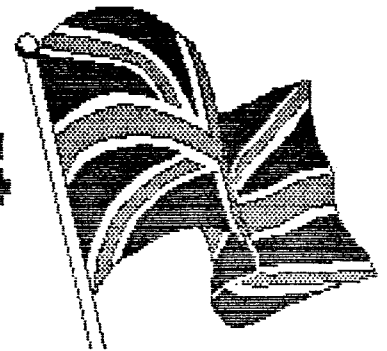




geoNEWS



JOURNAL OF geoCLUB

ISSUE 11

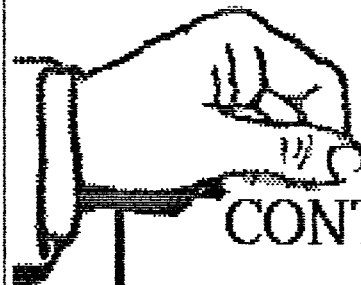
JULY 1992



EDITOR'S COMMENT

Well, yet another very hectic month. Next month we will in effect be one year old, although we didn't start as a fee paying group until January 1992 the very first newsletter was distributed in August 1991. How many of you remember that simple 2 page edition ? of the 24 I sent out, only about 4 of the recipients did not eventually join us, I like to think that it was thier loss. Here we are almost 12 months later and a membership of almost 70 in 8 countires, I certainly never imagine it would be so popular and the only publicity we have had as been a mention in a few I.C.P.U.G. newsletters and the two LIGHT disks the rest has been word of mouth. I still feel that there is are a great msny GEOS user out there that perhaps do not even know we exist, there are probably quite a few who have meant to write but never manage to get around to it. If you know a C64 user, introduce them to GEOS and geoCLUB you'll be doing them the biggest favour you ever could.

Happy GEOS-ing
FRANK



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My Favorite Application

by Barbara Hodgson

As a bit of a 'fontaholic' I was delighted with Jim Collette's Font Editor 2.4. It opens up a new aspect to fonts, I can now make them myself. Mind you it is very time consuming and you can't expect instant results.

I think the best way to start is to load a ready made font and examine it's structure carefully to understand how

the different letters are formed. Then think about what exactly you want to do, planning it on graph paper might help, and then there you go - CREATE -

Give your font a name, decide on the point size, baseline (where the base of most letters sit), and give a default width (gives all the letters the same width), and lest the ID number which ideally should be unique. The size of the font is automatically calculated so that you can see if it is suitable for your application. On in to - EDIT -

Holding down the mouse or joystick button will draw, once drawn the click will erase. So go ahead and do it. The first letter available naturally is 'A', scrolling through the alphabet, numbers and punctuation is by using the '+' and '-' keys or pressing the appropriate letter on the keyboard.

The central area shows the letter as it would appear. Certain letters may be stashed with 'S' and retrieved with 'R' at other locations to be altered slightly, eg.'O' for 'C' or 'G', this will

horizontally or vertically eg. u for n. I'm all for saving a bit of time and effort.

The GRABBER UTILITY will grab chosen letters from other fonts, these may be Geos, Commodore, FontMester II Normal or Super or Basic 8 fonts.

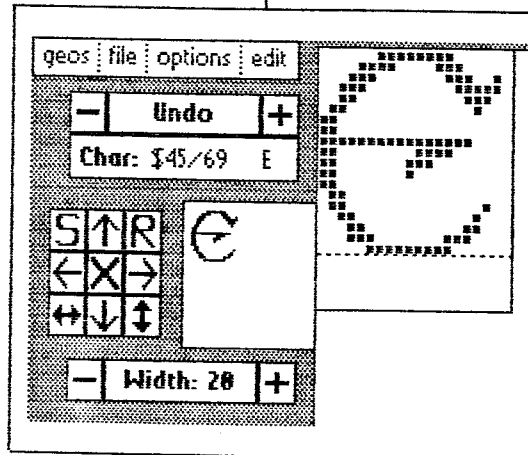
The CUT, COPY + PASTE submenu will utilise PhotoScraps but this is very much a practice makes perfect exercise as letter sizes have to be adequate to prevent chopping off your bits. oof, painful!

Once you have completed your font and saved it, (this is not automatic and frequent saves are recommended obviously as hard

work can easily be lost without trace.) you can then SCALE the entire font changing thickness and height at the same time if required. It can be scaled up or down but will need a little fine tuning afterwards to take out any stray pixels or add a few to round of edges. A handy off-shoot of this is that you can save different fonts under different font sizes within

the same font. This enables you to have a larger font selection available for GeoWrite files. A bit sneaky that!

Patterns can also be fontified so that you can add class to cards, letters, awards or certificates. Four corners, left and right verticals and top and bottom horizontals are usually all you need, so they can be quite quick to make. Anywhere along the line you can print out a hard-copy to your printer to see that all is going well and to get a better idea how your font looks. The feeling you get when you actually use a font that you have created in a letter, newspaper or brochure is unbelievable. It can really be 'all your own work'. The heading for this article was one of my first attempts. Have patience, have fun and have a very satisfied feeling when you use Jim Collette's Font Editor.



Improving GEOS Printer Output

by Stephen Collie

There seems to be much talk at the moment about printing from GEOS. There are many ways to improve the output from an ordinary printer without splashing out on a Laserprinter. For example, LQ Print from GUC in Germany is just one of the programs which do this. There are also many Double and Quadruple Strike printer drivers available from various PD libraries. However, there seems very little help for the ordinary Serial Interfaced printer, i.e. the MPS series from Commodore and my own, a SEIKOSHA SP-1000VC. These are printers which print out at 60 dpi horizontally, and as anyone with one of these will know. I do not think they will not work with LQ Print.

First, some basics. GEOS is principally designed to have a horizontal resolution of 80 dots per inch. This means the rulers in geoPaint, geoWrite and geoPublish are only accurate if the documents is printed out at 80 dpi. Although some printers do print at 80 dpi, many cannot, so none of the rulers are accurate and GEOS documents expand to 1/3 more than an A4 page. This is all aswell as the loss of resolution and the 'dot'tiness of the printouts.

However, all is not gloom, I have written a printer driver for my printer, the SEIKOSHA, which enhances the resolution to 80 dpi without any loss of clarity. This is achieved by printing each line twice. By doing this an effective resolution of 120 dpi can be printed. This new improved resolution can easily print at 80 dpi (See Fig 1). Although the dots are not exactly evenly spaced, the difference is too

small to notice. I do not know if this driver will work with other 60 dpi printers, but if anyone would like a copy to try, you are welcome to one on receipt of a blank formatted disk.

I have gone further than this and written a Quadrupole strike 80 dpi printer driver for my printer. This driver interpolates between the dots printed to give a solid black line, instead of a line of separate dots. And it still increases the resolution to 80 dpi!

I hope soon to write a Reduction driver for my printer. However that has to be shelved at the moment - EXAMS !!!! By the time you (hopefully) read this I will have finished!

With reference to LQ Print (known as Perfect Print LQ in it's English version). Legal copies are not available in the U.K. and will not be for the foreseeable future it must be obtain direct from CMD of Massachusettes who market the software in the USA. I have spoken with one of the directors of the company Mr. C. Christiansen Jnr. who assures me this is the case and any copies offered by any company in the UK are PIRATED copies. I am trying to persuade CMD to allow me to distribute this and other of their software through geoCLUB but so far I have been un-successful. You will be notified if the situation changes. FRANK

Printing Pound Signs

by Stephen Collie

Because GEOS is an American program, it is unable to print the good old British Pound sign. Although GEOS V1.3 had this ability, no other GEOS versions can, to my knowledge. There have been many ways to cure this, but this is what I have done to get around the problem.

This is an easy method to convert the

Comm. Compat. printer driver to print pound signs. (I use the Action Replsy MK.4 cartridge monitor, as it is the one I find easiest to use, but GeoDebugger would also would fine, as would any other Monitor.)

1. On a SPARE disk - not one with anything important on (accidents can happen) have a copy of the printer driver to convert. It is better if it is on the first page, and the name is all capitals, as this makes it easier to find with a monitor.

2. Exit GEOS and load your monitor. Read track \$12 (18 decimal), sector \$01 (1 decimal) into memory.

3. Display the sector in ASCII. Find the name COMM. COMPAT. If it is not in this sector, although it would be if it was on the first page of the disk note pad, read the next directory sector with the track and sector pointers at the beginning of this block. The first byte is the next track, and the second byte is the next sector. If they are \$00 and \$FF then this is the last directory sector. When you have found the name, look at the two bytes immediately before the name. These point to the first sector of the file.

4. Read this sector into memory. Using the track and sector pointers in the first two bytes of the sector, read the second sector into memory.

5. At the 96th byte of the second sector (or offset \$60 i.e. if it is in memory starting at \$C000 then the byte is at \$C060), there should be \$7B (123 in decimal). Change this to \$7F (127).

6. Rewrite the sector to disk at the same location you read it from.

This new updated driver should now print pound signs, and also the square brackets. Pound signs are typed by pressing the Commodore key and the Up Arrow key, and square brackets by pressing SHIFT and the square bracket keys.

If anyone has any questions about GEOS in general, or printer drivers in particular I would be pleased to answer them.

Stephen may be contacted at the following address.

**Stephen Collie,
Stockport,**

NEW RE-INKING SYSTEM

by Toni Strong

For those of you who don't get Micro Mart, I thought you might like to know about a new re-inking system from Quill Marketing. This system does not require the need to open the cassette to spray liberal quantities of ink into it and then have to wait for it to soak in. There are two systems, one is manual the other is motorised. According to form you just pull a loop of ribbon and feed it round an ink cartridge which is in contact with the dispensing nozzle and just wind away, or press the button if it's the electric model.

According to the manufacturers it works out at 30 pence per ribbon. The rub is, and there always has to be a rub, the cost of the manual system is £39.30 and ink cartridges are £8.00 for a pack of six. A good thing I think if a couple of people could get together with it or even better make it a GeoClub exercise, a small charge for the service to cover costs and a bit extra for club funds. Anyone got a spare £40?

KEY:



= Key not used in GEOS



Character if key pressed on its own.



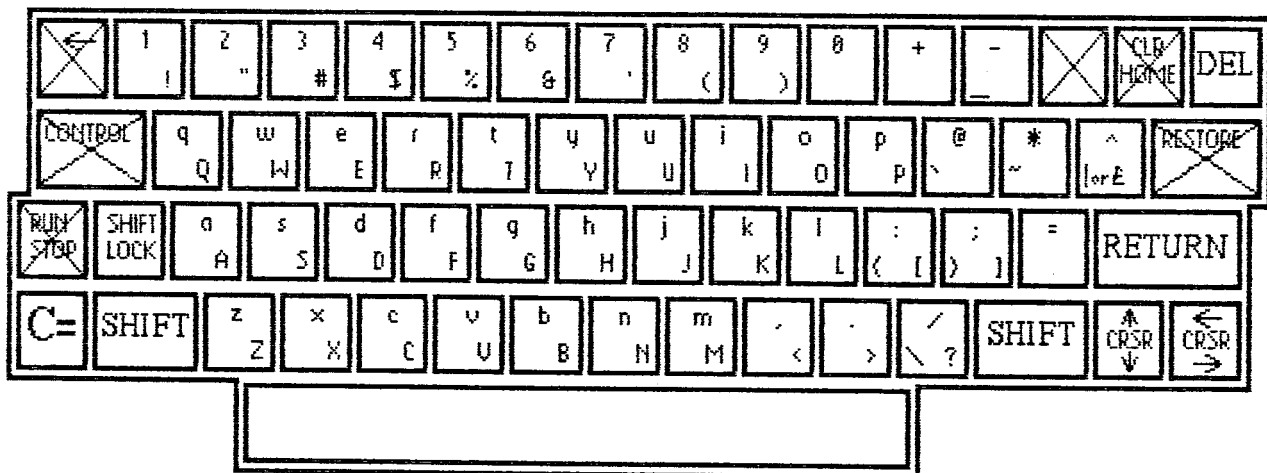
Character if key pressed with SHIFT.



Character if key pressed with C=.

KEYBOARD LAYOUT

by Stephen Collie



geoCLUB Software Library

The geoCLUB software library being organised by Terry Watts, which supplies the PrintShop graphics disks that are ideal for converting and using in all your GEOS works of art. Will, as from July 1st, also supply all the geoClub disks. These disk cost £1:25 each including postage. They are double sided and contain a mixture of applications, fonts and graphics for use within GEOS, and excellent value for money. They are Public Domain and all profits go towards subsidising the low subscription. The latest addition is

geoCLUB Disk 15 +16 which contains a great many Printer Drivers. For more information on any of these disks please contact **Terry Watts,**

Derby,

he will be only too happy to comply with your every whim. Nobody will require disks 1,2,3 or 4 as these are given FREE on joining.

Quincy Softworks Products are still ONLY available from me directly, they are NOT Public Domain and the ONLY source of legal Dweezil Disks.

The GEOS Character Set (or characters that GEOS can produce)

by Stephen Collie

Many new users may be puzzled by the new characters available with GEOS. However the new characters are all standard characters and some can be very useful when used in the right places.

GEOS mainly conforms to the ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) standard for characters although there are a few differences (as always!). ASCII Codes are similar to the PET-ASCII codes used by the C64. The ASCII codes range from 32 to 126, i.e. 95 different characters. This includes some new characters which have not previously been seen on the C64. The map of the C64 keyboard (Opposite), shows how to type the new characters, as well as many familiar ones. For example, the Pound sign (which only some fonts have) is printed by holding down the Commodore key and pressing the Up Arrow key, although this is not shown on that particular key. The Pound Sign key does not have any function in GEOS, so does not print anything at all, as also shown on the diagram.

I have compiled the character listing (Page 7) just for my interest and they have no practical value at all! It is self-explanatory, just showing the 95 different characters with their ASCII codes in hexadecimal and decimal, and some notes about certain characters.

When GEOS prints out a document in the NLQ or Draft style, onto a Commodore Compatible printer (using the 'Comm. Compat.' printer driver)

the ASCII codes have to be translated into PETASCII codes. Because of this not all the characters will print out the same on the paper as shown on the screen when NLQ or Draft style is used. It should be possible to adapt the Comm. Compat printer driver to print out the pound sign in particular - something I will attempt in the near future (I hope!).

NEW MEMBERS

New members this month are as follows

Erwin Schnabel	Germany
Michael Chandler	Coventry
S.D.Pace	Romford
Helen Faithfull	Waltham Abbey
Alex Taylor	Loughton
Brian Heatlie	Stockport
Colin Thomson	Rayleigh
Terry Tate	Oz
Scott Logan	Oz
George Higgins	Stevenage
Kevin Montgomery	Bournemouth
Alex Saveiev	Russia

As you can see it's been a bumper month for new members which is very pleasing. This brings our total to 67.

WELCOME to geoCLUB

I endeavour to have geoNEWS ready some time in the last week of the month. I then send the 'Master Copy' and the stamped envelopes to Brian in Great Wyrley who does the photocopying and mails out so with luck your copy should reach you in the first week of the month. If for some reason yours does not arrive by the second week please contact me as things do go missing in the post. This applies to UK members only. Outside the UK will obviously take longer. Oz members should contact Peter Hunt

THE GEOS CHARACTER SET

by Stephen Collie

GEOS Character Code (hex)	Character in BSI-W (dec)	Description
\$20	32	SPACE
\$21	33	! Exclamation Mark
\$22	34	" Quotes
\$23	35	# Hash
\$24	36	\$ String/Dollar
\$25	37	% Percent
\$26	38	&' and' sign
\$27	39	' Single Quote
\$28	40	(Open (left)
\$29	41) Close (right)et
\$2A	42	* Star
\$2B	43	+ Plus sign
\$2C	44	, Comma
\$2D	45	- Minus sign
\$2E	46	. Full Stop
\$2F	47	/ Left Stroke
\$30	48	0 Zero
\$31	49	1 One
\$32	50	2 Two
\$33	51	3 Three
\$34	52	4 Four
\$35	53	5 Five
\$36	54	6 Six
\$37	55	7 Seven
\$38	56	8 Eight
\$39	57	9 Nine
\$3A	58	: Colon
\$3B	59	; Semicolon
\$3C	60	< Less than
\$3D	61	= Equals sign
\$3E	62	> Greater than
\$3F	63	? Question Mark
\$40	64	@ 'at' sign
\$41	65	ACapital A
(\$41 (65) to \$5A (90) is A to Z - Capitals)		
\$5A	90	Z Capital Z
\$5B	91	[Left Square
\$5C	92	\ Right Stroke
\$5D	93] Right Square
\$5E	94	^ Up Arrow
\$5F	95	_ SPACE-Line
\$60	96	^ Single Quote
\$61	97	a Small a
(\$61 (97) to \$7A (122) is a to z - Small Letters)		
\$7A	122	z Small z
\$7B	123	(Left Curly Bracket
\$7C	124	Vertical Line
\$7D	125)Right Curly Bracket
\$7E	126	~Squiggle?

LIGHT DISK II

Many of you will have seen the second edition of the LIGHT Disk. Those of you that have not, don't know what you are missing. It is the only UK computer magazine on a disk (2 in fact) and is very ingenious. The producers DataSphere Publications really deserve to succeed. It comes on 2 disks and on loading a well designed DeskTop appears with many options. There are facilities to configure the disks to a two drive set-up and all the text files can be printed out along with a contents list. This months issue contains 2 GEOS articles by OUR man in Germany Roy McIntosh (he gets everywhere). 2 games, C64 in 80 Colum by a Public Domain writer, Grafix 64 a program for creating bitmap graphics (then into GEOS no doubt with one of the GEOS graphic converters in the Public Domain). A number of programs for the much neglected C128. Unfortunately I just do not have the time to do this disk justice in the way of a good review and so if any other member who would like to submit one it would be most welcome. As the DataSphere people have given us some very good free publicity I would very much like to do the same. The LIGHT disk is highly recommended and is obtainable direct from **LIGHT Subscriptions dept, DataSphere Publications, 7 Fallowfield Close, Valley Drive, Norwich, NR1 4NW.**

The costs are as follows,

1 Issue £4.50 UK £5.50 Europe
 £6.50 Rest of World.
 6 Issues £25.50 UK £31.50 Eu
 £37.50 RoW.
 12 Issues £46.50 UK 58.80 Eu
 £70.80 RoW.
 And don't forget to mention geoNEWS.

PLEASE MR POSTMAN BRING ME A LETTER!

MICHAEL
DOUGLAS
PEARSON



I am an avid GeoPHILE (and proud of it! - you may have noticed!). In an attempt to widen my knowledge of GEOS and to find out what is on offer to us end-users I spend a lot of time, energy and money writing for information about products and buying far too many of the products that sound interesting or useful.

As we all know, the GEOS products available in this country are now virtually none existent.

With this in mind I decided, a few months ago, to spend money on Air Mail stationery and postage, as well as time and effort, and write to our fellow GEOS users / distributors / publishers in the United States of America. I would then be able to share this new found knowledge with my fellow geoCLUB members and to purchase product or subscribe to publications directly from America.

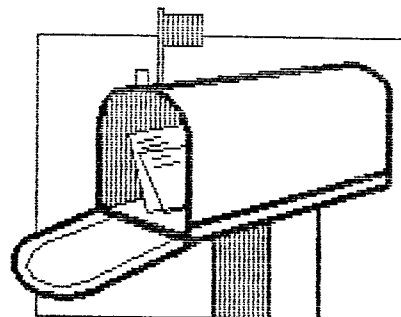
GUESS WHAT? Other than David Ferguson (who is the author of the DWEEZIL Disks that can now be obtained from the only U.K. authorised distributor which is GeoCLUB) and Software Support International (mentioned previously in geoNEWS) not one of them had the courtesy to reply to my polite enquiries - despite me enquiring about possible purchases / subscriptions! Perhaps they

are not interested in "bothering" with the U.K. GEOS users. I do hope that this is not the case as I believe an international dialogue will contribute to the life span of GEOS and of the C64/128.

Have any other members had better luck in contacting the GEOS people in America? Do write to geoCLUB with your experiences or successes. We (or is it just me?) are thirsting for new GEOS product and information. As soon as, or IF, I can muster any info I will of course contribute a geoWrite file of info for possible inclusion in geoNEWS. Watch this space!!

The people I have written to in the past few months have been (all to no avail): Roger Ledbetter, Publisher, geoWORLD, Peter/Paul Hughes, Editor, geoWORLD, GEOSTORE, Arizona, U.S.A., Mystic Jim, Denver, U.S.A., geoMETRIX User Group, Oregon City, Rainbow Software, Oregon City, U.S.A.

PLEASE MR. POSTMAN.....



geoSOURCER

This is a great new program by Jean F Major of Canada, for all you machine code buffs. According to Jean (pronounced John) Both geoSOURCER 64 and 128 are included on the disk, the 128 version works in 40 and 80 column.

geoSOURCER will dis-assemble any GEOS file including VLR type. It will even dis-assemble the most used macros, macro can be turned off if needed. Output can be sent to, screen, printer or geoWrite (V2.1). Output that was sent to geoWrite is almost readily available to be re-assembled in geoAssembler.

geoSOURCER supports 18 different types of output, that can be set up in a reference file (geoWrite) for automatic output selection. a Great tool to disAssemble about any type of code. It can be turned off if needed.

-6510 opcodes - dialogue box - process table - initRam table - byte (hex data) - word table - >word table(high) - <word table(low) - graphic string - Menu table - user icon table - user menu table (for DA) - end of symbol table - new address - icon table - text - mask code - new file.

Learn how fast your GEOS kernal works, both reference files included for GEOS C64 and 128 V2.0. Many reference file of major GEOS applications included too. Also included some of the best geoProgrammer utilities found on Q-Link

This program is at present NOT available in the UK and must be purchased direct from Jean (though this may alter as soon as he gets my letter). His address is... Mr. Jean F Major,

Que, CANADA

It costs \$14.95 plus \$2.00 postage

DB GetFiles V3.0

Have you ever been frustrated that the GEOS Dialogue Box is limited to 15 files ?. If the answer to this question is No, then try producing this newsletter. If the answer is YES, then read on.

Yet another great program from the stable of that fine Canadian programmer Jean F Major, DBGetFiles 3.0, allows you to view up to a maximum of 144 files in a dialogue box, not 15 as the standard Berkley Softworks edition.

DBGetFiles 3.0, is an autoexecute program that patches your GEOS kernal at boot-up time. It replaces the old dialogue box routine and is 100% compatable with all GEOS programs.

This is what GEOS should have been right from the begining. It greatly increase your ability to move about your data files. The package includes the patch version for the American GEOS C64 and C128 V2.0 is geoRAM compatable and German GEOS C64 V2.0

A single click will move the list display up and down one at a time like before. If you hold the mouse and you can move up and down the display continuously. Double click the down-arrow and you move directly to the last file in the list or a double click on the up-arrow takes you directly to the first file in the list.

DBGetFile 3.0 displays up to a maximum of 144 files under GEOS 128 V2.0 and 90 under GEOS C64 V2.0. Double clicking a file name directly opens it, or you can select it in the usual manner.

DBGetFiles 3.0 is NOT available in the country (YET) and so must be purchased direct from Jean at the following address, Jean F Major, Que, CANADA

It is contained on Jeans Utilities #1 disk and costs \$9.95 plus \$2.0 postage

BEWARE!

Sometime back in 1990 I bought a piece of software that ever since I have found quite amazing and very useful. It cost me £21, almost as much as I originally paid for my GEOS system. It was geoWIZARD by young Jim Collette. I say young, because he is 30 years my junior at 17 yrs old. There is mention of his Font Editor in an article on page 2 of this publication, when he wrote that he was just 13 yrs old, but I digress. Having used geoWizard for some time I came across a couple of small annoying bugs. I contacted the supplier I bought it from but was met with dis-interest there so I decided I would write to Jim and query the bugs directly (at that time I didn't know he was a kid in school). He wrote back quite apologetically, he knew of the bugs. I had bought a very early version. He had replaced all the early ones with a newer corrected version. Then came the bad news. As he had no distributor in the UK, and as I bought mine in the UK, then he could only assume it was a pirate copy. There for he was unable to support a pirated copy and so even though he appreciated I had bought my geoWizard in good faith that is how it stands. As it happens, had I known then what I know now I would not have had to pay so much for a GOOD version because Jim sells it directly for just \$16:95 with a further \$2:00 postage converted to English thats about £11. The moral of the story, try to check up before you buy anything and if it has what looks like a homemade label, query it.

Following on from there, I did a little checking around and I discovered that quite a few suppliers are non too happy about sending software to the UK because of the amount of alledged pirating, indeed that is one of the

reasons Dave Ferguson asked me to handle his Quincy Softworks products in the UK, so that niether he nor the UK geos users would be ripped of with too high a price. I then made the offer to a number of the other suppliers who have learned about our group and though most of them have shown some interest none but Dave have shown that much interest to allow us to handle their products. Maybe it is because they are understanably wary, considering what has happened in the past, or maybe the fact that I am not running this as a business and therefore cannot afford to buy X number of copies in the hope I can sell them, I don't know. What I do know is that We are the ones who are suffering the problem of not being able to obtain the goods we need. I recently saw an advertismment for Dweezil Disks and NewTols2 by Quincy Softworks. As I hold the SOLE UK rights to distribute this software and have that in writting I reported the matter to F.A.S.T. (Federation Against Software Theft). I was informed that for them to follow up this matter I would have to join the federation, as a Software Distributer this would cost me £1,175. Consequently I have not persued the matter any further. The bottom line as they say in the States is, I am a little disallusioned to say the least.

DID YOU KNOW ?

by Eric Pickup

You probably do but I'll tell you anyway. To print a file direct from the Desk Top for example a geoWrite file. Users can either, click the Icon once then press the Commodore + P keys or, double-click then take the ghost Icon to the printer, drop the file onto the printer graphic and low and behold the file is printed.

GEOS C64 V2.0 and GeoPublish

After much negotiation and I believe some good words on our behalf from Jim Collette, Berkley Softworks have decided that we can distribute GEOS C64 V2.0 and GeoPUBLISH through geoCLUB to members, the only stipulation seems to be that we must buy a minimum of 4 copies of either software package. The price of these is very reasonable at £28. This covers postage direct from the USA (I wish I could phrase that better). So anyone interested please forward £28 for either package I will then organise the shipments . change the money to US\$'s and arrange the transfer of currency. The packages will be dispatched direct to the purchasers. If I receive less than 4 requests all monies will be returned. So far no mention has been made regarding GEOS C128 V2.0. if anyone would prefer this version, please send £28 but as this does cost more a further request will be made when the full price is known, I would not expect it to be more than £4:00 extra. and I will see if it is possible to include a 128 version, if we are ordering enough copies there should be no problem.



Please let us know your new address as soon as possible so we can keep your copy of the newsletter coming to you without delay. Send your new address to.....

geoCLUB

Manchester

THANK YOU

I have decided to include this Thank You board because I nearly always forget to thank all the other people who help out. SO. here goes.....

Brian Mills of Great Wyrley
who photocopies the Master and mails them out

Jeanine Cutler of South Carolina who keeps me upto date will all things GEOS from the USA and also a VERY dear freind

Roy McIntosh of Paderborn
who keeps me upto date with the German scene

Peter Hunt of Doveton Oz who deals with the Australian branch of geoCLUB

Terry Watts of Derby our software libraian

Ron Crawley of Meols (Mersyside) who supplies the Printshop Graphics catalogue and back issues if geoNEWS

Eric Pickup of Hadfield
geoCable maker

Dave Ferguson of California
for giving us the chance to buy his software at a fair price

The various contributors of articles and software gems.
And you, the member for helping make this group a success.

READERS WRITE

Dear Frank,

I have just purchased geoPublish, will it run on a 1570 Disk drive or do I need a 1541 or 1571?. I also have purchased a second-hand 1750 REU, how can I up-grade it to 2 MegaByte?.

Brian Kinghorn, Newcastle

Dear Brian

GeoPublish will run on any disk drive the big problem is the capacity. A 1541 or 1570 are single sided drives and the capacity is only 133K when you think that GeoPublish takes up 90K then you will appreciate that it leaves little room from much else so you need to be very careful what you have on the disk with the program. If you have a 1571 which is a double sided drive which means it reads both sides without turning over the disk and consequently gives you 333 K capacity. A 1581 which is a 3.5" drive has a capacity of almost 800K and so you see the big improvement in capacity.

This then brings me onto Ram Expansion. For serious users it is definitely a must, it is used just like a disk drive and is known as a RamDisk. When you install an REU you must then configure your BootDisk with 'Configure' so that the DeskTop knows what you have where and the best way I can explain it is to describe my set up. I have a C128D, my A Drive is the built-in 1571, B Drive is my REU and C Drive is my 1581, so when I boot-up my DeskTop indicates this set up. Then I have various 'SetUp' disks with DeskTop GeoWrite and various other programs like my Printer Drivers and fonts. I Load this Set-Up into my RamDisk and then go to that to do all

my work, the reason for this is it is much faster than working on a disk, the only thing you MUST remember is that if you wish to keep a copy of whatever you do it must be placed onto a disk because the contents of the RamDisk is lost on switch off. Regarding the up-grade to 2 megabyte, I have to admit to you that my 1 Meg up-grade I did not do myself but had it done by a friend in the USA I will endeavour to send you details and indeed will try to include it in geoNEWS next month for all to read. It is not so straight forward as to just adding a few chips, there is also a logic board and unless you are competent at doing this sort of work would not recommend that you attempt it. It may be possible to have it up-graded by the guy who did mine, he did an excellent job and I highly recommend his work. He also did a very quick turn around. If you wish I will enquire as to prices etc. for you.

Regards FRANK

Dear Frank,

I have an old 1541 Disk drive that has problems. I have taken it to 2 service departments, one wrote it off the other could not find anything wrong with it. The problem is, sometimes it loads and sometimes it doesn't. I can load GEOS and all of a sudden it stops half way through loading with "System Error" or "Insert DeskTop higher than V1.5 (*Are you sure it says V1.5? Ed*)".

The problem always seems to be track 1. Have you any ideas?.

Thanks Colin Thomson Rayleigh Essex.

Dear Colin,

I'm no expert on Disk drives but it sounds very much like the gripper ring is not gripping the centre of the disk correctly. Maybe one of our members out there could suggest an answer. If so, please write in I will pass the information onto Colin as well as reproducing it with these pages in a future geoNEWS. Frank