

I.O.U.

The Newsletter of the Independent Oric Users' Group

ISSUE No. 14 - late February 1987

EDITORIAL

A belated Happy New Year to all our readers, and a special welcome to all those who have recently joined IOUG!

Despite the obvious attractions of other home micros such as the A#### range, the Oric system has survived and has never, in my view, been in a healthier state. There are 2 disc drives available - the Microdisc, and OPELCO's recently announced new drive (can someone confirm it is actually available, and perhaps send in a review?). Three DOS versions exist - the original Oric DOS V1.1 and Rados (both supplied by Opelco with their drive, but does anyone know if RANDOS can be purchased separately?), and finally Eureka's SEDORIC (which is available on it's own). There are now three word processors - Author, Minitext (reviewed in this issue), and the latest, Wordworth (reviewed in Issue 13). We have the excellent database system, Megabase, to compliment the original Oric Base. There is quite a respectable games software base, recently boosted by new software from Eureka, much of it stocked by WE(Software). Prestel access is possible with the Oric modem, and there is also a comms. program available which allows the use of other modems with the Orics (see response section). The built-in Centronics and RGB i/f's allow a variety of printers and monitors to be used. There is even a new computer in the Oric range - the TELESTRAT, with enhanced features - pity about the price! All sounds pretty healthy for the Oric owner don't you think.

I work for a large national charity and use my Atmos (+ Microdisc) a good deal in connection with my work as a database and word processing system. I also use the database in my capacity as Competition Secretary of the local Photographic Society. The latest addition to my system is the Oric modem which I use to access Prestel (MBX 213547242). Developments which I would now like to see are a random access database program (which exploits the new features of Rados or Sedoric), and an improved comms. program which e.g. allows MBX preparation off-line.

Many thanks to all who sent contributions to me or to Gary. Keep them coming - every little helps - Alan will need your support for Issue 15.

That's all for now - Bye!

Arthur Jackson

NEWSFLASH

This appears to be the first IOU issue which has been printed with Author, using the dot-a right-justify feature. Observant readers will note that r/j does not work in lines using printer codes for underlining etc. Does anyone know a way round this?

Those of you who have a teletext TV set will have noticed that we are now featured on CEEFAX p.703 - the "NEXT" magazine User Group listing.

Good news for disc users! They are now available for less than £3 (check the mail-order ads.).

ROB PLANT informs us that FBC will exchange tape based programs bought from them for a disc version in return for the price of the disc only. Also they have a tape to disc copier on disc costing £7.95 plus the cost of the disc.

Rob's info. doesn't say how much they charge for the discs, but they can be

contacted for details at FGC (Mailorder), 20 Meadowcroft, Euxton, Chorley, Lancs. PR7 6BU. Tel. 02572-70088. Rob adds that "they seem a very helpful firm worth supporting".

RESPONSE

V. BUNCE of 94, Cumberland Ave., Welling, Kent, DA16 2PU wants to interface some electronic projects with his Oric-1 and asks for information on the memory addresses used for the I/O ports. He (she?) would also be interested in hearing what people use their Oric-1 (and Atmos? - Ed.) for.

Well, there is a Chapter called 'Interfacing' in Penfold's little Babini paperback "An Introduction to Programming the Oric-1" (ISBN 0 85934 104 6), which contains helpful information. Chapter 1 of Geoff Phillips' book "Oric Atmos and Oric-1 Graphics and Machine Code Techniques" (ISBN 0-07-084743-6) also gives ~~relevant information on ROM page 3 addresses.~~ Since I am not technical this is the best help I can offer - perhaps others can add suggestions based on experience!

MR. G.K.PIKE, 3 Pentridge Close, Nythe, Swindon, Wilts SN3 3RH would like to know where he can get a Pace interface.

PHILLIP DUNSTALL, who has an Oric-1, is interested in Oric Forth, and wonders why no other non-Basic programming language was adapted for the Oric.

Well, Phillip I guess it's the old problem of an insufficiently large user base for the commercial programmers who earn their living by this work. If anyone knows of any language other than Forth which has been produced for the Orics then I am sure we would all like to know!

Phillip would also like to know if there is a 6502 Assembler for the Oric-1.

The answer is Yes, I know of 2! I think the best known is Orion. Then there is a program called EAD65C which contains a number of toolkit extensions of interest to the M/C programmer, including an Assembler. Both of these are available from FGC (address above) - the latter exclusively from this distributor.

ROB DAVIS wants to create a m/c ON ERROR GOTO routine, but needs help in finding where the BASIC error codes are stored.

I have referred Rob to the m/c listing on pp.142-3 of Geoff Phillip's book (for title details see the V.Bunce answer above). Any other answers please send to Rob at "Elsham", 113 Warwick Rd., Broughton Astley, Leicestershire LE9 6SA.

AUSTIN MEESON (Address in Exchange section) wants suggestions as to which modem he should buy.

The Oric V23 Modem is available from WE (Software) of Malvern. Also FGC sells "Oricomms" - a comms. program which permits the use of a number of other independent modems. Trevor Shaw of 43 Matlock Ave., Dawley, Telford, Shropshire, TF4 2EL seems to be something of an expert on Oric/modem interfacing and should be able to advise further.

I.O.U. EXCHANGE

FOR SALE - Oric Atmos 48K with books and software. Also reset switch and handmade dust cover with Atmos colour and logo. £65. Mr. S.G. Peirce, 31 Brancker Rd., Milehouse, Plymouth, PL2 3DW. Tel. Plymouth 500359.

FOR SALE - Printer Tandy VII. Centronics, tractor feed. Standard and expanded type. Works with Orics. Ideal first printer for listings etc. Sample p/o

