

OTTAWA

IBM P.C.

USERS' GROUP

NEWSLETTER

January 21, -- Issue 87(1)

Happy New Year !

- 7C3h -

Bonne et heureuse Année !

Executive:

home:

work:

President:	Anne Moxley	592 - 4933	230 - 9096
Past president:	Gord Hopkins	828 - 3834	726 - 3590
Treasury:	Mike Luckham	832 - 3829	592 - 6500 x 2034
Secretary:	Eric Clyde	749 - 2387	993 - 3291
Membership Chairman:	Claude Jarry	521 - 3366	-----
Meeting Facilities:	Stu Moxley	592 - 4933	-----
Publicity:	Harry Gross	733 - 7989	-----
Software librarian:	Chris taylor	*523 - 1329	995 - 4987 (*new)
" Assistant:	John Ings	-----	-----
Newsletter Editor:	Jacques Lemay	684 - 7754	684 - 7874

MEETING DATES

Meeting schedule:

8:00 pm, last Wednesday of every month except July and December
1987: Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Mar. 25, Apr. 29, May. 27, Jun 24..

Meeting location: NRC AUDITORIUM, 100 Sussex Drive
(Gothic Building opposite Ottawa City Hall - Parking in rear)

At the January Meeting

The January meeting will feature a talk on "Financial Calculations in a Canadian Context". The speaker will be Gilles Mousseau who is Manager, Product Development at Domus Software here in town. Gilles' Lotus models will be on the monthly disk (disk-37), so be sure to pick up a copy if you want to try them out.

Also, Gilles will be giving away a copy of Print Screen as a door prize. Print Screen, a Domus product written by Gilles, is the ultimate for those who ever wanted to do screen dumps a little out of the ordinary.

A very good TV show

The first program of a new TV series was telecasted on Skyline and Ottawa Cablevision on Tuesday - December 16 at 10:00 p.m. This is a one hour show produced and hosted by people from all of the local User Groups. This show will be aired the third Tuesday of each month. anyone interested in helping and/or co-ordinating our club's involvement in the programme should call Anne Moxley, (phone numbers above).

The show is called "THE WHOLE BIT"

J.G.L.

Another very good TV Show

The Computer Chronicles, a Television series aimed at computer users, owners, educators and computer industry professionals. Now in its fourth season on Public Television, it is co-hosted by Gary Kildall and Stewart Cheifet, with commentator George Morrow, the Computer Chronicles keeps you up-to-date on the ever changing world of computing.

It is programmed weekly by computer professionals for computer users and is telecasted on WNPE and WNPI (the cable PBS station) every Tuesday evenings at 11:00 P.M. it is followed by Random Access, a weekly news segment designed to keep you informed about the latest developments in the computer industry. The complete presentation lasts half an hour.

Open File

{a column of opinion and ideas}

John C. Nash

This column arises from a request made of me by the User Group executive to assist in adding more life to the Newsletter (and, by extension, the User Group).

Newsletters have an appeal to organizations like ours -- unless you happen to be responsible for getting them out to the readers. Members want to be informed, executives and other activists like to see their name in print, and there is always the hope that circulation will attract advertising revenue. The editor and his associates, however, must try to make the publication interesting and inviting. Beyond the regular announcements which are the bread and butter of a newsletter, substantive publishable material may be hard to find.

For a User Group like our own, part of the difficulty is one of focus. Why do members join the Group? Some suggestions:

- to learn about their machines and appropriate software
- to exchange ideas (for many, this means getting help)
- to acquire software and hardware inexpensively.

To this list, I propose to add another

- to serve the user community.

Certainly the User Group serves its own members, who are part of the community, but here I wish to suggest that the members can find service to the community stimulating and worthwhile. As a model, we can look at the projects undertaken by the Boston Computer Society User's Group.

This group (which publishes a 48 page monthly newsletter), undertook a study of scientific/technical word processors in 1985 which was published in the January 1986 issue of the Notices of the American Mathematical Society (vol. 33, no. 1, pages 8-37). Currently, they are evaluating a large (and I mean >100) set of statistical packages for the PC and compatibles.

Could the Ottawa IBM PC Users' Group carry out similar projects, perhaps on a smaller scale? There are definite benefits to the Group in terms of publicity and to its members in terms of increased technical expertise, while at the same time the overall community benefits. There is also a continuing topic for written material in the newsletter, where the first drafts of contributions can be presented for discussion and improvement.

To focus discussion, some suggested projects are:

1. A source-code suite of sorting and sort-evaluations routines. The Turbo Toolbox, which has some limitations, could serve as a starting point. The documentation and evaluation of various sorting routines (e.g. in Lotus or dBase III versus the codes generated and SORT or QSORT) would be of wide interest. Few sorts make lexical sorting easy -- QSORT only lets you do this if the records are less than 80 characters long.
2. An evaluation of modem programs and packages.
3. Development of a simple Computer Aided Instruction toolbox for PC's, which could be used to teach the use of software packages.
4. Collection and extension of software which tests the computing environment. For floating-point arithmetic, there is PARANOIA (in BASIC, FORTRAN, C, PASCAL, Modula 2, and ADA), but the transcendental functions are not tested. Don Chandonnet has COMHELP, which tests the serial ports. How about a screen or printer function tester? And let us not forget the importance of a proper directory and index of such software.

Note that while some technical ability is needed at some stages of each of these projects, they all allow for the contributions of novices as well as sophisticated users. Indeed, the interaction of the novice with software systems is one of the better tests of robustness to inappropriate inputs.

Comments please!

New name, old product

For your files: Dots-Perfect, the printer utility which allows you to control the output from your Epson printer, is the product which used to be called FingerPrint, from Dresselhaus Computer Products.

Quickbasic 2

The Microsoft Quickbasic compiler is available on a trade-in from MicroSoft Canada. Simply send in an original disk of a basic interpreter written by Microsoft (IBM Basic or GW Basic) with \$45 + provincial sales tax to:

Microsoft Canada
6300 Northwest Drive,
Mississauga, Ont.
L4V 1J7

This note was submitted by CJT

Turbo Basic from Borland

Borland International announced Turbo Basic, a US\$99.95 programming environment for the IBM PC. The company claims the program compiles at 12,000 lines per minute to produce native executable (.EXE) code. The program also includes a memory-to-memory compiler, a full screen editor, an internal linker and run-time library, and a Microcalc spreadsheet with source code.

Turbo Basic takes advantage of the interactive strength of the BASIC language and also uses the structured, modular approach of Pascal. Conditional control is provided by the block IF (including ELSEIF) and SELECT CASE statements. Turbo Basic also supports DO WHILE, DO UNTIL, LOOP WHILE, and LOOP UNTIL statements.

Turbo Basic also offers true recursion, pull-down menus, and a multiwindow environment. It is written in assembly language and is compatible with IBM BASICA and Microsoft GW-BASIC, and EGA graphics are supported. Turbo Basic provides 8087/80287 math coprocessor support, which generates inline coprocessor instructions and calculates intermediate results to 80 bits of precision, according to Borland.

Report on the PC Users' Group Meeting, 29th October 1986

Mike Luckham opened and carried the whole show right up to coffee break at 9:00 P.M.. His presentation was on the importance, necessity and advantages of having standard busses and most particularly the PC bus. Mike covered the planning of implementation of the AT bus for compatibility in plugging, between the previous and new cards due to the increased addressing lines. He progressed from the S-100 bus (IEEE 696), mentioning the GPIB (IEEE 488) instrumentation bus and how they were instrumental in standardizing the OEM market.

Bulk Purchasing

Terry and Tim Mahoney Phones: 226 - 6332 & 226 - 2615

Expect an announcemnt of further reduction in Diskettes prices.

Report on the PC Users' Group Meeting, 26th November 1986

The meeting was opened by Gord Hopkins who presented the guest speaker: Malcom MacTaggart, General Manager of Microsoft Canada. Malcom gave a very interesting presentation on what the close relationship of his company (Microsoft), Intel and IBM has been in collectively planning the development of the 8086/88 family of micro-processors in terms of upward software and hardware compatibility.

He stated that the hardware sector was way ahead of the software part of the development, that although desktop publishing was the buzzword for 1986, nothing of great significance was accomplished, that it was more or less a year of reflection and planning. As for 1987 we should see great progress in the 80286/88 family software where 286 DOS and WINDOWS are to really come of age.

It is of interest to see Microsoft get involved in the Canadian market and adapt their software to our way of operating in both languages, the total Microsoft staff in Canada is presently 28, and is to increase as needs warrant.

Election Results

Following this presentation, the annual election of the Executive took place, the few changes are reflected in the difference between the listing on the last Newsletter and this one, for those of you who noticed there is one new name: Claude Jarry to fill the new position of Membership Chairman. Our new president, Anne Moxley who was looking after memberships, automatically opened the Past president's position for Gord Hopkins. Also Harry Gross who was in the post of Past president became the new Publicity officer. This minor shuffle obviously indicates one of two possibilities; either people do not wish to run for office, or the members are satisfied with the performance of the executive so far. I am humbly inclined to lean towards the latter.

Special Interests Groups (Sigs)

There are now four (4) Sigs within the club:

Group	Co-ordinator	Home	Work
AT :	Gord Hopkins	828-3834	726-3590
PC Junior :	Tom Mimee	828-9705	
Packages *:	Eric Clyde	749-2387	993-3291
Enable:	Bob Laidlow	592-2178	995-3708

* Packages include dBase, Spreadsheets and Word Processors. It has been extremely difficult, up to now to present topics apt to interest such a diversified group with so many levels. Perhaps it would be proper at this time to reconsider a more appropriate distribution or splitting of this group to satisfy more specific interests.

For those who do not yet have a copy of PC-Write V2.7 - it's GREAT! It has a built-in spelling checker that can check words as you type. (320K RAM required to use the spelling checker). They have cleaned up the help menus a lot. The whole program just feels a whole lot smoother.

AND THE WINNERS ARE.....

Thanks to all who entered the software contest this fall. We had a good turnout with a total of 10 entries. There were 5 entries in the utility category and 5 entries in the applications category. There were no entries in the games or enhancement categories. Below is a brief description of each entry.

Utilities

ALFA Sort lists alphabetically that are input at the keyboard.

DIRSIZE Find the size of subdirectories and create files of COPY or BACKUP statements for backing up your hard disk.

DISKDIR Print a compressed print listing of a diskette contents sized to slip into the disk jacket.

INTEREST Calculate interest earned on a daily interest savings account.

PHONENOS Keep a phone list that may be searched by typing the person's name.

Applications

DUBRIDGE score a duplicate bridge tournament. Turbo Pascal source code included.

FAMILY Keep track of your family with this Genealogical program.

GOLF Score a golf tournament with automatic handicapping. BASIC source code included.

LISTER Phone groups of people. This program will dial your modem, keep track of those you have contacted, and more.

OFFERING Keep track of church donations with this database. Generates statements for income tax purposes.

The winner in the utility category was Tim Boreham for DIRSIZE. The winner in the applications category was K.E. Vavasour for FAMILY. Each winner receives a free 1987 membership in the Group and a software library subscription. All entrants will also receive copies of all entries in the contest.

The entries have been added to the software library on two disks, for anyone else who would like to see the programs.

We hope to have another contest next fall !

ADDITIONS TO THE SPECIALTY LIBRARY - Jan.87

CONTEST 86: (2 disks) Entries in the 1986 software contest.

DIRECTORY EXTENDED V1.42: The ultimate in directory display programs. Options include the ability to look inside .ARC and .LBR files.

DISK TOOL V1.0A: A powerful utility for manipulating files. Edit any disk sector or file, change file attributes and more.

EPISTAT 3.0 and MATHSTAT: MATHSTAT has been added to this disk. It contains general mathematical routines as well as statistical.

FINANCE MANAGER II V1.0: A General Ledger program for the individual or small business.

FREECALC V2.0: A spreadsheet program with 12,500 cells. 8087/80287 math co-processors are supported.

GENEALOGY ON DISPLAY V4.0: Update to this popular "roots" program.

GRASP V1.10: (2 disks) GRaphical System for Display. Create impressive slide show programs. Import any screen.

OUTLINE! V3.22: Update to this powerful outlining program.

PIANOMAN V3: Update to this program for creating music.

SHELLS: A collection of 3 DOS "shell" type programs, each with a different flavour. AUTOMAX V2.1, CONCH V1.0, DOSAMATIC V2.08

STAR GAMES: A collection of space games. DUELING STAR SHIPS is a game for two, GEMINI is a game for two to play over a modem, and TREK is a nice version of STAR TREK for one player.

TELEX V1.12: Update to my favorite communications program.

TREE V5.0: K.E. Vavasour's upgrade to his winning contest entry. A program to keep track of your family tree.

TURBO ONE: A collection of Turbo Pascal routines and programs.

UTILITY ONE: A collection of utility programs. Help in dealing with your COMM port, search through memory, find duplicate files, get rid of memory resident programs, and more.

WORDWORKER: (2 disks) Search for and cross-reference words in the New Testament. 6063 unique words to search on.

WORLD DIGITIZED V1.01: (3 disks) A collection of over 100,000 points of latitude and longitude which define the world's coastlines, islands, lakes and political boundaries. No display program included. Many programming hints included.

 * Ottawa IBM PC Users' *
 * Group *
 * Disk #37 January 1987 *

ANSI	TXT	16256 (***)	A look at how to use the ANSI.SYS driver to redefine the keyboard and control the screen.
ARCCAT	EXE	36068 (***)	Catalogue the contents of archive files created with ARC or PKARC. Related files - ARCCAT.DOC
BATMENU	COM	279 (***)	A way to control flow through batch files. Related files - BATMENU.DOC
CYLON	COM	210 (***)	A nifty new cursor shape. Related files - CYLON.DOC
DIREX	COM	1987 (***)	A nice small file management program for copying, deleting, protecting, and unprotected files. Related files - DIREX.ASM, DIREX.DOC
FREEZE	COM	497 (***)	Blanks the screen and gives password protection for your computer while you go for coffee. Related files - FREEZE.ASM, FREEZE.DOC
HARDCOPY	COM	4992 (E**)	A screen dump utility for Epson printers. The image is rotated 90 degrees and enlarged. Choice of single or double density is available. Related files - HARDCOPY.DOC
JT	COM	469 (***)	JaxTalk. A very small modem program with understandably very few features. Related files - JT.DOC
MORT	WKS	8960 (***)	A Lotus 1-2-3 template for figuring out your mortgage. Lots of nifty features. Related files - MORT.DOC
ONELINER	BAS	243 (***)	Just to show what can be done in a single line of BASIC code. Displays enlarged letters when keys are pressed. Related files - ONELINER.DOC
PKX34A20	COM	58368 (***)	A very fast alternative to the SEA archive utility ARC.EXE. PKARC runs about three times faster. Can read files produced with ARC. Related files PKX34A20.DOC

PROTECT COM 201 (***) Write protect your hard disk to prevent accidental erasure or corruption of data. Related files -PROTECT.ASM, PROTECT.DOC

SIMCGA <DIR> (***) A series of files allowing simulation of a CGA on a Hercules graphics card. Now you can run those games !

SOPWITH EXE 60928 (C**) A great game. Play the flying ace and shoot out ground targets and enemy aircraft. Related files - SOPWITH.DOC

TEXTDRAW BAS 8142 (***) A nicely designed program for drawing screens using text and block/line graphics. Related files - TEXTDRAW.DOC

Membership renewals

Memberships are valid from Mar. 31 current year to Mar. 31 the following year. In order to avoid long line-ups in March, renewal fees (\$20.00) are accepted in January and February. Diskette subscriptions will be taken seperately at a later date.

Seminars

A few seminars were successfully presented on Assembly language, DOS and batch files. The facilitators have indicated that they are willing to give or repeat any subject for which there is an interest of at least ten members. So indicate your interests on the other side of this page, tear out the appropriate section and deposit it in the suggestion box on the front table at meetings.

Logo

A few months ago, the executive asked for suggestions for a Logo and/or a new name for our club. The response has been rather negative so far. We hope to get some suggestions in for this, preferably before the next issue of the Newsletter in March.

Mailing Labels

The envelopes mailed to the members this month were addressed from two different sources, so please check if the spelling is correct, if the address is OK, indicate your Postal Code if missing and/or any item you might want to change. Also you may want to indicate a change or addition in phone numbers.

Trivia

This Newsletter was processed with an Epson LQ2500 and WordStar V3.40. Some pages are printed with the Roman Font, some with Sans Serif, some with Courier and some with Prestige fonts. Can you tell which is which ?

If there are any corrections, or changes to your address as printed on your mailing label, please make the necessary amendments and deposit in the suggestion box at the meeting.

Name:

.....
(#, Street) or (PO Box) Apt.

.....
City: Province:

.....
Postal Code:
.....

----- Cut here -----

You may add any suggestions, comments or good ideas you may have.
Such as seminars you would like to attend. Special interest group
you would like to co-ordinate or attend, etc....

Name and/or signature optional:

Suggestion for LOGO or name: Ottawa IBM PC Users' Group

