

OTTAWA IBM P.C. USERS' GROUP

NEWSLETTER

October 22, Issue 86(4)

Executive:

		home:	work:
President:	Gord Hopkins	828 - 3834	726 - 3590
Past-President:	Harry Gross	733 - 7989	-----
Treasury:	Mike Luckham	832 - 3829	592 - 6500 x 2034
Secretary:	Eric Clyde	749 - 2387	993 - 3291
Membership Secretary:	Anne Moxley	592 - 4993	230 - 9096
Meeting Facilities:	Stu Moxley	592 - 4993	-----
Publicity:	John Pryzbytek	231 - 4318	-----
Software Librarian:	Chris Taylor	727 - 5453	995 - 4987
Assistant:	Michel Lemire	568 - 8429	993 - 5033
Assistant:	John Ings		
Newsletter Editor	Jacques Lemay	684 - 7754	684 - 7874
Bulk Purchasing	Terry Mahoney		

MEETING DATES

Meeting schedule:

8:00 pm., last Wednesday of every month except July and December
 1986: Oct. 29, Nov. 26, 1987: Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Mar. 25 . . .

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

As your new editor I have put something together for a newsletter, with a very short notice, would you believe two days and half? I owe many thanks to Anne Moxley for her assistance in supplying a return address rubber stamp and mailing labels overnight, to Chris Taylor for his newsletter stuff, Harry Gross for his input in a nutshell and to Eric Clyde for his reports on Group Meeting. You will notice some items are in French, as a policy I will publish articles as they are submitted to me, or translate them in the other language if I am requested to do so or if they are of interest to all members, such as Constitution, notices, contests,...

Votre nouveau rédacteur, Jacques Lemay n'a eu que deux jours et demi pour pondre ce chef-d'oeuvre. J'espère que vous participerez à la rédaction de cette chronique en me soumettant des articles d'intérêt général. Ils seront publiés tels que reçu et probablement traduits en anglais, si aptes à intéresser tout le monde, ou si l'auteur le demande. Un gros merci à Anne, Chris, Harry et Éric ainsi qu'aux membres de l'exécutif pour leur support moral et financier dans cette publication.

Jacques Lemay

CONSTITUTION

Constitution Amendments:

To add: "Membership Chairman" as an elected official. Current Constitution can be found on our Library Index; Disk # 00, which is distributed free upon joining or renewing of membership.

Modifications à la Constitution:

A ajouter: "Président des adhésions" Comme élu au conseil. On retrouve la constitution en cours dans notre disquette No.00 qui contient aussi notre index; bibliothécaire. On obtient cette disquette gratuitement lors de l'adhésion ou son renouvellement au club.

ARTICLE III

Section I - (amended)

"The officers of the IBM-PC Users' Group shall consist of the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Software Librarian, Publicity Officer, Membership Chairman, Newsletter Editor and Past Chairperson".

Section 1 (modifiée)

La composition du conseil du Club d'utilisateurs d'IBM PC sera: Le Président, le secrétaire, le trésorier, le Bibliothécaire des logiciels, le préposé à l'information, le publicitaire, le président des adhésions, le rédacteur de la Chronique et le président sortant.

ARTICLE 1V

Section 8 - (added)

"Membership Chairman" shall:

- 8.1 be responsible for membership registration.
- 8.2 maintain an up-to-date roster of members.

Section 2.3 (deleted)

Section 3.2 (deleted)

Section 5.4 (added)

"Act as assistant to the Newsletter Editor".

Section 3 - (ajoutée)

Le président des adhésions devra:

- 8.1 être responsable des inscriptions d'adhésion.
- 8.2 tenir une liste à jour des noms des membres.

Section 2.3 (annulée)

Section 3.2 (annulée)

Section 5.4 (ajoutée)

"prêter main forte au rédacteur de la chronique.

These are to be ratified by the membership at the November general meeting.

Ces propositions sont à entériner par les membres lors de la réunion générale en novembre.

Recent additions to the library

This month has seen a veritable flood of new additions to the software library as well as upgrades on some old favorites. Following is a list of what's new in the specialty library.

ABC DESIGN: (2 disks) A graphics colour image editor for creating and using fonts on Epson printers.

ANALYTICALC: (2 disks) An integrated (spreadsheet/database/word processor) package.

dGENERATE V1.0: A dBASE III code and screen generator.

EXTENDED BATCH LANGUAGE V. 3.03A: A PC-DOS utility that will give your batch processing new power and capabilities.

FAMILY TREE / PROGENITORS: Two family tree programs to help you find your roots.

FAS-TYPE: Polish up your typing skills with this typing tutor program. Requires color/graphics adapter.

GLUDRAW: Let out the artist in you with this line graphics program.

ORIGAMI: Learn the ancient art of paper folding. Requires colour/graphics adapter.

OUTLINE! V3.15: An outlining program with starter manual on disk. If you don't want to lay out big bucks for Think Tank. This program used to be known as PC-OUTLINE. It is now distributed by Brown Bag Software.

PROCOMM V2.41: One of the finest communications packages around. This program is highly recommended. Many file transfer protocols available, a full script language, chat mode and much more.

Q-MODEM V2.3: A powerful user-supported communications program.

ROFF4 V1.60: A text formatting program with source code in C.

TELEX v1.11: A Canadian communications program with lots of power ! Similar to PROCOMM and QMODEM.

TRIVIA: Modelled after Trivial Pursuit, complete with board. 600 questions in 6 categories. For 2 to 6 players.

TUNE TRIVIA: A Name-That-Tune type game. Very nicely done. Several game options available. Lots of tunes on disk.

WILLY THE WORM: A terrific arcade-style game similar to "KONG". Includes a game editor to make things easier or more difficult.

WORD PROCESSOR FOR KIDS: An very simple, easy to use, word processor.

The IBM manual gives two ways of writing a batch file;
1 - by the use of COPY CON: SOME.BAT
2 - using EDLIN

Both are somewhat clumsy in terms of editing and testing. An improved method is by the use of a word processing program to write an ASCII file.

But by using the BASICA interpreter, a batch file can both be written and tested in the same environment.

As a simple example, consider the following listing, with D: set up as a RAM drive.

```
10 OPEN "D:TEST.BAT" FOR OUTPUT AS #1
20 PRINT #1,"echo off"
30 PRINT #1,"dir A:"
40 PRINT #1,"REM          this is a test"
50 CLOSE #1
run
```

This will create a batch file on drive D:. To test it, we can take advantage of the SHELL command available in DOS 3.x by using;

```
SHELL "D:TEST"
```

A return can be made to the BASIC interpreter and the program by typing EXIT. When everything is finished, the final .BAT file can be copied to it's final resting place.

The example is trivial, but for complex batch files, this is a simple method of writing and testing batch files without flipping back and forth between an editor and DOS to write and test a batch file. There are some word processing packages that allow you to exit to DOS from the editor and a return, but this is cheap and quick.

Another roundabout but elegant application is to write self-writing batch files. As there is no provision for interactive batch files, a BASIC program can be used to request parameters, write and run a batch file, and then call an .EXE file. (but not an interpreted BASIC program.) A batch file can load BASIC and a program to write a second batch file.

As BASIC stays resident in memory, this approach will waste 64K of memory and may not be suitable for some applications.

Harry Gross

Report on the PC Users' Group Meeting, 27th August 1986
by Eric Clyde

Gord Hopkins opened the meeting. He mentioned that the newsletter had been sent out and that members should have received it. He also reminded members about the software competition in the categories: games, utilities, and enhancements. The prizes would be free 198? memberships and disk subscriptions. He also announced the competition for a new suggested club name, acronym or logo. The prize will be a free membership. If one is selected, the change would have to be ratified at the November meeting.

Elections will be held at the November meeting. Harry Gross is Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The elected positions are President, Treasurer, Membership, Software Librarian, Secretary, and Newsletter Editor.

The program part of the evening was a demonstration of the Enable integrated software package by a team from PCNova. It was an excellent, in depth presentation, with lots of opportunities to ask technical questions, and have them answered. (It is difficult for your Secretary to read his notes, since the lights were out in the auditorium, and he doesn't write too clearly in the dark!) A door prize of a copy of the package was awarded to a lucky member. Darlene Murphy, Marketing Manager, announced that the package would be available to members for one month for \$500, which is approximately half the regular price.

Attendance at the meeting was approximately 140.

Report on the PC Users' Group Meeting, 24th September 1986
by Eric Clyde

Gord Hopkins opened the meeting, reminding members of the elections coming up in November, and that Harry Gross is still seeking candidates. He also asked for volunteers with newsletter editing experience.

On October 18th-19th there will be a computer show at the University of Ottawa. The Group will have a booth, and he asked for volunteers to man the booth. At the show there will be speakers, dealers, and a flea market for software and hardware. [Editorial note: there was apparently little interest in the flea market, so that part was cancelled]

The speaker for the evening was Les Wolsley from Innovation Technologies Inc. The company does some consulting and software, and sells a software package to architects and engineers. They were concerned with the speed of batch file operation, so developed ProCommand, an enhanced batch processor. Users have found that it runs about 5x as fast as DOS batch files. He discussed the many programming features, saying that the package will run on any version of DOS from 2.0, requiring memory of at least 128K. It is very flexible, and will run Topview, Microsoft Windows, GEM, DesqView, Double DOS and other programs. A copy was given as a door prize.

The Group has negotiated with Bruce Miller to run on its behalf a new bulletin board, telephone number 745-8015. with him as sysop. It is running on a PC clone with a 20MB hard disk and will be up 24 hours per day. It has a Hayes 2400 baud modem, and will accept calls at 300, 1200, or 2400 baud. Parameters are 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, and no parity. If accessed by Envoy 100, use full duplex. His favourite communications package is Procomm, but QModem is also good. Other packages include PCTalk (an old favourite, but somewhat outdated now), Crosstalk and Smartcom. The board is running on Fido software. Users have to be registered. First time users and non-members can look at messages and at the file names, but cannot download software.

Attendance was about 120.

Reach out and Touch Someone

Chris Taylor

The software library currently has three terrific user-supported communications programs. They are Procomm v2.41, QModem v2.', and Telix v1.11.

All three are quite capable. They all have features including dialling directories with redial, a multitude of communication protocols, DOS shells, macros, the ability to log sessions to a file, and script files for automatic processing. In short, they are all very high quality programs.

Currently, Procomm seems to be leading the pack in popularity. It is very rich in features and has an excellent user interface. It supports many terminals for terminal emulation and has the widest array of file transfer protocols.

If you are nationalistic, you may want to try Telix, a program out of Toronto. It is very nice. It includes all basic features of Procomm. It is a fairly new program, and they seem to have looked at the competition seriously.

QModem has a few nice touches that include viewing a directory of files with transmit times. QModem does not support Telink file transfers, which is unfortunate for users of Fido bulletin boards, as this is the easiest to use protocol on a Fido BBS.

All three programs are very easy to use. They come with extensive documentation on the disk. If you just want basic communications and file transfers, you can be up and running in minutes.

There is only one negative comment that I have to make. I used Procomm with a SmarTEAM 1200 modem and had problems with file transfers. Every now and then, Procomm would receive an error and thin{. it got the end-of-file marker before it had. Needless to say, to get '200K of a 202K file is frustrating. Both QModem arid Telix handle things better and I have never failed to get an entire file using either of these programs. I know of only a few people with similar problems, but if you are using Procomm, keep this in mind.

***** LATE BREAKING NEWS *****

There have been some reports about problems with Procomm v2.4. Some people do not seem to be having difficulties. The library will keep copies of v2.3 as well as v2.41. Choose as you see fit.

Reach Out and be Touched by Someone

Chris Taylor

Call waiting is a service now offered by Bell Canada at an extra charge. Once installed, if you are on the line and someone calls you, you will hear a beep and you car. then put your present caller on hold and talk to the other person calling you. You may then return to the first caller.

If you are thinking of getting this service tit only costs a few dollars a month), and you use a modem, then you should think: again !!

First impressions might be that a beep thrown in on a line while doing data transmissions would be an annoyance dealt with be the error checking file transfer protocol. However this is not the case. When Bell set up the call waiting service, they decided that only you should know that someone is calling when you are already on the line. So when a call comes in while you are already on the line, Bell disconnects you from your first call lust long enough to send you a beep and then reconnects you. The original party you are talking with does not hear the beep indicating that someone else is calling you.

For a voice call, this is no problem. But, if you happen. to be using a modem, the few milliseconds when you are disconnected from the remote computer is long enough that your modem will detect a loss of carrier signal and terminate the call.

In the U.S., the phone companies have realized the problem and came up with a solution. In most cases, you simply dial a special code (for example a given 31 digits) and then. the number you want to call. The special code will defeat the call waiting feature until you hang up.

Bell Canada has realized the problem as well and has come up with an excuse. There is no way to temporarily defeat call waiting in Canada. Bell's excuse ? "The phone line is guaranteed voice grade only. The fact that your modem works at all is simply incidental." Although they are essentially correct, it does show a lack of good will on the part of Bell. Anybody who may wish to make their views known can write to;

Bell Canada
Office of the General Manager
P. O. Box 161
Station A
Ottawa, Ontario
H3C 3P3

and

The Secretary General Canadian
Radio-television and Telecommunications
Commission Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N2

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For prices call 733 - 7989, or write:

Generic Transforms
824 Fleming Ave.
Ottawa, Ont., K1G 27.2

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ASTRO	COM	12928	(C**) A game in which you try to destroy asteroids (and of course the occasional enemy ship). Related files -ASTRO.DOC
DOS31	PAT	11392	(**) Some useful patches to PC-DOS .3.1
FULLDOS	EXE	24012	(**) Use the entire screen when at DOS level, re-enter previously used commands simply by moving the cursor to those lines, and more. Related files - FULLDOS.DOC
JOKE	TXT	308	(**) A small chuckle.
KWIC	EXE	30464	(**) Display (K)ey (Ld)ords (I)n (C)ontext. Will search any specified group of files for given words and display them in context. Related files KWIC.DOC
LIGHTNG	BAS	895	(**) Just in time for Halloween. Put your monitor in a window and display lightning. PCjr only! Related files - LIGHTNG.DOC
LIST	COM	6597	(C**) A very nice utility to display files. Lots of features. Related files - LIST.DOC
LOG	INC	1787	(**) Add this to your Turbo Pascal programs to have a log of screen activity go to a file of the printer. Related files - LOG.DOC
MEMSUM3	CON	19698	(**) Memory resident utility. Press Alt-M to instantly see total and available memory. Related files -MEMSUM3.DOC, MEMSUMRL.COM
NOVICE	TXT	4096	(**) A few words on file name conventions and the use of subdirectories.
RAMDUMP	EXE	13312	(**) Programmers utility to view any section of memory. Related file - RAMDUMP.DOC
RAMSCAN	EXE	15360	(**) Programmers utility to scan memory looking for a given data pattern. Related files -RAMSCAN.DOC
TASK	COM	1024	(**) (T)imed ASK. Great program for batch files. Sets errorlevel according to a response... or to a certain value if there is no response within a given time span. Related files -TASK.DOC

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* Cont'd *

TIMEPARK	COM	477	(**#) Program that moves the hard disk heads to a safe spot after 1 to 9 minutes of disk inactivity. Great if you leave your hard disk running all day. Related files - TIMEPARK.DOC, TIMPARKI.ASM
UNERASE	<DIR>		A great program set for recovering lost files. One program even saves the File Allocation Table to a disk file to help recover from errors'
VISITYPE	COM	1152	(*#-*) Extends keyboard buffer to 90 characters and lets you see and edit data that goes into the buffer. VERY nice! Related files - VISITYPE.ASM, VISITYPE.DOC
WEREWOLF	BAS	3294	(C*#) Another program just in time for Halloween. Set up your monitor in a window and the kiddies will delight in watching a man turn into a werewolf and back. Related files -WEREWOLF.DOC
XDEL	COM	951	(##*) A utility for cleaning up your disks. Delete files from a full-screen list. Related files - XDEL.ASM, XDEL.DOC