OTTAWA IBM P.C. USERS' GROUP

NEWSLETTER

October 22, -- Issue 86(4)

Executive:

		home:	work:
President:	Gord Hopkins	828 - 3834	726 - 3590
Past president:	Harry Gross	733 - 7989	----------
Treasury:	Mike Luckham	832 - 3829	592 - 6500 x 2034
Secretary:	Eric Clyde	749 - 2387	993 - 3291
Membership Secretary:	Anne Moxley	592 - 4993	230 - 9096
Meeting Facilities:	Stu Moxley	592 - 4993	----------
Publicity:	John Pryzbytek	231 - 4318	----------
Software Librarian:	Chris Taylor	727 - 5453	995 - 4987
Assistant:	Michel Lemire	568 - 8429	993 - 5033
Assistant:	John Ings		
Newsletter Editor:	Jacques Lemay	684 - 7754	684 - 7874
Bulk Purchasing:	Terry Mahoney		

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================= MEETING DATES =================
Meeting schedule:
8:00 pm, last Wednesday of every month except July and December
 1986: Oct. 29,  Nov. 26,  1987: Jan. 28,  Feb. 25,  Mar. 25 . . .

      Meeting location: NRC AUDITORIUM, 100 Sussex Drive
 (Gothic Building opposite Ottawa City Hall - Parking in rear)
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As your new editor, I have put something together for a newslet-
ter, with a very short notice, would you believe two days and a
half ? I owe many thanks to Anne Moxley for her assistance in
supplying a return address rubber stamp and mailing labels over-
night, to Chris Taylor for his newsletter stuff, Harry Gross for
his input in a nutshell and to Eric Clyde for his reports on
Group Meetings. You will notice some items are in French, as a
policy I will publish articles as they are submitted to me, or
translate them in the other language if I am requested to do so
or if they are of interest to all members, such as Constitution,
notices, contests, . . .

Votre nouveau rédacteur, Jacques Lemay n'a eu que deux jours et
demi pour pondre ce chef-d'oeuvre. j'espère que vous participerez
à la rédaction de cette chronique en me soumettant des articles
d'intérêt général. Ils seront publiés tels que reçus et probable-
ment traduits en anglais, si aptes à intéresser tout le monde, ou
si l'auteur le demande. Un gros merci à Anne, Chris, Harry et
Eric ainsi qu'aux membres de l'exécutif pour leur support moral
et financier dans cette publication.

Jacques Lemay

CONSTITUTION

Constitution Amendments:

To add: "Membership Chairman" as an elected official. Current Constitution can be found on our Library Index Disk # 00, which is distributed free upon joining or renewing of membership.

Modifications à la Constitution:

A ajouter: "Président des adhésions" comme élu au conseil. On retrouve la constitution en cours dans notre diquette No.00 qui contient aussi notre index bibliothécaire. On obtient cette disquette gratuitement lors de l'adhésion ou son renouvellement au club.

ARTICLE III

Section I - (amended)

"The officers of the IBM-PC Users' Group shall consist of the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Software Librarian, Publicity Officer, Membership Chairman, Newsletter Editor and Past Chairperson".

Section 1 (modifiée)

La composition du conseil du Club d'utilisateurs d'IBM PC sera: Le Président, le secrétaire, le trésorier, le Bibliothécaire des logiciels, le préposé à l'information, le publicitaire, le président des adhésions, le rédacteur de la Chronique et le président sortant.

ARTICLE IV

Section 8 - (added)

"Membership Chairman" shall:

8.1 be responsible for membership registration.

8.2 maintain an up-to-date roster of members.

Section 2.3 (deleted)

Section 3.2 (deleted)

Section 5.4 (added)
"Act as assistant to the Newsletter Editor".

Section 8 - (ajoutée)

Le président des adhésions devra:

8.1 être responsable des inscriptions d'adhésion.

8.2 tenir une liste à jour des noms des membres.

Section 2.3 (annulée)

Section 3.2 (annulée)

Section 5.4 (ajoutée)
"prêter main forte au rédacteur de la chronique.

These are to be ratified by the membership at the November general meeting.

Ces propositions sont à entériner par les membres lors de la réunion générale en novembre.

Recent additions to the library

This month has seen a veritable flood of new additions to the software library as well as upgrades on some old favorites. Following is a list of what's new in the specialty library.

ABC DESIGN: (2 disks) A graphics colour image editor for creating and using fonts on Epson printers.

ANALYTICALC: (2 disks) An integrated (spreadsheet/database/word processor) package.

dGENERATE V1.0: A dBASE III code and screen generator.

EXTENDED BATCH LANGUAGE V. 3.03A: A PC-DOS utility that will give your batch processing new power and capabilities.

FAMILY TREE / PROGENITORS: Two family tree programs to help you find your roots.

FAS-TYPE: Polish up your typing skills with this typing tutor program. Requires color/graphics adapter.

GLUDRAW: Let out the artist in you with this line graphics program.

ORIGAMI: Learn the ancient art of paper folding. Requires colour/graphics adapter.

OUTLINE! V3.15: An outlining program with starter manual on disk. If you don't want to lay out big bucks for Think Tank. This program used to be known as PC-OUTLINE. It is now distributed by Brown Bag Software.

PROCOMM V2.41: One of the finest communications packages around. This program is highly recommended. Many file transfer protocols available, a full script language, chat mode and much more.

Q-MODEM V2.3: A powerful user-supported communications program.

ROFF4 V1.60: A text formatting program with source code in C.

TELIX v1.11: A Canadian communications program with lots of power ! Similar to PROCOMM and QMODEM.

TRIVIA: Modelled after Trivial Pursuit, complete with board. 600 questions in 6 categories. For 2 to 6 players.

TUNE TRIVIA: A Name-That-Tune type game. Very nicely done. Several game options available. Lots of tunes on disk.

WILLY THE WORM: A terrific arcade-style game similar to "KONG". Includes a game editor to male things easier or more difficult.

WORD PROCESSOR FOR KIDS: An very simple, easy to use, word processor.

The IBM manual gives two ways of writing a batch file;
    1 - by the use of COPY CON: SOME.BAT
    2 - using EDLIN

Both are somewhat clumsy in terms of editing and testing. An
improved method is by the use of a word processing program to
write an ASCII file.

But by using the BASICA interpreter, a batch file can both be
written and tested in the same environment.

As a simple example, consider the following listing, with D: set
up as a RAM drive.

```
10 OPEN "D:TEST.BAT" FOR OUTPUT AS #1
20 PRINT #1,"echo off"
30 PRINT #1,"dir A:"
40 PRINT #1,"REM    this is a test"
50 CLOSE #1
run
```

This will create a batch file on drive D:. To test it, we can
take advantage of the SHELL command available in DOS 3.x by
using;

    SHELL "D:TEST"

A return can be made to the BASIC interpreter and the program by
typing EXIT. When eveything is finished, the final .BAT file can
be copied to it's final resting place.

The example is trivial, but for complex batch files, this is a
simple method of writing and testing batch files without flipping
back and forth between an editor and DOS to write and test a
batch file. There are some word processing packages that allow
you to exit to DOS from the editor and a return, but this is
cheap and quick.

Another roundabout but elegant application is to write self-
writing batch files. As there is no provision for interactive
batch files, a BASIC program can be used to request parameters,
write and run a batch file, and then call an .EXE file. (but not
an interpreted BASIC program.) A batch file can load BASIC and a
program to write a second batch file.

As BASIC stays resident in memory, this approach will waste 64K
of memory and may not be suitable for some applications.

Harry Gross

Report on the PC Users' Group Meeting, 27th August 1986
by Eric Clyde

Gord Hopkins opened the meeting. He mentionned that the newsletter
had been sent out and that members should have received it. He also
reminded members about the software competition in the categories:
games, utilities, and enhancements. The prizes would be free 1987
memberships and disk subscriptions. He also announced the competi-
tion for a new suggested club name, acronym or logo. The prize
will be a free membership. If one is selected, the change would
have to be ratified at the November meeting.

Elections will be held at the November meeting. Harry Gross is
Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The elected positions are
President, Treasurer, Membership, Software Librarian, Secretary,
and Newsletter Editor.

The program part of the evening was a demonstration of the Enable
integrated software package by a team from PCNova. It was an
excellent, in depth presentation, with lots of opportunities to ask
technical questions, and have them answered. (It is difficult for
your Secretary to read his notes, since the lights were out in the
auditorium, and he doesn't write too clearly in the dark!) A door
prize of a copy of the package was awarded to a lucky member.
Darlene Murphy, Marketing Manager, announced that the package would
be available to members for one month for $500, which is approxima-
tely half the regular price.

Attendance at the meeting was approximately 140.

Report on the PC Users' Group Meeting, 24th September 1986
by Eric Clyde

Gord Hopkins opened the meeting, reminding members of the elections
coming up in November, and that Harry Gross is still seeking
candidates. He also asked for volunteers with newsletter editing
experience.

On October 18th-19th there will be a computer show at the University
of Ottawa. The Group will have a booth, and he asked for volunteers
to man the booth. At the show there will be speakers, dealers, and a
flea market for software and hardware. [Editorial note: there was
apparently little interest in the flea market, so that part was
cancelled]

The speaker for the evening was Les Wolsley from Innovation
Technologies Inc. The company does some consulting and software, and
sells a software package to architects and engineers. They were
concerned with the speed of batch file operation, so developed
ProCommand, an enhanced batch processor. Users have found that it
runs about 5x as fast as DOS batch files. He discussed the many
programming features, saying that the package will run on any version
of DOS from 2.0, requiring memory of at least 128K. It is very
flexible, and will run Topview, Microsoft Windows, GEM, DesqView,
Double DOS and other programs. A copy was given as a door prize.

The Group has negotiated with Bruce Miller to run on its behalf
a new bulletin board, telephone number 745-8015, with him as sysop.
It is running on a PC clone with a 20MB hard disk and will be up 24
hours per day. It has a Hayes 2400 baud modem, and will accept calls
at 300, 1200, or 2400 baud. Parameters are 8 data bits, 1 stop bit,
and no parity. If accessed by Envoy 100, use full duplex. His
favourite communications package is Procomm, but QModem is also good.
Other packages include PCTalk (an old favourite, but somewhat
outdated now), Crosstalk and Smartcom. The board is runnin on Fido
software. Users have to be registered. First time users and
non-members can look at messages and at the file names, but cannot
download software.

Attendance was about 120.

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Reach out and Touch Someone   Chris Taylor

The software library currently has three terrific user-supported
communications programs. They are Procomm v2.41, QModem v2.3,
and Telix v1.11.

All three are quite capable. They all have features including
dialing directories with redial, a multitude of communication
protocols, DOS shells, macros, the ability to log sessions to a
file, and script files for automatic processing. In short, they
are all very high quality programs.

Currently, Procomm seems to be leading the pack in popularity.
It is very rich in features and has an excellent user interface.
It supports many terminals for terminal emulation and has the
widest array of file transfer protocols.

If you are nationalistic, you may want to try Telix, a program
out of Toronto. It is very nice. It includes all basic features
of Procomm. It is a fairly new program, and they seem to have
looked at the competition seriously.

QModem has a few nice touches that include viewing a directory of
files with transmit times. QModem does not support Telink file
transfers, which is unfortunate for users of Fido bulletin
boards, as this is the easiest to use protocol on a Fido BBS.

All three programs are very easy to use. They come with
extensive documentation on the disk. If you just want basic
communications and file transfers, you can be up and running in
minutes.

There is only one negative comment that I have to make. I used
Procomm with a SmarTEAM 1200 modem and had problems with file
transfers. Every now and then, Procomm would receive an error
and think it got the end-of-file marker before it had. Needless
to say, to get 200K of a 202K file is frustrating. Both QModem
and Telix handle things better and I have never failed to get an
entire file using either of these programs. I know of only a few
people with similar problems, but if you are using Procomm, keep
this in mind.

********************** LATE BREAKING NEWS *************************

There have been some reports about problems with Procomm v2.4.
Some people do not seem to be having difficulties. The library
will keep copies of v2.3 as well as v2.41. Choose as you see fit.

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Reach Out and be Touched by Someone   Chris Taylor

Call waiting is a service now offered by Bell Canada at an extra
charge. Once installed, if you are on the line and someone calls
you, you will hear a beep and you can then put your present
caller on hold and talk to the other person calling you. You may
then return to the first caller.

If you are thinking of getting this service (it only costs a few
dollars a month), and you use a modem, then you should think
again !!

First impressions might be that a beep thrown in on a line while
doing data transmissions would be an annoyance dealt with be the
error checking file transfer protocol. However this is not the
case. When Bell set up the call waiting service, they decided
that only you should know that someone is calling when you are
already on the line. So when a call comes in while you are
already on the line, Bell disconnects you from your first call
just long enough to send you a beep and then reconnects you. The
original party you are talking with does not hear the beep
indicating that someone else is calling you.

For a voice call, this is no problem. But, if you happen to be
using a modem, the few milliseconds when you are disconnected
from the remote computer is long enough that your modem will
detect a loss of carrier signal and terminate the call.

In the U.S., the phone companies have realized the problem and
came up with a solution. In most cases, you simply dial a
special code (for example a given 3 digits) and then the number
you want to call. The special code will defeat the call waiting
feature until you hang up.

Reach Out and be Touched by Someone.   Chris Taylor   (cont'd)

Bell Canada has realized the problem as well and has come up with
an excuse.   There is no way to temporarily defeat call waiting in
Canada.   Bell's excuse ? "The phone line is guaranteed voice
grade only.   The fact that your modem works at all is simply
incidental."   Although they are essentially correct, it does show
a lack of good will on the part of Bell.   Anybody who may wish to
make their views known can write to;

        Bell Canada
        Office of the General Manager
        P.O. Box 161
        Station A
        Ottawa, Ontario
        H3C 3P3

        and

        The Secretary General
        Canadian Radio-television
          and Telecommunications Commission
        Ottawa, Ontario
        K1A 0N2

****
                          GENERIC TRANSFORMS
****

                       BORLAND INTERNATIONAL

                  Turbo Pascal versions 2.0 and 3.0

                    8087 and BCD options available

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Also: GTx Loan Planner v2.0, Microsoft QuickBasic, Gem Desktop, etc.

For prices call 733 - 7989,   or write: Generic Transforms
                                                824 Fleming Ave.
                                                Ottawa, Ont., K1G 2Z2

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*     Ottawa IBM PC Users'      *
*            Group              *
*   Disk #35     October 1986   *
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ASTRO   COM   12928 (C**) A game in which you try to destroy
                             asteroids (and of course the occasional enemy
                             ship). Related files -ASTRO.DOC

DOS31   PAT   11392 (***) Some useful patches to PC-DOS 3.1

FULLDOS   EXE   24012 (***) Use the entire screen when at DOS level,
                             re-enter previously used commands simply by moving
                             the cursor to those lines, and more. Related
                             files - FULLDOS.DOC

JOKE   TXT   308 (***) A small chuckle.

KWIC   EXE   30464 (***) Display (K)ey (W)ords (I)n (C)ontext. Will
                             search any specified group of files for given
                             words and display them in context. Related files
                             KWIC.DOC

LIGHTNG   BAS   895 (***) Just in time for Halloween. Put your
                             monitor in a window and display lightning. PCjr
                             only! Related files - LIGHTNG.DOC

LIST   COM   6597 (C**) A very nice utility to display files. Lots
                             of features. Related files - LIST.DOC

LOG   INC   1787 (***) Add this to your Turbo Pascal programs to
                             have a log of screen activity go to a file of the
                             printer. Related files - LOG.DOC

MEMSUM3   COM   19698 (***) Memory resident utility. Press Alt-M to
                             instantly see total and available memory. Related
                             files -MEMSUM3.DOC, MEMSUMRL.COM

NOVICE   TXT   4096 (***) A few words on file name conventions and
                             the use of subdirectories.

RAMDUMP   EXE   13312 (***) Programmers utility to view any section of
                             memory. Related files RAMDUMP.DOC

RAMSCAN   EXE   15360 (***) Programmers utility to scan memory looking
                             for a given data pattern. Related files -
                             RAMSCAN.DOC

TASK   COM   1024 (***) (T)imed ASK. Great program for batch files.
                             Sets errorlevel according to a response...or to a
                             cetain value if there is no response within a
                             given time span. Related files -TASK.DOC
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*     Ottawa IBM PC Users'     *
*            Group             *
*   Disk #35     October 1986  *
*           (cont'd)           *
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TIMEPARK COM   477 (***) Program that moves the hard disk heads to a
                          safe spot after 1 to 9 minutes of disk inactivity.
                          Great if you leave your hard disk running all day.
                          Related files - TIMEPARK.DOC, TIMPARK1.ASM

UNERASE   <DIR> A great program set for recovering lost files.
                          One program even saves the File Allocation Table
                          to a disk file to help recover from errors!

VISITYPE COM   1152 (***) Extends keyboard buffer to 80 characters and
                          lets you see and edit data that goes into the
                          buffer.   VERY nice! Related files - VISITYPE.ASM,
                          VISITYPE.DOC

WEREWOLF BAS   3294 (C**) Another program just in time for Halloween.
                          Set up your monitor in a window and the kiddies
                          will delight in watching a man turn into a
                          werewolf and back.   Related files -WEREWOLF.DOC

XDEL   COM   951 (***) A utility for cleaning up your disks.
                          Delete files from a full-screen list. Related
                          files - XDEL.ASM, XDEL.DOC