

READ ME DOC

A monthly newsletter of the
Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

\$2.00

This month's General Meeting features:

BORLAND INTERNATIONAL

demonstrates

QUATTRO and PARADOX 2.0

along with

SIDEKICK PLUS

Inside: Latest Reviews on SpinRite
and Grammatik II
Trouble at Apple Computer?

README.DOC is published monthly by the ORANGE COAST IBM PC USER GROUP, P. O. Box 6100-211, Costa Mesa, CA 92628. The group's recorded message phone number is (714) 898-7998.

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Articles may be submitted via modem to the OCIPUG BBS or on paper or an IBM format diskette (5-1/4" 360kB format preferred). We will accept them in any of several formats, although we strongly prefer "pure ASCII" files. Other acceptable formats include DCA, Microsoft Word, Multimate, WordPerfect and Wordstar. Submissions on paper should be double-spaced and typed. All items submitted for publication are subject to editing.

DEADLINE:

Articles and advertising must be received by the twentieth (20th) of the month prior to publication.

ADVERTISING:

All advertisements must be camera ready and prepaid; rates and deadlines for commercial advertisements are available on request. Classified ads are free to members, but cannot be used for business purposes. Deadline for classified advertisements is the same as for articles.

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README.DOC Newsletter

Created by:

Publisher *Steven Dela*
 Editor *Arthur Boughey, Ph.D.*
 Technical Editor *John Goodman, Ph.D.*
 Features Editor *Arthur Boughey, Ph.D.*
 Associate Editor *Dave Lorenzini*
 Production Manager
 Graphics *Don Taylor*
 Contributors *Reta Cagle*
Dave Carroll
Gordon Lewin
Linda Leydekkers
Al Mace
Christine McDonald
Bobie O'Neal
Tom Sutro

We thank Dave Lorenzini and Architectural Resources Company for image scanning and other assistance in producing this newsletter.

All camera ready art produced on a HP LaserJet II using a LaserMaster CAP card and software.

Printing by PrintMasters #88 in Huntington Beach.

README.DOC is published monthly and is included with all paid memberships in the Orange Coast IBM PC Users Group.

Address all inquiries, editorial copy, advertising, and address changes to: README.DOC, P. O. Box 6100-211, Costa Mesa, CA 92628

PAST EDITOR TOM SUTRO 1985-1987

ADVERTISING POLICY

Members are allowed to place an advertisement for personal items in the README.DOC newsletter at no cost. There will be a limit to the amount of advertising placed in the newsletter; all submissions will be placed on a first come, first served basis.

Commercial advertisements, from members and others, is also welcomed. For information concerning advertising rates and requirements, contact:

Kathy S. Halbardier (714) 838-5206 or write to Advertising Manager, OCIPUG, P. O. Box 6100-211, Costa Mesa, CA 92628.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the ORANGE COAST IBM PC USER GROUP is to provide a forum for members to share information and experiences that will help other members obtain maximum benefit and enjoyment from the use of their IBM PC and compatible personal computers.

April General Meeting
Saturday , April 30, 1988 9 A.M. to Noon
Orange Coast College, Science Building Lecture Hall

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Tim Smith

Our program for this month's General meeting will feature a company that has grown both internally and externally through acquisition. Borland International has released several updates to existing products in addition to entirely new products in the last six months. There has been external growth also, through Borland's acquisition of Ansa Software, and its feature product, Paradox, a relational data base.

Steve Schiro is the District Sales Manager with Borland International in the Southern California area. He was originally with Ansa Software and joined Borland upon the aquisition of Ansa Software by Borland International.

There are several products that will be demonstrated by Steve. Some of these will be Quattro, Paradox, and the SideKick +. If there is enough time, we will see a few language programs such as Turbo Pascal, Turbo Basic, and Turbo C. It looks like it will be a meeting packed with exciting new software releases by Borland International.

APRIL PRIZE DRAWINGS

This month's prize drawing looks like it will be another winner for our membership and those companies that support our Club.

With Borland International visiting our General Meeting for product presentations, I'm sure that they will have several of their software packages to be included in our raffle. With such products as Quattro, Paradox and the new SideKick Plus, it will be quite an interesting time for all.

MicroSoft Corporation has donated some more programs and tutorials. Watch for these prizes at the General Meeting. MicroSoft continues to support our Club each and every month. Thanks MicroSoft!

I'm sure by the time the general meeting arrives, there will be additions to the list. Plan on attending. Everyone present has an equal chance.

MARCH RAFFLE PRIZES

Thanks to several generous donors we were able to give away some super prizes. Dan Likins' new raffle program did the same good job it had last month, picking winners from among the list of all our paid-up members (and making sure no one won more than a single prize this month).

The winners of major prizes at last months raffle were:

	Prize	Donated by
Michael Earls	Computer Repair Course	Carol Slasher
Mark Roberts	Desktop Publishing Course	Carol Slasher
J. Humberstone	DataPerfect	WordPerfect
Tony Carnicello	PlanPerfect	WordPerfect
George Fowels	WordPerfect Exec	WordPerfect
Ralph Minarich	WordPerfect Library	WordPerfect
Don Wichner	WordPerfect 5.0	Wordperfect
Cal Strobele	Windows 2.0	MicroSoft
Jean Mowery	MicroSoft Excell	MicroSoft

Many other prizes went to our members such as caps, shirts, portfolios and clocks, all donated by WordPerfect Corporation.

PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK

Steven Dela

There have been a few changes within the Newsletter staff that I would like to pass along to our membership. Rick Halbardier, our Editor, has spent many hours helping to organize the new newsletter style. Rick changed careers in February, into a position setting up an automated office for the legal profession. It is difficult to do both tasks when there are only so many hours in a day. We all appreciate his fine efforts in getting this project off the ground. We look forward to Rick's future contributions once things settle down.

As a result, Arthur Boughey, has assumed the duties as the Editor of the

README.DOC newsletter. Arthur has been the Features Editor since the new newsletter was begun, and will continue in that position until a volunteer is found to fill the vacancy. Arthur comes to us with an extensive background in writing and publishing. His FEATURES section is always a hit in the newsletter.

We are still in need of people who can assist Arthur and our other Editors in writing, proofreading, and editing articles that are submitted to README.DOC. If you can give just three or four hours a month, it would be greatly appreciated.

I want to bring you up to date on other happenings within the newsletter. As I mentioned last month, the OCIPUG Board of Directors has approved and purchased some additional equipment for use on the newsletter. The first piece of

equipment was the LaserMaster CAP card, which is responsible for the fonts that help make-up the new style. I will be reporting on this equipment in the near future.

The second piece of equipment is a Hewlett Packard LaserJet II printer. This lets us take full advantage of the LaserMaster CAP card's features. Both of these items were purchased at discount with Club funds. While we would like to find manufactures that would be willing to donate equipment or software to the Club, sometimes their generous donations do not fit our particular needs at that time.

The newsletter staff thanks the OCIPUG Board of Directors for their support.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Arthur Boughey

For IBM 1987 was the Year of the User. Your Editorial Board might well make 1988 the Year of the Reader, but in reality this is not easy. Unlike our distinguished colleagues on the Program Committee who provide such excellent speaker programs, we have no *immediate* feedback. There is no appreciative hum of approval or spontaneous outbreak of applause for our choices. Nor do we have as negative indicators a gathering back-swell of dead silence, interrupted only by spluttering coughs, or

conspicuous departures for the rear exits. We work behind a screen of tacit but largely unexpressed acceptance.

This would be well were we on the Editorial Board all completely of one mind. In actuality we have but one major ideal in common - a dedication to excellence. Beyond this our individual views begin to diverge. We may consider that README.DOC should be a high-end techy journal, coffee-cup reading, a self-supporting arm of the Club, a balanced presentation of all levels of IBM & compatibles computing, or a combination of several of these and other definable interests.

We are well enough aware of are our

own shortcomings in terms of writing, technicalities, and organization. The changes in editorial personnel that you observe are intended to improve our performance in these areas, and we are all trying very hard. What we need from you the members of the Club and readers of this newsletter, is feedback in the form of comments on the directions in which you perceive us to be headed in terms of those that you would prefer us to take. *Quality* is something that we know we must take care of, *direction* in the last resort is determined entirely by your expressed needs. This is *your* newsletter.

BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

We at Orange Coast IBM PC User Group, wish to thank the following company for their sponsorship. This will enable us to better serve our members by providing the necessary support through donations such as this.

Garden of Eden Computers

Westminster, California

If you or your business would like more information on this program, please give one of the following people a call:

Steven Dela 775-8373

Rick Halbardier 838-5206

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What would you like the club to do for you? You may not know it but that is what the members of your Executive Board have as their primary interest. This club was started by a few individuals who saw the potential of working together to help each other in finding more and better ways of using their computers. That goal remains today as the reason for our club existing. Even though the past and present membership now exceeds the one thousand mark the ultimate goal remains the same. We set intermediate objectives in trying to keep you constantly informed of more and better ways for you to use your computers. Sometimes that is in trying to show you new technology such as new hardware or software, and sometimes it is in showing you some of the fantastic things you can do with the equipment you already have.

There are a great many good software programs out there that have been available for some time that may do everything that you currently want to do and they may be available for a lot less than the latest "whizbang version 5.9". So don't feel that because we try to keep you abreast of the latest technology that we're trying to make you feel that what you have is obsolete. Your SIG leaders are happy to try and help

you learn to use the software you already have. The same concept applies to hardware. While some of us would like to have the latest "386 24MHZ Whizbang/3" the truth is that what we already have may be more than we really need.

We shall continue to try and show you the latest and at the same time endeavor to help you use what you have more efficiently. But we do **NEED YOUR HELP**. We need some more SIG leaders, assistant SIG leaders, Gurus, equipment coordinators, etc. And above all we need people who want to help others. Sometimes it is for a special project or just help for a meeting or two. We all will gain if we all help. Please offer to help your SIG Coordinators, Directors, and fellow members. For in that way we all will grow and succeed.

Your newsletter publisher put in another 50 to 60 hours last month along with the similar and tireless efforts of the other members of his staff. I want to thank them all, especially **STEVE DELA** *Publisher* and **ARTIUR BOUGHEY** *Editor* for their hard work. But they also need help. No, you don't have to put in 50 hours but you could assist by putting in a few hours. Why not give Steve a call and volunteer.

I would also like to thank **STEVE GIBSON** for filling in as Random Access coordinator at our last general meeting. He did his usual fantastic job of answering questions and also telling us about his new product, *SpinRite*. Despite the non availability of our 3-beam projector, the WordPerfect representatives did a marvelous job. They have kindly offered to keep us abreast of various kinds of helps available and will be participating on a regular basis with our WordPerfect SIG. This shows what a product vendor who really cares about their customers will do. Thanks again WordPerfect! I also want to thank **JOHN GOODMAN** for his great job of conducting the meeting.

There were several people who indicated an interest in a Genealogy SIG. If you are interested please give me a call or leave me a message on the BBS. I would really like to get that SIG going if there is enough interest. Have a great month and Happy Computing!!!

STAN SABIN

OCIPUG PRESIDENT

GENERAL MEETING CALENDAR

General Meetings are held on the last Saturday of the month except in the months of May, November and December. In those months the meetings are held one week earlier because of the holiday falling near the end of each of those months. These special meeting dates are marked in the list below with an asterisk.

OCIPUG General Meeting dates for 1988

January 30th
April 30th
July 30th
October 29th

February 27th
May 21st(*)
August 27th
November 19th(*)

March 26th
June 25th
September 24th
December 17th(*)

REPORT ON MARCH 1988 OCIPUG GENERAL MEETING

Linda Leydekkers

John Goodman, OCIPUG Vice President, opened the meeting to our now usual full house. A vote was taken on proposed changes to the By-Laws of OCIPUG. All in favor, none opposed--the changes were passed unanimously.

Tim Smith introduced our first speaker Glenn Groesbeck, Manager Regional Marketing for WordPerfect Corporation. Glenn made a big impression right away with the audience by passing out Peanut M&M candies for everyone. Over the crunch of candies and the crackle of wrappers Glenn then began his demonstration of WordPerfect 4.2. A technical problem due to a missing piece of OCIPUG equipment limited the projection of the screen to monochrome. This somewhat hurt the visual demonstration for those not familiar with the WordPerfect program, but it did not hamper Glenn in any other way. A very capable speaker, he proceeded to give us a little background on the development of the WordPerfect Corporation, a privately owned company. Glenn pointed out that WordPerfect Corporation provides toll free customer support for the life time of the product. This is something many members of the WordPerfect SIG gave rave reviews about.

Glenn's demonstration of WordPerfect version 4.2 was followed by a presentation of version 5.0 from Dave Brower of the Los Angeles section of the Word Perfect Corporation. He used a beta copy of 5.0 to demonstrate some of the upgrades in this version. WordPerfect has not actually released version 5.0 (handouts available at the meeting gave a March 1988 release date), but it will be "soon". There will be changes to the template, for very good organizational reasons that WordPerfect users will come to appreciate after the initial groan over adjusting to something new. They are not that drastic, but the program itself does have some very nice added features. This is not to say the 4.2 is to be totally grandfathered. It will continue to be sold at a \$60.00 retail price reduction until 1990 and supported by WordPerfect Corporation. This was good news to many members. If you have recently purchased version 4.2 the upgrade to 5.0 is at no charge through April 30, 1988. If you have had 4.2 for a longer period, the upgrade will be \$60.00. You will need to provide the following information:

Title page of your WordPerfect manual (whatever version you have--you will be sent a complete new package not just upgrade materials).

Designate the size disk you need (3.5 or 5.25).

Name the printer(s) you will be using. You will be sent drivers for the equipment you have or plan to have.

The address is: WordPerfect Corporation, 288 West Center Street, Orem, Utah 84057. Information & Brochures call: (800) 321-4566. Customer Support call: (800) 321-5906. I was not happy to hear that the new 5.0 version will NOT contain a grammar checker (hear that WP Corp., please!!), so I will be looking for an additional product for this purpose. The 6.0 version is already in the making with a promise of *Forms Fill* for people who are toiling with getting their contracts, invoices, etc. to line up so the changeable spaces can be filled in. Perhaps a larger Thesaurus (re: Arthur Boughey's article in last month's README.DOC) would be something to which we can also look forward. I was told that WordPerfect does listen to customer requests, so call in yours. Customer Support calls are logged, so the information gets to those doing the developing. Some of the new features of 5.0 described in the hand-outs provided at the meeting and demonstrated for us on screen are as follows:

INTEGRATED TEXT AND GRAPHICS We heard about this at the WordPerfect SIG but I was impressed with how nice and how easy it worked. A graphic image can be scaled, moved, and rotated to fit into your document. Sizing and cropping were only a key stroke away. You can also indicate the style and thickness for printing a border, and include a caption.

IMPROVED PREVIEW The entire page of text and graphics can be seen at once with a zoom for detail, or view facing pages together. Graphic images and fonts can be shown as they will be printed. The graphic adapters supported include the Hercules Graphics Card Plus, Hercules In-Color with RamFont (italics, extra large print, etc., will be displayed while editing), CGA, EGA, VGA, and the IBM 8514A.

INCREDIBLE PRINTING With the use of absolute measurements (inches, centimeters, pints, etc.) printing is easier and more powerful than in previous versions. Fonts may be mixed and changed randomly without affecting margins, tabs or column definitions. Vertical and horizontal spacing are automatically adjusted to match the font selected (this pleased

many members). Print attributes have been expanded and if you print a document designed for one printer on another printer, an intelligent printing feature automatically selects corresponding fonts. WordPerfect is no longer restricted to the IBM character set. Version 5.0 includes support of over 1,000 characters including Greek, trademark, copyright, and math symbols.

MASTER DOCUMENTS The master document feature combines files (e.g., many chapters in a book, several files on a network) for generating tables of contents, lists, indexes, footnotes, endnotes, references, page numbers, etc. These individual documents can be combined and separated from the master document as needed. (note: there is a networking version of WordPerfect with special functions used in the networking environment.)

AUTOMATIC REFERENCING Within a document numbers for pages, paragraphs, outlines, footnotes, endnotes, or figures may be referenced. References may point to the same topic on several pages while combined references may point to such items as a page and feature number.

AUTOMATIC REDLINE AND STRIKEOUT Automatic comparison of the document on screen to one located on disk. Text that has been added to the document on screen will be redlined; text that has been deleted will be shown in strikeout.

IMPROVED PARALLEL COLUMNS Parallel columns can now extend past a page break. Script writers and others will find this feature to be especially convenient. Also, a change in spacing will be allowed in columns.

MORE FEATURES TO BE ANNOUNCED The foregoing are just a few of the features that have been added.

Bulleted Outlines is one of the many that will be announced when WordPerfect 5.0 is released. *Notice that these features are additional to those that version 4.2 already has.* If you are not familiar with WordPerfect, do yourself a favor and find out more about it either by attending the WordPerfect SIG and/or visiting your favorite software dealer for a demonstration. While you are there ask about PlanPerfect (spreadsheet), DataPerfect (data base), WordPerfect Library (six programs that work with the WordPerfect line of products--Calculator, Calendar, File Manager, Notebook, Program Editor, and Macro Editor.

NEW 2.0 VERSION will be out in April, that will work best with WordPerfect 5.0), or one of the modified WordPerfect

programs: Personal WordPerfect, Junior WordPerfect or WordPerfect Executive.

Dave Brower was kind enough to stay for a very late running WordPerfect SIG meeting held right after the general meeting. Thank you Dave! We learned a great deal and were able to get more of our questions answered.

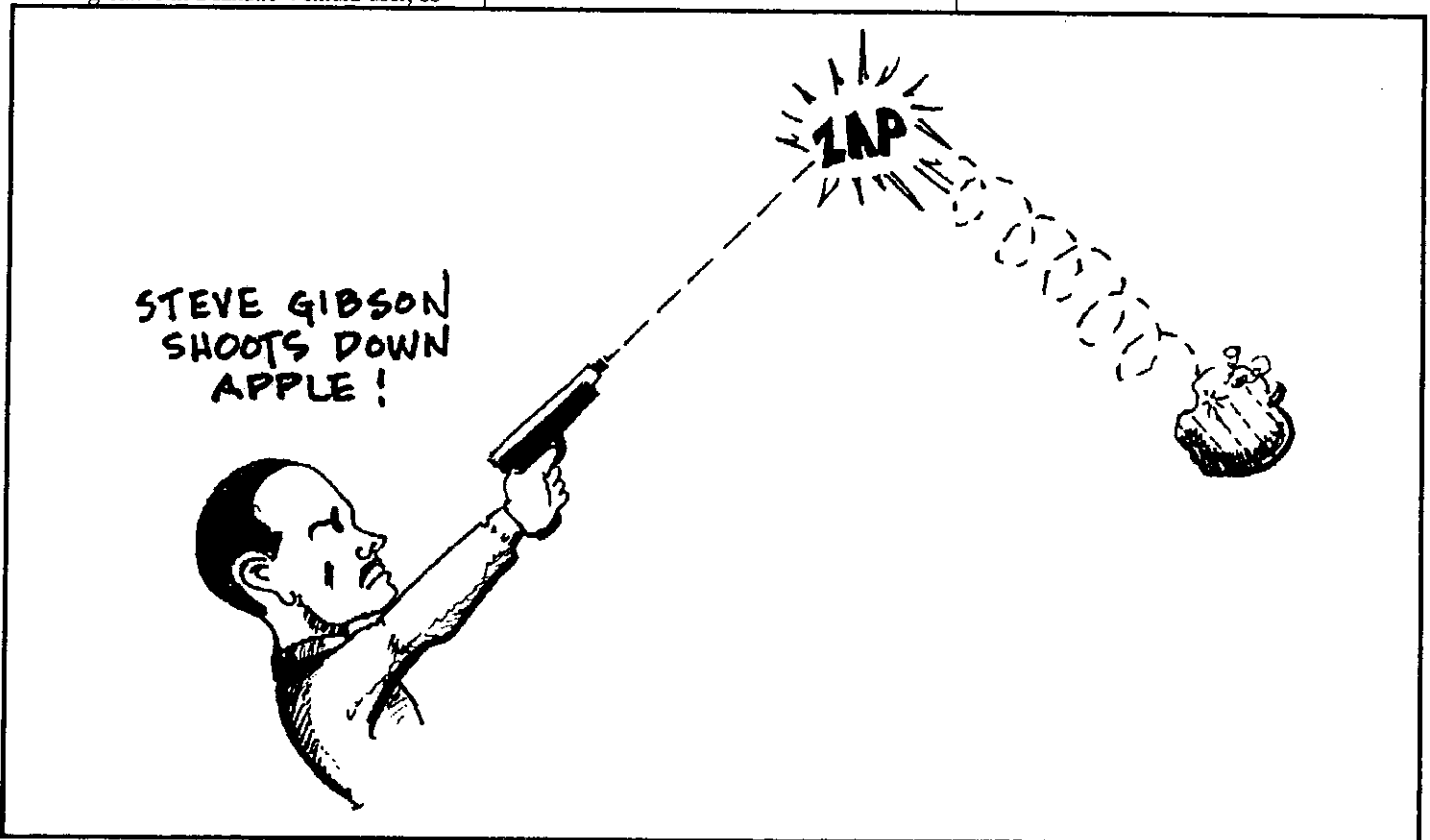
Our next speaker was no stranger to this club, Steve Gibson, one of our honorary members. Steve writes the Tech Talk column for Info World magazine not to mention a very helpful column in our own README.DOC. Steve commented on the WordPerfect 5.0 demonstration "I think it looks great. I'm a fanatic Ventura user, so

incrementally moving in that direction and getting a lot of that power."

Steve then read us the information that will be coming out in his Tech Talk column for InfoWorld issue #14. In it he takes a very powerful stand concerning the law suit filed by Apple Computer against Microsoft and Hewlett Packard over the appearance of the products into which they are evolving. I will not quote further, because Steve has kindly permitted us to reprint this article here on page 9. Except for very light editing, it is as he read it to us. Let me remark that, judging from the audience reaction (and my thinking), he is not the only one with these thoughts.

of a laser pointer gun he made for a young friend of his. With a twinkle in his eye he stood well away from the dreaded projector and zapped a little red dot anywhere he wanted to point his new toy. The only catch was he still had to approach the beast later to draw visual aids of the inner workings of the mysterious hard disk. I can hardly wait to see his solution to "how to project you doodles while lecturing, without standing near the overhead projector".

The description that Steve now gave of *SpinRite* has been treated separately in this issue beginning on page 8. After the interval that followed Steve's presentation,



I have been playing with desk top publishing a lot. This strikes me as a wonderful way, especially with the \$60.00 upgrade, of taking a large step in the direction of desk top publishing with existing hardware. You will need virtually nothing more than you already have. One of the problems with Ventura or Page Maker is that you have to get yourself 'mouseized' and a high-res screen, and probably a more powerful computer, a bigger hard disk and all these other things that go along with it. This strikes me (WordPerfect 5.0) as a really nice way of

Now, you have to have been there, or at least heard one of Steve's very entertaining (but informative) talks, to appreciate the demonstration of how his specially made laser pistol worked as a light pen (pointer) on the projection screen. This was all because Steve dislikes standing near an overhead projector. It seems the bright light from the speaker's side of the projector can be a bit hard on the eyes. With a humble complaint of how much he hates overhead projectors, Steve reaches into a tote bag left inconspicuously on the table and whips out a Buck Rogers version

Dave Carroll provided his commentary on the Sig meetings. This was followed by Random Access, conducted this time by Steve Gibson, who provided some crisp, even monosyllabic answers to questions from members. The meeting concluded with the usual raffle that this time, as can be seen from the report on page 1, contained many very valuable prizes.

Feature Articles

Arthur Boughey

As you read all the articles on memory that OCIPUG has featured lately, and as you listen to the enthusiastic presentations of yet more updates and new fully featured programs, does it ever strike you that out there somewhere is a mysterious force that causes many of us to behave like a dog chasing its own tail? Indeed we could re-formulate Parkinson's Law as "Computer Programs expand to fill the available memory!" We might even become a little paranoid about it and imagine that the hard-ware guys are in cahoots with the software developers. The first conspire to give us a hard sell on the need to upgrade our machines to permit them to run the latest programs and stay even with the competition. Then the latter group writes "enhanced" programs that soak up all our newly acquired memory and make our upgraded machines obsolete!

This is in reality very far from the truth. When an enterprising company markets at a bargain-basement price a software product like *Rapidfile* that does almost as much as its big expensive brother, is it an instant winner? You know the answer to that one. Generally speaking we do not dig juniors. So we have nobody but ourselves to blame for this seemingly perpetual alternation of hardware and software enhancements.

It is then a great encouragement just occasionally to find a software program that permits us to improve our computer productivity without involving any hardware change. RAM LORD is one such program. It lets us have as many as 20 TSR programs available at no more cost to our RAM memory than the kilobytes used by the largest of these resident programs. If we have a 640k RAM, or even 512k, that is a cost that most of us can live with.

Of course there have been programs before that were intended to address the same problem. DESQVIEW is one. You should investigate it if you have not already done so as a result of the presentation that we had a couple of meetings back. Following that meeting I re-examined DESQVIEW myself, but I was no more comfortable with it than the first time I tried. In this respect I was quite relieved to read the comment of Jerry Pournelle in the April issue of *Byte* (p.196)...*You don't have to have extra*

memory to use DESQVIEW; in theory it will swap your programs out to your hard disk, or even to floppies; but in practice that will drive you nuts...

Some of these other programs load your TSR programs into RAM one by one until you have committed so much of your memory that there remains sufficient only to run a given applications program. Should you then wish to run another and larger applications program that requires more RAM, you must download one or more of the TSR's. Moreover, you generally have to do so in the reverse order to which they were entered.

There are several further difficulties with these other products. Some TSR programs, noticeably SIDEKICK, may be particular about the position in which they are loaded. Others can likewise be touchy about precedence, or clash with another TSR. In any case, the amount of memory used by the TSR's is cumulative. For every one that you add, there is a corresponding deduction from the amount of RAM remaining to run applications programs.

I like RAM LORD because it avoids such problems. Each TSR is held separately from the others and will not prove incompatible in use with them. The TSR's can be loaded in any order. One can be selected as the default to be brought on first when your system is booted. Even without Expanded or Extended memory, it is possible to leave 350k out of your maximum 640k still available, for even the most sophisticated TSR programs rarely exceed 200k in size.

For myself I currently load Smartkey (97k), PCOutline (136k), Wondir (23k), the Proximity thesaurus (96k) and Sidekick (63k) into RAM LORD. The cumulative total memory requirement of these five T.S.R's is 415k, the size of the largest, PCOutline is 136. Thus with Ram Lord I theoretically save 279k against the total requirements of these programs if they were to be loaded in the ordinary way one after the other. Ram Lord tells me that in practice I have actually saved 250k. So I can have more than 300k of RAM memory still available, which covers the applications I want to run, even large programs such as Lotus 123, dBASE III Plus, or WordPerfect 4.2. I am writing this feature article on the Norton Editor, saving the file to a 64k RAM disk. I can go directly into a DOS Shell,

using more RAM for the second COMMAND.COM file and for the Editor, and still have 304k free RAM remaining.

RAM LORD contrives to swap TSR's in and out of your hard disk by the use of hot keys. These can if required be the same as those that will call up these programs in the normal course of events. Sidekick for example can be given a [Ctrl][Alt] combination as hot key. There is a slight pause while [Ctrl][Alt] swaps in Sidekick. Then pressing a second [Ctrl][Alt] brings up Sidekick's familiar main menu. In as brief a moment two key strokes, or combined key strokes, will swap all the RAM LORD TSR's right out of RAM. This is very convenient when running a program like Ventura that requires 500k or more of free memory.

I use in addition several small TSR programs that I load with the aid of my autoexec file. These include Cruise Control and Dosedit. In this position they do not clash with any of the larger TSR's included in Ramlord, and their memory use is so small I can afford to ignore it. Naturally a program like RAM LORD requires some initial care during installation. The hotkeys must be selected so that they do not overlap those allocated to other TSR's. Nor should they conflict with the use of keys, like the grey +, or the numerical 5 on the old style keyboard, to which some special function may already have been attached by one of the programs you have loaded. Besides Sidekick, for which allowance has been made, a few other TSR programs are awkward to handle. These are described and discussed in the Ram Lord manual.

So, if you want to hang on to your 640k max a little longer, and postpone having to cope with what if we had followed Steve Gibson's advice we would call "MORE MEMORY," contact Waterworks Software, 913 Electric Avenue, Seal Beach CA 90740 and mount up to 20 of your favorite TSR programs where they are readily accessible but can remain happily on your hard disk without conflict and on instant call.

The Ram Lord manual contains an added bonus. Steve Gibson has written there a short expose entitled "*The History and Technology of TSR; Terminate and Stay Resident Software.*" You will enjoy reading it.



John Goodman

The member spotlight this month falls on someone who is literally head and shoulders above most of the rest of us, in physical stature, technological ability, and in service to the Club.

At Club meetings the imposing tall bearded figure of Dr. John M. Goodman needs no further identification. Normally his voice is moderated to an appropriate tone, but he is amongst the very few of us who could effortlessly carry to the back seats of the Science Hall without the aid of a public address system.

John joined the Club in 1986 and was elected to the Board of Directors as Vice-President for 1987. He was re-elected Vice-President for 1988. This position in the Club would be sufficiently demanding of itself for the majority of us, but John's official club responsibilities extend far beyond that. He is the *Coordinator* of the popular New Member/New User Sig group, the best introduction that we have to computers and to Club activities. He is the *Designated Guru* for the DOS Sig group, to which he devotes a considerable amount of time. You will see his name on the Board logo as joint *SYSOP* every time that you access our BBS. You will also find him listed as *Technical Editor* for README.DOC. In this last activity he not only advises on technical aspects of the Ventura newsletter program, but himself edits the BBS, Tech. Corner, and Random Access pages of README.DOC, as well as handling the report on Raffle Prizes won at each General Meeting.

None of these listed positions is any sinecure. They all involve long hours of toil, totally devoid of any financial recompense. While it is true that such service is a traditional feature of computer user groups throughout this land, it is rare to find individuals willing to devote to it such a high

proportion of their time. As if this were not enough, John also serves as a Resource Person for the Club. I am sure that he is commonly called as a resource of last resort by some member, driven frantic because their system has suddenly come to a dead stop. I am equally sure that such callers always receive sympathetic assistance. John has a whimsical sense of humor that occasionally breaks through. It must help on such occasions.

John is that comparative rarity amongst us, a California native son. He developed an interest in computers at high school. Like many Californians he moved East for his education, taking a B.A. at Swathmore and his doctorate in Physics at Cornell. Computer work played an essential and increasing role in these studies. Back later in California he held a number of academic positions, including six years at Harvey Mudd College in the Claremont system. He is now a full time computer consultant, but retains some links with academia, serving as an Adjunct Professor for National University. He is interested in and collects modern art and lives in Westminster with his wife, who is Dean of Students at Los Angeles Valley College. We sometimes see her at our General Meetings; a clash between commitments prevents her more frequent appearance there. John has a son pursuing a Ph. D. degree in Math at the University of Chicago, and a daughter majoring in Cognitive Science at M.I.T.

John, we very much appreciate your many varied and valuable contributions to our now burgeoning club, and we wish you and your family well. We would be exceedingly hard put to it to manage without you.

A.B.

SpinRite

What It Is and How It Works

Linda Lydekkers and John Goodman

Ed. Note This account of SpinRite uses Linda's report of the brief description Steve Gibson had time to give us at the March General Meeting, checked and expanded by John so as to provide a more complete account of this highly innovative utility program. A.B. Linda's personal remarks are indicated by [L.L.]

In addition to being a dynamite speaker and exceptionally lucid author, Steve Gibson is also one fine programmer. We have enjoyed hearing him speak to many OCIPUG meetings. He displays his writing skills every week in his Tech Talk column for InfoWorld. Now his company, Gibson Research Corporation, has released its latest product, SpinRite, and it shows us that his understanding of our computers is much deeper than we might have any reason to suspect from even his very fine work on stage and paper. Were he not a very clever programmer and generally determined person, SpinRite would not even exist. Indeed, up till now no program that did what it does was available at any price.

Steve calls his new program "The WHITE TORNADO of hard Disk Utilities". Several of our members were privileged to have early samples of this program to work with (beta test copies). I [L.L.] saw one of these in action when I had a problem with my hard disk, so like many of the other members I was anxious to hear more about the latest released copy (version 1.1). Poor Steve will be licking a lot of stamps to mail out all the orders he is getting for his product. It has sold \$90,000 in just the first three weeks it has been out and the ads have not come out yet!

What does SpinRite do? In order to understand the answer to that question you must first understand how the hard disk of an IBM compatible personal computer works in some detail.

The hard disk stores data in magnetic form and that data is written to the disk on a number of concentric rings or "tracks." The tracks are divided into "sectors," sort of like slices of a pie. These sectors are all numbered so the computer can find them when it needs to write data to them or read it back.

When the computer writes or reads data from the disk it does so one sector at a time. In part the data is broken up this way because we may only need to reference a

smallish amount at a time. In part it is because our computers cannot normally "swallow" as much data as is on a whole track all in one gulp.

In fact, once one sector has been read there is a short delay before the computer is ready to read the next sector. If the sectors are numbered around the track in order (1, 2, 3....) then this delay may mean that the next sector will already have gone by before the computer is ready to read it. To cope with this problem a clever engineer some years ago invented "disk interleave." This just means numbering the sectors in a funny way. For example, if we have 17 sectors per track and we are using a 3:1 interleave the sector numbers will go: 1, 7, 13, 2, 8, 14, 3, 9, 15, 4, 10, 16, 5, 11, 17, 6, 12.

This funny numbering normally is accomplished only once, during low level formatting which is done when your hard disk is first set up devoid of data.

Each sector begins with some special sector-addressing information, the ID header, followed by 4096 data bits organized into 512 bytes and followed by some additional bits of error correction information. Drives which use MFM encoding store 17 such sectors per track while RLL encoding squeezes 26 sectors into the same space. The ID header contains the sector's complete address, consisting of the sector's cylinder, head, and sector number. The complete address appears at the beginning of each sector as an extra safety measure to allow complete verification of the proper sector prior to reading or writing. When the disk controller wants to either read or write a sector of data the heads are first positioned over the proper cylinder, then the proper head is selected and continuously read while the controller waits for the proper sector ID header to appear. It is important to understand that whether the controller is reading or writing a sector, the sector is always located by reading searching for the matching sector ID header.

When the disk controller attempts to read or write information to a sector it first checks the ID header to be sure it is positioned over the right one. Next it writes or reads the data. In order to reduce the number of errors in this process it actually reads the whole sector each time and uses the error correction information not only to detect errors but also to correct them. It can do this flawlessly as long as the largest distance from the first erroneous bit to the last one is less than 11 bits.

As long as the Error Correction Code (ECC) suffices to "repair" the damage, DOS gives no message to the user. Even though the hard disk controller tells DOS about each

of the correctable errors, DOS refuses to let the computer user hear anything about them.

If, on the other hand, the damage to the data is so bad that the ECC is not enough redundant information to allow reconstructing the original data then a real data error occurs. DOS responds to this situation with an error message.

If the error is in the sector ID header it may prevent DOS from identifying the sector. In that case the message is "Sector Not Found." If it is in the data area of the sector, we get the dreaded DOS message "Bad Sector Error, Abort Retry or Ignore."

It is the nature of hard disk errors to grow as a consequence of disk wear and tear, drive alignment drift, accumulated surface and head abrasion, power-up data softening nightmares and surface defect migration. The controller's ECC (error correction code) tenaciously holds onto the data as long as it can, but when the sector's errors have become too large to correct the controller simply reports that the sector could not be read at all.

Remember, DOS ignored the controller's urgent reports that disk sectors needed correction. DOS's logic must be that "since the sector was corrected, and the data is therefore okay, we won't worry about it." But if it had instead reacted to these error messages, the disk controller's information COULD have been used to rewrite or relocate the sector long before the data became completely unreadable.

Steve presented a lot of this information about this during the meeting, but he also has included the foregoing and more with SpinRite (of course I [L.L.] bought a copy and so should anyone who owns or operates a computer with a hard disk). It really increased my understanding of this fickle, but useful device. You don't have to know all the technical information, if that is not your style, but like chicken soup-it can't hurt, and may just well help.

There is no question as to whether SpinRite can help. Speaking from the point of view of a person who has had difficulty with a hard drive and suffered the frustration of trying to get it all back in working order (with the help of some very fine and generous members of this club for whom I am ever so grateful), I [L.L.] am looking forward to using SpinRite.

Here are some of SpinRite's major features: It will...

- ...refresh the low level formatting of a standard MS- or PC-DOS disk partition without destroying the data. Thus this can be done without having to backup all the

data beforehand and restore it afterwards. (Of course it is still a very good idea to do regular backups anyway as a protection against "hard disk melt-down."

- ...optimize the sector interleave factor for maximum possible data transfer rates.
- ...perform what may be the industry's most extensive surface defect testing with worst-case data pattern scrubbing and endangered data relocation.

There are a few cautions you should note. This is a very powerful program and in some situations it may cause problems instead of fixing them. Steve has attempted to make the program smart enough to detect those situations and refuse to run when it does, but the user is still

responsible in the end for avoiding them if possible.

First of all, users of PRIAM's mass storage products or Plus Development's HARDCARD products simply should not use SpinRite.

Next, if you have any copy-protected software installed on your disk you MUST remove it before using the SpinRite low-level reformatting function.

Finally, SpinRite should not be run when there is any multitasking, disk caching or network software active. Perhaps the easiest way to be sure of this is to prepare a special bootable DOS disk and put SpinRite on it. If you need a special device driver to access your disk you will

also need it and a suitable CONFIG.SYS file. Finally you might have an AUTOEXEC.BAT file which invokes SpinRite as well.

A last word of wisdom from Steve: **PARK YOUR HARD DISK EVERY TIME YOU SHUT YOUR SYSTEM OFF.** SpinRite includes a special PARK.COM program he wrote to make this easy to do.

SpinRite sells for \$59.00 (plus 6% sales tax makes it \$62.54). If you would like to send for a copy mail your \$62.54 plus \$1.50 shipping/handling (\$64.04 total) to: Gibson Research Corporation, P.O. Box 6024, Irvine, CA 92716. Phone number (714) 854-1520.

The Fall of Apple Computer Corporation

Steve Gibson

Apple Computer recently stunned the computer industry with its lawsuit against Hewlett-Packard (HP) and Microsoft. Deciding that Hewlett-Packard's Windows-based New Wave product and Microsoft's Windows 2 operating environment "look and feel" too much like the Macintosh, Apple has requested our government to force HP and Microsoft into removing these products from the marketplace and to destroy any and all copies which may already exist.

Unfortunate as this move is, it's hardly surprising in light of the facts. Apple Computer exists today for one single solitary and increasingly shaky reason: *The Macintosh's user-interface, which they lifted largely in its entirety from Xerox Corporation many years ago, makes computers easier to use.* Since computers are inherently hard to use, any improvement in their ease of use imbues such computers with a large competitive advantage. Until quite recently Apple has enjoyed a virtual monopoly on the mouse/icon/windowing desktop user-interface which has proven to be so much easier for new users to grasp.

Apple has been able to extort many times the fair price for its computers from its customers, becoming ridiculously rich at its customer's expense. Buyers of the Macintosh may realize full-well that similar computing power is available at one third to one fourth the cost from other vendors, but their need for mice, icons, and windows has left them with no alternative but to buy

from Apple. And while you might argue convincingly that Apple's unique user-interface does indeed triple or quadruple the real value of those machines to their users, there's nothing whatsoever inherently expensive about a particular user interface. Mice and icons are no more expensive than keyboards and command prompts.

And therein lies the motivation, cause, and consequence of Apple's recent insanity. Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard, and of course IBM with OS/2 and Presentation Manager following closely behind, are nearly ready to give the world what it's been waiting for: Reasonably priced, cost-based priced, personal computers with good mouse/icon/windowing user-interfaces.

Is Apple scared to death? It must be. Is it in trouble? Absolutely. Is this ridiculous lawsuit the last act of a desperate organization for which reality has finally come knocking? I believe it is.

I say this based on my non-law school reading of that original November 22nd agreement which Apple and Microsoft have now made public, and a copy of which I have. It seems quite clear to me, from my simple lay reading, that back in 1985 Apple and Microsoft decided to bury the hatchet once and for all in a dispute they were having over the copyright and ownership of user-interfaces descended from those originated at Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center (PARC). In this agreement Apple and Microsoft cross-license each other to use the look and feel of each other's products with words which include:

non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty free, perpetual, and nontransferable. It seems quite clear that Apple and Microsoft wanted to stop arguing and agreed that they both equally and mutually had rights to the Xerox goodies. Now today, in light of the way our industry has evolved, Apple's not sounding so happy about that.

Quoting from Apple's lawsuit which is called a "complaint for copyright infringement and unfair competition": "Apple has expended millions of dollars and years of creative effort in the development of artistic, aesthetically pleasing visual displays and graphic images..." That may be true, and I'm sorry that they don't have anything else going for them other than the way their screen looks, and the way you click on things with the mouse, because they really need it now.

Since the battle between Apple and Hewlett-Packard/Microsoft will be fought over the interpretation of commas and the implied "intent" of the parties back in 1985, I can't begin to predict the outcome, but if I owned any stock in Apple Computer Corporation, which I never have (nor in any computer-oriented company other than my own), I'd think very seriously about getting liquid with your next phone call, because I believe that the sole reason for Apple's past success is about to be pulled right out from under it. *I don't wish any harm on Apple, but I'm so firmly behind the interests of the computer user, that I see no way for harm to be avoided.*

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Ed. Note: LIBRARY NOTES, which normally appear in this section of the newsletter, will again be printed in the May issue of the README.DOC. It is planned to publish them on a regular monthly basis from then on. A. B.

PROGRAM REVIEW

GRAMMATIK II

Arthur Boughey

Everything these days must have a target. A TV program or advertisement has a target audience. A politician has a target vote. A salesman has a target customer. By the same token a writer, especially a business writer, must study the target reader.

We will not consider here how to define a target reader, but how to ensure that, once recognized, this selected reader may be specifically addressed. For several years style analysis programs have been available that claim this capability. At first they were stand alone programs, like Jim Button's shareware program PC-Style, and the original GRAMMATIK. A more recent commercial program of this kind, *Right-Writer*, was mentioned in a feature article last month. There is a tendency now to include style analysis programs in high-end word processing programs. They should not be confused with style as in *font styles*.

Reference Software released a little time ago GRAMMATIK II, a new and enhanced version of its original style analysis product. This program can now survey your writing for double words, split infinitives, passive voice, wrong or vague words, awkward language, gender specific terms, overused phrases, pretentious or trite expressions, sentence length, unbalanced punctuation and misplaced capitalization. The analytical features of the original program have in GRAMMATIK II been improved to the point where they are so close to those of *RightWriter* that the selection of the one or the other program becomes essentially a matter of personal preference. A recent article in *InfoWorld* draws attention to other competing style analysis programs such as READABILITY, that some people might prefer rather than either of these two.

Like all analytical programs GRAMMATIK II provides an assessment of the reading level required for the comprehension of a given article, based on the

Flesch-Kincaid series of tests. Aim at a Grade 8 or 9 level for articles in README.DOC; maybe Grade 5 for your boss - he has to absorb a whole page at a glance as he speed-reads through your material.

If instructed to do so, Grammatik will compare your sentence structure in four respects with *Lincoln's Gettysburg address*, *Hemingway's Snows of Kilimanjaro* and a typical *Insurance form*. You might aspire to imitate none of the above, but at any rate you will know where you stand relative to them. Grammatik also provides on request a list of word frequencies. Should you discover that you are overusing some words, this word list indicates where you must get busy with a thesaurus to obtain more sparkle in your writing.

The program offers several procedural choices, whether to look at marked items right away, or mark them continuously, then return to review the whole document, and so forth. It will detect typos, like a space before a period, and duplicated letters. Long sentences are marked, as are obscure ones. Slang and jargon are also marked, and elaborate phrases, for which a shorter alternative may be suggested. The color screen displays of these various messages and of the program choices have been carefully selected, they are pleasing to the eye.

The GRAMMATIK II manual likewise is attractive and instructive. It is adequate to its task. Once you have installed the program on your machine, the online help screens may suffice to direct you.

Along with the manual comes what is described as the *world's shortest writing course*, with a nominal cover price of \$4.95. Anyone who read my first feature article in January's README.DOC might be excused for thinking that I had plagiarised this booklet in its entirety. In fact my article came from a background of over 50 yrs of editorial experience and professional writing. It was with something of a shock that I read this booklet and realized that my 50 yrs of hard labor was condensed there into about 50 seconds of reading. But that was always the American way. Analyze how it is done, then explain how to get everybody doing it.

If you are seriously trying to improve or direct your writing, you will find the kind of help offered by GRAMMATIK II indispensable. It is not a unique program, several competitors have been mentioned. I suspect that among these competing

programs, the one that will gain a decisive edge over the rest of the field will be the first one to bring out a TSR version. Reference Software has announced its intention to bring out GRAMMATIK III in June 1988. *Advance notices for Grammatik III suggest that it will have a RAM-Resident mode*. Should you be new to style analysis programs, you might like to wait several months. Meanwhile you can download Jim Button's shareware program PC-Style from the BBS, or get it from Bonnie on disk, and try one out.

GRAMMATIK II sells for \$89; together with the Reference Set Dictionary & Thesaurus it is \$159. It can be obtained from Reference Software, 330 Townsend St. Suite 135, San Francisco CA 94107, or from many software dealers. Call Reference Software (415)-541-0222 for faster service or enquiries as to the II or III versions.

OPPORTUNITY STILL KNOCKS

Ed note: *If you thought that the garage birth of the Apple computer was a unique event, consider the following notice that appeared in the April 1988 Calendar announcements of the Boston Computer Society. Members may be more familiar with the Dell Corporation, Austin, Texas under the name of its products, PC's Limited, whose adverts are featured in many computer magazines - A.B.*

...Michael Dell unveils his newest PC's

At age 23, he is the youngest CEO in the computer industry. Starting in a college dorm room four years ago, he has built Dell Computer Corporation into a \$200-million company that is rapidly becoming one of the most influential manufacturers of IBM-compatible personal computers. Along the way, he has challenged the entire personal computer industry to rethink the way it sells, services, and supports personal computers. At the BCS's April 27 General Meeting, Michael Dell will discuss the unique philosophies that have made his PC's Limited computers so successful. And he will present the world premiere of three major new MS-DOS and OS/2 computers that are expected to become cornerstones of Dell's computer line...

WHAT ARE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS?

Terry Currier

Once you get a computer it seems that it is ordained that you are going to get onto every computer company mailing list. Among those that I always get by the droves are ads for computer courses. Usually the classes are for a two day period and will cost between \$500 and \$800. That breaks down to about \$40 an hour. Some of these are very good and what you learn is very helpful to you.

The first point I wish to make here is that some of you may be ignoring a real bargain computer class, and not realize what you miss. The biggest bargains are the SIG (Special Interest Groups). They meet for three hours and discuss much the same topics as in the professional seminars. What is not discussed there you can raise yourself, and the people present can generally find the answer. All this at no cost, as opposed to the \$40 an hour you might spend elsewhere, so think about what you are missing.

Another point - many people at SIG meetings leave at the end of the speakers, not waiting for the Random Access session. Usually there is always something you could learn from other people's question's even if you don't have any of your own. By the way if you do wish to take a course, I would recommend that you look into the New Horizons computer courses since they help us by allowing some of the SIG's to meet there.

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SIG REPORTS

REAL ESTATE SIG

Stan Sabin

Our March meeting was a fantastic success. Norm Neinchel, the author of "REAL ESTATE STRATEGY" presented our program. The normal meeting time is from 8 A.M. till 10 A.M. on the last Tuesday of the month, however for this program we extended the time an extra hour and we used every minute. The software consists of two main modules, one for single family residences and the other for Multi-family-Commercial transactions, etc. There were over 100 people in attendance (our second largest turnout) and most of them were present for the whole program. All of the comments about the meeting have been favorable and we hope that everyone learned a lot.

Our meeting for April will be held again at the Newport Boardatorium and will consist of two main portions, a Presentation by Bill Hutchings (BAM Software) who will demonstrate the "REAL ESTATE OFFICE MANAGER" software program. This program does everything from Complete Accounting, check writing, Sales Management, Agent performance, "Farm" Marketing, keeps track of multiple commission rates by agent (up to 10 levels), to an automatic calendar, etc. This is another product from the same people who demonstrated their very popular "REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL" about six months ago.

The second portion of the program will again be a "Random Access" question and answer session. This popular portion of the program was not available at our March meeting due to the length of our main program so I'm sure there are many of you with questions. Join us at the next meeting April 25th, 8-10 A.M.

WORDPERFECT SIG

Jim Perrat

On our last meeting Saturday, March 26, 1988 at 12:30 PM we were fortunate to have one of the WordPerfect representatives, Dave Wagoner, as a guest speaker.

The meeting was thrown open to question from the SIG members. Dave gave us some deeper insight into what WordPerfect has in store for us. For instance we learned that there will be updates to PlanPerfect and Library as well as WordPerfect. All the updates should be out within a couple of months. The new 5.0 program has been written in an entirely different language than 4.2 or Library. If anyone is thinking about getting PlanPerfect or Library, they are advised to wait until the new versions are released. Macros written in Library now will not be compatible with WordPerfect 5.0.

As usual the discussions usually lead to printer problems. Dave informed us that WordPerfect has a special disc for HP printers. Call customer service and they will send it out for a small charge. However it is for 4.2 and will not be necessary for the 5.0 version. Many other items on soft and hard fonts were discussed.

WordPerfect 5.0 will have its own macro editor. It is not to be confused with Libraries macro editor. Libraries macro editor will only work on PlanPerfect and DataPerfect.

During the meeting we discussed setting some policies and goals of the SIG. Next meeting we will have a questioner to try to determine better just what the members want from the meetings.

We have decided to extend the time to 3:00pm so as to accommodate better all the members. The first hour will be devoted to the beginners. Then after a short break we will have a half hour of question and answers. During this time, Glen Grosbeak of WordPerfect will be the moderator. The remainder of the time will be devoted to the advanced users.

The April meeting will deal with the simple merge. How to build a data base, how to write a form letter and the merge the two. The advanced talk will focus on using Libraries Notebook to build the data base for the merge.

INVESTOR SIG REPORT

Ralph Minarich

This report is an outline, to inform both current and new members, just where we have been and indeed where "you" would like see us focus in the future! NOTE: Gordon Savage & I will Team/Co-ordinate future Inv/Sigs, so contact either of us with your suggestions for topics/software/speakers, etc. Its Your Sig, we are simply volunteers working for OCIPUG.

July 87: Newport Commodities hosted OCIPUG members with an entre into what the futures markets were all about...Grain moves in weather conditions, Meats due to supply/demand forces, Metals with inflation/political worries...etc. Several Programs were discussed along with Data-Stream-Companies.

August 87: Prudential Bache hosted our group, with info on Foreign Currencies, Primes & Scores, as a 5-year play warrant (actually an option). Buying/Selling of Korean Funds due to political unrest. Several Demo's were examined.

September 87: We began our permanent home at New Horizons. Dean Hartley was responsible for the success of this meeting as he brought in the Overhead Projector for all to enjoy. Carl Miller illustrated his Metastock Program with its' many features. We also looked at PC-Quote from Canada along with Dow Jones Mkt Analyzer+. This was the meeting where I illustrated how to Short-the-Mkt...with the use of Index-Put-Options...but of course there were NO TAKERS! Actually there was an individual that said they would call, but being a Toll Call...they never did!

October 87: We hosted two people from Dean Whiter relative to Mutual Funds. Additional chairs were needed of course! We examined the "Crash" and how it related to the Mutual Fund Mkt., what to watch out for in the area of Loaded and No-Load Funds, pit falls of these vehicles, advisors.

November 87: Tax Night...Diversified Securities V.P. Terry Anderson was extremely aware of the 87 Tax-Codes and related his expertise to the surprise of everyone. Tim Smith found the sig so informative that he

scheduled the Tax segment we saw at the February General Meeting.

December 87: With only a week until Christmas, no speakers were scheduled. We looked at Fund Master & Tele-Scan, as investment programs of interest.

January 88: We repeated the December topics, George Moore gave an in-depth look at Fund Master, which was very informative. He also Xeroxed many copies of the outline from the Fund Master program.

February 88: This was Muni-Bond Night. This program was reported in the March Readme.Doc if more information is needed.

March 88: We did a Workshop where anyone could move around the room and examine five separate programs...Dow Jones Mkt Analyzer, Metastock, Fund Master, Tele-Scan, and as a special treat...Ron Markel ran Technician on his Slate of the Art...IBM-Laptop. Lots of fun for anyone with a genuine interest in some of the commercial programs around. Try Before You Buy Night.

April 88, and May 88, are now being scheduled for Topics of interest...and that is really the point. How about your interests? Contact Gordon or Ralph and we'll make it happen!!

NEW MEMBER/NEW USER

Martin Power

[The following essay was submitted by Martin Power, who drove in from Riverside that morning just for this SIG and to join OCIPUG. Welcome, Martin, and thank you for sharing your impressions.]

A new member's impressions of the new member/new user SIG meeting:

There were lots of grey heads like mine, a comfortable environment and a hard working leader.

We got a lot of USEFUL STUFF: Money saving tips on hardware and software. Good advice to allow room in budget for Training and Maintenance. A definition of the "most useful peripheral

device for your computer" as a good friend with the same hardware and software you have. This idea, humorously presented, is very true. More good information about resetting the machine, not being able to damage the hardware by anything typed on keyboard, but a warning about the vulnerability of your software. Tips on lightning, posture, comfort, power, etc. The many advantages of telecommunications.

FINAL IMPRESSION: This is a bargain. I'm definitely coming back.

MODEM SIG

Terry Currier

On Thursday April 7 the MODEM SIG met and demonstrated the communications program GT POWERCOMM 13.00. I registered with them about a year ago and got away from using it for awhile. Everybody kept asking me questions about PROCOMM. In using it again, I remembered why I liked it so much (now I use it more than Procomm). When you first bring it up it automatically brings you into the phone directory, a minor thing, but after all that is what I am using it for in the first place.

The phone directory is what will really impressed people. It not only will list the phone numbers of the BBS that you call, but you can put in the hours of the BBS (to remind yourself). It will also allow you to select the default protocol for each number and putting in your password with each number so you can have a different password for each number (if you so choose). The phone directory will also show you the date that you last call the number and the amount of download and uploads you've done. When you do download a file, GT will give you a window showing the number of bytes you have on your disk asking if you want to continue (Y). This way you know if you really can fit it first or if you are using a floppy, or ramdisk if you need to do some moving around.

Next a window will so you the default protocol for that number asking if

you wish to change (CR) then a window pops up beginning the download (you don't have to retype the filename in). The bottom status window of GT will show to the user the length of time you have been connected on to the number called, and the number of K bytes in the capture. A very useful utility. It also gives you the time of day in the far right corner. The phone directory can also be sorted by you within GT by name, or number of downloads. Getting used to the commands of GT is no real problem if you got along with Procomm.

GT has a lot of nice aids, such as a simple ALT-8 for viewing the capture file; you don't need to type in the name (this feature helps you decide if you want to keep the capture). If you ever wanted to set up a BBS, it has a host mode that is a GREAT BBS setup. In fact, I got a flyer from the GT people when I registered with them showing there are several BBS's that use it.

A couple of shortages of GT are that it doesn't allow for the setting of the duplex in the phone directory. But the biggest is the lack of support from the author in respect to letting its registered users know about updates. With Procomm I got a card from them when the update came out. With GT, you see it out on BBS or at the computer clubs. I sure they would do better with more support at least more request for updates.

Registration is \$50 and upgrades are \$10. There will be a version 14.00 out this month.



Technical Corner

From the Technical Editor's Desk

John M. Goodman, Ph.D.

Welcome to another session in the Technical Corner. We are still finding our way around the equipment and software used to create this newsletter. That has meant that there have been a number of "bugs" in our production. Come to think of it, this is not unlike what happens with Version 1.0 of a number of software packages I can think of!

I hope that these little or not so little glitches will have not caused you undue grief. Sometimes I know I have mentioned in this spot some feature that I expected to have published in this corner of the newsletter only to find out later that it did not make it. For sending you on such a wild goose chase I can only apologize.

This time I got smart. I am writing this after flowing the articles into the pages for my section. So now I *know* what will and will not appear this month (I think).

You will find a familiar section is missing. There were only a very few questions submitted this month for Random Access and those were handled quite competently, I thought, by our guest Random Access Coordinator, Steve Gibson.

Write to me with your horror stories—and your tales of delight. Our members will benefit greatly from hearing how it has gone for you with some problem they are only now facing.

There were a number of interesting questions from the floor, but unfortunately we did not capture them on paper and so I cannot now recall and answer them. If we have enough questions, this section will return next month.

Please submit your questions in writing, both for answers at the general meeting and for discussion in this space.

Last month we had our first Letter to the Technical Editor. Also our last one, so far. Write me with your horror stories—and your tales of delight. Our members will benefit greatly from hearing how it has gone for you with some problem they are only now facing.

We had some commercial product reviews last month. This month we have two articles about another product, Procomm Plus.

I will be publishing more reviews in future months. If you would like to write in praise of your favorite program (or to pan your most hated one), speak up. We can help you with the English; what we need are your ideas.

Finally this month we are publishing a "thread" from the Bulletin Board, showing you how an idea can get discussed there by several people.

This newsletter is for you. Please tell me what you like and what you would like to see done differently in this section.

I am listening.



PROCOMM PLUS - IS IT WORTH IT?

Dave Lorenzini

I don't know many people who use *Procomm Plus*, the new communications software by Datastorm Technologies, Inc., of Columbia, Missouri. Many of my friends have mentioned downloading the "Test Drive" version for no cost from the bulletin board and complained that it really didn't work that well.

Anyone who had this sad experience should consider stepping up and actually purchasing the full blown, commercial version of Procomm Plus. If, like me, you are a registered user of the original shareware version of Procomm, you received a special upgrade offer from Datastorm allowing you to purchase Procomm Plus for only \$25. If you recently purchased Procomm, version 2.4.2 or registered a shareware copy, you can upgrade for the difference between what you paid for Procomm registration and the list price of Procomm Plus which is \$ 75.

(Incidentally, Datastorm still markets Procomm 2.4.2 both as shareware and through direct sales. For some of you it may still be the program of choice.)

I liked Procomm and decided to accept the Datastorm upgrade offer.

When the new printed manual and two-disk set arrived in late February 1988, I was anxious to try it out. The manual is 340 pages long and well organized. There are chapters on getting started, setting up your modem, understanding basic commands, customizing operations, using host mode, and writing script files. There are also exhaustive appendices.

Datastorm calls their software "Intuitive Communications," and that's how it felt to set it up. I practically loaded and ran Procomm Plus without using the manual based on my experience with the previous version. Most of the commands were truly intuitive, not only for a former Procomm user, but probably for anyone familiar with the use of modems. However, the surprises were yet to come.

This program is loaded with so many goodies that I judge it to be one of the BEST VALUES on the software market.

MENU ORIENTED

This is a package which will appeal to everyone. A beginner will find it easy to use. The Alt-Z command will bring up a help screen grouped by how a feature is used. A tap on the Escape key always brings you back to the main screen (or undoes whatever else you started to do). An Alt-D brings up the dialing directory. Bring the cursor to the number you want to dial and press ENTER.

That's all there is to it.

A Lotus 123-type interface pops up on the top two lines when you press the backwards-single-quote key, (located on the same key as the tilde character). Not only does this menu allow you to select commands with a single letter, but it also shows the Alt- key combination you could have pressed to do the same task without using the menu.

CUSTOMIZING

Once you have learned enough to find your way around you may wish to make Procomm Plus work more "your way." That is easy to do using its extensive customizing features. The setup screens have been greatly expanded, allowing you to set more than 100

This program is loaded with so many goodies that I judge it to be one of the BEST VALUES on the software market.

operating characteristics to suit your personal taste. Some of these items include selection of up to 8 COM ports, setting window colors and choosing the directories where you want to store various files.

I especially liked the four user-definable hot keys. I set one to use *WORDSTAR* as a

non-document editor, one for Vernon Bueg's *LIST.COM* to use as a view utility, one for Dr. John Goodman's *NO-BS.COM* to clean up the backspace characters (and the mistakes they were meant to correct) which may get sprinkled throughout the log file of a communications session, and the last one to run Procomm's own built-in editor *PCEDIT.EXE*. This little gem was added to the package after the manual was printed, and is described in a file named *ADDENDUM* on the disk.

HOST MODE

A Lotus 1-2-3-type interface pops up.... Not only does this menu allow you to select commands with a single letter, but it also shows the Alt-key combination you could have pressed....

Probably the feature which surprised me the most was Host Mode. It has all the features of a mini-BBS! You invoke it with the usual Alt-Q, set auto-answer with Alt-Y, and when callers log on, they are greeted with a customized message screen. They can also display a help screen that you can modify. There is a history file as before to show what actions the caller took. Another file records what files were uploaded. There is a message file which you can edit with *PCMAIL*, which is also provided by Procomm Plus.

Can any stranger call your computer when it is in Host mode, you ask? It is up to you. You can make your computer "open" or "closed." If you make it closed, only those you list in the user file will be allowed access. In addition, you can assign a privilege level for each caller to specify what access you wish to allow that person. For example, you may allow some just to upload and download files to a directory you select, while allowing others to do anything at all, taking full control of your machine remotely.

One nice touch: To help you be sure you have set up your Host Mode as you wish, Procomm Plus will allow you to simulate Host mode locally all on your own computer. This way you can see how it will look and react to a remote user without having to have two computers, modems and phone lines.

SCRIPT FILES

Datastorm has made every effort to make the script, or command, files more useful. I could never understand the previous manual's description of script files. The new manual, however, devotes 80 pages to an updated version of a script language called ASPECT, and includes many examples on the disks. There are files for Compuserve, the Source, Genie, RBBS, Dow Jones, and others. You select the baud rate and local phone numbers. You can include your name and even your password. I was able to set up a script file for downloading messages from the Autodesk forum on Compuserve, and then automatically sign off! No more typing account numbers and complicated passwords.

There are numerous little features which make this software a pleasure to use. I particularly liked the italicized "Notes" and "Tips" profusely added by the authors to help users utilize the features better and to describe normal modem practices to beginners.

The Appendices include a description of protocols, an introduction to communications, and a question and answer section covering almost every problem imaginable.

This is not shareware. This is a full-blown commercial package. For your purchase, you also receive direct support by Datastorm (5 free, though not toll-free, phone calls during the first 90 days; additional support available at extra cost). One of the script files is set up to call their own bulletin board.

As if this weren't enough, Datastorm has included several files with bulletin board numbers for many of the larger cities, including Southern California, a general one for the USA, and another one for the rest of the world.

This discussion has only touched on the many features of this fine program. When you get the feel of it, I'm sure you will be hooked, as I was.

On a scale of 1 to 10, I would probably give Procomm Plus a 10-Plus.

SOME BUGS IN PROCOMM PLUS

John Goodman

To those who have had any substantial experience with computer programs it will come as no surprise to hear that there are some "bugs" in *Procomm Plus*. It is, after all, only Version 1.0.

Some of the bugs are, by now, quite well known to Datastorm. They have released patches to fix five of these. You may get them by calling the Wellspring BBS in Irvine and downloading the files *DT_PATCH.ARC* and *DTPALL.ARC*. (You will have to sign on and register one day and then call back some days later to download as new users don't have immediate download privileges.)

These five patches are designed to fix problems with border colors, the handling of the Enter key and sending of a "Break" signal, errors with Kermit uploads and speeding up writing to the screen. You should read the documentation file before

applying the patches as in some cases you might regard "the cure as worse than the disease."

I recently learned that Datastorm has released a new version, 1.1, which will be sent free of charge to all registered owners of version 1.0. I suppose it will incorporate these five fixes plus a number of others.

Bugs being fixed in version 1.1 include

You should read the documentation file before applying the patches as in some cases you might regard the "cure as worse than the disease."

also, I believe, a fix to the DOS environment problems I detailed on our BBS recently. Briefly, if you have defined more than about 150 bytes of information in your DOS environment (by using the SET command) then you cannot use the Redisplay function (using Alt-F6) in Procomm Plus. If you have

defined more than 237 bytes in the environment you also lose the use of the ASPECT commands SHELL and DOS as well as the Alt-F4 "DOS gateway." In this regard, note that it does not matter how large your initial environment space is; perhaps you set that by a line in your *CONFIG.SYS* file that says something like this:

```
SHELL=C:\COMMAND.COM /P/E:384
```

Procomm Plus only cares how much of that space you have used.

I have also heard of a bug that shows up when one tries to call more than one number round-robin fashion.

I expect that in addition to fixing these bugs in the commercial version of Procomm Plus, Datastorm will very likely also fix these and other bugs that are known to exist in the "Test Drive" version that is being distributed on various bulletin boards around the country.

OCIPUG ON-LINE

John Goodman

One of the major benefits of membership in OCIPUG is access to our club's electronic remote bulletin board. In this section we try

each month to bring you some information that will help you use the BBS plus a sampling of what goes on there.

If you have difficulties getting connected

to the BBS, I would suggest you attend the Modem SIG meeting. Naturally I also would welcome a letter or a call from you. If your problem seems like one many people might be having then we will publish your letter and our answer to it.

EQUIPMENT

If you are new to telecomputing you may feel a bit intimidated at first. That is only natural as you explore what is essentially a foreign land. Let me see if I can help you with a few tips and define a few of the jargon terms.

"What modem should I buy?"

Don't buy a 300 baud modem. Up until very, very recently a 300 baud modem was a good choice for a beginner. Now it is just too limiting. In fact, we won't allow people to connect to our board at that speed.

Baud, by the way, is not quite the same as bits-per-second, although many people use the two terms interchangeably. What people call a 1200 baud or 2400 baud modem are really only 600 baud modems, but they do send 1200 or 2400 bits per second across the phone line. That rate is all that you or I normally care about.

Since it takes about ten bits to send one ASCII character, a 300 baud modem can only send about 30 characters per second.

The most common modems for use with personal computers now-a-days seem to be the 1200 "baud" kind, but the 2400 "baud" ones are fast becoming the new standard. There are even faster ones, up to about 10,000 bits per second, but since they use very special "protocols" they essentially can only be used in pairs to talk to each other.

So for now my recommendation is that you buy either a 1200 baud or a 2400 baud modem. If you can afford it, get the faster one since all the good ones, at least, can also work at 1200 (and 300) baud as well.

"Do I want an external or an internal modem?"

I usually recommend an external one. It connects to the serial port on your computer. If you have such a port the added cost of an external modem is slight, but the added flexibility it offers can be very valuable later on.

"What does it mean to be Hayes-compatible?"

The Hayes SmartModem was the first modem for personal computers which one could operate from the computer directly,

dialing calls, connecting and carrying on a conversation without once having to touch the modem or the telephone. It used a special command set for the necessary conversation between itself and the computer. Because it was so popular, most software authors wrote their programs to work with it. That, in turn led most competing modem manufacturers to make their modems work just like Hayes. Unfortunately, not all "Hayes compatible" modems are created equal. Be sure to ask if the modem you are thinking of getting implements ALL of the Hayes commands and registers or only a few of them. The more the better.

"What communications program do I want?"

We strongly recommend Procomm. You can get it from our club librarian practically for free (to try it out—if you like it you should register your copy with the authors, but even that is relatively inexpensive). It is one of the very best ones on the market. If you use it you will find lots and lots of other people who also use it who can help you learn how.

The Troubleshooter

Bob Todd

I found this gem in the Valley Computer Club Newsletter, April 1988 edition. There it is credited to the October, 1987 issue of the ACG Newsletter. As one who answers my share of questions on the phone I found it irresistible, especially as this is April, with its special day to honor all Fools. -JMG

"Hello...."

"Yes, I remember you. I got the Xerox of your disk. Yes, both pages. Yes I know it was double-sided, but that wasn't quite what I meant when I asked you to send me a copy of your disk.

"That's O.K., let's try to solve the problem over the phone. Put the disk in the disk drive. Close the door...."

"Fine, now close the disk drive door. (I hope he doesn't use Windows.)"

"No, no. You don't have to close the windows too—or pull the blinds either...."

"My office doesn't have any windows."

"Try striking the space bar. When we get the message "strike any key" on a machine that does not have an any key we generally find that the space bar seems to work just as well."

"What!? Your monitor just went blank? Look in the back of the computer and the monitor and see if the

cable is connected.

"It's too dark? Oh, you've just had a power failure and the lights are all out and you're going to open the blinds to see if the cable is connected...."

"I'll tell you what, why don't you call me back after you get the power back in your office and we'll try again. O.K.?"

"Sure. We're out of stock right now, but when the next shipment of cursors comes in I'll personally see that one gets sent to you right away. Bye."

"Mrs. Smith, I'm going for an extended lunch. When I get back I will be in conference all afternoon. Please hold all my calls."

COMPUTERS FOR THE BLIND

The messages exchanged on the BBS are a major part of what people use it for. Sometimes a "thread" develops which amounts to a conversation between a number of people extended over time. I have extracted here one such thread, this on the topic of computers for the blind.

Msg # 4241 Dated 11-07-87 01:27:37
From: EILEEN PLAMONDON
To: STEVE GRANDA
Re: (R)TDD

I don't have any direct information on this, but a client of mine runs a telecommunications business, and I know that they work with Plantronics. Since they're very knowledgeable in setting up major communications systems, I'm sure they'd have some info on it. If you're interested, I would suggest that you call Kimberly at Coastel (714) 432-1300. Tell her that you got her name from me and I'm sure she'll be happy to answer your questions if she can. You wouldn't happen to have any information on computers for the blind do you? I have a blind friend who could use some info. Thanx.

Msg # 4305 Dated 11-09-87 22:17:54
From: EILEEN PLAMONDON
To: ALL
Re: COMPUTERS FOR THE BLIND

Does anyone have any information on computers for the blind. I know very little about it and would like information on putting together a system for a blind friend. If you have ANY info on this, please let me know. Thanx!

Msg # 4369 Dated 11-13-87 19:45:24
From: RICK HALBARDIER
To: EILEEN PLAMONDON
Re: (R)COMPUTERS FOR THE BLIND

Eileen I know of a person who is blind that works with a computer he may be able to help you. Give me a call on Monday the

16th. of November and I will try to get some information for you. Thanks Rick K. Halbardier - work phone # (714) 842-9333 ext.# 1183

Msg # 4448 Dated 11-18-87 11:51:30
From: RICK HALBARDIER
To: EILEEN DLAMONDON
Re: I.B.M. PC FOR THE BLIND

Dear Eileen: I got in touch with that friend of mine concerning the IBM PC for blind people. He gave me the name of a company in Cambridge Mass. That is owned by Xerox Corporation, the name of the company is Kurzweil and they make several types of interfaces for products relating to blind people. I called that company and had them send some information out to me on their product line that I can send to you after I look it over. If you want to call them they have an (800) number. It is 1-800-343-0311. If you have any further questions concerning the system feel free to give me a call at my work # (714) 842-9333 ext. 1183. Also my friend Bob that is blind said if your friend has any questions he would be happy to talk to her, his phone number is (714) 786-3226. Thank you, Rick K. Halbardier

Msg # *4563 Dated 11-27-87 17:22:23
From: RICK HALBARDIER
To: EILEEN PLAMONDON
Re: IBM P.C. FOR THE BLIND

TO Eileen: I sent you a message concerning the information on the blind system for an IBM PC. It is BBS message # 4448. In case you haven't read it give me a call if you have any questions. Thank's, Rick K. Halbardier

Msg # *4861 Dated 12-14-87 22:03:36
From: EILEEN PLAMONDON
To: SANDRA HUGHES
Re: (R)COMPUTERS FOR THE BLIND

Hi, Sandra. I'm very glad to hear from you. My friend (she's also a client - I go to her and keep her books, accounting, etc. every week) is blind, and she runs a Deep Muscle Therapy business. She could really use a computer. The problem is that I've gone with

her to a convention or two, but when you're exposed to so many different components at once, it's hard to know what you need. I would love to talk with you or your son about his system. The most valuable information I could have is to discover exactly what we MUST have in terms of hardware and software, and what is merely optional equipment we might LIKE to have. Of course, any information on where to get the hardware at reasonable costs would also be greatly appreciated. It sounds like you're aware of a lot of other resources that Jan and I are not. Perhaps we could get together on this? I'd love to be able to see the system your son is using so I'd have a good idea of how everything interacts, but of course, I don't want to impose on you. Any information you could provide would be GREATLY appreciated. I'll bet your son could provide us with some excellent tips on USING the system, too. By the way, does he use a guide dog? Jan does; she has a beautiful golden retriever, Elvira, who is a great help to her. Please let me know via a message on this board if it's OK to call and discuss this or make arrangements to get together. Once again, thanks for your help.
 ***** THANK! *****

Msg # 5129 Dated 01-03-88 13:56:06
From: SANDRA HUGHES To: EILEEN PLAMONDON
Re: (R)COMPUTERS FOR THE BLIND

We'd be glad to have you and Jan stop by the house to see what we have. I could also show you some brochures, etc. on other types of equipment that might be helpful. It is most frustrating to decide which is the best way to go. Walden, my son, has not really become proficient with this system, but Bill White (a blind user at Assets, Inc.) has and would be most happy to visit with you. I would be happy to demonstrate what we have at our home. Please call. 545-0318. See you soon.

GETTING CONNECTED

What to do when you first call the OCIPUG BBS:

Set your communications program to dial our BBS number, with the speed set to either 1200 or 2400, parity set to NONE, data bits to 8 and stop bits to 1.

The numbers to call are listed in the back of this newsletter. At first, call *only* the OCIPUG public line. Once we upgrade you to a "security level" of 7 you can use the private line. You also cannot download any files before then. When you connect

successfully you will get a short message and then the BBS will ask you for your first, then your last name. Give your real names, please. Next you must give a password. You may use anything you like (up to 14 characters long) and it may contain any combination of numbers or letters. Capital or lower-case letters are all treated the same.

A piece of advice: Don't use anything for a password that someone else who knows you might plausibly guess. If you think someone has learned your password, change it. (If you don't know how, just ask us.)

REMEMBER your password. (So don't make it *too* obscure!)

You will be given a chance to read our bulletins. Please do so. They tell you some of the things we think you need to know.

Next come the messages. Read a few.

Leave a message to SYSOP. Tell us you are there and that you are an OCIPUG member. Once we verify that fact with our membership chairman we will upgrade your security level so you can use both phone lines, download files and enter most of our conferences.

Explore and enjoy.



PORTABLE COMPUTERS

by David S. Reinhart, Boston Computer Society

Portable computers are starting to make a big showing but there are still two big hardware problems plaguing them, namely displays and disk drives.

With the sole exception of the Zenith Z-181, portable LCD displays run the gamut from terrible to barely usable. Their contrast is awful, the aspect ratio makes pie charts look like watermelons, and the electronics driving them insist on acting like an IBM CGA. Give us a break, please!

The other types of displays available (electroluminescent, plasma, and CRT) offer improved readability but are decided power hogs. The Toshiba T3100 (which no one will call a bad looker or poor performer) needs 120 volts of AC. If you want to use it in-flight be sure to take a long extension cord. Quadram has some interesting ideas.

Instead of having two drives to gobble up battery power they squeeze in enough RAM to permit a fair sized RAM disk with enough memory left over to load and run your applications package. Copy your program over to the RAM drive after booting, stick your data disk in the drive, and go to town. The new Wispa solid state Winchesters, from England, would be ideal for this sort of set up. Done in CMOS, you can keep the data alive with very little power drain. NEC provides 128Kb of battery backed static RAM in their new Multispeed for the same reason. Who needs a hard disk?

Of course, the question still remains: what size diskette drive? Since everybody with a desktop PC has at least one 5 1/4" floppy drive, that size would seem the obvious choice. But the 3 1/2" floppies hold twice as much data and they seem so much more secure inside their little plastic cocoons. They really will fit in your shirt pocket, but they will also make a bigger

hole in your wallet.

Seeing how laptops are just starting to take off in a big way it is amazing to see the myriad ways already available for communicating with a desktop PC. There are outboard 5 1/4" drives for laptops, additional 3 1/2" drives for desktops (internal and external), null modems and communications packages, and special "floppy links" which let one machine control the drives of another. About the only thing I haven't seen is a laptop with one of each size drive built in, or am I just showing my ignorance?

If you have the room and the money an add-on 720Kb drive in your desktop PC is probably the way to go. Then again, if you have a machine like my Leading Edge Model D, putting in another drive means sacrificing a slot and a half the drive holes. The LE Model D has only four slots because so much of the electronics is on the motherboard. Stick in a hardcard drive, modem, accelerator card and an EMS board

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and the question of where to stick the 3 1/2" controller becomes one of "OK, what can I do without?" You'll quickly wish you had bought an external modem, not only because you'd have a free slot, but because you can use that modem on trips with the laptop.

Let's face it, proprietary internal modems are definitely overpriced. Don't forget the Migent Pocket Modem that has finally hit the retailers. I really wanted one of these, but I couldn't wait until they released. Being built into a RS-232 plug certainly puts it in the portable class. Me, I saw a Radio Shack 300bps acoustic modem on sale for \$30 (list \$149) and grabbed it. It may be slow, but it is also cheap. One advantage is that it can be used on almost any phone, not just those with modular jacks. The caveat to that is "designer" phones with weirdly shaped handsets.

With all the above factors in mind, here are the specifications for my dream laptop. Please note that it doesn't exist.

1. Intel 8086/8088 compatible CPU with clock speed greater than 4.77Mhz.
2. One 720Kb disk drive IF A. there is a 7Mb RAM disk AND B. 640K of system RAM, else
3. Second 720Kb drive.
4. Readable LCD display with normal aspect ratio.
5. TTL or composite and RGB outputs.
6. One parallel and one serial port.
7. Clock/calendar.
8. Expansion bus connector.

To me this seems like a very practical and workable setup. COMMAND.COM and some other DOS files go into the RAM disk and COMSPEC is set so that the system will look to that drive to reload the transient portion of the command processor. Depending on the memory available, applications programs are also copied into RAM. As you can see I really like the idea

of that large RAM disk. It just doesn't make sense to use limited battery power to spin motors around. Results get stored on floppy or transferred to the desktop machine.

If you are paranoid, carry an extra battery pack (and the design of the machine should allow changing packs without losing the memory). Most of the time, keep the machine plugged into AC or the cigarette lighter. By the way, all charging devices should be able to sense and bypass a fully charged pack. Nicad batteries don't like to be kept at full charge. They develop a "power memory" and will act discharged. Run them down to zero once in a while.

Who is going to build my dream laptop? Quadram has come close with the new Snap model. They just need to get together with the Wispa people and integrate that solid state disk. Then we can go places!



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Geri Corso	Jean Mowery	Ruth West
Dick Cruce	Doris Mulligan	Clark Westcott
Larry Cummings	Mohammed	Claudia Weyer
Barbara Davis	Mynuddin	Kristina White
Ron Davis	Holly Ngo	Scott Whitney
Robert Dickinson	Lucille Owens	Donald Wichner
Brenda Eckles	Diana Parr	Victor Williams
Roy Estes	Marc Patrick	John Yasment
Shirley Finbolt	Bob Peringer	
Judy Fricke	William Phillips	
David Garcia	Kent Pierce	
Bob Gauger	Steven Pierce	
Theodore Gilmore	Donald Primrose	
Steve Granda	Betty Rea	
	Jorge Schulz	
	Robert Shead	
	James Sherman	
	Alice Sibert	
	Claud Sibert	
	Miles Soberman	
	Victor Stanley	

OCIPUG FINANCIAL REPORT

Cash Balance February 29, 1988		\$6220.57
March 1988 Changes in Cash		
Cash Receipts		
Membership Dues	\$1527.00	
Library Fees	284.00	
Interest	26.06	
Advertising	302.32	
TOTAL	\$2139.38	
Cash Disbursements		
Printing	\$894.73	
Postage	117.16	
Meeting Expense	129.58	
Telephone	33.39	
Supplies	71.92	
TOTAL	\$2608.08	
Cash Balance, March 31, 1988		\$5695.48

Prepared by Walt Drew, Treasurer

We would like to welcome the following New Members to OCIPUG:

Cliff Adkins	Walter Srebnik
Reinhard Arnold	E. Thomas Suter
Yates Catlin	John Turner
James Diefenbac	Joe Velasquez
Jim Dobbs	Lee Vierra
Shirley England	Denese Wecker
Edward Fitch	Dick West
George Fowles	Shirley White
Juan Gallo	
Dave Gueldner	
William Hutchings	
Edward James	
Raymond Leybourne	
George Margolin	
Michael Marois	
Joyce Nansel	
Sig Nehring	
Sumiye Onodera	
Charlie Oostdyk	
Thomas Perduc	
Chris Pesavento	
Robert Plance	
Donald Pousha	
Arnold Quevedo	
Edward Scott	
Robert Smith	
John Squirrel	

1987-88 OCIPUG OFFICE HOLDERS

President	Stan Sabin	968-7307
Vice President	John Goodman	895-3195
Secretary	Steve Riddle	646-7434
Treasurer	Walt Drew	634-3700

DIRECTORS

Richard Sabin	1988	968-3539
Tim Smith	1988	493-2138
Tom Sutro	1988	850-0474
David Carroll	1989	775-3130
Steve Dela	1989	775-8373
Dave Lorenzini	1989	852-8663
Bud Hughes	Past President	751-2530

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Programs	Tim Smith	493-2138
Membership	Tom Sutro	850-0474
SIG Coordinator	Dave Carroll	775-3130
Librarian	Bonnie Ulanovsky	646-5230
Bulletin Board	Richard Sabin	968-3539
OCIPUG Information & Message Line		898-7998

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Steven Dela	Publisher	775-8373
Arthur Boughey	Editor	951-6888
John Goodman	Technical Editor	895-3195
Arthur Boughey	Features Editor	951-6888
Dave Lorenzini	Associate Editor	852-8663

REMOTE BULLETIN BOARDS

ORANGE COAST IBM PC USER GROUP

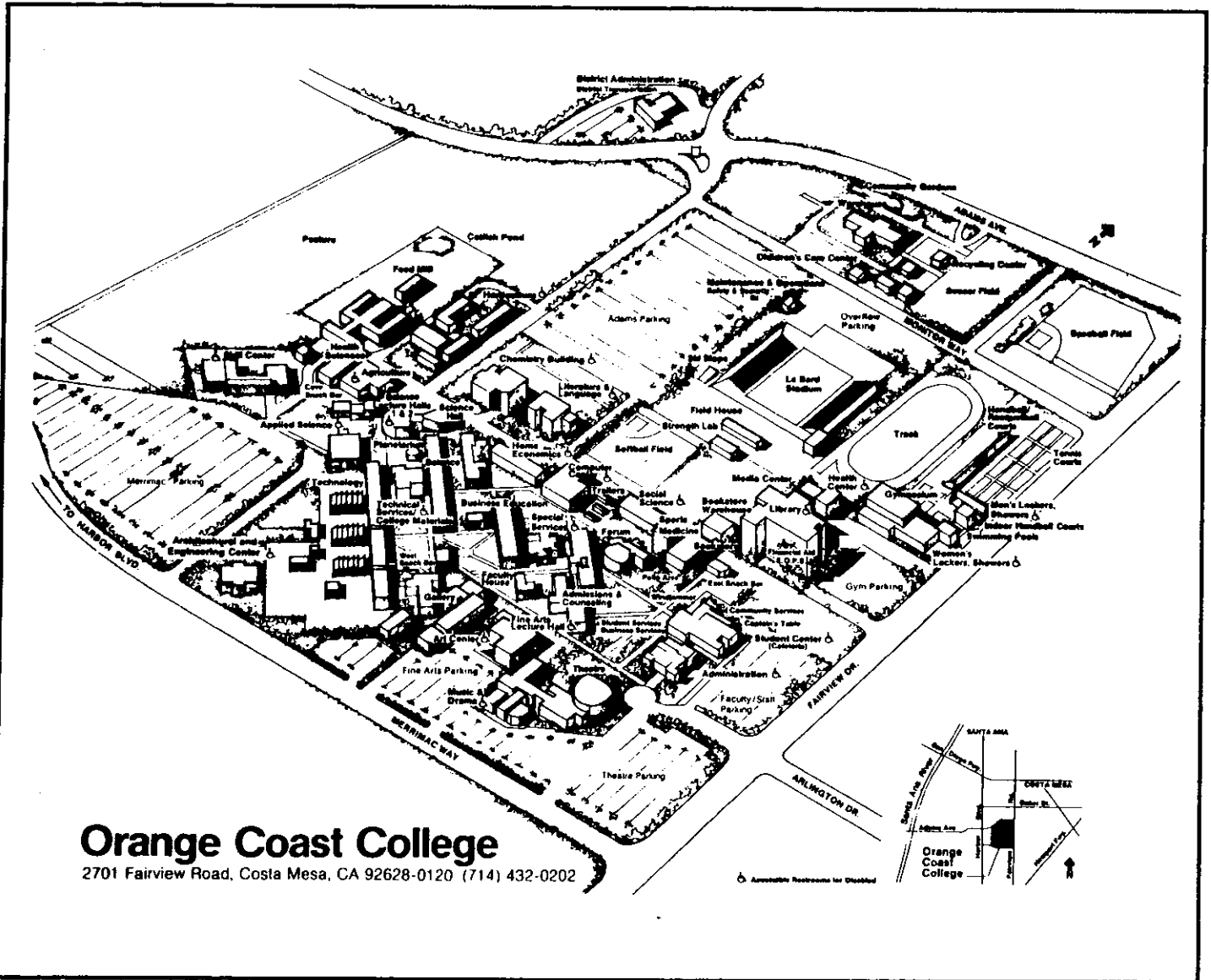
OCIPUG BBS Public Line (1200/2400) 964-2034

OCIPUG BBS Members only (1200/2400) 962-6216

STANTON BBS (300/1200/2400) 894-2246

SOFTWARE EXCHANGE (300/1200/2400) 552-3515

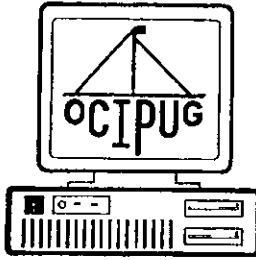
THE END OF THE LINE (300/1200/2400) 645-6581



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The Orange Coast IBM PC User Group SIG / GUIDE

A Calendar of Monthly Meetings & Events edited by Dave Lorenzini and Robert Siegenthaler
For more information on membership, write to OCIPUG at P.O. Box 6100-211, Costa Mesa, CA 92628. Call Voice Line (714) 898-7998 or BBS (714) 964-2034.

GENERAL MEETING

THE WORLD OF BORLAND presented by Steve Schiro, Borland International's District Sales Manager for Southern California.

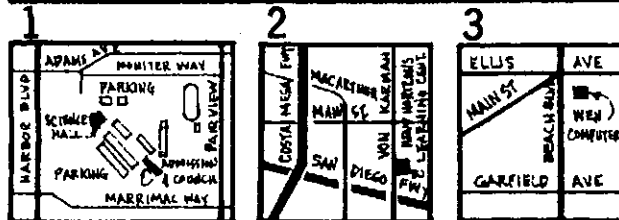
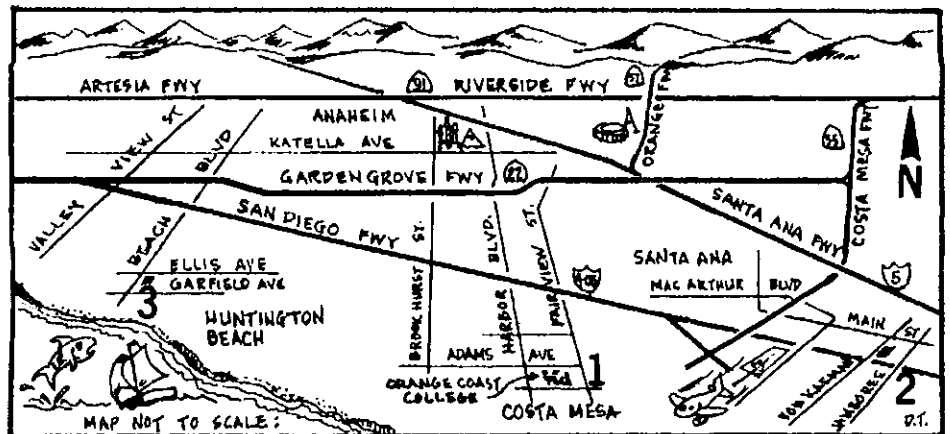
First TURBO PASCAL AND SIDEKICK took the PC world by storm. Then there was TURBO-C, TURBO-PROLOG, and TURBO-BASIC, as well as QUATTRO, PARADOX, REFLEX, and EUREKA: THE PROBLEM SOLVER. Now SIDEKICK PLUS is here!

Join us Saturday **APRIL 30, 1988** as we see a demonstration of as many of these programs as time allows.
9:00 am at OCC Science Hall.

LATE BREAKING NEWS

LOCATIONS

Before attending a SIG meeting or any other event, you should check with the OCIPUG Bulletin Board or the 24-hour Voice Hotline for last-minute changes in time or location.



Inset Map 1: Orange Coast College -
General Meeting & WordPerfect SIG: Science Hall (next to Chemistry Bldg).
Other SIGs: Room 106, Admissions and Counseling Center (next to Fine Arts).
Inset Map 2: New Horizons Learning Center, 17900 Von Karman, Suite 100, Irvine (near Main, north of San Diego Freeway).
Inset Map 3: WEH Computers, 18682 Beach Boulevard, Suite 150, Huntington Beach (between Ellis and Garfield).

ACCOUNTING

Coordinator: Ed Halsted (714) 840-7027
 Coordinator: Karen Swanson (714) 846-2059

Come to this SIG if you want to know more about how to use your PC in a small business or home accounting application. Bill Symonds, National Sales Manager for Trackline, will demonstrate TRACKLINE, an accounting program for point-of-sale and inventory-intensive businesses.

Monday 16 May 1988, 7 - 10 pm, Orange Coast College [Inset Map 1].

BBS SUPPORT

Contact Person: Richard Sabin (714) 968-3539

The system operators (SYSOPs) always need help sorting through the uploaded files we get. Bring blank disks and take home copies without needing to download them! **Monday 9 May 1988, 7 - 10 pm, at 19651 Sanderson Lane, Huntington Beach, California. NOTE NEW LOCATION.**

C LANGUAGE

Coordinator: Joel Charbonnet (714) 856-1591

We will be conducting the 5th session of our C tutorial and continuing our discussion of pointers. Beginners are welcome.

Tuesday 17 May 1988, 7 - 10 pm, at New Horizons Learning Center [Inset Map 2].

CAD/GRAPHICS

Coordinator: Richard Moser (714) 541-6801
 Designated Guru: Dave Lorenzini (714) 852-8663

CAD (Computer Aided Design) comes in many "flavors." This group covers all graphics programs, as well as specialized hardware of interest to our members. During the next 2 months we will be looking at Generic CAD and Anvil 1000. **Thursday 12 May 1988, 7 - 10 pm, at New Horizons Learning Ctr. [Inset Map 2].**

DATABASE

Coordinator: Bob Schmiedeke (714) 536-1178

Come to this group to learn more about dBASE III+ and other popular database programs. Both beginning and advanced topics will be covered.

Tuesday 10 May 1988, 7 - 10 pm, at New Horizons Learning Center [Inset Map 2].

DESKTOP PUBLISHING

Coordinator: Richard Villa (213) 439-8110

Preparing attractive documents is the primary purpose of Desktop Publishing. This month we will be answering questions on Pagemaker, Ventura Publisher, Fontware, and other desktop publishing software.

Wednesday 4 May 1988, 7 - 10 pm, held at WEH Computers [Inset Map 3].

DOS

Coordinator: Steven Pierce (714) 631-2120
 Designated Guru: John Goodman (714) 895-3195

Come to this group to learn more about how your PC works and how to get it to do what you want. John Goodman will present AUTOEXEC.BAT and other .BAT files. Do not miss this one as we may be continuing it the following month.

Wednesday 11 May 1988, 7 - 10 pm, at Unit A-6, 1560 Placentia Avenue, (near corner of 16th Street), Newport Beach.

HARDWARE

Coordinator: Dan Likens (714) 953-5663
 [New Coordinator needed. Call Dave Carroll at (714)775-3130 to volunteer.]

This SIG includes explanations of every aspect from trouble-shooting a sick PC to designing your own home automation system. You are welcome even if you have never tried to read a schematic diagram or solder a circuit board.

Thursday 26 May 1988, 7 - 10 pm, at New Horizons Learning Ctr. [Inset Map 2].

INVESTORS

Coordinator: Ralph Minarich (714) 494-2209
 Contact Person: Gordon Savage (714) 533-3986

This group explores the world of software designed especially to help investors of stocks, bonds, and commodities. This month will be a continuation of our April workshop, but stay tuned for late-breaking announcements.
Wednesday 18 May 1988, 7 - 10 pm, at New Horizons Learning Ctr [Inset Map 2].

MODEM

Coordinator: Terry Currier (714) 774-2018
 Designated Guru: Richard Sabin (714) 968-3539

Reach out and access the whole world of information through telecommunications. Our focus this month will be on the *Procomm Plus* Test Drive version.
Thursday 5 May, 7 - 10 pm, Orange Coast College [Inset Map 1].

NETWORKING

Coordinator: Jim Mansfield (714) 751-2243
 Coordinator: Andy McGill (714) 731-2951

[Topic to be announced. Stay tuned to the Hot Line and BBS.]

Thursday 12 May 1988, 7 - 9 pm, at the Costa Mesa Center, Room 7, Coastline Community College, 2990 Mesa Verde Drive East (corner Baker Street), Costa Mesa.

NEW USER / NEW MEMBER

Coordinator: John Lundsford (714) 995-0947

This is the best SIG to attend first. The meetings run on a 3-month cycle, presenting an orientation to OCIPUG the first month followed by an introduction to DOS and the IBM family of personal computers (and "clones").
 This month is number two in the cycle. **NOTE NEW START TIME**
Saturday 7 May 1988, 9 - 12 am, at New Horizons Learning Center [Inset Map 2].

REAL ESTATE

Contact Person: Stan Sabin (714) 968-7307
 Contact Person: Tom Sutro (714) 650-1121

Jointly sponsored by OCIPUG and several local Boards of Realtors, this is one of our most popular SIGs. This month Mark Burell will be speaking on "Real Estate, Computers, and YOU." Public domain & user supported software will be available before and after the meeting.

Tuesday 31 May 1988, 8 am (in the morning!), at Newport Harbor-Costa Mesa Board of Realtors, Boardatorium, 401 North Newport Boulevard, Newport Beach. (Coffee and software at 7:30am).

SPREADSHEET

Coordinator: John Alesi (714) 770-1130
 Designated Guru: Neil Carmen (714) 964-1901

This group covers Lotus 1-2-3 and other popular spreadsheet programs, including shareware products for both beginners and advanced users. We will be working with WHAT-IF tables and continue working with database-type applications.
Tuesday 3 May 1988, 7 - 10 pm, at New Horizons Learning Center [Inset Map 2].

WORDPERFECT

Coordinator: Jim Pieratt (714) 969-4782

Wordperfect is both suitable for both beginners and advanced users. In May we will be discussing Merge-Sort Part 3. Don't forget to use the WORDPERFECT Conference on the RBBS to ask and answer questions from other users.

Saturday 21 May 1988, 12:15 to 3 pm, at OCC Science Hall (after the general meeting). SEE YOU THERE.

MAY 1988

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 6:30 Board Meeting UAC	3 7pm Spreadsheet New Horizons	4 7 pm Desk/Pub WEH Computers	5 7 pm Modem OCC, Admin. & Counsel, Bldg, #106	6	7 9 am to Noon New Users New Horizons
8	9 7pm BBS Support	10 7pm Dbase New Horizons	11 7 pm DOS OCC, Admin. & Counsel, Bldg, #106 <i>OCC INSIDE</i>	12 7pm CAD New Horizons 7 pm Network-ing Coastline Comm. college	13	14
15	16 7 pm Accounting OCC, Admin. & Counsel, Bldg, #106	17 7pm C Lan-guage New Horizons	18 7pm Investor New Horizons	19	20	21 9 am OCIPUG General Meeting, OCC Science Hall 12:15 WordPerfect
22	23	24	25	26 7pm Hardware New Horizons	27	28
29	30	31 8am Real Estate NH-CM Board				

APRIL 1988

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JUNE 1987

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26	27	28	29	30	31	