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A newsletter for the Stanford/Palo Alto User's Group for the IBM PC

PRinT SScreen

January 1985

Volume 3 Number 1

NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, January 30
Time: 8:00 p.m. (NOTE NEW TIME!!!)
Place: Polya Hall,
Turing Auditorium (Rm. 111)
Stanford University

AGENDA

8:00 General Club Business
8:30 Speaker: Nicholas de Paul
Topic: ProKey
9:30 Random Access
10:00 Conclusion

CLUB INFORMATION

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 3738
Stanford, CA 94305

MEMBERSHIP: Dave Casto 326-7006
\$25/year fee (bring disk to meeting to copy
library listing)

NEWSLETTER: Rebecca Bridges 326-8605
P.O. Box 982
Palo Alto, CA 94302
Deadline for submissions: 15th of each month

LIBRARY:

Public Domain Software	Les Weil	321-5541
Soft Copy	Jim Caldwell	692-7181
Hard Copy	Joe Wible	497-6831

SIGS:

Novices:	Rebecca Bridges	326-8605
Lotus:	Lindsey Puckett	967-3101
Communications:	Corwin Nichols	494-8640
Hardware/Assembly:	Curt Carlson	941-5680
Genealogy:	Dave Casto	326-7006

CLUB BITS & BYTES

TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER: As of December 1984, Mike Van Waas retired from his position as Group Leader. Jim Caldwell, back from China, was voted in as President, and Rebecca Bridges is the new VEEP. A Speakers Committee, chaired by Kathy Carroll, will be responsible for lining up speakers for the meetings.

BULLETIN BOARD: As many of you have noticed, the club Bulletin Board has been down for the last two months. Lindsey Puckett, who has been so generous with his system this past year, now needs to devote the computer time and disk space to work-related projects. Hence, the club Bulletin Board is looking for a new home. Lindsey has the entire system organized on floppies for any willing BB SYS OPs.

PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE: At the January 30 meeting we will have a few copies of selected disks from our library for sale at \$2 each. This is an experiment in making it easier to obtain copies now that the Bulletin Board is down. The established way to access the entire library through Les Weil will not change. The \$2 copies are on good quality brand-name diskettes, DS-DD, formatted with DOS 2.0 DISKCOPY. Sold to members only, not available by mail at present. The following disks will be available:

B00	Financial programs
S10	Newkey
T00	PC Talk III
W02	PC Write 2.1
Z00	Music
U0F	Full Screen Editor
U04	Misc. Utilities
U05	Misc. Utilities
U08	Misc. Utilities

RESOURCE PEOPLE: One of the functions of our User's Group is to provide help to members who run into trouble with a particular software package or piece of hardware. Some questions just can't wait until the next monthly meeting. That's where Resource People come in. Their names and phone numbers, along with their area of expertise, are listed each month in the newsletter. Feel free to call them if you need help. But we need more Resource People. If you feel up-to-speed on any hard/soft/firmware you use, please volunteer yourself. (Send in form.) Not only will you get your name in print, but you will provide a valuable service to the Group.

"SAVVY" DISCOUNT: At the November meeting Excalibur provided 25 free demo disks w/manual for its \$395 "Savvy" artificial intelligence database package. They are experimenting with using User Groups as a marketing channel. If 3 buyers step up now, they offer the full package (including "Retriever") at \$200 each. See Dave Casto if interested. Their president, Nelson Winkless, is written up on p. 62 of the latest PC Mag.

PLANNING MEETING: All members are welcome to attend the monthly Planning Meeting, where we make decisions on the direction of the Group. Please call Beverly Altman, 329-8252, if you can make the next meeting on Wednesday February 13 at 8 p.m.

PAY YOUR DUES! For the month or two before your membership is due to expire, we will include in your newsletter a self-addressed envelope for you to enclose your \$25 dues. No more newsletters if you don't pay on time.

MORE CLUB NEWS

Q&A COLUMN: Are you too shy to ask questions at the Group Meetings? Get too tired to wait for Random Access at the end of the Meeting? Want to try to stump Mike Van Waas? If you can answer YES to any of these questions, you will love our new Q&A Column to be featured in PRint SScreen monthly. Send your questions before the 15th of the month to the newsletter editor.

NOVICE NEWS: The Novice SIG learned all about modems, protocol, baud rates, and PC-TALK III at their January 14th meeting. Corwin Nichols, the Communications SIG leader, was the guest speaker. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 5th. The main topic will be RAM disks and print spoolers, but questions on any topic are welcome. Call Rebecca for details.

CLASSIFIEDS

AST SIX PAK PLUS (Parallel and serial ports, clock, 384K, software). New. \$300. Call Ricardo Work: (415) 948-8590 X328. Home: (408) 926-9037.

INFOWORLD

PRODUCTS OF THE YEAR:

HARDWARE:	MACINTOSH
SOFTWARE:	SIDEKICK
PERIPHERAL:	CANON LASER JET PRINTER

DIAL-A-GROUP

Dave Casto, who spends nearly 5 hours a week talking to prospective members, reports on his adventures as Membership Chairman:

Our Group's telephone (326-7006..or dial DAM-SOON) is listed in several computer publications, primarily to permit prospective members to contact us. It is usually on an answering machine, volunteering to send membership information, or to return the call.

We average one inquiry per day, 40% from local folks to ask about joining. Another 20% are from more distant Bay Area callers who have not found a PC User Group in their communities. Once a month or so comes an inquiry from Third World places like England, Japan, South Africa, Italy, and New York. To each we send a description of our Group's activities, and application blank, and a map of the campus.

About 25% of the calls are from folks not interested in joining, who would like help with specific problems. With a few exceptions, we have to decline. The remaining calls are from vendors of all kinds, whom we invite to send literature, or to advertise in the newsletter. The pitches are quite varied, and to date we have not found an effective way to separate the wheat from the chaff, nor an efficient way to expose all the opportunities to all of the membership. Like the voluminous stuff that comes in the mail, most of the vendor calls are not anything you cannot live without, but quite a few are tempting to investigate.

DISK DRIVE HEAD CLEANING

Appalled at the advice in the instructions of Datalife to clean daily, after noting that the two expensive fluid-saturated cleaning disks cannot be used again because they dry out soon once their storage bags are unsealed, I knew that there must be a more economical way.

The way is so obvious, that I felt the method is not widely recommended because of the risk of blame should a drive malfunction soon after treatment. However, true progress must sometimes run the chance of a few lawsuits. But I will state the disclaimer that should someone's drive decide to make it look like the method described herein has adversely affected it, I plead that I have never had any trouble, and further, that if of meek temperament, please seek other opinions before trying what I believe is perhaps the best technique of disk drive head cleaning. The following uses the DATALIFE KIT.

Boot up your computer - Remove all disks - Type TYPE XXXX - Place a Datalife cleaning disk on a towel - Spray it with a good quality degreaser (from Zacks, Chemtronics, FREON*TF, C2480, 24 ozs, \$5.98) - Spray 4 to 5 times around the disk until it appears uniformly damp - Turn it over and repeat - Insert the damp disk into the floppy holder - Feed into the default drive (a) - Hit RETURN - Keep hitting R (for Retry) for about 15 seconds - Remove from drive - Remove cleaning disk from holder.

Change default drive to B - Type XXXX - Renew fluid to cleaning disk until similarly damp as before - Insert into floppy

holder - Feed into drive B - Hit RETURN - Keep hitting R for about 15 seconds as for A drive - Remove from drive - Remove cleaning disk immediately from holder (holder might dissolve otherwise) and store in its container - Leave computer on for cooling air to dry drive innards - Drives should be safe for disk insertion after a few minutes.

Daily treatment must be needed only for constant use of drives. Once a month is my practice. Anyhow, the 24 oz. can will last a long time, even for frequent use.



Don Baird

**Other Uses
For the IBM
Chiclet Keyboard**

TRUE BASIC

The original developers of BASIC have just announced a new version of this popular programming language. They are calling it TRUE BASIC.

According to an InfoWorld article (1-21-85), "True Basic features Englishlike syntax, on-line help, a full-screen editor, windows..." It also is capable of using the maximum memory of your PC, instead of only 64K. True Basic also can take advantage of an 8087 chip.

True Basic is scheduled to be released in February by Addison-Wesley, and the IBM PC version is priced at \$149.90.

CLUB OFFICERS

President:	Jim Caldwell	692-7181
Vice President:	Rebecca Bridges	326-8605
Financial Manager:	Beverly Altman	329-8252
ASSU Representative	Curt Carlson	941-5680

RESOURCE PEOPLE

PC Write	Tony Nunez	857-0836
WordStar	Jackie Carr	858-1641
Pascal, DOS 2.0	Jeff	321-5930
APL	Paul	968-8283
MultiPlan	Jim Webster	326-3365
"C"	Corwin Nichols	424-9049
AST Boards	Greg Tinfow	493-7404
Expansion Boards	Curt Carlson	941-5680

ADVERTISING

If you are interested in advertising in PRinT SScreen, send camera ready copy to P.O. Box 3738, Stanford, CA 94305 before the 8th of the month. All ads are payable by check in advance. Rates per issue are:

Full Page (8-1/2 X 11)	\$25.
Half Page (8/12 X 5-1/2)	\$15.
Quarter Page (4.2 X 5-1/2)	\$10.

Classified ads are free to paying members.



___ YES, I would like to volunteer myself as a Resource Person!!

NAME ----- PHONE -----

HARDWARE -----

SOFTWARE -----

Mail this form to: Rebecca Bridges, P.O. Box 982, Palo Alto, CA 94302.



**The Stanford/Palo Alto
Users Group for the IBM PC**

Box 3738 STANFORD, CA 94305