BRITISH AMSTRAD PCW CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Issue No 79

Forthcoming Meetings

The next few Club meetings are planned as follows:

Thursday 11th May:

Part Two of the introduction to CP/M for beginners. This will introduce the utilities which come free with CP/M and how you can use them to supplement the simple filing facilities that are available from the LocoScript Disc Management screen. *Please note that this meeting is on the second Thursday in the month for May only*

Thursday 1st June:

Introduction to BASIC: Part One.

Thursday 6th July:

Introduction to BASIC: Part Two.

BASIC is the programming language which comes free with your PCW on the CP/M side of your master discs. It can be used to run many hundreds of programs on your PCW including games, spreadsheets, databases, simple word processors and lots of others.

Many of these BASIC programs are available from the Club's Public Domain Library. Details of these and other programs in the PD Library can be had from Daniel French, 44 Charcot House, Highcliffe Drive, Roehampton, London SW15 4PT. Please send a stamped self addressed C5 envelope (i.e. big enough to take folded A4 sheets) for a catalogue.

These meetings are held in the Basildon Centre, St. Martins Square, Basildon, Essex from 7.30 pm to about 10.30 pm in Committee Room 4. The Basildon Centre is very close to Basildon Station on the London, Tilbury & Southend railway line, and only a short distance from the main Bus Station. There is secure parking in the underground car park beneath, accessed from Broadmayne/Great Oaks. (Follow the Council Offices signs.) Attendance is *free* for your first meeting.

Future meetings include workshops on MicroDesign 2 & 3, Databases including LocoFile and Spreadsheets. Remember that the Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 7th September and there will be a club meeting straight afterwards.

If there is a PCW topic or program that you would like explained or discussed at a club night please let one of the Committee members know and it could be arranged for a meeting that you are able to attend.

News for PcW16 Users

An upgrade of the PcW16 Rescue Disc, version 1.13 is now available *exclusively* from the Club's PD Library. Send a PcW16 formatted HD disc to Daniel with a cheque or postal order for one pound made out to **The British Amstrad PCW Club** (or five second class stamps will do) for your copy.

Three Inch Software on the move

Three Inch Software, one of the best known suppliers of software for the PCW, has moved from Milton Keynes to rural Aberdeen. Still available for the classic PCWs are the **Three Inch Thesaurus**, a **Rhyming Dictionary**, the **Copy** program and, for those with the PCW9512, the **PCW 9512 Rescue Kit**.

For obvious reasons the Three Inch Thesaurus is now available on 3½" discs as well. This is a LocoFile datafile of over 14,000 words organised into 1000 word lists in a similar fashion to the standard printed Roget's Thesaurus crammed onto a 720k disc. Used in conjunction with Loco-File and a 720k drive this allows you to find an alternative word to the one you've used in the current document just too many times. The method of cross-linking the words is brilliant and I have no hesitation in recommending this to anyone who cares about their written output. It's as easy to use as LocoSpell.

The Rhyming Dictionary is also a Loco-File data file used, this time, with a Loco-Mail routine provided on the disc. I think it's fairly obvious what this is intended for.

The Copy program is two programs in one. With a very simple menu it enables you to copy either individual files or whole groups of files from one disc or group to another disc or group much more easily than that provided by the LocoScript Disc Management screen. Once you've used this you'll never use F3, Copy, cursor, cursor, etc., ever again. It is also a disc formatting program with a difference. With Copy you can format a PCW9512 boot disc in the B: drive of an 8512. More importantly it allows you to format or copy slightly damaged discs by a method which marks the bad blocks as damaged but allows you to use the rest of the disc for storage. Try doing that with the unforgiving DiscKit or f4, Discs in LocoScript. This could be the only way of rescuing that essential file from the disc that LocoScript won't read.

The PCW9512 Rescue Kit is a must-have for anyone with a 9512. It allows you to create and copy discs intended for the A: drive of an 8256. Now you can transfer files from the 9512 to 8256 discs without having an 8256 of your own. Again this may be just what you need to rescue those files and get them printed out by a friend when your daisy-wheel has just died!

Three Inch Software sell reformatted, used-once, 720k 3" discs (from Amstrad CPC machines) for £3 each and brand new unused Japanese 3" discs at £5 each; this may be just what you need too.

The Thesaurus retails at £14.95, the Rhyming Dictionary at £19.95 whilst Copy is £9.95 as is the PCW9512 Rescue Kit. All these prices include UK postage. Contact Alan Giles, Three Inch Software, Rowan Cottage, Wester Craigie, Whitecairns, Aberdeen AB23 8XE for further details. Phone 01651 862359.

Congratulations and thanks to Alan for helping to keep the world of PCW software alive. Alan was also one of the brains behind MicroDraw and MicroChart, both of which ran within The Network. I've not seen these advertised for some time now but he may be able to tell you where to buy these two excellent drawing programs too.

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The bad news is that PCW programmer and software retailer PD Blake finds MS Windows a much more attractive prospect and has pulled out of the PCW market.

Using e-mail to contact other Club members

Following the publication of Daniel's two most excellent articles on gaining access to the Internet using the PCW, a number of members now have their own e-mail address. Others, of course, have e-mail addresses via their PC or other connection at a local Internet café or library.

Here is a way for you to communicate with other members of the Club on PCW matters without giving away your address or telephone number. If you do not know any other local PCW user to ask for help this could be a means of sharing tips and ideas and gaining assistance. You could start a discussion group with other interested members on, say, MicroDesign or the PcW16; the choice is yours but the field is wide.

If you would like your e-mail address published in the *Newsletter* so that others can contact you then drop me a line at the address given below and I will publish it in the next edition. Details of your address or phone will not be published. You may wish to consider mentioning the machine and/or software that you use and perhaps the part of the country you come from; that is entirely up to you.

To start the ball rolling our Secretary, Peter A Clark, can be contacted at:
 PadInt4U@aol.com,
Steve Massam, Membership Secretary, at:
 Steve@lentil.org
and PD Librarian Daniel French at:
 Daniel@lentil.org or
 DanielFrench@AltaVista.com.
Please accept that members may not switch their machines on every day and that you may have to wait for a response.

Crossword Maker bargain for Club members only

The Crossword Maker program which runs on all PCWs with a 3½" drive is now available to Club members at the special price of £9.95 only. This is because we have been able to make cost savings with bulk disc copying and manual printing.

The package contains three different programs, each with its own instruction manual. The main disc is the Crossword Maker itself. This enables you to compose crossword puzzles up to 28 letters square. These can be printed out in MicroDesign 2 or MD3 *or* in LocoScript. You do *not* have to own MicroDesign to print your results but it does help. A number of word list files are provided as the "dictionary" from which your words are selected.

The accompanying Word File Manager program which is included in the pack enables you to create word lists of your own, for example, lists of medical or religious or financial words, to produce crosswords for a particular audience.

Also included is a Word Search Maker program which lets you create word search puzzles up to 20 letters square; these last two run under BASIC.

Currently available on 3½" discs only from Steve Massam, 27 St Marks Road, Benfleet, Essex SS7 2PY. Please make cheques or postal orders for £9.95 payable to *The British Amstrad PCW Club.*

PCW Contact Point

Another list of people who have contacted the Club asking if our members would be interested in their PCWs. In most cases additional related items are on offer as well. You are invited to make contact directly with the advertiser and make mutual arrangements for delivery and price.

Mr John Scruby,
01223 860598
[Cambridgeshire]
Free PCW 9512.

Miss Janet Edwards,
2 Admiralty Road,
Upnor, Rochester,
Kent   ME2 4XY
01634 716511
Free PCW 8256 in good working order with manuals, discs, etc. Is prepared to deliver within 50 mile radius.

Mr Longson,
01494 812280
[High Wickham]
Two free PCW 9512s with printwheels, manuals, ribbons, etc.

Martin Ellis,
43 Siddeley Avenue,
Kenilworth,
Warks   CV8 1EW
01926 857164
martinellis@FreeNet.co.uk
PCW 8256 for nominal sum.

Mrs Rachel Jenkins,
0115 9507140
[Nottingham NG1 1FE]
Two *free* PCW9512s..

John D Tucker,
50 Bradmore Way,
Old Coulsdon,
Surrey   CR5 1PB
01737 552739
Has a **bound** collection of *8000 Plus* for 1988 to 1991 and *PCW Plus* for 1992 to 1994 for free to anyone willing to collect.

Mr G L Miskin of 23 The Grove, Billericay, CM11 1AU, Phone 01277 653385 has the following for sale:

PCW 8512 with Cirtech Sprinter and 1Mb extra RAM, RS232 interface, DataTwin 8 external 3½" drive, Keymouse and original printer (all in good working order) together with LocoScript 3, Mini Office Pro, The Network, MicroDesign 3, clipart, fonts, etc., plus a selection of books and manuals and a quantity of 3" and 3½" discs. Price by negotiation.

The above information is printed as provided by the respective advertisers.
The Club can not be held responsible for the condition of any of the goods offered.

Please remember to tell the advertiser where you saw his advertisement. Please also let the Secretary or the *Newsletter* Editor know that you have acquired one of these machines so that it can be removed from the listing.

WANTED

Mr M Warburton wishes to buy a Family History program for use with PCW 8256(+256k): simple, inexpensive, user friendly. Tel: 01254 235482.