

I.O.U.

The Newsletter of the Independent Oric Users' Group  
ISSUE No. 15 - late April 1987

EDITORIAL

In issue 11 (August 1986) I looked forward to the possible resurrection of the commercial and hobbyists' interests in the ORIC computers. However, it would appear that the commercial opportunity has virtually passed by. The Telestrat has not yet appeared on the British market and IJK did not release the new software hinted for Xmas. In speaking to certain software retailers it appears that they are experiencing a decrease in the number of sales which does not bode well for their continued support. This decrease in sales may well be partly attributable to the small quantity of new software currently available. It demonstrates the 'catch 22' situation in that customers are not attracted into buying software and the retailers/producers do not sell sufficient software to cover the costs associated with developing and/or producing new software.

Still, it is not all gloom. OPELCO has finally brought out its disc system (see the review in this issue), W.E. (Software) is investigating the best of the French software for possible import (see Newsflash) and judging by Arthur Jackson's editorial in the last issue, and the contributions received for this issue, there are still enthusiastic ORIC users around.

Continuing to support the I.O.U. will definitely keep you in touch with fellow enthusiasts and if we can contact other ORIC users, support the remaining commercial retailers of ORIC equipment and keep in touch with one another we will all receive continued use and enjoyment from our computers for years to come.

Thanks to all the contributors to this issue which made my job most enjoyable.

Best Wishes,

Allan Whitaker.

NEWSFLASH

Just in case you haven't heard. OPELCO is promoting its disc drive for the ORIC by offering single and twin disc drive configurations supplied with ROMDOS (ORIC DOS V1.1), only, at special prices during March and April. Prices are :-

Single 3" drive / ROMDOS - Cost £119.00 + £10 p/p

Twin drive / ROMDOS - Cost £164.00 + p/p

Furthermore, OPELCO Club members are eligible to an additional £5.00 reduction. This is a very good offer to those saving for their first disc drive and could enable owners of the original ORIC Microdisc to upgrade to twin disc system. By the time you receive this issue you may have to be quick if you want to take advantage of the offers.

For owners of the Cumana disc drive who would wish to be able to run ORIC DOS V1.1, RANDOS or SEDORIC DOS, OPELCO can provide the Microdisc ROM for fitting in the Cumana system. Contact OPELCO at Imperial Court, Station Parade, Virginia Water, Surrey GU25 4DH (Tel Wentworth 4557) for further information.

As stated in issue 14, W.E. (Software) is intending to import the best of the French software and would like to hear from all interested ORIC owners. You can contact W.E. (Software) at Foley Bank, Worcester Rd; Great Malvern, Worcs. WR14 4QW.

## RESPONSE

Austin Meeson, 41 Roebuck Rd; WALSALL, West Midlands WS3 1AH, (Tel 0922 477422) would like to obtain a copy of Geoff Phillips book entitled "Graphics and Machine Code Techniques". -- Ed: For a small fee, the local library was able to obtain this book which I now regularly take out on loan. So perhaps your local library could help you, Austin.

Continuing on from issue 14, Phillip Dunstall suggests adding a Forth section to the I.O.U. If you have any programs, tips or any information for this language then please send them to Gary for inclusion in the newsletter. Phillip would like to see a host of other languages implemented on the ORIC but I must admit that I do not expect to see any new languages written by a commercial software house now. Perhaps Eureka Informatique may if the Telestrat is selling well in France. Otherwise it is up to fellow enthusiasts. Thanks, Phil, for the info on running a newsletter - most helpful.

## I.O.U. EXCHANGE

Tansoft's Author and Forth (computer language for the ATMOS). Exchange for any dedicated ORIC magazines. Contact Mr R Bray, 117 Braehead, Bonhill, Alexandria, Dunbartonshire G83 9NB.

## PROGRAMMING UTILITIES

Frank Day sent in this program which develops previous programs for mixing Hires and Lores graphics on the screen and using protected areas of the screen (see I.O.U. issues 14 and 6). -- Ed: I have added a few lines to the program so that it will run on the ATMOS but in doing so I have discovered that the ATMOS corrupts part of the program when it is run and listed. Perhaps someone could explain this?

```
100 HIMEM#97FF:HIRES:TEXT:PAPER3:INK0:POKE#26A,10
110 IF DEEK(#C001)=#EA59 THEN O1=TRUE
120 IF (O1) THEN SA=#BDD8:NL=12:GOSUB1010 ELSE SA=#BE00:NL=12:GOSUB1030
130 POKE#BPDF,30:POKE#B3FF,26:POKE#2C0,3
140 FOR N=1 TO 64:FILL1,1,20:FILL1,1,17:NEXT
150 FOR N=1 TO 6:CURSET20,N*20,3:FILL1,1,21:NEXT
160 FOR N=1 TO 8:READ B,B$:CURSET N*24+5,120-B,3:FILL B,3,#AA:NEXT
170 CURSET10,112,3:CHAR48,0,1
180 CURSET5,12,3:CHAR49,0,1:CURMOV6,0,3:CHAR48,0,1:CURMOV6,0,3:CHAR48,0,1
190 DATA 40,AUG,50,SEP,50,OCT,45,NOV,50,DEC,50,JAN,55,FEB,50,MAR
200 POKE#2C0,2:FOR N=1 TO 6:POKE#BDD8+80*N,22:NEXT
210 PLOT17,17,"PRODUCTION CHART":PLOT22,19,"1986-7":PLOT17,21,"Press any key"
220 PRINT:RESTORE:FOR N=1 TO 8:READ B,B$:PRINT B,B$:NEXT
230 GET A$:HIRES:TEXT:END
1000 REM -- Set up window subroutine --
1010 DOKE#26D,SA:POKE#26F,NL:CLS:RETURN ' ORIC-1 routine.
1020 ' ATMOS routine.
1030 DOKE#27A,SA:DOKE#278,SA+40:DOKE#27E,NL:DOKE#27C,NL*40:CLS:RETURN
```

Robert and Michael Bray have sent in the following BASIC program which demonstrates one way of accessing files on disc (using ORIC DOS V1.1) from a machine code program. The routine should work for all DOS commands. The parameters for the commands are stored at #400 onwards in the example but any location could be used provided that the contents of the program counter at #E9/EA is adjusted accordingly.

```
0 REM **                MICHAEL BRAY                **
1 REM **                **
10 POKE#400,#44:REM 'D' character.
20 POKE#401,#49:REM 'I' character.
30 POKE#402,#52:REM 'R' character.
```

