

I.O.U.

The Newsletter of the Independent Oric Users' Group

ISSUE No. 21 - late August 1988.

EDITORIAL

I owe you all an apology. This issue is over two months late, which is inexcusable. I made several mistakes in planning this issue. The most serious one was to set a comparatively short time between issues and to then opt to edit this issue myself. I've found myself taken up with various other things, especially playing cricket at weekends, on top of the weekly running of the group and just haven't found or made sufficient time to get this issue out. Still better late than never, to use a cliché. Those of you who paid by cheque will have noticed that your cheque has remained uncashed for some time, so at least you will have known that you weren't being robbed. The end result of all this is that I won't be editing I.O.U. again for some time. I will also have to consider whether I am the best person to distribute the issues. In the meantime I hope to have issue 22 out as soon as the editor of it can get the original to me and possible industrial action in the postal service permitting.

Onto other matters, I was wondering for a time as to whether I.O.U. would continue to be viable in its current form. This was because subscription renewals were slow in coming. Indeed I have received further letters from ex-members telling me that they have moved onto to other computers, in particular PC compatibles. However Allan Whitaker gave the group a mention in his price list and this has raised some new interest. We are sadly in the midst of a steadily declining interest. This is further demonstrated by the declining number of retailers of Oric software and hardware. Indeed over the past few months I myself have made little use of my Atmos. It is therefore left to the remaining users to provide their own support.

NEWS

Allan Whitaker has sent out his first price list for his new Home and General Computing firm which has arisen from the ashes of FGC. The prices are very competitive, so I hope that you will consider HGC if you are looking for software etc. . If you weren't on the mailing list then send a s.s.a.e. to :-

HGC (Mailorder), 8 Staley Hall Road, Stalybridge, Cheshire SK15 3DT

Telephone 061-303 7369

Paul Kersey-Smith is trying to organise an Oric user show to take place during either November or December. This would support the Oric-1, Atmos and Telestrat. If you would be interested in attending then write to :-

1st Oric User Show, 8 Bluebell Estate, Pandy, Gwersyllt, Clwyd LL1 2UG

Owe Fransson has made the following DOS upgrades available for £2.00 cash each to cover postage, plus a disk.

SEDDRIC V1.007
ORIC DOS V1.13

He has also written a file transfer program to convert SEDORIC files to Oric DOS V1.1 format. This is available for £5.00 cash plus a blank disk.

To order or to obtain more details write to Owe at :-

Gullrands vag 199, S-145 64 Norsborg, SWEDEN

The Software Club has moved to a new address and has consequently acquired a new business address. Mrs Perera has stated that they are willing to keep the Oric library going as long as there is sufficient interest.

The Software Club, P.O. Box 155, Cardiff CF5 4YA tel. 0222 - 593 476

RESPONSE

David Wilkin is looking for a copy of the Megabase handbook. 22 Saxonbury Avenue, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex TW16 5HD

Pete Canning is having problems with his Cumana disk system. 'At intervals it resets itself to the point where insertion of the system disk is requested. At other times it locks the computer and crashes the program in use.' This problem seems to become less frequent the longer the period of use. Cumana say that there is nothing wrong with the interface.

1 Murrell Lane, Stotfold, Hitchin, Herts. SG5 4PF

Ronald Croft got a copy of Wordworth in the FGC closing down sale but it didn't come with a manual. He would therefore like a copy. 24 Leven Street, Glasgow G41 2JE

C.P. Rolls from Crosby, Liverpool sent a couple of tips :-

1) When using ORIC-CALC if you enter 'f' and then <RETURN> this turns off the reset protection. Using the reset button or <CTRL> C will stop the program, enabling it to be listed. Mr Rolls suggests that by altering the STORE and RECALL commands the program could be adapted for use with a disk drive.

2) If you use an 'auto-stop' program such as that included in issue 16, load in the four parts of Tansoft's Defence Force and then enter RUN, a '?' will appear. Press 'D' and follow the on screen instructions.

Paul Kersey-Smith sent some interesting information about a couple of innovative men who've designed and built interfaces for their Orics. I'm not sure whether the designs are for sale or whatever but both men are willing to be contacted about them. The details are :-

Toby Simpson has built a B.B.C. compatible user port which plugs into the Oric's printer port. It can carry out ROM paging and has a RAM disk set up around it. The interface is fully buffered and can handle upto 20 separate devices at the same time. The decoding is dealt with by the interface, with users being able to make use of it via BASIC. A B.B.C. user port can be used with things such as trackerballs, mice and joysticks.

45 Commercial Road, Dereham, Norfolk NR19 1AE tel. 0362 - 693 508 (8pm - 11pm)

Mick Poat has built a prototype drum machine which can handle 8 tracks at a time. He has also constructed a RS232 port which allows transfer rates of upto 9600 Baud to be selected. Mick has written software to allow the interface to be used with any B.B.C bulletin board, presumably in conjunction with a suitable modem.

Finally, he has developed an interface which allows the Atmos ROM to be loaded from cassette.

79 Humphrey Park, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Hampshire GU13 0UE
tel. 0252 - 623 134

CONSUMABLES

Allan Whitaker sent the following :-

- 1) A number of people have contacted HGC enquiring about paper and pens for the MCP-40 printer/plotter. These can be obtained from Tandy shops. They used to sell a virtually identical plotter.
- 2) Allan has tried out the HSV Panasonic KX-PO80/1/2 compatible printer ribbon that he mentioned in issue 20. He found that it was not as long lasting as the official Panasonic ribbons and recommends the latter as better value.
- 3) Having tried out the 3" disk head cleaner available from Compumart, Allan says that whilst it works it is poor value at £9.95 bearing in mind that the cassette equivalent is about half the price.

I.O.U. EXCHANGE

ON OFFER

ORIC ATMOS and MCP-40 printer/plotter. Little used and complete with all original packing. Also some later issues of Oric Owner magazine. Any reasonable offers considered.

R.W. Annett, Little Brow, Nursery Road, Laughton, Essex IG10 4RJ

ORIC ATMOS and Oric Microdisc complete with 15 disks, some blank, most with self-written software, one with 'Mini-Office' word processor. Complete with manuals and Advanced user guide. Also some software and carrying case and dust cover. Offers to/more details from :-

Rob Davis, 113 Warwick Road, Broughton Astley, Leics. LE9 6SA tel. 0455-285 089

ORIC-1 48K and Oric Microdisc. Offers to :- J.M. Rudman, 12 Farburn Drive, Stonehaven, Kincardineshire AB2 3BZ

ORIC ATMOS Computer System including: Atmos 48K; two Oric Microdisc drives with one configured as a slave drive; Oric V23 modem with Oric Prestel Software; 33 original software titles on cassette; 22 new, unused Maxell 3" disks in original packing; books and magazines. Further details from :-

Arthur Jackson, 56 Driffold, Sutton Coldfield, W. Midlands B73 6HP
tel. 021-354 7242

ORIC ATMOS plus programs, books and magazines - £100.00 . Details from

H.J.M. Langshaw, 12 Watling Street, Dartford DA1 1RF

SWAP Oric software. For list write to :-

Terry Barnes, 52 Adur Drive, Shoerham-by-Sea, West Sussex BN4 6PL

PROGRAM

Robert Bray of Alexandria in Dunbartonshire, Scotland sent this interesting program which he calls 'Calendar'. For any year between 1900 and 2000 it prints out a calendar for the selected month. The program was written for the Atmos but should be easily adaptable for the Oric-1.

```
10 PAPER0:INK3:CLS:PRINT CHR$(20):PRINT CHR$(17)
15 PRINT"READING DATA"
20 DIME$(12),D(12),F(14,12),G(100)
30 FORA=1TO12:READE$(A):NEXT
40 FORA=1TO12:READD(A):NEXT
50 FORA=1TO12:READF(1,A):NEXT
60 FORA=2TO7:FORB=1TO12:F(A,B)=F(A-1,B)+5:IFF(A,B)=36THENF(A,B)=1
70 NEXT:NEXT
80 FORA=1TO12:READF(8,A):NEXT
90 FORA=9TO14:FORB=1TO12:F(A,B)=F(A-1,B)+5:IFF(A,B)=36THENF(A,B)=1
100 NEXT:NEXT
110 FORA=0TO100:READG(A):NEXT
120 CLS:PRINT
130 INPUT"ENTER YEAR (1900-2000)";H
140 H=H-1900:IFH<0ORH>100THEN130
150 INPUT"ENTER MONTH (1 - 12)";E
160 IFE<1ORE>12THEN150
170 IFG(H)>7 THEN D(2)=29 ELSE D(2)=28
180 POKE618,2:D=D(E):A=F((G(H)),E)
190 CLS:PRINT:PRINTSPC(16-LEN(E$(E))/2);E$(E);H+1900:PRINT
200 PRINT"  SU  MD  TU  WE  TH  FR  SA":PRINT
205 REM:** 3 SPACES BETWEEN DAYS. **
210 PRINTSPC(A);:FORB=1TOD:C=1:IFB<=9THENC=2
220 PRINTSPC(C);B;:IFPEEK(£269)>=37THENPRINT:PRINT:PRINT" ";
230 NEXT:FORA=1TO4:PRINT:NEXT
240 PRINT SPC(6);"PRESS RETURN FOR NEXT DATE"
245 PRINT SPC(12);"OR 'Q' TO QUIT"
250 REPEAT:GETA$:UNTILA$=CHR$(13) OR A$="q"
260 IF A$="q" THEN:CLS:PAPER 7:INK 0:PRINT CHR$(20):PRINT CHR$(17):ELSE 120
270 DATA JANUARY,FEBRUARY,MARCH,APRIL,MAY,JUNE,JULY,AUGUST,SEPTEMBER
280 DATA OCTOBER,NOVEMBER,DECEMBER
290 DATA 31,28,31,30,31,30,31,31,30,31,30,31
300 DATA 1,16,16,31,6,21,31,11,26,1,16,26
310 DATA 1,16,21,1,11,26,1,16,31,6,21,31
320 DATA 8,3,4,5,13,1,2,3,11,6,7,1,9,4,5,6,14,2,3,4,12,7,1,2
330 DATA 10,5,6,7,8,3,4,5,13,1,2,3,11,6,7,1,9,4,5,6
340 DATA 14,2,3,4,12,7,1,2,10,5,6,7,8,3,4,5,13,1,2,3,11,6,7,1,9
350 DATA 4,5,6,14,2,3,4,12,7,1,2,10,5,6,7,8,3,4,5,13
360 DATA 1,2,3,11,6,7,1,9,4,5,6,14,2,3,4
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LATE NEWS

Some of you may have heard about the Alternative Micro Show being arranged by EMSOFT and to be held at the Aston Villa Sports and Leisure Centre on Saturday 12th November, 1988. Allan Whitaker has informed me that he has bought a stand for HGC. He hopes to be taking an OPELCO disk drive and demonstrating some of his new software.

EMSOFT, 80 Dales Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 4JR tel. 0473-495 07

On the subject of software Allan has obtained the rights to sell the English translation of 'The Last Warrior' in this country. He has also received some software to evaluate and hopes to have some new releases by Christmas.

ISSUE 22

I am aiming to distribute issue 22 between October 29th and November 12th. I will, if possible, distribute it earlier. Cost is 40p. To order issue 22 individually send 40p, either cash (2 x 20p pieces only, please) or a cheque/P.O. payable to I.O.U.G., plus an A5 s.s.a.e. to me at :-

I.O.U.G. , c/o Mr G. Ramsay, 1 Kingsway Crescent, Burnage, Manchester M19 1GA

Orders by October 22nd please.

NB. A5 envelopes are approx. 228 x 162 mm or 9 x 6.5 inches. Please do not send envelopes smaller than this.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

All subscriptions start from issue 21 and run for 5 issues, production costs and other circumstances permitting. Cost is £2.00 plus 5 A5 s.s.a.e.'s stamped at the standard ie. 60g rate. Cheques/P.O.'s only, payable to I.O.U.G

BACK ISSUES

These are obtainable for 50p each plus the appropriate postage in stamps from :-

Matthew Shakeshaft, 47 Newton Road, Ashton, Preston, Lancashire PR2 1DY

Gary Ramsay