

README.DOC

\$2.00

**A monthly newsletter of the
Orange Coast IBM PC User Group**

This month's general meeting features:

PC Multitasking

with **AST Research's** memory cards
and **DESQview** from Quarterdeck
Office Systems

Saturday 30 January 1988, 9 a.m. to Noon

Orange Coast College Science Hall

Inside:

Jim Button on Shareware

Latest news on Procomm

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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Article 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.

The User Group does not intend to endorse, rate, or otherwise officially comment on products available, and readers are cautioned to rely on the opinions presented exclusively at their own risk.

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README.DOC Newsletter

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

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.

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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..

OCIPUG General Meeting dates for 1988

January 30th	February 27th	March 26th	April 30th
May 21st	June 25th	July 30th	August 27th
September 24th	October 29th	November 19th	December 17th

From the Publisher's Desk

by Steven Dela

Welcome to the all new OCIPUG *README.DOC* monthly newsletter. As you can see, we have a new "look and feel" (sorry Lotus-I couldn't resist). What you see today is the first step of many planned over the next few months to enhance the image of OCIPUG and increase visibility.

There are many hours of hard work that have already gone into this first "new" issue. We fully appreciate what Tom Sutro has gone through for the last two years in putting the newsletter together. Thank you again Tom for the fine effort!

Our initial call for newsletter volunteers was overwhelming, with nineteen people answering the call for assistance. We have divided the workload among several people and have created several new positions of responsibility. Helping me out will be a staff of editors to assist in assigning, coordinating and reviewing articles for publication. We will be announcing future themes for upcoming newsletters in each issue. If you have an area of expertise, please share it with your fellow members.

We plan to distribute the *README.DOC* newsletter more widely through other IBM based user group organizations. This will broaden our exposure to these groups and help us valuable receive information in return. We plan on sending copies of our newsletter to major manufacturers, distributors and software publishers in the industry. We can both benefit from new ideas in the marketplace.

I'm sure that 1988 will be a banner year for OCIPUG and we can look forward to another large increase in membership. From the plans that I have heard discussed, OCIPUG will continue to serve its' membership well.

From the Editor's Desk

Rick K. Halbardier

We are in our third year of publishing *README.DOC* and this issue marks the first edition that was fully created without the much valued input of Tom Sutro.

In this edition, I would like to take the time to discuss a few of our plans and goals for the upcoming year.

First, the *README.DOC* will be completely designed using a desktop publishing system. This system enables the newsletter committee to work with the author's and illustrator's input more efficiently, thus allowing us to broaden the content of the newsletter.

Second, during this upcoming year, we

are looking forward excitedly to being part of a new generation of user groups; ones who will not only serve as an information source for their members, but also will be actively involved in forming the industry. Companies such as Microsoft and Lotus Development Corporation, are taking an active interest in finding and meeting the needs of the end user. We expect that this newsletter will not only serve as a very important tool in the continued development of OCIPUG, but also as a link to the computer industry. I look forward to increased involvement of user groups in general, and of OCIPUG in particular, as a valuable resource to industry as they improve their products and develop new ones.

Third, over the next few months, we are planning to be more creative with the content of articles and with graphics. In fu-

ture issues we will be adding the new OCIPUG logo. We look forward to having more of Don Taylors cartoons, including his rendition of "OCI," the pug dog, as the newsletter's mascot.

As Editor of the newsletter I wish to encourage the members of OCIPUG to write letters giving their comments, ideas and views on how the current newsletter and future editions can be improved. This is your newsletter. We want to serve your interests and needs. Tell us about them, please. Naturally we also want to hear from you both when we upset you and when you think we have done something particularly well.

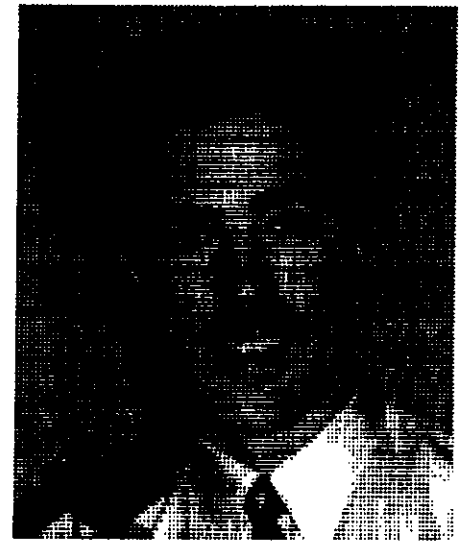
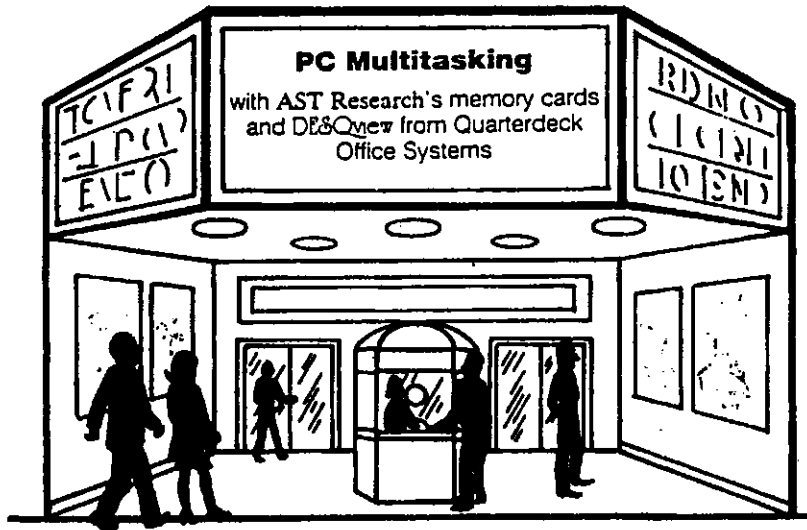
And finally, I want personally to wish all of the OCIPUG members a very harmonious and prosperous year.



THIS SPACE IS YOURS!

We plan in future issues to use this space for letters from you. If we get just a few we may only need a little space. If we get sacks full of mail we promise to wade in and read every single one and we will publish here, and on the next page if we need that much space, a representative sampling.

Make us work hard. Write us lots of cards and letters. Thank you.



Roger Andelin, Product Manager for PC/XT enhancement products at AST Research, Inc., who will be one of the featured speakers at the January OCIPUG General Meeting.

Saturday 30 January 1988, 9 a.m. to Noon at Orange Coast College in the Lecture Hall of the Science Building

You too can make your PC do more than one thing at a time! This month our featured speakers will talk about two aspects of how to make this happen.

Roger Andelin of AST Research, Inc., Irvine, CA, will give an talk on expanded memory, starting at an introductory level and ending with technical details for the experts among us. Mr. Andelin is the product marketing manager for AST's PC/XT memory enhancement products

department. He holds a B.S. degree in Computer Science from the University of California, Irvine.

Gary Saxer, from Quarterdeck Office Systems, Santa Monica, CA, will give a talk on DESQview, an operating environment which can make very effective use of expanded memory. Mr. Saxer is one of the people who designed DESQview as well as being the Quarterdeck Technical Marketing Manager. He holds a B.S. de-

gree in Computer Science from California State University, Northridge. Gary tells us that he has been a part of same design team for 11 years now - longer than Quarterdeck has been in business!

In addition to our featured speakers, we will have Library and SIG announcements; Random Access (answers to your questions); and a raffle for some pretty exciting prizes.



FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

Here are some of the topics you can be looking forward to hearing about at future OCIPUG general meetings:

- Microsoft's Excel
- Microsoft on OS/2
- Borland's Quatro
- the PFS series of programs
- Harvard Graphics
- Hewlett-Packard's Laser Jet printers

- Lotus 1-2-3, version 3 and 1-2-3 add-in programs
- Peter Norton's Guides
- and Xerox's Ventura Publisher.

The program committee is hard at work setting up these and other exciting subjects and several stellar presenters. Keep tuned for the details.

Also please note that these programs are being planned for YOU. The program committee is interested in what you would like to see presented. You can join them in their deliberations, or you can simply tell them what you want to hear about and see. Either way, please get in touch with our program chairman, Tim Smith. You can send a note to him on the club BBS, leave a voice message on our telephone answering machine, or catch Tim at one of our meetings.

REPORT ON DECEMBER 1987 OCIPUG GENERAL MEETING

by Linda Leydekkers

President Stan Sabin opened the meeting with an overview of the days agenda and welcomed visitors and new members. Individuals who have contributed extra time and effort to the club were awarded plaques, presented by Stan Sabin and John Goodman in the following order:

Bob Schmiedeke, Database SIG coordinator
 Terry Currier, Modem SIG coordinator
 Richard Villa, Desktop Publishing SIG coordinator
 Neil Carman, Spreadsheet SIG coordinator
 Katherine Thomson, WordPerfect SIG coordinator
 Bonnie Ulanovsky, OCIPUG Librarian
 Ralph Minerich, Investor SIG contact person
 Dave Carroll, CAD SIG coordinator
 Dan Likins, Hardware SIG coordinator
 Bud Hughes, Director and past president
 John Goodman, Vice President, New User SIG coordinator, Designated DOS GURU, and overall dedicated member
 Paul Curtis, Random Access coordinator, 1987 Director
 Gregory Kishel, 1987 Treasurer
 Arva French, 1987 Secretary
 Tim Smith, Director and Program coordinator
 David Lorenzini, 1987 Director, Designated CAD Guru, and overall dedicated member
 Richard Sabin, Director BBS Sysop, Designated MODEM Guru, and overall dedicated member
 Tom Sutro, README.DOC Editor, Director Real Estate SIG, Contact person Membership coordinator, and overall dedicated member
 Dean Hartley, 1987 Director

Stan Sabin, President, Real Estate SIG Contact person, and overall dedicated member

A further and special well deserved plaque was awarded to Tom Sutro for hanging in there to produce thirty consecutive issues of the club newsletter, README.DOC.

Tim Smith, Program Coordinator, introduced the first speakers of the day, Dr. John Goodman and Steve Gibson whose topic was The "Christmas Wish List". We must commend Steve for donating his shoe to support the projector, and waiving the use of a microphone. Good job Steve!

John began by attempting to "let DOS speak for itself", with a program available through the club BBS or librarian called HELP-ME.COM. The speech was too rapid to be clearly recognized, but the principle was understood and appreciated by all. John asked for cartoons both to add to his presentations and for inclusion in the README.DOC. If there are cartoonists or aspiring cartoonists who would like to contribute, please contact John Goodman or the README.DOC publisher, Steve Dela.

The fun began as our creative speakers, using PC-Outline, introduced us to some mythical characters, with some not-so-mythical characteristics, to illustrate the different systems that are typically owned by the membership. From these fictional

We must commend Steve for donating his shoe to support the projector and waiving the use of a microphone. Good job Steve!

systems and software, the speakers made recommendations on the wants and needs of the characters. Their names hint at how the remainder of this informative presentation went. These were as follows:

Charlie Boise Cheap, Ned Notso Cheap, Olivia D'Ordinary, Pauline Practical, Sammy Slick, Bufford Brown, Louie Lotsabucks - the international investor, and his sister, Laurie Lotsabucks - owner of Wee Widgets, Inc., Laurie and Louie's younger brother, Larry Lotsabucks - a designer of fine houses, and last but not least, Wally Wildman. (John assured us that Wally is a composite personality; not just a pseudonym for himself!).

After solving the dilemma of what to get for Christmas for these delightful characters, and giving us a peek into what may be available in the future, Steve was able to put his shoe back on as he and John turned the floor over to Gregory

Pearson, Vice President, Technology Planning, of Microcom.

Greg unleashed upon the jovial crowd an in-depth explanation of just how the mysterious modem works, from the origin of the word MODEM to the meaning of such ominous terms as start/stop bit, baud rates, frequency shift keying, bps, scrambler, phase, frequency, symbol rates, quad bits, data pump, and a few international versions of American terms.

The difference in construction and operation between older/slower modems

Greg unleashed upon the jovial crowd an in-depth explanation of just how the mysterious modem works.

and the newer/faster models was graphically laid out with the use of the overhead projector. Judging by the questions from the floor, the information was well received and much appreciated by the Club. Those in the market for a new modem went away better equipped to make a decision on the type of equipment that would work best for them.

Stan Sabin invited members to stand up and describe briefly any computer equipment they have to sell, so that others seeking such items for gift giving could obtain them. This is not a usual practice at the General Meetings, however an exception was made because of the season. Anyone wanting to sell items through the club is invited to put an advertisement in the README.DOC and/or on the club's BBS. [NOTE: Member advertisements for sale of personal possessions in README.DOC are free. See details of our advertising policy elsewhere in this issue.]

Librarian Bonnie Ulanovsky, gave a brief description of a few programs available from the club library that she thought would be of special interest to the membership. A two-disk set of Utilities and a Lotus Template were highlighted.

The SIG groups announced their meeting times and locations. A few SIG locations had not been set. Those will be announced on the club's BBS or it's recorded message (714-898-7998). There remains a shortage of locations for some SIG'S, especially new ones. This situation is compounded because the colleges are closed during the next two holiday weeks. If you know of a location that has seating for 20 to 40 people and a wall suitable for projection (and, if possible, a chalkboard or white board), please contact Dave Carroll, our SIG coordinator.

Some wonderful prizes were awarded

to randomly selected current members who were present. The grand prize was donated by our guest speaker Gregory Pearson of Microcom, a modem with a retail value of \$795, won by Steven Cobb, who had joined only minutes before. What a return he got for his \$20 investment!

Members living in the Long Beach area were told of another IBM PC User Group that meets in that city on the third Wednesday of every month. For more information contact Jim Wells (at 213-439-7114) or Noel Roberts (at 213-438-6515).

After such a productive and informative meeting, John Goodman did an admirable job in the short time remaining to address the 16 "Random Access" questions submitted during the break on the forms provided. He answered as many as possible, with the additional help of some other club members. John said that at least some items may be published in *README.DOC*. In my view, this was a very helpful section of the December newsletter. Thank you John and whoever helps you solve these problems!



He just did a FORMAT C: on his boss's computer. He sure hopes the boss won't notice!

GENERAL MEETING RAFFLE GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME

John Goodman

A number of months ago the members of the OCIPUG Board of Directors realized that we had a few things that had been given to the club and that we had no easy way to make effective use of them. Someone suggested we raffle them off. We did so. No big deal, we thought. But it has turned out otherwise.

What began as a simple way of disposing of a few small items has turned into a major attraction at our general meetings.

At the December meeting our major benefactor, Microcom, donated a 2400 baud modem worth nearly \$800.00! Other gifts included software packages and various computer accessories.

At the December meeting we reached a new high in the value of the items being given away, over \$1500 worth in all. Our major benefactor was Microcom. Greg Pearson, one of our featured speakers, contributed a 2400 baud (well, as he explained it should be called, a 2400 bits per second) modem with MNP level 5 error correction. That one item alone was worth almost \$800! Other gifts included software packages and computer accessories.

Neil Carman, the coordinator of the Spreadsheet Special Interest Group, ran the drawing, as he has done for each of the past several meetings. Neil created a special Lotus template to facilitate our giveaways. Each month Tom Sutro, our membership chairman, prepares a list of all our members. Neil loads that list into his program. Then, at the last minute, Tom tells Neil how many new members have signed up at the meeting. Neil starts the program and the fun begins.

First, Stan Sabin announces the prize to be given away and the program picks a number randomly in the range of all the assigned members numbers to date. If the chosen number corresponds to an active member, that member's name is flashed up on the screen. If the chosen number corresponds to a new member, NEW MEMBER appears. Everyone seems to be sitting on the edge of their seat, waiting to see if their number and name will appear.

A number and name appears. That person is not there. Another number and name appears. This one is a person who

was here just a few minutes ago. But they lose out. Yet another number, but no name. Gee, if only that person had renewed. Finally a name appears and a shout goes up. That person comes down to claim his or her prize as the audience cheers. It is exciting! This fun is repeated over and over.

The prizes include two Flip-n-file disk holders donated by Ben Legare, two copies of Reflection and one of Spotlight,

The excitement rises to a peak when we get to the end of the drawing and the big prize comes up. You can hear a pin drop. You can even hear Neil pressing the key to start the computer working. A number and NEW MEMBER appears. Oh my. Someone has won an \$800 modem only minutes after joining OCIPUG! Steve Cobb comes down to claim his prize to a warm round of applause. He is, naturally, in shock.

Finally Tim Smith announces that he will donate an additional gift, a program called "PC Word Power", but only on condition that the recipient write a review of that program for the newsletter. Mary Rabe won and accepted that condition. [Mary, where is your article?! We will publish it, as well as any other product reviews we receive in a future issue.]

I asked Mr. Cobb later if he already had a modem. "No," he replied, "I was

The moral is (all the best stories I was told as a child always ended this way - did yours?): Pay your dues and stick around for the drawings. You too might win some really great prize. Remember the rules: Only members can win and only if they are present, and only one prize per person per meeting.

saving up in hopes of being able to buy one soon." "Do you know how to use it?" I asked. "Not at all. I am going to keep it in the box till I can go to the MODEM SIG meeting and learn what to do." Congratulations to Steve and all the other winners. Thank you Greg and Microcom and thank you to all the other donors of the prizes we raffled today.

The moral is (all the best stories I was told as a child always ended this way - did yours?): Pay your dues and stick around for the drawings. You too might win some really great prize. Remember the rules: Only members can win and only if they are present, and only one prize per person per meeting.

FEATURE ARTICLES

Arthur Boughey

As described in the editors column of this first new series issue of *README.DOC*, the publication of feature articles submitted by club members will continue to be an important element of our newsletter. We urge you one and all to help us maintain a steady flow of such articles.

Most members of our Club at one time or another encounter some kind of problem, be it a simple one quite easily resolved in a random access session, or a more complex difficulty which has not as

Our unique mother-tongue has a surpassing richness.

yet been overcome. At times also, many of you out there must sometimes wonder where all this micro-computer stuff is headed, or where we go next with these powerful little monsters that we have so freely invited into our homes and our business offices. Put your problems or your thoughts into the form of a newsletter article so that we may all share them.

You may be an experienced writer, but not as yet all that comfortable with micro-computers, or the opposite, or neither, or both. In any case we would like to hear of your experiences, your successes, your difficulties, even and perhaps most importantly your disasters. Accounts of these latter might save some of us later from a lot of grief.

Readers of this January 1988 issue of *README.DOC* will notice that it has both a new look and a new feel, the outcome of the strenuous combined efforts of your new editors. We hope that you will find the result both pleasing and acceptable. Addressing more specifically the form in which feature articles should be submitted for publication in the newsletter, it is preferable that contributions concentrate on a single theme, be kept as brief as possible, and be submitted as a text file (preferably in "pure ASCII" form, although certain other formats can be accepted) on disk or on the Club Bulletin Board.

Experienced writers will need no further counsel. For those of us with a some-

what lesser writing experience, a whole series of computer tools are now available for our guidance. These are not designed to turn us overnight into Gibsons or even Hemingways yet, but they can be a big help in improving any article which we decide to write.

A new look and a new feel is what all the high-end word processing programs such as *Word Perfect*, *Wordstar* and Microsoft's *Word*, now strive to offer. Without such features they are hard put to it to survive present day competition in this very crowded field. These and other high-end word processing programs routinely offer a spell-checker and a thesaurus. In addition they include, or announce that they have in preparation, some form of grammar correction program, an ideas outliner and a style editor. Three separate individual programs which are readily available also cover these last three features, *GRAM-MATIK*, *PC-OUTLINE* and *PC-STYLE*. There are several other similar programs, they all operate in much the same manner.

When it comes to writing, Americans are indisputably born with at least one enormous advantage over the rest of mankind - their official language is American English. Our unique mother-tongue, for reasons excellently displayed in a recent television series, has a surpassing richness. Moreover, its vast vocabulary, and its flexible syntax is never finalized. Both can be and indeed are subject to constant and rapid change. This change occasionally proceeds so rapidly as to give the impression that we are making up the language up as we go along.

We can hear such innovations taking place before our very ears as it were as we listen to any sports commentary. In the excitement of the moment, professional sports-casters unhesitatingly convert adverbs into verbs, following this up in close

At all costs avoid the use of words and phrases whose meaning is not properly comprehended. If you as the writer do not fully understand what you mean, what is the poor reader to do?

order with a similar transformation of their favorite nouns and adjectives. They will say that a football team is doing well "defending the pass," or that a coach is trying to "expire the clock." This is great, and it is why we have a living vibrant spoken language. But it can get those of us who write into much trouble, for there is a time delay before our colloquial idiom is allowed to enter our written language.

The professional writer attempting to use modern idiom is presently forced to do battle with what we usually regard as the head ogre of all publishing houses - the copy editor. We tend to imagine this person as some poor tortured soul who majored in English and graduated magna cum laude from an Ivy League college about 25 years ago, and now operates out of an electronic cottage deep in the heart of the New England countryside. Our publishers require that we submit our manuscripts to them; they are inevitably returned heavily scarred with red ink where participles have been hanged, infinitives split, collective nouns linked to plural qualifiers, new words invented and other heinous language crimes committed as we attempt to transfer our spoken language to paper.

In actuality Copy Editors are probably friendly loving and caring persons not prone to beating their spouses, children or family dogs. Moreover it has to be said also that they have the right idea. In writing we have to communicate by the precise use of the accepted words and phrases which we enjoy from our rich linguistic heritage, in order to convey our exact meaning. This still however begs the question of what we understand to be "accepted," and emphasizes the time lag between "received speech" and dictionary versions of our language.

In actuality Copy Editors are probably friendly loving and caring persons not prone to beating their spouses, children or family dogs.

As far as our newsletter is concerned, your feature editors have much the same objective as the Copy Editor of the commercial publishing house, but hopefully with a more tolerant attitude towards acceptable language. Even *Byte* magazine for example agrees that the installation of certain systems in our PC may "obscure our software," although it is doubtful whether any copy editor in the land would presently pass this one. Unfortunately, such issues are not confined just to a matter of acceptable words. Writing, like pictorial graphics, is also subject to changing perspectives.

It is unlikely that the good cleric reported to have written in his parochial newsletter "...There will be meetings in the north and south ends of the chapel this evening. Children will be baptized at both ends..." had actually taken a second look at what he had just written.

Between us we have to catch any alternative interpretations which could intro-

duce ambiguity into a feature article. It must also be said that we cannot sanction use of the many abbreviations which are quite acceptable when for example leaving messages on Bulletin Boards. Thus "Thanx", recently employed by the Editor of one of our companion newsletters, "...Send in your chex.." or any other similar jargon, will not be considered good writing, at least not for now.

Despite their obvious limitations, proprietary word processing programs and their supplements help us to avoid many of these difficulties. They can be of great help in the preparation of feature articles, especially to the tyro. The beginning writer struggling to produce a contribution to our newsletter should moreover have no fear of inadequacy in any respect. If we were not all veritable beginners at one thing or another which has to do with computing, none of us would be members of OCIPUG for we would have nothing to learn.

The preparation of a feature article starts with an idea that one wishes to get across to other Club members. We are a highly diversified group with a wide range of expertise. It is not likely that there is any topic concerning IBM computers and compatibles which will fail to interest at least someone else in our Club.

As to the actual procedure, an outline organizing what one wishes to say can be produced with PC-OUTLINE, to be found in the Club's disk library. The draft of the article prepared from this outline should be run through a spell-checker to remove spelling errors. Likewise, at this time words which do not seem quite right, or which occur repeatedly, can be replaced using the suggestions from a thesaurus program.

Grammar is a little more difficult to

check, but proprietary programs such as *GRAMMATIK* will provide suggestions as to the improvement of the article, and for the elimination of errors such as "to" for "two", or "too", which being legitimate words, are not picked up by the spell checker.

Style checking of ones first efforts can present a little difficulty too, but there are programs such as *PC-STYLE*, available on the Club's Bulletin Board, which may be of some help. Do not however let such style programs discourage you.

When I first tried *PC-STYLE* I ran through it a 12-page Manual of mine which I thought was pretty reasonable writing - it came out "average". I then ran it over a very quick *README.1ST* note I had written to explain a file program to a club member - it got top rating! *PC-*

We would like to hear of...perhaps most importantly your disasters.

STYLE in fact favors short words, brief sentences, action verbs and personalized pronouns. When this present article was in draft, I put *PC-STYLE* at it. I got a "good" personal rating and a "good" for words, but my action was rated "average" and my readability "fair". Taken at face value, such reports can be mighty disheartening. I explained away my indifferent rating to myself by reasoning that I prefer to use paragraphs of moderate, but not short length, sentences sometimes long enough to be separated by a colon, semi-colon or dash, and occasionally, longish words. It is indeed such preferences that give a writer an individual style. All the same it is just as well to know what an impartial program considers one is doing.

At all costs avoid the use of words and

phrases whose meaning is not properly comprehended. If you as the writer do not fully understand what you mean, what is the poor reader to do? There is a program on our Bulletin Board (*BUZZARC*) which permits three sets of word lists to be combined at random into a large number of different three word combinations. It will produce quite elegant phrases like "Compatible Management Options" or such verbal monstrosities as "Integrated Reciprocal Timephases". As the prologue to this *BUZZ* program explains, these synthetic phrases are intended for the use of persons developing new ideas, and searching for some unique and impressive label for them which is presently not necessarily meaningful in itself. Even experienced writers can be decked by the premature use of newly generated idiom from whatever source. Try it out first on your friends.

In 1988 *README.DOC* will be printed using the techniques of Desk Top Publishing. This will simplify and enhance the production of graphic material, including half-tone photographs. Members wishing so to illustrate their feature articles should first consult with Rick Halbardier or John Goodman.

Our newsletter depends on your contributions, we again urge you to submit articles. There are no ogres on your editorial panel. Any editing activity undertaken will be directed solely towards ensuring clarity and maintaining quality. We must also bear in mind that there are always space limitations

Try us and send in your compositions.

(Dr. Boughey is a Charter Member of OCIPUG, Features Editor of *README.DOC* and a Professor Emeritus of the University of California.)

THE REVOLUTION

by Jim Button

Before I got involved in a revolution, I'd want to know what it was that I was revolting for or against. Yet here you are, smack dab in the middle of a full fledged revolution - and I'll bet you didn't even know there was a battle raging.

In this first of a series of articles I plan to write, I'll explain the revolution. And I'll tell you how you became (perhaps unwittingly) so deeply involved.

ALTERNATIVE SOFTWARE

Let's call this the "alternative software" revolution.

What is alternative software? We're talking here about the method by which the software is distributed. Alternative software is the alternative to "traditional" software. We'll define traditional software as programs that are distributed through the traditional retail channels: distributors and software dealers. Alternative software, then, is software that is distributed through non-traditional channels.

There are three main categories of alternative software:

1. PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE
2. SHAREWARE
3. COPYRIGHTED FREE SOFTWARE

There is considerable confusion about these categories. In fact, many people wrongly believe that all are synonyms for

the same thing. So before we continue, let's define each.

PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE

This is software that has been placed in the public domain. This means that the public, not the program's author, now owns the program. The author has given

Many people wrongly believe that all three main categories of alternative software are synonyms for the same thing.

up all rights to the program. Anyone is now free to use, copy, modify, sell (at any price), or do anything else with the program.

SHAREWARE

Shareware is a marketing method, nothing more. Shareware distribution gives users a chance to try software before buying it. If you try a Shareware program and continue using it, you are expected to "register" with the author, by sending a payment. The author of a Shareware

There will never be a total "win" in the alternative software revolution.

program retains the copyright to the program, and usually the trade secret rights.

The author of a Shareware program gives permission to copy his program and share it with others, but only if all his copying rules are followed. These rules usually include things like: You can't sell the disk for more than a certain amount, and you can't change any of the files on the disk.

What's really happening here? The author is emphasizing word of mouth (or "word of disk") marketing techniques. His Shareware disk becomes, in effect, a full functioning demonstration of the program. He relies on user satisfaction and the ease of copying disks to do his advertising for him. Word of mouth (user endorsed) is a very effective form of advertising—and it costs the author almost nothing.

Because advertising costs are kept low, and because the author is selling direct (eliminating the middle men), the cost to you is normally far lower than software sold through traditional channels.

COPYRIGHTED FREE SOFTWARE

This is a third form of alternative software that is rapidly gaining popularity. It is software that might have been placed in the public domain, except that the author wishes to retain some rights to it. He may, for example, not want to see unscrupulous people selling his program to naive users who are unaware that they could get it for free. He may wish to retain the right to sell the program himself at some future time.

So, instead of giving the program to the public, the author retains the copyright. He encourages the public to copy and share the program, and asks no "registration fee."

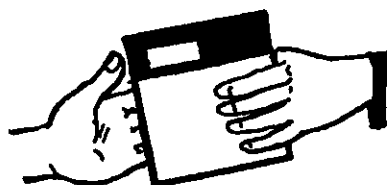
There is another source of copyrighted free software: computer magazines. The magazines publish a program and offer it to the public for free. But they retain the copyright. This way, they receive much publicity and the "good will" of satisfied users sharing the program with others. The copyright prevents unscrupulous

others from changing the program (by, for example, removing the author's or magazine's name) or selling it (which would diminish the good will).

HOW GOOD IS ALTERNATIVE SOFTWARE?

Remember, alternative software is a distribution method, not a programming method. Alternative software is neither better nor worse than traditional software. It is just distributed differently. Many alternative software packages are superior to any traditional offerings. Many are embarrassingly bad. For both alternative and traditional software you, the user, have the responsibility to sort the chaff from the grain. It's just that with alternative software, you don't have to pay money up front for the products you are evaluating. You try the programs out, at your own pace and in the comfort of your own work environment, until you are satisfied that they will work for you. Only then do you pay for them (if they're Shareware). If they're public domain or copyrighted free software, you just smile and keep on using them.

HOW IS ALTERNATIVE SOFTWARE DISTRIBUTED?



Alternative software distribution is sometimes called "word of disk" distribution. But this is an inappropriate term, because it fails to recognize one of the most appropriate distribution methods: telecommunications.

Actually, there are four major channels of distribution for alternative software.

1. Person to person.
2. Computer club disk libraries.
3. Disk dealers. These are companies who have discovered that they can make good money by selling disks containing copies of alternative software. The disks are typically sold at prices ranging from \$3 to \$6 apiece.

4. BBS systems (telecommunications). I don't know which of these four distribution channels accounts for the most number of copies shared. (Does anyone know?) My personal best guess is that person to person ranks first, followed closely by telecommunications. But one thing is certain: distribution by telecommunications is a major factor. It is steadily increasing in importance.

Each of these channels is important to

the other. They interconnect. Here's an example. Jane Dokes buys a whiz-bang program from a disk dealer. She gives a copy to her friend. She takes a copy to work. She gives a copy to the librarian of her local computer club. The computer club adds it to the club library, and makes a copy available on its BBS.

Now you see how you became so deeply involved in the revolution. Every time you upload or download a file from a BBS, you are fanning the fires of the alternative software revolution!

ARE WE WINNING THE REVOLUTION?

In any revolution, some battles are won, some are lost, and some are too close to call. So it is in this revolution. Here are some of the skirmishes that have been won:

1. Copy protection is dead. This was grass-roots revolution at its finest. Computer clubs, bulletin boards, writers, and J. Q. Public worked together to educate everyone to the evils of copy protection. Many people resolved never to buy a copy protected disk, as long as they could find a non protected alternative. This new awareness in the marketplace forced the software manufacturers to remove copy protection.

2. Prices are falling. Well, sort of! I HATE the expression heard frequently at conferences with the top executives of the big software companies: "PC software is not price sensitive." They have learned that (within reason) they can command any price they want, and an uneducated buying public will continue to purchase their software. As long as hordes of purchasers continue to buy like sheep, the statement will be true. So, for the really "big boys" at the top of the Softsel top 10 list, prices will stay high.

But prices are also falling. For each of the expensive big name products, there is now at least one low priced alternative. And for many of the big name products, there is also a Shareware alternative. The low priced products have been successful enough to become firmly entrenched in the market place.

3. New Shareware successes are becoming commonplace. After the blockbuster success of the original Shareware products (*PC-Talk*, *PC-File*, *PC-Write*, and *PC-Calc*), many people believed that the window of opportunity had closed. Such notions proved to be wrong. In the past two years, successful new products (such as *Procomm* and *Automenu*) have proven that Shareware is a viable marketing method. In fact, there are now at least four Shareware companies with gross sales exceeding \$1 million per year.

4. Shareware programmers have recently joined together to further strengthen

1987-88 OCIPUG OFFICE HOLDERS

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

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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
Francine Shepard	1989	241-3453
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
<i>README.DOC</i> Editor Rick Halbardier	838-5206
Bulletin Board Richard Sabin	968-3539
OCIPUG Information & Message Line	898-7998

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



FEBRUARY 1988

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 6:30 Board Meeting UAC	2 7pm Spreadsheet New Horizons	3 7pm Desk/Pub WEH Computers	4 7 pm Modem Location TBA	5	6 10 am to Noon New Users New Horizons
7	8 7pm BBS Support New Horizons	9 7pm Dbase New Horizons	10 7 pm DOS Location TBA	11 7pm CAD New Horizons 7 pm Network- ing Location TBA	12	13
14	15 7 pm Accounting Location TBA	16 7pm C Lan- guage New Horizons	17 7pm Investor New Horizons	18 7pm Educators Montessori Childern's House - Cypress	19	20
21	22	23 8am Real Estate To be Announced.	24	25 7pm Hardware New Horizons	26	27 9 am OCIPUG General Meeting, OCC Science Hall 12:15 WordPerfect
28	29	<p>Television Shows</p> <p>Tuesdays 6:00pm Channel 50 Computerworks</p> <p>Tuesdays 7:00pm Channel 18 The Computer Show</p> <p>Saturdays 11:00am Channel 50 Computerworks</p>				

JANUARY 1987

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31						

MARCH 1988

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

the future of Shareware. Almost 100 members strong and growing, they have formed the "Association of Shareware Professionals," or ASP.

The ASP is a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Washington. It is made up of Shareware authors worldwide who desire to see recognized standards established for Shareware programs and companies. The authors share a code of ethics and have agreed to adhere to the ASP's standards for software marketing.

The ASP is also striving to help disk dealers, the media, and the public to understand the nature and benefits of Shareware. Through cooperation and mutual standards, the ASP hopes to promote Shareware as an alternative to traditional software marketing channels.

The association will soon offer memberships to other professionals interested in Shareware: sysops, club librarians, etc.

There will never be a total "win" in the alternative software revolution.

That is, alternative software will never totally replace traditional software as the only (or even the major) form of distribution. But I will consider it a win when the majority of software buyers becomes aware that there is an alternative to buying software downtown. When the average person says to himself, "check the alternative software channels," before looking for an expensive alternative in a store - we have won the revolution.

Reprinted from: *BBS Telecomputing News* (1987)
MicroTech Data Systems Winchester, Virginia

LADIES WHERE ARE YOU?!

Sherry Shea

I am a new member of OCIPUG and have noticed a serious shortage of females at our meetings. By my unofficial survey, it's running about 30 men to each woman. You don't have to be a computer expert to be a member of this organization. The group members have all levels of expertise and you can contribute or just learn a great deal. If you would like to get involved, meet really interesting professional people, & expand your knowledge in the computer field, I encourage any and all women to attend one of our general meetings.

The men of course must surely agree!!

Special Interest Groups

John M. Goodman

Most of what OCIPUG is does not happen at the General Meeting. Those are great and a very important part of the whole. Many of our members spend even more hours each month, though, participating in one or another of our Special Interest Groups. If you have not yet found them, we invite you to do so.

You may not know what SIGs we have, so here is a list:

ACCOUNTING

Come to this SIG if you want to know more about how to use your PC in a small business or home accounting application. Also come if you are an expert in these matters and are willing to share that knowledge with others.

BBS SUPPORT

The system operators (SYSOPs) need help! At this SIG you will get an insider's view of running a BBS and help sort through all the uploaded files we get. (Bring blank disks and take home copies without needing to download them!)

C LANGUAGE

Learning to program in C? Wonder what it is? Or maybe you love to "hack" C code. Come and share your knowledge, curiosity and enthusiasm.

COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN

Computer Aided Design (CAD) comes in many "flavors." This group focuses on architectural CAD, especially AutoCad, but they also explore other CAD programs as well as specialized hardware of interest to practitioners in this area.

DATABASE

Everyone uses data. Some of us have so much we need programs to help us store and manipulate that data. Come to this group to learn more about those programs, especially dBASE. Programming in database languages is also covered.

DESKTOP PUBLISHING

Preparing attractive documents is the primary purpose of Desktop Publishing. At this SIG you will have a chance to have hands-on experience with several different vendor's hardware and software products for this field.

DOS

Nearly all of us run the program DOS (Disk Operating System) every time we turn on our PCs. Come to this group to learn more about how it works and how to get it to do what you want or need. Also covered in this SIG are programming languages (e.g., BASIC and Assembler) and other operating systems (e.g., Xenix).

EDUCATORS

Computers hold out great promise for affecting the way we teach and learn. This SIG is a meeting ground for people interested in this subject from a number of different perspectives, including hardware developers, program authors and teachers who will use their products.

HARDWARE

Ever wonder what *really* goes on inside your computer? This SIG includes explanations of every aspect from troubleshooting 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.

INVESTORS

Do you have enough investments that you want to use your PC to help track and manage them? This group explores the world of software designed especially to help investors, whether they invest in stocks, bonds, commodities or something else (movies or a Broadway show anyone?).

MODEM

If you own a PC you have a lot of power on your desk. If you add a modem you can also reach out and access the whole world of information through telecommunications. At this SIG you can learn how. Mainly designed for beginners at using modems, this SIG also covers more advanced topics from time to time.

NETWORKING

The simplest way to get information from one computer to another, simply carrying a diskette from machine to machine, is sometimes called "Sneaker Net." For more demanding applications one needs some pretty complex hardware and software. Come to this SIG to get some insight into this rapidly developing aspect of personal computing.

NEW MEMBER & NEW USER

This is a great SIG to attend first. Its meetings run on a three month cycle, presenting an orientation to OCIPUG and then for two months giving a beginner's introduction to the IBM family of personal computers (as well as to the so-called "clone" computers).

REAL ESTATE

If you are a realtor and use or think you might like to use a personal computer you will really appreciate this SIG. Jointly sponsored by OCIPUG and the Boards of Realtors of Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley, this is one of our largest SIGs.

SPREADSHEET

All you Lotus 1-2-3 fans, this is the SIG for you. Learn tips and tricks from the professionals. This group also covers other brands of spreadsheet programs including shareware products. If a "What if..." calculation is always on your mind, or if your only thought about spreadsheets is to wonder "What is it?" this SIG can be most illuminating.

WORDPERFECT

Word Perfect is the best selling word processor. It is at once suitable for beginners and capable of serving the needs of a demanding business. There is a lot to learn if you wish to master all that this program can do. Come to this SIG and see demonstrations ranging from simple editing to mail merge and complex document preparation.

WANTED!

Volunteers. OCIPUG is a volunteer organization. *Everything* we do happens because someone sees the need and decides that he or she is willing and able to fill it.

Right now we need people to accomplish three tasks. It is possible that these tasks could be subdivided with more than three people working on them.

CAD SIG Coordinator

One task is that of coordinator of the Computer Aided Design (CAD) Special Interest Group. Dave Carroll has been performing that service for us for many months now. Now that he is on the Board of Directors and is serving in the very important position of coordinator of all the SIGs, Dave needs to be relieved of the responsibility of coordinating the CAD SIG.

What does a SIG coordinator do? That person is the one who makes sure the SIG happens and happens well. He or she plans the meeting agenda each time, arranges for speakers or demonstrations if that is what the group wants and either is there to host the meeting or makes sure some-

one else will be, etc.

Is the SIG coordinator an expert on the SIG's topic? Not necessarily. When we can we like to have a topic expert for each SIG. We call such a person a "Designated Guru". Currently only three of our 16 SIGs have a guru. *Every* SIG needs a coordinator. Frequently that person is not so much an expert as simply someone who is eager to learn and willing to do the organizational work for the group that will help them learn what they and the other members of that group want to learn.

DOS SIG Coordinator

Another group that is looking for a new coordinator is the DOS SIG. That SIG is, as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, focused on all operating systems and languages for the IBM PC, but mainly on DOS. It is a vital SIG since virtually all PC users run DOS each time they turn their computer on.

Helpers for Dave Carroll

Dave Carroll is our Coordinator of all the SIGs. As such he is carrying a crushing burden for us. Let's help him out. He will continue to be the one who opens and closes *all* our SIG meetings at New Horizons, but there are parts of his job

that he would gladly shed if someone else would step up to take them.

We need someone to record the outgoing message on our voice "hot-line" each week. We need several people to share the load of calling in to get whatever messages are left there and to respond to them.

We also need someone to put together the monthly calendar of activities for OCIPUG. This involves calling the coordinators of the individual SIGs to see if there are any changes in location or time of meeting for the next month and then preparing the list in a form suitable for loading on the BBS and as input to the newsletter committee. Again, this task might be shared by a couple of people.

OK, I'll help.**What do I do next?**

Volunteers are always welcome. SIG Coordinators are officially appointed by the OCIPUG Board of Directors, but you can get to work helping even before the Board acts.

Call Dave Carroll at (714) 775-3130 and let him know what you would like to do.

Thank you.

DOS SIG REPORT

Gordon Lewin

The DOS SIG meeting for December was convened in room 106 of the Orange Coast College Admissions Building on Wednesday, the 9th. In attendance were about 10 folks who had either run out of money shopping for Christmas gifts, or were in quest of gaining some additional insight into the secret(?) workings of their computer system. The meeting was

chaired by John Goodman, and it was John, who coincidentally became the principal speaker.

He stated that the SIG needs to find a new coordinator who will be able to host the meetings and accept the responsibility for putting together the ingredients that will keep the meetings informative and pleasant to attend. He/she would not have to be a DOS expert to qualify. Interested persons are asked to see John at one of the meetings, or leave him a message on the BBS.

Should anyone have a question about the operation of his computer, going to the DOS SIG will just about ensure that the question will be addressed (and probably answered too). The format of the meeting is that specific questions are fielded from the attendees at the beginning of the session, and the answers are

provided after the mid-evening break. In between, there is a general discussion of various planned topics. On this particular evening, John started the general discussion by opening up the subject, "What is DOS, and where does it live?" As you can imagine, with this type of subject, it wasn't long before the discussion embraced such subjects as the DOS Path; sub-directories; the various DOS files, including the hidden ones, what they do and why; make-up of the config.sys file; device drivers; internal and external commands; and the AUTOEXEC.BAT file.

Very often, newcomers can be confused by some of the terminology and buzzwords used in relation to the computer and its associated support. The DOS SIG is a good place to start getting everything straightened out. The following questions were answered during the second part of

the meeting, and you can see from them, that a great deal of information is shared.

- What is the DOS environment and how do you expand it?
- What is a DOS device, how and where is it used?
- What is ANSI.SYS?
- What tradeoffs are there between XT and AT type computers and what are some of the important considerations to make in today's purchase of a system?
- Explain the DOS commands ASSIGN, SUBST, JOIN.
- My machine locks up! How do I make it work properly?
- When can one upgrade his DOS version without reformatting the entire hard disk?
- DOS shells - What are they and how are they used?
- Can a subdirectory be renamed without emptying it first? How?
- How can you tell when your hard disk is approaching full?
- Explain the file copy procedure to the various devices.

In January the DOS SIG met on the 13th at 7:00 p.m. in room 106, Counseling and Admissions Building, Orange Coast College. Twenty two people attended this session.

In response to group interest Dan Likens opened the meeting with a discussion on batch files, what they are, generally how they are constructed, and how they function under the control of the batch processor in DOS. Some simple examples employing ECHO were placed on the blackboard and discussed. Dr. Goodman demonstrated some trickier examples of batch files using the same basic theme. The use of PROMPT in batch files to control screen display brought on a discussion of the system customization file, CONFIG.SYS. This discussion included what can be in that file and in particular the use of the SHELL command in that file. In response to a question on expanded and extended memory Dr. Goodman mapped out PC memory on the blackboard and explained where the various elements are located in RAM and how they function.

Scott Whitney explained a batch program he had written to hide a file in MultiMate by changing the H attribute - thus making the file a "hidden file." He also displayed a complex batch file he had devised to re-assign the keyboard function keys so that they would execute certain often used DOS commands by a single keypunch. He has placed this file on the Club RBBS under the name FIX.ARC.

The DOS SIG is not limited just to DOS, but has a broader perspective over languages and how they relate to the PC. The latter part of the meeting was devoted

to a general discussion of BASIC, the nature of an interpreted language, and the features of modern BASIC compilers which preserve the simplicity of BASIC programming, error detection and editing, and greatly speed up running the program. Dr. Goodman gave blackboard examples of BASIC in the immediate mode and program mode. He then demonstrated very simple examples of BASIC programs followed by a short but not so simple program devised to perform a chore in editing ASCII files.

If this type of information is what you want, or if you can be a contributor, come to the next SIG meeting and participate in one of your clubs most informative get-togethers.

EDUCATORS' SIG REPORT

by Anne Perrah and John Lunsford

On the 8th of December, 12 people of varying backgrounds attended the first meeting of the Educators' SIG. Our group was composed of approximately equal numbers of educators, computer professionals and people who were just simply interested enough to come and contribute.

The computer experience levels of those who attended ranged from using the computer for word processing and simple record keeping to writing systems software and applications programming. Three of the teachers who attended the meeting use their computers for writing, maintaining student records, and creating forms and tests. There was an educational consultant in the group who does curriculum design on her computer and an individual who manages a public service computer-assisted tutorial program. From the ranks of the computer professionals we drew a hardware design specialist, a systems programmer, an applications programmer, and a man who designs computer systems and teaches university courses.

The following assertions were generally agreed to by the group. By the time the children we are now educating enter the work force, it is estimated that three out of four jobs will require the ability to competently use the computer. Right now, jobs are going begging for lack of a computer-skilled work force to fill them. This clearly indicates that there is an urgent requirement for the promotion of computer education in all phases and levels of our educational system.



Here are some of the things that participants in this meeting hope to get out of subsequent meetings of this SIG:

- Gather more information about what is available now.
- Learn more about networking, software, computer use strategies and pitfalls.
- Brainstorm new projects through dialog between computer professionals and education professionals.
- Network with experienced users and developers to get feedback on project ideas.
- Develop computer aided systems to promote self-esteem in children.
- Develop interactive software for home use in promoting educational success.
- Develop innovative school curricula using the computer.
- Promote integration of computers into the overall school curriculum.
- Promote a greater effectiveness of educational programs in preparing students to enter the real world job market.

In recognition of these educational imperatives, the overall purposes of the Educators' SIG are as follows:

- To expand everyone's awareness of available computer resources.
- To enhance educators' computer competency.
- To promote innovative educational applications of the computer.

The Educators' SIG is an open forum for everyone to exchange their ideas about the relationship of computers to education. Please don't stay away because you don't see yourself as an educator or as a computer professional. Your unique contribution may be just the "missing piece"

someone needs! The Educators' SIG is for all those who want to help make the computer to make a positive impact on the future of our society.

Anne Ferrah owns and operates the Montessori Children's House in Cypress. John Lunsford has been working with computers in various roles for the past twenty years.

MODEM SIG REPORT

Terry Currier

The Modem SIG met on Jan 7 and discussed the use of *PROCOMM* Command files. Command files are text files you create that contain *PROCOMM* commands. They will perform automatic logons, unattended file transfers and many other tasks, even link command files to the entries in your dialing directory so that the entire dialing and logon procedure is automated. You can create a command file using virtually any word processor which saves in straight ASCII format; *PC-WRITE*, *PCTOOLS* and the *Norton EDITOR* are good choices.

CMD files take a while to practice and learn. If you are interested in them see the *PROCOMM* documentation for full instructions. A simpler way to automate some of your tasks in *PROCOMM* is to make use of the keyboard macros. You can assign character strings to the keys Alt-0 through Alt-9, and use them to transmit the assigned string to the remote with a single keystroke. Macro strings may be up to 50 characters long, and may contain imbedded control codes and carriage (!). Again see the *PROCOMM* documentation

for full instructions.

SPREADSHEET SIG REPORT

Neil Carman

Ten people braved a rainy night to attend the January 5th Spreadsheet SIG meeting at the New Horizons Computer Learning Center. At the outset there was a general discussion of the existence of various spreadsheet programs now on the market in addition to LOTUS: QUATTRO, EXCEL, SURPASS, LUCID-3D, BOEING CALC, and SUPERCALC. Also discussed were the ADD-IN's for LOTUS which render that program faster and broader in capability. Some of these ADD-IN's are in the public domain.

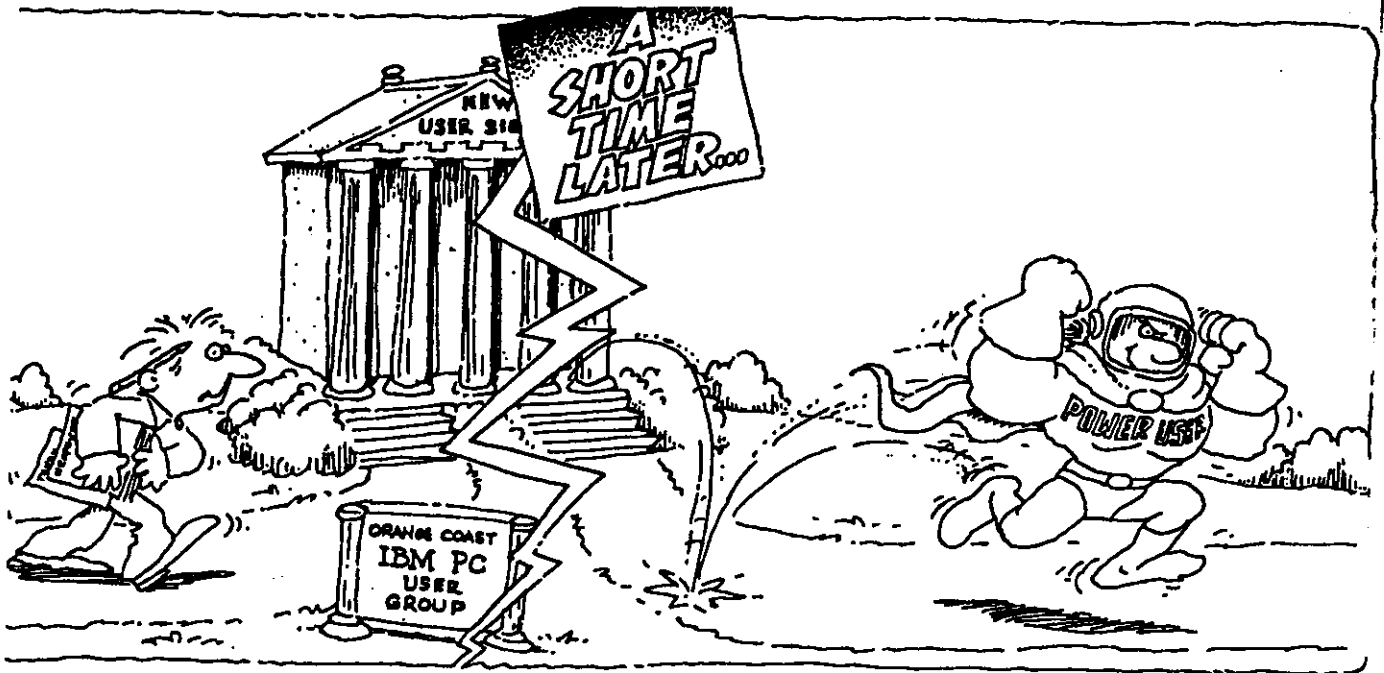
During Random Access one member called attention to a method of saving a template, complete with labels and formulas from a filled-in worksheet:

- (1) Save the worksheet file with its data.
- (2) Move to cell A-1 and issue command: / File Combine Subtract Entire File - which subtracts the contents of the file from itself, and thus sets all values to zero and leaves all formulas and labels intact and unchanged.

(3) Save the template under a new name.

Neil Carman demonstrated HAL by manipulating a complex spreadsheet using HAL commands and its automatic MACRO recording feature. Neil advised that schooling would prevent him from attending the next three SIG meetings. John Alesi volunteered to serve as moderator during that period.

**Remember,
· your
Ad could go here.**



At press time we did not have clear plans from most of the SIG leaders for their next meetings. Here are the reports we do have:

DOS SIG

It is going to be "Show and Tell" time at the DOS SIG in February! Bring your favorite batch files. Learn some neat new tricks you too can do. Steve Gibson has promised faithfully that he will be there also (although no one knows what he will be talking about at that time — not even Steve).

EDUCATORS' SIG

Several members of this group have promised to review some of the low cost educational software that is available for IBM PCs and compatibles.

MODEM SIG

Once again in February this group will help beginners set up their modem and communication program. The use of *PROCOMM* will be emphasized.

The March meeting will focus on *GT Powercom*, another excellent communications program.

SPREADSHEET SIG

There is a "war" going on (and we all are coming out winners)! Come and learn what about one of the latest salvos in that battle for our spreadsheet dollars is all about. See *QUATTRO* demonstrated. Hear its merits debated.

LIBRARY NOTES

Bonnie Ulanovsky, Librarian

We have quite a few new programs ready for the January General Meeting. Here are some descriptions of a few of those programs.

AM-TAX is a software program designed to assist you in the preparation of your 1987 federal tax return. It will do most calculations for you and, where possible, check to see that information entered is consistent and valid. Because of the power of the software, you can try out any "what if" situation. Change an income or deduction figure and instantly see the result on your tax balance or refund.

The 1987 tax year version of AM-Tax supports the following federal tax forms:

- Form 1040 Individual Tax Return
- Schedule A Itemized Deductions
- Schedule B Interest/Dividend Income
- Schedule C Business Income or Loss
- Schedule D Capital Gain or Loss
- Schedule E Supplemental Income
- Schedule F Farm Income
- Schedule R Credit for Elderly
- Schedule SE Self-Employment Tax

The following additional forms are supported only in the registered version of the program: 2106, 2119, 2210, 2441, 3903, 4136, 4562, 6251, 8598, 8615. AM-Tax handles multiple copies of: Schedule C (5), Schedule SE (2), Form 2106 (2), Form 4562. Author Joe Accurso, AM Software. **PC-TAX87** does all the calculations for and prints forms and schedules for IRS 1040 Income Tax Returns for 1987. The program will process and print a Form 1040 and Schedules A, B, C, D, E, F and SE and Forms 2106, 2441, 3903, 4562, 6251 and 8615 that may be used as attachments to the Form 1040. Totals are generally transferred from form to form when required. Tax due is computed based on a table that is a part of the PC-TAX87 system. The program provides direct access to any line on any of the forms or schedules for entry, change or deletion. Author James T. Demberger.

SCOUT Version 3.0 from John Newlin has been designed to with two primary goals in mind: is that it must be accessible from any applications program as well as from the DOS level. That is why it is a memory resident program. The second design goal is to limit the keystrokes required to perform a specific disk/direc-

tory/file management function to the absolute minimum. A third design goal was to make SCOUT as compatible as possible with the tremendous range of applications programs available for the IBM PC (and clones) as well as a number of other memory resident programs. While it cannot be guaranteed that SCOUT will operate perfectly with every program, it is safe to say that it works with the vast majority of applications and memory resident utilities available today. The following is a summary of SCOUT's major features:

- Execute programs
- Move, copy, delete individual files
- Move, copy, delete tagged files
- Rename files, directories, volume labels
- Create, remove directories, volume labels
- Change file attributes
- Sort files in five different ways
- Specify ascending or descending sorts
- User defined activation ("hot") keys
- Format 360KB and 1.2MB 5.25" inch diskettes
- Search entire disk for files
- Print directory listing of files
- Send printer control codes to printer
- Print a text file (formatted or unformatted)
- View a text file
- Search a text file for a specified string
- Change directory with single keystroke
- Change drives
- List unused space on all drives
- View monthly calendar
- View ASCII table
- Automatically tag files for move, copy or delete
- Graphics screen image (CGA only)
- Save screen image to text file
- View system memory allocation
- Reset file archive bits
- Copy (backup) updated files
- Set system date/time
- Set file date/time
- Strip Wordstar files during copy
- Remove from memory

All of the above features except for the first (execute program) and the last (remove from RAM) are available by calling SCOUT while running an applications program. Author John Newlin.

WRITER'S HEAVEN is a customization program for PC-Write that uses PC-Write's own macro feature, to graft onto PC-Write a unique keyboard command structure. The result is a word processor that combines speed, power, simplicity, and ease of learning. The program was especially designed for writers who need to make quick and frequent revisions to text without breaking the thought process. Author Mark Shepard, Simple Productions.

FILE EXPRESS new Version 4.0 is a very easy to use general database manager which makes use of menus and prompts that are especially useful to new users.

With this type of program the user can create their own mailing lists, inventories, accounting records, and format their own summaries and reports. Version 4.0 provides limited documentation, but the design of the menus and prompts plus the tutorial will help get the new user get started. This version is faster than earlier ones and allows field length to be changed quickly, databases may be appended to one another, and keyboard macros are longer than previous versions. Expressware

PC-TICKLE helps organize your schedule and display daily agenda on the computer's monitor, or print a copy to use as checklist. Schedules from previous or future dates may also be viewed. In addition to keeping track of events, PC-TICKLE tracks and totals expenses, tracks and totals caloric intake and output, and a mini editor to edit the calendar file. If it is

PICK A DISC.
ANY DISC.



preferred, the user can use any editor or word processor that will save in ASCII. Buttonware

INTELLI-TRIEVE is a weighted retrieval utility for users of dBASE III, dBASE III+ (trademarks of Ashton-Tate), and compatible database managers. The goal of Intelli-Trieve is to provide an easy way to extract new and valuable information from existing data. Intelli-Trieve performs weighted retrieval by comparing each record in a database to user-defined selection criteria, and producing a copy of the database with the records arranged in descending order of "acceptability". The result is an entirely new "view" of your data, one that cannot be attained through standard indexing, filtering or sorting operations. Intelli-Trieve's simple, menu-driven process allows you to choose a database, indicate which fields are to be included in the weighted retrieval calculations, and how each field is to be judged and weighted. Author Richard Ray Viets.

VEHICLE EXPENSES allows users to build a data file based on the expenses of owning and operating a motor vehicle or other equipment. In addition to tracking expenses, the program will provided totalized fuel mileage, costs and average miles

per gallon. The expenses are divided into four (4) categories; Fuel, Scheduled Maintenance, Emergency Maintenance, and Other Expenses.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE on the same disk as **VEHICLE EXPENSE** allows users to build a data file based on the maintenance requirements of a vehicle or other equipment requiring scheduled servicing, and then obtain a printed check off sheet listing the specific maintenance items for the current maintenance period. The program supports five (5) maintenance intervals. A maintenance interval is considered to be the mileage intervals as listed in your vehicle owners manual i.e., 2500, 5000, 10000, 15000, and 30000 miles. As directed in the owners manual, specific maintenance is to be performed at each of the stated intervals. Author Gary La-Ronge.

COMTRAC is a sophisticated and flexible tool for the serious commodity investor or broker. The program provides facilities for entering, storing, and reporting all daily commodity account activity. The System will handle previously time consuming tasks such as:

Commodity price conversion

- Commission calculations
- Account equity determination
- Margin requirement calculation
- Daily activity reporting

The system accomplishes this through the use of powerful, on-line data entry, transaction inquiry, and user assistance screens. Three daily reports can be generated which will report account information in these main areas of concern:

- Commodity Day Trade Activity
- Currently Held Open Positions
- Open Position Liquidation Activity

A final, fourth report can be produced which summarizes all of the day's activity, calculates associated gains or losses, makes cash adjustments, subtracts margin requirements, and reports either the excess cash available or the margin call due. Author Russ Finney, System Solver Software.

SIGN-SMITH Version 1.11 is an enlarged-character printer for Epson RX and FX. This "Sign-Smith" program can be used to print pages with bold lettering. It makes a neat title page for a high school project report. You can also use it to make overhead slides and "For Sale" notices for bulletin boards. Requires color graphics

card, **HERC CARD WON'T DO IT**, and more than 256 of core memory. The program has four fonts available, font 1, 2, 3, and 4 which are progressively more fully-formed. Public Domain.

MINDREADER is a powerful Text Editor that uses Artificial intelligence to suggest completion of words and/or phrases, making typing easier and faster. It is designed for the business professional (non-typist). It allows an unskilled typist to complete a document in a fraction of the keystrokes normally required with a conventional word processor, checking spelling "on-the-fly" before words are actually even completed. The more you use MindReader, the smarter it gets. MindReader also contains a pop-up Calendar, "Rolodex" and Diary. MindReader would be suitable for the physically handicapped or a youngster whose spelling is limited. Brown Bag Software.

SUPPORT YOUR SHAREWARE AUTHORS.

Bonnie Ulanovsky, OCIPUG member number 4, has been the club's librarian since its inception.

PROCOMM PLUS

Bruce Barkelew, President

DATASTORM TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Dear ProComm Users:

There seems to be a lot of confusion lately about **DATASTORM**, **ProComm**, and **PROCOMM PLUS**. Are we "shareware"? Are we "commercial"? What is **PROCOMM PLUS**? etc., etc.

First, a little history: **DATASTORM** has been a traditional corporation since its conception. It isn't a sideline or part time

job. Some people have the misconception that shareware products don't come from "real" companies. I assure you that we are indeed quite real. We simply made the decision to market our first product (**ProComm**) through the shareware channels.

Our new product, **PROCOMM PLUS** continues in that tradition. You will still be able to "try it before you buy it". A full working executable copy of **PROCOMM PLUS** (not a demo!) will be available for downloading from most bulletin board systems and information services around the country. If you decide **PROCOMM PLUS** is for you, the complete package will be available directly from **DATASTORM** or from your local dealer. The complete pack-

age includes the **PROCOMM PLUS** program disk, supplemental disk with utility programs and script files, a 300+ page comprehensive manual with tutorial, voice line technical support, and more! The complete package is only \$75.00 and that includes shipping.

We will continue to distribute and support **ProComm**. **PROCOMM PLUS** is not a replacement for **ProComm**. It is our solution for meeting the user's needs for the next wave of data communications.

The coming year will bring even more exciting new communications products from **DATASTORM TECHNOLOGIES**. Keep watching!



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The Technical Editor's Desk

by John Goodman

In this issue of *README.DOC* we are doing a lot that is new. One thing is dividing the issue up into several sections. As your Technical Editor I have responsibility for this section, devoted to the more technical topics, as well as for assisting the other editors with the technical aspects of

the articles in their sections.

This section will itself have several features each issue. I may have a column like this one from time to time, although I do not expect to do one every month. There will be a "Random Access" column each month. In that column you will find answers to the questions asked in the Random Access portion of the general meeting plus answers to other questions that you may write in to ask.

I also want to publish articles by you. In particular I am looking for short articles describing your experiences, good or bad, with some technical aspect of PC computing. Also I am looking for reviews of commercial products, both hardware and software. At first I expect we will get

reviews only when you buy something and particularly like or hate it. Later on I hope to solicit evaluation copies of products from manufacturers in exchange for reviews published here. Reviews of shareware and public domain programs will be published in the Librarian's Corner.

If you would like to be a reviewer, just write a short review and send it.

Finally, I hope that we will develop a lively "Letters to the Technical Editor" column. Here you can tell me what you think; describe briefly your horror stories or tell your delightful surprises either in getting your PC to do its job or in interacting with the vendors who supply us with our PCs, programs, and peripherals.

Welcome to the adventure!

RANDOM ACCESS

by John M. Goodman, Ph.D.

Once again we got a generous supply of questions at the last general meeting. Time was short and so were my answers to most of the questions. Here, then are my more detailed answers.

But before I give the best answers I have been able to turn up, let me share a few thoughts on generally how you might get answers to questions other than by asking them at the general meeting.

If you are in a hurry, call someone. To find out who you might call I suggest you consult our Resource List. (This list was last published in the November, 1987 *README.DOC*.) Another possibility is to call the coordinator or "designated guru" for the Special Interest Group that seems to you most appropriate to your question's topic.

If your question can wait just a bit I strongly suggest that, instead of calling someone for an answer, you go to whatever SIG meeting seems most appropriate to you and ask it there. That way the whole group can hear your question. This has two distinct advantages. First it means that the answer to your question is shared with a group of people many of whom may need or want to have that information. Second it means that you have access to the accumulated wisdom of all the people in that group—often including something much more to the point of your questions than what the SIG leader may happen to know.

Another way to ask a question is to write a letter to the Technical Editor of *README.DOC*. I will include those questions with the ones from the general meeting and do my best to answer them in the

Random Access column.

If I cannot find an answer to your question I may publish the question alone and see if one of our readers can provide the answer.

Now down to the questions asked at the December general meeting:

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

First there were several having to do with telecommunications and related topics.

Our first questioner has just recently spent a bundle on a new phone system. He tried to dial a bulletin board using his computer and although he heard the dial tone on the modem's speaker, after just a few tones were sent by his modem the line went dead, then he started to hear some phone company message.

It sounds as if your modem is telling the phone company (or your new PABX, if that is what you just installed) something it interprets as invalid. Hence the message and the refusal to accept any more commands. Check your "modem init string," "dialing prefix" and "dialing suffix." If you are using Procomm you can see these strings by using Alt-S to get the Setup menu and selecting 1 off that menu to get the Modem Setup sub-menu. Also, check your Long Distance Dialing Codes if you are using any of them. See if you are using them look in the Dialing Directory (Alt-D) for the symbols + @ and # in the number you are trying to dial. Tap the P key while you are in the Dialing Window to see what strings each of those symbols is set to generate.)

The next questioner wanted to know how to turn up the volume on his Evercom 2400 modem using Procomm.

To turn up the volume on an Evercom modem, modify the setup string in your communications program (Set by use of

Alt S in Procomm; sub-choice #1) to include the command "L=3" for the loudest possible volume level. The levels are designated as 0, 1, 2, 3. Of course you also could ask this question at the Modem SIG and maybe get it answered more promptly.

(Thanks to Steve Dela for the answer to this one.)

Another person reported that he can dial out and switch to voice, but he cannot seem to get anything to show on his screen when he calls a bulletin board.

When you call a bulletin board you don't want to switch to voice mode since the BBS can only "speak" data.

Are you using your modem to dial the number? If so it would seem that your communications program is set up correctly and your modem is working for output. One concern might be to determine if it is working for input as well.

If you have a speaker on your modem you should hear first the dial tone and the dialing signals (clicks if you are pulse dialing, short beeps and boops if you are tone dialing), then you will hear the phone being answered at the other end of the connection followed shortly, if it is indeed a remote electronic bulletin board, by a modem carrier tone. Next you will hear a "fuzzy" sound for a very brief time after which, typically, your modem will silence the speaker for the duration of the call.

If you are hearing these things you should also be seeing things on your screen.

If not I can only recommend that you attend the next Modem SIG meeting and see if they can help you.

Finally we had a question about the Phil Katz archiver/unarchiver program. This person said that when he tried to execute PKX35A35.EXE he just got a message that said "PKSX: File not found."

PKSX refers to the Self eXtracting fea-

ture of the program. In this version of the program you can create files that are both an archive and the program to extract that archive's contents. PKX35A35.EXE is an example of such a program. From the message you report I would have to guess that you have a damaged copy of the program. Try downloading a fresh copy or getting one from our Librarian.

HARDWARE

Next we had three hardware sorts of questions. (That is, these are questions I would suggest you take to the Hardware SIG meeting.)

One was from a person who had run the same RAM intensive program simultaneously on two computers, one with a 6 MHz clock frequency and the other with an 8 MHz clock, both with an 80287 math co-processor. The programs ran for several hours and then, to his surprise, the one running on the nominal-ly slower machine finished before the one running on the faster machine. He wants to know why. I'd like to know too!

He does not tell us by how much the times differed, but any difference in this direction seems puzzling. If he had not said the program was RAM intensive, by which I assume he means it does little input or output including little access to the disk drives, I would suggest that the difference might lie in the performance of the disk subsystems of his computers.

For example, he might have had a line in the CONFIG.SYS file of the slower computer that read BUFFERS = 30 and not had such a line in the other system. When there is no such line in a CONFIG.SYS file in the root directory of the boot drive of a PC, DOS assumes a "default" value of only 2 or 3 for this parameter. That means it only sets aside enough buffer area to hold 2 or 3 sectors of data on their way to or from the disk drive. That can slow things down a lot, at least if there is a lot of disk access.

Another, more subtle possible problem is disk file fragmentation.

The questioner said both of his systems had identical 30 MByte hard disks, but they may have had the data stored on those disks in radically different ways. For example, if one had the data stored in most contiguous files and on the other machine that same data was in a badly fragmented file, the could account for a considerable difference in disk access times. The easiest way to check on this possibility is to get into the sub-directory with the database files in question, then type CHKDSK followed by the name of the file(s) you want to check and then press Enter. (If you wish to check more than one file at once you must be able to describe all of them in a single "filespec" by using the wildcard

characters ? and *. You are not permitted to put more than one filespec after the program name CHKDSK each time you run it.) If CHKDSK finds that any file you have specified is fragmented it will tell you into how many fragments it has been broken.

The next hardware question was about printers. This person seeks help with his Gemini 10X printer which is dropping part of the first and last characters on each line.

Again I would suggest that you take this up with the folks at either The Computer Printer Store in Anaheim or Printers R Us in Tustin.

Finally, we were asked if one could still join in the effort to make a group purchase of 80386 clone parts. That group is being headed up by Neil Carman. Contact him to see if you can still join them.

FINDING PROGRAMS

We had six questions about how to find one or another special purpose program.

First was a persistent questioner needing help with accounting software set up especially for an auto mechanic's shop. (She had asked the same question at least twice before.) You are in luck this time.

Someone at the meeting suggested you contact Jackson Racing in Huntington Beach to see what software they are using. Marilyn Davis asked you to call her (at 962-2131). And later on the BBS I saw a message from Chris Malm suggesting you contact Robert Duncan at Repair Shop Systems in San Rafael, CA (phone = 415-457-4733). Thank you all for your suggestions.

Next was a request for educational or game programs for children ages 8-10 that do not require a color monitor, preferably programs from our BBS or library.

I am pretty sure you will find quite a few, but I cannot tell you what they are. I suggest you post a note on the BBS asking folks there to help you out. I also suggest you go to the Educator's SIG and ask there. Finally, for what we have in our club library, check with the Librarian. If she doesn't know she can at least help you learn how to search the PC-SIG library for relevant items.

The next one is a toughie, at least for me. This person wants source code for a terminal emulator program to emulate VT52, VT100, TEK4010 and Data General terminals, C-language preferred.

I am pretty sure we don't have it on our BBS, but it is possible that it may be in our library. I also suggest leaving a message on the Stanton Public Domain BBS, as they tend to specialize in information of that sort. The sysop there does not have all his library on-line, so leave a note and if he has it he will be happy to make it available

to you for downloading.

What program can I use to download stock market data automatically?

There are a lot of programs you might consider. The Investor's SIG would be a good place to ask this question.

I am aware of a combination hardware and software solution from Lotus that will bring in stock market data over a radio link. Each of the major information utilities (Compuserve, The Source, Dow Jones, Warner, etc.) will have stock market data and at least most of them would be more than happy to tell you about one or more programs they favor for getting the data from their computer to yours.

But all this may be beside the point. What are you going to do with the data once you get it captured? If you have a favorite investment tracking and analysis program you need first to see what programs the publisher of that program recommends for capturing data. Most of them are quite fussy about the form in which they can accept data. No sense in capturing data if you cannot make use of it.

What are the better public domain hard drive backup programs? Has anyone been able to get FLASHBAK to work correctly?

No one at the meeting admitted to using FLASHBAK nor did anyone offer a better suggestion. What I may be able to add to this dearth of helpful comment is some information on how to search for a program on our bulletin board (or most any other BBS). When you get connected and to the main command prompt enter F. This will take you to the Files sub-section of the BBS. Here you can say L to show you the categories of file we have. One of those categories is FILE (for File Management) and another possibly relevant one is DOS (for, among other things, DOS Extensions). To see what specific files we have in each of those areas you can next enter the command L;FILE;DOS. Or to scan all the file entries for the word BACKUP you could enter S and when it prompts you for the string to search for say BACKUP. If we have a relevant file these steps will most likely reveal it to you, although of course, it comes without any recommendation on our part.

If you bother to go through this work and find several programs, then try them all out and form some opinions, please write us a short article sharing what you have done and what you have learned. This may save someone else a lot of their time.

Last in this group, we had a question from someone wanting to use a PC to create titles on videotape.

The answer to this question depends a

whole lot on the quality of results desired and the budget available to achieve them. Near the high end I might suggest the AT&T Targa 32 board and a Lyon-Lamb video controller with software from Crayon Computers in Hollywood. (There are even more fancy and more expensive solutions than that, but they fringe on being mini-computer based instead of PC-based. I could offer more help if I knew more about what you were trying to do.) At or near the low end would be a CGA card connected to a home VCR with images created using *Harvard Graphics*.

MISCELLANEOUS

Now for the remaining questions.

One person reported that when he uses Ventura Publisher, version 1.0, he occasionally has his screen go blank and his machine lock up. He wonders why.

Ah yes. The wonderful world of Version 1.0. Nearly every program is first released bearing this label and nearly all of them have some serious "bugs" that only the users discover. I don't know about the one you report, but I do know that version 1.1 of *Ventura Publisher* is available and I suggest you investigate getting it. (Not that new versions don't also have bugs—in fact there are patches out for *Ventura Publisher*, version 1.1 now—but usually the worst ones are in versions numbered something point zero.)

How can I transfer some public domain and shareware programs to 3-1/2" diskettes for my daughter to use? She is in a different city so I cannot just connect my machine directly to her machine.

Well the bad news is you must have a

machine with a 3-1/2" drive to write to those little diskettes. You can get a drive of that size (and a suitable controller) that can be added to a PC or XT or AT. You will also need to be running DOS 3.2 or later, I believe. Or you can find a friend with a machine that has that size drive and connect your machine to his/hers. You cannot make use of an Apple Macintosh, even though it uses that size disk, because it writes information on the disk in a format different from that used by the IBM PCs and their clones that are equipped with 3-1/2" disks.

Finally, if both you and your daughter have modems you could call up her computer and send the files over the phone line using a suitable communications program at each end. (We think Procomm is nifty for this.)

Has anyone used a "back chair" (the kind you kneel on) for long periods of time?

Several people at the meeting said they had and that they liked them. They are not for everyone, but if you like it, apparently you get quite enthusiastic about it.

Is there any consumer reports giving unbiased ratings on computer hardware?

Yes, several. Or No, of course not. It depends on what you mean. All writers and editors and reviewers, etc. are biased. I think what you mean, however, is where can one get reviews instead of just sales hype.

Speaking of consumer reports, *Consumer Reports* magazine is one source. They tend to focus on things for home use, but they also sometimes cover systems appropriate to a small business. *PC Magazine*

is one of my favorites. It is a large format magazine and comes out every two weeks, chock full of articles including a lot of reviews. They seem to be quite good at panning bad products even if they are advertised with full page color ads and at praising products that don't advertise at all. They do tend to be weak, however, on public domain and shareware products. Of course there are a lot of other magazines you could turn to. *Infoworld* is a tabloid format journal that is published weekly and also goes to great pains to review products carefully and, for the most part, fairly. *Popular Computing* is another I could recommend. Most of the others that come to my mind right now are more specialized, but if you are looking for reviews in some particular area they might help you.

Our last questioner is actually making a request more than posing a question. He suggests that we have more "how-to" presentations on using, for example, an AST Rampage AT card, covering not only how to use it but also when and why.

I hope that person comes to our next general meeting as I expect that our main speakers will cover just those points very well indeed.

See you there!

You can send your questions, comments, reviews and articles directly to the Technical Editor at the following address:

John M. Goodman, Ph.D.
P. O. Box 746 Westminster
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*Stan Sabin*

On behalf of the entire membership of OCIPUG I want to take this opportunity to thank TOM SUTRO for his indefatigable efforts in the last two and a half years of most cases single-handedly getting our newsletter published. It has taken hundreds and hundreds of hours to accomplish this task. He has seen that there were enlightening articles, news, etc in every issue and has sometimes worked under totally unreasonable deadlines because of late submission of articles by others, holidays, short time between meetings, etc. The demands on his time to do this task single-handedly have been tremendous. We now have a great new Newsletter staff to carry on what Tom has worked so hard to achieve and I know that under the leadership of STEVE DELA we will see great things. But I feel you all should know of the great commitment that

Tom (and his gracious wife, Terri) have made for all of us. In the days and months to come when you see Tom be sure and tell him how much you appreciate the Herculean effort he has done for you and me.

As we look to this new year with all the wonderful technology that is coming forth, we will try to keep you apprised of what is fresh and good (and what is merely a rehash of something old as well). Our program committee is hard at work at trying to bring you innovative and stimulating programs which will enlighten us all. TIM SMITH is heading up this committee and I'm sure he would welcome any suggestions or comments. He does get offers from a great deal of companies that want to "showcase" their products and has to be selective about what we present to you. We have been trying to bring you information about products from not only the industry giants such as Microsoft, Ashton Tate, IBM, etc., but also the "little guys" who have some interesting things for us. The committee tries to utilize the talent of our own members as much as possible since we have some very knowledgeable people in our own club. We have been enlightened much this past year by members such as STEVE GIBSON (of INFO-WORLD and Gibson Research), JOHN GOODMAN (our always ready to help

Guru), RICHARD SABIN (Who can forget his AT assembly demonstration?) and many others. I know that 1988 will be even better!

The last few meetings we have had some terrific prizes that we have given away to our members (there is another article in this issue listing some of them for December) so those of you who have not been coming lately are really missing out! There are really only two conditions if your name is drawn by the random generator in the computer: You must be present and your membership dues must be paid. We have been giving away everything from Comdex souvenirs to \$300, \$400, \$500 software packages and hardware items too. As an example one of our brand new members won a \$799 error correcting modem on the same day he joined with his \$20 membership dues. We won't always have such expensive items but just in case, you might get an added benefit for coming to the meeting over and beyond the program.

We are now scheduling meetings for 16 Special Interest Groups (SIG's) and I'm sure that there is at least one for you. If you want even more benefit from belonging I again repeat: Jump in, get involved, participate, and we'll all have a fantastic 1988!

OCIPUG Membership Expirations**January 1988**

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 Barr, Charles 0509
 Baxter, Barbara 0510
 Beckett, Ken 0511
 Bluestein, Martin 0504
 Bryant, Frank 0512
 Chicowlas, Charles 0497
 Christensen, Chris 0498
 Cleeremans, Bruce 0506
 Cosby, Harold 0499
 Fallon, Robert 0513
 Geil, Carl 0514
 Gilles, Timothy 0097
 Gilreath, Bruce 0515
 Hartley, Dean 0092
 Hickey, Ann 0516
 Kavojian, Ernest 0501
 Kidd, William 0495
 Koegel, Hanno 0505
 Kruse, John 0518
 Linke, John 0519
 Loveridge, Phillip 0520
 Mayeda, Richard 0522
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Montooth, Marlene 0523
 Mott, Andy 0524
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 Opperman, Renee 0091
 Petrangelo, Stephen 0503
 Porter, Mark 0095
 Raffle, Deith 0535
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 Rhoton, William 0537
 Roberts, Bill 0527
 Rosebrook, Randy 0528
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 Schochet, Diane 0530
 Seward, Richard 0088
 Shoemaker, Edwin 0502
 Sobwick, Florence 0533
 Stevenson, Don 0101
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 Trom, Steve 0087
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February 1988

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 Cammarrusti, Gregory 0553
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 Curtis, Paul 0132
 Cushenberry, Lori 0555
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 D'Antuono, Susan 0152
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OCIPUG MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the ORANGE COAST IBM PC USER GROUP begins the month membership fee is received and is for twelve months. Membership lapses on the date printed on the newsletter label. Renewal should be made the month before that date to remain active and avoid missing an issue of *README.DOC*. Dues can be paid by a check made payable to OCIPUG or cash at the General Meetings or mailed to the P.O. Box.

OCIPUG regular members receive the *README.DOC* newsletter, have more BBS privileges and better access, receive the RESOURCE LIST, may participate in group purchases, attend SIG meetings, obtain Public Domain and User Supported software at a discount, hold office, and vote in OCIPUG elections!

Regular membership in OCIPUG costs \$20.00 per year. Membership renewals are also \$20.00. If one member of your household already belongs to OCIPUG, you and others living in the same household may join as *Additional Family Member(s)* for just \$5.00 per person per year. This new class of member has all the privileges of a regular member, but does not receive an additional copy of *README.DOC*.

Name badges are provided which indicate your membership number and the month you joined the organization. Your membership expires the month preceding the month show on your badge. Name badges are not replaced each year so if you should misplace it please let the Membership Chairperson know so it can be replaced.

The Officers, Directors, SIG Coordinators and the Membership Chairperson welcome you to the ORANGE COAST IBM PC USER GROUP and hope you find the meetings and other services of the organization very beneficial.

OCIPUG FINANCIAL REPORT

Cash Balance		
December 1, 1987		\$4998.65
December 1987 Changes in Cash		
Cash Receipts New Members		\$ 740.00
Renewals		700.00
Library Fees, November		230.00
TOTAL		\$1670.00
Cash Disbursements		
Plaques for Officers and Directors		\$ 635.47
Newsletter		294.38
Postage		152.47
Meeting Expense		148.87
Telephone		40.02
Supplies		12.95
TOTAL		\$1284.16
Cash Balance		
December 31, 1987		\$5384.49

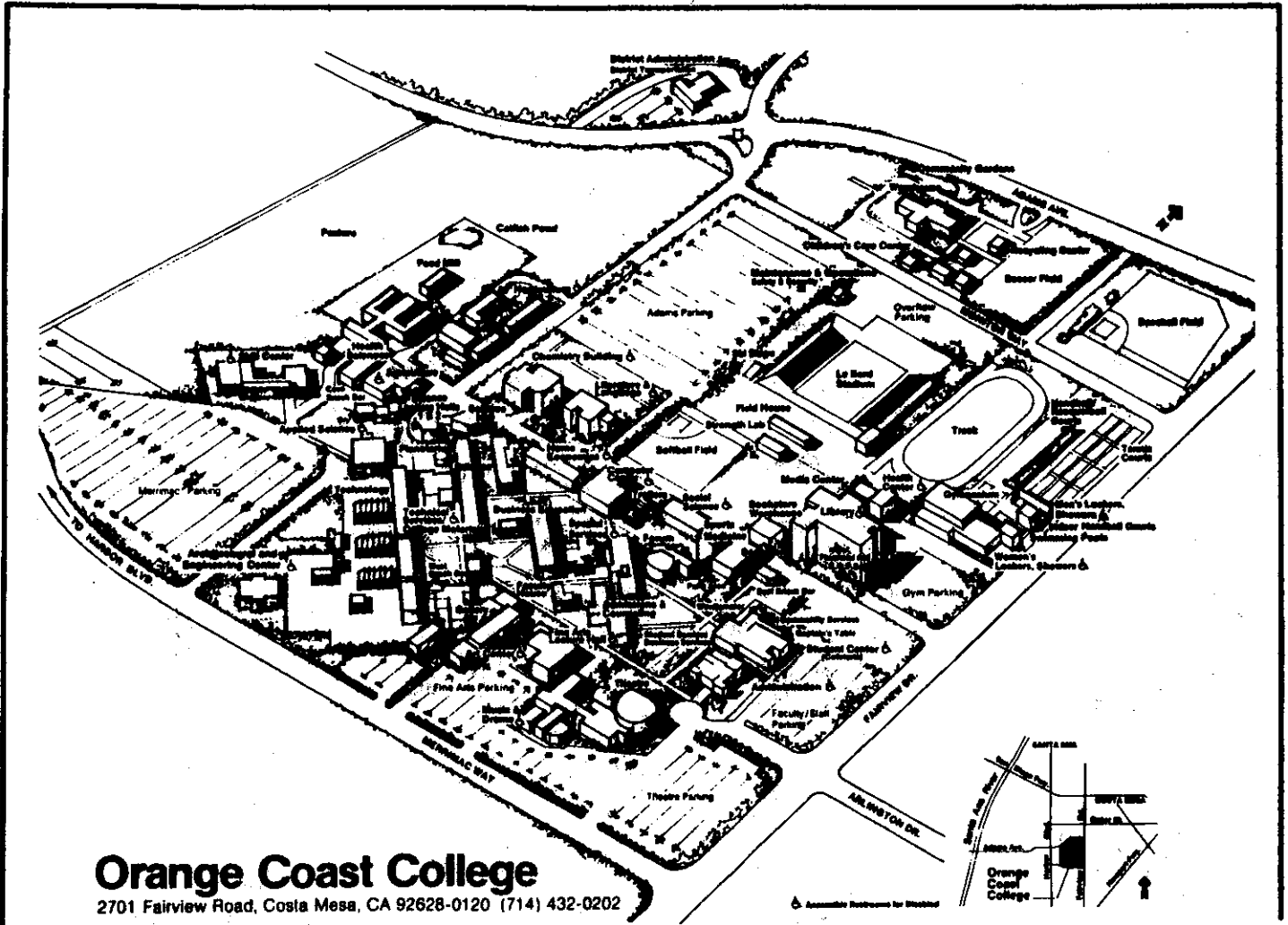
Prepared by Walt Drew, Treasurer

The OCIPUG Board of Directors wishes to thank the

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