must usually be set to define the characteristics of the RS 232 interface to the modem and the processing of incoming and outgoing characters. The protocols are usually defined by the Duplex, Baud Rate, Number of Stop Bits, Parity, Word length, and ASCII or CBM-ASCII characters.

Duplex : Most BBS operate at full-duplex. Every character you type goes down the line and is 'echoed' back to your terminal and then displayed on your screen allowing you to ensure that your characters are being received correctly. In half-duplex mode, characters are not echoed back and your own terminal program must display them on its own screen. Half-duplex is used when talking C64-C64 and full-duplex with BBSs. Essentially, if you cannot see what you are typing switch to half-duplex. If everything you type eennddss uupp llookkiinngg lliikkee tthhiiss, switch to full-duplex. (Do not confuse this with the actual full/half duplex electrical protocol of the modem itself. Commercial full duplex modems may be set to 'echo' back received characters or not.)

To understand the other protocols we must first look at how a character is actually transmitted. As most of you probably know, each character in the computer's memory is stored as its CBM-ASCII code in one byte or eight bits. This is transmitted down the RS 232 line in serial form, that is, one bit at a time. For the letter 'A', ASCII value 65 and 01000001 in binary, the signal would look like

```
Signal
1       the line is high waiting for the first bit of character
1       still waiting
1       still waiting

0       the START BIT - a zero bit signalling
        that a character is coming

1       DATA bits for character starting with bit 0
0       bit 1           often
0       bit 2           only
0       bit 3           7 ASCII bits
0       bit 4           are
0       bit 5           used
1       bit 6           'WORD LENGTH' = no of data bits
                followed by
0       PARITY bit (sometimes)
1       then a one or two 'STOP' bits

1       ok waiting for next start bit
1       still waiting
```

From this it can be seen that sending an normal 8-bit character actually involves sending between 10 and 11 bits of data.

Baud Rate : A baud rate of 300 baud will transfer 300 bits per second which, assuming 10 bits per character, means 30 8-bit characters per second. Baud rate must be selected to conform to that of the modem.

Word Length : Defined as the actual number of bits used for the character data. Optionally, 5,6,7 or 8. Select 8 unless otherwise advised.

Stop Bits : The number of bits required to signal an end of character transmission. Optionally 1 or 2. Select 1 unless otherwise advised.

Parity : Parity bit is used as a check digit for the data bits. Five types - None, Even, Odd, Mark, Space. Briefly, a parity bit of 1 or 0 is used to make the total number of '1' bits for the character odd or even. Select None unless otherwise advised.

ASCII Conversion : When accessing a BBS, use standard ASCII. For C64-C64, CBM ASCII.

Other Parameters.

Two other parameters are often used when accessing BBS. These are:

Line Feeds : Depend on whether the sending system sends a line feed character as well as a carriage return at the end of each line. If it does not, then everything will appear on the same line. If in doubt, select for incoming line feeds. Normally not required when sending.

Nulls : 'How many nulls do you require?' is often asked when you log on to a BBS (especially of the RCPM type.) A null means a null character sent after each carriage return to prevent loss of any data bits. Select one if in doubt.
(To be Continued)

Greg Perry

Trevor Roydhouse, one of our NSW members, has sent us some details of his SENTRY BULLETIN BOARD in Sydney, which he is running from his VIC-20 with 1541 drive.
It can be accessed only during non-business hours as follows:
Weekdays 9pm - 6am next morning SENTRY BULLETIN BOARD
Weekends 8pm - 6am ,, ,, Ph. (02) 428 4687
The protocol is 8 bit data word, 1 stopbit, no parity, full duplex, 300 Baud. Apart from the Message base there is also Xmodem protocol downloading, and an on-line adventure!

Trevor also informed us of the existence of a real live Punter BBS in Sydney, named Palantir, which operates on a 24 hour basis. Phone No. is (02) 451 6576.

Many thanks for this information Trevor.

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As the "Reset King" of the club I would like to thank Bruce Wylie for the new program retrieval sequence for the RESET SWITCH.
I have been trying to find a new and simple method of program retrieval since I discovered (to my dismay) that the old method of a poke and a line number crashes when dealing with large programs.
I have modified the RESET SWITCHES labels to include a copy of this new procedure, and am now trying to find a simular method for the VIC.
If a VIC user can assist me here, would you please contact me at:

THE CLOG WORKSHOP - TAMBOURINE MT. 4272

ANTHONY THYSSEN

****

MEMBERS' ADVERTS

FOR SALE

Swivel Base for Monitor --- $10.00

"CAL-KIT" - New Canadian Spreadsheet for C-64 (Disk & Dongle) --- $30.00

Phone Ralph De Vries at 30 3477 (a.h.)

WANTED

RS 232 Interface for C-64

Phone Russell Watkins at 397 2840 (a.h.)

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NOTES & GOSSIP

EQUIPMENT NEEDED!!!

Once more your committee is requesting (nay, 'begging') our members to bring computer equipment to our main meeting.
All we need is a few computers, with disk drives and monitors or TV sets. A few SX-64's with some additional TV sets would be ideal. Don't expect committee members to supply all your needs - they have their hands full with other commitments.
If no equipment is forthcoming there seems to be very little point in holding meetings, so put a computer or disk drive or TV set in your car to keep our meetings going!

Pine Rivers Sub-Group

During their workshop meeting on the 9th June it is planned to have a demo of Wordprocessing Programs and Printers.
It is suggested that members bring their printers along to compare features and discuss any problems associated with printers and wordprocessors.

Missing Line

On Public Domain disk U7 there is a data base program called "ECF", which has a line missing.
Please insert the following line:

```
1505 IF N <1 THEN 1520
```

to make the program work as intended.

New Advertiser

We welcome Chambers Computer Supplies of Melbourne as a new advertiser.

Remember our club policy: support our advertisers whenever you can!

10% DISCOUNT TO USER CLUB MEMBERS (7% with Credit Cards)

You MUST present your membership card at the time of purchase or your Club must have registered its membership list with us. Discounts can NOT be back-dated.

COMMODORE HEAVEN

No games but everything else stocked at discount prices. We directly import 100 different lines and also deal with all the usual warehouses. Let us show you how your 64 can become a powerful business machine.

We normally have about a dozen different printers, 15 or so word processors, 20 or more spreadsheets and databases and about the same number of accounting systems, but can only list some here. Ring (03) 700 2451 at any time.

64/VIC/128

Because we have the latest versions all our C64 programs will also run on the new C128.

WORD PROCESSORS

TOTLWRITER (incl d/base, etc)	$125
TOTL TEXT Enhanced. Best word proc. of all	$59
TOTL SPELLER works with Easyscript, Bank Street	$45
TOTL KEYWORD CROSS REFERENCE	$45
FLEET Fast, 40, 80, cols	$135
SUPER TEXT 80 column program	$108
HESWRITER	Cartridge $55
INSTA WRITER	Cartridge $39
HOMEWORD	$69
SOFTSMITH	$49
EASYSCRIPT 64	$89
OMNIWRITER/OMNISPELL	$95
WRITE NOW!	Cartridge $79
TOTL MAILING LIST/LABEL	Disk/Tape $45
THE MAILER	Disk $49
LETTER WRITER	Tape $22, Disk $25
HOME DIARY	Tape $22, Disk $25

ACCOUNTING

TOTL BUSINESS (Latest Compiled Version)	$159
GENERAL LEDGER TOTL's newest compiled	$69
64 ACCOUNTING by Software Design Inc	$125
TIME/MONEY MANAGER	$69
TOTL Time Management rated 4 stars (VIC $45)	$29
TOTL Home Accounting	$69
CONTINENTAL Home Accounts	$79
ABRACALC HOME MANAGER + SPREADSHEET	$37
PERSONAL ACCOUNTANT	$34
CASH CONTROLLER	$24
EXPENSE MANAGER	$19
dialog TRANSACT book keeping system	$45
dialog INVOSTAT invoices and statements	$45
dialog STOCK-AID stock control inventory	$45

BUSINESS AIDS

BUSICALC 1 $59, BUSICALC 2 $75,	BUSICALC 3 $99
AUTOCALC 64	$45
MAGPIE famous British database, now for C64	$99
dialog DFM DATABASE	$45
dialog DATABASE+MAIL LABEL	$49
TOTL DATABASE "RUN" says Best Buy	$79
SUPERBASE 64 Mar '85 version	$199
SUPERBASE STEPPING STONES	$25
CHARTIST Stocks & Shares prints graphs	$149
COMPUTER STOCKS AND BONDS	Tape $39

HARDWARE

SG-10 new, faster Gemini printer	IN STOCK
SMITH-CORONA daisy wheel (US made)	$495
INTERFACES	12 different from $39
MSD Single Drive, all metal	$499
MSD double drive, the best	$1295
64K MEMORY EXPANSION for 64 and VIC 20	$299
PAGEMATE Text holder	$29
DISKETTE SAFE, lockable, 100 capacity	$29

UTILITIES

PRINTER GRAPHICS UTILITY	Disk/Tape $25
FLASH! '85 with built-in ON/OFF switch	$175
FLASH! SX64 version	$175
SCM 1541 Disk Align Program	$79
64 DOCTOR	Disk $42, Tape $39
RABBIT (busts copy protect, loads tape fast)	$75
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LETTERS

Our letterbox has been filled with some very substantial letters from our country members this month, for which we are truly grateful. It has to be remembered however that both considerations of time and space will force me to condense these letters. Do keep your letters coming though! We do love to hear from both our country- and interstate members.

Ralph De Vries

Dear Editor,

I am sorry you sounded so despondent in the second paragraph of your March Editorial - as a reader I am happy with the contents. Not that I have a great knowledge of computers, but I am learning through your magazine.

As a mum of a 16 year old member of your club, I have not had the time to sit and learn too much about operating the C-64 - not only that, there seem to be so many boys around the computer such a lot of time, which I think is a wonderful sight to see.

So please keep up the good work, as I am gaining knowledge, and not sounding quite so 'dumb' when talking to the boys about computers.

Janice van der Vliet

Dear Janice,

Thanks for your kind words. An occasional letter like yours makes you want to carry on!
It is good to see that your son is enjoying the C-64. From our own observations we know that a lot of our younger members are a lot more proficient at programming than our senior members. As most adult members claim that they have bought their computer for their kids' education we should foster this at all cost. Our future computer experts will come from their ranks.
Your only consolation is that when your son is in his final year of high school he will be so busy with home work that he won't have time for the computer, thus giving mum a chance to catch up!

A very substantial letter has been received from our member Harold Parkes in Toowoomba, which, for reasons of space I am unable to print in it's entirety; however I hope to cover some of the points he raised herewith:

In last month' issue of CURSOR we mentioned a program from Compute!'s Gazette, called 'Magfile'. It's original title was 'Magazine Index', and Harold has written some additional lines of code which add a printer routine. These lines are printed below

Harold would also like to read what happens during our monthly meetings. A rather flippant reply would be: " A lot of prattle and very little else!", but that is probably not quite fair.
If the topic(s) are of sufficient interest I will try to do a precis in our "Notes & Gossip" column.
The question of better annotation of our public domain disks I have passed on to our Chief Librarian for implementation.
It will also be discussed during our May meeting. Harold also would like to see details about the C-64 used in conjunction with the VIATEL system. Our group's modem cannot be used for VIATEL as this system transfers data at 1200/75 baud, whereas our group's modem works at the standard 300/300 baud rate. Up till the present, modems suitable to work at the 1200/75 configuration were extremely expensive, but be patient! Our modem boffin, Roger Haigh, is working at it right now!
Greg Perry has been accessing VIATEL and no doubt will have his say in future issues of "CURSOR"
Last, but not least Harold submitted a sketch plan for a computer equipment desk which we hope to print in the near future. Many thanks!

Another substantial epistle was received from Hank Deucker of Grantham, who is having problems with adding new words to the dictionary disk of Easyspell. As I have never used Easyspell I asked for comments from Easyspell users during our May meeting. Your problem was not experienced by other users. It was suggested that your dictionary disk somehow has become corrupted. Try to obtain a new dictionary disk and first make a backup copy to serve as your work disk.

In a review in the American "AHOY" magazine of Easyscript/Easyspell (April 84) a bug was reported in Easyspell. It seemed to occur when characters are added to a word during the correction process. It was claimed that the start of a new paragraph is overwritten by the end of the paragraph which contains the word being edited. This only seems to happen when the last screen line of a paragraph does not have enough blank spaces to accomodate the inserted characters. Again I am unable to verify the truth of this article. Maybe one of our readers knows of reviews of "Easyspell" which mention these problems, or have experience at first hand. Your assistance would be appreciated by Hank.

Hank also offered to write about "Superbase 64". Probably the best data-base program for the 64, it is also one of the most frustrating programs for newcomers to this type of programs. Yes Hank, if you have mastered "Superbase" let us have some articles on this program, as there are a lot of frustrated users out there. But please, do supply them on disk (as W.P. files), as I just don't have the time to type in substantial articles at this stage.

Last but not least Hank would like to start a Sub-Group in the Lockeyer Valley. His phone number is (075) 66 1317. Keep us informed on progress Hank!

Our last major letter comes from Trevor Roydhouse of Maquarie Centre in NSW. Trevor is one of our senior VIC members (Yes, there are still a few of them left!), and he has written on Bulletin Boards and Relative File handling on the VIC. Details of Trevor's BBS etc. can be found in our "Modem Corner", but here follows what Trevor has to say on Relative File handling on the VIC:

A few short notes on the article which appeared in the March issue of "CURSOR":

1: Read error channel after every record position command.
Comment: I have been using relative files for over 12 months now, and have never found it necessary to read the error channel after record positioning. I have never had any problem.
2: Do not use record position other than 1.
Comment: When updating a rel. file record I nearly always use a record position other than 1 and never had any problems doing so. For example, on my BBS the user log is a rel. file with a record for each caller. I only ever update that part of the record relating to date of last call, high message no. etc. It has always worked perfectly.
3: Send record to disk twice.
Comment: I have never found it necessary to send a record to the disk more than once. Needless to say, I have never had any problems.

CONCLUSION: There must be some problems in relative file handling when using a C-64 and 1541 drive, which are not present with the VIC-20/1541 combination.

Trevor B Roydhouse

```
421 PRINT"OUTPUT TO SCREEN OR PRINTER ?(S/P)"
422 GET SP$
423 IF SP$<>"S" ANDSP$<>"P" THEN 422
424 IF SP$="P" THEN 920
 ---------------------------------------------------------------------------
921 I = 1
923 LC = 0: HD$ = "LIST 'ARTICLES' FILE": GOSUB 950
925 LC = LC+1:GOSUB 970:GOSUB980:I=I+1:IFI<=N AND LC<>V THEN 925
926 IF I>N THEN 190
927 PRINT:PRINT "PRESS 'C' TO CONTINUE ":PRINT"PRESS'F1' TO RETURN TO MAIN MENU"
929 GET CQ$
931 IF CQ$<>"C" AND CQ$<>"■" THEN 929
933 IF CQ$="C" THEN 925
935 IF CQ$="■" THEN 190
950 OPEN3,4:PRINT#3,HD$:PRINT#3:PRINT#3,"REC#","MAGAZINE";
960 PRINT#3,Q$," DATE","  ARTICLE TITLE ":CLOSE3:RETURN
970 OPEN3,4:FORK=0TO3:MG$(K)=MID$(AR$(I),B(K),T(K)):NEXT:RETURN
980 X0=LEN(STR$(I)):X1$=LEFT$("***",4-X0)+RIGHT$(STR$(I),X0-1)
990 PRINT#3,X1$,MG$(0),Q$MG$(1),MG$(2):CLOSE3:RETURN
```

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