



Mid-Cities Commodore Club
413 Chisolm Trail
Hurst, TX 76053

*** JULY 1983

MCCC NEWS

ISSUE 4 ***

*** JUNE MINUTES ***

The June meeting of the MCCC was called to order by Garry Wordelman. Reports were given by the Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. Garry announced that the club had purchased five diskettes containing the Public Domain Programs. COMPUTERVISION in Arlington is offering club members a 10% discount on software and hardware. He also stressed the need for cooperation and organization during the meeting and outlined a new format for future meetings.

Four amendments to the Constitution were presented to the club to be voted on at the July meeting. The amendments concerned: 1. A non-discrimination clause. 2. An exemption to the \$100 approval requirement for costs associated with producing the newsletter and other club mailings. 3. Club assets will remain club assets until the club is dissolved. 4. The club will be dissolved upon amendment to the Constitution. All assets will then be distributed to a charitable or a non-profit organization.

Two expenditure approvals were made. The first was approval to spend in excess of \$100 to produce the June and July newsletter. The second was approval to buy two different word processor packages to be used by the newsletter editor and the secretary. These will be property of the club and may be checked out by club members when their use is not required by the officers.

Also discussed was the possibility of the club buying diskettes and tapes in mass quantities for the members. Member interest in this idea was to be mentioned in the survey which was made available at the door.

Mr. Henry Zaehring of Bell Helicopter gave an informative program on screen formatting. Garry thanked the members for their cooperation and attentiveness to the new format and ground rules before adjourning to more orderly user group meetings.

*** PRESIDENT'S NOTES ***

I would like to thank all of you for your help and cooperation at the June meeting. The new meeting format worked out well. We will continue with the same procedure for the July meeting, except that the VIC-20 users group will set-up in the room just north of the main meeting room. I apologize for the lack of air conditioning--we hope to have that problem ironed out for the next meeting. Thanks also to all of you who took the time to fill out a member survey. The results will be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Please note the four constitutional amendments which we'll be voting on at the July meeting. The fourth amendment has been amended as per the discussion last month. Upon dissolution, all club assets would be distributed to a charitable or non-profit group.

We received a response from the Toronto group, TPUG. The MCCC is a TPUG member and a listing of their 3000+ programs has been given to David Sunkel.

Lastly, this month's meeting will emphasize printers and their use. If you have a printer other than the 1525, we'd like for you to bring it and be prepared to demonstrate it. If you're interested, please give me a call. I'm looking forward to another great meeting July 16th.

Gary

*** USING YOUR DISK DRIVE ***

Several people have expressed exasperation about storing and retrieving data with their disk drive. I hope I can provide some help. I am not an expert - some of my techniques can certainly be improved upon. But the way I use the disk in this sample program is the same as I used in my HOME INVENTORY program and it works. Some of the specifics I don't understand, but I don't care as long as I can do what I need to do. If you are a novice, use this program as an example. Plug in your own variables and file names and try to write your own program.

The first thing to remember is to format your diskette. These commands will work:

```
OPEN1,8,15 <RETURN>
PRINT#1,"N0:diskname,01" <RETURN>
```

After your disk drive stops running, (it should've made a clicking noise at first) type in LOAD "#",8 <RETURN>, then LIST. If you were successful you'll see the disk directory come up with your diskname and "664 BLOCKS FREE". An easier way to format is with the MENU program (available from club members) or with the 1541 Back-up Single Disk copy program.

For now, your disk will store two different types of files - program and sequential. A program file is simply a program, a set of numbered commands which allow you to "do" something. A sequential file (or relative or random, as you learn more) contains data - items of information which you want to save so you can recall them later.

Let's say you want to keep track of the sales tax you pay on purchases. Your program file will be the set of commands listed below. Your sequential file will include the data you enter, ie the date, amount, tax, etc. Here's how the flow goes. The first time you run the program you enter all the data you want to save. When you're through, you "write" the data with the PRINT# command to the disk. Now you have your sequential file. Later on, when you want to retrieve the data, you "read" the data with the INPUT# command into the computer memory from the disk.

Of course, the actual commands are a little more complicated. Before you can write or read to a file, that file must be opened. And before that file can be opened, the command channel has to be opened. Here's the sequence and the format. Variables are underlined, meaning you can use your own numbers or names.

```
OPEN1,8,15,"IO"           (opens command channel)
OPEN2,8,2,"@0:name,S,W"   (opens channel 2 for writing to
                           sequential file "name")
PRINT#2,A$,A              (writes the data in variables A$ and
                           A to the file opened in channel 2)
CLOSE2                    (closes the file opened in channel 2)
OPEN2,8,2,"0:name,S,R"    (opens channel 2 for reading from
                           sequential file named "name")
INPUT#2,A$,A              (reads the data in variables A$ and
                           A from the file opened in channel 2)
CLOSE 2                    (closes file)
CLOSE 15                   (closes command channel)
```