



SLO BYTES NEWSLETTER

CENTRAL COAST
OF CALIFORNIA



VOLUME 2, NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

OCTOBER, 1988

COMINGS AND GOINGS

During our last meeting Byron Smith gave a dazzling review of the desktop utility, *Sidekick*. A must to see in color, he put it through the paces, changing background and foreground colors with the touch of a key, while also displaying many of its special features such as notepad, calculator, and calendar. Being transparent to other programs, these features may be called up at any time.

During the second half of the meeting, yours truly spoke about our public domain software... including how to look up the directory, access some of the files using the "type" and "print" commands and a short discussion on file extensions and what they represent.

Our Directory Disk may be activated by typing the word "GO". It is suggested that everyone read their DOS manual as it contains many powerful commands which will become second nature to you after they are learned.

At the next meeting Matt Whittlesey will be demonstrating the very popular spreadsheet program, Ashton-Tate's *Framework*. There is a very informative article in PC Magazine (May 28, 1985) called *The Great Spreadsheet Face-Off* which compares many spreadsheets, *Framework* included, on several points. Do a little homework before the meeting and come with all your questions.



We are now an official IBM PC User's Group registered with IBM in Boca Raton, Florida. As an affiliate member, we will receive all the latest press releases of IBM products, access to the IBM PC User's Group Bulletin Board, and their monthly publication, *EXCHANGE* (25 copies). We received a few back issues of their newsletter last month. There are many noteworthy articles written by both IBM employees and members other user's groups. This will be a welcome addition to our club meetings.

Congratulations are in order to Kevin Dickey for solving last month's puzzle. He found 49 computer related words + a few which the puzzle generated without my input. Who said computers aren't intelligent. To Kevin, who didn't make the meeting, we have 5 floppy disks. Where else could one get 1.8 megabytes of storage space for free. Better late than never, Phil Wagner also solved the puzzle, (unfortunately after Kevin) and by unanimous vote by our enthusiastic members received ONE disk. Boy, are we generous !!

All is not lost though Phil, remember the secret message is located on some disk between #80 and #90. This month it's worth 12 disks. We will add 3 disks to this contest thru the 6th month, or until the message is found. Then the contest starts over again. What is the message? It is something quite obvious planted in a program on one of our public domain software disks. We hope it will encourage some of you to take a closer look at our library.

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PROGRAMMER'S CORNER

Here's a simple program using the *TIMER* function found in Basic. First type the word *BASIC* making sure that *BASIC.COM* is on your disk. When OK comes up type in the following lines:

```
10 CLS
15 LOCATE 15,22 : INPUT "TIME IN SECONDS: ";T
20 Z=TIMER + T
30 WHILE TIMER < Z
40 WEND
50 CLS
60 LOCATE 15,27 : PRINT "TIME IS UP"
70 BEEP
```

Then type *SAVE "TIMER"* (ENTER)
RUN TIMER

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NEWS FROM OUR LIBRARY

This month we have 4 new disks from the PC-SIG group in Sunnyvale

- # 103 Personal Datebook, Cashflow program, Mailing labels, File management program, & Fliteplan.
- # 104 Sysmenu - menu driven directory program, & Findfile - a file searcher.
- # 105 Equator/PC TOUCH Educational programs - math, science, finance, and a touch typing tutor. (WOW!)
- # 106 Jim Button's PC-CALC version 1.0

In addition to the above software several Demo Disks have been added to our list. Darrell Bennett was kind enough to supply many of these additions.

- ** Leading Edge word processing Demo Disk A & B
- ** Nutshell Demo Disk
- ** GetOrganized Demo Disk A & B
- ✓ Zen Word with sample manual
- ** Omnifile Information Management System with manual
- ** Cornerstone by Infocom

We have ordered several other programs in response to your wishes. They will be added to our library at a rate of 3 to 4 disks per month.



1	Brown, David	528-8544	
2	Bennett, Darrell	546-1211 X55	
3	Bowker, Rose	546-2616	
4	Morgan, French	546-2701	12 Silva, Robert 544-1441
5	Fruct, Michael	595-2554	13 Thomson, Judy 927-8517
6	Hancock, John	772-9224	14 Trigueiro, Geo 466-4608
7	Meyers, Vern	543-8464	15 Wagner, Phil 544-7328
8	Miklas, Ray	541-5633	16 Whittlesy, Matt 543-7247
	Monson, Lee	466-4987	17 Wirtz, Erin 434-1801
10	Rohde, John	546-8381	
11	Smith, Byron	466-3311	



HELP DIR

WORDPROCESSORS

Wordstar	1,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,13,14,17
PC-Write	3,8,11,17
Easywriter	2
Volkswriter	5,6,9,12
Word	5,6
Perfect Writer	11
Display Writer	12
Word Perfect	13

SPREADSHEET

Multiplan	6
Perfect Calc	11
SuperCalc III	14
Eagle Calc	16

DATABASE

dBASE II,III	1,3,4,6,89,13,14
PC-File III	3,15
PFS File	14

FINANCIAL

Home Accountant	5,11
Managing Your \$	6,8,11,15
Dollars & Sense	10,11
Time & \$	8,15

UTILITIES

Prokey	1,3,5,15
Norton Util.	4,6,11,15
Sideways	5,6,12

LANGUAGE

Basic (PC,MS)	3,4,11
Pascal	9,11

OTHER

Sidekick	1,11,12
Poly Windows	16
TValue	12

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FOR SALE

Victor Wood demonstrated his 21.3 Megabyte hard disk which he has installed in his IBM clone. Features that are particularly interesting to Victor include: (1) the PARK feature, allowing the hard drive to be carried around, (2) the higher access speed, and (3) the ease of installation into the computer. This month's special from I² is the 21.3 Megabyte disk drive at \$765.00 including controller board. October specials may be different, so check with him at 528-0768 if you're interested in getting this hard disk at this price.

Computers

PC Compatible Computer\$1,339.00
* 640K, Color/Graphics Card, Multifunction Board

Apple Compatible Computer\$850.00
64K, Dual CPU, Fan, 2 Floppy Drives

I² Hard Drive

21.3 Megabytes/Halfheight \$765.00
35.3 Megabytes/Halfheight \$930.00
35.3 Megabytes/Halfheight \$1,914.00
55.7 Megabytes \$3,714.00
87.7 Megabytes \$4,200.00
119.7 Megabytes \$5,880.00

Tape Backup

10.3 Megabytes \$654.50
45.0 Megabytes \$1,650.00

Floppy Disk Drive

Halfheight, 5 1/4 \$183.00
Fullsize, 5 1/4 DS,DD \$312.00
Apple Compatible Drive, Hal \$190.00

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SOFTWARE: NEW, LATEST VERSION MICROSOFT'S FLIGHT
SIMULATOR. WITH MANUAL FOR IBM PC\$25
CALL MARK @ 541-6567

HARDWARE: KOALA TOUCH PAD FOR IBM PCjr. WITH
GRAPHICS SOFTWARE & DOC. STILL NEW\$45 / OFFER
CALL MARK @ 541-6567

SAMSUNG TTL COMPATIBLE 12" (AMBER) MONO-
CHROME MONITOR. NEVER USED W/WARRANTY
720 X 348 (not for PCjr).....\$100/ OFFER
CALL MARK @ 541-6567

New and returning members this month include:

Chuck Buchanan	927-5683	Welcome to all !!! As a users
Keith Bills	549-8685	group, we endeavor to help each
Sid Findley	543-2027	solve our common computer pro-
Rick & Rona Lee	544-2591	blems. Good luck and happy com-
Dick Trueman	544-4267	puting.

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CALENDAR

October 26th	Regular meeting
November 20th-24th	Comdex Fall Computer Show - Las Vegas
November 28th	Thanksgiving - meeting <u>cancelled</u>
December 12th	Regular meeting Nov-Dec combined Ward/Smith PC-WRITE
December 26th	Meeting <u>cancelled</u>

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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The SLO BYTES Newsletter is a monthly publication of SLO BYTES of the Central Coast of California, an IBM personal computer user's group. Information found in this Newsletter comes from magazine articles, other PC user group newsletters, and our own members. The purpose of this publication is to inform our members of meetings, their program content, and other information related to the use of PC's and PC compatible computers. Dues to SLO BYTES is \$18 per year. As a member you will receive a membership card, an updated membership list, SLO BYTES monthly newsletter, and free use of our Public Domain Library. Contributors are asked to submit articles for the next issue by the 10th of each month either in writing or on disk. Address all correspondence to SLO BYTES PC USER'S GROUP, 2 Bob Ward, 2100 Andre' Ave., Los Osos, Ca. 93402. Phone 8am-5pm 546-2164, after 5pm - (805)528-0121.

Have a computer related item to sell? Tell the editor and we will put it in our newsletter. For further information call Bob Ward @ (805)528-0121 eves.

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Meetings are held the 4th thursday of every month at 6:15 pm. They are hosted by the Biology Department and located at Cal Poly University, Biology's Science North, Room 313.

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COMINGS & GOINGS

During our last meeting, Matt Whittlesey displayed a few of Framework's many attributes. This is a powerful integrated software package that uses "frames" to store and display data and text. By the size and complexity of this program, we could spend many hours learning its finer characteristics. Our many thanks to Matt for giving us a "taste" of Framework at the last meeting.

At this coming meeting Byron Smith and yours truly will be demonstrating our favorite little word processor, PC-WRITE, Version 2.5. You ask, "What can I really get for \$10 or free through public domain, in a word processor?" Well, for one thing you get an on-disk manual of over 135 pages, a variety of help screens and many functions found on larger, more expensive word processors.

Byron will start by describing and displaying some of the more fundamental parts of PC-WRITE, including ruler set-ups, help menus, right margin justification, marking and moving blocks of text, and importing text from another file. I will finish the presentation by demonstrating PC-WRITE'S latest addition with version 2.5, Mail Merge. This program works very nicely with PC-FILE III for extracting data and merging it with text. Future versions around the first of the year, will include a spelling checker and dictionary. PC-WRITE can be found in our P.D. library as disk # 96.



CALENDAR

November 20th - 24th	Comdex Fall Computer Show - Las Vegas
November 28th	Thanksgiving - meeting <u>CANCELLED</u>
December 12th	Regular meeting Nov. - Dec. combined Smith/Ward PC-WRITE
December 26th	Regular meeting <u>CANCELLED</u>
January 22nd	Secret message contest ends
January 23rd	Regular meeting

dBASE USERS

by Carole Larsen

As I worked through some programming problems in dBase III, I often found the user manual to be lacking specific details on how to really accomplish what I wanted to do.

Then I found *Understanding and Using dBase II and III* written by Rob Krumm and published by Brady Communications Company, Inc. The cost is around \$20.00. This book has been useful in explaining the new features found in dBase III, especially when working with multiple files and merging for special reports. The program examples of custom-designed reports and labels were great, and I was able to utilize some of the features in my reports.

This book is helpful for someone just beginning to learn about dBase programming and for the more experienced user. I recommend it!

(Editor' note) There has been an interest in starting up the dBase SIG again by Carole, French and others after the first of the year. Lets discuss meeting times at the next meeting.

PORTABLE COMPUTERS



BORGAN RAGOON, FLA. - IBM'S answer to the portable computer. A new company called TAG-A-LONG, founded by Willy Heel, has a PC converter kit to make any PC a portable.

The hardware consists of:

- 1 6' rope
- 1 eye bolt
- 4 casters
- 1 tube epoxy cement
- 1 baggage handle

The easy to follow directions show how to install the handle on top of the monitor while gluing its bottom to the top of the computer. The eye bolt, rope, & casters can be added later. This is especially helpful while transporting your "portable" in airline terminals. For an extra \$6.75 you can purchase a "klack-klack" and a label that says "FIDO" to put on the back of the monitor.

MAILING LABELS

Please note your mailing label found on this newsletter. In the upper right corner you will find a month and year. This is your renewal date for membership. Some of the luckier members will find a 2 letter abbreviation followed by an *. These individuals were kind enough to come to our meeting and give us a presentation of a computer product they manufacture or software they developed. They will receive the newsletter and all other benefits of membership to the month listed on their mailing label.

Remember an updated membership list is on disk and in the front of the P.D. software disk holders. Type "go" to run it.

NEW MEMBERS

New members this month include:

** Wanda Hoagland ** 528-6131
 ** Steve LaMarine ** 489-5583

We are happy to have you as members and fellow computer enthusiasts. Keep your cursor blinking and your disk drives humming.



Our secret message, now worth 15 free disks has not been found - yet. Remember it is a message implanted on a disk between #80 and #90. If you run the software, you probably will find it. Blood hound Smith did say he is hot on the trail after finding a deleted file, on one of the disks, which was a small part of the message. Unfortunately for him, the creator of this message anticipated snoopy's ways and placed several "dead-ends" on different disks. Good luck Byron & others. Time is running out.

The updated P.D. file directory is found in the front of each binder. Copy it every meeting to keep up to date. Everything in the binders is printed from the disk.

Note: Last meeting one of our P.D. disks "died" of tetanus. There was a puncture wound on the disk itself. Please make sure disks are immediately placed back in their respective sleeves when you are finished copying them. Of course there is a happy ending to the story. Our back-up disk saved the day. Please report problems with copying any disk to me at the meeting.



NEWS FROM OUR LIBRARY

New public domain disks for November and December.

SLO # 107, 108, 109, 110 from Potomac Pacific Engineering.

DATABASE OF STEEL

A four disk package written in BASIC which contains the following:

DATABASE

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- Accounting
- Payroll
- Inventory

PROGRAMMABLE RELATIONAL

- Report generator
- subfile generator
- Customizable Screens
- Tax Tables
- Form Generator

SPREADSHEET

- 21 ways to calculate numbers
- Graphics, Bar charts
- Automatic recalculation

EXPERT SYSTEM

INFERENCE ENGINE

- Detects Contradictory Evidence
- Accepts Unknown Input
- Diagnosis of Multiple Problems

(This is probably not a program for the beginner)

PROGRAMMERS CORNER

Try this nice graphic using basica. (you need a color graphics board). You can change the color in line 30

```
10 'MOIRE PATTERN
20 KEY OFF:CLS
30 SCREEN 1:COLOR 1,1
40 FOR A=0 TO 360
50 DRAW"TA=A;NR200"
60 NEXT A:END
```

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BITS & BYTES

** If you're a Dysan floppy disk fan, check out the special marked boxes of 10 diskettes which include the free Boardroom Graphics Software program. Boardroom Graphics turns your spreadsheet data into 3-D graphs, bar graphs, line charts, and scattergrams. The manufacturer of Verbatim Datalife disks are not to be outdone by Dysan as they are giving away a free pocket calculator on their special boxes of 10 diskettes. I checked all the breakfast cereal packages at the store and didn't find a give-away that even came close to either of the above.

** Ray Niklas is still working on his 2 Genealogy programs. Rumor has it that he combined the 2 programs with some fancy programming and now he has 34 children. Good luck on getting IRS to believe you Ray

** Thanks to Byron Smith, John Rhode almost has his 5000 mailing labels transferred to PC FILE III. A case of perseverance finally paying off !

I hear that Rick Racouillat was leaning over his computer the other day when his tie was sucked into one of the disk drives. He now has 56 K of correspondance on the back of his tie and his wife's receipes on the front. I wonder if Norton Utilities can "fix" this problem. Help Byron! Good thing it wasn't a bow tie.

** Did Dick Trueman ever received his AT&T computer from the Cal Poly bookstore? Hope he gets it in time for the holidays. It's been over 6 weeks now or is that 2 months? But then yours truly ordered an IBM from same & has been waiting 2 1/2 weeks for an IBM monitor. It reminds me of buying a new car without tires. I wonder what this newsletter would look like if I used a computer without a monitor?

** The PC mouse out in Los Osos just told me that one of our new members, Wanda Hoagland, just purchased new computer furniture for her soon to be purchased Compaq. Your making some of us "primitives" jealous Wanda. I know of one member who uses an old board between 2 bricks as a computer stand.

** Did you know that Chris Thyrring finally got his PC working again. First it was the disk drive controller board -- repaired under warranty (Whew!) then the Mother Board -- not under warranty (Duch!!). He said he wouldn't turn the computer off for 90 days, the extent of the new board warranty. Anyone taking bets on day 91? At least we could give him the large digital clock program so his PC would still be doing something during the off hours. Good luck Chris !!

MORE BITS & BYTES

** Hopefully by the next meeting, Morgan Enterprises (French - Surge Suppressor - Morgan) will have a great product to demonstrate. If you have never seen a "MOVIT", pronounced MOVE-IT, you have a new experience in store. We saw these little "creatures" at the Comdex show in L.A. last winter. Some are sold as "kits" and some are ready to go right out of the box. Many are programmable with your computer using the RS 232 port. A cross between R2D2 and 3CPO (for you Starwars fans), they follow lines drawn on the floor, avoid objects, draw on paper, and respond to sound. In fact the top of the line has a voice recognition synthizer and can remember a command vocabulary of over 100 words as well as grasp objects carrying them from one point to another. Prices range from \$25 to \$100 with the Cadillac of the group going for \$300.

** No fool'n guys & gals, weve found a real live bulletin board for PC's located in SLO. Other than the telephone number, I have little information about it except that it uses XMODEM protocol. It does have a large number of files and programs for downloading. Rev up your modem, access the bulletin board, & let us know what it's all about at the next meeting.

*** The number is 541-3358 ***

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