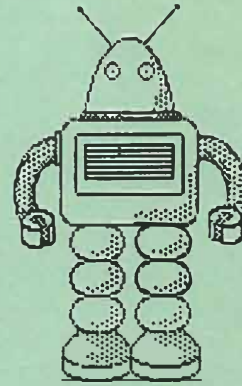


The Computer Rag

newsletter of the
Yokosuka Computer Club

News, Gossip, and Innuendo
from the Western Pacific



October/November/December 1984

Local Gossip

October Meetings: On October 10th there was a presentation on Wordstar, aimed at demonstrating to the novice how this particular wordprocessing program was set up. The way in which keyboard commands could control cursor movement and text movement was explained, the print options were reviewed, and an overview of the different menus was given. During the meeting, flyers proclaiming the "First Annual Computer Faire" were distributed to members for posting in their work areas. The single page "Welcome to the Yokosuka Computer Club" was released for general perusal, and comments indicated it would be useful as a handout at the Computer Faire.

The October 16th meeting continued from where the previous meeting left off, exploring the mysteries of using Wordstar 3.0 Install. Also demonstrated was a neat trick for saving margin and tab settings so that documents could be consistently formatted. Lawrence Charters announced that he could no longer be the YCC President as his dues expired in October, and he was not going to pay dues for the upcoming year until someone else was elected to the position. A proposal was set forth to establish a YCC Bulletin Board. The pro's and con's were discussed, but no decision was reached.

Computer Faire: October 20th was a busy day for all who participated in the First Annual Yokosuka Computer Faire. There were 15 exhibitors, several supporters/helpers, and between 100 and 150 visitors. The list of machines demonstrated resembles a comprehensive guide to microcomputers. Claire Mero showed off the TI-99/4A, Mike Fulmer demonstrated the VIC-20, Greg Yelland extolled the advantages of the Commodore-64, and Jon Rick allowed the Atari 800 to "speak for itself." Nancy MacDowell displayed an Apple II style machine from Hong Kong, while Joseph Honeywell illustrated uses for the TRS-80 Model 4-P, and Jason Hardy demonstrated the Apple Macintosh and II/c. Leon Rouillier shared the talents of the Kaypro 4, and David Gibbs presented the Franklin Ace. Mark Quinn presented the Wang PC, complete with Winchester disk drive. Lawrence Charters demonstrated four computers: the Osborne-1, the TRS-80 Model 100, an NEC PC-8201 (on loan from David Cornish), and the Zenith Z-120 (on loan from PSA). The only disappointment was the fact that Kurt Trichler was unable to present the IBM PC due to an unexpected trip. All in all, the First Annual Computer Fair was a resounding success, and the Second Annual Computer Faire (?) should be even better!

November Meetings: On November 14 and 20, Sharon Gilbert gave an outstanding, and thoughtfully prepared, presentation on Apple Works.

This very impressive program allows the user to access a data base, wordprocessor and electronic spreadsheet without ever having to exit to the operating system. Data was passed between the three components without difficulty, and key commands remained the same throughout. On November 14th, Lawrence Charters presented the CP/M utility POWER! After briefly covering the major limitations of the CP/M operating system, Charters went on to describe the ways in which POWER! could extend the usefulness, and simplify the use of, CP/M. On November 20th, James Lee gallantly stepped forward to repeat the presentation on POWER! as Lawrence Charters had developed laryngitis and could not talk above a whisper. (Excuses, excuses.)

December Meetings: Greg Yelland is holding an organizational meeting for Commodore computer enthusiasts on December 6 from 1600-1730 in room 1C26 of USNH. If you are interested in a Special Interest Group for Commodores, contact Greg Yelland at Ext. 7650/7651 (work) or 0468-75-1325 (home).

The regularly scheduled meetings for December will be on the second Wednesday, December 12, and third Tuesday, December 18, both at 6 p.m., in OEC (top floor of Barracks C). YCC members are encouraged to attend and bring a guest. Topics to be discussed include: a demonstration of the Zenith Z-150, a demonstration of calling up and accessing information on the New Sanno Bulletin Board, and a short introductory lesson on dBASE II.

Announcements: In a thrilling coup d'etat, Lawrence Charters was removed from the office of YCC President, and assumed the position of Newsletter Editor. Kathleen Charters, meanwhile, was elected YCC President, and has resigned as Newsletter Editor. Due to the amount of time involved in organizing the First Annual Computer Faire, no newsletter was published prior to the November meetings. A joint decision was made to produce a combined October - November - December Newsletter. Monthly Newsletters will resume with the December - January issue.

Want-Ads

Commodore Owners: contact Greg Yelland at Ext. 7650/7651 (work) or 0468-75-1325 (home) if you are interested in forming a Special Interest Group.

Heath: Sid Sneidar at Ext. 7288 (work) or 0468-65-1101 (home) would like help with the problem of using the Heath H-89 with hard sector and soft sector disk drives. Any ideas?

Apple: John R. Davis at Ext. 7008 (work) or 3664 (home) is in need of the program "MultiDisk Catalog." He is interested in meeting anyone who is using a RGB plugin card for the Apple II. He also is offering for sale an Apple II Plus with Z-80, 80 col. card, 16K card, and 1 disk drive for \$500.00

Radio Shack: Thomas Vogenitz at Ext. 7510 (home) is offering for sale a TRS-80 Model 1 with 2 drives, Epson MX-80 Printer, Data Base, Word Processor, various utilities and games for \$2,000.00 or best offer.

DEC Rainbow: Larry Oslund at Ext 7797 (work) or 6708 Room 221 (Navy Lodge) is looking for FreeWare for the DEC Rainbow Model B. He also would like to know what Sony Monitor would work with the DEC Rainbow.

Semi-Local Gossip

Apple World Tokyo: a computer store just up from Kodenmachi subway station (tel. 03-669-6800) is completely devoted to Apple products. Atsuto Haneda, President, speaks excellent English, and he has an English-speaking technician as well. The store has a wide variety of hardware and software, including some exotic items for the Macintosh (such as the Micron-Eye video camera, Y135,000, which can transfer almost any video image directly into a MacPaint picture). Definitely worth a trip.

Amphere: a small Japanese company, has released the Big.APL portable computer. Weighing 6 lbs., it has a 68000 processor, 64K CMOS RAM, 128K ROM, 80 x 16 LCD screen, and 300K microcassette storage system. The ROM holds a full version of IBM's mainframe APL.SV language, a multi-tasking, multi-user operating system, and supports 480 x 128 graphics, RS-232C and parallel interfaces, plus three slots for cartridges. All for \$1495.

Not Quite Local: Zenith has captured the biggest microcomputer contract ever awarded -- \$300 million in micros over the next five years for the Navy and Air Force. The micros in question are the Zenith Tempest PC, a Tempest-certified version of the Z-150 (an IBM PC-compatible machine). A complete computer and printer will run around \$6000 under the contract. On the good side, the Z-150 is a superb machine. On the bad side, it is not completely compatible with the Z-120, which was adopted last year as the Navy's "standard" microcomputer.

Non-Local Gossip

Yamaha: will start shipping its CX5M Music Computer to the U.S. in Jan. 1985. Computer is MSX-based, and will sell for \$300-600.

Vertex: has developed a card which allows an IBM PC to read and write Apple DOS 3.3 and CP/M disks.

Symphony: successor to Lotus 1-2-3, is fading. Users find it hard to use, and not as capable as they would like. They are also distressed that they had to return 1-2-3 to get Symphony. Since Symphony is copy-protected (Only the

Zenith Z-120 version is not) this leaves them with a product they detest -- Symphony -- and without a product they like -- 1-2-3. Ashton-Tate's Framework does not have sales as strong as Symphony, but users like it much better. Many organizations have abandoned both products in a "back to basics" movement -- WordStar, Multiplan, dBASE II, etc.

AT&T 6300: initial enthusiasm for this IBM PC clone is disappearing; it is in limited supply, and customers are not bothering to wait for it.

Magazine deaths: PCjr and Microsystems have faded away.

Franklin: has dropped CX (super Apple clone) product line, two days after it announced a big push. No money to promote or manufacture them.

Poor to rotten news: Gavilan, makers of a fantastic portable computer, have ceased operations and filed for Chap. 11. Peachtree Software is up for sale. Ovation Technologies has ceased business and is up for sale. Knoware has filed for Chap. 7 (liquidation). Bytec, makers of the superb Hyperion portable computer, has stopped operations. Otrona, makers of the highly-respected Attache portable computer line, has quit the business. Tava Corp. appears to have gone under (no one is certain, but they aren't producing anything, aren't paying bills, the company leaders have vanished, and Federal marshals are investigating).

Terrible news: Control Data Corp., one of the biggest computer makers in the world, has posted a big loss for the year. Storage Technologies, another biggie, has filed for Chap. 11. Digital Equipment Corp., second largest computer company in the world, has "quit" the retail computer market; "only" 150,000 or so DEC microcomputers have been sold, bringing in "just" half a billion dollars -- not enough.

IBM: has bought Rolm, the biggest computer networking company. There is, incidentally, no bad news about IBM, which is bad news for everyone else.

Microsoft Windows: has been delayed until June 1985. At present, it is too slow and uses too much memory. Radio Shack's Tandy 2000 can run it without

problems, but Microsoft is pushing for a decent IBM PC version.

Digital Research: has started shipping Concurrent PC-DOS, which can run both MSDOS and CP/M-86 programs -- simultaneously. The software is character based, rather than graphics based like Windows.

DEC: has developed a DOD-approved Ada compiler for its VAX super-minicomputers.

Apple rumor: Apple's laser-printer will have 2 megabytes of memory, 300 dots per inch resolution, print a full page at a time, and cost -- \$7000.

Micropro: has introduced WordStar 2000 for \$595. It works only on the IBM PC, requires two drives and 256K, has no dot commands, shows underline and boldface directly on the screen, can do math and sorting, can show three documents at once, and includes mail merge and spelling correction functions. Meanwhile, WordStar's price has been cut to \$350 -- the first and only price cut for WordStar in six years.

Data General: has released its first microcomputer, the Data General/One. A ten pound portable, it has a 25 line LCD screen, operates under MSDOS, CP/M-86, or Xenix, comes with 128K RAM and one 3.5" microdiskette drive, all for \$2,895.

Jack Tramiel: has coerced Warner into paying off millions of dollars of Atari's old debts. Rumors indicate Atari might have an amazing sale on current products for Christmas, followed by new product introductions sometime early next year.

Software Arts: emerged the apparent winner in its battle with Visicorp. In an out of court settlement, Software Arts received a bundle of money, the right to market VisiCalc, and an agreement by VisiCorp to stop using the word "Calc" in its products. Software Arts also had to make a concession: it cannot use the word "Visi" in any product but VisiCalc.

Tandy: has released the Tandy 1200 HD, which does everything the IBM PC/XT does but costs just \$2,999 (instead of \$4500). Another machine, the Tandy 1000, is a straight PC clone (no hard

disk), and is priced \$1000 less than an IBM PC. According to rumor, the machines are made by Tandon, the leading disk drive maker.

More Tandy: Radio Shack sold 750,000 Color Computers last year. Every Color Computer can run the multi-tasking multi-user OS-9 operating system, making it the most popular time-sharing computer in history, as well as the cheapest: Color Computers are only \$299. Radio Shack is also the largest producer of Unix computers in the world, thanks to the Model 16 running Xenix. Some Tandy stores sell more \$10,000 Model 16's than \$700 Model 100's.

From the New Sanno bulletin board
(tel. 229-7174)

NEC 8201 upload tip: the NEC 8201 does not have the necessary delay feature needed to prevent characters from being dumped when using this or other on-line services. To get the same effect, you can use a basic text editor and send the output to "COM:" To do this, get out of the TELCOM mode. You won't be cut off. Then call up the text editor/formatter and specify "COM:" as the output device.

AppleWorks (almost): Users of the Appleworks program may have found the program to be rather picky when it comes to the type of printer it will work with. The Epson copy around town will not do a thing for it; if you have a grappler or have the Corton systems version of the same you are almost there (you may have trouble setting the left margin). If you can persuade Apple to give you a PUBLIC DOMAIN disk called "Appleworks Non-Apple Interface Configuration" you can modify the program to work with just about any printer (the program supports up to three on-line at the same time). The trick is 1) making Apple believe there is such a program as Appleworks, 2) making whoever you talk to at Apple believe they have any such disk, and 3) making them believe they should give you a copy for FREE. At any rate the effort is worth the candle - its a great program which allows you to have a letter quality printer in one slot and a draft quality in another, pretty neat.

Check your head: FRIENDS, Do you know

where your head is right now??? Don't laugh. This is a very important question. If you are having boot problems, copies that won't work, disk sorts that end up with BDOS error on :B, well there just might be an answer. Midwest Microsystems; 9071 Metcalf; Overland Park, Kansas 66212 makes the "TRACK STAR" head location monitor. It plugs into the Apple disk interface board and will monitor either drive 1 or 2. There is a continuous read-out of the exact head position (including half tracks and spiral tracks) whenever the drive is used. If you are intensely interested it appears that you could hook up two units and monitor both drives at the same time. For you Pascal users with four or six drives, yes one per drive appears possible. Also included is a "Patch Disk" that takes advantage of the head position locator and allows fine repairs to damaged disks in Dos, and CP/M.

LOCKSMITH LIVES!!! Omega Microware has gone out of business. They are the originators of Locksmith. So you know that. Well did you know who is now providing Locksmith??? ALPHA LOGIC BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC. 4119 North Union Road, Woodstock, IL (815) 568-5166 will be very happy to take your order for a new (REV F) Locksmith. They are also selling a quarterly booklet on the use of Locksmith and a listing of all the current PARMS for LS 5.0. Send a letter or give them a call and get the latest up to date information about your favorite utility.

WELCOME BACK HOME (Oct 15 7:09:05 PM):

-- As I was saying . . .

Welcome back to the continuing saga of Corton Net, just in case you didn't notice we have been off the air (read DOWN) for about nine days due to having had both the hard disk and the modem blown to smithereens by a power cut here at the Sanno. It was short and sweet but enough to cook the system. However thanks to Corton systems for replacing the entire machine, to Phil Laney for the use of his Hayes modem and Hiro Kataoka for patiently backing up the files we are alive and well. We have been kindly promised a power circuit

breaker for the hard disk by Paul (Newsbytes) Petach so hopefully we won't have a repeat performance. All that remains is to pick up where we left off so it is up to you hardy and persistent types to spread the word that Corton is back up and running, please call at least one other user and then ask him to do the same. Thank you and keep calling. Softalk Magazine is gone; all Apple users will miss it. The following is a view of the final day as seen by Matt Yuen, who was writing "KEYS TO THE WORLD," a monthly column on computer communications for Softalk. Any connection with actual events and/or the truth is entirely accidental.

SOFTALK--THE FINAL BATTLE

Andrew wasn't happy. Word had just leaked that the Softalk empire was in shambles. Bills weren't being paid. Volkmuth Printers had presented an ultimatum: "Pay up, or we'll hold your mags!" And worst of all, the ping pong table had broken. Is this any way to run a magazine?

No time for answering rhetorical questions; much had to be done before the creditors arrived to seize all Softalk's assets. Computers had to be packed, spare hardware had to be hidden, ST.Cinema's VCR/Novabeam had to be dismantled. Fast.

Circulation gungels were scurrying everywhere. "Where's Al? Where's Mary Sue? Who's going to sign my paycheck? Do we get overtime? What's the capitol of South Dakota?" Andrew sneered. Where was all the game software he was hoarding? It was worth -- hundreds. Meanwhile, the art department was busy getting rid of all substances of organic base -- nasally. "Pass the glue!" "No way, not until you gimme some of dat thinner!" Artists to the end.

Modems. I had to find modems. In a few days, the creditors would be rummaging my office looking for anything of value. I stuffed a Popcom X100, Microcom Era2, Hayes Micromodem IIe, and a Networker into my backpack. As a diversion, I left two Playboy magazines with Candy Loving centerfolds by the door. But that would stop them only momentarily.

Software. I had to find software. Aha! There on the shelf between the half-burned Transend manuals and my 200 copies of Roger Wagner's "Assembly Lines: The Book" were what could bring me some greenbacks on the black market:

The BILL BLUE COLLECTION!

Three AE Pro manuals, two disks; one Z-Term manual, one disk; one P-Term manual, no disk. What, no disk?! I had forgotten; I sent it to Irwin for him to hi-res dumps of nude women on it. Waitasec, these manuals aren't even [garbled], now I'll be able to get only about \$3.67 each for them. Oh well.

Andrew was panicking. He found Commodore versions of One-on-One, Lode Runner, and Zork III, but Frogger was still missing.

"Did you look in your middle drawer?" I asked.

"Just spoiled yogurt and stale donuts in there," he shot back.

"No, I mean *under* that."

Paydirt.

Let's see, what else -- The files! I had to find the P.dbMS files and put them through the shredder. If the creditors found them, they'd know why Softalk's phone bill was so high during the last 9 months.

Browsing through the printouts brought back some memories. The Commando jump, the great Planet Photon debate (which Bruce Webster lost), the gun control debate, The Attack of the Atari People, Lindsay's "Worms" discussion, Irwin's spring semester finals, The Bill Blue Mystique as told by Wendy Davis, Diane Snodgrass, Norm Fowler, Brad Brown, Joe Holt typing "superego" instead of "id", Cyndi Lauper, messages from Anna Beadore, messages from Anna's belly button, Irwin throwing his disk drive across the table, the Dennykat Cat masks, Ryan's history of Blue, AB 2551...

Owoooooogah! Owoooogah! That was the signal. All computers had to be moved to the conference room for inventory. Peripheral cards were never [garbled] RAM cards, a shift-key mod, and a Grappler+. One sad note: the IBM derelicts tried to rip interface cards out of the Macintoshes. What a mess.

@#*&%!

Before abandoning the building, one last FWD upload had to be made to P.dbMS, letting the San Diego crew know of our plight. Maybe someone could help. Maybe. Unfortunately, the switchboard had already been taken over by one of the creditors' six-year-old daughters.

"Get off the phone, Julie. Mr. Matt needs to make a very important phone call."

"Daddy says no calls."

"No, Julie, you don't understand. Mr. Matt has to FWD a message to P.dbMS. Now!"

"What's 'fwid', Mr. Matt?"

"It's not 'fwid,' it's 'FWD'. Now get off the phone!!"

"Daddy says no calls."

"Look, Julie *dear*, this is high-priority."

"Daddy says no c--"

"@#*&% YOUR DADDY! GET OFF THE #%&*@\$~ PHONE!"

"You didn't say pleeeeeeze..."

I was getting nowhere fast. Taking care of Julie was simple. Now all I [garbled] upper esophagus. It was all in vain, however, since she had already destroyed the extension to my office. There was one last hope. I ended up patching the call through an outside line, back into Softalk, transferred to Pat Ryall's office, to Margot's, and eventually to P.dbMS.

It didn't work that way. The call went in a circle. The modem interpreted the call-waiting signal as a carrier (it was a cheap modem), and I sent the FWD to myself by accident. (!?)

to be continued....?

-->Matt