EDITOR'S COMMENT

Due to the fact that I have received an unusual number of items for inclusion in the newsletter I have yet again held over the continuing " Looking At Geos" series by Marc McManus . This will continue in the December issue.

There are two articles covering similar ground, that of printing and printer drivers but as this is one of the main sources of queries I feel that the more that is written about the subject the better and I am sure you'll agree once you have read both articles. It is interesting to see how different people approach the subject from opposite directions.

An article about CMD Hard Drives by Mark Boyle of Eire is on Page 10. Just about 3 years ago I had what I believed to be the ultimate for working in Geos, a 1Megabyte REU, now Mark's talking of 40 Megabytes to 2 Gigabytes. How technology has moved on in so short a time is sometimes frightening. (Could be the reason for the scary pictures dotted about this issue).

Thanks for your continued support..............

Happy Geosing

Frank

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In Our 6th Year of Supporting GEOS and it's users

The November Disk Review

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Hello and Welcome to the November Review. As usual our very sincere thanks go to Peter Hunt, Doreen Horne and to Ted Woodwell. I hope that members take advantage of geoCANVAS, because Peter went to a great deal of trouble over getting Nate to release it.

geoCLUB DISK 459

To start off this month, we're offering something that's very special, 64 geoCanvas & 128 geoCanvas by Nate Fiedler. This, as some of you might already know, is a very much updated Paint programme. 'Till now, this programme had to be bought, but the author Nate Fiedler has moved over to PC's. Peter Hunt has been in contact with Nate, and he's now donated this programme to the Public Domain. (I can't vouch that it works, because I've not tried it, but there's no reason why it shouldn't). By the way, I think that you have to have an REU, or else it won't work), so PLEASE read the 'Read Me' file first.

geoCLUB DISK 460

Exactly the same as the above, but this is the 128 version.

geoCLUB DISK 461

GEOVIEW + P/S 1 to P/S6 + HELENA'S DRAWING. PS1 & 2 are PrintShop sized 'Mythological type pics, and they are excellent. PS 3, 4, 5 & 6 are just some general pics, but still very good. HELENA'S DRAWING, some very good cartoon characters.

geoCLUB DISK 462

GEOVIEW + 14 PCX type pics. They are - GUMNUTS - nuts!; BANKSIA - the plant; DEDGUM 1 - a very dead Gum Tree; DESRTPEA - a weird looking plant; EMU-BUSH - I've never heard of this plant;

EUCALYPT - part of a tree; FLANFLOW - a flower shaped like a fan!; FLOWER1, FUSHIA-H, FUSHIA-N and GREVILLE are more flowers; BL-SWAN; BROGLAS; LYRE are 3 excellent drawings of birds. All these are really excellent graphics.

geoCLUB DISK 463

GEOVIEW + BLUNDEL'S COT-an early dwelling; SPECIAL EVENTS-a page crammed full of graphics; ADELAIDE-things found in Adelaide; CHRISTMAS 2-ideal graphics to use; TRANSPORT 1A & 1B-2 pages full of various types of transport; BUSINESS 1A & 1B-2 pages of various business graphics.

geoCLUB DISK 464

GEOVIEW + SPORTS 1A - various sporting pics; ANIMALS 1 & 2 - 2 files of various animals and birds; THUMBNAIL - a utility that saves pics to a Paint album; PHOTOGRAB + ALB 1A - the album contains 10 different pics. FONTVIEW + a couple of fonts - L'AURIOL & UNIVERSITY LQ. EPSOM REDUCED, EPSOM DP, EX-800 V3.4 & LASERMATRX FX-80 are 4 printer drivers.

geoCLUB DISK 465

A really great Utilities disk, some of which are old friends, and others that I've not come across before, they are - AUTO ALARM, BLACKOUT, CHAOS, DIR PRINT, DisBAM, DISK PROTECT, EGG TIMER, FANCY START, FILE LOCK etc.etc. There's roughly 26 different utilities on this disk, most, if not all, come complete with their own docs. A really good choice.

geoCLUB DISK 466

A bit of a change this time, this disk contains 14 geoWrite files, notes and help files on various GEOS applications, some of which are - PROG ERRATA, geoPAINT NOTES, KEY NOTES, 128 NOTES, 128 ROUTINES etc. 13 in all plus a READ ME file.

geoCLUB DISK 467

I guess that this disk should go with Disks numbers 459 & 460, because it's a geoCANVAS DEMO disk. So should you get stuck, or you just want to see what can be done using geoCANVAS, then this is for you.

geoCLUB DISK 468

Similar to the above disk, but this one's all about TEXT TOOLS in geoCANVAS.
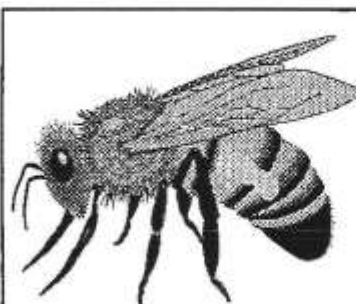
geoCLUB DISK 469

Some more excellent Clipart from Doreen Horne. GEOVIEW + 30 very good pics. Although converted from their original PC format, these are just as good as the originals.

geoCLUB DISK 470

Similar to the above disk, but here's another 30 different pics. Thank you Doreen for all your hard work, I for one really do appreciate it.

That's it for this month, and I think that you'll all agree that there's something here for everybody. As usual, both Sharon and myself still have brand new disks for sale, and the price of the Library disks still remain at £1.30, and this also includes the P/P. If any member has something that they'd like to donate, both Sharon or myself will be only too happy to review it.

Happy Halloween from Sharon & Terry.

I was stung by a bee the other day.

£4:50 for a jar of honey !

GEOS AND PRINTERS

by Antonio .G. Mata

The first thing I'd like to do is thank the following people for their help and efforts, without which this article would have been shorter and not as detailed:-

Ernie Forshaw. For his patience and determination in converting and coding printer drivers.
George H Wells, Jr. :- For writing an enhanced Epson printer driver.
Bill Prendergast :- For writing the Lasermatrix printer drivers.
Frank Cassidy :- For supplying me with a disk full of printer drivers to "play" with and words of encouragement and support (not a lot of that nowadays).
And finally, those friendly folks at Electric Boys for sending me umpteen print-outs to examine and work through.

LOCATING A SUITABLE PRINTER DRIVER

Not being content with the output resolution from GEOS I asked around to see if anyone knew of a way to increase the definition of information sent to the printer. Does Dolly Parton sleep on her back? Came one reply. Not from the above people I hasten to add! Taking the reply as meaning "yes" I learned that there are a couple of ways to increase output quality.

AN EXPLANATION ON RESOLUTION

Almost all printer drivers for GEOS end up producing an output of 80 dpi horizontally and 72 dpi vertically. Using geoPaint you will be led to believe that drawing a perfect square or circle would produce a perfect square and circle. WRONG! Try it and see. Now draw a square with sides 80 pixels horizontally and 72 pixels down and your square (rectangle!) will have sides measuring 1".

After extensive hunting I now have a 80 dpi horizontal by 80 dpi vertical printer driver which will give correct proportions. Ideal, when using geoPaint, to produce printed circuit boards and accurate measurements. This is an Epson compatible printer driver and if you send me a disk with return postage I will

happily pass it on.

So, taking the fact that we start with a resolution of 80 dpi horizontally and 72 dpi vertically (GEOS standard) you will find that in comparison to what the printer can produce your final result is of rather a low quality.

For example a 9 pin dot-matrix printer can produce an output of 240 dpi horizontally by 210 dpi vertically and a 24 pin or bubblejet printer can produce an output of 360 dpi horizontally by 360 dpi vertically.

Quite some difference isn't there. The first and probably the best option to enhance GEOS output is to buy the Perfect Print LQ. system as this cleverly calculates how to enhance the output by means of high definition printer drivers. This system also has various high definition FONTS which it recognises as being part of the PPLQ system and handles them in a different manner to normal FONTS, thus increasing the output quality even further still. The above figures can give you an indication of just what an improvement of output you can expect.

The other way of increasing the quality of the output is by using a "smoother" printer driver, such as the ones written by George H Wells, Jr. or Bill Prendergast. These printer drivers work in a similar fashion to the printer drivers supplied in the Perfect Print LQ. system. They do an excellent job of making your document less strenuous on the eyes to read.

The only drawback in using the above methods is the extra time it takes to print out the document. You do end up with a much better print out but you sacrifice speed. This is due to the time it takes to calculate the extra dots to be inserted into the output to make it appear less jagged and far neater. Time enough to grab a cup of coffee.

It is very handy to have a selection of printer drivers as you can print out the document using a rough/low resolution printer driver to get some idea as to how it will look on paper. When you are quite happy with the look you can then select a higher quality printer driver to re-print the document producing a tidier result.

I hope this has been of some interest to you all and should you want the printer drivers I mentioned earlier my address is as follows.

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4, Hulsidale, Hamnavoe, BURRA,, Shetland.,ZE2 9LF

Fitting a Reset Switch
by David G. Elliott

If you're a Commodore 64 user you've probably been in the situation before where you were either working on or writing a program and the computer crashed! And to get out of that nasty loop you had to turn the computer off and then back on to recover. Well, in doing so you lost your program, right? That would not be the case if you could have used a reset switch to regain control of your computer. However, Commodore was not intelligent enough to put a reset switch on the C-64 or the 64-C (however, they did include the rest switch on the C-128). I will detail how you can install such a switch on your 64, whatever the model number.

Throughout the computer is a circuit called the RESET line. This reset connects to the 6510A MPU, the 6526 CIA, the 6581 SID, the Expansion Port, the User Port, and on some 64's to the Serial Port. When this RESET line is connected to GROUND the computer performs a Cold Start, which is just like turning the computer off then back on. The good thing here is that any program held in RAM is not destroyed. You can recover right where the problem began. If you're in BASIC then you'll have to use a utility program that resets BASIC's pointers back to their proper place before the reset occurred. In addition, any programs held in the 1764 REU will still be there!

I mentioned that the RESET line is connected to the Serial Bus in some 64's. The schematic shows such; however, it appears that early 64's had the Serial Bus/RESET line connection and late 64's did not. I found that mine did not. If you have no connection between the RESET line and the Serial Bus, then you can install two (2) reset switches; one for the computer itself and one for any peripherals you have connected.

Now, to begin. The RESET line is found at the User Port, pin 3; the Expansion Port, pin C; and the Serial Port, pin 6 (maybe). You can use an ohmmeter to determine if pin 6 of the Serial Port is connected to either of the other two pins mentioned. Pin 3 of the User Port is on top, third from the left when viewed at the back of the computer. This is where the modem attaches. Pin C of the Expansion Port is on the bottom, third from the right. This is

where a game cartridge or the RAM Expansion attaches. Pin 6 of the Serial Port is the center pin. This is where the cable for the disk drive and printer attaches. If you found that the Serial Bus is connected to the RESET line then you can connect to pin 6. If not, then the next best place is pin 3 of the User Port. This particular pin runs to a feed-through hole that connects a trace on the bottom of the PCB to a trace on the top. Using a 22 gauge wire, you can simultaneously melt the solder and insert the wire in this hole. Using another 22 gauge wire, connect it to the GROUND path that runs along the back side of the PCB. This ground is rather large in area and can be connected to in quite a few places. Take the other ends of these two wires and attach them to a momentary SPST contact normally-open push button switch. Radio Shack (Tandy) sells one that works very well. It mounts in a 0.25" hole. Their P/N 275-1547. Mount this switch wherever in the case of the computer you like. I installed mine in the right rear, just above my RAM Expansion. This switch will reset the computer alone if there is no connection between the RESET line and pin 6 of the Serial Bus. If you would like to reset your peripherals, as well, install a second switch to pin 6 of the Serial Bus and to ground. If your computer has a connection between RESET and pin 6 you will reset everything when you use the reset switch. Additionally, if you have the Commodore 1670 modem, you will reset the modem when you reset the computer. You will then have to command the modem to not pickup the phone on the first ring.

Having such a reset switch will potentially lengthen the life of your computer. Turning it off and then back on again is not the best thing for an electronics item. It is much nicer to simply push a switch to regain control of the computer. Again, attempt this task only if you are skilled enough to do the job right! Don't risk damaging your computer with improper techniques.

I will assume no responsibility for your losses.

Have fun resetting!

My Favourite Applications,

By Colin J Thomson.

This is a continuation of my last article "My Favourite DA's" earlier this year, this time it is some of my favourite and very useful Applications, which I use to fine tune geos, and hopefully to get the best out of my system, and hopefully yours. For the record my system is ...C64, 1541 + JiffyDos, FD-2000, PPI 2 Meg RamDrive setup as 2 * 1581 RamDisks, Citizen 120D + geoCABLE, SmartMouse and a Philips Colour Monitor.

First an update on ScrapGrab a most useful DA... Having just got V2.5 on club Disk 423, there have been some major changes.... When entering ScrapGrab 2.5 a slightly different Dialogue Box Appears, you can now Create a Photo Album from ScrapGrab and then Paste the Scraps you want into your new Album, Also what is new, you can now view all of the Scrap with the aid of 4 cursor keys on Screen, , Excellent for viewing large Scraps up to 8k, and it works with 2 Drives.

BLACKOUT

Well an obvious one this, saves monitor burn, When you run it you are asked if you want a long or short pause, you are then returned to the DeskTop and after a time the screen will Blackout, any input from mouse or keyboard will bring up the screen, it can be disabled by running the Applications again, and an info box informs you it has been disabled. It works with most DeskTops except for GateWay.

PHOTGRAB 2.5

This is just an Application version of ScrapGrab 2.5, but allows you to view Scraps up to 16k in size, again you can Create an Album and scroll around the picture...Excellent.

QuickView

A very useful Application this one, Dumps the text to screen. You can quickly and easily view your geoWRITE files V2.X upwards. The

menu has a Pause function, so you can keep up with the text on screen, Select.... a choice of Disk or Drive etc, again works with 2 Drives. I use this to view all my geoWRITE files/Docs etc, with out opening geoWRITE, and its all there on screen, no flipping across the screen, and it does not show scraps which does not matter anyway.

ScraPeek 3.4

A quick and simple way to view a Photo Scrap or a Photo album, again works with 2 Drives, and the Info Box also says 128 40/80 Columns, I cant check this yet, as I use a C64 at the moment.

AUTO Runner

A very good one this.   It Re-Runs your Auto Exc Files, ie After quitting geos and then going back using RBOOT, some Auto Exc files are no longer running, ie geoWIZARD, NewKEYS, DBgetFiles etc. After running AUTO Runner it automatically runs the Auto Exc Files. I use this method with my system, As the RamDrive has Battery Backup I boot up my RamDrive with RBOOT then run AUTO Runner.

AlbumCopy 2.2

This one is good for copying Scraps between different Photo Albums even if they are on different drives. Again works with 2 Drives.

Scrapcan V1.3

This Excellent one one came with geoCANVAS, it is for creating Large Scraps from Paint Files, or Pasting Large Scraps. Upon loading you get the usual Dialogue Box OPEN, DRIVE, DISK, CANCEL etc. Select the File you wish, then you can choose what resolution you want, after a while you then have the Paint file on screen (if you are working from Ram its a lot faster), you can then select what part of the Picture you want as a Scrap....You are then asked which Drive you want the Scrap to go to, And thats all there is to it, then you can use one of the above mentioned Applications to Create an Album and Paste away. ScrapGrab works with up to 3 or 4 Drives, I only wish more geos Software did.

Drive Off

This is one I have just started to use, its from the "Storm System Disk", although quite old still very useful. Its ideal for those of you who dont have a Battery Backed Ram device, or no Ram at all. What happens... is say your working on a long article and you want to carry on with it the next day, well with this small application it allows you to switch off your Drives and leave just your computer ON so you wont loose that vital work, then when you switch the Drives back on the next day, click on OK and away you go. BUT make sure your drives are Hard Wired to there right Drive numbers, (ie they dont change when you switch them back on) as geos is very sensitive about having its Drive numbers swapped around. I use this to activate my 1541 when I need it, just activate Drive Off then switch on the Drive, push return and away we go both Drives installed.

I hope you all find this useful, I believe most of these Applications are in the Club Library? except for ScrapCan. There are similar ones to ScrapCan but I have found this to be the best one in my view. I would also like to add that they all run fine from within geoWIZARD, which makes them even more useful. Perhaps some one would like to write about geoWIZARD?.

Next time I will do another small Article on my most used AUTO EXC files, including 2 From "Jean F Major" from his utilities Disk#1, and DBgetFiles V3.0... Excellent (I hope some members placed and order with him).

Also I hope to have some news on DualTop V3.0, I have been using V2.5 for a while now, and have got hold of the Address for the new Supplier so fingers crossed, the reason being I had no luck at all in getting the English Version of TopDesk from "Jack Vanderwhite" the main man at Commodore CEE, he wrote to me once and from then on never answered my mail, (sounds familiar doesn't it). Its a shame really, as he has some good Software on offer, including all of Dweezils Disks, one which has a even better Version "Dweezil Label". I am also dropping Michael Myers a letter the Author of Scrapgrab, Album Copy etc and maybe some more writers... So watch this Space.

GEOS Printing and geoCable Information

by Danny Tod

In geoNews recently, I have seen that everyone is asking about printing from their C64/128 computers. Everyone seems to be so confused at what sort of printer to connect up to their system, and how. It is understandable, as these know-it-all members of staff at my local computer stall don't have a clue how to connect up a printer to a Commodore computer. I was even told by someone that you can't! But then again, the problem is that they're dealing with PC's. They're not meant to know how to connect one of their printers to a C64, because hardly anyone would ask that. But it does leave people frustrated because they desperately want their C64 connected to a printer. I had the same problem back in 1993. I brought an Action Replay to control my new printer which I received for christmas. But I was lucky, as I was able to buy a centronics printer lead from Datel.

One thing that must be remembered is the fact that no matter how modern your printer is, it will most of the time work with the C64. Nearly all printers support the Epson-standard codes for printing. This means increased compatibility. My Epson LQ-150 colour printer supports ESC/P2 commands (EPSON Standard Codes for Printers). These commands were only brought in a few years ago. It was meant for increased compatibility for PC's, but it also would benefit the C64. My point is that if you went out today and brought a brand new Ink-Jet or laser printer, it'll work with the C64. Even IBM-compatible printers should be OK.

So you've just brought a printer, and now you want to get it up-and-running. The sort of cable you should get for your system is a geoCable compatible lead. You can get a geoCable II from Electric Boys, or from CMD. Or you could make one up yourself by using the guide in the May geoNews. Alternatively, you could buy one from us, but I'll start advertising the company I'm in later. Now, you've got your printer setup. Your lead is connected to the C64 from the printer, and you turn everything on. So now, you want to test everything out. One of the things you would need for a geoCable connected to the User Port is a centronics interface. If, like me, you have an Action Replay, you can enter into FASTLOAD mode, and test

everything out following the instructions in the manual. Or you could load up a word processor with a centronics printer option. The only option that I can think of at the moment is getting one of these interfaces which allow you to use the standard OPEN 4,4 commands in BASIC. If you have one of these, try the following program to test everything:

```
10 OPEN 4,4 : REM OPENS PRINTER CHANNEL
20 PRINT#4,"THIS TEXT WILL GO TO THE
      PRINTER"
30 PRINT"THIS TEXT WILL APPEAR ON-
      SCREEN"
40 CMD 4
50 PRINT"NOW THIS TEXT WILL GO TO THE
      PRINTER"
60 PRINT#4:CLOSE 4 : REM CLOSES PRINTER
      CHANNEL
```

Make sure that you use this program using a centronics interface, unless you have a serial interface. Otherwise, you'll get a "DEVICE NOT PRESENT" error.

So now, you've got your printer fully operational, but you want to print from the GEOS environment. We all know how useful GEOS is to us, and it is even better when a printer is connected to it. It means that once we've done something, we can have a copy for presentations. But how do you do it? No geoCable drivers were supplied on the GEOS boot disk, so what can be done? The first thing you should do is to order a disk with them on. You can buy them from me by enclosing an SAE, a disk, and 50p to cover costs, after which you'll get a copy of a load of drivers for Epson/IBM, etc. compatible printers. **Or you could order geoClub Disk #15 from the geoClub librarians, Terry and Sharon.** Either way, there should be a printer driver compatible with the geoCable that will work with your printer. I use a printer driver called 'Epson LQ (GC)' which works very well. It is a 24-pin printer driver. For 9-pin printers, the 'Epson FX-80 (GC)' driver should be okay to use. On the disk I'm supplying, I will include double-strike and quadruple-strike versions of these two drivers to get the best possible output. I'll include a guide sheet for your information (now you know what the 50p is for!).

At this stage, you should have your printer operating perfectly, but you notice that the output is far from the best you've seen. This is only because GEOS was meant for use with printers like the MPS-801, unless you use geoLaser for laser printers. Because of this, GEOS prints out at 80dpi (dots per inch). But nearly all modern today 24-pin and ink-jet printers can get 360x360dpi. Before you start thinking of giving up hope, think about the following package: Perfect Print LQ for GEOS. This package, available from CMD or EBES (if you're quick), comes in two parts. The first part is a geoWrite-only application, and will get absolutely beautiful output using special mathematical techniques with pixels. For this, you may be waiting a while for it to print, but it'll have all been worth it once you've seen the result. If you look at the normal 'Roman' font that Frank is using elsewhere (look at the front page), you will get that sort of output. Full 360x360dpi is supported, and 9-pin printers get something like 216x216dpi.

For the other applications (geoPaint, geoPublish, etc), you use HQ Printer Drivers, which are double-strike, quad strike, or even 6-strike printer drivers which support 9/24-pin printers, Epson/IBM, etc. These don't give as good as output as the geoWrite system, but they are still worth the money, as you get improved printing, which will make you happy. These drivers can be used in geoWrite, too, if you want to print something off quickly, but still keep it's neatness. Everything is included, with HQ and LQ fonts for both applications. This package is well worth getting hold of, as it'll bring out the best GEOS output you'll probably ever see. You get over 30 fonts, several different configuration files for Perfect Print itself (so it should be compatible with your printer no matter what). It supports both serial and parallel connections, and utilizes the 2mhz mode on the C128.

This basically ends this article on printing. I've attempted to cover everything on printing and connecting up your printer. It may seem like a long hard slog, but once you have everything, you can follow the necessary instructions included in the packages you order, and you'll be printing documents out quicker than you may think. To get quite nice-looking headers from your documents, you can use something like Titler V2.0 for quick results. This requires an Action Replay, and does the printing job well. It should be in the geoClub library by the time you read this.

If you're interested in a geoCable, they're available for 14.99 + 2.50 p&p. This includes a printer driver disk full with geoCable printer drivers, which support 9-pin and 24-pin dot-matrix, ink-jet, and laser printers. There are also drivers for colour printer drivers. There are also a few printer utilities, like Titler V2.0, and interfaces to allow control of your printer from BASIC, and there will be full instructions on ALL software supplied with the package. The actual cable is tested by qualified technicians, and we don't send them out until we're given their seal of approval. It comes with a 3-month guarantee. If you're interested, send cheques/PO's to the address below. You can also send SAE's for full information.
Contact:

G-Tech Electronics
c/o Danny Tod
79 Orwell Drive
Ladygrove
Didcot, Oxon.
OX11 7RX
(Cheques payable
to 'D.Tod')

If you want me to do a more detailed follow-up article, contact me with any ideas which you may have yourself. Thanks.

(For those who like to DIY. Full details of how to make a geoCable complete with a Maplins parts number list is available from me. *Frank*)

1997 Subscriptions

With this issue of geoNews there should be a subscription renewal form, if your's is not here then please let me know so I can forward one onto you. You wouldn't like to miss the first issue of '97 now would you. Those of you who miss nothing will notice an increase of £1 this is inevitable due to a rise in costs of production and postage rates, but still great value for money.

CMD Hard Drive Series

by Mark P. Boyle.

It's a fact of life that Commodore disk drives are too slow. They always have been and always will be. Even on the Amiga other companies have produced better drives than Commodore! Now CMD are stepping in to save us power GEOS users from frustration. If you use a Commodore Drive with GEOS it will get held up until it's almost a pain to use. CMD's solution is a Hard Drive. They have been used on PCs for years and now you can have one too.

The HD is an uninspiring piece of hardware. That's not to say it's ugly, just not terribly exciting. It comes shrouded in beige metal with a balck plastic display. On the front are 4 LEDs - Power, Activity, Error and GEOS. There are also 4 buttons - SWAP8, SWAP9, Write Protect and Reset. The back provides 2 serial ports, 1 SCSI poet, 1 parallel port, 1 auxiallary port and 1 on/off switch.

My model is a 40Meg HD which is probably ample for programming and GEOS, although you can get up to 2GB. You can split this amount into partitions which are like disks. You can have up to 256 partitions. These partitions can take different forms. Native: any size from 256kb to 16Megs. This is not compatible with all drive specific programmes, but works with most proggys. You can have subdirectories as well.

1581: This exactly emulates a 1581 disk and can be used with all 1581 specific programmes. It also allows sub-directories.
1571: Again this emulates the 1571 disk exactly including the Burst Command Instruction Set (BCIS).
1541: Same as above but a special feature allows the use of the 1571 BCIS above.
1581-CP/M : This is a specially adapted 1581 partition for use with CP/M and nothing else.

Print Buffer: These cannot be used yet but in future verions of DOS you will be able to print to a serial printer through the hard drive. The data will be stored in these partitons and printed without interupting your programme for as long.

You can also allocate space so that another computer (Amiga, Mac or PC) can use the HD. These computers can use the SCSI bus to connect to your HD.

You can use only 1581 partitions with GEOS but if you own GateWay you can use a Native Mode Partition of any size. Under GEOS the HD is even faster and all other drives are put to shame. It is almost as fast as a R.E.U. It is second to none in the disk drives and will make GEOS so fast you will have no time to waste loading apps. Any application which makes a lot of use of the drive (i.e. GeoPaint, GeoPublish or GeoBasic) will be much faster. Quick_Move is provided for switching and copying beteen 1581 partitions in GEOS. With Maverick or GeoMake Boot you can even boot from the HD. This is much faster than booting from a normal drive. My 1570 takes 75 seconds to load and my HD takes 25 with no autoexec except Configure. All in all GEOS is a pleasure to use with the HD and no power user should be without one.

4 Utility disks are provided by CMD and these are very useful. One is pertinent only to Hard Drive maintanance, the second to GEOS, the third to CP/M and the fourth contains Q-Link utilities and a demo. Unfortunately this only applies to the US so we cannot avail of this great BBS. (The grass is always greener on the other side!) The GEOS disk contains an adapted version of CONFIGURE, a utility for seting the GEOS clock from the HD clocks and changing to the first 1581 partition. The Hard Drive disk conatins utilities for setting up and deleteing partitions, copying files and disks, setting the HD clock, a disk editor, a utilitiy to rewrite HD-DOS whenever a new veriosn comes out. There is too much to mention here. The CP/M disk I have ignored because I do not have CP/M. These disks are well compiled and the software (which is all specially written by CMD) is excellently done.CMD have done a magnificent job with the HD and I'm glad I ever bought it. It makes GEOS faster in use. Possible the most important factor is that any data on it is not subject to EMF that floppy disks can be damaged by. Neither is it subject to magnetic effects. It is easy to set up and use although CMD set up a few partitions to get you going. CMD have always been dedicated to providing good products and this is no exception.
Thumbs up for the Hard Drive.

FORGIVE ME!!

I've gone over to pc. Probably a loss to me - but a gain to you!! I'm selling all my C64 equipment:

Commodore 64 (boxed)
1541 Disk Drive (boxed)
Datasette
5 boxes blank 5.1/4" disks (still sealed)
3 Joysticks
Printer Cable
Action Replay Cartridge
Print Shop Special Edition
100's of games including:
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Helen Faithfull,
20 Millhoo Court, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 3DW
Tel: 01992-719489

H E L P !!!

I recently sold my C128 to a fellow geoClub member, unfortunatley Parcel Force dropped the Power Supply which was in a seperate parcel from the computer and very well packed . This has done irrepairable damage and I am now searching for a replacement. If you or any geoClub member can help we would be very grateful. Please contact either :-

Michael Pearson
31, Saxon Close   OR
Stratford Upon Avon
Warwickshire,
CV37 7DX

Danny Tod
79, Orwell Drive
Didcot
Oxfordshire
OX11 7RX

GEOS NEWS FILE

News of what's new and not so new from around the GEOS world
Collated by MICHAEL D. PEARSON

HELLO AGAIN !

For our more established members the layout of this page may be slightly familiar, and even the title might bring back memories. I hope so, as some of you will remember that my NEWS FILES, FONT FILES, MR POSTMAN articles and not forgetting the (in)famous CALENDARS, ETC used to grace (clog up?) the pages of *GeoNEWS* with alarming regularity! Well, as some of you will remember, I moved on to a PC early in 1996 and reluctantly did not have the space (or time) to run two systems and therefore had to give up my beloved C64/**GEOS**. Well the trasition is going slowly (due to time constraints) but I am delighted with the speed and versatility of the PC DTP (and similar) progs that I have tinkered with so far. I do however miss the challenge of using **GeoPaint** and **GeoPublish** together to produce my previous contributions to *GeoNEWS*. So, hello again, I hope you are all **HAPPILY GEOSING.** I still avidly read my copy of *GeoNEWS* each month and am delighted that there is still a plethora of new PD disks in the library and that the articles are still varied and entertaining.

HOW I DID IT

For those of you who may be interested in knowing how I designed this page

here is a brief resume : The file is entirely written in Lotus AmiPro (a PC word processor). The border was designed in GRAPHIC TYPE DESIGNER (this allows any size of border to be simply designed using special fonts) and imported into the AmiPro file. Other clip art was imported and easily resized and repositioned on the page. The text was keyed into various "frames" and then easily modified as required to give the right effect. As I said before, although I miss the challenges of **GeoPaint** / **GeoPublish**, there is no more wasted time waiting for the screen to redraw or scroll down the page.

ICPUG TECHNICAL ADVISOR

For those ICPUG members amongst you, do remember that Tony G Mata has taken over the **GEOS** Technical Advisor role from me. Tony can be contacted at 01595 859535 (6pm to 10pm).

FOR SALE

If you are looking for that hard to find C64/128/GEOS/.... item then there are plenty of items still on my For Sale lists. Discounts for multiple purchases!!

GEOSUMMARY

Happy Fifth Birthday, *GeoCLUB*! It is nice to be chatting to you all again. Take care, and HAPPY GEOSING ! M.D.P/ 9/96 GEOS News File No.9