



the MONITOR

Newsletter Editor	Tristan Miller	584-1736
Secretary/Treasurer	Lyndon Soerensen	—
64 Librarian	Stan Mustatia	789-8167
128 Librarian/BBS Operator	Harvey Klyne	522-8694

The Monitor is published monthly by the **Commodore Users Group of Saskatchewan** (UGS). Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month in **Room 173 of Miller High School** unless otherwise noted. The next meeting will be held on **December 6, 1995, from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.**

UGS is a nonprofit organization comprised of 64 and 128 users interested in sharing ideas, programs, knowledge, problems, and solutions with each other. Membership dues (\$15) are pro-rated, based on a January to December year.

Anyone interested in computing is welcome to attend any meeting. Members are encouraged to submit **public domain** and **shareware** software for inclusion in the **UGS Disk Library**. These programs are made available to members at \$3.00 each (discounted prices when buying bulk). Since some programs on the disks are from magazines, individual members are responsible for deleting any program that they are not entitled to by law (they must be the owner of the magazine in which the original program was printed). To the best of our knowledge, all such programs are identified in their listings.

Other benefits of club membership include access to our **disk copying service** to make backups of copy-protected software, and any members who own a modem and wish to call our **BBS** will receive **increased access**. The board operates at 300-2400 baud, 24 hours a day. The number is **(306) 565-6791**.

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Tonight's Meeting:

Election Night
 Possible Prize Draw
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Editorial

This month marks what has traditionally been the CUGS executive elections month. It is at this time of year that the members decide which members will be responsible for which duties for the following year. As the club is structured now, members may volunteer themselves for the positions of newsletter editor, secretary/treasurer, 64 librarian, and 128 librarian. Please consider helping the club by running for one of the aforementioned positions. None of them require any great skill or very much time — in fact, many of the executive consider their jobs to be rather fun.

In this issue you will find a number of articles. Judi and Drew Ruether have been kind enough to provide us with more articles in their ongoing series, *Peeks Into Other Clubs*, as well as starting a new series which profiles various CUGS members. Enjoy the newsletter!



PEEKs Into Other Clubs

Judi & Drew Ruether

Another month has passed and fall is upon us — cold weather and warm jackets! The newsletters just keep rolling in; all the clubs seem to be back after the summer recess and are active for another season. First, acknowledgements to our newest exchange clubs which have sent us their monthly newsletters:

✍ R.E.M., the Commodore Helpers of Long Beach in Long Beach, California

✍ Hawaii On-line, the Commodore Hawaii Users Group of Kaneohe, Hawaii

✍ M.S.C.U.G., the Manasota Computer Users Group of Bradenton, Florida

✍ The Commodore Compendium Basic Bits Commodore Group of Cleveland, Ohio

Thanks to all of them, plus all the clubs who still continue to send their newsletters on a regular basis. We also received two new disks of the month from clubs, one from the Commodore Users Group of Ames Region and the other from the Commodore Users Associates of Medford, Oregon. These disks contain some interesting programs, a game of solitaire you play against the computer, Novaterm 9.1, downloads on current information from Genie regarding hardware and software problems, and general information on a number of other subjects. These disks will be demonstrated at the next club meeting and will be put in our club library for purchase at regular club prices. Also, the two disks — the Commodore Hayward Users Group demo disk and the Grassroots User Resource disk — that were demonstrated at our last club meeting are

now available for purchase from the 64/128 libraries.

Our first actual dual membership card arrived in the mail the other day. We are now members in good standing with the Commodore Users Association of Medford, Oregon — great to see other clubs joining with us to keep the Commodore alive. Hope to hear more from these clubs in the near future; keep those newsletters coming! As well as getting our honorary club membership, we have been mentioned in two of the club newsletters as exchange clubs, one with the Lane County Commodore Users Group and the other with the Coos Computer Club of North Bend, Oregon, whose newsletter is called BITS.

The articles gleaned this month from contributing newsletters include the Tri-Movie Video End Label, courtesy of the Cos Computer Club's newsletter, bug bytes.. The program included with the article makes video cassette labels for your VCR tapes for that professional videophile look. The second articles are the Internet Shell Accounts and Troubleshooting the C64. Both these articles are of general interest to all, as I'm sure we would all like access to the internet with a healthy computer. These articles are courtesy of the A.B.C.U.G. newsletter, *The Chalkboard* of Glen Burnie, Maryland. See you all next month!

Jack Blewitt

When I got my new 18" RCA satellite dish, there were so many movies available that I couldn't watch all the ones I had wanted to see. Thus, I taped some of those "oldies, but goodies" for later viewing. With three movies per tape, I had to have a label for each cassette with the titles and times of each entry. An additional half hour at the Commodore gave me the program I needed to produce these labels.

To fix the labels onto the video cassettes, I wanted something that would not come off in the VCR but would be removable when I taped over the cassette. Referring back to my September 1990 article for C.U.S.A.C., I cut six-inch strips of light-coloured "CON-TACT PAPER" and printed the labels onto this medium with its self-adhesive backing. By placing a strip of regular Scotch Tape over the label before trimming (to prevent smearing), I had the near-perfect label.

Try it out! Written in BASIC, it is easy to make variations to suit your own particular needs. After making changes, just type GOTO 10000. This will re-SAVE your program. Change the file names in [lines] 10000 and 10010 so you do not destroy the original file. You may experiment to your heart's desire on this public domain program!

Video End Labels

```

001 REM VIDEO CASSETTE LABEL FOR
    THREE
        MOVIES
002 REM BY JACK BLEWITT, 2/95
010 CLOSE 4:OPEN4,4,0:CLOSE9:OPEN9,4
050 PRINT#9,CHR$(27)CHR$(71);:REM
    SELECT DOUBLE-STRIKE (BOLD)
060 PRINT#9,CHR$(27)CHR$(69):REM
    SELECT
        EMPHASIZED PRINT (W/DRAFT FONT)
065 PRINT#9:CLOSE9
070 DOT$="." :Q$=CHR$(34)
080 INPUT "[CLR]NAME OF 1ST
MOVIE";A1$
090 INPUT "TIME OF 1ST MOVIE";T1$
100 INPUT "NAME OF 2ND MOVIE";A2$
110 INPUT "TIME OF 2ND MOVIE";T2$
120 INPUT "NAME OF 3RD MOVIE";A3$
130 INPUT "TIME OF 3RD MOVIE";T3$
140 INPUT "[CURSOR DOWN]CORRECT
[2 SPACES]Y[3 CURSOR LEFT]";CK$
150 IF CK$<>"Y"THEN
    PRINT"[CLR]":GOTO 80
160 PRINT#4,"[49 *]"
170 PRINT#4,Q$+A1$+Q$;
180 L=LEN(A1$)
190 FOR A=L TO 43:PRINT#4,DOT$;:NEXT
200 PRINT#4,T1$
210 PRINT#4,Q$+A2$+Q$;
220 L=LEN(A2$)
230 FOR A=L TO 43:PRINT#4,DOT$;:NEXT
240 PRINT#4,T2$
250 PRINT#4,Q$+A3$+Q$;
260 L=LEN(A3$)
270 FOR A=L TO 43:PRINT#4,DOT$;:NEXT
280 PRINT#4,T3$
290 PRINT#4,"[49 *]"
300 PRINT#4:PRINT#4
310 INPUT"PRINT AGAIN[2 SPACES]N
[3 CURSOR LEFT]";Y$
320 IF Y$="Y"THEN160
330 INPUT"PRINT DIFFERENT LABEL
[2 SAPCES]N[3 CURSOR LEFT]";Y$
340 IF Y$="Y"THEN80
350 PRINT#4:CLOSE4
999 END
10000 OPEN15,8,15:PRINT#15,
    "S0:TRI-LABEL":CLOSE15:PRINT
10010 SAVE"TRI-LABEL",8
    
```



C128 SYSTEM PRIZE DRAW

A complete C128 system will be awarded to one lucky CUGS member who does not already own a 128 at an upcoming meeting!





Internet Shell Accounts

submitted by Judi & Drew

Here's what's involved in a shell account:

1. Your access provider has a computer hooked up to the Internet. That computer, which will be your 'host computer', is running Unix.

2. On your computer, all you need is an ordinary [tele]communications program, such as Telix, Crosstalk, Windows Terminal, etc. Any [telecommunications] program that supports VT100 emulation should work. (It doesn't matter what type of computer or operating system you're using.) [Novaterm and Desterm should do just fine for 64 and 128 users, respectively. --Ed.]

3. You use your [telecommunications] program to connect to your access provider's host computer. (For most of us, this means using a modem and connecting over the phone lines.)

4. After you're logged on, a Unix 'shell' program starts running on your host computer. This may happen as soon as you log on, or you may have to select it from a menu. Once it's running, the shell prompt will appear on your terminal screen.

The shell program is a command processor -- it interprets and carries [out] commands typed in by the user (i.e., by you). Working with a Unix shell is a lot like working with DOS -- you get a prompt on the screen, you type in commands, and the computer carries them out. The prompt may be a '\$', a '%', or something fancier -- just like your DOS prompt can be 'C:\>' or something longer.

One big difference between the DOS prompt on your computer and the shell prompt on your host computer is this: commands typed at the DOS prompt are carried out on your computer, but commands typed at the shell prompt are carried out on the host computer. For example, if you type 'copy oldfile.txt newfile.txt' at your DOS prompt, you'll wind up with a new file in the current directory on your computer. But if you type 'cp oldfile.txt newfile.txt' at the shell prompt on your host computer, you'll get a new file in the working directory on your *host* computer ('cp' is the Unix copy command).

For the Internet user with a shell account, this means that when you type 'telnet' at the shell prompt, you're actually running the Unix telnet program on the host computer. When run, the telnet program will use your access provider's Internet connection to connect you to whatever computer you're trying to log onto. FTP and other Internet functions work basically the same way from a Unix shell account.

(For comparison: with a SLIP/PPP connection, all your access provider's host computer does is pass data between your computer and the Internet. The telnetting, FTPing, etc. is actually done by software running on your computer, not on the host computer.)



Submitted by Judi & Drew

What do I do for my ill disk drive?

If your drive won't even accept input from the computer and the drive light is making some blinking pattern, then the drive may be telling you what is wrong:

no blink	Kernal (E000-FFFF) ROM or 6522 VIA failure
one blink	6116 RAM failure
two blinks	possible zero page RAM failure
three blinks	DOS (C000-CFFF) ROM failure
four blinks	DOS (C000-CFFF) ROM failure
five blinks	6116 RAM failure
six blinks	6116 RAM failure
seven blinks	6116 RAM failure
eight blinks	6116 RAM failure

1541

The most common problem facing the 1541 disk drive is alignment. If your 1541 has trouble reading commercial disks or reading disks written some time ago but has less trouble reading recently written disks, chances are that your 1541 is out of alignment. Commodore service centers will typically align a 1541 for anywhere from \$20 to \$45. There are also 1541 alignment programs (e.g. Free Spirit's *1541/71 Alignment System*) which allow you to align a 1541 yourself. There are those who claim that this does not produce good results, but there are others who claim to have had satisfactory results with these programs. There were a couple of articles in **COMPUTE!**'s *Gazette* and, I think, **RUN** on how to [align your disk drive]. The real problem is mechanical in nature and can be overcome. Other products are *Physical Exam 1541* and *1571* versions.

Troubleshooting

1571

The Commodore 1571 drive is normally a double-sided drive. However, it can also emulate a 1541 and read single-sided disks. Some of the earlier 1571s had older system chips (ROMs) which caused a couple of problems. One, these older drives were typically very slow when writing to the back side of a disk. Two, it would take these drives about thirty seconds to go into single-sided mode. To check your ROM version, read the error channel of the disk drive right after startup. On the 128, just PRINT DS\$. On the 64, use 10 O P E N 1 5 , 8 , 1 5 : INPUT#15,A,A\$,B,C:CLOSE15:PRINT A,A\$,B. Run the program; if the message says v3.0 or v3.1, you have the newer ROM. If it has a version lower than 3.0, you probably have the older ROM.

One problem that might occur is not having the head close enough to the disk as required because of the light tension of the spring that pulls the head down. Somewhere I remember that there was supposed to be a replacement part. However, one of the alignment programs suggested using pennies to weight it down and -- lo and behold -- it started working.

What do I do for my ill computer?

Commodore 64

A common problem with the C64 is its power supply. The C64 power supplies are not especially powerful, and have this disturbing tendency to fail. If your computer stops working, first check the power supply. Replacement power supplies can be obtained from a number of mail order places (e.g. Tenex, Parsec,



[etc.]). Additionally, several places advertise "heavy-duty" power supplies that come with warranties, and give the C64 enough power to run an REU.

If your power supply goes, it can sometimes take other parts of the computer with it. If your power supply has died but the C64 continues to fail with a known working power supply, it is likely that a few of your chips got fried.

Also, another common problem with the C64 is the fuse inside the computer. If the system power-on light comes on but you get a blank screen, suspect the fuse. It is usually blown by misinsertion of devices into the computer.

Here's Looking at You!

Member Profiles

This is a monthly feature profiling our club members. I hope you all enjoy it -- be prepared for an interview when I call on you! A club is only as strong as its members.

Name: Drew Ruether

Age: 41

Birthplace: Liberty, Saskatchewan

Occupation: Cable Regina

Phone: 522-7083

Equipment: 2 128Ds, 2 REUs, 1581 drive, 1571 drive, 1541 drive, 1902 monitor, 2002 monitor, 2400 baud modem, Star NX1000 printer, Hewlett Packard 540 deskjet printer, 2 datassettes, KoalaPad, 2 1351 mice

Favourite software: GEOS 128

Latest project/software: Desktop publishing using Newsroom or Paperclip Publisher and GeoPublish

Commodore wish list: Hard drive, another 1581 drive, Fun Graphics Machine software

What direction do you want to see the club go? Hope to see more demos of games and productivity software as well as more submissions to the monitor and disk library by the membership

General interests (other than Commodore): Travelling, snorkeling, skydiving

Expertise: Just learning my machine; much more to learn

Name: Rudy Breuer

Age: 47

Birthplace: Regensburg, Germany

Occupation: Village Mobile Homes

Phone: 781-2398

Equipment: C64, 2 1541 drives, 1802 monitor, Seikosha printer, Amiga 500, 1200 baud modem, 1351 mouse

Favourite software: PrintShop, Certificate Maker, Paperclip Publisher

Latest project/software: GEOS 64, GeoPublish, CADPACK

Commodore wish list: 1581 drive, 1764 REU

What direction do you want to see the club go? Increase our membership by continuing club correspondence as well as possibly advertising our club in other publications in and around Regina as well as possibly revenue-making projects for the club either by getting new members or disk sales

General interest (other than Commodore): Makes own beer, Cub Scout leader, woodworking, electronic tinkering

Expertise: Green -- soon to be mean!