



Vol. 2 No. 7
August 1985
DMS Box 187,
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98765

 **The Computer Rag** 
newsletter of the
YOKOSUKA COMPUTER CLUB

**News, Gossip
and Innuendo
from the
Western
Pacific**

Local Gossip

Notice: everyone should fill out the questionnaire on the last page. **The Computer Rag** is the club's biggest expense at present, and you will be taken off the mailing list if you don't return the form. We realize this is a negative incentive, but you can't have everything.

August Meetings: will be held on the 2nd Wed., Aug. 14, and the 3rd Tues., 20, both at 6 p.m. in OEC (top floor of Barracks C). The Wed. meeting will feature a presentation on a Hong-Kong 16-bit MSDOS machine (virtual IBM PC clone), and elections. Depending on how the Wed. meeting turns out, there may be still more election trivia on the Tues. meeting. We also need ideas, volunteers, exhibits, and suggested dates for the **Second Annual Yokosuka Computer Faire**.

July Meetings: were pretty passive. President Kathleen Charters abandoned the club for one meeting to stay home with her brand-new daughter. Vice President Gary ShROUT didn't attend either meeting, and Librarian Jeff Hancock fled the country. Newsletter editor Lawrence Charters attended the Wed. meeting, but then engaged in a hazardous, grueling, "volunteers only" trip to Kyoto, covering a festival for the base paper. Most members followed the example of the club officers and stayed away in droves. It must be summer.

July Newsletter: well, it was delayed a bit in construction, and then there were problems with printing. Originally, an attempt was made to print the newsletter with **ReadySetGo**, a page layout package for the Macintosh. Unfortunately, **ReadySetGo** isn't ready, and as of this writing must be classified as "Not Recommended." Then Pubs & Printing delayed printing the newsletter for quite a while, and also neglected to collate and staple the pages. Typhoon Irma had no role in any of this, which is a shame; an extra excuse would come in handy.

A-33 is now selling Apple IIe enhancement kits, enabling IIe's to run the new "mouse based" software developed for the IIc, as well as sophisticated programs such as SuperCalc 3.0a. The four chip set can be installed by a patient owner, rather than an expensive technician.

NEC computers are also on sale at A-33, at incredible prices. NEC is by far the largest microcomputer company in Japan.

CFAY is now the proud owner of a Wang VS-85 minicomputer, with 1 megabyte of memory, a 32-bit CPU, two 288 megabyte hard disks, and links to 26 terminals. Over half of the "terminals" are really Wang PC's, tied in to the VS-85 by dedicated phone lines. Wang may have lost over \$100 million in the last quarter, but CFAY seems pleased.

Coming Next Month: with luck, the newsletter will include a map of Akihabara. There may even be English captions! If you know the name and location of a shop, drop a line to the editor.

Non-Local Gossip

Inforunner, which sells the Riteman printer, has closed down and sold all its assets to C. Itoh.

Casio has a new high-speed LCD shutter printer, with a retail price of under \$3000. The print mechanism has no moving parts, and produces 9 pages per minute with 240x240 dots per inch.

Fuji Xerox has introduced the world's smallest laser printer, designed specifically for desktop use. Printing 9 pages per minute, the XP-9 weighs 35 kg and is 50 x 52 x 30 cm.

Commodore claims it will introduce its new C900 in the U.S. sometime this fall. The C900 is based on Zilog's Z-8000 microprocessor, runs under UNIX, comes with 512K of user RAM, 128K of video RAM, a 20 Mbyte hard disk, and a 15 inch screen with 1024 x 800 resolution. Introduced and built in Germany, the C900 is, of course, not compatible with anything Commodore or anyone else has ever produced.

Also incompatible, but pretty, is Commodore's new Amiga. No one is willing to sell it, but it has the best color graphics money can buy for under \$2000. Someone-buy one and bring it to a club meeting!

Still more Commodore: Peter Lewis, writing in the **New York Times**, said "it is conceivable that a child could grow up waiting for a program to load on a Commodore 64, the Galapagos tortoise of computers." But Commodore's new double-sided 1571 drive, holding 340K, can load up to four times faster than older drives, provided you use it with a Commodore 128 computer. Attached to a C128, the new drive is also supposed to read Kaypro, Osborne, and IBM CP/M disks.

Apple Japan sold 100 Macintosh systems to Day in the Life of Japan, a book, film, and TV project held in June to photograph the entire country, more or less, in a day. Day in the Life of Japan used the machines to coordinate activities, as well as partial advanced payment to the photographers.

Ergonomics Software Products Intl. (ErgoSoft) has released EgBridge for ¥38,000 and will soon release EgWord for ¥60,000. EgBridge modifies MacPaint and Multiplan, changing all the menu and text items into Japanese (MacWrite and Microsoft Word are due for translation in future versions). EgWord is a full-blown Japanese language word processor, with complete Hiragana and Katakana character sets, as well as lots (no one knows how many) of Kanji characters.

Falcon Microsystems of Bethesda, MD, is now selling a TEMPEST certified Macintosh and Imagewriter.

Commodore Grace M. Hopper, oldest officer on active duty and programmer for the first modern computer in 1946, continues to irritate Pentagon officials with her advice to "do it first, then apologize afterwards." She contends "medals are given for things which could never win standard authorization." Claiming "we need to manage our data and lead our people," she recently observed that, "Whether you realize it or not, the Model T's of the computer industry are here. There's even one company that says you can have any color you want as long as it's blue."

Tandy is now offering Vianet, based on Datapoint's well-respected Arcnet local area network architecture. Vianet will allow any MSDOS machine to talk to any other MSDOS machine without any great effort.

AT&T is now selling its WE32100 32-bit microprocessor, along with support chips for math and memory management. It is a full 32-bit bus chip with 132 pins (no, you can't stick it in a 6502 socket), a 64-word on-chip cache, sixteen 32-bit registers, and a 4 gigabyte address range. It comes in 10 MHz and 14 MHz versions.

VisiCalc and TK!Solver, which Lotus acquired when it purchased Software Arts, will be abandoned. Lotus claims it is "looking for a buyer" for TK!Solver, but it isn't looking very hard.

Hyperdrive, an internal 10 megabyte hard disk for the Apple made by General Computer, will now be covered by Apple's system warranty. Apple had claimed the installation voided the warranty, but has reconsidered in the face of massive protests.

Also reconsidered are slots and a fan for the Mac. Steve Jobs hated slots and fans, but "the new Apple" wants future Macs to be as expandable as the Apple II. These new machines aren't expected to appear for some time, but a 16-bit board for the Apple II may be out before year's end.

Apple has apparently signed a contract with Rodime for Mac external hard disks. No details on price, size, shape, color, or sex yet.

MS Windows has been delivered to developers, and they like it. Microsoft will rewrite Mac's Excel "super spreadsheet" to work on the IBM PC under Windows. Zenith, AT&T, Texas Inst., Convergent Technologies, Corona, Data General, DEC, Grid, Honeywell, Intel, NCR, and Olivetti have all agreed to use Windows. Tandy is considering "bundling" (tossing it in as part of the system) Windows on all its MSDOS machines. Tandy is already marketing Digital Research's GEM, but only when people ask for it.

Digital Research, in sad financial shape, is trying to promote GEM DOS as the next big operating system. This is basically a generic version of the operating system used on the new Atari 520ST computer, and Northern Telecom likes it so much it will use it on its new 68000-based machines. Northern Telecom may, in fact, buy Digital Research outright.

Superkey, Borland International's keyboard utility for the IBM PC, has been banned from overseas sales by the Dept. of Commerce, which considers it "sensitive technology." The data encryption module is highly sophisticated, and cynics claim the National Security Agency asked for the restriction until it can figure out a quick and easy way to break it.

Learn a language: programs written for Navy micros break down into these categories: 58% BASIC, 15% FORTRAN, 10% Pascal, 10% COBOL, and the remainder in other languages. Ada, the new DOD superlanguage, is being ignored. As one director put it, "Quite frankly, there's no rush of people who want to be an Ada programmer."

YOKOSUKA COMPUTER CLUB ANNUAL SURVEY

Notice: Members MUST send in the survey by Sept. 10 to remain on the Newsletter mailing list. Non-members may complete the survey, too, and receive one free issue of the Newsletter for their efforts.

1. Name

2. FPO

Mailing

Address

3. Member? yes memb. no. _____
 no

4. Primary computer system
(company, model, memory size, disks, operating system, printer):

5. Other computers:

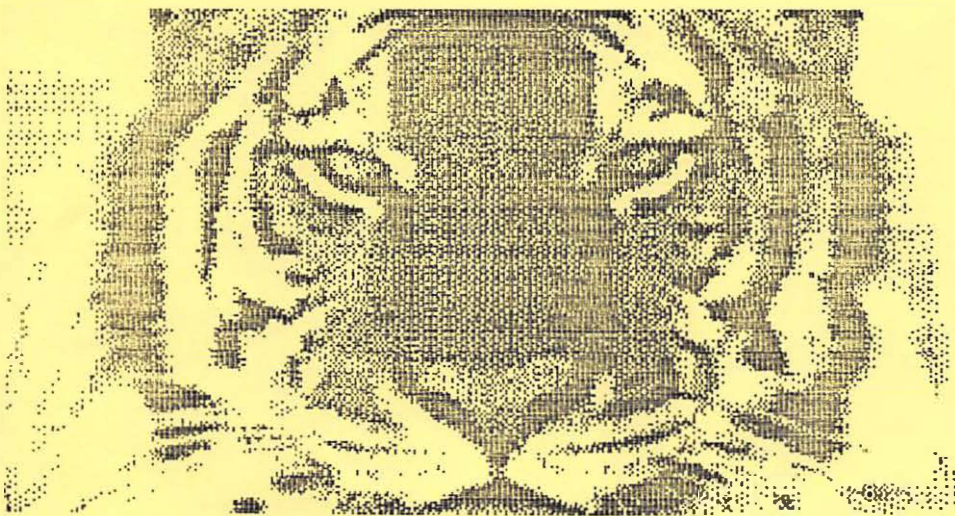
6. Don't own computer but may get
a: _____

7. I think the newsletter:
 is too technical
 is not technical enough
 needs more member contributions,
so I'll write about _____

8. Computer club meetings:
 are too technical
 are not technical enough
 need more member contributions,
so I'll talk about _____

9. I want to get involved, so am volunteering:
 myself for club office
 someone else:
name:
address:
phone: _____

Mail via "MPS" (it's free) to:
Lawrence I. Charters
USNH Box 65-1561
FPO 98765



Quiz: This is: 1) a photo of the latest Commodore computer; 2) a poor reproduction of a Picasso; 3) known as a "filler;" 4) the worst color TV footage I have ever seen; 5) the newsletter editor in the morning.