

**Yokosuka Computer Club**  
January/February 1984

News, Gossip, and Innuendo from the Western Pacific

**Crucial Stuff**

NEXT MEETING: Wed., Feb. 8, 7:30 Pm, top floor of Barracks "C." Scheduled activities include a presentation on new and forthcoming technology.

ELECTIONS: Our fearless leader, J.R. Lee, has threatened to commit seppuku unless we hold elections soon. While this does sound entertaining, there would be less to clean up if we just carried out his wishes (elections are supposed to be held every six months). Accordingly, come to the next meeting with ideas on victims for railroading into club leadership.

LAST MEETING: At the Jan. 11 meeting John Rick gave a presentation on the Atari's spectacular "smooth scroll" graphics. Atari has the only machines under \$3000 featuring smooth scroll, and John demonstrated this effect with a commercial arcade game. Kathleen and Lawrence Charters offered information on the Navy contract with Zenith Data Systems, and gave the address of a private firm selling the Z-100 at the same price paid by the Navy (see elsewhere in this issue). Lawrence also gave a brief presentation on word processors and how they could be used for data base management. Joseph Berston and Ronald Jones, of Com-Stute, Inc., in Yokohama, discussed how they used computers in their technical writing business. Mr. Jones also demonstrated his NEC PC-8201 notebook computer. Similar to the Radio Shack Model 100, the PC-8201 lacks a built-in modem and some software, but does offer 64K of RAM (in two 32K banks) plus a battery powered 32K RAM cartridge.

SURVEY: Less than ten of you returned postcards for the survey included in the last newsletter. You'll be sorry . . .

CONTEST: The first person to bring an Apple MacIntosh to a club meeting (you need not be a member) will receive a FREE subscription to the club newsletter. Such a deal --

**Less Crucial Stuff**

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS: Several people have expressed interest in forming special interest groups (SIGs) devoted to particular computers, software, etc. In particular, the local Atari group has expressed interest in merging with YCC. If you wish to form an SIG, or think SIGs are a bad idea, please say so publically at the next meeting.

LIBRARY: The President would like to remind everyone the club has a large collection of magazines, books, programs, and trivia covering almost every kind of computer imaginable. If you have a need, check our library.

EXPERTS NEEDED: Several people have asked if someone, somewhere, might know something about (blank). If you are well versed in a particular machine or program, tell the librarian and we can make a referral list. Similarly, if you have a program and want to show it off, either arrange to make a presentation at a meeting or at least tell the librarian so we can refer people to you.

BRING FRIENDS: The last few meetings have had few members and many visitors. It would be more interesting if we had lots of members and lots of visitors. Come! And bring friends.

ZENITH OFFER: Many people asked for details about the Zenith Z-100 offer. A private company, GEA, is selling the machines to all government employees at an incredible price. To purchase a machine (or even get a price list) you must send a \$10 check to GEA at the following address:

Government Employees Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2405  
Arlington, VA 22202

Here is a partial list of what is available:

System A: ZFG-121-32 micro (two 5.25" disk drives, 192K, 8085, 8088, 5 slot S-100 bus [4 vacant], 12" green screen, RGB color monitor connector, 2 RS-232C ports, parallel port, user's manual, installation guide, 10 pack floppy diskettes, CP/M-85 8-bit operating system, BASIC-80, diagnostic software, technical reference manual); list \$4,800; GEA price \$1,799.

System B: ZWG-121-32 micro (same as above except 1 floppy disk drive, one 10 megabyte winchester, 3 vacant slots); list \$6,080; GEA price \$2,799.

Separately available hardware: 13" RGB monitor and cable \$360; color video memory (2 sets req.) \$75 ea; 256K RAM board \$379; Diablo 630 daisy wheel printer \$1230; plus modems, plotters, eight inch disk drives, dot matrix printers.

Separately available software: ZDOS (MS-DOS, with Macro 86) \$50; BASIC compiler/BASIC interpreter \$35; Peachtext 5000 (Peachtext word processor, Spelling Proofreader, Peachcalc [Supercalc], List Manager, Random House Thesaurus) \$140; Condor DBMS \$50; Lotus 1-2-3 \$300; plus eight and sixteen bit Wordstar, FORTRAN, COBOL, Pascal, etc.

**MORE ZENITH STUFF:** Software Wizardry (122 Yankee Drive, St. Charles, MO 63301) offers an extensive catalog of Zenith Z-100 items, most at a 5% discount. Among other things, several file transfer programs are offered for moving files between the Z-100, other Zenith machines, and DEC, Kaypro, and Osborne computers.

**FREE IBM PC/ZENITH SOFTWARE:** If you have an IBM PC or another machine using MS-DOS, you should write to the Silicon Valley Computer Society (P.O. Box 60506, Sunnyvale, CA 94088). SVCS has a nice newsletter and "over a thousand" public domain programs in MS-DOS format.

**NEWSLETTER:** Several people asked how the newsletter was produced. It was written by Patty Puter, a five year old Radio Shack Model I, using Radio Shack's SuperScripts word processor, and printed (in justified proportional print, no less) on a Daisy Wheel II.

### Gossip

**MACINTOSH INTRODUCED:** The long rumored MacIntosh finally appeared, for \$2,495. It comes with an 8 MHz 68000 processor, 128K RAM, 64K ROM, 9" black and white (!) screen, two serial ports, mouse, and one 3.5" 400K microdisk drive. For the first 100 days MacWrite (a word processor) and MacPaint (a graphics program) will be included free (normally they run \$195 each). Weighing 20 lbs., Mac is "transportable," but really not designed for carrying. The keyboard does not include a numeric keypad (\$129 extra), and extra disk drives can only be added externally (\$495 for one 3.5"). The new Lisa 2, featuring 3.5" drives in place of the original non-standard drives, will be able to run Mac programs -- but the Mac will not run Lisa programs. Apple states Lotus 1-2-3, Multiplan, dBASE II, and other programs should be offered for the Mac "soon."

**IBM PCjr:** IBM has announced it will spend \$40 million on PCjr advertising this year. All micro companies combined spent \$90 million last year.

**COMMODORE:** Jack Tramiel is retiring as president and CEO of Commodore. Since he runs the company as a one man show, this statement caused a plunge in Commodore stock.

**UNIX FOR IBM:** PC Interactive Executive (PC/IX), otherwise known as Unix, has been announced for the IBM PC. Sold only through IBM's National Accounts program, PC/IX runs \$900, comes on 19 diskettes, and requires 256K and a 10 megabyte hard disk. Included in the package is the C language, word processing utilities, file utilities, and utilities to copy files from and to PC-DOS.

**ATARI:** Rumors are circulating Atari has cancelled plans to release its 1400XL and 1450XL computers. An unannounced 1600XL, said to be an under \$1000 IBM compatible machine, has also been dropped.

**FRANKLIN:** In a \$2.5 million out of court settlement Franklin agreed to stop copying Apple ROMs. Franklin also announced it will copyright a proprietary operating system to be released "soon." Franklin further hinted it was entering the IBM PC clone market.

**MORE COMMODORE:** Commodore recently announced three new machines, all for under \$500, with built in word processing and spreadsheet software. Carrying on a long Commodore tradition, none of the machines are compatible with anything in the Commodore line.

**CUSTOMS SERVICE:** Apple and the U.S. Customs Service recently completed a sting operation which resulted in the destruction of 2,000 Apple II clones manufactured in the U.S. and Far East. The Customs Service is charging six companies with criminal counts of smuggling, conspiracy, piracy, and counterfeiting. Both Apple and the Customs Service are considering bringing similar charges against individuals with Apple II fakes.

**SINCLAIR:** Ian Sinclair recently demonstrated a \$499, 3 1/2" machine using a 68008 processor, 128K RAM, and two 100K micro drives. Using the QDOS operating system the machine can perform several tasks simultaneously. Under development: 512K ram expansion, Pascal compiler, parallel printer port, and a hard disk interface. It may be available in the U.S. some time this fall. Unlike everything else produced by Sinclair, it features a full size, though unusual, keyboard.

### Computerese Simplified

[Selections]

©1981 Lawrence I. Charters

[Reproduced with the author's permission.]

**BACKUP** -- Opposite of forward.

**BANK SELECT** -- Used by thieves to remember whom they intend to rob.

**BAR CODE READER** -- Electronic device used to find taverns.

**BASIC** -- 1. What an environmentalist would say about the health of San Francisco Bay. 2. Computer language used for generating errors. Most billing programs are, apparently, written in BASIC.

**BATCH PROCESSING** -- Making lots of cookies at once.

**BAUD RATE** -- The number of attractive and skimpily clad men and women passing by you on the beach.

**BCD** -- Three of the first four letters of the alphabet.