



NYBBLES

March
1994



The official newsletter of the
CALGARY COMMODORE USERS' GROUP

CCUG Executive, 1993-1994:

President:	Kevin DeMan
Vice-President:	Mike Stoll
Treasurer/Secretary:	Jan Goss
Membership:	Phil Porth
C-64/128 Librarian:	Bill Baird
Amiga Librarian:	Kevin DeMan
VIC Librarian:	Phil Porth
Newsletter Editor:	Nhat-Viet Phi (Toto)
Printmaster:	Mike Stoll
BBS SysOp:	Mike Stoll
BBS Sub-SysOps:	Dean Finnman and Phil Porth

The Calgary Commodore Users' Group runs a Bulletin Board System (BBS) at the number 274-0771. Use your computer and modem to dial up, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! Set your terminal program to the following parameters: 2400 bps, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, Full duplex, and No parity. See you online!

Please notify us of any changes of address or phone number. Be sure to include your membership number and home phone number. Give Phil a ring (local call from Calgary), or drop him a line at:



CCUG Membership
c/o Phil Porth
427 5th Ave SE
High River, Alberta
T1V 1H9



The CCUG holds public meetings at the Main Branch of the Calgary Public Library, 616 Macleod Trail SE, Basement Room #2. This is just off the City Hall and Olympic Plaza LRT stations. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, March 2, 1994 at 7:30 PM**. Hope to see you there!

The President's Message - Kevin DeMan

To start off, I regret to say that our Newsletter editor Toto (Nhat-Viet Phi) has given the Executive his letter of resignation. Toto's reasons are that due to previous commitments, he feels that he will not be able to give the Newsletter enough time to make it as good quality as it presently is. We respect what he has decided and would like him to know that if we should need a newsletter editor some time in the future and he has the time and would like the job, he is welcome back to the job. Thank you, Toto, on a job well done. I would also like to let the CCUG know that we are accepting volunteers for the now-open Newsletter Editor job. If you would like to do this then call Mike or myself.

I would like to let you know that nominations, for the upcoming CCUG elections, are now open for the following positions: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Membership Co-Ordinator and Recording/Correspondence Secretary. If you are thinking of running for one of the above positions and would like to know more about the job, I would say to call the person or persons, presently in that position, to find out more about it. Closing nomination will be at the April 1994 General Meeting. While candidates should be present at the election meeting, a signed statement from the candidate stating intention to run will be acceptable if the candidate is for any reason unable to attend.

Amiga Disk Of the Month for March 1994

This month's disk is self-booting, so you will not need to use your Workbench to load the disk.

CHEQUEBOOK: Here is a program that will help you keep your chequebook balanced. That is, if you put in the right info And you can also print out a list of all your info on your chequebook.

HEXTRIS: This is like Tetris but with a twist. The twist is that instead of four sides you now have *six* sides. This uses the keyboard, not the joystick.

ICONED: This is the news iconed maker. You now can load IFF pics and use them as iconeds or save as IFF to 2.4.

COMMANDS: Here is a list of 2.04 commands that Commodore didn't put in the new DOS manual.

FULLVIEW is a text viewer that offers fast, smooth-scrolling, ANSI-compatible text displays. It will also display IFF and ILBM picture files. A wide variety of formats is supported, including HAM, Overscan, EBN and Dynamic-HiRes.

COLLECTOR: This is a database program for cataloguing sports cards.

DISP is a standard Amiga/IBM picture display program. It may be used for showing a single picture, a list of pictures, entire directories (drawers) full of pictures etc.

For those of you that would like the Fish Database Disks, I will have them at the meeting for you. They will be on three disks as follows:

DISK 1: #001 to #450. **DISK 2:** #451 to #851. **DISK 3:** #852 to #960.

So if you would like any or all of them, make sure you bring down as many disks as you may need. I will be doing this at the break.

VICE-PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

by Mike Stoll

Last month I invited everyone who is interested in computer telecommunication to find/buy a modem and get 'online'. This month I would like to mention a few things that can make your time online more enjoyable and productive.

Most modern modems use a set of commands that allow the user to communicate with the modem. These commands are known as 'Hayes commands' or 'AT commands'. Some older Commodore modems (such as the 1670) support some, but not all of this command set. The following are a few of the commonly used AT commands, and a few of the 'should be commonly used' AT commands. (In my opinion.) This list is by no means complete, and you should refer to your modem manual for more information. (Note: to issue commands you must be in your software's 'terminal' or 'local mode'.)

- AT - Used to tell your modem you are issuing a command. Virtually all commands must be preceded by AT.
- Z - Reset and load stored configuration. Commonly used at the start of a session. usage: ATZ
- D - Dial a number.
- P - Dial using pulse dialing.
- T - Dial using tone dialing. Common usage - ATDT<number to be dialed> (i.e. atdt2740771)
- H - Hang up.
- A - Answer.
- X3 - This does a few things, the most desirable being snappier dialing and the reporting of a busy signal. If configured properly, your term software will hang up when the busy signal is reported. This command does not appear to be supported by Commodore 16XX series modems or the Aprrotek C24.

S registers - usage- 'AT Sn=x', where n is the register, and x is the value to be 'poked' into the register. A couple interesting ones:

- S11 - tone duration, or the length of the tone used when dialing. For fastest dialing, set as low as possible. My modem goes down to a value of 50, and works perfectly.
- S37 - Highest baud rate to be used. Modern high-speed modems will 'negotiate' with the other modem to achieve the fastest error free connection possible. My Supra 14.4 Kbaud modem will always try to achieve a connection at 14.4 K with v.32 bis data compression, but will keep trying the next best option until common ground is found between the 2 modems. Sometimes, though, an older modem can be 'confused' by this negotiation. The Aprrotek C24 on the Club's BBS is one such modem. In order for me to connect properly with the Club BBS from my Supra, I must issue the command

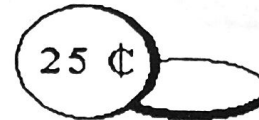
```
'AT S37=6'
```

where the value 6 indicates 2400 baud. (5=1200 baud, 9=9600 baud.)

New terms you may come across when looking at modems are V.32, V.32bis, V.42, V.42bis, and MNP 2,3,4,5, and 10. MNP stands for 'Microcom Networking Protocol'. MNP 2,3,4, and 10 are error correcting protocols, and are used to avoid most errors that can occur when using noisy phone lines. (Noise is a complex problem beyond the focus of this article.) MNP 10 is a special error correction protocol that operates at the extreme level necessary to communicate over cellular telephones. MNP 5 is a protocol that compresses data up to a 2:1 ratio. A connection rate of 2400 baud would be able to transmit data up to an apparent rate of 4800 baud. MNP 5 also uses MNP error correction. (continued)



Phil's 2 Bits' Worth

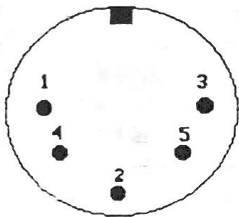


After last month's article, a few things have come to light concerning my little project. First, it was noted that not all 64's (all mine do) have an 8-pin video port. Some have a 5-pin DIN socket, like the VIC. If your computer (64 or VIC) has one of these, then simply make your cord from a 5-pin cord and socket instead of the 8-pin, and then change the video connection at the socket end to Pin 5, instead of Pin 4. The problem with this is that you cannot plug the 8-pin monitor (or adaptor) cord into the (VIC or the older 64's) 5-pin socket. You will, however, still be able to record the audio and video while using a T.V. and RF modulator.

Secondly, I was incorrect in stating that my 1902A monitor has a 5-pin cord connector. It is a 6-pin connector, which really has no bearing on the project; I was just pointing out that it was non-standard.

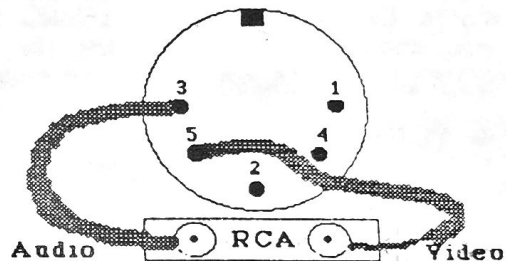
Old 64 and VIC Pin-Outs

Plug End



1. +5v Reg
2. Gnd
3. Audio (like 8 pin)
4. Video Low
5. Video High Res.

Socket End



Anybody out there tired of listening to me give my Two Bits' Worth every month? Here's a **News Flash**: you don't have to be on the Executive to have an article written by you, appear in this Newsletter. Thanks go to members who have contributed over the last year, if we haven't already said so. If you are using your computer to accomplish any task that we haven't already tackled in this monthly tome, then by all means please write it down on paper. If you feel comfortable talking in front of the Group, then you are welcome to give a presentation at a regular meeting, or SIG; if not, then the article will suffice. We already know of a few of you who do interesting chores, but we can't break your arms to get you to commit it to paper.

Speaking of the paper, we know that there has been a little bit of discussion over the latest title of this publication (NYBBLES), and after giving it a few months to sink in I would like your opinion on a few related items. Taking into account that not every question can be answered 'yes' or 'no', please indicate your answer on the sliding scale below. **Please note**: I have not put a place for your name, but those of you who are heavily opinionated please sign the bottom, and we will consider you for the Editor's job.

(continued)

(Phil's Two Bits continued)

<u>Question</u>	<u>Agree</u>		<u>fence</u>		<u>Disagree</u>
1/ I like the new name	()	()	()	()	()
2/ I like the new page layout	()	()	()	()	()
3/ I like the new front cover	()	()	()	()	()
4/ I prefer a graphic cover	()	()	()	()	()
5/ I hate questionnaires	()	()	()	()	()

If the answer to Question #1 above was anything but **Agree**, please give us a Title that you might want to see used instead: _____

P.S. You do not have to rip this questionnaire out of the Newsletter, as I will have blanks available at the meeting, or if you can't make the meeting, then photocopy it and sent it with a friend, or fill it out on-line, on our BBS at 274-0771, in the Voting Booth. Your opinions are not only appreciated, but necessary to get a true indication of how we are doing. **No answer will be taken as a vote that everything is O.K.**

Now, down to my regular routine of covering the latest **Gazette Disk**. This will be relatively easy again this month, as the March Gazette has not arrived in time for my submission deadline. Instead, what I am going to have to do is cover what was in the last month's (**February**) disk magazine.

64 Programs

Ice Mountain: A joystick-controlled game where you pilot a remote-controlled helicopter. The mission is to recover valuable pieces of metal buried inside a mountain of ice. There are obstacles to overcome, and extra lives to earn.

Statistics: This program puts a number of sophisticated statistical functions at your disposal and lets your 64 handle the complicated math.

Blue Thunder: An older Public Domain program described in the PD Picks section of this disk. A fairly good helicopter simulator for its day. Not easy to master, and provides many hours of play value.

Dirmaster (GEOS): Freedomware Provides all the directory manipulation features missing on all the desktops available for GEOS. Sort your GEOS desktop by Geos File Types, Date, Size, alphabetically, etc. Works with RAMDrive, REU's, RAMLink, 1541 & 1581's. Sort and move up to 480 files at one time. Any movement/sort operation automatically performs a compact operation.

128 Programs The reason that there are so few programs for the 64 on this month's disk is that there is a rather large 128 game called **Starship Battles**. This program takes up almost 1 whole disk side, and runs in 80-column color.

There are also the same columns that you are used to seeing in the magazine, like 64/128 View, Machine Language, Beginner BASIC, D'iversions, Feedback & GEOS. Also learn why Commodore posted a \$359 M. loss last year.

For Sale: **Seikosha SP1200VC Printer** Works on any Commodore & requires **NO printer adaptor**. Prints NLQ, Italics, condensed, expanded, super and subscript fonts. Complete with sheet and tractor feeds, all cables, manuals and new spare ribbon. I would like \$100, which is a bargain. F.M.I. Call Phil at 652-3519

This is GENie!

March 1994. (c) by Scott Dutton.

This month, at the suggestion of the Vice-President (no, not Al Gore) and some of the other club members, I'm starting a multi-part series on:

GENie The General Electric Network for Information Exchange

and, ye godsl, this topic is so big I almost don't know where to begin!

GENie is many different things to many different people. Some use it as a traditional multi-line BBS, with its E-Mail, RoundTable Conferences (RTC's) where users chat with each other in realtime, and file transfers.

Others (alas, MS-DOS users in this case) play multi-player games with titles like Air Warrior, Battletech, and Stellar Emperor in realtime arcade-like action.

And still others use its professional services for things like up-to-the-minute stock quotes and headline news from Reuters.

And still other others shop online in the GENie mall, buying from such diverse companies as Sears, TRW Credentials, and Direct Micro.

In other words, we've got a monster here, one that can be reached through a local telephone number. It extends all across North America and into Europe, can be accessed through SprintNet or Datapac if you wish, and as a GENie user you even have an InterNet E-Mail address.

For the purposes of this series, I will be discussing only one bulletin board area, how to access it, what the costs are, and how to economize.

The area: The Commodore RoundTable.

Before I get into how to set up an account on GENie, I should explain why the Commodore RT is an incredible place for C= users.

Anything and everything about C= machines and their software is discussed in the extensive categories and their topics. Under the Programmer's Den (?) category there are at least twenty topics, ranging from machine language routines to the different versions of BASIC, and all the other languages are there too. Under the Hardware category there has been an incredible flow of information about the new C65, including hardware hackers discussing just what is inside that machine, and another user in Germany posting the new commands that the machine supports from the manual that never made it to North America.

Add to that the product support categories for Creative Micro Designs, GEOS (now sold by CMD), Parsec, and the Colour 64/128 BBS, staffed by actual employees of those companies. CBM personnel are also on hand to answer your questions.

And add to that live RTC's with software programmers, and others associated with C= machines, and you have, by far, the best RT to be on to fully utilize your 64 or 128. Since QuantumLink is already gone, and many people from there have already moved to GENie (the GEOS support area moving from Q is a good example), GENie is the ideal source of help and information for you.

The cost for GENie is \$10.95 a month, and includes four hours of connect time, with which you can access any area on GENie except for some of the premium services. Premium services, such
(continued)

(This is GENie continued)

as Charles Schwab Brokerage and Dow Jones News, cost extra above the basic rates. After your first four hours each hour will cost you \$4.00.

In my experience, it is quite easy to stay under the four-hour mark and go online every day if you use a front-end program to read messages and compose replies offline. The different front-ends will be discussed later. In this house we access a few different RT's and still stay under the limit most months. So if you only access the C= RT bulletin board and write a bit of E-Mail, you should have enough time left over to join in the occasional RTC and download that must-have file.

GENie should only be accessed during non-prime hours, which are 6 PM to 8 AM local time during weekdays, and all day during weekends and GENie designated holidays (American national holidays). If you connect during 8 AM to 6 PM on weekdays you will be billed an extra \$12.00 per hour for every hour. Businesses and corporations mostly use the service during weekdays and this is the way to keep us consumer-types from hogging the lines.

To set up an account, you must have a modem with 300, 1200, or 2400 baud, set to half-duplex (local echo), and E-7-1. If you access GENie at 9600 baud or higher you will incur an \$8.00 per hour surcharge on all connect time, including the first four hours. I believe GENie accepts higher baud rates than that, so this may not be a bad thing, because the faster you access the quicker you'll be off, meaning the surcharge will balance itself against the shorter connect time.

You're now ready to actually go online and set up an account. Here we go, step-by-step:

1. From inside your favourite term program (make sure you have your translation table set for standard ASCII, not PETSCII), dial toll free 1-800-638-8369.
2. AS SOON AS YOU CONNECT, type HHH, and DO NOT hit enter or return!
3. At the U#= prompt, type XTX99254,ONLINE and press enter or return. The comma is part of the string.
4. Have your credit card or chequing account number ready and follow the bouncing ball.

That's the basic method to logon. It will take a day or two for GENie to set up your account. GENie will mail you some literature on basic policies and commands for the system. There is a user's guide available as well.

When your account is set up a couple of things will change during logon:

1. You'll be dialling the Calgary GENie access number 232-6121.
2. The U#= code will be changed to your User ID#,Password combination.

Okay, you've successfully logged onto GENie. In a few moments the following will scroll onto your screen:

** Thank you for choosing GENie **

The Consumer Information Service
from General Electric
Copyright (C), 1994

GENie Logon at: 21:16 MST on: 940206
Last Access at: 00:28 MST on: 940206
(continued)

C-64 Disk Of the Month, March 1994 - Bill Baird

- Notepad:** Now you have two screens whenever you want them for notes to yourself.
- Pop Dos:** Not just another DOS wedge, this one has easy-to-use, pull-down menus.
- Chomp:** A 1351 mouse-driven game from Scientific American.
- Animals:** Teach your computer about binary trees.
- Joystick Art:** This program makes the most use of C-64 keyboard graphics.
- Statistics Analyzer:** Learn about statistical curves by seeing them.
- Template:** Lets you create specialized templates for your function keys.
- Tips and Tricks:** Small, but powerful routines for the C-64.
- Two Potato:** An example of how an old concept with a few new twists can make a nice little game.
- Cris Cros Poker:** After playing ten hands of poker at once, you won't want to play the old way.
- Crossword Player:** Six puzzles and an easy-to-use player program.
- Backgammon:** The computer is an expert at this ancient game. Can you beat her?
- Roll Off:** An addictive dice game that you can play against your friends or C-64.
- Cranberry Park:** You are the new playground architect. But are you up to it?
- Poison:** A non-text adventure for the fatalistic gamer, otherwise known as Damage. Solve the mystery or you are DOA.

This disk is only \$4 from the Librarian at the March 94 meeting. It is a double-sided 1541 disk.

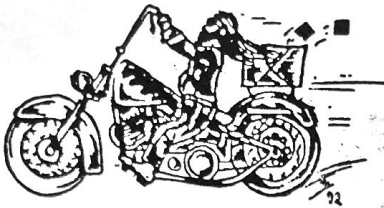
C-128 Disk Of the Month, March 1994

- Darwin's Bugs:** From the pages of Scientific Canada comes this sophisticated program that demonstrates, both numerically and graphically, what happens when you release a bunch of bugs in a well-stocked kitchen.
- Videophile:** How many times have you mislaid that slasher movie, just when you really needed it? Use this easy-to-use database to keep track of your video tapes, as well as print out informative labels for them.
- Coupon Cache:** With food prices creeping into the stratosphere, those grocery store coupons are starting to look better and better. Let Coupon Cache keep track of them for you in this friendly style.
- On Deck:** Those invaluable sports cards just seem to pile up and if you can't find the one you want, you might miss that big sale. This database will help you or your capitalistic youngster keep tabs on all the cards you have stashed away.
- Budget Tracker:** Your budget will never look the same when you start using this very straightforward, 80-column budget program. You can modify it to suit your own special situation.
- Screensketch 80:** It's not easy making screens for 80-column programs in the text mode, but this utility will take all of the hassle out of it.
- Clip Artist:** Use the power of your C-128D and the 1351 mouse to design or modify Print Shop graphics. You will enjoy the modern point and click interface. Note: This program requires 64K of video RAM and a 1351 mouse.
- Philatelist:** Stamp Collecting is one hobby that can use the aid of your powerful C-128. This easy-to-use database will keep your collection organized.
- Phone Book:** Throw those heavy phone books away! With this handy phone number and address database, you can call up to 300 people without your fingers having to do all that walking.
- Shoot the Breeze:** Take two dice, some flags, and a smart computer opponent, and you have yourself a challenging game. Up to 4 people may play at a time.

This March 1994 Disk of the Month for the 128 is available at the March 94 meeting for only \$4 from your 128 Librarian. This is a double-sided 1541 disk.



This month's newsletter was created on a Commodore 128 with geoWrite 128, Perfect Print, geoPaint and geoPublish, all running under GEOS and gateWay 128. Output was done on a Panasonic KX-P1123 printer, and duplicated on the Club's Canon PC25 photocopier.



BYTE RYDER SOFTWARE & COMPUTER SERVICES

March Specials

AMIGA

Lemmings II	\$40.00
Battle Chess II	\$30.00
Targis	\$14.75
Legend of Kyrandia	\$48.00
ArxX	\$30.00
Agony	\$19.95
Deluxe Paint 4.1	\$179.00

C64/128

Talladega	\$9.95
Power C	\$24.95
BMX Trials & 1085	\$5.00
Korom /Twin Kingdom	\$5.00
Touchdown & 10 Pin	\$5.00
Printed Word + Calc	\$10.00
Sport Spectacular	\$500

MISC.

U.S. Robotics 14,400 bps S/R Int. Fax/Modem (IBM)	\$219.00
GVC External 2400 bps Modem (5 Yr. warr.)	\$80.00
Internal 9600/2400 bps S/R Fax/Modem (IBM)	\$90.00
Mouse & Pad Combo (IBM)	\$21.95
Mouse Pad	\$2.50
1.44 MB Floppy Drive (IBM)	\$60.00
P.C. Logio 14,400 bps S/R Ext. Fax/Modem	\$225.00
Disk Notcher	\$9.95
Gold Star 100% Certified 3.5" DSDD Disks (10)	\$7.75
Gold Star 100% Certified 5.25" DSDD Disks (10)	\$4.95
Copy Holder	\$3.00
Q-Stick Joystick (Amiga/64/128)	\$10.00
Printers (9 pin to Laser)	Starting at \$200.00

USED & CONSIGNMENT

Murder by the Dozen (64)	\$8.00
Flight Simulator II (64)	\$15.00
Introduction to Programming II (64) (NEW)	\$10.00
Catch a Thief & Souls of Darkon (64)	\$5.00
Hard Drive Organizer (IBM)	\$5.00
Star League Baseball (64)	\$5.00
Questron (64)	\$10.00
Manx C Source Code Debugger (Amiga)	\$10.00

Many IBM Compatible Systems Available
Add GST to all prices. Prices subject to change. Phone for latest prices.
Also Carrying: Nintendo, Super Nintendo & Sega Games