

# Sustaining Members

by Gord Campbell

Over the summer, a new class of TPUG membership was created. This is the 'Sustaining Member'.

Sustaining membership is open to those organizations who wish to support TPUG to a greater extent than through regular membership. The annual fee for sustaining members is \$100.00. In return, these organizations are listed in the TORPET. (Due to technical difficulties, the listings were omitted from the September issue. Apologies are due to our initial Sustaining Members for this omission.)

The charter sustaining members are:

Questar International  
Richvale Telecommunications  
T. Eaton Co. Ltd.

The idea of the Sustaining Member grew out of the June copy session. It was ultimately decided to charge no fee to organizations who exhibited their products, but rather to concentrate on providing information to the members. However, it was considered desirable to allow commercial organizations to demonstrate their support for the club in some concrete fashion. And thus, the sustaining membership was created.

## SEPTEMBER WESTSIDE MEETING BY John Easton

The first meeting of the 1982/83 season for TPUG West was held at Sheridan College in the Cafeteria where we will continue to meet until at least December. For those who had trouble finding a parking-space there was a giant almost empty parking lot on the east side next to Trafalgar road.

Should anyone be willing to take over this reporting stuff, which our editor apparently expects each month, please make yourself known. The usual number of Commodore freaks seemed to be on hand (note to me or whoever is doing the reporting next time, to get a count, we journalists must be accurate!! There were 10 new members ..I think..

Your Torpet Editor/publisher and all round good guy Bruce Beach demonstrated his INDEX program (identified on the Sept. TPUG disk by WW prefix). Bruce's program has been compiled using Petspeed - which very neatly loses the program to prying eyes - but Bruce promises us future issues of the Index program for reference purposes in plain BASIC. What the whole thing does is to allow you to (automatically?) create an index from any manuscript you might have in WordPro type files. Bruce realised the value of

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such a program when in process of publishing the Whole PET Catalog this summer and commissioned Gottfried Walters to actually write the program. - No, the Whole PET Catalog doesn't have an Index.

Moving right along - while the Index program was busy trying to load an uninitialized disk, Bruce had the opportunity to mention the gathering-together of VIC types (those interested in specific VIC programs and programming) at the previous week's Central meeting. And, would you believe it, we not only got ourselves a list of those 17 Westenders interested in this project, but actually received three (count 'em) three offers to act in a liaison capacity with Bruce, or whoever, from the Central group. Now THAT's enthusiasm!

David Williams followed Bruce with demonstrations of several of his latest on this month's (SEPT) disk. SUPERSPEED SORT and MARKSCALER. Superspeed Sort is the latest version of Dave's attempts to be subtle with the English Language's capability of describing something of a rather fast nature. This latest version certainly performs as described (and WarpSpeed WAS just a little much!!) by

manipulating pointer arrays to perform the necessary comparisons and sorts.

I must now really try a comparison with Jim Strasma's SUBSORT (re-named from SUPERSORT this year in response to an apparent previous name/copyright claim). Note to JS / Dave claims that the usual methods of timing his sort on an array of 25 items would waste more time in assigning a value to TI than performing the actual sort. Tell you guys what I'll try to do for next meeting, if I ever get the two programs together long enough to do some useful sorts. I'll let you know the outcome. How about a new kind of SORT INVADERS?

Markscaler is Dave's program to equalize the effects of different teacher's marking tendencies. Given at least ONE COMMON TEST to set a common comparison base, the program then does all the least squares and neat curve stuff that we all forgot back in statistics 101 - and indeed appears to sort out the wildest variations in marks one might expect to discover across the average school or school district. Strange thing, not one teacher in Dave's school or school district (other than Dave, Mister Unbiased himself) has requested the use of this program. Is MARKSCALER the REAL reason that Dave is on a year's sabbatical leave from Forest Hill Collegiate??

Never mind Dave - you're doing a fantastic job of chasing down all those little routines that the rest of us thought must work as soon as we got the time to mess with the problem. Carry on regardless!!

By the time these two 'speakers' were done, it was time (where DOES the time go - do we hear it for a 7 PM start yet?) for coffee and for a change, your choice of great muffins and butter. For the first time in a year my notes aren't chocolate smeared.

Following all that goodwill and sharing, who should appear but old Mr Goodwill and Sharing himself, John Stovekin from BMB in Milton. With much showmanship and derring-do John managed to convince us that he knew absolutely nothing about CP/M.

CP/M, in answer to a query from the last row, stands for Control Program/Microcomputers developed by Digital Research of California as far back as 1974 - based on a previous language called PL/M - Programming Language/Microcomputers - based in great part on Algol and PL/I - etc.. Also, being a Control Program only, CP/M has no language sold with it and you must buy your own - if you want BASIC, try MBasic, CBasic, CBasic 86 ..and so it goes.

But why am I taking so much time explaining this - well, as one writer in a recent issue of MICROCOMPUTER PRINTOUT says:

Sport is the art of the difficult, made to look easy. If computer programming were a sport, rather than something to be done because you have to clear up the mess, then CP/M would be the greatest invention since the discovery of cricket stumps or the tennis court baseline. .... CP/M is a ten year old operating system that thinks your screen is a terminal. Most screens were terminals, and a lot of terminals were printers when CP/M was first invented - and so CP/M assumes that you have a piece of paper in a printer, or a screen that behaves as if it were a piece of paper in a printer.

If CP/M still impresses you, then we'll return to the meeting and good old John (who, to the casual observer appears rather underwhelmed by the whole process). As he told us when he turned on (and off, and on) the SoftBox, anything other than that A> on the screen and he was lost. Finally with the help of Bob Lovelace, who had actually used the stuff, they did manage to utilise both the external Z80 in the SoftBox and the internal board from Madison Computer. Both appeared to be capable of running any CP/M-type program that the advertisers would have us believe populates virtually the whole universe!! Trouble is getting those programs in CBM format (though the SoftBox does have a Corvus-compatible input for owners of Corvus-CP/M disks). The trick to accessing this vast world of software FOR NOW, would appear to require downloading from some host computer for which programs ARE available.

Costs involved? I seem to recall mumblings ranging from \$500.00 to 1000.00. If you really MUST have a CP/M system, why not have your dealer contact someone at BMB?

So, with five minutes left before our 10 PM equipment/off deadline, John Stovekin is quietly mobbed in the corner by those other BMB types of whom Someone must think there is something to this CP/M rumour - else why do they bother to import the hardware??

Next month? Well, for a start, you might have noticed that the Space Invaders up on the screen during coffee break looked somewhat different than usual - like 9 ways different. David Lunimis from Stoney Creek has donated a copy of his MULTI-INVADERS! for issue on next month's disk. Incidentally, POINTER SORT on the Sept disk is David's work - see his article in September Compute. Comparing his sort with Superspeed sort AND with Strasma's SubSort (all of which manipulate pointers rather than actual data) might be a fun exercise..

in the software demonstration department, Al Farquharson has a version of VIGIL graphics from Abacus to show us, and if he has time, he'd like to show us the PetSpeed Compiler - better still, if Jim Butterfield wouldn't mind lending someone his demonstration disk from the Sept. Central meeting (or if you want me to pick you up Jim.... be my guest) we could quite quickly (chuckle) see the difference in BASIC, PetSpeed compiled BASIC, D.T.L compiled BASIC, and pure Machine Language.

Mad-Mike Donegan, our used-to-be Saskatoon member (now residing in the sensible climate of Hamilton) will demonstrate the capabilities of his favourite AID program SYS-RES (footnote to Mike - it's gotta be short and concise and convince me why I should lay out hard cash for what seems to be available to a great part in plain Basic Aid - i.e. show me what's so special about SYS-RES.)

My apologies to those of you who might have been expecting more time for our question-answer session. Come to think of it, - it's a good thing we ran out of time, else this report would have to be continued NEXT month!! Next meeting, I'll really try to keep a closer watch on the clock - but now that you all know where the secret parking lot is, we'll start on the dot of 7:30 - OK? Wednesday October 27th, Sheridan College Cafeteria.

.....yours lately, John