

LIBRARIANS REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

From the Disk Library point of view, 1991 has been a successful year. We started the year with 18 sides of public domain programs for the Commodore 64 and ended it with 120 sides. All the new software and disks were financed through public domain disk sales and thus the expansion was achieved at no cost to the club. (C-128 figures are excluded because we are still looking for someone to look after this aspect.)

I have managed to find several Australian sources for good public domain software and, hopefully, in the forthcoming year we will be able to obtain access (buy) some of it for distribution amongst members. I am also hopeful of being able to get some previously commercial games which appear to have been released into the public domain. This should get the game freaks off my back!

Our venture into the area of a Magazine Library has had disappointing results despite the fact that I was able to obtain some copies of the excellent (and perhaps now departed) Computer's Gazette. These have excellent articles for both the absolute beginner and the more experienced user. Unfortunately, they have largely gone unread (and therefore unloved) throughout the year. With an expected budget tightening in the forthcoming year, members need to decide whether this aspect of our activities should be continued.

My thanks to Ross Edwards for filling in for me when I have not been able to make it to meetings. (He is again doing it tonight.)

As I indicated last month, I will be unable to attend the AGM as I am still taking keyboard classes. I will be back at the next meeting. I am available and enthusiastic about continuing in the role of Librarian for the forthcoming year.

Jeff Carey
SDCUC Librarian

SHAREHOLDERS WANTED

I have the opportunity to purchase a Bonanza Pack of 'Newsroom' graphics. The pack is a minimum of 5 doublesided disks for \$30. The publicity says that there are over 1500 great pictures in the collection. I am looking for 5 other people who are prepared to fork out a \$6 share (and 5 disks to put them on). If you are interested, please let Ross Edwards know tonight or give Jeff Carey a call on 294.8447. Disks should be available at the November meeting. Money not required until then.

FOR SALE

Loadstar Disk Magazines Nos. 69 & 70 - \$12 each or \$20 for both. Some of the programs include Mail Bag (an address book which sorts and prints mailing labels easily), Geodelorean (a modern stylish font in 18 & 24 point Geos font), Bug Scout (track down those most elusive errors in your BASIC code), Superbike (test your reflexes as you race your motorcycle across 4 tough arcade tracks) and many more.

'STREET SPORTS BASKETBALL' \$10 and 'JORDAN V BIRD' \$12 - two excellent basketball games which were imported from the USA. Your chance to own an original! Would make great Christmas presents for any C-64 basketball enthusiast.

See Ross Edwards tonight or call Jeff Carey on 294.8447 to reserve your choices.

SDCUC PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY DISKS

(Available from the Disk Librarian)

PUBLIC DOMAIN DISK NO. 1

This disk contains a slide show of title screens from Games and Application Software. Some of the screens include those from Antiraid, Dragons Lair, Little Computer People, Music Studio, Newsroom, Uridium, Warhawk, etc. All screens are in the Cockroach Graphic Compressed format. Your friendly disk librarian can be persuaded to convert the files to Koala and Doodle format.

PUBLIC DOMAIN DISK NO. 2

Another disk containing a slide show. This slide show was produced by the makers of the Cockroach Graphics Pirate and demonstrates the capabilities of the Pirate. The effect of simple animation is demonstrated with some good screens of Commodore computing equipment. Graphics have been transferred from Print Shop, Newsroom, PrintMaster into Geos and captured. Game screens from Uridium, Green Beret Leaderboard are displayed. If more people had seen this demo, more Graphic Pirate Cartridges would have been sold. Your friendly disk librarian can be persuaded to convert some of the files to Koala and Doodle format.

PUBLIC DOMAIN DISK NO. 3

Are you a user of the Doodle drawing program? Do wish you could be a computer artist. Then this disk is for you. It has a slide show in Doodle format which shows you the various stages in building up a beautiful landscape scene. And to help you further, there is a Hi-Res Dump program on the disk to enable you to transfer the files to paper.

PUBLIC DOMAIN DISK NO. 4

Wayne Schmidt - computer artist - demonstrates his skills with the Doodle drawing program. The Hi-Res Dump program on the disk enables you to transfer the files to paper so that you too can become a computer artist. Even if you use another drawing program, you will find Wayne's technique applicable to your program.

ר"טטאם טונצף צט "מאסל" ו

or

Welcome to Font Master II

This is printed using FONT MASTER II, a full featured word-processor. As you can see FONT MASTER II is more than just your average word-processor. I have used many word-processors, and this one is the best that I have seen. (To see what FONT MASTER II can do, refer to the attached printout.)

Selecting fonts is as easy as pressing and holding the COMMODE and SHIFT keys while you press the number of the font desired. To select print styles press and hold the COMMODE key and the letter key for the function required.

i.e. **BOLD** = COMMODE/b
UNIVERS = COMMODE/i

There are many other functions accessed by pressing and holding the CTRL key or the CTRL/SHIFT combination, and then pressing the letter key for the function required.

i.e. UNDERLINED = CTRL/u
INSERT = CTRL/i

To control how your text will be printed use FORMATTER controls accessed by the POUND SIGN key and the desired control. i.e. to turn CENTERING on use the following sequence-

POUND SIGN+cy return

This is the result of that sequence.

To turn centering off use POUND SIGN+cn return

There are many more commands available, but I haven't the space to cover them all here. If you get the chance to use it yourselves you will see just how good it really is. As I said earlier, I feel it is one of the best word-processing programs available for the Commodore 64.

This is an example of using the konnect pitch along with "with" flags to get results like this.



example of konnect pitch "with" flags results like

Reviewed by
Dennis Moller,
for the S.D.C.U.C.

or this:

www

FONTMASTER II

by Xetec

Here are some samples of what Fontmaster II can do:

- ◆ **Font changes can occur anywhere**
- ◆ Up to nine fonts can be used in the same file. Over 30 included on disk
- ◆ 12 standard pitches
Expanded Pica
Expanded Alternate
Expanded Elite
Expanded Konnect
Pica pitch
Alternate pitch
Elite pitch
Konnect pitch
Compressed Pica
Compressed Alternate
Compressed Elite
Compressed Konnect

Plus dozens of pitches in between!
- ◆ Proportional spacing
Regular vs. proportional spacing
Regular vs. proportional spacing
- ◆ Underlining is adjustable
- ◆ Superscripts (height is adjustable)
Type 1: E=MC²
Type 2: E=MC³
- ◆ Subscripts (also adjustable)
Type 1: H₂SO₄
Type 2: H₂SO₄
- ◆ **Boldfacing is no slower** than normal text
- ◆ Inverse characters (**White on black**)
- ◆ Three text heights:
Tall
normal
micro

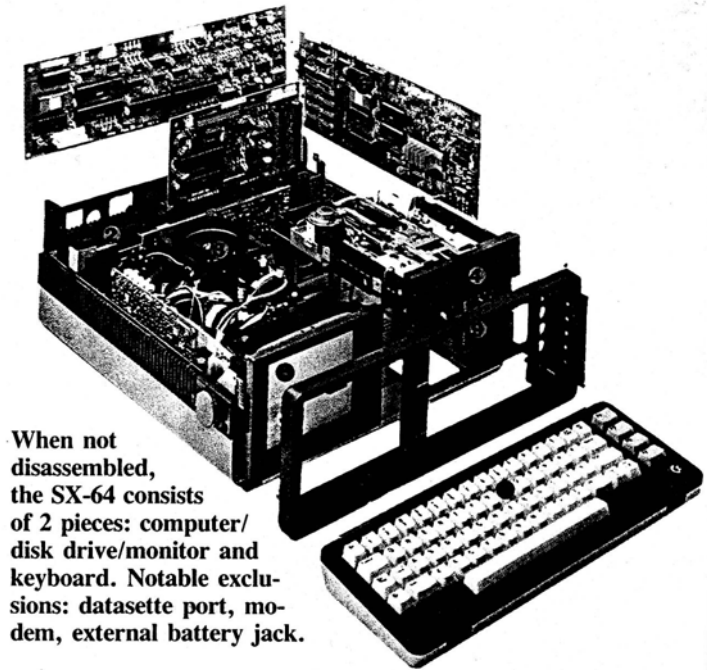
(With 3 heights and 3 widths, 9 character sizes can be made)
- ◆ Set line spacing
as small

or as large
as you like
- ◆ Foreign languages:
Большое спасибо. оторый сейЧас Час?

Plus, use the included font editor to create your own good-looking fonts!

SX-64 PORTABLE COMPUTER

A number of our members will have actually seen a SX-64. It was Commodore's first and ill-fated entry into the business and portable computer market. Approximately 4 SX-64's per month will be advertised in "THE ADVERTISER" Classified columns at around the \$600 mark depending upon condition (and knowledge of the seller). As the SX-64 contains a C-64 computer, disk drive and monitor - all in the one casing, it represents very good value. For those who would like to know more about the SX-64, the following extract from a review printed in AHOY magazine in February 1985 is provided.



When not disassembled, the SX-64 consists of 2 pieces: computer/disk drive/monitor and keyboard. Notable exclusions: datasette port, modem, external battery jack.

"What weighs about 26 pounds, is slightly larger than a briefcase, and has a disk drive, colour monitor, and 64K all in one package? If you answered the Commodore SX-64 Executive Portable Computer, you're right. When it comes to computing, you can take it with you!

Essentially, the SX-64 is the same as the stay-at-home C-64, with a few noticeable differences. The first, obviously, is Commodore's integrating the single disk drive and colour monitor into the same cabinet, rather than cable-connecting these peripherals. The second is the total absence of the cassette port - if you intend to use a non-Commodore printer whose interface relies on this port for its operating voltage, you'll have to use an alternate hookup (see next months club newsletter). The third difference is the detachable keyboard which features a red LED on the shift-lock key to remind you when you're in the SHIFTEd mode. Also, unlike the standard C-64's dark blue and light blue screen, the SX-64 uses dark blue letters on a white background with a cyan screen border. This change was made to increase legibility on the built-in 5" monitor, and to very good effect. The final major difference is the provision of a "check mark" symbol at the shifted "e" position, instead of the graphic character found on the standard C-64.

Regarding physical configuration, the placement of the controls and various ports was well thought out. The dual joystick ports, serial port, audio/video port, on/off switch, and user port are all on the back of the unit (the bottom when in transit). The cartridge port is on the top (the side in transit), and protected by two spring-loaded doors that keep foreign objects out. Unfortunately, there is no provision for protecting the ports located on the back of the unit, which become quite vulnerable during transport.

The keyboard connects to the computer itself via a cable with D-25 connectors on both ends. When not in use, the keyboard snaps on to the front (top) of the SX, thereby protecting the monitor and the disk drive as well as providing a lid for the unit. The "touch" of the keyboard is very light, and after a short period of getting used to it, you will find it considerably faster to type on than the C-64's.

The built-in video monitor is a 5" colour unit with excellent resolution and colour convergence. Its display isn't hard to read at all. Controls for the tint, colour, brightness, contrast, and volume are all conveniently located behind a hinged door to the right of the disk drive. Also located on this concealed panel is the reset button for "warm boots".

The built-in disk drive is functionally identical to the 1541, but it appears to be a half-height unit. Disk drives are sensitive devices by nature, and don't usually perform well when jostled and bumped, as when in transit. The disk drive on the SX-64, however, is apparently very well constructed. There is a space above the disk drive that proves handy for disks, cartridge, or cable storage. (Commodore doesn't recommend this space for disk storage when the SX is in use, but it has been used constantly and without any problems with data loss to disks. Commodore originally had plans to offer another version of this computer, the DX-64, with a second disk drive occupying this space, but this fell through.

The carrying handle is a rather ingenious device that doubles as a support for the computer when in use. The handle can be locked in any of several positions to afford the best viewing angle. A zippered pouch that attaches and detaches to the carrying handle quickly and easily via velcro fasteners is large enough to accommodate plenty of accessories.

There is no provision for an external battery, e.g., your car's or boat's. Why this provision wasn't included remains a mystery, since it would greatly increase the usefulness of the computer. The SX-64 is portable in that it can be easily transported, but you still need a wall outlet to supply the power for the computer. When asked why Commodore didn't include a rechargeable battery with the SX, a company spokesperson replied that it would have added significantly to the weight, and at approximately 26lbs., the SX-64 is fairly hefty to begin with. Agreed - but why didn't they at least include a jack for external battery power?

There is no built-in modem, which would also have increased the versatility of the SX greatly. It does, however, accept all of the peripherals, including modems, that the standard C-64 uses, with the above-noted exception of the datasette.

If a RF modulator (not included) is used on the audio/video port, the video output of the SX-64 can be enjoyed on a regular TV set. Separate audio and video signals are also available at this port to feed to a monitor. This is an extremely useful provision when using the SX at home, since, as nice as the built-in monitor is, there is nothing like viewing on a big screen.

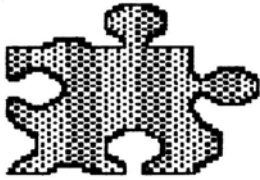
Aside from the few shortcomings I've mentioned, the SX-64 is an ideal solution for those who need or want to take their 64 with them when they travel. It's easy to look at also, making a neat, businesslike appearance in dark charcoal grey and black - guess that's why it was called the Sexy 64."

SPECIFICATIONS

1. Disk interface board (redesigned version of the 1541's) includes an onboard processor and uses a serial communication system to pass data between the disk drive, the main processor, and the memory board.
2. Switched mode power supply unit drives system's internals. Rear panel acts as a heat sink.
3. Loudspeaker provides user with output from SID chip.
4. Single 5 1/4" drive retains the head-alignment problems of the 1541.
5. Five-inch tube is shielded against stray magnetic fields.
6. Main processor and memory board are based on C-64, but all I/O functions have been separated to their own daughter boards.
7. I/O board provides all peripheral interface functions. Two 6522 PIO chips serve user port, serial interface, joystick ports; cartridge port is connected to address and data busses.
8. Cartridge port socket.
9. Volume, colour, and contrast controls, plus reset button.
10. Keyboard casing forms lid of unit.

Article prepared by Jeff Carey with assistance from Ross Edwards.

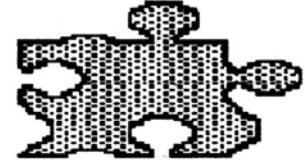
Printed from GeoWrite 2.1 on a Panasonic Super 5 using the LX-80 modified printer driver in 240dpi. Font used was "POLITICAL", a font converted from LOADSTAR by using "FONTGRABBER", a program produced by COMPUTE!'S GAZETTE.



COMPUTER PUZZLE

CLUE WORD

PUZZLE 1



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
D	A	T																					

CLUE WORD 1

16	8	22	18		1	14	4	5		11	16	17	4	3	14	19	5					
	2			15		19			10		12		17			15						
	1			2		16			16		3		4	8	20	14	3	22	4			
23			8	20	14	18	3	22	20		8		3			8						
2				1					6	16	12	4	22		14				8			
4	16	10	3	9	2	20	22		2		3		6	16	18	14	3	16	20			
14				2					3						8				20			
19				20				8		23				20	12	18		3				
		22	13	22	19	3	20	16	18	14	19				3							
			16					5		3							1	2	3	2		
	19	15	2	20	2	19	3	22	20			8			20							
3			1							16	8	22	20	2	3	14	16	18				
17		20											14			21						
8	20	16	7	20	2	6	4						18			22						
22		6							23	16	16	3		3			4	2	21	22		

ANSWERS: KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

S	G	W	Q	U	E	R	I	F	Y	W	I	D	T	H								
P	E		I		E	O				A	E											
R	E	T	U	R	N		L	N	R		L	E	T		A							
I			D		I		U			O		A			D							
T		G	O		S		M	O	N	I	T	O	R		K	E						
E		R		W		T	A	B			P				R							
A		A		R			E															
A		P		E			D			I	R	E	C	T	O	R						
P		H		S	A	V	E			L	P			U								
P		R	I	N	T			L		C	O			N								
E		C		O			E			O	S			N								
N				R			S	T	O	P				E								
D				P	E	E	K			E				C	M	D						

THE WORD PROVIDED GIVES YOU A START. THE NUMBERS IN EACH SQUARE REPRESENT ONE LETTER OF THE ALPHABET. FILL IN ALL THE LETTERS CORRESPONDING WITH THE NUMBERS, AND YOUR ON YOUR WAY.

DISPATCH DISK NOTES

COMMITTEE 1989-90

President R. Cloosterman 382-0781
Secretary M. Tippins 381-3181
Treasurer A. Heard 085 56-5828
Asst. Secret A. Morrison 085 56-5013
Newsletter ED. J. Van De Belt 382-8660
64 Librarian J. Carey 294-8447
128 Librarian M. Tippins 381-3181
Our Disk and Magazine libraries are open at each general meeting from 7:30pm.

If you have any contributions for the newsletter, see Rob, Jeff or Jan.

NEXT MEETING

Our next general meeting will be held on the 21st NOV. 1990 7:30pm.

SUBJECT :- Multi-Plan by Jeff Carey. Plus BASIC continued and WORKSHOP.

LOCATION :- Meetings are held in the house behind the Salvation Army Hall at 186 Elizabeth Rd. in Morphett Vale, just in from Beach Rd.

MEETING RULES

- 1) NO SMOKING
- 2) NO DRINKING
- 3) NO SWEARING

Though the generosity of the Salvation Army, we are allowed to use the facilities in this house, in return for which we give them a relatively small donation. We ask for your co-operation in respect to the above.

While we can not control what people do away from our club meetings, Piracy of copyright material can not be condoned at our meetings.

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers, and are not necessarily those of the club's committee or members.

The use of the word "COMMODORE" in no way implies any connection with any organisation bearing that name.

No part of "THE DISPATCH DISK" may be copied or reproduced in any way without the written permission of the committee and the author.

WANTED

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED -THE CLUB STILL NEEDS THE ASSISTANCE OF SEVERAL MEMBERS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:-

- 1) Newsletter contributions
- 2) Expert Register. PLEASE help us to help others with their problems.

DEMONSTRATION TOPICS -If you have any requests for topics you would like to see demonstrated, speak up. Even, if it has already been done, and you missed it let us now. If there is reasonable interest, it can probably be repeated.

FUTURE MEETINGS - Help us to spread the word of our existence. Write out some small notices and place them where people will see them. Your local supermarket usually has a notice board as do some Newsagencies and Delis.

FOR SALE

PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE - We have a large range of PUBLIC DOMAIN Software for sale through our library. Prices represents very good value. Catalogue disks are also available for only \$1.00. See Jeff at tonight's meeting for any enquires.

CHEAP DISKS -How much do you pay for your blank disks?. The club is making bulk purchase of disks to help members save some money. The price of these disks is 70c per disk, which works out to be \$7.00 for a packet of 10. If you are interested in some, see Rob at tonight's meeting.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The scale of membership fees for this year will be as follows :-

Joining Fee for new members	\$5.00
Membership fee (to A.G.M)	\$5.00

All pervious members who have now renewed their membership are unfinancial and will have to rejoin the club and pay the joining fee again in order to add items to the club's disk and magazine libraries, we need money, so please pay up promptly.