The Village Green

Notes from Meeting of 15:Dec:05ce

Open 7:00pm

Newsletter Approved [scared they will be given the job if they contradict an issue]

Chancellor Report Will there be any snow here this year? Followed by grunts of not likely. More comments about the cold, the little ice, ice rain and that Lord Ronin's cats love his new electric blanket Sensei had an updated A500 report to make.

Seems that on the morning of the 14th. The cat thief was at the door of the commune/kibutz. Pounding on it and demanding that Lord Ronin return the kitty. One of the other members of the commune answered the door. A member that is not associated with the shop or the A.C.U.G. Smart man, he knows better than to wake the dead, before their time. This though did not stop the antisemite cat thief from pounding on the door. Finally #4 opened the door <twas his work day at the shop> and just shut it in her face. She yelled that she was going to call the cops. At that time, #4 decided to attempt to awaken the nocturnal creature, known as Lord Ronin The snarling smoke breathing monster. And that is before he has his first pipe and coffee for the day. <G>

Shortening things up a bit Talked with the policeman. Who after hearing Lord Ronin's side of the story. Had to call the Sgt He also wanted to see the kitty in the shop. L.R. did so, and the officer saw the bed, kitty house, toys, food, water and a happy, sleek furred well fed kitty. Who nuzzled his ear and purred. While being held by L.R.

Bottom liner is that A500 is a happy and cared for kitty at the shop. She was abandoned for 4 months. A fact that even the cat thief agrees. That she was gone for 4 months. L.R. and the A.C.U.G. couldn't have taken the cat out of her house. Kitty was out, cold and hungry. Kitty came back to us. Sgt stated that the cat thief, had not made contact in any way with us, in the four months. **A500 IS OURS!!!**

Flip side of the good news. Cat Thief has bugged #4s wife at work. Cat Thief rang up the land lady and bugged her about the cat Considering the Cat Thiefs mental state and social crowd. All should be concerned about her direct of indirect actions. For that reason there was two fully loaded firearms at the meeting. One on condition red, the other on yellow.

Onto the Newsletters

READY from the M.A.C.U.G. We do appreciate the compliments that Marty gives us. Such as the "window to the world via ACUG". We just have a small problem with their December issue. Our copy had several words missing. Well to be exact, a lot of words missing. As it looks to our lamer eyes. That the printer or the paper was out of

alingment Header is fine and the use of colour for the meeting date, place and time. Make it stand out as the first thing seen on the page. Tis the main text body that appears to be off to the right Therefore not printing all of the words on the paper. Not enough to miss important information

A couple updates to what Marty had reviewed. Commodore Gazette failed to gather the desired subscriptions. That disk mag has now folded as of October 2005ce. Yuppers we do call each other by the BBS ID Number. Core members of the A.C.U.G. are also fans of the 60s cult T.V. show "The Prisoner" <Currently being shown on BBC America> Couple of us, have the DVD set Then again the BBS is called "The Village" <main place in the T.V. show> Where all are known by their number. <G>

Add that No. 13 <Ator on the BBS> is John Baker. A past QGuide and now the head/chief QGuide for the reborn Q-Link.

RYTE BYTES: C.U.G.K.C Sent us the November and December editions. Lenard starts on the first page with a discussion of the new look of the newsletter. Where they are now using the graphics of Newsroom <the system that they had been using> with GeoWrite. Lenard mentions that it takes some taping the graphic parts to the page. Comments where made at that point About tools in Geos that will convert Newsroom gfx into Geos photo scraps for a photo album Plus the use of GeoPaint over GeoWrite to make a newsletter. Since the topic was still fresh in our minds. As we had covered that in an related article in a book recently. L.R. added that by using Paint Drivers <chapter 10 in the Geos manual> One could convert GeoWrite to GeoPaint and back again Making it a bit easier than doing the taping.

The second announcement from Lenard is that he is not going to renew to the CUGKC. Major reason is new schedule conflicts. In the December issue Lenard explains things a bit more clearly. Lenard will remain active in the C= world. Like L.R. he is doing large amounts of projects. Including writing about and for C= publications. In fact it appears that Lenard may be the one that Robert Bernardo told us about In regards to the new editor of the Fresno U.G. newsletter. Lenard will not just drop out of the CUGKC. He is staying on during the transistion of the newsletter editors. He also gives the CUGKC thanks and praise for all their help in bringing him from almost 0 on the C= to his current state. From our side, we know that Lenard will be missed at CUGKC and wish him the best with his writing work, and the GABE.U.PAK. As we enjoy the envelope address. Sadly still not able to make it work on the Post Script printer.

INFINITE LOOP: August/September issue. Earl seems to have had some printer problems recently. He mentions that the past president of the old group has just retired. Spending his time with his interests. One of which is repairing Commodores. At that point it was mentioned that we should pass along to Earl, to pass along to Jack That there is a man outside of Portland Ore. <Jim Scabery> who is selling off his old sales and repair equipment for Commodore. Possible he has parts, manuals and test gear that Jack could use. L.R. stated that if that was of interest to Jack Either he or Robert Bernardo, could send the e-mail addy and or phone number. As Robert has gone to the shop and made several buys.

This issue, after a trip to his old stomping grounds. Earl was given some old photos of himself during his band days. He published one of them in the newsletter. Long hair, and a

Fu Manchu mustach. L. R., our resident 60s <militant> hippy. Stated that Earl should grow it all back. <G>

Page 4 has an advert for 8-Bit Designs. Stating that Apostle Charles has purchased the company. Almost all the products from 8-Bit and c64diehards are his property now. He is eager to do business with other C= and 8bit owners. Send e-mail to shiftydbutch@hotmail.com for a list of products. We also know Apostle Charles, as Ramswell, or better as #41 on The Village BBS. One of his projects is starting a C= BBS. At the moment it looks like he is going with Color64. As he told L. R. in an e-mail on the BBS. The website is being constructed. A slow process for him to do it correctly.

Did you know that you can use a MO drive in your CMD HD? We didn't either. But Bruce Thomas did just that and demoed it at CommVEx. There is something about setting jumpers. That is not defined in the article. The end result is a "Magneto Optical" in place of the Zip Drive. Size of the MO disk used is 540MB. L. R. announced at that moment. 540MB was the size of the first hard drive for our BBS and club. There are several photos in the issue. For us, as soon as Maurice sends the chip and we find the cable. We are changing out idea of a Zip Drive for a backup storage system. Going to look more into this MO drive system. As nothing was said about the click of death.

Which is the next article in the Loop. Two pages of discussion about this problem. Apparently it stems from bouncing around the disks. Say in a brief case or pocket. And or the mech being too close to a magnetic source. Both of these were discussed seveal months ago on the different lists for the C= on the Inet. The monitor was considered both in the lists and in this article as a source of the magnetic problem. There is a fix, nothing said about what to do, only go to http://www.accesszone.com/clickdeath/html/thedfiz.html. We have yet to do that for our interests.

Next article is on the Vintage Computer Festival November 5-6 2005ce. Many photos, and the top one on page 11. Is an over the shoulder shot of Robert Bernardo, on a flat 128, on the reborn Q-Link. Using a C= monitor. Possibly a 1080, can't tell for certain. In a recent IRC. L. R. asked how he did that? Answers were flooded in and he isn't sure he has the correct information. Seems that there is a Linux box out of picture. As only L. R. and #4 in our local membership, where the only ones to have been on Q-Link. L. R. stated that as far as his embalmed mind could tell. The screen of a chat <lobby?> looked exactly as he remembered i including the colours.

For those that use the IDE64. Lief Bloomquist has created an audio CD player. Article has couple of screen shots. This isn't a completed project. Plays only one track at a time. Lief ha upgrade plans for it that are listed in the article. For more information. lief@schemafactor.com or http://home.ica.net/7%Eliefb/

Screen shots of some of the new upgrades Arndt has made to GoDot. Check out http://www.godot64.de. Sight is in English and German.

50" 8: Al sent us the November and December issues. L. R. mentioned a little on the November issue last edition. The Chanukha side <#2> was fully shown during the meeting Mouse maze game, a CBM edu game. Also was demonstrated. Spider, a game where you must go from bottom top of the screen. Rescue the girl and avoid the things that move on tl screen. Had difficulties on the 41. JS was in port 1 and it gave an overflow msg. Oh yeah

one could make it to the top in the demo section of the meeting. Some of the articles on both disks were a bit too techy for our current level of understanding. Such as one that dicsusses making SEQ into a working Basic PRG. Comes with the basic prg to type in and the ML/ASM source code.

Enjoyed many of the jokes in Workplace. <G> Found a few that matched the members of the A. C. U. G. <editor now ducking> In one article there was a discussion about the use of the "&" symbol in the commands for the 1541. Though we found most of that article to be above us at this time. We did follow some of the command line statements. As well as the bit on the "&" being used in the load/save of a USR file.

Side 1 of the December issue also had a little Xmas tree. <Fans of Futurama in the group, made related Xmas comments from the show> This prg shows a C= GFX tree, presents underneath. The lights on the tree flash/change colour. Then there is a bit of music. Date on the screen is for the 2005ce season.

After it ran, L. R. listed the prg. Full of REM statements to help adjust the prg. #16 was interested in how the colours of the lights changed. Some time was spent going over the prg. More to be done later on.

Side #2 of the December issue, is Xmas music. Samples of each where played at the meeting. Many have pic <we want to know how to do that> Some have pic and words. #16 wants a copy of the disk. In order that he can take it to his church <#16 was the only gentile at the meeting> There is a younger chruch member there who plays several instruments. #16 thinks this is a good thing to demo at his church's younger membership. L. R. agreed, and #16 is looking for a way to connect a monitor to his SX-64 for this demo.

Two things popped up about these disks. First was that the MSD Dual drive hates November side #2. Gives a 21 ,read error,18,00. Disk works fine in the 1541. Second was that Al collects SID. A couple pieces on the Xmas side were from Sir Fitz. Who gifted us with 9+megs in Zip form. Of SID that he created and that he saved from the end days of Q-Link. We are taking each author and making a zip of his music for the BBS. A long task as it is done online at VCS. If Al would like this collection. We will gladly send him the 9+mb file for 5C's and his own collection.

The Village: The fading that was seen in last issue on pages. That is not the fault of our printer. Something is wrong with the photocopier at the regular place. Hope that it will be fixed by the time of the January issue.

Treasurer Report Still holding at $23. L. R. hasn't found many of the reciepts. OK he hasn't had the time or health to dig around that much <G> #16, has had a work schedule change and his National Guard duties, including schooling. That have kept this project from being completed. Life is what happens when you have other plans. <LOL>

Commodore Librarian Report Lost Cat 28-32 on side one. Load Star Reader for those that want to read on disk. Intro screen this month has a story. Usually we take a GeoPaint image and use Scrap it to convert it to Blazing Paddles. Do the colour and clean up work there, and save the file. Use Autograph to convert that to Koala. Put it in the intro maker tool. Blazing Paddles has gone flaky. Not responsive in zoom mode. Worse, the scrap it

Koala converted file. This isn't seen by either Autograph or Koala. We had to take the image as Blazing Paddles. Load it into B.P. and then save it, so it could be seen by Autograph. Where it was converted. This was done for both intro images. All work was done in Koala. Fortunately a copy of the joystick version was found in the stacks. Music is from a disk sent to us by Al at 5C's. More on how the images were made, is in the discussion section.

Side two has 28 GeoFonts in GeoZip format. Also a GeoPaint file of the samples of the fonts. This month the entire side <save for intro screen and read screen> was created by our #30, the deputy librarian. Helping to lessen the load of work from L.R. There is a rumour that he will be doing the Geos side for the January disk as well.

One thing that was enjoyed when the disk was demoed. On L.R. reader page. The prompt says "press a key". If you don't press "A" key. A msg shows up on screen statineg "I Said A key". An old joke finally comes to haunt the users <VBG>

Amiga Librarian. Sadly #4 was not able to attend the meeting. He and his wife were required to go the the reservation casino, many miles away, to collect her tribal cheque. Due to some errors in navigation on the return trip. By their naviguesser. They didn't return until past 10pm that night. The following is partially from #16 the deputy Amiga Librarian, and a late report from #4. #16 reported that he has again forgotten to bring the CD of the upgrades for #4 to use on the loaned AmigaOne. There are a couple of AmigaOne or OS4.0 things he mentioned. Which he wanted to look into for a future report. #4, because of the holiday season, and the fact that it is a mixed religious marriage. Happens to be inundated with things to do for Channukah and Xmas. Added to that, he has again been knocked out with the sinus into migrain affliction. Nothing much save what he gave us in the Tally Ho! has been done at the moment with the Amiga.

Special Insert

This then went into a discussion regaring the fate/future of the Amiga in the group. Should it stay as "Amiga" & Commodore Users Group?. Should the Amiga part be put into a S.I.G.? If so what should the "A" in the name be changed too? One suggestion by L.R. was "Absolutely" for the "A". Another was a complete new name. Suggestions were "C.A.S." for Commodore Appreciation Society. "C.P.S." for Commodore Preservation Society and a few others. Sensei stated that the topic is tabled till the yearly meeting in July 2006ce. There the standing and fate of the Amiga will be determined, along with any name changes. "The entire membership must have a say in this matter! They need the time to learn about the idea and present their own views, ideas and suggestions. Both for and against the Amiga change."

Deputies. #30 has made the Geos side this month. As noted earlier. He also has DLed many of the fonts for future Penny Farthing disk sides. Even with the DialogueSL DL problems. He is still working on the screen a.k.a. note writers on the first disk. Discovering that some people zipped a lnx file. Some of these are not working at this time. The site where L.R. gained them also has disappeared.

WareCat is working on the notes for the review, hint and tip file for the Murder Motel

game. She is waiting for this next win. Before she makes the final file. Game to follow is slated as Star Ship Murders. Some deckers have already started on that game. That one will be followed by Dungeon of Death. The last one in the "assassination" style games on the BBS.

#3 is trying to fight her way through bags, boxes and drawers of paper. Many of them ripped and damaged. As she continues to try to save and organize the old print outs.

#16 has started a deeper work with the C= emulator on his heretic laptop. Wanting to learn how to transfer files to and from a C=. Attempting to do some of the prg lessons in the emulator on the heretic. This is helpful for future emulator members. L. R. was not able to shine any light on how that is done and suggested he check into the IRC on Saturday night

#21 in short e-mail messages. Has been woking on files. These are sent off to L. R. monthly, in a zip file. Because of some difficulties <see Ramblings> L. R> hasn't been able to contact in depth through the Inet e-mail to #21.

S. I. G. s Programming is a happening thing. Not as often as we would like. Work schedules that are not the same each week. Are making timing a problem. However it should be stated that there is a new and bright interest again in doing Basic.

Geos is working on some new tools. These are discussed more in depth in the discussion part. At the moment we are working on the Traveller form creation and learning image manipulating tools.

Demos: The intro to both sides of this months disk. Along with the explanation of the converting problems and the Koala work. Twas at this time that the great disks from Al at 5C's were shown to the membership.

Discussion Learning how to use the Quote feature on the BBS. A topic that one of the members wanted to have explained to him, in person. More ideas on how to make the Traveller L. B. B. character generator. Along with a suggestion that maybe #21 can deBlitz the existing file. In order that the routines can be seen and followed for understanding. L. R. said that he thought #21 had a copy for that purpose. But if not he would send him one.

Talked on a new idea for the Handy Scanner and Geos. Since there is a way to size the images. The problem of having them the right size to fit in a photo scrap is no longer and issue. Large scans can be made with more detail. That just might be sized and be better than the prior attempts.

This went into the use of the new tools. Scrap it", a tool that will convert GeoPaint and photo scraps to Blazing Paddles, Koala and other forms. As well as the reverse feature. This is how L. R. has made the intro screens. Paint Scrap, with the Paint Driver thing from the Geos disks. This allows first, the ability to make a GeoPaint page into a photo scrap. Paint Driver lets L. R. convert a GeoPublish <manual talks about GeoWrite. Dox for Paint Scrap say GeoPub. > into a GeoPaint image. By the use of the above tools. L. R. was able to size a large image to fit the screen for the intro part of the disks. Questions about loss of detail in the work. How easy are the steps for this converting of size and into the Koala form.

L. R. explained that it is an art form. Finding the right size is somthing that he has to deal with more by experience. He does think that at this time. Most of the clean up work should be done in GeoPaint. This switching from GeoPaint to GeoPub does allow the use of the art tools in both prgs. He expects to practice more for our disks over the next few months. Most of the officers have a copy of GeoPublish and are interested in lessons on the Geos S. I. G. Once L. R. has the basics down. A member suggested that as 5C's is interested in articles, on Geos and Koala. That this might be something to submit. L. R. said he would give it a go and add some of the practice images. Both in GeoPaint <GeoZipped> and in Koala <compressed>.

Close: After disks were distributed. Meeting ended at 9:04pm

Lord Ronins Ramblings

Here it is Sunday the 18th of Dec. No snow yet. Maybe if it snowed it would be warmer? Didn't finish the meeting notes on Friday as planned. Lessons and lectures, and even a sale in the shop. Frell I haven't driven everyone away. <BG>

Several things are scrawled on my notes for the Ramblings. First are a couple of newsletters that arrived on Friday and Saturday.

AmiTech-Dayton Gazette: Eric in his editorial remembers the better times for Amiga. I honestly didn't know that the Pegasos 2 and the MorphOS were not specifically an Amiga thing. He adds his wish list. Now I don't understand the hi tech things he mentions. But I like the one about Micro$oft being used for a landfill. I'd add that I would like their employees and ReichsMarshall Gates. A trip to a holiday camp. Dachau, comes to mind. Well maybe the Channukha Zombie will be nice to me this year <Futurama show reference>

Ron goes into a personal thing about the greetings of this time of year. Would I be angry if he wished me a Merry Xmas? As he poses in the article. Not at all, but he will get a Happy Channukha from me in return. I remember doing that in stores and watching the clerks stumble all over themselves trying to cover up and apologise to me. Angry? nope, just amused at some of the people. He goes on with finding new information on the Amiga projects. Another reason for me to do a bit later about the Amiga and the local group. OT: But hey Eric, can we have Flip lighting the candles on the menorah for Channukha? <BG>

©=©=©=©= from Cincinnati arrived on Saturday. I'm glad to see that the Mars Den BBS is still up. I heard a rumour that it had closed. The number is listed on the page. But the crux is that he has a mess of Xmas music for the C=. Snogpitch has also taken the files and put them on his website. They are . D64 unarchieved lynx files.

Mars Den 972-276-6721 <When we get L. D. must give it a ring up>

http://pages. prodigy. net/snogpitch/cccc/index. html is the website.

Inside the issue we have 6 of the 12 days of a Commodore Xmas, by our own #10 <Robert Bernardo of the Fresno U. G. > Looks a lot like my wish list for the Channukha

Zombie. Now add that Page Fox I am trying to buy from KilrPilr <whenever things work right online> A Video Fox and an animation station. Another SCPU, the mech for my FD and the chip for my Zip Drive project from Maurice. Man I'd be in the arms of the C= goddess.

Saturday also had an envelope from Al at 5C" S. I was wondering if there was a mixup and he again sent me the issues. No that is not what was in the envelope. There was a nice green disk with a very well made lable. That stated "Jewish Jukebox". Since I am writing this the next day. I haven't looked at the disk. But I do have a general idea what is on the disk. As last year I was in e-mail conversation with fellow MTTM member Ken Barsky. Who as I remember wrote the Jewish Jukebox prg. I'll update this issue on this disk. After some other writing things in Ramblings. But I wanted to state it now and point out that this is the type of thing that I find in the Commodore world. A very nice and thoughtful gift out of nowhere. Sent by a fellow C= user. Thank you Al Jackson.

A.C.U.G. In the past I have mentioned that the group started as a PET group. Became a C=64 group. Sort of did a limited trip with the C=128 and dove into the Amiga. Eventually stopped doing the copy party stuff and became an official CMB registered users group. All of that before I joined.

Also mentioned in the past that when the CBM bankruptcy happened and then the Escom fall out. The group was worried what to do and to call the group. I suggested and more as a lark. Since nothing was progressing at that moment, and I was just the deputy librarian at the time, and editor AIR. We should call it the Amiga & Commodore Users Group. Since the earlier name of Astoria Commodore Users Group. Appeared to do two negative things. First, limit the membership to Astoria only. A small North West Oregon town. There are other small towns within travelling distance. Second as Amiga was the most common PC in the group. That new name would open up peoples understanding that we were both Commodore and Amiga. Freaking group voted and agreed my idea for the new name.

Also previously reported is how after I was elected President <Title later changed to Chancellor>, that the older members fled from the group. Dropping the Amiga and going to the heretic system. Mentioned in the past is the work I have done under different offices in building the group to the current low membership, loud voiced, fanatical state. <G>

But have we gone in a circle? When I joined, there were maybe 10 active members. I mean those that came to the meetings at least 7 of them where Amiga only. One <me> was C= only and the rest had both systems.

Now the membership is around 14. Around 7 of those members are Long Distance members. One is even out of the country. Many of us do have the Amiga. But what are we doing with it? I have my 1200 and CD/TV in storage in a cabinet at the shop. #30 has his on a desk. But uses his 128 for most everything. #16 is more interested in his C= than his Amiga. In fact as last issue shows. He is selling one of his Amigas. Gave a 2000 as a wedding present to #4, and loaned him his AmigaOne. AFAIK #21 either doesn't have an Amiga system or isn't using the one he has. #4 has a 128 flat in the shop. His A4000PT and the AmigaOne. Yet with the recent marriage and health. He hasn't been able to do much with the Amiga. Looks as if we have gone from C= into Amiga and back to C=.

Now I don't believe we should drop the Amiga from the group. Since many of us have the system. Should we though make it a S.I.G. and become primarily in name and action a C= group? Need to hear from the local members and the Long Distance Members on this before any action is taken. So let me know your opinions in BBS e-mail, snail mail, IRL or if it has to be, on the Inet. As you know I am not fast on Inet mail.

Book: I really wanted to buy a copy of that book. Saved my bread and typed in the url. Pressed return on the highlighted order the book with debit/credit card thing. Went through the hoops. Until it wanted me to type in some set of charcters in a box. THERE AREN'T ANY CHARACTERS and THERE ISN'T A BOX IN LYNX. Site didn't care, and I can't order a C= book with my C= PC. Wrote a rather scathing feedback msg about this to the company. Looks to me with that problem and the other paypal problem reported last issue. I'm not buying or selling anymore. Through paypal/eBay.

E-Mail: Really I did answer some twomonth old Inet mail. Including the resume to Elwix of Driven. Submissions to SWO. All of my mail ended up in the "dead.letter" file at VCS. Rod is trying to find out why. Guess it is something to do with the move. But for now, I can not use the off line reader for sending my mail packets. Doing it online eats up more time. :-(

Update: Well first off this is the first time of doing these notes in EdStar II that I have gone over one file. Lot happened at the meeting.

Now as promised. I did look at the disk of "Jewish Jukebox". Comes with the Stereo 10.3 player. Folk songs and holiday songs in Yiddish and Hebrew. Words are in most of them and many of those have a translation in English. Could have a picture as well. Not all load up stereo. But they are all listed as stereo on the play screen. I'll have to find my Stereo SID cart and make a system to plug into the stereo amp we use in the shop. There is also as a separate file from all the music. Weiner Menorah. Written in 1983. This one is in Basic. You select the night of Channukha and it lights the candles. Which "flicker" in the red spectrum of the C= colours. A very nice gift from Al. Again our thank you's got to you.

Addendum

You have seen a change in this issue. No we are not on a retro kick. Doing the newsletter in the manner of several years ago. We lost the hard drive with everything on it. This is done in Geos 2.0 on the 64. Originally in EdStar, thankfully #30 was able to convert that with his tool. Printed on an Okimate 10, with thermal paper. We are down but not out. Maurice did find the order from 25/July05ce and shipped it. Arrived around the 27th of dec. He is also looking at the HD for repair or data retrival. Our fingers are crossed. That we can have all including the BBS back again.

Did order the C= Book and the pagefox. Paypal started working again.
Destined { #8} popped by on 2/Jan/06ce. Had a good chat, but didn't get to wish him a farewell :-(

Online with the A1200, text again. Hope to put up a short term Amiga BBS for us. Sorry for the errors and crudeness of this issue. Out of practice in this style.

Next Meeting

19/Jan/06ce 7:00pm at Mohr Realities

Down but
Not Out
Issue

A. C. U. G. #447
623 29th St.
Astoria Ore.
971 03