

# README.DOC

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ORANGE COAST IBM PC USER GROUP

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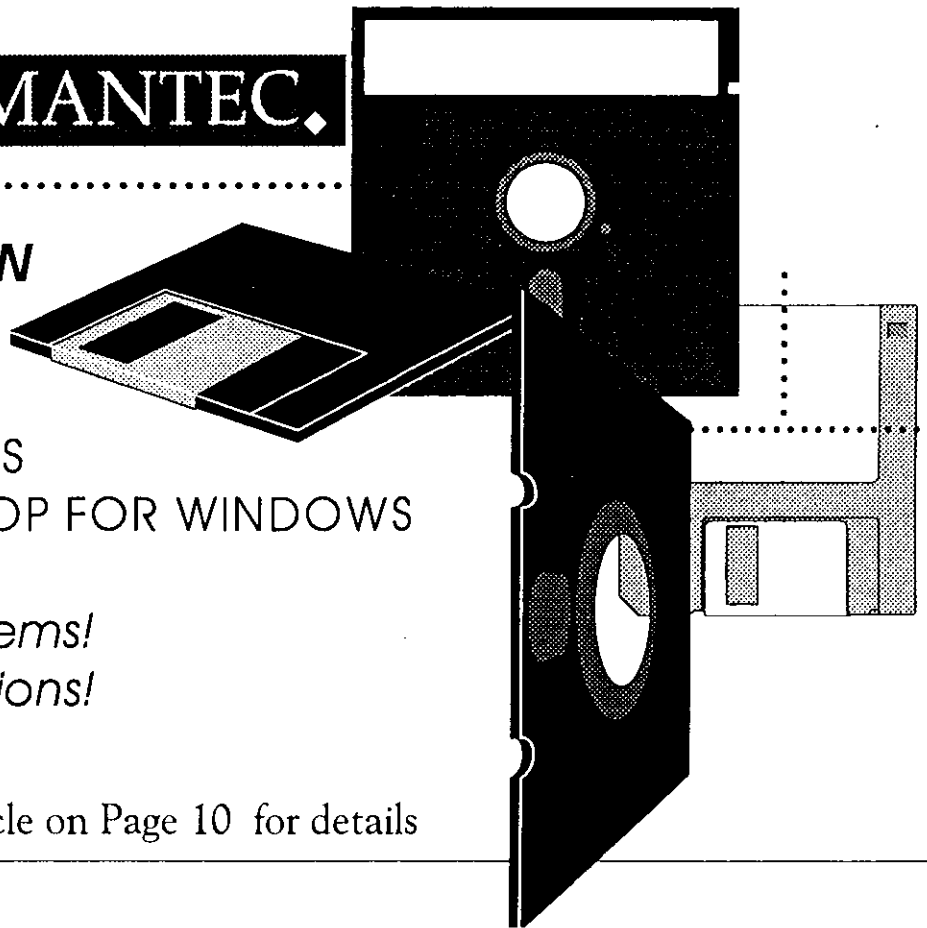
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#### PURPOSE STATEMENT

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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#### GUIDELINES FOR README.DOC ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

All items submitted for publication are subject to editing. We reserve the right to refuse any material submitted for publication.

Send all submissions to the Editor, on or before the deadline listed below, using one of the following formats:

1. **UPLOAD** to the Bulletin Board, indicating the format by extension, such as: ASCII.TXT, MSWord.WRD, WordPerfect.WP.

2. **5 1/4" DISK** mailed to the Editor in time to meet the deadline: P. O. Box 8224, Newport Beach, CA 92658.

3. **HARD COPY** is acceptable only if typed and double-spaced.

**DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS WILL ALWAYS BE 12 MIDNIGHT ON THE SATURDAY FOLLOWING THE GENERAL MEETING.**

# General Meeting Report

Harv Haight

Past President John Goodman started the 82nd General Meeting at 8:45 a.m. with Random Access: CPU differences — 386SX has a 16-bit I/O, 386DX has a 32-bit I/O, 486 clock is not halved and the 486DX includes a built-in math coprocessor; SPINRITE cleans up IDE bad sectors but does not low-level reformat. At 9:08 a.m. Vice President Richard Villa introduced RBBS Sysop and Director Bob Ottke, who thanked long-term member Thurman Wade for his funding (\$1,600) of new BBS equipment (tremendous audience response), and noted the board availability of the newest VIRUSCAN program. Richard promised a new startup of the Library function by the January meeting.

At 9:11 a.m. Paul F. Parker III, a sales representative from Broderbund, used a Toshiba 5200 (386-20) and a Logitech Kid Mouse to demonstrate four new games from this eleven-year-old consumer software house, largest in its field.

WHERE IN AMERICA'S PAST IS CARMEN SAN DIEGO? is the latest of the Carmen San Diego adventures. The Acme Detective Agency tries to prevent Carmen from stealing historical artifacts from the past and in so doing teaches the player much of American History. An included 1300-page reference, *What Happened When*, supplies the key to an increase in detective grade (no other copy protection). On a VGA screen, color and detail are excellent. In local schools, this game is very popular with 6th graders and above. It lists for \$59.95; costs \$39 at local stores.

KID PIX is a wildly variant paint program which takes 2.5 MB of hard drive and requires a VGA screen. Supposedly, it is aimed at a whimsical youngster, but the features would appeal to even ancient adults (like me). Tools are versatile and sound effects are marvelous. It, too, lists for \$59.95.

TREE HOUSE seems planned for kids in the lower grades, but the wonderful action and sound could make it popular for all family members. (These Broderbund programmers have fantastic imaginations!) Again, it lists for \$59.95.

PATTON STRIKES BACK is a strategic game based broadly upon the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. While definitely aimed at ages 14 and above, its gimmicks should arouse the enthusiasm of inveterate gamers. List price is \$59.95.

Three other programs now back-ordered because of buyer response are SIMANT, SIMEARTH, and MEMORY-MATE; the SIM programs follow the pattern of SIM-CITY.

Eric Dee, of Software Marketing in Anaheim, then demonstrated three new programs. AUTOMAP lets a driver forget foldout maps and mileage charts by generating simple-to-read map displays and trip instructions. It lists for \$99.95 and sells on the street for \$51. ORBITS tells all about the Solar System with informative displays and even game situations. Useful for grades 5 and older, it lists for \$79.95. BODYWORLD consists of useful and seemingly accurate graphics about human physiol-

ogy. It may not be a *Gray's Anatomy*, but information presented is much easier to assimilate. It lists for \$59.95. Mr. Dee offered group discounts, such as \$115 for the set of three.

After a break, Richard Villa and SIG leaders issued brief announcements. The next scheduled presenter was delayed, so John Goodman continued his Random Access. A major item was the interest shown by the audience in peer-to-peer local area networking.

Dick Hutt and President Kailash Amdwani of Gold Disk, a Toronto (Canada) software house with offices in Los Angeles, used a 386-33 machine with SVGA graphics to demo SCREEN CRASE and ANIMATION WORKS. The first is a generator of specialized WINDOWS 3.0 wallpaper (and a CRT saver); ANIMATION WORKS consists of three editors: Movie, Background, and Set. It fits well into Multi-Media presentations, as well as providing the basis for SCREEN CRASE. Mr. Amdwani showed each step of the sequences used in his demo. Each program lists for less than \$500, thus costing much less than competitive items. Club members were offered both programs for \$170.

The meeting concluded with the usual raffle; OCIPUG thanks those who donated prizes. ■

# President's Message

Stephen Burnside

One of the many things I have come to understand and appreciate, since becoming president of OCIPUG, is the great difficulty involved in writing a monthly column. Although my writing efforts are at best modest, I still find it to be one of the most difficult tasks. I have thus come to more fully appreciate the work of those members who take the time to write something for our newsletter each month. As for myself, I am constantly searching for something interesting or topical to write about. Aside from my duty to you, the club members, to provide you with information related to the affairs of our club, I feel that I must not bore you or waste your time with minutiae. In this month's column I run the risk of doing one or the other, or both.

## MUSINGS....

I recently went to an optometrist for an eye exam because I was having some difficulty with my vision. Since I wear bifocals, and have done so since I started wearing glasses four years ago, I assumed it was just time for a new pair of bifocals. I was shocked when I was told that I might be better suited for trifocals. The last several years of reading small print, and staring at monitors, both in my office at home and at work, have taken their toll on my eyesight. Like many computer users I am now having difficulty seeing, not only at a distance or close-up, but also at the intermediate distance represented by my monitor screen. This is a condition which more and more optometrists are finding among "hard-core" computer users. So, if things seem a little blurry to you lately, maybe you should have your eyes checked. I hope one of our members, who is an optometrist, may find the time to write an article for README.DOC on this subject. If we have any volunteers, please contact Editor Jean Stevens.

To borrow a phrase from Monty Py-

thon: *And now for something completely different.* Some of you know that my primary occupation is in the field of electric power generation transmission and distribution. For over twenty years I have worked in almost all phases of the electric industry. I have seen all kinds of problems related to electric service to homes and businesses. Some of these problems, power surges, low and high voltage, and loss of power, have caused all kinds of damage to customer equipment. Most of the problems could have been avoided, had the user taken some basic precautions. Everyone should have, at least, a surge protector and not only for computer systems, but any other high value electrical equipment, such as, TVs, VCRs, Microwave ovens, etc. It is nearly impossible for the power company to insulate your equipment from the vagaries of weather, natural disasters, accidents, or downed power lines. These events can cause extremely harmful surges to your equipment, transmitted through power lines and sometimes the damage caused by such an event is irreparable. Although a surge protector will not protect against all possible problems on the electric system, it is certainly better than no protection at all. For the utmost in protection, you might even consider an Uninterruptible Power Supply, a UPS. Not only will a UPS protect against power surges, but will provide sufficient power to enable you to save your data prior to powering down your system in the event of a blackout.

The reason I am bringing this to your attention is because our stormy weather lately has caused numerous power problems throughout Southern California. If you haven't had a power outage or two, consider yourself lucky and forewarned!

*Continued on Page 13...*

# ABCs of the BBS

Bob Ottke

There are a lot of good communications programs out there. Years ago, I started with Smartcom (Hayes), and nearly gave up telecommunications. Next, I tried Crosstalk XVI. Better, but still lousy. But I understand that Crosstalk for Windows is a good one. Maybe!! Yes, I've tried background communications in PCTools, but never seemed to get good results. Maybe I'm just not persistent enough.

Then, along came ProComm! At last, something that was at least moderately user friendly. I have the impression that at least half of our OCIPUG members are using ProComm. Before the new version came out, though, I had a fling with Qmodem, and liked that one very much. The main reason I went to that was to be able to install Zmodem protocol without much of a problem. Maybe it could have been done with ProComm 1.1, but I didn't try. Also, a neat little shareware program, FILETAG, allowed me to mark files for download, and avoid the tedious chore of writing everything down, and trying to get it EXACT. Incidentally, while we are speaking of Qmodem, that company and product have been bought by Mustang Software, the company that puts out Wildcat, and will be offering a commercial version of Qmodem in the near future. That should be a great one!

But it will have to go some to get me to switch from the current ProComm Plus. Those of you who

haven't bought the commercial version should dash right out and pick it up. It is well worth the sixty bucks or so just for a few new features. And, I'll bet that many of you who have that program are missing at least some of the neat features that it offers.

Zmodem is now an internal protocol in ProComm and, in my opinion, there is no good reason for ever using any other protocol. Be sure to turn on "Crash Recovery." If you should accidentally drop carrier after a couple hundred K of download, you'll be glad. Zmodem with crash recovery will pick up your download exactly where it left off. With any other protocol, you must start all over again.

How about the ClipBoard? This handy little utility takes the place of FILETAG, and lets you clip the filenames for download. Just press <Alt=>, followed by <C> for Cut. Highlight the filename, press <CR>, and your filename is added to the list for download. Just reverse the procedure, and your files are on their way to you. One little bug, though. If you mark more than five or six files for d/l, then press <P> for "Paste All," you may not get them all. Just Edit the list and add the ones you missed the first time around, and you'll have your full download.

Of course, you have set up your ASP files for automatic log-on, haven't you? Just refer to the docs for that one, and you'll never have to misspell your password again!

Then there are the Meta Keys. Those are nothing more than handy macros that you can use for any repetitive entries that you might want to make. Sometimes they are more convenient than trying to get a complex ASP file to work correctly every time.

Yes, ProComm still has its shareware version 2.4.2, and it is available on the BBS. But, as I said before, the commercial version is well worth the money if you take advantage of all the above goodies that are not available in the shareware version.

## NEW ON THE BBS

For all of you GeoWorks fans, there are a lot of new programs available. Just search the GEOWORK classification of recent uploads for a complete list. Several are recent Newsletters, some concern printing tricks, kerning, etc. In all, you will find at least sixteen new files.

DCOM401.ZIP is the latest (12/13/91) version of an outstanding DOS shell. The work that the author put into this one is enormous. You will also need at least the first of the documentation files. The second doc file is devoted to development of macros within the program.

QWH10-24.ZIP is a collection of technical notes directly from Quarterdeck. If you use DESQview and/or QEMM, you should have

*Continued on Page 13...*

# From the Editor

Jean Stevens

1991 was a good year for *README.DOC*. Aesthetically, our newsletter never looked better, thanks to Sunny Lockie's talent for design and layout. But, while the appearance of our newsletter is important, if the contents were just mediocre, we'd soon lose interest. We published many excellent articles in 1991, many by first-time contributors. We offered a variety of monthly columns, some to keep members informed of the latest happenings in the computer world, and others to educate our members about Batch Files, Programming, and the BBS. Our steady contributors, those who write articles regularly on a variety of topics, also came through for us in 1991. This year, we look forward to seeing more and more new members getting the writing bug, and submitting good, informative pieces for publication.

I receive a fair amount of phone calls from members, old and new, asking about guidelines for submitting articles for publication in *README.DOC*. Our Editorial Policy follows and should answer most questions.

Ninety-nine percent of our newsletter articles are written by our members; therefore, we welcome and encourage contributions. All articles dealing with computer related subject matter will be considered for publication, including product reviews, book reviews, and letters to the Editor. Offensive or potentially libelous material will not be accepted.

We, of course, reserve the right to edit all articles, including reprints, for grammar, length, and to improve readability. Articles should be submitted in ASCII text (most word processors have a feature that will save a file in text format). Your article may be

uploaded to the BBS in the Newsletter section (;NWSLTR), put on a 5 1/4" disk and handed to me at the General Meeting, or the disk can be mailed to me at Box 8224, Newport Beach, CA 92658.

Most importantly, we take our deadlines very seriously. We have to, because we have a responsibility to you, our readers, to make sure you receive your copy of *README.DOC* before the next General Meeting. In order to do this, we follow a schedule which goes something like this: Once I gather together all the articles for that month, and the editing has been completed, I then turn the edited articles over to Sunny. She does the design and layout for the newsletter, makes a first draft, and sends it back to me for a final copy edit. Once that is completed, it goes back to Sunny again for any last minute changes before going

to the printer. Keep in mind that all this has to be done within a certain time-frame so that we can meet our own deadlines with the printer and the postal service. Adhering to this schedule is the only way we can get the newsletter out to you on time.

FYI....Authors should also know that because of OCIPUG's membership in the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG), we are entitled to take part in the free exchange of newsletter articles among user groups. Hence, your article may be reprinted, with your byline, in other newsletters.

If you have any questions about our Editorial Policy, or if you'd like to discuss an idea for an article you plan to write, please give me a call. I'll be happy to answer your questions. ■



# Microsoft Quick C for Windows

Wendy Sarrett

The first thing to say about this new product from Microsoft is that it's NOT like Visual Basic. It does NOT excuse the user from learning the Windows API. Thus, it is not for the beginning programmer.

Quick C for Windows consists of four programs: a dialogue box designer, an image designer (icons, bitmaps, etc.), Quick Case for Windows, and the Quick C editor/compiler/debugger module.

Microsoft recommends the following paradigm for writing programs: 1. Design the resources (icons, dialogue boxes, etc.), 2. Use Quick Case to create the program skeleton, 3. Use the compiler to produce the prototype. When I followed the paradigm it did not work perfectly. Sometimes the dialogue boxes did not come up. I tried compiling the same code with the Borland C++ product and I got the same result. I also tried taking a working program I had written with the Borland C++ and compiled it. It worked fine. Another user I've spoken to ran into the same problem. I did contact Microsoft on this issue, however, they have not gotten back to me.

In spite of the problems I ran into, this product does have a lot to say in its favor. First, it is a cheap way to get into the Windows SDK world. Included in the documentation is a Windows API reference manual. Thus, this product is ideal for someone who wants to learn Windows API but doesn't want to spend the roughly \$400 Borland C++ would cost or the \$700 for the Microsoft compiler + Windows SDK. Second, the debugger/editor is integrated into the Windows environment. This allows the pro-

grammer to go through the compile, run, and debug cycle quite easily, all in the Windows environment. Furthermore, the editor has a nice feature of using different colors for comments, general code, and certain reserve words. Finally, the documentation included is fairly complete. Most critically, a Windows API tutorial and reference manual are included. The toolkit and environment guide seem adequate.

On the negative side, as mentioned above, I ran into problems with dialog boxes. Second, while the debugger is fully integrated, the debugging facilities are limited. They are not as powerful as a full scale debugger. For example, as mentioned in *PC Magazine's* review of this product, there is no way to view the stack. It does have the ability to break on messages, however, there is no way to view messages otherwise. Third, since it is a Quick C based product it does not have the optimization facilities their C V6.0 compiler has. Finally, Borland has come out with Turbo C++ for Windows. Knowing the high quality of products Borland has released in the past, I would not buy Quick C for Windows before seeing what the Borland product has to offer. In summary, Microsoft has a product with potential to be to Windows what their popular Quick C has been to DOS. However, they are not the only product in the low end Windows SDK market. Also, since it is a Quick C based product, it is not intended for large development projects. ■



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Robert Walker

# RHYMER ...

## WORDPERFECT'S PHONETIC WORD FINDER

Harv Haight

By use of many of the programming tricks that went into creating the Thesaurus of its Version 5.1 wordprocessor, WordPerfect Corporation has created a phonetic word finder, RHYMER, that should delight poets, composers, educators, writers, and linguists. RHYMER reviews over 90,000 words in search of a specified rhyme or phonetic pattern. RHYMER is a terminate and stay resident (TSR) program, loaded by [rhyme] on the DOS command line, or in an AUTOEXEC.BAT sequence, that can be invoked in DOS, or within a word processing program, by pressing simultaneously [Alt][Shift][F8]. Other hot keys can be defined. Its TSR status can be revoked by the DOS command [rhyme /r].

To use RHYMER, the hot key combination is invoked, the cursor is moved to the word in question,

and Enter is pressed. A list of 24 retrieved words or less appears on the screen (the cursor goes down the list, and for more than 24 words other screens may be chosen). You can only move forward in the list, and once you press Enter you must begin the search again. When you type a letter to retrieve the word listed beside the letter, the retrieved word goes to the original cursor position and you exit the program. Pressing Esc, F1, or F7 exits to the main menu.

The list of possibles includes well-known multiple pronunciations, and Rhymer's Phonetic Finder option lets you search for words phonetically. Sounds included are vowels, stops, fricatives, affricates, liquids, and glides (ask Thurman Wade to define these; he's OCIPUG's resident linguist).

Words of a given first letter can be scanned, the number of syllables

can be defined, and the number of letters can be limited. A rhyme can be chosen with the same final vowel and consonant sounds; a rhyme may be chosen with the same sounds following the last syllable boundary; reading from the end, a word may be chosen for double or triple rhymes. Beginning rhymes can be chosen with the same initial consonant and same first vowel, or a first syllable rhyme can be chosen for the same sounds preceding the first syllable break.

I won my copy of Rhymer at the November meeting raffle. I've seen copies for sale at CompUSA in the \$30-\$40 bracket. Chances are they're not moving fast, but there definitely is a market for this VERY professional tool. I'm turning my copy and license over to Thurman Wade, who should love it. ■

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# OCIPUG MEMBERS HAVE CLOUT IN PERSONAL COMPUTER INDUSTRY

Arthur Saltzman

Two out of three OCIPUG members are involved in corporate purchasing of hardware and software for personal computers—they influence an average of \$65,785 in annual purchases. These are some of the findings of the survey of our members which was conducted in the fall of 1991. Over 450 members completed and returned the questionnaire on a disk which had been mailed to them.

The survey also found that 29.3% of OCIPUG members are the chairman, president or owner of a company while 84.6% are employed in a non-computer related company.

The data verifies what we have believed for a long time—that our user group members have a lot of clout in purchasing decisions, both in the workplace, and among their friends and neighbors. Vendors who come to our meetings and make presentations want to know who they are talking to. Now we can tell them, with some confidence, that their time, energy, and raffle prizes are well spent.

According to the study, most OCIPUG members are proficient with major software applications, including word processing (95.9%), utilities (89.6%), spreadsheets (84.2%), communications (83.5%), and database programs (78.7%).

Extensive data on computing habits, hardware configurations, and information sources used is also included in the study report, which can be downloaded in a WordPerfect file from the groups BBS. The filename is LOTRPT03.ZIP.

Over 750 disks containing the questionnaire were mailed to user

group members and an astounding 65% completed the questionnaire and returned the disks. OCIPUG members who returned the disks were eligible to be included in a raffle of six Lotus products.

The report also contains comparable data from seven other user groups in the US and Canada who

have participated in previous disk-by-mail surveys. ■

*Arthur Saltzman, who conducted the study, is an OCIPUG member and a Professor of Marketing at Cal State University, San Bernardino.*



## MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS...

Robin Clark

Hello! Once again I'll be serving as your Membership Chairman (person?), enticing new members into the fold, collecting the dues, and pointing out that the restrooms are down the stairs and to the right. I'll try to live up to the standards that Terry set, and even exceed them from time to time, but it won't be easy (for goodness sake, nobody tell Terry I said that!).

December was a light month, as it usually is, with just eleven new members and few renewals. Thank you all for breaking me in gently, but I look forward to a big month in January (let's all resolve to renew our OCIPUG memberships). In the meantime, let me introduce our new members:

**Ed Barton** lives in Cypress and uses a 386.

**Michael De Falco** is an Engineer from Garden Grove, and runs Word Perfect 5.0 on his Tandy computer.

**Mark Grossman** hails from Costa Mesa. He's a contractor, and also uses a 386.

**Ed Lee**, from Garden Grove is a Manager and uses a 386SX to run Word Perfect 5.0, Lotus 123, Paradox and Procomm. Be sure to call our BBS, Ed,

it's one of the best!

**Barbara O'Kain** is a Realtor, lives in Fountain Valley, and uses a 386 to run a whole truck full of software: Word for Windows, Excel, Telemagic, Procomm+, Norton, Q+DOS, Quicken 4, Pagemaker and PC Paintbrush.

**Louis Pappas**, from Costa Mesa, uses a 386.

**Robert Stollenwerk** is a Real Estate office manager from Anaheim, and was brought to us by his family. He uses Harvard Graphics and a variety of printers.

**Bob Weimar** lives in Costa Mesa, and runs Lotus 123 and DMP2100 on his 386.

**Clifford Williams**, from Fountain Valley, is retired. He runs Word Perfect and Personal Ancestor File on his 386SX.

**Joseph Wohlseil** comes to us from Santa Ana, and uses a 386SX to run Word Perfect, Lotus 123, TwinCom, PC Tools, and Harvard Graphics.

**Lloyd Yang** is a Computer Consultant from Laguna Hills. He uses no less than three computers, from 8088 to 80386, to run Word Perfect 5.1, Lotus 123, dBase 4, Bitcom, PC Tools, DAC Easy, Ventura, and Harvard Graphics. ■

# Introduction to Programming

Wendy Sarrett

This month we will talk about variable scope. In English, this is where variables are accessible within a program. If one is not aware of what variables are visible to the routine one is working on, it can result in errors. Common errors related to this are variables whose value is uninitialized and variables whose values are changed unexpectedly.

In QBasic, if a variable is not given any particular declaration it is local to the main module or subroutine/function. No other part of the program knows about it. The purpose of SHARED variables is to make a variable visible to more of a program. If a variable is

declared as SHARED in the main module, then subroutines and functions can access them. If a variable is declared as SHARED in a subroutine/function, then it is accessible by the main variable. A STATIC variable is local to the procedure that has declared it. Furthermore, it maintains its value between calls to the subroutine. This is the difference between a STATIC variable and a standard local variable. The program below demonstrates some of these principles.

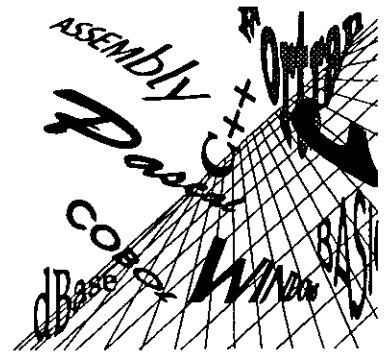
The purpose of this program is to demonstrate shared and static variable.

```
'Beginning of main module
DIM SHARED numasglob AS INTEGER
DIM numg AS INTEGER
DIM SHARED num1 AS INTEGER

DECLARE SUB numprt ()
DECLARE SUB nxtprt ()
numasglob = 500
numg = 25
PRINT numg
CALL numprt
CALL nxtprt
CALL numprt
PRINT "The variable defined locally in numprt is: ", num
PRINT "The variable defined as shared in main module is: ", numasglob
'End of main module
```

```
*****

SUB numprt
DIM num AS INTEGER
STATIC numl1 AS INTEGER
STATIC flag AS INTEGER
num = 5
num1 = 10
IF flag <> 1 THEN
numl1 = 100
ELSE
numl1 = numl1 + 1
END IF
PRINT "The local variable is: ", num
PRINT "The second shared variable is: ", num1
PRINT "The variable defined in the main module is: ", numg
PRINT "The static variable is: ", numl1
flag = 1
INPUT j$
PRINT "Calling nxtprt from numprt"
CALL nxtprt
END SUB
SUB nxtprt
PRINT "The variable defined locally in numprt is: ", num
PRINT "The variable defined as shared is: ", num1
PRINT "The second variable defined as shared in main module is: ", numasglob
INPUT j$
END SUB
```



Try running this program. Notice which variables are visible in the subroutines. In particular, for a variable to have scope beyond its local area (subroutine/function or main module), it must be declared as SHARED. Also, notice how STATIC variables maintain their

value.

The next example demonstrates the scope of a SHARED variable declared in a subroutine/function. In this case, the main module can see the variable but another subroutine cannot.

\*\*\*\*\*

```
This program demonstrates the concept of a variable declared as shared in a subroutine.
'In prtnum, the shared variable is set
DECLARE SUB tstnum ()
'In tstnum, we'll demonstrate that a shared variable declared in a subroutine
'is not visible in other subroutines/functions
DECLARE SUB prtnum ()
CLS
'A shared variable is set in tstnum and printed in prtnum
CALL tstnum
CALL prtnum
'The shared variable declared in tstnum is printed
PRINT "Printing from main module", nm
```

\*\*\*\*\*

```
SUB prtnum
PRINT "In prtnum"
PRINT "Printing variable declared in shared in tstnum", nm
END SUB
SUB tstnum
SHARED nm
nm = 10
END SUB
```

In both these cases, SHARED variables were used to pass data. In actuality, this is often not optimum programming practice. It is much cleaner to use local variables and explicitly pass them into functions/subroutines (as parameters) and return them from func-

tions (see subroutine "messitem" in last month's article). This avoids bugs. Next month the topic will be program design. For fun, here is a program that prints the "Pascal Triangle" in two different ways.

*Continued on Page 10...*

## COMPUTIMES by Clark & Harkins



"I said an ASP, not an AST!"

Introduction to Programming  
...Continued from page 9

PROGRAM: PASCALT.BAS  
PURPOSE: Pascal Triangle Program  
AUTHOR: Wendy Sarrett

```
'Define the array to hold the pascal triangle data
DIM nmbrs(10, 10) AS INTEGER
'Initialize count variables
max% = 9
max1% = 9
'Fill Outside of Array
FOR i% = 0 TO max%
    nmbrs(0, i%) = 1
    nmbrs(i%, 0) = 1
NEXT i%
'Fill the rest
FOR i% = 1 TO max%
    FOR j% = 1 TO max1%
        nmbrs(i%, j%) = nmbrs(i% - 1, j%) + nmbrs(i%, j%
- 1)
    NEXT j%
    PRINT
    max1% = max1% - 1
NEXT i%
'Print it out
max1% = 9
FOR i% = 0 TO max%
    FOR j% = 0 TO max1%
        PRINT USING "### "; nmbrs(i%, j%);
    NEXT j%
    PRINT
    max1% = max1% - 1
NEXT i%
PRINT
max1% = 0
'Print it out a different Way
FOR i% = 0 TO max%
    FOR k% = 0 TO 9 - max1%
        PRINT " ";
    NEXT k%
    FOR j% = 0 TO max1%
        PRINT USING "### "; nmbrs(j%, max1% - j%);
    NEXT j%
    PRINT
    max1% = max1% + 1
NEXT i%
```

## Brain Teaser

Terry Currier

Here is a little challenge for you. I had a problem with my system. Whenever I wanted to delete a file and used the DOS del or delete command, such as DEL TEST.DOC, it would come back and say DELTEST.DOC/P BAD COMMAND OR FILE NAME. I finally found out what was wrong and fixed it. The first one at the meeting to tell me what was wrong, and how to fix it, wins a free Stacker T-Shirt.

# JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Terry Currier

The program for our January 25th General Meeting is going to be very different from our usual programs. Symantec will be here to show us three of their top DOS programs: Q&A, Norton Desktop for Windows, and Norton Utilities. However, they will not just be giving the usual presentation of their products; instead, they will be showing you the how, when, and why of each product, and answer any questions you may have concerning them. We will start with random access in the Science Hall (8:40-9:00 a.m.), have club announcements, then break up into groups. Norton Utilities will be demonstrated in the Science Hall and will cover areas such as how to rescue a disk that DOS could not read, or fix cross-linked files. In another room, Norton Desktop for Windows will be the star feature and you will be shown everything but how to get them cleaner. Q&A will be in yet another room showing you how to optimize Q&A and other tips that you probably never thought you could do with this program.

By the way, I would like to get at least three people to film the separate classes. Anyone who is able to do this, please call me. My thanks to Mary Jelinek from Symantec for helping to line up the speakers for this meeting.

This month if you have any problems with your Q&A, Norton Desktop for Windows or Norton Utilities bring these questions to the meeting and ask the technicians. ■

Bring your problems!  
Bring your questions!  
Bring yourself!

# Herb's Hangout



Herb Huey

## IN SEARCH OF THE KILLER APP

There is an old maxim in computing: First, determine your needs; then, find the computer platform with the application that fits your needs. For instance, the success behind the Apple II system was Visicalc, WordStar got CP/M going, Lotus 123 was vital to the success of MS-DOS, and Macintosh would have died an early death without programs like MacDraw, MacWrite, Microsoft Excel, and Aldus Pagemaker. My fundamental need was a solid, low cost computer platform that supports several good programming languages. That can only be a PC, naturally.

Windows and OS/2 have been out for 3-4 years and the "Killer App," an application that is so earth-shaking that people will gladly go through the pain of adopting a new operating system just to get their hands on this application, has not yet appeared. Any new operating system has to have a compelling reason for people to switch. It must have all the functionality that people want and demand. So I'll ask you—how have Windows and OS/2 managed to survive?

The early versions of OS/2 didn't have any native word processors, spreadsheets, databases or any applications that screamed, "Come to OS/2!!" As a matter of fact, most applications were near exact copies of the original DOS versions. Even worse was the fact that OS/2 versions 1.0 and 1.1 didn't even run these DOS programs very well and positively stunk when it came to printer management (except for IBM printers, naturally). Even if you could find an application that you needed, chances are that you couldn't run it!

The early versions of Windows were not much better. DOS programs didn't run too well and Windows applications were slower than their DOS counterparts. As a matter of fact, Bill Gates has been accused of not trimming the fat off of Windows and waiting instead for the computer hardware to catch up with Windows software. A few applications were Windows specific (Excel, PageMaker, and CorelDraw) and lured a few users. These applications were good enough to keep Windows alive. This brings us to the present.

## WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO US, BILL GATES—ROUND 2

Last month we spent some time looking at the difficult decisions that Bill Gates is forcing the end user to make on our future operating systems (OS). Let's spend some time looking at our main choices, Windows or OS/2. Next month, we will also look at alternate choices of OSs and GUIs.

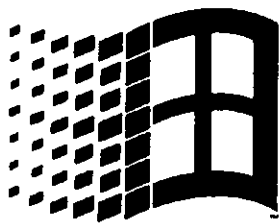
## WINDOW PRESENT

Microsoft just announced that they have shipped 7 million copies of Windows 3.0, making it the most popular GUI of all time, or is it really? Many people bought Windows 3.0 with high expectations (myself included) and found it wanting. You are probably familiar with these general reactions. DOS applications run slower, or you must abandon your old application to buy a Windows version, which still runs slower than the DOS equivalent. It takes a long time to load and run. You need a substantial investment in hardware for Windows to run well and what about those dreaded "Unrecoverable Application Errors (UAEs)?" For those of you that don't use Windows, this is the Windows way of politely telling you that you have crashed and please reboot. This problem is so common in Windows, especially for people who push Windows to its limits, that many customers have stated that Windows itself is the ultimate UAE!!

With 7 million copies sold, Windows is the ultimate success story. Despite the shortcomings in Windows 3.0, it gave developers and users alike a consistent environment to work in. Just follow Microsoft's guidelines (easier said than done) and you get graphics and data integration via Windows Clipboard, and from dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol, multitasking capability. Since Windows has sold many copies, most software developers have jumped on the bandwagon and lucky users can pick and choose from hundreds of fully supported applications.

Windows 3.0 runs on top of DOS and allows the user to multitask several Windows applications at once, in

up to 16 MB of RAM. As long as it's a Windows application, no more 640K barriers to worry about. But that's the catch. Microsoft has created a captive audience, hungry for Windows applications, and guess who is at the front of the pack with Windows applications, like Excel and Word. Windows applications can support DDE which means that you can cut and paste a database or spreadsheet entry into your word processor via the Clipboard and then create links to those other data files. Now if you make a change in any one of these files, the other files will be automatically updated. This is wonderful except most applications don't support DDE.



## WINDOWS FUTURE

Within the next few months, Microsoft plans to release Windows 3.1. This will be a cleaned up version of Windows with many speed improvements, a better file management shell, improved networking capabilities, and a built-in font system (ironically co-developed with Apple). The most improved area for most users will be the virtual elimination of UAEs. Windows 3.1 was originally scheduled for release in the Fall 1991 but has been pushed out to Spring 1992. Since this was supposed to be a Windows cleanup (pun intended) many industry observers have noted that Windows must be very fragile software (this is a polite way of saying software with lots of "spaghetti" code) to take so long for its release. Delays aside, Windows 3.1 promises the following improvements over Windows 3.0:

1. Speed improvements, including optimized memory usage and the FastDisk driver which bypasses DOS/BIOS to talk directly to hard disk controller.

Works in 386 protected mode only.

2. Fewer unrecoverable application errors (UAEs).
3. TrueType fonts pioneered by Apple in System 7.0.
4. Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) which replaces DDE (Dynamic Data Exchange) for documents that use different types of files (graphics, spreadsheet, databases). Currently the clipboard is the only way to exchange data.

5. Support up to 1 GB of RAM.

6. Greatly improved File Manager (similar to HP New Wave & Norton Desktop).

7. Improved icon detail.

Windows 3.1 will not include all the desired bells and whistles due to scrutiny by the Federal Trade Commission—that would put Windows add-on vendors out of business. Still Windows is wrapped around an old-style operating system that never considered things like

multitasking, especially with DOS applications. IBM will tout this problem when it brings out OS/2.0. Microsoft's answer to OS/2.0 will be Windows NT (for New Technology) which will use 32-bit instructions. Microsoft says that Windows NT will be out during the Fall 1992. With the delays in releasing Windows 3.1, a release date sometime in 1993 is a good bet.

## OS/2

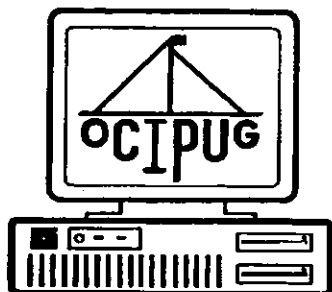
When Microsoft announced that it will develop Windows NT, IBM seized control of OS/2 and started raising the stakes. IBM announced that OS/2.0 will include additional features that were never envisioned by Microsoft—full virtualization of DOS (including device drivers), full support for protected DOS and Windows applications, and a major overhaul of the Presentation Manager (PM) to 32-bits, as well as a brand new graphics shell. IBM claims that OS/2.0 will run well on any 386/486 machine with 4 MB of memory. This is a colossal task even for IBM so that it is not surprising that IBM has also slipped its release date to Spring 1992.

IBM also has another obstacle to overcome. It has committed to supporting Windows 3.1 and is depending on Microsoft to deliver timely and complete beta copies of Windows 3.1. Microsoft knows this, so don't be surprised that Microsoft releases Windows 3.1 before IBM releases OS/2.0. IBM claims that OS/2 will be an integrating platform supporting DOS, Windows, and older 16-bit OS/2 programs and applications. This has led IBM to claim that OS/2.0 will be a better DOS than DOS and a better Windows than Windows.

IBM's support for DOS and Windows will be done by creating a special 1 MB partition on your hard disk that will hold the Multiple Operating System Tool (MOST). A primary partition will hold drive C and an extended partition will hold multiple drives starting at D. MOST will handle the job of selecting the proper operating system between operating systems.

IBM claims that OS/2 will outperform DOS, since you will get more conventional memory for your DOS applications and expansion up to 48 MB. This is primarily due to the fact that OS/2 is being written to take full advantage of the extended capabilities of the 386/486 processors. Cutting and pasting between DOS applications will be supported, something that Windows definitely can't do. Finally OS/2 will be able to run multiple DOS applications in one session! IBM's "better than Windows" claim is supported by running Windows in a separate session. Any crashes are normally trapped by OS/2 and your system will not hang. The same memory advantages apply to Windows.

OS/2.0 will also be able to run all 2200 16-bit OS/2 1.X applications which come from over 1200 software developers. Currently, over 400 applications will be ready when OS/2 2.0 debuts. While this sounds impressive it pales in comparison to the support for Windows. However, many developers reluctantly jumped on the



# Orange Coast IBM PC User Group SIG GUIDE

*A Calendar of Meetings & Events published by Richard Villa*

For more information on membership, write to OCIPUG at PO Box 6100-211,  
Costa Mesa, CA 92628. Call Voice - 714/843-2048 or BBS - 714/843-0388

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>JAN</b>		OCIPUG Board Meeting 6:30 PM	Personal Finance				New Users 9 AM DOS 1 PM
	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			Spreadsheet	Windows 3	Modem		Real Estate-8 AM Pacific Beach Escrow Programming 9 AM OS/2 1 PM
	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
		MS Word	Database	Word Perfect	CAD/ Graphics		Q & A 1 PM
	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
		Genealogy	BBS	Office/Basics 10 AM	Corel Draw 6:30 PM @ Graphix Zone		
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	
		Personal Finance			Hardware	Geo- Works	9AM - OCIPUG General Meeting O.C.C. Science Hall <b>29</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	

All Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are held from 7 PM to 10 PM at our SIG SPACE,  
located at 17632 Metzler Lane, Suite 211, Huntington Beach unless otherwise listed.

**BBS**

SIG Leader: Bob Ottke 714/759-1515  
 Monthly work party on the BBS. Meet in office area of SIG SPACE.

**3RD TUE****CAD/GRAPHICS**

SIG Leader: David Carroll 714/775-3130  
 Designated Guru: Dave Lorenzini 714/496-3050

**2ND THU**

This SIG covers hardware and software products in both computer aided design and graphics. Check the HOT-LINE for February's topic.

**COREL DRAW/VENTURA**

SIG Leader: Steve Burnside 714/722-0327  
 Asst. SIG Leader: Sunny Lockie 714/644-0103

**3RD THU**

This SIG will cover intermediate and advanced topics relating to both *Ventura Publisher* and *Corel DRAW!* Check the HOT-LINE for February's topic. Please come with your questions. Meeting starts at 6:30 PM.

So. Cal. Graphics Resource Center (formerly the Graphix Zone), 38 Corporate Park, Irvine - Near Jamboree & Alton Pkwy.

**DATABASE**

SIG Leader: Bob Schmiedeke 714/536-1178  
 This SIG discusses various database programs, specializing in dBASE. At the February meeting we will be developing programs in both dBase III and dBase IV.

**2ND TUE****DOS and LANGUAGES**

Co-SIG Leader: Chris Lloyd 714/894-4837  
 Co-SIG Leader: Bob Peringer 714/633-3232  
 Designated Guru: John Goodman 714/895-3195

**1ST SAT**

This SIG covers DOS, helping you to take command of your PC. At the February meeting Ted Eales will review the DOS 5.0 command MEM; Charles Lovin will review DR DOS 6.0 & Superstor (compression utility) & Task Max (task swapper). We will also have random access. Check the BBS DOS sub-board for updates.

**GENEALOGY**

SIG Leader: Stan Sabin 714/968-7307

**3RD MON**

For beginners to experts. If you know a little about Genealogy or a lot this SIG is for you. Check the HOT-LINE for February's topic. Please bring your questions. Everyone welcome!

**GGEOWORKS**

SIG Leader: Bob Basaraba 714/559-6539

**4TH FRI**

This SIG covers the new product *GeoWorks Ensemble*. At the February meeting, a continuation of using *GeoManager* for file management. Power user tricks for *GeoWrite*, including how to use the spell checker for mail merging & how to get an online clock.

**HARDWARE**

SIG Leader: Bob Basaraba 714/559-6539

**4TH THU**

This SIG is one of the most popular, judging by the strong attendance. Come to the February meeting with your questions.

**MODEM**

SIG Leader: Bob Ottke 714/759-1515  
 Designated Guru: Rich Sabin 714/965-6734

**1ST THU**

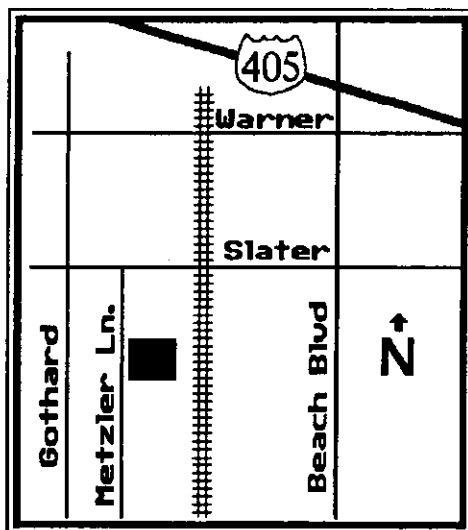
Reach out and access the whole world of information through telecommunications. At the February meeting a representative from CompuServe is tentatively scheduled to make a presentation.

**NEW USER/NEW MEMBER**

SIG Leader: John Lunsford 714/995-0947

**1ST SAT**

This is the best SIG to attend first. The meetings run on a 4-month cycle and this month is number THREE in the cycle. You may start at any point in the cycle.

**SIG SPACE**

**17632 Metzler Lane, Suite 211  
 Huntington Beach**

**ATTEND A SIG MEETING THIS MONTH - FIND OUT WHAT'S HOT!**

## OFFICE/BASICS

3RD WED

SIG Leader: Anne Fawcett 714/968-5000

### DAYTIME SIG for BEGINNERS!

10 AM to Noon: DOS & WordPerfect 5.1

Noon to 1 PM: Lotus 1-2-3 Ver. 2.2

Small Businesses! Free training! Buy memberships for employees to attend on company time. Learn the basics of these "industry standards." Bring any file problems on disk.

## OS/2

2ND SAT

SIG Leader: Dave Lorenzini 714/496-3050

Designated Guru: Steve Schiffman 714/531-0376

HPFS Utilities Come learn about what OS/2 is all about and what this new operating system can do for you. IBM has released what is called the Limited Availability version of OS/2 v2.0. At the February meeting we will start exploring the new features built into OS/2 v2.0 starting with the Work Place Shell. Filling out our meeting time will be a demo of the GammaTech HPFS Utilities.

## PERSONAL FINANCE

4TH TUE

SIG Leader: Max Lockie 714/644-0103

This SIG discusses the various financial packages for the PC. At the February meeting we will introduce the new Quicken for Windows and Microsoft Money.

## PROGRAMMING

2ND SAT

SIG Leader: Wendy Sarrett 714/733-9906

This SIG covers various aspects of programming and programming languages. At the February meeting we will have a show-and-tell on various programming techniques. Please bring your programs.

## Q & A

3RD SAT

SIG Leader: Terry Currier 714/774-2018

Come and learn about this popular database and word processing program. At the February meeting we will continue our setting up a dummy company and learn how to set-up menus for the database.

## REAL ESTATE

2ND SAT

Contact Person: Jim Dickerson 714/536-8444

Contact Person: Tom Sutro 714/754-7045

Jointly sponsored by OCIPUG and several local Boards of Realtors, this is one of our largest SIGs. At the February meeting we will demonstrate a farm management system. Also, we will look at GeoWorks, as it pertains to real estate. Meets from 8 to 10 AM.

Beach Pacific Escrow, 16401 Gothard St. (NW corner Gothard & Heil), Huntington Beach.

## SPREADSHEET

1ST TUE

SIG Leader: Neil Carman 714/964-1901

This group covers Lotus 123 and other popular spreadsheet programs, including shareware products, for both beginners and advanced users. At the February meeting we will have random access. Please bring you problems ON DISK on the following programs: Microsoft Excel, Lotus 1-2-3 & Quattro Pro.

## WINDOWS 3

1ST WED

SIG Leader: Richard Villa 714/841-6991

Asst. SIG Leader: Steve Burnside 714/722-0327

This SIG covers software for Microsoft Windows 3.0 during the first half, and specializes in PageMaker 4.0 or other advanced topics in the last half. At the February meeting we will demonstrate the Multimedia Extensions for Windows 3.0. See how adding a CD-ROM drive & a sound card can do to your system. Programs demonstrated will include Microsoft's Multimedia Beethoven & Bookshelf for Windows.

## WORD

2ND MON

SIG Leader: Winston Jewson 714/544-4330

Microsoft Contact: Dave Lorenzini 714/496-3050

Microsoft Word 5.5 is a powerful and popular word processing package. The Word SIG covers both Word 5.5 for DOS (text format & graphics) & Word for Windows 2.0. Bring your questions or documentation for review. At the February meeting, we'll continue Session II with getting acquainted with the new Word for Windows 2.0. See you on February 10th.

## WORDPERFECT

2ND WED

SIG Leader: Susan Novak 310/594-4144

W-310/491-3081

Contact Person: Jeff Sinn 714/775-2390

Come and learn about this popular word processing package. At the February meeting WordPerfect representative Keith Lue winn make a presentation on DrawPerfect and various other WordPerfect Corp. products.

### IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Public Bulletin Board (BBS) - 843-0388

Private Line (Member BBS) - 843-9248

Hot-Line - For latest Information - 843-2048

Emergency SIG SPACE number - 843-9678

Saturday, January 25th, 1992 - 9:00 AM to Noon

**GENERAL  
MEETING**

Symantec

Workshops on -

Q&A 4.0

Norton Desktop for Windows

Norton Utilities 6.0

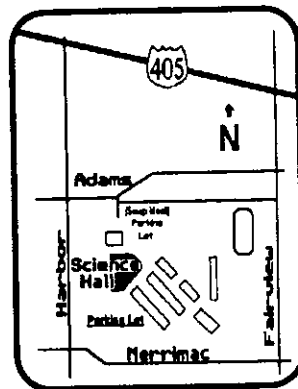
⇒ 8:40 to 9:00 AM - Random Access!

**MEETING  
LOCATIONS**

Orange Coast  
College

Costa Mesa  
2701 Fairview Rd.

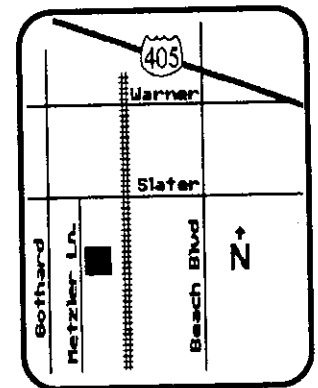
General Meeting:  
Science Hall (next to  
Chemistry Bldg.)  
Parking in campus lots  
available off Adams or  
Merrimac.



SIG Space

Huntington Beach  
17632 Metzler  
Lane, Suite 211

SIG Meetings:  
Take elevator to 2nd  
floor.  
Parking in lot or on  
street



**MEMBERSHIP  
INFORMATION**

Orange Coast IBM PC User Group (OCIPUG) was formed in 1985, and has become one of the largest and most respected User Groups in the country.

OCIPUG, a non-profit corporation, is an all-volunteer organization which provides PC enthusiasts with an opportunity to gain knowledge and gives assistance to those who need it.

Membership includes:

- ✓ subscription to *README.DOC*, the monthly newsletter published by OCIPUG
- ✓ discounts on Public Domain, Shareware and User Supported software
- ✓ access to the OCIPUG RBBS private telephone line
- ✓ eligibility for monthly raffle at General Meeting

If you would like to become an OCIPUG member please call 714/843-2048 and request an application for membership, or write: OCIPUG, PO Box 6100-211, Costa Mesa, CA 92628-6100.

OCIPUG SIG GUIDE camera ready copy produced with: Microsoft Windows 3.0, Aldus PageMaker 4.0, Corel Draw! 2.0 & Publisher's Paintbrush for Windows using an HP LaserJet III with Pacific Data Product's PacificPage XL & PacificType PostScript-compatible cartridges, including Adobe downloadable fonts. Graphic illustrations by Richard Villa, Steve Burnside, & David Carroll.

Keeper of the Calendar: Richard Villa - 714/841-6991 - Deadline for March Calendar: Friday, February 14th

Windows bandwagon, especially if they felt that they were burned supporting the earlier OS/2 versions. Microsoft's Software Development Resource Kit is notoriously poor for developing professional Windows applications and IBM, with additional vendor support, hopes that its easier to use, professional developers kit will lure these developers back. OS/2's flat memory model is certainly an additional attraction.

Microsoft, on the other hand, is telling developers not to bother with

OS/2.0 and wait another year or so for Windows NT to come out. I hope that IBM succeeds because I'm tired of incremental improvements from Microsoft products, which continually disappoint me and I want to be able to take full advantage of 32-bit programming. It seems to me that Bill Gates and Microsoft have lost sight of what the end users, like you and me, really want.



## SIGNING OFF

I've noted that a few users have had problems installing STACKER 2.0. The instructions were somewhat poor in addressing how to include floppies and Ramdisks. The cleanest way to get these capabilities is to modify these lines in your Config.Sys file:

```
DEVICE=C:\STACKER\SCREATE.SYS D:  
DEVICE=C:\STACKER\STACKER.COM  
C:\STACVOL.000 @ @ D:  
DEVICE=C:\STACKER\SSWAP.COM C: E: /SYNC
```

Line 1 creates a Stacker RAMDISK as drive D:. Line 2 handles STACKER's recognition of your removable media and your Ramdisk. The two "@" symbols recognize that there are two removable media sources, on my system (drives A: and B:) while D: is recognition of drive D: (my ramdisk). In order to prepare a floppy as a STACKER sized media, type "SCREATE A:" (or B:). STACKER will then create a STACKER volume on that media. Of course this assumes that you have set c:\STACKER on your path statement in AUTO-EXEC.BAT. Now you must type "STACKER A:" (or B:) in order for STACKER to mount and recognize that floppy as a STACKER volume. In order to dismount the STACKER volume, type "STACKER -A:" (or B:).

I hope this clears up the confusion on these STACKER matters. As I said last month, I really enjoy having essentially doubled the size of my hard disk (except for a small STACKER overhead), Ramdisk, and my floppies. A 1.44 MB is almost 2.88 MB which is now large enough to remove some of my less frequently used directories from my hard disk. This in turn will stave off my need to buy a much larger hard disk. Keep those calls coming on the OCIPUG Support Line. I hope that I have been helpful to those folks who called and, if not, remember that I tried (and it's free anyway). ■

## President's Message ...Continued from Page 2

Last month, someone borrowed the club's VGA-Mono presentation tablet and overhead projector. This prevented several SIGs from using that equipment. The Board of Directors has agreed that no one should remove equipment from the SIG space for personal use. The equipment provided there is for the use of OCIPUG members and should not be removed from the SIG space without specific authorization from the Executive Board. If there is to be a SIG or club event held somewhere other than the SIG space, and use of the club equipment is desired, please contact one of the club officers before removing the equipment.

Next month, I'll take a look at this month's General Meeting program, the Symantec-Norton Seminar, and how it fared with our members. ■

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## ABCs of the BBS ...Continued from Page 3

this available. Excellent troubleshooting guide, and helps you get the most out of these fine programs.

4PR410.ZIP is a neat HP LaserJet utility (it may work with other laser printers as well). Allows you to print up to six pages on each side of a sheet.

HPENVLGO.ZIP is a very effective envelope printing utility for the HP III line of printers.

HYPER43.ZIP is version 4.3 of the excellent disk cache program, HyperDisk. Has several modules to allow you to install for exactly the configuration you are running. If speed is your problem, try this!

Those of you who replied to Arthur Saltzman's membership survey will find a detailed report of the results on the BBS as LOTRPT03.ZIP. Lots of interesting (and anonymous) information about your fellow OCIPUG members, and how they compare to other major user groups around the country. ■

# OCIPUG SUPPORT GROUP

The members listed below have generously offered to serve as resources for other members in need of assistance with specific hardware or software problems. They are there for you, but please bear a few things in mind:

- 1) The times listed are when these volunteers are available to assist you. PLEASE respect their times by limiting your calls to the hours indicated.
- 2) Your questions should be specific and reasonably brief. Consult your manual, tech support, etc., FIRST, so as not to take up their time needlessly.
- 3) All of our volunteers have expertise in the areas shown, but *nobody knows everything*, so be understanding by not expecting them to know *everything*.
- 4) This service is free, and available to our members only. Our volunteers are not doing this for personal gain, but as a service to benefit their fellow PC users, thereby making OCIPUG a stronger organization.

<b>AccPac Plus</b>		
Donna Fulmizi	8 a.m.-8 p.m.	848-8491
Lia Varner	8 a.m.-6 p.m.	(213) 987-0632
<b>Ami Professional</b>		
Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-12 noon	777-2130
Richard Sinor	6 p.m.-10 p.m.	970-1323
<b>Basic</b>		
Herb Huey	6:30 p.m.-10 p.m.	525-1608
<b>C &amp; C++</b>		
Wendy Sarrett	7 p.m.-9:30 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	733-9906
<b>Clarion</b>		
Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-12 noon	777-2130
<b>CorelDraw</b>		
John Goodman	12 noon-12 midnight	895-3195
Steve Burnside	11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.	722-0327
<b>dBase IV</b>		
Preston Hill	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291
(Control Center)		
<b>dBase Programming</b>		
Tom Toner	10 a.m.-8 p.m.	537-9175
<b>Disk &amp; Memory Management</b>		
Harv Haight	9 p.m.-11 p.m.	546-0820
Mike Wierman	6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	894-4040
<b>DOS</b>		
Harv Haight	9 p.m.-11 p.m.	546-0820
Herb Huey	6:30 p.m.-10 p.m.	525-1608
Lia Varner	8 a.m.-6 p.m.	(213) 987-0632
Ann Fawcett	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	968-5000
(Beg.)		
John Goodman	12 noon-12 midnight	895-3195
David Black	3 p.m.-8 p.m. M-F 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wkends	830-9203
<b>Excel</b>		
Herb Huey	6:30 p.m.-10 p.m.	525-1608
Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-12 noon	777-2130
<b>Fortran</b>		
Herb Huey	6:30 p.m.-10 p.m.	525-1608
<b>Genealogy</b>		
Stan Sabin	5 p.m.-9 p.m. M-F	968-7307
Preston Hill	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291
<b>HP 95 LX Palm Top</b>		
Don Lafferty	Anytime	665-6707

<b>Hardware</b>		
John Goodman	12 noon-12 midnight	895-3195
Harv Haight	9 p.m.-11 p.m.	546-0820
Mike Wierman	6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	894-4040
David Black	3 p.m.-8 p.m. M-F 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wkends	830-9203
<b>Lans</b>		
Mike Wierman	6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	894-4040
<b>Lotus 1-2-3</b>		
Ann Fawcett	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	968-5000
(Beg.)		
Lia Varner	8 a.m.-6 p.m.	(213) 987-0632
Herb Huey	6:30 p.m.-10 p.m.	525-1608
<b>PCTools</b>		
Preston Hill	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291
(PCShell)		
<b>PAF</b>		
Preston Hill	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291
Stan Sabin	5 p.m.-9 p.m. M-F	968-7307
<b>PAF Disk Doctor</b>		
Ted Carpenter	9 a.m.-12 noon	756-9346
<b>PerForm</b>		
Richard Sinor	6 p.m.-10 p.m.	970-1323
<b>Q&amp;A</b>		
Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-12 noon	777-2130
Terry Carrier	8 a.m.-9:30 a.m. 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.	774-2018
<b>Quattro Pro</b>		
Preston Hill	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291
Mark Burrell	9 p.m.-12 p.m.	777-2130
<b>Quicken</b>		
Preston Hill	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291
Ron Ross	6 p.m.-10 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	964-5137
<b>Quickpay</b>		
Ron Ross	6 p.m.-10 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	964-5137
<b>Stacker</b>		
Harv Haight	9 p.m.-11 p.m.	546-0820
<b>Ventura Publisher</b>		
John Goodman	12 noon-12 midnight	895-3195
<b>Windows</b>		
David Black	3 p.m.-8 p.m. M-F 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wkends	830-9203
Mike Wierman	6-9:30 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	894-4040
Steve Burnside	11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.	722-0327
Darren Major	8 a.m.-2 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	646-6904
<b>Word</b>		
John Goodman	12 noon-12 midnight	895-3195
<b>WordPerfect Products</b>		
Susan Novak	5 p.m.-8 p.m. M-F	(310) 594-4144
<b>WordPerfect</b>		
Ann Fawcett	8 a.m.-9 p.m.	968-5000
(Beg.)		
Mark Burrell	9 a.m.-12 noon	777-2130
Preston Hill	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	892-1291
Mike Wierman	6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. M-F Anytime Wkends	894-4040
Linda Leydekkers	10 a.m.-4 p.m. M-F	963-8444
Susan Novak	5 p.m.-8 p.m. M-F	(310) 594-4144
<b>XTree</b>		
Richard Sinor	6 p.m.-10 p.m.	970-1323

(Editor's note: If you would like to be listed here as a volunteer to help with any PC-related subject please give me a call at 644-1017 or leave a message on the BBS. We need volunteers in many more software and hardware areas. The success of this program depends on your help. Jean Stevens) ■

# BATCH FILE BASICS

Michael Springer

I got caught trying to learn ERRORLEVEL by osmosis (sleeping) at deadline time for the December, 1991 issue of README.DOC. But, Benny Maestas provided an article (that I would be proud to claim as my own) on ERRORLEVEL Menus; so you, the readers, didn't miss a beat. Sometimes things just work out. Thanks, Benny, I enjoyed reading about your method and I want to encourage more people to provide articles for README.DOC.

About a week ago, Jim Petit and I were working on the new BBS hardware. Jim mentioned that he had several modems that he used with his "main" computer and he was always fighting the battle of which modem Procomm Plus was set for vs. which modem he was trying to use. I had frequently experienced the same predicament, but until Jim mentioned it, I didn't realize that it was a problem that needed a solution.

Recognizing and/or defining a problem is often the hardest part of solving a problem. Jim had recognized the problem (you might say he invented it) and it took only a few minutes to create a batch file to solve the problem (I merely improved on Jim's idea that PCPLUS should be able to work with multiple modems). I believe that it is always easier to improve something than it is to invent it. Most of the time, I'm an improver. I'm not above capitalizing on Jim's idea, so this month's article is the story of a real-life application of *Baaaatch Fiiile Baaaasics*.

## SITUATION

Procomm Plus retains in a file called PCPLUS.PRM (Procomm Plus parameters) the particulars of how you have set it up and what commands your modem uses. If you change the modem commands while experimenting with a new modem, you lose your old modem commands upon saving the setup. Keeping a separate parameter file for each modem type solves part of the problem. Retrieving and updating the correct parameter file is the other part of the problem.

## SOLUTION

Keep a parameter file for each type of modem that you have. Let a batch file copy the needed file to a filename that PCPLUS can use before starting PCPLUS. After exiting PCPLUS, update the original pa-

parameter file before returning to DOS.

The batch file is told by the user which parameter file to use (replaceable parameters are back!). The batch file checks for known files (FOR-IN-DO, a new batch file topic) and provides help when the user needs help. We'll provide for 3 different modems and use the first letter of the manufacturer's name as the key.

```
:: PCPlus Multiple Modem Selector
:: Last revised 12-21-91
@echo off
if %1!=! goto :HELP
if %1!=?! goto :HELP
for %%a in (A E P a e p) do if %1==%%a! goto :MAIN
goto :HELP
:HELP
echo.
echo PCPLUS MODEM SELECTOR
echo.
echo Use as follows:
echo PCP A for Anchor Modem
echo PCP E for Everex Modem
echo PCP P for PracPer Modem
echo.
goto :END
:MAIN
d:
cd \xcomm\procomm\pcplus
if exist pcprm.%1 copy pcprm.%1 pcplus.prm
pcplus
copy pcplus.prm pcprm.%1
cd \
c:
goto :END
:END
```

The new batch command used in this file is the FOR-IN-DO form. Let's discuss how it is used in this file and then develop the generic definition.

```
for %%a in (A E P a e p) do if %1==%%a!
goto :MAIN (all one line)
```

This line checks if replaceable parameter 1 is 'A' or 'E' or 'P' or 'a' or 'e' or 'p'. Checking for both upper and lower case makes the batch file more friendly. If the user has provided one of the test values, control will go to the :MAIN label in the batch file. FOR-IN-DO is a special kind of looping structure. Each item in the () is called an 'element of the set.' The first time through, the variable %%a is assigned the value of the first element of the set. The command following the 'DO' is then performed. The second time through, the variable is assigned the value of the second element, and so on.

Continued on Page 19 ...

# The Small, the Quick, the Deft, and the Clever Shall Inherit the Personal Computer

Steve Gibson

My God! Borland is purchasing Ashton-Tate, Novell is buying Digital Research, and old stoic and stodgy big blue IBM is talking seriously about co-developing major new personal computer technologies in conjunction with Apple Computer's crazies from Cupertino. What's going on? What's happening to our once-quaint little personal computer industry? Are things *really* changing as much as they appear, or is all this just a coincidental timing of seemingly unrelated events?

Not so very long ago this was a peaceful little industry which rewarded hard work and dedication with fame, financing and Ferraris. Today we seem to be witnessing many signs that our simple work-ethic based business is being reshaped by giant lumbering corporations who care far less about us than they do about their own short-term shareholder reports. Venture Capital financiers now expect to see an established track record before they'll belly up to risk their past windfall winnings. So can the small guy with that "next great idea" still compete, or has the playing field become the exclusive territory of the megamonolithic multinational monsters? Has all the fun and frolic left the PC business forever, or are there still some gleaming opportunities? Although we're not at the helm of Borland, Novell, IBM, or Apple, let's see if we can't look more closely behind the scenes at what's been happening.

Borland has purchased Ashton-Tate. So what. Ashton-Tate, once the king of the PC databases, has fallen so far from its high and mighty leadership throne that inertia alone has been responsible for its continuing survival during the past several years. Compared to any of the hot alternatives such as Paradox or FoxPro, "real" Ashton-Tate dBase is slow, crippled, incapable, and inadequate. Are you still using it? Nope. Ashton-Tate is hardly a company brimming over with hot new technology. In fact, they're not brimming over with anything except stale and befuddled management. When too much money is made too quickly and too easily, as certainly happened during Ashton-Tate's phenomenal early start-up years, a company never has the need to develop the means to survive when technology inevitably catches up and glides smoothly past. Ashton-Tate was simply in the right place at the right time and never had anything more than a bit of early luck to offer the world.

So what does Borland see in Ashton-Tate? Well, Borland is presently quite fat and happy over its many recent well-deserved successes with Paradox (which it acquired from Ansa) and its Turbo languages. But Borland is probably quite worried over the many recent rumors it's been hearing. If you've been keeping your ear tuned to the pulse of the industry you might have heard that the powerful BASIC-like macro language underneath Microsoft's Word For Win-

dows actually *came* from the database group within Microsoft. Database group? Yes. The database group!

So my personal guess is that Borland's crafty old Philippe Kahn has caught wind of the power of Microsoft's forthcoming Windows database product and wants to shore-up his own corporate database market share before Microsoft releases its long-rumored (and long awaited) database product. Given Microsoft's well-deserved recent grand slam successes with Windows, Word for Windows, Excel, and Visual Basic. I can certainly understand Philippe's concern. However, \$440 million is a hefty price to pay for "insurance," when you're buying a technologically bankrupt dried out husk of a former company. But hey, since he's got the money from Turbo language and Paradox sales, what's a few hundred million dollars or so exchanged to purchase a former industry adversary?

Then we have networking giant Novell, which is currently in the process of acquiring Digital Research, the original authors of CPM. You may remember that Digital Research is the company that once told IBM that they had no interest in providing an operating system for IBM's new personal computer, and the people who told the founders of Ventura Software that there was no future in desktop publishing. Well, as a consequence of such sound business decisions, DRI has recently been looking (des-

perately) for a big suitor to help it get seriously re-launched in the world.

Well, along came Novell, freshly disappointed after getting all tangled up with its pre-nuptial agreement with Lotus and then unable to complete its marriage vows. At this point, Novell knew that it *had* to buy *something* in order to broaden its offerings and leverage itself into becoming more of a major player ... and stumbled upon DRI. Now, rather than having to continually shoe-horn its aging network interface solutions on top of a never-*quite*-cooperating foreign operating system (MS-DOS), this purchase of Digital Research would allow Novell to control and evolve its own DOS-compatible operating system. So after its brief and abortive pre-marital spat with Lotus, Novell went looking for a smaller partner that it could absorb and dominate completely. Judging from DRI's DR DOS 5.0 operating system, Novell's purchase of Digital Research will probably lead to a provocative alternative to DOS (even for many non-network users) ... as well as to additional confusion in the already-confused DOS marketplace.

This brings us to perhaps the least likely pair of all: IBM and Apple! These two turkeys have now teamed up to co-develop new operating systems and hardware platforms. At this early stage of their relationship it's not yet clear whether the best comparison could be made to Laurel and Hardy, Jekyll and Hyde, Lucy and Ricky, or Fred and Ethel, only time reveals such

deep truths (stay tuned), but one thing's certain: We're in for some major league fun times as we watch the kids who order out for pizza trying to express themselves to the blue suits who make reservations!

What's this IBM/Apple deal all about? It boils down quickly to a clear-cut attempt to create an alternative to the current low-cost de-facto standard Intel-based clone PCs which are cheerfully running Microsoft DOS and Microsoft Windows. IBM is understandably more than a trifle miffed that it lost "its entire PC business (and most of its profitability) to every other lower-priced clone maker in the world," while Apple is upset that people who don't work in Cupertino were able to figure out how to develop effective multitasking windowing user interfaces. Since suing everyone in sight didn't help Apple, perhaps teaming up with a past archenemy will do the trick. Oh yeah, sure thing.

Independent of the outcome of all these lumbering movements, there can be little doubt that giant forces are now being brought to bear upon the personal computer industry ... and we've all been left smack dab in the middle of it. While we've been cheerfully upgrading our machines from 260K floppies to 80 megabyte hard disks and from 640K, 4.77 Megahertz 8088s to 4 megabyte, 25 Mhz, 80386s, the industry has been evolving into big bucks, big business, and no nonsense. No one would argue that at least part of what we're seeing is the result of the gradual and eventual

maturity of the industry. So as the stakes rise, companies like Borland purchase huge chunks of "what-if" insurance, while Novell purchases "us-too" insurance, and IBM and Apple team up in a vain and desperate attempt to rewrite the rules of the entire game after it's almost been won by the other team.

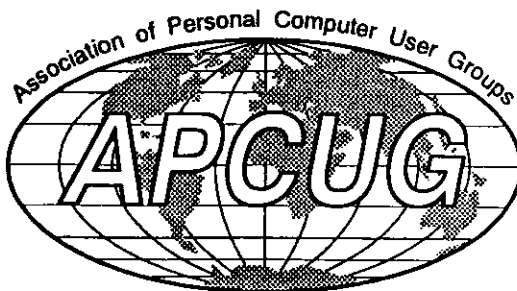
In my view, what's *really* happening is that the large companies which have been willfully, deliberately, and gleefully extorting profits from the industry during its early, juicy, pubescent period are now finding themselves in trouble. You can almost hear these greedy giants saying, "Gee, what do you know, it's not so easy anymore to make money from all these poor suckers!" Hmmmmm ... "In fact, most of the poor suckers seem to have already figured out how to do what they wanted to ... which is what *we* had hoped to charge them many more thousands of dollars to do." Hmmmmm ... "We'd better go out and buy some other company that's doing better than us!"

To these lumbering giants I say, "Good riddance." The small, the quick, the deft and the clever shall inherit the *personal* computer industry from those who would try to turn it into a massive corporate resource. Just say no thanks. ■

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#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Steve Gibson is president and founder of Gibson Research Corporation and a popular columnist and contributing editor for *InfoWorld* magazine. In his TechTalk column in *InfoWorld*, Steve addresses a wide variety of technical issues, from his infamous ideal computer — "Steve's Dream Machine" — to discussions of the latest and greatest in hardware and software technology. Steve is the author of SpinRite, a hard disk low-level reformatting utility and FlickerFree, a TSR which increases screen display speed and eliminates the annoying flicker present in IBM's original CGA displays.



# Computer Insurance.....Are You Covered?

Steven Dela

What started out as a simple question grew into a rather complex set of answers offered by insurance agents. Most members have Homeowners or Renters insurance that they believe will cover loss on computer equipment. Insurance policies usually include a minimal amount for fire, theft or other loss. This can vary from \$3,000 to \$5,000 of replacement value in the basic policy.

What if your needs extend beyond these amounts? Additional insurance is available under your basic policy with the selection of a rider, specifically for computer equipment. I surveyed three companies to find out what costs and conditions were involved.

State Farm Insurance stated that an additional \$5,000 of insurance would only cost \$15 per year when added to the basic \$3,000 coverage already contained in their Homeowners policy.

Farmers insurance quoted the same \$15 fee for \$5,000 additional coverage, but stipulated there was a \$500 deductible. For \$17, only a \$250 deductible was applied to any loss. Basic coverage was \$5,000 in their Homeowners policy.

20th Century Insurance also quoted a \$15 fee for an additional \$5,000 coverage. Combined with the \$5,000 basic coverage, this gave a total of \$10,000 coverage in their policy.

Since most insurance policies cover the replacement value of articles lost or stolen, I asked how current values were arrived at for computer equipment. For example, you bought a hot new 286 computer two years ago with all the

goodies for \$2,500.

Today, it's difficult to find a 286 computer for sale to replace it if lost or stolen.

All of the insurance agents stated that you need a proof of purchase of the 286 computer

and the amount you paid for it at the time. Settlement money would then be paid upon those values and it would generally be left up to you to purchase a new system with those proceeds. Sounded like a fair way of doing business.

But what about unusual circumstances that are being encountered more frequently with the changes in computer technology. What about a Notebook computer or computer equipment being transported, that is taken from an unattended vehicle?

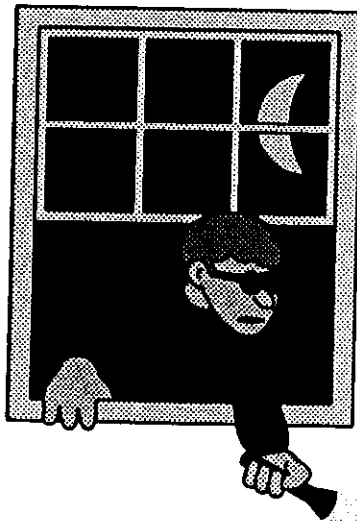
Automobile insurance coverage, for property losses, only covers items that are a part of the vehicle, such as radios or other factory installed equipment. Personal property losses from vehicles are

covered under your Homeowners/Renters insurance policy. These items would be things like cameras or clothing. Of course, your deductible would apply first.

I asked how computer equipment would be covered when stolen from an unattended vehicle. Each one stated, to my surprise, that no coverage would be allowed under either the vehicle or Homeowners/Renters policies. This was a real eye opener. With further explanation, the State Farm agent stated you could take out what is called an *All Perils Policy* on just the computer equipment alone. This would then cover losses from a vehicle. Policy fees would average about 15% of the value declared per year, with a 10% deductible.

The final hurdle is, what about computer equipment used in a business? This would be handled under an entirely different policy and not covered under a Homeowners/Renters policy. Many of our members conduct their businesses out of their homes. To be fully covered, under all conditions, would require a combination of Homeowners/Renters and commercial business insurance. To obtain business insurance, several stringent conditions must be met before a policy is issued, such as central wired alarms, special locks, restricted access, etc. Almost impossible to get for a residence.

Oh, what a mess. Seems like everywhere you turn there are problems with regular insurance companies. Is there a simple answer to cover all these contingencies? After doing some research and remembering some actions taken during the early days when OCIPUG was formed, I remembered a com-



pany the club dealt with concerning the loss of computer equipment.

SAFEWARE, The Insurance Agency, Inc. provides a broad-based coverage for all of the conditions discussed. They have two popular policies to choose from. Their Standard Computer User Policy provides protection against fire, theft, and power surges (yes, a surge protector is required). Coverage amounts range from \$3,000 to \$17,000 with a \$50 deductible. Policy fees range from \$49 to \$159 per year.

Their second policy addresses many of the deficiencies inherent in Homeowner/Renter policies. Their Key Computer Policy covers fire, theft, power surges, unattended vehicle losses, and earthquakes. There is a \$200 deductible with a minimum policy of \$10,000. Policy fee is \$20 per \$1,000 of value. A detailed list of covered items is required with serial numbers,

along with the cost of the item.

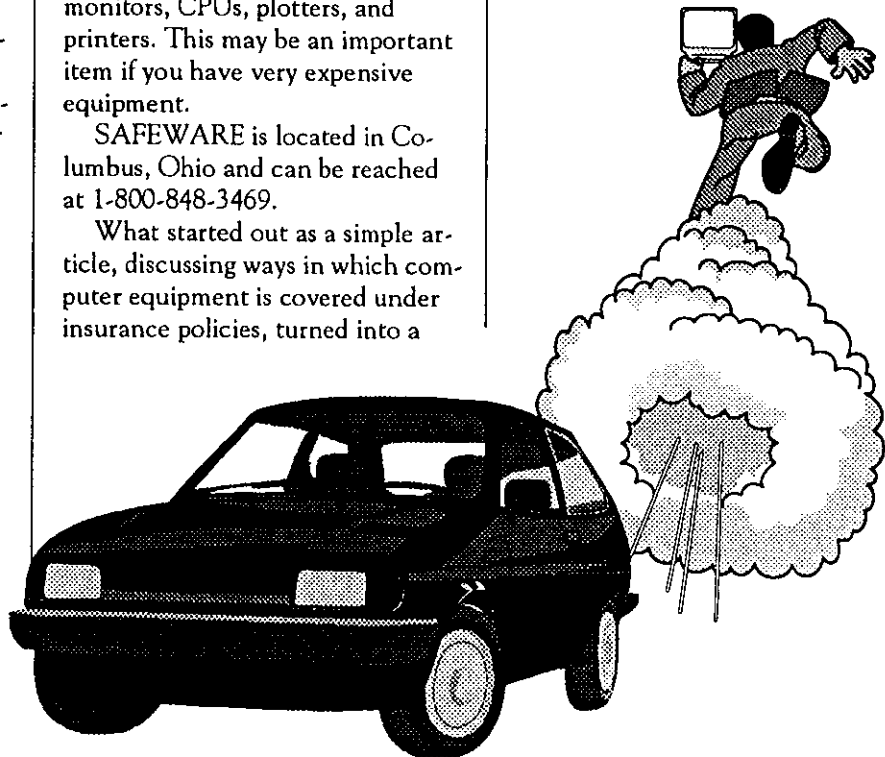
Another item pointed out to me by the SAFEWARE agent is the possibility of mechanical failure of computer equipment. They also offer a policy to cover this. For \$70 per \$1,000 value per year, mechanical breakdowns would be covered. This covers things like hard drives, monitors, CPUs, plotters, and printers. This may be an important item if you have very expensive equipment.

SAFEWARE is located in Columbus, Ohio and can be reached at 1-800-848-3469.

What started out as a simple article, discussing ways in which computer equipment is covered under insurance policies, turned into a

more complex series of questions and answers.

I must state that in order to find out specifics about your situation, it is best to contact your individual insurance agent. Be sure to ask detailed questions as it pertains to your situation. You might be surprised by the answers. ■



## PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

Jean Stevens, Editor

The products listed below are available for review by Club members. If you would like to be a reviewer for any of these products, or want more information, please give me a call at 644-1017.

The ground rules are that the reviewers are required to write a minimum 300 word review for README.DOC within thirty days of receiving the product. Upon receipt of a satisfactory review, the product then becomes yours to keep, subject to the manufacturer's license agreement, restrictions and limitations. These are complete applications with documentation, not demo disks.

### SOFTWARE:

- OBJECT-VISION for Windows v2.0
- HOLLYWOOD (a presentation program)

### BOOKS:

- Power Graphics Using Turbo Pascal 6 by Keith Weiskamp and Loren Heiny, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 1991, 381 pp. ■

### Batch File Basics

...Continued from Page 15

If a match between %%a and %l occurs, the main part of the batch file will be executed.

The generic form of FOR-IN-DO is:

```
FOR %%variable IN (set)
DO action using %%variable
where the dummy variable is any letter, set is a series of items compatible with the action, and action is a legal batch file statement that somehow uses the dummy variable.
```

Study the way that %l is used in this file and see if you can develop your own explanation of how this file solves the problem. Next time we will discuss how this file works and suggest other uses of FOR-IN-DO. ■

## DOS – DECEMBER

Ned Stewart

The meeting began with the announcement that STACKER 2.0 should be available to OCIPUG members for about 50% off list price, provided that we get 25 or more people to buy the product. We should hear something from Steve Burnside about this. Handouts on (Digital Research Disk Operating System) DR DOS 6.0 were available. DR DOS follows up on, and enhances, many MS DOS and PC DOS 5.0 features, with high performance operating commands and added functions.

Linda Fox led a discussion on ROM, RAM, EXTENDED, and EXPANDED MEMORY. A six page handout was distributed to assist members during the discussion of what memory is in computers and how it is used by the system. The handouts contained three diagrams: (1) A diagram of an 8088 chip, (2) an XT motherboard and (3) an AT motherboard. These diagrams were handy in following the discussions on the way in which the data is processed thru RAM. Also provided were a review of "Making Use of UMBs," a *Coast Compute Magazine* article by Mark Minasi, a diagram of RAM thru 4 gigabytes, and a two-page glossary of terms. The members were reminded that standards do not exist yet on many of the RAM technology terms and different computer authorities use different terms to describe the same thing. It was learned during the discussions that random access memory (RAM) must be recharged about every 3 milliseconds or the data bits it holds will be lost, as most of our computers use dynamic chips (which are cheaper) as compared to the more expensive static RAM chips.

George Austin demonstrated CARDFILE.COM and PRNSWAP.COM. CARDFILE is a handy TSR program to maintain addresses and to dial phone numbers. PRNSWAP is a freeware program used when your printer is physically connected to LPT2, but you want to use PRINTSCREEN, which defaults to LPT1, or when you have two printers and need to temporarily get to the printer on LPT2 with software that only talks to LPT1. PRNSWAP allows you to make a software port change in lieu of a physical change. A five sheet hand-out accompanied the discussions and gave details on the ways in which these programs can help improve your performance. These are freeware programs from *PC Magazine* and are found in the first edition of the book *DOS Power Tools*.

The random access questions consisted mainly of a review of access to upper memory. Jointly, Bob Basaraba and Michael Springer gave extensive information on accessing the various memory levels and how they are used in the computer. Also discussed was the problem of transferring data from different capacity disks via diskcopy and how this could be done.

Another major random access topic was why disks formatted by some computers do not work in other computers. Older 360Kb 5-1/4" drives have wider heads for reading and writing the disks than 1.2Mb 5-1/4" drives. This makes it unreliable generally to write on disks formatted on one type of drive in the other type of drive. However, most drive manufacturers are currently building 360Kb drives with the smaller heads. This increases the probability that the disks can be interchanged successfully between drive types. Best rule to observe is ONLY READ FROM DISKS FORMATTED IN A DIFFERENT TYPE OF DRIVE.

A review random access question dealt with clarifying the terms "upper memory blocks" and "high memory." As defined by Microsoft for MS-DOS 5, upper memory blocks (UMBs) can be created in the 384Kb area that is located above 640Kb. Some 286s and all 386s and 486s with sufficient installed memory can use UMBs. High memory is extended memory above 1Mb. (*Editor's Note: the first 64Kb of high memory is known as the high memory area or HMA*) ■

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# DOS – JANUARY

## SAVE YOUR FANNY DISK

*Mike Springer*

Twenty-seven attendees, including Mike Springer and Chris Lloyd were present for the January 4th DOS SIG meeting.

A bootable floppy disk is a MUST for each and every computer so the user can recover in case of computer and/or hard disk failure or accidental reformatting! This SYFD is customized for each particular computer because NO two supposedly identical computers are truly identical. The "emergency" disk must be kept up-to-date, especially if any changes are made in your hardware or software!

The SYFD must be of the size and type to be bootable in A: drive, the first drive that the computer's internal system looks at for "boot" data when first turned on. It must contain:

1. "System" files; e.g, MSDOS.SYS, IO.SYS, and COMMAND.COM, that are identical to those on the specific computer in use. These files should be copied to the SYFD when the specific computer is running properly. It is too late when the computer crashes.

2. A copy of the computer's CONFIG.SYS file that has been edited to reference pertinent drives and directories. For example, "DEVICE=" lines should reference A: drive rather than C: drive, inasmuch as you will be using the SYFD because you cannot access C: drive.

3. An AUTOEXEC.BAT file that has been edited to assure that pertinent directories and files required for start-up are accessible, as with the edited version of CONFIG.SYS. Delete all non-mandatory lines, such as, those that deal with applications, the PROMPT and the PATH.

4. Selected DOS files, such as, CHKDSK, FDISK, FORMAT, DISKCOPY and others that you deem essential in case the files are not accessible from the "crashed" hard drive.

5. Selected "device" drivers essential for start-up.

6. CMOS data that describes the hardware in your computer's system. The CMOS set-up data is displayed on most current AT-type and advanced computers by pressing CTRL-ALT-ESC or CTRL-ALT-S. Older computer systems may require the use of a separate "set-up" disk.

7. Most recent versions of virus detection and correction files, such as McAfee's SCAN and CLEAN that are on the OCIPUG BBS.

The SYFD disk should be verified by using it to boot. It should then be saved, "write protected," and placed in a safe place—and hope you never have to use it.

Mike gave copies of a "framework" disk to attendees so they could prepare their own completely customized "emergency" disks by using each of their own computers.

## DOS 5.0 formatting by Bill??

In formatting floppy disks, DOS 5.0 first checks the existing formatting and then prepares an "UNFORMAT" file. This file uses the "MIRROR" program from Central Point Software/PC TOOLS to make a duplicate copy of the FAT and other data that can be used to recover files in case the floppy was unintentionally formatted.

## Using "MIRROR" with DOS 5.0.

Mike Springer highly recommended that your AUTOEXEC.BAT, or equivalent file, contain CHKDSK and MIRROR command lines. However, he cautioned that the MIRROR command should be used ONLY after CHKDSK has verified that the files on the hard drive are all right; i.e., there are no lost clusters, cross-linked files, etc. Therefore, your AUTOEXEC.BAT file must enable you to stop if CHKDSK reveals a problem, and correct the problem before invoking MIRROR. Mike calls the "GETYES" program in his AUTOEXEC.BAT for this purpose. ■

# PROGRAMMING

*Wendy Sarrett*

At the December SIG we reviewed Vermont Views QV and Quick C for Windows. In addition, Jim Morley showed us some of the interesting work he has been doing with text based graphics. He described how he is designing a graphical interface for his programs, inspired by Motif look and feel. In January the topic will be the MUMPS database programming language. This is a distributed database language that is heavily used in medical applications. ■

# WORDPERFECT

*Susan Novak*

The December WordPerfect SIG meeting began with a random access. One question covered tables and how to join a cell. It was discovered that the help screen instructed you to block the cells to be joined, press join and answer yes. What the help screen neglected to tell you is you must be in table edit mode for the join feature to work. An enhancement request was made with WordPerfect to indicate in the help screen that the feature is only available in table edit mode. Another question was, how do you find out what the release date is of your version of WordPerfect? There are two answers to this question 1) press the Help (F3) key and look in the upper right hand corner or 2) check the date on the WP.EXE file. Other questions were asked as well as a number of WordPerfect for Windows questions.

The group then turned its attention to next year's goals. As a result of the discussion the WordPerfect SIG calendar is as follows: (while these are some of the topics requested there are others that will be scheduled later).

## January

No meeting—taking the month off.

## February

Keith Lue (WordPerfect Representative) to demonstrate Rymer, Using Language Modules, DrawPerfect and Screen Font Editor based on available time.

## March

Tips and Tricks month. Everyone in the group is asked to share a tip or trick which can be a macro, third party program or something they discovered that makes their job easier and faster.

## April

The topic will be fonts and font programs. The following people have volunteered to demonstrate how to load font packages for use with WordPerfect: 1) Peter Singals and Philip Barr, PUBLISHERS POWERPACK; 2) Steve Schiffman, MOREFONTS; 3) Susan Novak and Anne Fawcett, FACELIFT; and 4) Adobe Systems, Inc. If anyone else is interested in demonstrating a font package please let us know. (Note: Bitstream and Adobe are tentatively scheduled to send representatives to the meeting to demonstrate their programs. More to follow later).

The meeting ended with a demonstration of the

Line Format features found under (Shift-F8, 1). These features cover Hyphenation, Hyphenation Zone, Justification, Line Height, Line Numbering, Line Spacing, Margins Left/Right, Tab Sets and Widow/Orphan Protection. The use of these features were discussed and then the individuals at the meeting shared ideas on how they used the features to make their job easier.

We would like to encourage people to attend the WordPerfect SIG to share their experiences using WordPerfect. ■

# GENEALOGY

*Preston Hill*

Showing his usual outstanding dedication to OCIPUG, Stan Sabin defied his doctor's orders to avoid all walking and opened the Genealogical SIG meeting on Monday, 16 December. Stan distributed copies of Joan Lowrey's recently released 4th edition of *Personal Ancestral File 2.2 Users Guide*. This is an excellent supplement to the LDS PAF manual that old hands and newcomers alike can use to great advantage. Stan also distributed disks with numerous utility programs. He and Joy then returned home to obey the doctor and get off his feet, after turning the meeting over to Ted Carpenter.

Twenty-nine other OCIPUG members and guests then listened as Ted demonstrated some of the various utilities on Stan's disks, many of which are useful for all computer users, not just genealogists. SNIPPER2 is a TSR that enables a user to copy one screen at a time from any file into ANY other file, not just another PAF database. ALT-W invokes SNIPPER with menu screens following. IMPORT21 imports ASCII text files from ANY word processor into the NOTES section of PAF records. USCOUNTY lists all of the current counties in the US by county and state. Ted also briefly described the other utilities and their uses.

Ted and Stan have been designated by Salt Lake LDS as "Disk Doctors" able to recover corrupted PAF files. Formerly, disks with corrupted files had to be sent to Salt Lake City for recovery. ■

# MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – DECEMBER 30, 1991

As Submitted by Ginger Buck, Secretary

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephen Burnside, President	Terry Currier
Richard Villa, Vice President	Robin Clark
Ginger Buck, Secretary	Sunny Lockie
John Goodman, Past President	Bob Ottke
Jim Bonacci	

## BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Preston Hill, Treasurer	Bob Basaraba
Ben LeGare	Stan Sabin

## MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Max Lockie	Arthur Saltzman
Tom Stolp, Parolimentarian	Thurman Wade
Michael Springer	

The Regular Meeting of the OCIPUG Board of Directors convened at 6:50 p.m. at the SIG Space with Stephen Burnside presiding.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 25, 1991

Bob Ottke moved to approve the Minutes, Sunny Lockie seconded and motion passed.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Richard Villa read a letter from Preston Hill regarding the Club's financial status and distributed Monthly Balance Sheets to Officers and Directors. Stephen Burnside announced that we have an additional \$793 in our budget. Discussion ensued regarding moving existing CD funds of \$5,453 into a Money Market Fund before maturity on March 20, 1992 as the bank incorrectly put the funds in a CD only. John Goodman moved to direct the Treasurer to correct the bank's error on this conversion, Sunny Lockie seconded and motion passed. A resolution was passed for Stephen Burnside, Richard Villa, Preston Hill and Sunny Lockie to sign checks on the Club's checking account. John Goodman moved for acceptance and the motion passed. Richard Villa said we should keep the CD "Tim Smith Fund" passbook account. John Goodman moved we keep it as a Money Market Fund, Bob Ottke seconded and motion passed.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Publications Committee Chairwoman Sunny Lockie briefly discussed the January README.DOC deadline and advertising needs. BBS Committee Chairman Bob Ottke said Jim Petit and Michael Springer have been working hard on the BBS. We have two successful lines going. We will switch over two systems first then run

Wildcat on a trial basis on a third line. If it looks good, we will switch it over. Program Committee Chairman Terry Currier announced the January, February and March programs. Membership Committee Chairwoman Robin Clark distributed updated membership renewal information and stated that fifteen of forty-two did not renew for December. Stephen Burnside will appoint a Long Range Planning Committee at the next meeting.

## OLD BUSINESS

John Goodman questioned the calendar for the May General Meeting and Stephen Burnside said he will ask Orange Coast College if we can change it to May 30.

## NEW BUSINESS

Richard Villa offered to start a library of used books for lending to members. Tom Stolp may donate two bookshelves for them. Books will be marked with an OCIPUG stamp and the honor system will be used for lending. Richard Villa will write an article for future publication in README.DOC about the new library. John Goodman suggested one month as a deadline and also putting a sign on the bookcase setting the rules. Stephen Burnside called for a question to commend Richard Villa for donation of books for the new library and the motion carried.

Arthur Saltzman distributed and explained the results of the OCIPUG User Group Survey. Our data was compared with seven other groups so we would have a comparison. We had a 64% response rate and he read the list of prize winners who participated in the Survey. Stephen Burnside thanked Arthur Saltzman for doing the survey. Stephen Burnside requested budget requirements from Committee Chairmen/women within two weeks. Sunny Lockie said Paul Curtis mentioned that he could seed the Shareware Library with new programs.

Richard Villa moved that the meeting adjourn at 8:00 p.m., Jim Bonacci seconded and motion passed. ■

*(Editor's note: The above minutes do not become official or certified until adopted by the Board at their next Board Meeting.)*

As a courtesy to OCIPUG members, the memberships up for renewal are published in README.DOC every month.

**IS YOUR NAME LISTED BELOW?  
DON'T FORGET TO RENEW!!**

**THESE MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE IN JANUARY**

Bill Baldwin	Sid Kuperberg
Barry Baxter	Joseph Lambert
Gordon Belt	Edon Larkin
Murmo Bobo	Ann Lee
Arthur Bode	Dick Lewis
Charles Bracher	Thomas Mahon
Diane Buzerak	Tom Mahood
Robert Buzerak	Devon McRorie
Reta Cagle	Tom McRorie
Mike Cang	Phil Meline
Victor Caron	Larry Nelson
Margaret Conant	Bob Para
James Corl	Robert Parriott
Ann Corzine	Charles Pease
Larry Courter	Porter Pierce
Janet Crider	Mark Powers
Ken Crider	Daryl Reed
Ralph Davis	Ron Rock
Kenneth Drews	Martin Ruby
Bernard Egbert	Jean Rudenski
May Echridge	Bill Salmi
Joe Falcon	Jane Schinzinger
James Farnsley	Roland Schinzinger
Bob Flack	Steve Silverwood
Anant Gajjar	Dean Sowers
Pamela Greene	Jeannie Stake
John Gulsby	Roy Stake
Gene Hales	Mike Stewart
Katherine Harkins	Ned Stewart
Richard James	Jim Stolp
Robert James	Milo Surbat
Vic Jashinski	Dirk Theuvenet
Gary Kaleta	Joe Wade
Kurt Keller	Marvin Warden
Roland Kemp	Steve Weiss
Angie Kirk	Christopher West
Erik Kirk	Alex Wodchis
Harald Kirk	Reuben Yago
Mercy Kirk	David Yap
Marshall Klieman	Peter Zebot

**THESE MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE IN FEBRUARY**

Jan Bolen	Michelle Browne
Jennifer Bolen	Joanne Buchanan
Tim Bolen	Dewey Carlson
Marshal Boslow	Sharon Carlson
Clyde Botzner	Tony Carnicello
Kenneth Bourne	Irwin Chapnick
Thomas Brock	Gloria Chen
David Brown	Jim Clary
Jeanne Brown	Olga Clary
David Browne	Frank Coffee

**DECEMBER 1991 FINANCIAL REPORT  
Preston Hill, Treasurer**

	Unrestricted Funds	Tim Smith Fund
Cash Balance - November 30, 1991	\$ 8,689.35	\$3,939.24
<b>Cash Receipts</b>		
Interest	\$ 80.17	\$ 51.40
Contributions	1,720.66	
Membership Dues - New	504.00	
Membership Dues - Renewal	1,512.00	
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 3,911.83</b>	<b>\$ 51.40</b>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>		
Rental - General Meeting	\$ 180.00	
Rental - Sig Space	1,604.00	
Printing - Newsletter	1,000.00	
Postage - Newsletter	200.00	
Printing - Membership	29.26	
Postage - Membership	23.20	
Supplies	35.48	
Bank Charge - Return Check	3.00	
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 3,074.94</b>	
<b>Net Change in Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$ 836.89</b>	<b>\$ 51.40</b>
Cash Balance - December 31, 1991	\$ 9,526.24	\$3,990.64



George Colburn	Shannon Jager	Jack Plotner
Linda Colburn	James Kazlauskas	Mary Plotner
Mary Colburn	Jack Kindig	Bob Rank
Sandy Colburn	Jim Kirkpatrick	Vernon Rice
Terry Cornelsen	Don Krueger	Arthur Saltzman
Paul Delke	John Kruse	Mark Savage
Jim Dobbs	Xuan-An Le	Daniel Schmanski
Bernard Engdahl	John Lunsford	Edward Sharman
David Erbas-White	Berenice Maltby	Gerald Sinykin
Louise Ewing	Pamela Mang	Rena Smith
Robert Ewing	Terence Mang	Jay Snelson
J. Donald Franklin	Pat McLaughlin	Donna Springer
Jim Fulton	Roger Mendenhall	Michael Springer
Keith Gilbert	Butch Miller	Ron Spruell
Dick Goodman	George Moore	Jean Stevens
Geof Gottier	Robert Olea	Melvin Thexton
Tom Gottier	Peter Ottke	Donald Weiner
Bernard Greenapple	Robert Ottke	Brenda Welch
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Ben LeGare	1992	472-0944
Sunny Lockie	1993	644-0103
Robert Ottke	1992	759-1515
Stan Sabin	1992	968-7307

### PEOPLE AND NUMBERS TO KNOW

Membership	Robin Clark	786-7880
SIG Chairman		
Program Chairman	Terry Currier	774-2018
Bulletin Board	Robert Ottke	759-1515
Library Committee		
Facilities Chairman		

### OCIPUG BBS & MESSAGE LINE NUMBERS

Public Line (1200/2400/9600)	843-0388
Members only (1200/2400/9600)	843-9248
OCIPUG Info & Message line	843-2048

## OCIPUG General Meeting Dates 1992

Our General Meetings are held on the last Saturday of each month.

**January 25**

**February 29**

**March 28**

**April 25**

**May 30**

**June 27**

## Membership Form

**Bring to General Meeting or mail to return address on the back cover**

New       Renewal       Information Update      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been a member of OCIPUG? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what is your member number: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership \$36.00 per year       Family Membership \$45.00 per year

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr. (Circle One)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit No. \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I consider myself to be:       Beginner       Intermediate       Advanced

My computer is a       None       8088(XT)       286(AT)       386SX       386       486SX       486

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