DYNAMIC MEMORIES™

™ Tandy Corp / Radio Shack Inc.

DECEMBER 84

MERRY

XMAS

TO

ALL

SOUTH BAY TRS-80 USERS GROUP

Page--Contents

SBUG meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the
north-east corner of Dysan's building at:
                                5401 Patrick Henry Drive
     Time-7:15 to 10:30 P.M.   Santa Clara,Ca.

                  December 18, January 15, February 19

7:30 to 8:00 will be an dedicated to elections. This will
be followed by the usual open session, where questions are
answered for the less expert by the most expert.
No other program details are at hand.

****
The first Wednesday of every month is for Model 100 fans.
Same place, same time
****

                            MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to become a member of SBUG and start receiving
our   newsletter "Dynamic   Memories"   then send $18.00
(check/moneyorder) to the following address:

            South Bay TRS-80 Users Group
            P.O.Box 60116
            Sunnyvale,Ca.94088

or come to one of our meetings. If you also wish to
communicate with our bulletin board system (SBUG-80) then
include an additional $25.00 for an account on the system.
You must be a member of SBUG to have an account on SBUG-80.
Please include your address and phone number. Thanks...
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YOUR STEERING COMMITTEE

SBUG-80

Member	Username	Phone
Discussion Leaders:		
Sabri Kawash	(SABRI)	(408) 732-5482
Eric Brewer	(BREWER)	(408) 252-9332
Casey Parker	(CASEY)	(415) 793-2715
Treasurer:		
Glenn Vaughn	(TREAS)	(408) 262-3608
Newsletter Editor:		
Joel Lee	(EDITOR)	(408) 926-3999
(disc) Bernie Thompson	(BERNIE)	(408) 867-7455
(tape) Gary Dixon	(GDIXON)	(408) 262-6937
(doc>) Pete Fratus	(FRATUS)	(408) 258-8389
SBUG-80 Sysop:		
Robert Byrd	(SYSOP)	(408) 945-9990

OTHER KEY INDIVIDUALS

Cover Artist:

Public Relations:		
VOLUNTEER NEEDED	(---)	(XXX) XXX-XXXX
Host Computer:		
SBUG-80	(EVERYONE)	(408) 946-2286

If the need arises, feel free to give any one of us a call.

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THE EDITOR'S BYTES & BITES

Nominations for offices were held last meeting, as announced. (See page 3 for details). It was not exactly a lively political meeting. The apathy could have been spread with a spatula. It gave me the feeling that had I declared myself JOEL I, Czar, Kaiser, President for life, and immortal ruler of all the SBUGGERS, I would have carried it off without too much of a struggle, given the goons I had stationed in the back of the hall.

Fortunately for all of you, my ambitions do not extend in that direction. My eventual consecration, in another sphere, will come as a surprise to all. There is a lesson to be learned by anyone interested. The key to political success is not worthiness for the office, it is the indifference of the electorate. The governed get the government they deserve.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

ELECTIONS

The following is the list of nominations decided upon by the membership at the November meeting.

For discussion leader: Eric Brewer
                       Don Rhodes
                       Gerry McKee
                       Wright Huntley

For treasurer   Eric Brewer
                       Don Rhodes

For Newsletter Editor: Joel Lee

For Librarians:
            Disc: Bernie Thompson
            Tape: Gary Dixon
            Doc: Pete Fratus

For Cover Artist: Volunteer needed

For Public Relations: Volunteer needed

In regards to the double nominations of Eric Brewer and Don Rhodes, there is some confusion that will have to be sorted out at the December elections.

SPOOLING WITH THE MODEL 4 AND 4P

By Ian Webb

The spooling feature of the Model 4 TRSDOS 6.1/6.2 is something that should be of great use to everyone. Even with only 64K, this feature is very useful. With the 128K machine, this means you can use a 32K spooler without a loss of primary memory.

When can you use the spooler? Whenever a program accesses the printer through the DOS SVC routines. If the program accesses the printer directly through an output to the hardware port, you need to re-write the routine to go through DOS. For example, Model 4 VISICALC goes through DOS so it can use the spooler with no modification of the program.

The regular printer drivers for SuperScripsit use port outputs to the printer, they need to be modified. Using the spooler with VISICALC, you can still have a 58K spreadsheet if you have the 128K machine. (There is NO EXCUSE for not having a 128K machine these days. See past articles I have written.) When you want to print a spreadsheet, you can do so; wait a few seconds for the spooler to take over

and then go on with your work with little apparent delay. The printer will stop whenever you are accessing the disk drives, but other than that, you forget that you are using the spooler. (If you want additional spooling capability, you can also direct overflow to a disk file, but I only use the memory.)

Since many members of our user's group are former NEWDOS80 users and aren't familiar with LDOS 5.1 and its features, which are similar to TRSDOS 6.1/6.2, I thought I should remind you of this valuable feature built-into TRSDOS 6.1/6.2.

How do you cause the spooler to become operative? From the DOS prompt, type SPOOL *PR (BANK=1,DISK=0).This creates a 32K spooling area in memory and DOESN'T form a disk file for overflow. From then on the spooler is operative. See your DOS manual for details. The procedure is similar with LDOS 5.1, but the bank feature is unavailable.

If there is sufficient interest expressed in how to modify your printer driver, that can be tackled in a future article.

SUPERSCRIPSIT FOR THE MODEL 4

By Ian Webb

I hadn't been using SuperScripsit for the Model 4, since I so often use Model III machines at school for work I am doing. The other day I decided to begin to see about using Model 4 SuperScripsit. I was sorely disappointed.

The Model 4 SuperScripsit is as bad as the "old" Electric Pencil was. If you type faster than 40 or so words per minute, you can out-type SuperScripsit for the Model 4. Practically every line, particularly at the end of the lines, drops at least one character. Proofreading is more hassle than it's worth.

Perhaps Model III SuperScripsit suffers from the same problems under some circumstances, but at home I always run it at double clock speed and I haven't noticed it on unmodified Model III machines at school.

I have talked with someone who has run SuperScripsit at 6 MHz on the Model 4 and that apparently solves the problem. However, the clock speed-up that he bought has other problems and he has sent it back.

Until Radio Shack "fixes" this problem don't bother with SuperScripsit in the Model 4 mode unless you are a "hunt and peck" typist. It is more frustration than it's

SuperScripsit on the shelf.

Besides, Wordstar doesn't suffer from mysterious problems and unpredictable loss of files. I wish I hadn't wasted my money on a SuperScripsit upgrade to Model 4.

RADIO SHACK CP/M+ FOR THE MODEL 4

By Ian Webb

If you agree with me that SuperScripsit for the Model 4 is a waste of money, you are going to really agree on this one! I bit on the special for CP/M+ several months ago. I should have known better. It is an utterly worthless package compared to CP/M 2.2 from Montezuma Micro.

CP/M+ is slow and cumbersome and has obvious errors such as a problem with the date routine when you sign on. (A recent 80 Micro had a fix, but that DOESN'T completely fix the routine...even the author of that routine didn't catch another problem!)

CP/M+ doesn't support enough disk formats to make it worthwhile and the disk capacity is very small. The Transient Program Area (TPA), which is a measure of the size of a program you can run, is very small, even when used with the 128K machine. The Tandy CP/M+ doesn't allow double sided drive support and you can't use 80 track drives. The small capacity disk format is made worse by the lack of support of these higher capacity drives.

The package CAN read Kaypro and Osborne diskettes, but this isn't documented where I have found it. You just put in the diskettes and can read them and write to them. In fact, if you have a friend with a Kaypro or Osborne, you would be smart to have them format all your diskettes for you so you can use the larger capacity disks used by those machines.

Several rumors about a Tandy upgrade (free???) have circulated, but at this point nothing has materialized. Any of the rest of you suckers want to institute a class action lawsuit for our money and damages????

MODEL 4P FEATURES

By Ian Webb

The Model 4P Service Manual shows that the machine will NOT support external drives without hardware modification. The drive select lines to the external drives are not wired to the cable and the buffers on the lines are missing. Even if you open the case and add a connector to the outside world you will have to wire in

a buffer and the connections to the cable. This explains why I couldn't get a response from external drives when I tried it while I added double-sided internal drives.

The 4P Service Manual also mentions two possible configurations of the machine. It clearly states that double-sided drives are a possible configuration. I suppose that is a future feature, or is it something they decided against?

The manual also shows two different video configurations, one with a B&W tube and one with the green screen. Even though there are two separate parts lists and schematics, the only difference seems to be the actual CRT.

When you boot you can cause a diagnostic routine in the 4P to be enabled if you hold down the period key. The service manual shows quite a few interesting routines available in the 4K boot ROM. It is also possible to boot the machine from the RS-232 line making the machine a true remote to another machine????

TRSDOS 6.2

By Ian Webb

TRSDOS 6.2 is an upgrade to the LSI operting system for the Models 4 and 4P. It costs approximately $40 and comes with a completely new padded binder. (If it's padded, you know it's going to cost more!) Included is a new DOS diskette and pages to add to the Technical Reference Manual if you purchased that.

Among the features that have been added are a CAT command which is a "no features" DIR command. (Wonder if the Apple CATALOG has anything to do with this?) There is also an on line HELP feature if you wish to use disk space for it. The system is much smoother and seems quite a bit faster than the 6.1.2 latest implementation. I think it's worth the investment.

Even though the local store said they didn't think the new machines would come with TRSDOS 6.2, our EDITOR reported that his new Model 4 had it. I suspect "everyone" will be using it within a few months. Even Tandy knows that if a piece of software is shipped with the machines that it will travel the underground pipeline faster than data on the data bus!

GOOD BUYS - RUMORS - SPECULATION

By Ian Webb

There was a Model III, unmodified Tandy 2-drive machine with about 20-30 hours of use on it, sold via an advertisement in the Mercury-News a few weeks ago. Price? $400 !!!! Being sold by an individual who needed a machine to transfer files to his CP/M machine and who said he couldn't borrow or rent one so he just bought it to use for file transfer and didn't need it any more.

The computer swap at DeAnza has little TRS 80 equipment in it, but there have been a few interesting items. A host adaptor and hard-drive controller were being sold for $75 apiece...no guarantee though. Saw two very clean Shugart SS DD 8" drives for $25 apiece. I was tempted, but restrained myself. Since I already have two, one in use and one for parts, I just couldn't figure out what to do with two more!

Most of the rest of what is there has been game oriented, Apple and Atari and pseudo-commercial outifts with relatively high prices. This last week at least the 1/2 height FD55B drives were down to $125 from $155 a month ago. That's not quite as good as the $105 advertised at a place in San Leandro a few months ago.

There is a Model 4 Profile + in the works. I haven't seen it work, but did have my hands on the diskette. It is through beta testing and should be along before long. I understand that the preliminary manual had so many mistakes in it that it appeared as though it would need to be re-written.

There is a program due out which will allow two programs to run on the Model 4 at the same time using the two banks of memory. Most likely it really means one runs while the other suspends operation. Not yet available. Why not a "sidekick" like program which Borland is selling for the IBM PC? Maybe the same techniques would allow it to reside in a 32K bank and be called up when needed to do arithmetic or refer to an appointment book, etc.

A Christmas Letter

Courtesy of Glenn Vaughn

Miss Agnes McHolstein
69 Cash Avenue
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 14,1981

Dearest John,

I went to the door today and the postman delivered a partridge and a pear tree. What a thoroughly delightful gift. I couldn't have been more surprised. With deepest love and devotion,

Agnes

Miss Agnes McHolstein
69 Cash Avenue
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 15, 1981

Dearest John,

Today the postman brought your very sweet gift. Just
imagine----two turtle doves! I'm delighted at your very
thoughtful gift. They are just adorable.

All my love,
Agnes

Miss Agnes McHolstein
69 Cash Avenue
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 16, 1981

Dear John,

Oh! Aren't you the extravagant one! Now I must really
protest. I don't deserve such generosity - French hens.
They are just darling, but I must insist - you've been
too kind.

Love,
Agnes

Miss Agnes McHolstein
69 Cash Avenue
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 17, 1981
Dear John,
Today the postman delivered 4 calling birds. Now, really,
they are beautiful, but don't you think enough is enough?
You're being too romantic.

Affectionately,
Agnes

Miss Agnes McHolstein
69 Cash Avenue
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 18, 1981

SOUTH BAY TRS-80 USERS GROUP

Dearest John,

What a surprise! Today the postman delivered 5 golden
rings, one for every finger. You're just impossible, but I
love it. Frankly, all those birds squawking were beginning
to get on my nerves.

<div style="text-align: center">

All my Love,
Agnes

</div>

Miss Agnes McHolstein
69 Cash Avenue
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 19, 1981

Dear John,

When I opened the door there were actually six geese
a-laying on my front steps. So you're back to the birds
again, huh? Those geese are huge. Where will I ever keep
them? The neighbors are complaining and I can't sleep
through the racket. Please stop!

<div style="text-align: center">

Cordially,
Agnes

</div>

Miss Agnes McHolstein
69 Cash Avenue
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 20, 1981

John,

What's with you and those stinking birds? Seven swans
a-swimming. What kind of stupid joke is this? There's
bird crap all over the house and they never stop with the
racket. I can't sleep at night and I'm a nervous wreck.
It's not funny, so stop with those blasted birds.

<div style="text-align: center">

Sincerely,
Agnes

</div>

Miss Agnes McHolstein
69 Cash Avenue
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 21, 1981

OK, Buster,

I think I prefer the birds. What the hell am I going to do

with eight maids a-milking?   It's not enough with all those birds and eight maids a-milking, but they had to bring their cows.   There's crap all over the lawn, and I can't move in my own house. Just lay off me, please.

<div align="center">Agnes</div>

Miss Agnes McHolstein
69 Cash Avenue
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 22, 1981

Hey, Peabrain,

What are you? Some kind of sadist? Now there's nine pipers playing. And, do they play! They've never stopped chasing those maids since they got here yesterday morning. The cows are getting upset and they're stepping all over those screeching birds. What am I going to do?   The neighbors have started a petition to evict me.

<div align="center">You'll get yours,
Agnes</div>

Miss Agnes McHolstein
69 Cash Avenue
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 23, 1981

You Rotten Swine,

Now there's ten ladies dancing. I don't know why I call them ladies. They've been fooling with those pipers all night long. Now the cows can't sleep and they've got diarrhea. My living room is a river of crap.   The Commissioner of Housing has subpoenaed me to give cause why my home shouldn't be condemned. I'm calling the police!

<div align="center">One who means it.</div>

Miss Agnes McHolstein
69 Cash Avenue
Beaver Valley, Colorado

December 24, 1981

Listen, you Amoeba,

What's with the eleven lords a-leaping on those maids and ladies? Some of these people will never walk again. Those

pipers have been doing unspeakable things with the cows. All 23 of the birds were trampled to death in the orgy. I hope you're satisfied with your little joke you rotten, vicious villain!

> Your sworn enemy,
> Agnes

Law Offices
Badger, Bender, and Cajole
303 Knave Street
Denver, Colorado

December 25, 1981

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge your latest gift of twelve fiddlers fiddling which you have seen fit to inflict on our client, Miss Agnes McHolstein. The destruction, of course, was total. All correspondence should come to our attention. If you should attempt to reach Miss Mc Holstein at Happy Dale Sanitarium, the attendants have instructions to shoot you on sight. With this letter please find attached a warrant for your arrest.

> Cordially,
> Badger, Bender and Cajole

SOME EDITORIAL MAUNDERINGS AND WANDERINGS

Best gag of the yea:**Ian Webb's "Das Dos Wars".

Most authorities on education, as well as the laity, are in agreement that our schools have gone badly astray for the last twenty years. The kids are not at fault. Children will always reflect their environment. Which brings me rapidly to computers. If you're working with a computer, you have to do it right. Errors may be retrievable, but they must be corrected. Kids will conform to that, accept it as the way things are. There could be no better discipline.

There is the usual mistrust, misunderstanding and fear of something new with regards to the use of computers in schools. They are a pedagogic tool. Certainly one of the best tools of all time, but not more than a tool. No teacher can be replaced by a computer. A good teacher is a jewel beyond compare. Great teachers are rare. So are great football players. There is a certain disparity in their salaries. Nothing new. The gladiators used to make out pretty well, too.

COMPUTER GOBBLEDEGOOK

BY DAVID R. LEE

Computer prose isn't written in iambic meter
In fact, the style is worse than Gabriel Heater
Computer techs mangle our tongue
For example, here's a sample for which someone should be
hung:

A binary state is known as a bit
But that's only the barest beginning of it
A set of bits is known as a bite
And it's the same as a character, or just about right

In computer code there's eight bits to the byte
But just when you think you're seeing the light
You find there's eight bits or 16 to the word,
Or even 32, isn't that absurd?

A set of characters makes up a field
About this time you should be ready to yield
Because a record is made of a collection of fields
Oh, the power that a technical jargoneer wields

A set of records makes up a file
If properly organised, otherwise it's a pile
But sometimes records make up database
When file systems are limited, which is often the case

Computer size is now easy to measure
Turned from a chore into electronic pleasure
A K is a thousand characters (or bytes)
While M is a million of these little delights.

And computer speeds are rated in bits per second
Divided by ten gives characters per second, I reckon
But hardware people just to be mean
Often talk about Baud rate--it's nearly obscene.

And speaking of prurience, hard about hardware
That just means equipment so don't get a scare
Then is software just hardware that's turned into fluids?
No, it means the programming seemingly written by Druids.

Those wizards of programming who write the instructions
Which run the computer and make all the deductions
And now that you've toured the world of computers
Will you be addicted, or stay one of the disputers.

First a warning from one who knows computer traditions
It's a machine with no judgement but which can make
decisions
It's fast and accurate and a powerful tool
But it can't keep humans from playing the fool
Because the computer just does what the software bids
And who picksd the software?--well you and me, kids.

So "computer errors" it's easy to see
Are like the drunk who ran his car into the tree
On appearing in court, his knees shaking in terror
Pled "Not guilty, your honor, it was a car error."

MAIL

11/25/84
<Message from JIBBYTRM at SBUG-80 11/26/84 20:41:44>
RE: DISC DRIVE SHUNT FOR LAST DRIVE IN STRING (RADIO SHACK)
Read command :

SORRY GUYS

    i LOST THE DISC I DOWNLOADED THE INFO ON THE CABLE
AND HOOKUP FOR THE MODEL I DISC DRIVE.   WHATS THIS
ABOUT THE LAST DRIVE IN THE RADIO SHACK STRING NOT NEEDINT
ANY SHUNT ???   BRUCE CARSO MODIFIED MY RS DRIVES SO I
COULD USE AN MPI AS THE 3RD DRIVE AND HE HAD TO CHANGE
THE SHUNT.   I WAS USING A STANDARD CABLE AT THAT TIME.
BRUCE, BRUCE WHARE ARE YOU.   DON'T YOU REMEMBER HOW IT
WAS DONE ??   IAN HAVE YOU EVER MIXED RS DRIVES WITH
OTHERS USING A STANDARD CABLE AND NOT THE RS CABLE ??
AGAIN I WILL MAKE IT SIMPLE !!!

    1.)   I HAVE 2 STANDARD SHUGART RS DRIVES
    2.)   I HAVE 1 STANDARD DISC DRIVE CABLE (NON-RS)
    3.)   I HAVE MADE THE MODS IAN GAVE ME ON THE CABLE
    4.)   WHAT DO MY SHUNTS LOOK LIKE FOR DRIVE 0 AND
          DRIVE 1 ????
    THE DRIVES POWER UP OK BUT DON'T RESPOND TO ANY
COMMANDS.   I'M FIXING UP MY OTHER SYSTEM FOR MY SON
FOR CHRISTMAS.   HE'S IS FINALLY GETTING INTERESTED IN
COMPUTERS AND I CAN'T GET ON MINE DURING THE WEEKENDS.

      HELP---HELP----HELP

                              THANKS GUYS
                              STILL HACKING
                              JIBBYTRM

<Message from GMCKEE   at SBUG-80 11/27/84 00:40:35>
RE: Drive Cable Answers
Read command :

Radio Shack Drive cable philosophy is, drive 0
Connector must have pin 12,14, and 32 pulled out,
drive 1 must have pins 10 ,14 and 32 pulled,
drive 2 connector must have pins 10,12, and 32
pulled out. Drive 3 has pins 10,12, and 14 pulled
out. With this arrangement, a full jumper in each
drive will address that drive to its particular
connector address. It is necessary for all drives
used in the drive 3 position to have a jumper
installed between trace from edge connector 10

AND edge connector 32.
It IS possible to do this another way, and if you
are 'DO'ing it yourself, I'de recommend it! KEEP
ALL CONNECTORS COMPLETE! Pull NO PINS! Pin 32 is
NOT to be Jumpered, except on drive 3, where it is
to be connected to trace of pin 10 on the drive
(AFTER carefully cutting just the edge connector
pin 10, from it's trace) Jumper drive 3 as if it
were Drive 0. Your jumpering pattern will be:
HL/DO*HL/D1*HL/D2 & HL/DO. With this pattern,
you can move the drives to any connector in the
string, and they will retain their address!
CAVEAT EMPTOR! It is quite possible
to get caught in a BEAR TRAP making new cables!
I KNOW!
Lay out your fresh 34 lead flat cable
(from left to right) on table with the Index
(red?) lead toward you. Place the (Computer end)
edge connector on top the left end of this flat
lead, pin 1-2 end toward index wire, open slot
facing up! next place edge connectors for drives
UNDER the cable, at the appropriate spacing,
pin 1-2 end toward the index wire, open slot DOWN.
Now you can consider making the actual connection
mountings! Congratulations. you got it right the
first time! Cost me at least 20 connectors and
100 feet of wire to get, successfully, to this
point! JIBBYTRM GET ME YOUR PHONE!GMCKEE
                                SBUG-80

Read command :

<Message from SYSOP   at SBUG-80 11/27/84 14:06:58>
RE: SYSOP'S ok to upload and other responces to complaints.
Read command :

Hi Gang:
    You don't need my ok to contribute a program.
Just make sure to document your contribution in
the DO INDEX section. Remember, public domain
programs only! Unless you are the author and give
your ok.
    As for the lack/need of features on SBUG-80. Sure
TBBS is good, but TBBS does not operate liken in
any way to SBUG-80. You are comparing apples and
oranges (yes, they are both round, but that is all).
SBUG-80 places the user at the DOS level with adequate
security measures to make the system efficient. Does
TBBS use a relation data base to document programs?
Can programs which are not online be requested for
future downloading? Is there a membership function
for officers to keep records on everyone. Can you
observe system directories? Can the system be
EASILY modified with new features (i.e. BASIC).
There are many trade offs, but for a PRIVATE BBS
(ours) SBUG-80 is more than adequate for the job.

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group
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