The Newsletter of Stanford/Palo Alto PC User's Group

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 3

MARCH 1994

# PRint sCreen

## SPAUG

**March - Borland's Paul Dodds delights us with the new "Borland Office"**

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March 30th
7:30 p.m.
at Varian, Bld. 7
Auditorium
SPAUG presents
Claris Works
for Windows

CLUB NEWS

# The President's Piece

SPAUG **Special Of the Month:** See note on page 7 for a job. For more information call Beverly Altrmam.

**SPAUG Members Only**

**$99**

*Oh, those Chocolate-Dipped Biscotti...*

The SPAUG Planning Committee must be getting better cookies and coffee. At the March 2nd meeting we "agreed to agree" quicker than previous meetings. The "Right Track" committee kept us on course for the "Hot" issues. Then when the "Random Access" section didn't erupt into a food fight I knew we were really making progress. Paul Walker, Print Screen editor, attended the meeting. He calmly weathered our concerns about the priority of our members articles in the newsletter. Yes, he sagely nods that "you write it, he prints it." A second career awaits our members as technical writers. He can make you famous. Speaking of technical writers begs the issue of technical articles. Larry Weinberg suggested that PrintScreen Programming and engineering articles. So on Baird this is your cue. Let's hear from of our membership. The Software Review Committee chaired by Jan Altman got a swift shot of energy when Larry "Billy Joe Bob" Weinberg signed on. He's great for coming up with a better idea. The "Software Review" forms should be available at the March General Meeting. Translated this means you can request a particular software package to review. The review details are on the forms. The main goal is to share your experiences with the other Club members. Having a glass of wine before writing some times helps. Relax, the review doesn't have to cover every feature of the software package. Hit the top five and call it a day. Discuss the parts that interest you. Make it fun and we all will enjoy the experience. If the going gets rough then get graphic. Describe in great detail the problems. Color the anguish and frustration in vivid shades. Emote to the max. Twist the pain into a cry for help. Chair a Special Interest Group. Speaking of SIGs, our latest is the CD-ROM SIG chaired by Charlie Weiner from Computers At Large. If those silver disks have caught your attention then give Charlie a call. He can be reached at **(408) 255-1081.**

Other contributing members at the planning meeting were Cookie Cook, Barry Smith, and Jim Bailey.

If you missed Beverly Altman in this lineup that's because she's in Cancun, Mexico working on her tan. Dave got to go, too. Did you know that the perennial kid, Jan Altman, had a birthday? Yep, it was the big ***4 0***.

Barry Smith told me he upgraded to a 486-66 motherboard. Now he feels guilty he can't type faster.

Back by popular demand in April is a presentation by Paul Dodds from Borland. Borland Office is the featured software. The last membership survey which ask a preference as to backup device voted tape drives in at 70% and hard drives at 30%. Seems the slow but unlimited capacity of additional tape cartridges out weighed the speed of a fixed capacity hard drive.

See you on March 30th.

***Brian***

## Arabesque's *ECCO Professional*, the *SuperPIM, with CALENDAR, PHONE BOOK, DYNAMIC NOTES, OUTLINES* and *FOLDERS.*

*By Bob Meltzer 1/15/94*

"In the eyes of the beholder..." Software reviews should be read knowing the prior software familiarity of the reviewer. So as you read along, keep in mind that I've used 1st ACT! and Lotus Organizer as well as Think Tank, an early outliner program.

My first impression of the ECCO Professional Information Management System was the good documentation contained in the User's Guide and the accompanying tour and tutorial booklets. It is complete and well-written and, to my pleasant surprise, the documentation is duplicated in the Help section of the on-line software.

ECCO has two major work areas: Calendar and PhoneBook, with an outline function thoroughly integrated into each as well as being available as a separate section.

In order to get a good feel of how the program works and how easy it is to use, for the past few weeks I've used ECCO as my primary personal scheduler and name and phone directory (I imported my personal contacts from another program.)

My overall impression (remember what I said in paragraph one) is that the Calendar is great, the PhoneBook and Outliner are okay but the gaps in coverage are somewhat irritating. Although ECCO is not difficult to use, like most other function-rich packages, there is a whole new body of commands, terminology, icons and procedures to learn and recognize. It takes a lot of dedication to learn all the excellent features.

### *CALENDAR*

The ability to manipulate appointment items, dates and associated outlines is neat. It's simple to go to an appointment book format for any desired date. Once there, the description of the appointment can be keyed in with the time and duration. An outline of notes can be written alongside the appointment (like directions to a building address or agenda points to be covered, etc. etc.) Then if things change, as they so often do, there are many straightforward ways to move the appointment and associated notes to another date, change the time and/or duration or modify any text. One feature I especially liked was an easy to establish appointment tickler (reminder) in an area toward the top of the calendar screen. With a click of the mouse, a tickler can be added to appear daily for a set number of days in advance. No more excuses for missing an appointment !

Of personal appeal to me was the ability to use the tickler area as "To Do" list. Yesterday's "To Do" list can be automatically repeated each day, with tasks done so indicated or deleted, and new items added.

I did discover one "" gocha "" while using the appointment/tickler screen in the Calendar View. A horizontal bar (line) separates the Appointment and Tickler Sections and can be dragged up or down depending how much of either area you want to see. I went to the extreme and dragged the bar up so that the Tickler Section was no longer showing. I then spent much time trying to make the Tickler Section re-appear. I thought I had lost all my precious reminders forever!! I Finally, I noticed the small thick bar over the scrolling area, and it allowed me to drag the Tickler Section back into view. I could find no mention of the potential problem or solution in the manual or help areas.

Another feature in ECCO is the "Folder." Many readers will be familiar with folders as repositories of files of a given kind. In ECCO, folders, which can be created at will, are designed to contain outline sets. Any outline set, such as one associated with an appointment, a "To Do" list or a PhoneBook name can be dragged to an appropriate folder for later viewing. For instance, any appointment outline notes, or "To Do's" or bio information connected with XYZ Company matters or personnel can be accumulated in an XYZ Company folder.

**PHONEBOOK**

As my first trial, I imported a list of home contacts; names, addresses and special information

and naturally tied each address field to a home address category. Unfortunately, the ECCO address view always defaulted to the business field. With each contact a "Home" button had to be clicked to view each home address entry. I solved the problem with the help of ECCO technical support by deleting all the imported data base items and re-importing my home contact list making all address categories "Business" rather than "Home", a not too terribly satisfying solution.

Some positives for the PhoneBook are the ability to add text (or other types of data) underneath each name. Also up to 50 columns can be created horizontally adjacent to each name. Each column can contain another item of information such as spouses name, children, birthday, etc.

**SHOOTER**

Touted as one of the most powerful features of ECCO, Shooter is a utility which allows effortless importing (or exporting) of material from another program into an ECCO view or between two foreign programs. For instance, I had placed a note in the ECCO Tickler to work on this review in time to include it in the January 1994 PRinT SCreen newsletter. This review, however, was written in Microsoft Word. With a few clicks using the Shooter icon, which appears in every Window program when ECCO is open, I was able to select and import the entire review draft into ECCO and have it available for reference directly under the Tickler note.

**CONCLUSION**

ECCO Professional from Arabesque Software, Inc. is recommended to anyone interested in a Personal Information Manager (PIM) filled with features. It is excellent at appointment scheduling and maintaining a "To Do" list and performs many other functions very well. The few rough spots don't interfere with the major benefits. Although learning the program completely requires a good deal of effort, the most desirable features are the easiest to learn and use. The bottom line for me: I'm using the program daily as an important element in managing my personal information.

*Arabesque Software, Inc.*
*2340 1 30th Ave NE*
*Bellevue, WA 98005-1754*

## The Claris Bombshell

*By Joe Bob Computer Adventure*
*By Larry Weinberg*

Reprise: Billy Joe Bob had OD'd on pure Upgrade Hype Crack, the insidious type that thrived on writer hyperbolism, seller misdirection and exaggerated significance. He almost died, but after sensible soft and hard treatment he recovered. He joined UA(Upgrade Anonymous) and reclaimed his life. Then he met Claris.

Billy Joe Bob first saw Claris one enchanted evening across a crowded room . They made eye contact and sparks flew, but he didn't approach her until they were formally introduced by Mitch. She was slender(but not thin), stylish, attractive and charismatic. She wore a hint of Norell. There was a definite attraction and they decided to go to the Starlight Lounge. He ordered his usual Glenlivit rocks; she had a glass of Husch Chenin Blanc. They talked and he learned that her full name was Claris Works Windows the First. Her mother was Claris Works Macintosh the Second . They came from the powerful Apple family and were very much alike. She traveled in the best circles and had outstanding press coverage. She showed him her notices - glowing reports in newspapers and magazines. Billy Joe felt that she was a hidden treasure and he asked her to his apartment.

He carried her over the threshold, then put her down long enough to put Eine Kleine NachtMusik on the CD player to get in the mood. He tore off her shrink- wrapped clothing; she gave him directions. He installed her in his special location and quickly got to know her charms. She was like nothing he had ever experienced. She could change positions seamlessly and was smooth and refined. She knew many tricks and made things easy. It was love at first byte. They did everything together. Her spreadsheet, wordprocessor and graphics were seductive. She knew combinations he hadn't used . Her desk top publishing and databaseing were remarkable for her size. She only

wordprocessor and graphics were seductive. She knew combinations he hadn't used . Her desk top publishing and databaseing were remarkable for her size. She only weighed 1.2 megs stripped and even with 1/2 meg of accessories she was under 2 megs.He didn't miss his overweightware companions.

Later, Billy Joe leaned back, put his arms behind his head, and watched Imaginaria at work on the screen. Claris was asleep beside him. He listened to the sound of Saint-Saens' Violin Concerto now coming from the other room. He knew he must share her, but for now she was his.

**Electronic Arts Review**

*by Mark & Marsha Christopher*

A software review of: Ping and Kooky's Cuckoo Zoo Peter Pan - A Story Painting Adventure Scooter's Magic Castle Eagle Eye Mysteries

The first two games were non-interactive demos, so it was difficult to truly judge the love/hate meter of Marsha, my 7 year old. In Ping and Kooky's, you ride through on a train learning ABC's, counting, memory testing, and songs from the animals in the zoo. For ages 3 to 6.

Peter Pan story painting has tools like Jazz the Paintbrush, and Winston Whoosh the Eraser which you use to defeat Captain Hook. You don't really "paint" per-say, the tools help you control the events of the story. For ages 6 to 10.

The Scooters Magic Castle interactive demo allowed us to play two of the twenty-five learning games. The Wizards Chamber was a memory game that Marsha still enjoys. Along with Noisy Stairs, another memory game which involves both musical notes and color. The Castle also has three levels of difficulty and an owl perched in every room ready to help at anytime. I liked this one, and Marsha's love/hate meter on a scale of 0-10 rated it at a 6. For ages 5 to 8.

Eagle Eye Mysteries was a different story as far as Marsha was concerned. There is a lot of dialogue at the beginning. Both of us thought it was a bit excessive. But the screens can be sped up by just pressing <enter~ until you get to the game itself. Basically it's a who-done-it for kids. You have a choice of two partners, and together you collect clues to solve the mystery. The game requires quit a bit of reading and is recommended for ages 8 and up.

All of these games are run through a type of menu called a Theater. Looks like the front of a movie theater with pictures of the different games "playing". These can also be set-up to run off a floppy so the little darling doesn't necessarily have access to your hard drive.

IBM and compatibles. 386-16mhz or better, 2mb of hard drive space, 256 color VGA, DOS 3.3 or higher. SUPPORTED: EMS, sound boards. RECOMMENDED: DOS 5, mouse, and sound board.

*EA*Kids Software*
*1450 Fashion Island Blvd.*
*San Mateo, CA 94404*
*1-415-571 -71 71•1-800-245-4525*

Students in Business - Paul Walker
PrintScreen Editor

# Editor's Piece

Thanks for the response on our first edition. Some of you contributed articles that couldn't be used this month, due to the length of all of the articles. We'll try to get them in next month.

Be sure to FAX clean copies, we do scan them. Diskettes are accepted - would save you all money. Your patience in our growing pains is appreciated. Remember no articles accepted after the 10th of each month!!!

*Paul*

## Planning Meeting

**April 6 (1st Wednesday)**
**at 7:30pm**
***The location***
**1670 Oak Avenue, Menlo Park**

Help us to make decisions about the club. All members are welcome. You don't have to be a club officer to get your views heard.

## Newsletter Info

**To Submit Articles, Editorials, Cartoons or other "newsworthy" items for the PRinTSCreen, call, write, fax, or send a file to.**

Paul Walker c/o S.I.B.
P.O. Box 1669 • Fremont, CA 94538-0166
Work: (510) 440-0240
FAX: (510) 440-9435

**Also include a "hard copy" of anything submitted on disk.**
**For Circulation Questions, please contact Jim Bailey at (415) 494-0631.**

## CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads of a non-commercial nature are free to all members. The rates for commercial ones are:

| | |
|---|---|
| Business card | $10 |
| Quarter page | $60 |
| Half page | $100 |
| Full page | $170 |

***For further details contact:***
**Beverly Altman [415] 329-8252**
**or Jennifer Wildman (408)335-7892**

## Resume Referral Service

Dick Harding
20 Willow Rd. #21
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(415)322-9645

This service is free to SPAUG members. Dick shares your resume with local companies who are looking for new employees. For more info, call Dick at the number above.


**BARRY A. SMITH**
SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
415-926-7696

**SMITH BARNEY**

SMITH BARNEY, HARRIS UPHAM & CO. INC.
3000 SAND HILL ROAD
MENLO PARK, CA 94025
800-624-7248


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# THE SPAUG RESOURCE CENTER

## OFFICERS

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|---|---|---|
| President | Cookie Cook | [415] 282-0474 |
| | Brian Christopher | [415] 952-5632 |
| Vice President | Jan Altman | [408] 243-5955 |
| Treasurer | Bev Altman | [415] 329-8252 |

## MANAGERS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bulletin Board (SPARC) Sysop | Brian Christopher | [415] 952-5632 |
| PRinT SCreen Editor | Paul Walker | [510] 440-0240 |
| Resource Center | Rich Madden | [408] 253-2075 |

*SPAUG members are encouraged to make themselves available to other members to answer questions about hardware or software. Your area may be general or specialized. If you are willing to have your name added to this list, please contact the Resource Center Manager, Rich Madden at [408] 253-2075.*

## SOFTWARE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Accounting | Larry Mehl | [415] 329-6037 |
| Lotus 1-2-3 | Larry Mehl | [415] 329-6037 |
| Quicken | Floyd Kessler | [415] 493-7780 |
| Windows Products | Jan Altman | [408] 243-5955 |
| R:Base | Larry Mehl | [415] 326-6037 |
| Paradox | Quinn Wildman | [408] 335-7892 |
| dBase/FoxPro | Dick Harding | [415] 322-9645 |
| CD-ROM | Chalie Wiener | [408] 225-1081 |

## LANGUAGES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| C | John Watson | [415] 325-7632 |
| Fortran | John Watson | [415] 325-7632 |
| Pascal | John Watson | [415] 325-7632 |
| Smalltalk | John Watson | [415] 325-7632 |
| Telecommunications | Larry Mehl | [415] 329-6037 |

**For Sale**

Fox Pro 2.5/win Fry's $349 Sell $140/offer

Quicken 3.0/win Upgrade $39

Companion Upgrade $10

Sell both for $40

For more informanton call Larry Weinberg (415-969-2292

***Need A Job ?***

Position -Senior Systems Analyst
5-8 Years experience with with computer systems
3 years ecperience of PC- based applications
Paradox experience required (i.e. Paradox,dos,c)
Ecellent communication/business analysis skills
Salary--$50k
location--San Franciso

Events!!!!!!!!!!

April 21 Beginners Sig.-3rd Thursday
Time at 7:00PM.
Lead By Sol Lederman.
See mailling Party Announcement Below Directions.
Directions: Come one Mile South on El Camino From Pagemill (Palo Alto) and trun Right on Los Robles. Go 4 Miles to 804 Los Robles Ave.
From more informaton Call Jim at (4150494-0631

Need A Job?

Pos2.: Pc Technical Support
Install,Troubleshoot, tech support, maintain, inventory, coordinate repairs. Knowledge of : DOS, Apple Os, Sun Os and pc Application Sofitware packages. PC or Macintosh Hardwire, Basic VMS and Unix commands, PC and/or Macintosh printers, Sun workstations.
Salary--35-37K
Location-South San Francisco

## CLUB INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Meetings** | Cookie Cook<br>(415)282-0474<br>Brian Christopher<br>(415) 952-5632 |
| **Membership** | Beverly Altman<br>(415) 329-8252<br>$35 per year |
| **Bulletin Board** | (415) 321-4497 |
| **Newsletter** | Students in Business<br>Paul Walker<br>(408) 440-0240 |


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TOPIC FOR MARCH
THE SUPER HIGHWAYS AND US

SPAUG MEETING INFORMATION

SPAUG meets the last Wednesday of each month at Varian in Palo Alto. Meetings begin at 7:30. The address is 3075 Hansen Way, Building 7.

The Stanford/Palo Alto
PC User Group

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10/1/94

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