

Commodore's 3-for-2 deal pays off

The trend-setting "three-for-two" educational-grant program started by Commodore in 1979 has given away more than 13,000 microcomputers, the company recently reported.

PET 2000 and 4000 series micros, plus CBM 8000 machines, have been delivered free to public and private institutions, from elementary schools to colleges and universities. The program grants a free Commodore computer to educational institutions that buy two Commodore micros from authorized dealers. Including the units that were purchased in order to qualify for free microcomputers, the program has provided nearly 40,000 micros that are currently being used for education, the company said.

"We don't need an act of Congress to get Commodores in the schools," said Kit Spencer, Commodore vice-president of marketing, alluding to the bill recently introduced by U.S. Rep. Fortney H. Stark of California that would allow tax write-offs for companies that donate computers to schools. The bill came about after Stark met with Apple Computer Chairman Steven P. Jobs.

Enhancements for Commodore

Small Systems Engineering has introduced three enhancements for the Commodore computer line.

The SoftBox permits Commodore users to run CP/M packages and interface with up to four Corvus Winchester hard-disk drives. It contains a Z80-based 64K RAM board. CP/M 2.2 and RS-232 interfacing capability are also included.

The HardBox, teamed one to a computer, allows up to 64 users to access the same Corvus hard-disk storage simultaneously.

The Petspeed compiler allows Commodore BASIC programs to run up to

30 times their normal interpretive speed.

The SoftBox costs \$895; the HardBox, \$695; and the Pet-speed compiler, \$350. Small Systems Engineering is located at 71 Park Lane, Brisbane, CA 94005.

Small Systems Engineering's HardBox, Softbox and Petspeed compiler for Commodore PET and CBM computers



Assembly



Fairchild "fault finders" inspect boards resting on a special "bed of nails" to detect any problems in circuitry.

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boards then go to the "bed of nails" where Fairchild "fault finders" analyze the continuity of the boards' circuitry. All boards are then "burned in" for 24 hours.

Other parts for the computers arrive from the warehouse and the computers are assembled and burned in again. The interface chip for the keyboards undergoes a separate burn-in test.

The factory produces systems a hundred or two hundred at a time. The metal parts that go into the main frame of the machine are manufactured in Canada and the plastic components and CRTs come "from various vendors," according to Crockett. Commodore is also manufacturing printers and some disk drives in Japan.

"The bulk of the technology is in the board," Crockett said. Other problems are comparatively easy next to this one, he added.

Crockett said the facility has no real safety problems; gases near the wave-soldering machinery are quickly vented away. He said warehouse workers do have to be careful to avoid having things fall on them.

"As I talk to people, there's no question they think Commodore has the top technical facilities," Crockett said. If it wasn't for the current recession, he conjectured, the plant would be even busier than it already is, and even more people would be buying Commodore computers.

HAVE WE GOT A PROGRAM FOR YOU IN '82

Over 150,000 computer owners and novices attended the 1981 National Computer Shows and Office Equipment Expositions, and more than a quarter of a million are expected to be at the 1982 shows.

Each show features **hundreds** of companies using **thousands** of square feet of display space to showcase and sell **millions** of dollars worth of micro and mini computers, data and word processing equipment, peripherals, accessories, supplies and software.

Under one roof you'll see — and be able to buy — all of the hardware and software made by every major computer manufacturer for business, industry, government, education, home and personal use.

The show includes computers costing as little as \$100 to computers selling for \$150,000.

Don't miss the coming of the new computers — show up for the show. Admission is \$5 per person and \$3 for children.

THE SOUTHWEST COMPUTER SHOW

Dallas
Dallas Market Hall

Thursday-Sunday
April 15-18, 1982
11 AM to 6 PM Daily

DIRECTIONS:
2200 STEMMONS FREEWAY
(AT INDUSTRIAL BLVD)

THE NEW YORK COMPUTER SHOW

Uniondale, Long Island
Nassau Coliseum

Thursday-Sunday
April 22-25, 1982
11 AM to 6 PM Daily

DIRECTIONS: TAKE I-19 EXPWY
TO EXIT 38 NO. STATE PKWY
TO EXIT 31A MEADOWBROOK
PKWY SO. TO EXIT MS
HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE

THE TWIN CITIES COMPUTER SHOW

Minneapolis
Minn. Auditorium
& Convention Hall
Third Avenue

Thursday-Sunday
September 16-19, 1982
11 AM to 6 PM Daily

DIRECTIONS: HWY 94 to
11th St. Exit to Third Ave.

THE NATIONAL COMPUTER SHOWS

Ticket Information
Send \$5 with the name of the show you plan to attend to National Computer Shows, 824 Boylston Street, Chestnut Hill, Mass. 02167. Tickets can also be purchased at the show.

THE MID-ATLANTIC COMPUTER SHOW

Washington, DC
DC Armory/Starplex
Across from RFK Stadium

Thursday-Sunday
October 28-31, 1982
11 AM to 6 PM Daily

DIRECTIONS:
2001 E. CAPITOL ST. SE
(E. CAPITOL ST. EXIT OFF I-295
— KENILWORTH FRWY)

THE MID-WEST COMPUTER SHOW

Chicago
(Arlington Heights)
Arlington Park Racetrack
Exhibition Center

Thursday-Sunday
November 5-7, 1982
11 AM to 6 PM Daily

DIRECTIONS: EUCLID AVE &
WILKE RD. TAKE NW TOLLWAY
TO RTE 53 EXIT AT
EUCLID AVE EAST

THE NORTHEAST COMPUTER SHOW

Boston
Hynes Auditorium/
Prudential Center

Thursday-Sunday
November 11-14, 1982
11 AM to 6 PM Daily

DIRECTIONS: TAKE MASS
PIKE TO PRUDENTIAL
CENTER EXIT

THE SOUTHEAST COMPUTER SHOW

Atlanta
Atlanta Civic Center

Thursday-Sunday
December 9-12, 1982
11 AM to 6 PM Daily

DIRECTIONS:
395 PIEDMONT AVE NE
(AT RALPH MCGILL BLVD)

The National Computer Shows are produced by Northeast Expositions Inc. who also produce Electronics — shows featuring home entertainment equipment and personal electronics — which are held annually in major US cities. NEI also produces the Applefest Shows. For more information about any of these events call us at 617-739-2000 or write to the above address.