

SYDTRUG NEWS

SYDNEY TRS-80 USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume. 4 Issue. 11 JULY 1984

IN THIS ISSUE.

The Secretary starts off with REMblings this month. (I think that the computer language is beginning to take control. Ed.)

He has a bit to say about the Bulletin Board the Basic and Assembly courses commencing on the 21st July 1:00p.m: the Annual General Meeting and a couple of other items.

following that is The Prophet and Oracle by Larry Lewis and Rowan Evans.

This covers Cobol - Part 1 concepts : LDOS. information on why you would use it also how to make a double density bootable disk with LDOS.

The SYSOP Michael Cooper has given us an article titled Club-80 News Room Hello.

There is also a list of the Bulletin Boards in Australia and New Zealand kindly supplied to us by Ted Romer.

Keith Black has started up a Gamers Corner so now all you hot shots with the big scores can have them recorded for posterity. Keith will also be writing game reviews in the future.

Our President Dan Lawrence has a lengthy section called The Presidents Desk and just because it happens to be the last article does not mean that it is not worth reading.

Our Soecial Interest Group lectures start on the 21st July.

TIME.	SUBJECT	LECTURER.
1:00 - 1:55 p.m	Programming in Basic	Dan Lawrence.
2:00 - 2:55 p.m	Assembly Language Programming	Bob Wardrop
3:00 - 4:00 p.m	Newdos/80 version 2	Alan Johnstone.

Read the Presidents Desk article for full details: if you dont read it thats your problem.

Included in this issue is a membership list please check the information and if its not correct contact the Secretary at the next meeting or ring him at home.

There is a nomination form for the forthcoming election of Office bearers (8th Sept.)

Finally a copy of the Constitution mainly for the new members during the year that haven't received a copy of it yet.

Your Assistant Editor.

Denis Pagett 773-4433.

MEETING DATES.

The forthcoming meetings for JULY and AUGUST appear below.

Meetings commence at 1:00 p.m at the rear of Patterson's Florist 1120 Botany Rd BOTANY. (turn off Botany Rd into Bay St then into Chegwyn St) Phone 666-4716.

JULY

14th Monthly Meeting
21st Soecial Interest Group

AUGUST

11th Monthly Meeting.
18th Soecial Interest Group

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Mild REMblings from the Secretary

Denis is on my back this month as I'm late with my column. My excuse is Tech Exams, my 6 month old teething son and a new job opportunity, so if things seem a little disjointed you will just have to bear with me.

The Club's membership stands at 171 financial and 31 members of the BBS. The club is increasing at a rate of about 15 new members a month and this seems to be through word of mouth. I will be starting a push for new members shortly, as time permits, and I hope to attract a lot more.

B.B.S. The sysop has returned from Annual Recreational Leave and the system is functioning, once again, as it should. Machine power instability and NOT a software bug, would appear to be the problem. We are endeavouring to have a hardware RESET clock made, to alleviate any further disruption.

While still on the BBS, we all seem to accept its use, as our divine right. It should be considered that Michael Cooper has developed and written the whole system as you see it today, and he has donated FULL USAGE RIGHTS to the Club, on the understanding that it NEVER be used for commercial purposes.

The course on BASIC and ASSEMBLY Language programming is well advanced in planning and we can see no hitches. There has been a large enrolment and it is gratifying to see so much interest being generated. One member has let us use a P.A. system to get the message across and also to record the event so others may benefit. One side light for future planning is an exhibition at a shopping centre, showing what our computer's are capable of, and featuring some Educational software written by a teacher and available to all.

One of our members is an insurance expert and has offered to find out about the different insurances available to cover computer and video equipment, not only at home, but also whilst being transported, or used at other premises.

The committee has conferred an special privilege upon Mr Alan Johnstone, who now becomes a non-contributory member. We feel that the exchange of ideas outlet and the ability to keep up to date with first hand overseas developments, will be very beneficial to the Club.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on the first Club meeting in SEPTEMBER (the 8th September) with Nomination forms included in this newsletter. Keith Black will be the Returning Officer. You are welcome to make a nomination for any position on the committee, but I warn you now that it is thankless job with a lot of hard work. The way we presently overcome this is to all work together and do as much as we can. The rest is achieved by a plan of well disguised coercion.

The DIRECTION of the Club will soon have to be reappraised, as we have achieved our present aims. We are open to any suggestions for our long term goals. If we do not formulate and decide on some direction or aims, the Club will again flounder and we will lose interest and slowly crumble into nothing.

Some of the members have advised us that they would prefer the meetings to be held in the western suburbs. The committee has no objection to the meetings being held on other premises, but experience has made us wary and complacency has let us take the services provided by Mick's Micro Bits for granted. If you can provide a hall with good lighting, good and many power points, benches and chairs, good hardware servicing facilities, a humorous outlook on all computer crashes and finally all for \$25.00 per session, the committee will gladly put the proposal to the members. (whoops!! forgot the free coffee machine.)

Unfortunately, I keep running out of space in this column, so I will have to keep some of my more esoteric comments till another time. See you all at the next meeting and to all who had exams, I give my condolences.

Jim Whittaker. 772-2009

The Prophet & Oracle Speak

By Larry Lewis & Rowan Evans

(The following article should have been in the last issue Ed.)

Do you own a Model 4 and use CP/M? If you do most Osborne software should run 'as is' as both machines emulate an ADM3A terminal

USING COBOL - Part I - CONCEPTS

COBOL is a business use language, it is orientated to handling files, computations and printing reports, special versions of COBOL also handle screen/keyboard entry/display....

'What! you say!! Screen/keyboard I/O isn't standard?'....that's right 'Standard' COBOL (and there are lots of them) is not designed to interact with an operator for data entry and display.

Also if you are using a language like BASIC you will probably have problems with the necessity to define all variables rather than use dynamic allocation (also the initial contents of variables is not guaranteed, they must be initialised).

All this aside if you are not interested in business software do not bother with COBOL. If you are into business applications read on.

Have you experienced the problem of rounding in amount fields in BASIC programs?

Yes! Well rejoice COBOL has no such problem no matter what the size of the field. Also, you can test if the field has overflowed (ie is greater than the maximum allowed) and take corrective action.

Error trapping is much more sophisticated and many enhanced file handling facilities are available. Report processing, although more difficult than BASIC is extremely powerful and flexible.

NEXT ISSUE: Part II - PROGRAM FORMAT

Rowan's bit

An Oracle, according to Greek mythology, is a person who answered questions put by people, however, the Greek oracles always had problems - some couldn't be believed and others answered in ambiguous ways. Hopefully, as your oracle, I will answer all questions in a clear, precise fashion, so that one question won't breed 40 more.

Anyway, the questions I have been asked most in the last few months are -

1. Why do I need to use LDOS ?
2. How do I make a double density boot disk and set the PDRIVE specs ?

To answer question 1 briefly, if you need a SUPPORTED operating system (i.e. you use your machine for business), or MODEL I/III/4 data compatibility, or the advantage of a completely TRSDOS 2.3 compatible or the advanced facilities offered by LDOS (device independence, a full DO file language, etc.) then LDOS is for you. Even without the old extended support agreement, LSI and other companies are still developing additional features/programs that add to LDOS - things like LC, PDS, WordStar (on which this was written) and the TOOLBOX. (If I keep going Larry and Denis will KILL me....)(If he doesn't give the material to me unformatted I will.)

To create a bootable (MODEL I) double density disk requires the following -

- a. Supported doubler (PERCOM compatible or R/S).
- b. Copy of MISOSYS SOLE program - buy it from Larry.
- c. A copy of LDOS (5.1.0 or better please !).

Rowan's bit cont.

Step 1 - Format the disk using a drive of the same track count and density (96 or 100 tpi) as your boot drive.

Step 2 - Run SOLE1 specifying the drive in which you just formatted the disk (if Drive 1 - SOLE1 :1).

Step 3 - Type the following commands with s=source drive and d=drive with Sole disk

BACKUP SYS0/SYS:s :d (NEW)

BACKUP SYS6/SYS:s :d (NEW)

BACKUP SYS7/SYS:s :d (NEW)

Check (DIR :d (S.A)) that SYS0 is a SINGLE extent and SYS6 and SYS7 are not more than TWO extents. If O.K. continue, else redo from step 1.

BACKUP /SYS:s :d (NEW)

BACKUP :s :d (NEW)

The disk in drive d now has all the LDOS files on it necessary for proper operation.

Step 4 - Set up your favourite LDOS configuration - TYPE-AHEAD. SYSRES'ed overlays, printer driver AND PDUBL/RDUBL (the disk will boot without the double density driver but YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING !)

Step 5 - Put the double density disk in drive 0 and type - SYSTEM (SYSGEN). The system configuration will be written to the double density disk.

Step 6 - Run SOLE2 on the double density disk. with the command - SOLE2 :d.

You will now have a double density bootable LDOS which may be either a single sided or double sided disk.

Good Luck

CLUB-80 NEWS ROOM HELP

Last Update 10/06/84

The News Room has 3 main functions

(1). Listing of News Headlines

(2). Listing of Page Index

(3). Reading of pages

Additional functions provide for

(4). Leaving of contributions to Editor

(5). Protected entry to Editors Office

(6). Closing of News Room and return to Foyer

(7). Closing of News Room and move to Exit (log-off)

(8). Toggle the prompting Bell ON/OFF

(9). Toggle the Expert User Mode ON/OFF

LISTING HEADLINES

Select <H> at the NEWS command level

The News Headlines will be listed with matching page number. The listing may be paused with the <Ctl-S> key and restarted by pressing any key.

To exit the listing press <Escape>.

At the end of the listing you will be returned to the NEWS command level.

LISTING PAGE INDEX

Select <P> at the NEWS command level

The Page Index consists of all details on the contents of each page. The Headline, Author's name and Page are displayed. The listing may be paused with the <Ctl-S> key and restarted with any other key. To exit the listing press <Escape>At the end of the listing you will be returned to the NEWS command level.

Club 80 News Room Help cont.

READING AN ARTICLE

Select <R> at the NEWS command level you will be asked to enter the page number of the article you wish to Read. The system will display the article in one of two ways. TRS-80 and SYSTEM-80 users will have a display of 15 lines then a prompt for More or Abort. Others will receive the article as a continuous stream which may be paused with the <Ctl-S> key or aborted with <Escape>.

At the end of the listing you will be prompted to enter another page number to read. You should press <Enter> to return to the NEWS command level or input another page number.

LEAVING A CONTRIBUTION

Select <L> at the NEWS command level. You will be prompted to enter the Filename of the article. The filename may consist of up to 8 characters only. no extension or password is allowed. The file will be opened and the system will signal ready. Select the transmit file option on your Christensen Protocol software (XMODEM or MODEM80).

The transfer will proceed automatically with the system signalling the successful completion. The article catalogue will be updated and you will be prompted for another filename.

If you are finished press the <Enter> key to return to NEWS command level. or enter another filename.

RETURNING TO FOYER

Select <F> at the NEWS command level. The system will close the News Room and return to the Foyer.

EXIT CLUBHOUSE

Select <E> at the NEWS command level. The system will close the News Room and move to the Clubhouse Exit procedure.

BELL TOGGLE

Select at the NEWS command level. The system will switch the Bell to it's opposite state.

EXPERT TOGGLE

Select <X> at the NEWS command level.

The system will switch the Expert User Mode to it's opposite state.

NEWDOS/80 ver 2.0 SYSTEM table

by Gary K. Bryce. 628-5058

The SYSTEM command within NEWDOS/80 is used to enable or disable the various optional parameters used to operate the operating system. For details of the functions of each option see section 2.46 on page 2-45 of the DOS manual. The information listed below should not be used without care and experience in the use of the DOS.

The SYSTEM parameters are stored on Track 0. Sector 2 of every diskette formatted with NEWDOS/80. the PDRIVE table uses the first 160 bytes of this sector (00H to 9FH). for further information see last months newsletter. the remainder of this sector (A0H to FFH) is used for the system information.

Most options are enabled by setting one bit, while a few others use all eight bits to store the parameter. I have included those bits used by Alan Johnstone in his modifications to the DOS, so that if you don't recognise some of the parameters you can't be using his mods (get a copy from someone at the group, it's really worth using).

Newdos/80 Version 2 System Table cont.

Parameter	Byte	Bit	Parameter	Byte	Bit
-----------	------	-----	-----------	------	-----

AA	F0	7	BA	F9	5
AB	F0	6	BC	F1	6
AC	F8	7	BD	F9	7
AD	F8	6	BE	F1	5
AE	F8	5	BF	F9	2
AF	F8	4	BG	F9	1
AG	F0	5	BH	F9	0
AI	F0	4	BI	A5	0-7
AJ	F8	1	BJ	A9	0-7
AL	A0	0-7	BK	F1	4
AM	A6	0-7	BM	F1	3
AN	A2	0-7	BN	FA	7
AO	A3	0-7	BR	FE	4
AP	D0	0-7	BS	FE	5
AQ	F8	3	BT	FE	6
AR	F0	1	BU	FE	7
AS	F0	0	BV	FF	5
AT	F1	7	BW	FF	2
AU	F8	0	BX	FF	1
AV	A7	0-7	BY	FF	0
AW	A1	0-7	BZ	BF	0-7
AX	A8	0-7	CA	FF	7
AY	F9	7	CB	FF	6
AZ	F9	6	CC	FF	4
			CD	FF	3

In any single bit parameter 0 = N (disabled) . 1 = Y (enabled).

AUSTRALIAN & N.Z. PAMS SYSTEMS LIST

Last updated 02/Apr/84

The normal data format for connecting to Public AccessMessage Systems (PAMS) in Australia and New Zealand is:

8 data bits. 1 stop bit.

No Parity, full duplex

CCITT V.21 modem standard

300 bps

Set your modem to ORIGINATE mode

All systems support V.21 standard, some systems may support V.22 or V.23 standard and will be specifically noted if they do.

USERS IN "BELL" STANDARD COUNTRIES PLEASE NOTE

"Bell" standard 103, 202 and 212 modems WILL NOT WORK with CCITT V.2X standard modems.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

International Subscriber Dialing (ISD) numbers for systems listed here include the country code but DO NOT include the ISD access code you must dial to gain international access as this will vary widely from PTT to PTT. Your local PTT should be able to tell you what your ISD access code is. The "+" at the end of the ISD number is a telecommunications convention to indicate an international number with country code.

Australian and New Zealand Pams Systems cont.

Domestic numbers are ONLY for dialing from within the same country as the target system and follow national conventions for display of the number.

SYSTEM TYPES.

RCPM = Remote CP/M System
RMPM = Remote MP/M System
RTRS = Remote TRS-80 System
RBBS = Remote Bulletin Board System
CBBS = Community Bulletin Board system
BBS = Bulletin Board System

TIME ZONES

EST = Australian Eastern Standard Time (GMT +9 hours)
CST = Australian Central Standard Time (GMT +8.5 hours)
WST = Australian Western Standard Time (GMT +6 hours)
NZT = New Zealand Time (GMT +11 hours)

All Australian States except Queensland and Tasmania use daylight savings time (above times - 1 hour) from the end of October to the beginning of March.

AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMS

NEW SOUTH WALES:

Sydney TRS-80 User Group RTRS (CLUB-80)

ISD number 61 2 332 2494+ 24 hours EST

Domestic number (02) 332 2494

* * *

Mi Computer Club BBS (MiCC-BBS)

ISD Number 61 2 662 1686+ 24 hours EST

Domestic Number (02) 662 1686

* * *

Sydney Public Access RCPM (SPA-RCPM)

ISD Number 61 2 808 3536+ 24 hours EST

Domestic number (02) 808 3536

* * *

Micro Design Lab RCPM (MDL-RCPM)

ISD Number 61 2 663 0151+ 24 hours EST

Domestic number (02) 663 0151

* * *

Omen RTRS (OM-RTRS)

ISD number 61 2 498 2495+ 1630-0900 weekdays EST

Domestic number (02) 498 2495 24 hours weekends

VICTORIA:

Gippsland RCPM (GL-RCPM)

ISD number 61 51 34 1563+ 24 hours EST

Domestic number (051) 34 1563

* * *

Melbourne Micro Computer Club CBBS (MICOM-CBBS)

ISD number 61 3 762 5088+ 24 hours EST

Domestic number (03) 762 5088

* * *

Sorcerer Computer Users Assoc CBBS (SCUA CBBS)

ISD number 61 3 836 4616+ 24 hours EST

Domestic number (03) 836 4616

* * *

Australian and New Zealand Pams Systems cont

Tardis RCPM system (TARDIS-RCPM)

ISD Number 61 3 67 7760+ 1800-0800 weekdays EST

Domestic number (03) 67 7760 24 hours weekends

QUEENSLAND:

Software Tools RCPM (ST-RCPM)

ISD Number 61 7 378 9530+ 24 hours EST

Domestic number (07) 378 9530

SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

Adelaide Micro User Group BBS (AMUG-BBS)

ISD number 61 8 271 2043+ 1000-2200 weekdays CST

Domestic number (08) 271 2043 and holidays ONLY!

NORTHERN TERRITORY:

Outback RCPM (OUTB-RCPM)

ISD number 61 89 27 7111+ 24 hours CST

Domestic number (089) 27 7111

* * *

Omen II RTRS (OM2-RTRS)

ISD number 61 89 27 4454+ 24 hours CST

Domestic number (089) 27 4454

NEW ZEALAND SYSTEMS

NORTH ISLAND:

Attache RBBS (ATT-RBBS)

ISD number 64 9 76 2309+ 24 hours NZT

Domestic number (09) 76 2309

(type "help" to login)

I will try to keep this listing up to date, but it must be realised that I cannot call all of the systems listed just to see if they are still on air. If you know of any systems not listed, please leave a message with details.

Prepared by:

Bill Bolton (ST-RCPM Sysop)

GAMERS CORNER.

by Keith Black. 516-3673.

This is an idea I had for the newsletter to have a games corner so that members will have a chance to tell other members of troubles that they are having with games or about a fix that they have found for a game that will be of help to others.

I will review some of the older games that new members will not have seen, there being about 1800 games on file.

I would like to have your high score of your favourite game and start a list.

Now that you gamers have a place to show your genius let's have some mail.

Adress mail to Keith Black P.O. Box 43 Erskineville 2043.

THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.

by Dan Lawrence. (SIDCO) 665-7822

Copyright Protection.

Following the Federal Court descision which overruled the descision in the Apple case, the Australian Government introduced sweeping amendments to the Copyright Act early in june 1984.

The main change is in the defination of a "literacy work" which will now include a computer program. In addition the anti-piracy laws will be broadened.

SPECIAL INTERST GROUPS.

The starting of our Special Interest Groups, commencing Saturday 21st July, has been well received by members attending Saturday meetings.

Ground rules will be spelled out at 12:45p.m on the 21st to ensure that harmony exists betwen members not participating in the earlier lecture periods, or at all, with those who wish to attend the organised educational sessions.

Details of courses are as follows-

TIME	SUBJECT	LECTURER
1:00 - 1:55p.m	Progammig in Basic	Dan Lawrence
2:00 - 2:55p.m	Assembly Language Programming	Bob Wardrop
3:00 - 4:00p.m	Newdos/80 version 2	Alan Johnstone.

Enrolments to date are very healthy - 21 for programming in Basic.
16 for Assembly Language.

Enrolments are nescessary due to two factors -

(a) Printing sufficient quantities of the introductory instructions and program of the Data Base Management System, for free issue to those enrolled in Programming in Basic

(b) Endeavouring to bulk buy (wholesale) the text book for the Assembly Language course, which is proposed to be :Z80 INSTRUCTION HANDBOOK by Wadsworth.

Enrolments for these two courses may be made in two ways viz-

(1) At our General meeting on Saturday 14th July or the 21st July

(2) by ringing my home after 6.30p.m on week nights before the 21st July.

All you have to do is state the course you are interested in attending and give your name. My phone number is 665-7822

NOTE: It is not nescessary to enrol for the Newdos/80 lectures, just turn up and enjoy. Incidently Alan will soon be going overseas on a permanent basis so this is your last chance to hear his words of wisdom.

Material needed for the courses:

Pen and paper, diskettes or tapes if your'e not on disk, 90minute audio tape(assembly couurse only) money approximately \$8:00 for Assembly Language book.
Help wanted.

Because of the interest shown in our two courses I would appreciate receiving some help from a couple volunteers to assist in such matters as duplicating programs arranging of voice tapes book orders etc.

Any ideas for multiple reproduction of voice tapes would also be appreciated

AND NOW FOR THE FUTURE

The committee of SYDTRUG now consists of a group of members who are pulling together in the same direction, so as to progressively provide better and improved services to members and the public.

Already in hand for the future are -

- (1) Educational programs
- (2) Visical
- (3) Lazywriter
- (4) Dosplus 3.5



Presidents Desk cont

Instructors for these courses have yet to be verified by the committee.

At the SYDTRUG committee meeting held on the 7th MAY 1984 a motion was passed to conduct a public SIG exhibition and demonstration on Saturday 11th May 1985 (Mothers Day Weekend)

DISCLAIMER

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For Sale. Disk Drive teac 80 track single sided Micropolis compatabile in good working order.

Bare drive only \$160:00. Contact Victor Zakka. Phone 89-4185.1