

British Amstrad PCW Club

NEWSLETTER

Issue No 81

A few changes

As detailed in the last *Newsletter* all subscriptions now run from September until August of the following year. At the beginning of this September Peter A Clark took over the Membership Secretary's duties from Steve Massam and is now General Secretary for the Club. This allows Steve to concentrate his efforts on editing the *Disc Drive*. Please do not send subscriptions to Steve.

This *Newsletter* is being sent out with the belated Summer edition of the *Disc Drive* to everyone who was a member of the Club last year. A number of members complained that they did not receive a subs renewal reminder so one is enclosed if you have not yet renewed. The Autumn edition of the *Disc Drive* will only be sent to those who renew for 2000/2001.

Because of the handover some cheques have not yet been passed through the bank. All members who renew this year, and all new members in the future, will be sent a Club membership card, complete with their name and Membership Number, by way of a receipt. It would help if you could quote your Membership Number in any correspondence with officers of the Club.

Please note that the annual subscription is £12.00. Those members who sent in only £9.50 will not receive the Summer 2001 edition of the *Disc Drive* unless they remit the outstanding £2.50.

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November Meeting

The meeting on 2nd of November is on Spreadsheets and in particular **SuperCalc 2** although other spreadsheet programs will be discussed. You can bring along your PCW with a copy of the spreadsheet program you use and we can compare the advantages and disadvantages of the various packages. There will not be room for PCWs *and* the monitors *and* printers so please leave your printer at home.

Competition

The December meeting was intended to be Competition night with a small prize for the best items produced exclusively on a PCW. However, I have yet to receive a single entry! Depending on the number of submissions prizes will be awarded for the best pieces on display. Please do bring along samples of work done on the PCW during the year. Postal members are not excluded: send your items to Mike Elliston to arrive before the end of November and demonstrate just how versatile the PCW really is.

Future Meetings

A number of members complained that when the *Newsletter* was monthly it arrived just in time to remind them of the date and topic for the next meeting. The mailing was changed to eight times a year to cut down on postal costs by including it alternately with the *Disc Drive*. However, if you have e-mail facilities and send me your e-mail address with the request I can send out such reminders at the weekend before each Club night. My e-mail address is mikell@cablenet.co.uk

Public Domain News

Apparently the item about the PcW16 Rescue Disc in the last *Newsletter* was not as clear as it could have been, seemingly suggesting that the latest PcW 16 Rescue Disc was now at version 1.36.

To clarify: The Club has three different discs in the PD Library which have specific functions on various machines.

- The latest version of the **PcW 16 Rescue Disc** is **1.13**. This disc is for use only on the PcW 16 and will reload all the built-in programs if your PcW 16 crashes spectacularly. It will **not** rescue any *data* that you have written and saved in the cabinet. You are strongly recommended to save any and all of your work on a PcW 16 data disc (not the Rescue Disc).

- The **CP/M Emulator for the PcW 16** disc is for use only on the 16. It allows the you to run *most* CP/M software that you own for the PCW 8000, 9000 or 10 series on a PcW 16. The latest version number is **1.01**. The CP/M software *must* be on a 3½" CF2DD disc. It will **not** run any of the LocoScript programs, nor will it run any CP/M programs where screen graphics are involved. I know for a fact that the Club's Crossword Maker can not be run on the 16 this way. Sorry. Strangely enough though, Printmaster does work but not MD2 or 3.

- The **Joyce CP/M Emulator** runs only on a PC (not a PCW or a 16). The PC must be at least a 486. The latest version of the Joyce Emulator is **1.36** and it is very stable indeed. (Early versions tended to hiccup if you did something unusual!) Not only does it run 99% of all CP/M programs *including MicroDesign3 (!)* but also LocoScript. This means that when your PCW finally dies you can transfer your work onto a PC and continue there. → p.3

You must have your PCW Start of Day discs (from which you load the programs to be used on the PC) already prepared for the set-up and printer you intend to use with the PC, and all your *data* discs too, on CF2DD 3½" format discs. You will find it much more beneficial if you start to use the Emulator *before* your PCW fails so that you can make adjustments to your Start-of-Day discs (which *must* be made on a PCW with a 3½" drive) as and when required.

The limitations are that it can not reproduce the PcW 16 (which has its own unique operating system, not CP/M); it can not work with the 9512 daisywheel printer (you will have to make a Start of Day disc for a new printer which could be a different make of daisy wheel); and LocoScript will only work with printers where the printer drivers are available on the LocoScript Printer Support discs. (If the printer can't be installed for LocoScript on a PCW then it won't work with Loco 3 or 4 running under the Emulator on a PC, even though that printer works perfectly well under Windows.)

In practice, because it is an emulator and has to translate every CP/M command to the equivalent DOS command, it runs a lot slower than Windows. The faster your PC, the faster the Emulator runs. I reckon that you need at least a 250 MHz PC for it to run any faster than a PCW would and, say, 500 MHz to match a PCW with a Sprinter. Even so it lets you continue to use MD3 on your PC.

Fortunately the Emulator allows you to use as much of the memory of the PC that CP/M can support, namely 2Mb, so it is the same as having a 1.5Mb Rampac on the back of a 9512. This means that you can run The Network with MD3 and FSD and Tweak, etc., quite comfortably.

PCW Wants

Roy Blake wants a Loco3 upgrade installation disc, printer support pack and LocoFile upgrade disc for use on his PCW 9512+ on 3½" discs. Address, etc., overleaf

John King is looking for the manual or instructions for "Peak Fleet Manager" from Dec-Kay Systems. Phone 01708 630477.

PCW Offers

PCW 9512 with printer *and sheetfeeder* in good working order for small sum. John Golledge, 62 Red Hill, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 1NG
0121 420 5441 (office hours)
golledge@easicom.com

PCW 8512 to go to a good home for a modest sum. Can be collected by arrangement from Peterborough, Stamford, Lincs. or Burnley, Lancs. Nigel Harris: nigjud@dircon.co.uk

PCW 8512 (which belonged to her late husband) **for free**. Please contact Mrs S Oates, 21 Ramsey Close, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8DL to arrange collection.

Lisa Judah has an 8512 she wishes to go to a good home. To be collected from the Ealing area by arrangement.
lisajudah@hotmail.com

Peter Allan has a 9512 he wishes to dispose of. It can be collected from the Rainham, Essex area by arrangement. Telephone Peter on 020 7555 9042 for details.

For Sale. PCW magazines 1987-93, in attractive binders, £15 ono.
Loco2, 3 and 4 start up discs on 3". £10.
LocoFile and LocoSpell on 3" discs. £10.
Blank 3" discs. £1.25 each.
Scrabble, Snooker and Chess on 3". £2.50.
Mini Office Professional on 3" discs. £10.
SuperCalc 2 on 3" disc. £10.
or the lot for £40 ono.
Brian Mitchell, 79 Pawlett Road,
Hartcliffe, Bristol BS13 0DS
Telephone: 0117 987 9979

Ian Baker has a 9512 that he wishes to sell.
Phone 01995 670495 (Preston, Lancs.)
ianbaker@baker.fsnet.uk

Amstrad PC5086. Complete system, monitor, keyboard and Epson printer for free. You collect from Pinner near Harrow by arrangement. Phone Barry on 020 8429 3146 or barry-twigg@lineone.net

Harvey Smith has two 9512s looking for a good home for free, you collect.
Dr Harvey Smith, Senior Education Officer, CfBT Education Services, The Chambers, Reading, RG1 4JD or home phone is 0118 948 3944.
hsmith@cfbt.hq.org.uk

PCW 8256 plus Canon BJ 200 printer, all manuals. Good working order. Offers to Antony Chapman, Boddington East, Hale Lane, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6NQ.
Phone 01296 623730 or
c@halevalley.demon.co.uk

Roy Blake has a 9512+ with Loco2, a 9512 and its daisywheel with Loco3, and an HP Deskjet printer for offer.
33 Kenchester Close, London SW8 2TY
Phone 020 7622 4529 or 07940 254278.

Free 9512 to be collected from Kendal, Cumbria. Phone Tony Ryan 01539 73581.
tony.ryan@ntlworld.com

John Everett has a 9512 with 3½" A: drive, Loco 3 and some 3" discs to go to a good home. Phone 01206 241053,
96 Chapel Road, West Bergholt,
Colchester, Essex CO6 3HA

PCW 8256 for free complete with 512k, all discs and manuals, spare ribbons, Money Manager and some CF2 discs.
Please arrange collection from
Dr Stephen L Clarke, 7 Laburnum Avenue,
Gainsborough, Lincs. DN21 1ET.
Phone 01427 616463 or
stephen_clarke@doctors.org.uk

Mrs Spong from Dorking in Surrey has a PCW and a PC for sale. Tel 01306 884449.

PCW software on offer:

MD3, 3½", program, library, manual £10;
MD3, 3½" Tutorial disc and manual £5;
SuperCalc 2, 3½" master disc, manual £5;
CP/M v2.15 Upgrade Disc £2;
LocoScript LX fonts, all type G, on 3½" disc, Business, Display, Decorative £10;
3½" Loco4, LocoFile and LocoSpell original discs for PcW9512+ £5;
Loco3 Guide £3, PcW9512+ manual (BJ) £3, three Loco2 books £5.
Contact Steve Massam, *Disc Drive* editor.

The *Newsletter* is published by
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