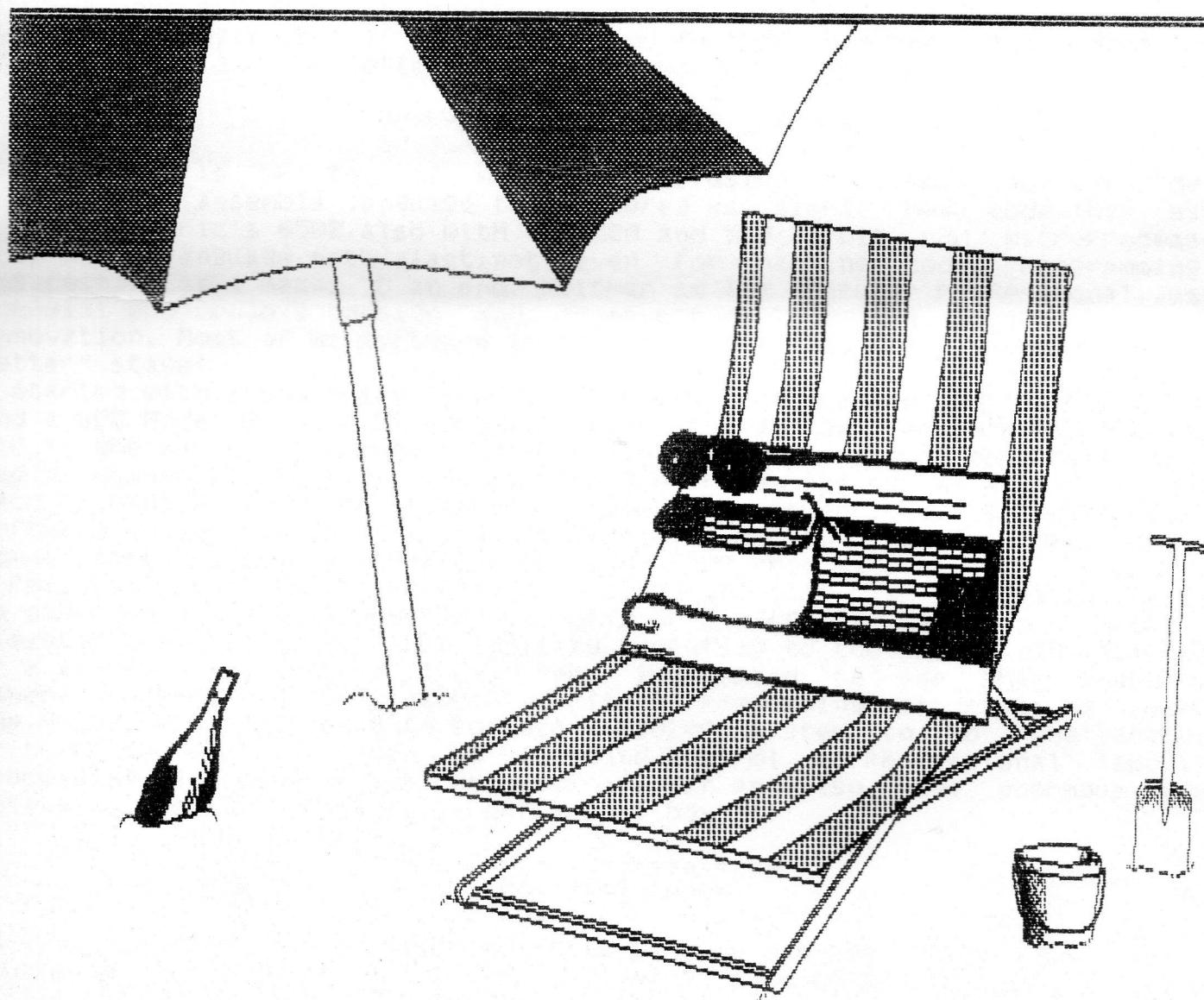


ORIC

USER MONTHLY

Number 36

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Edited and Distributed by Dave Dick, 65 Barnard Crescent, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 9PW

THE EDITORIAL

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HELLO,

and welcome to the summer.

This edition is Jam Packed, in fact I could not fit everything in. Response has been tremendous. Lots of new subscribers and others have re-joined, thanks to my threatening letters. I have not indexed the pages for this issue as it has been a case of fitting things in wherever I can. Issue 38 will be something special as we will become the longest running 'ORIC' magazine. 'THEORIC' was published in France for 37 issues. Well forever onward.

=====

At the recent 'ORIC MEET', Peter Brass from Sutton demonstrated the following: 'TOOLKIT/UTILITIES', 'WORDPROCESSOR', 'PROFESSIONAL C41 PROCESS SIMULATOR' and 'BBC to ORIC Screen Converter'. Next issue we will have a full write up on the Programs, but meanwhile I am printing the general notes on the software to whet your appetite. It is hoped that this software will find it's way into the Public Domain, but if you require any further info, then please drop us a line at O.U.M and the letters will be forwarded to Peter.

GENERAL NOTES ON THE SOFTWARE

The software is written in machine code, using a combination of "design system" and assembly language then entered as simple hex code. This system works with Oric's 6502, also with the Z80 and the 32 bit ARM microprocessors. I am not a language enthusiast, not even for machine code. Programming is interesting as a means to an end. Neither am I a computer professional, just a hobbyist who enjoys design and construction and the occasional bit of innovation. Most of my software is in the "but the next version will be better" stage.

I started with a homebuilt Tangerine Microtan, but updated to an Oric Atmos and a BBC Model B about 5 years ago. About a year ago I added the Archimedes 310 to the system. The Oric is used quite a lot, in spite of the fact that I had no commercial software for it. The 3 machines are run as a single system, each machine, having some advantages over the other two. I write my own software, a fair amount of it on the Oric. The BBC "B" and the Oric share a common software base as they use the same 6502 processor. I personally think that the future of computing lies with the system approach, in other words getting the best out of 2 or 3 different machines together as a system. This is better than limiting computing to the office IBM compatible or a simple games console. I was very interested to see that there were others who were keen Oric users in spite of possessing alternatives such as the Amiga. You don't have to possess a £10,000 system to do home accounts, write to an aunt or even as I found, control a professional laboratory processing system. After all computers are fun and also have enormous useful potential too. With that, falls off a soap box !!!!

Peter N. Brass.

=====

SOFTWARE CHART

With all the new software around, it is time we had the charts back. Please send in your top 3 in the following categories: Arcade, Adventure, Utilities and Strategy.

LATE LATE NEWS

It is very late and I have run out of time and therefore the 'Contact List' as promised to those at the Oric Meet will not be sent out until next month - SORRY

NEWS AND 'BITS & BOBS'

NORWEGIAN SOFTWARE

O.U.M. WILL ACT AS U.K. DISTRIBUTOR FOR KLUBB ORIC NORDEN SOFTWARE. DISC SOFTWARE WILL BE SENT DIRECT TO YOU. ORDERS FOR CASSETTE SOFTWARE WILL BE FORWARDED TO NORWAY FOR DESPATCH. SEE PAGE 12 FOR PRICES.

CEO SOFTWARE

AVAILABLE SOON FROM 'CLUB EUROPE ORIC' ARE 2 NEW PROGRAMS. 'ROBINSON CRUSOE' IS A GRAPHICAL ADVENTURE IN THE VEIN OF 'DIAMANT DE L'ILE MAUDITE' AND IS CURRENTLY BEING TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY JON HAWORTH. THE SECOND PROGRAM IS A FLIGHT SIMULATION GAME, INSPIRED BY 'MICROSOFT FLIGHT SIMULATOR' FOR THE IBM-PC.

'ORIC USER MONTHLY' READERSHIP

AS NOT ALL READERS TAKE OUT YEARLY SUBSCRIPTIONS IT HAS BEEN HARD TO PUBLISH MONTHLY READERSHIP NUMBERS. SOME READERS TEND TO BUY A FEW ISSUES AND THEN WHEN THEY REALISE THAT THEY HAVEN'T RECEIVED O.U.M. FOR A FEW MONTHS THEY ORDER BACK ISSUES. NOW I HAVE WORKED OUT READERSHIP FIGURES FOR THE LAST 6 MONTHS. THANKS TO CHASE LETTERS AND NEW SUBSCRIBERS, READERSHIP HAS IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY AND I HOPE TO SEE THE TREND CONTINUE. A LOT OF COPIES ARE SHARED AMONGST PEOPLE, SO ACTUAL READERSHIP IS PROBABLY ABOUT 100.

O.U.M. COPIES SOLD:

ISSUE 30	- 53
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ISSUE 34	- 46
ISSUE 35	- 56

HEALTH WARNING

IN 'ICE HOCKEY MANAGER' FROM NORWAY; YOU ARE WARNED THAT REFUSING TO MAKE CONTRACTS WITH PLAYERS CAN LEAD TO 'NAUGHTY' WORDS. 'NAUGHTY' IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT. THIS GAME IS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR YOUNG CHILDREN OR LADIES. A FULL REVIEW NEXT MONTH. I KNOW I SAID IT WOULD BE REVIEWED THIS MONTH, BUT FINAL BUGS IN THE PROGRAM HAVE ONLY JUST BEEN SORTED OUT.

H.G.C

ALAN WHITAKER AT H.G.C NOW HAS THE FOLLOWING FOR DISC USERS:

- 'SEDORIC' - V1.007 (WITH 'TAKE' BUG FIXED), ENGLISH MANUAL , + ENGLISH UTILITIES - £9.99
- 'SEDORIC' MANUAL ONLY - £7.49
- 'RANDOS' + MANUAL - £12.99

'ORIC' SOFTWARE FOR SALE

WITH THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND A SMALL PIECE OF PAPER. THERE ARE VARIOUS QUANTITIES OF EACH TITLE AND ALL ARE THE ORIC 1 VERSIONS (MOST SHOULD WORK ON THE ATMOS)

THE VENDOR IS MIKE PROCTOR, 4 COPPICE WALK, CROWMOOR, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE, SY2 5FS.

I RANG MIKE WITH REGARD TO THE 'SILLY' PRICES. MIKE HAS NOT GOT AN ORIC AND ALSO SELLS SOFTWARE FOR THE AMIGA ETC

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)

READER'S LETTERS

=====

DAVE, MANY THANKS FOR LAST SATURDAY (JUNE 23rd), I THINK IT WAS GREAT.....
BOB KIDBY (ROMFORD)

BOB, THANK YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE FOR COMING ALONG - IT WAS ALL OF YOU WHO MADE IT GREAT.

DAVE,

WELL DONE FOR STAGING THE EVENT.....IT WAS GREAT TO MEET PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY AND FRANCE..... DAVID WILKIN (SUNBURY).
DAVID,

A BIG THANK- YOU TO YOU FOR ALL THE WORK YOU DID IN SORTING OUT HARDWARE PROBLEMS.

DAVE,

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY 'FOOTBALL POOLS' TYPE PROGRAMS FOR THE ORIC1/ATMOS??

- MATTHEW (PRESTON)

MATTHEW,

WELL IT IS YOUR LUCKY DAY. IN ISSUE 10 OF "ORIC OWNER" WAS SUCH A PROGRAM LISTING FROM A Mr.E HOLLISTER. IT STATES IT IS FOR THE ORIC-1,BUT I AM SURE IT COULD WORK ON THE ATMOS. OBVIOUSLY SOME OF THE DATA LINES WILL HAVE TO BE CHANGED AS ACCRINGTON STANLEY NO LONGER PLAY IN THE 4th DIV. THE PROGRAM USES 16K AND SHOULD KEEP YOU BUSY AS YOU HAVE TO INPUT EVERY RESULT AND THEN GET THE FORECASTS. I WILL PHOTOCOPY THE LISTING AND SEND IT ON.

DAVE,

THANKS FOR SATURDAY AT THE SHOW I PROMISED SOMEONE A CIRCUIT DIAGRAM OF THE CUMANA INTERFACE,BUT CAN'T REMEMBER WHO..... ROB (LEAMINGTON SPA)

ROB,

TA MATE AND TO WHOEVER OUT THERE WHO WAS PROMISED THE DIAGRAM; JUST DROP A NOTE TO O.U.M. AND I WILL SEND IT ON.

DAVE,

THANKS FOR A GREAT SHOW AND FOR THE PLACE TO KIP..... IF IT IS POSSIBLE I'M LOOKING FOR HELP ON SIDE 2 OF 'TYRANN'. I FOUND THE SCEPTRE OF PEACE ON SIDE 2 AND AM TRYING TO WORK OUT HOW TO GET PAST A PART OF THE LABYRINTH WHICH HAS SOME SORT OF FORCEFIELD OVER IT, PREVENTING ENTRY. CAN ANYONE HELP? IN RETURN I CAN HELP ON SIDE 1 AND ALSO ON THE FOLLOWING,WHICH I HAVE COMPLETED: 'ARROW OF DEATH 1','TIME MACHINE','MAXWORKS','HAUNT', & 'ZODIAC'. I FINISHED ZODIAC RECENTLY - IT TOOK ME 3 MONTHS TO FIND THE FIRST 5 TREASURES AND 5 YEARS TO FIND THE LAST ONE..... ..ALSO CAN YOU GIVE ME ANY INFO ON 'LE FER D'AMNUKOR(TYRANN 2)? - JAMES GROOM (HALESOWEN).

JAMES,

PERHAPS SOME READER OUT THERE CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEM ON TYRANN - PLEASE READERS LET O.U.M KNOW.

WITH REGARD TO 'TYRANN 2'; IT WAS RELEASED IN 1985 IN FRANCE BY 'NORSOFT' AT 210 FRANCS. THE PACKAGE CONSISTED OF 2 CASSETTES,MAPS & A 60 PAGE ILLUSTRATED RULE BOOK ALL IN FRENCH. IF YOU ARE NOT INTO FRENCH IT WILL NOT BE MUCH USE TO YOU, BUT IF YOU ARE THE DROP ME A LINE AS I AM SURE VINCENT AT 'C.E.O' WILL HAVE IT ON HIS MAIL ORDER LIST.

=====

I HAVE RECIEVED YOUR FIRST ISSUE OF O.U.M. AND WAS DISGUSTED AT THE
THAT NEARLY EVERY PAGE WAS LITTERED WITH SMUT AND VULGARITY. ONLY PAGE
SHOWED ANY DECENCY, AS THE PICTURE OF THE YOUNG MAN'S CHEST WAS OF NO
OFFENCE..... MARY WHITEHOUSE (EAST CREAM)
MY DEAREST MARY,

AN APOLOGY. EVERYONE AT THE 'ORIC MEET' HAD A SMUTTY PAGE 9.
THE PICTURE IN FACT WAS OF A GIRL AND OUR VERSION IS THE JAPANESE ONE i.e.
IT HAD A 'NIPPON'. JUST SEND A STAMPED ADRESSED PLAIN BROWN ENVELOPE AND IT
WILL BE SENT ON.

=====

DAVE,

AT THE 'ALL FORMATS SHOW' IN LONDON LAST MONTH I CAME ACROSS A COMPANY
CALLED 'ABBOT COMPUTER PRODUCTS' OF FOLEY BANK, GREAT MALVERN. ON THEIR
STAND WAS ORIC SOFTWARE, PLUS ORICS OF BOTH PERSUASIONS IN VARIOUS STATES OF
CANNIBALIZATION.

THE MAN I SPOKE TO KNEW VAGUELY OF ALAN WHITAKER, BUT SEEMED TO THINK THAT,
SINCE THE DISSOLUTION OF 'FGC', THEY WERE THE ONLY REMAINING U.K SUPPLIERS..
.....I'VE JUST RE-READ LAST MONTH'S O.U.M AND SINCE YOU ASK I'M NOT TOO
KEEN ON THE PRINT/LOWER CASE MIGHT BE BETTER.....P.S. SUGGESTION: HOW
ABOUT A SERIES ON MACHINE CODE PROGRAMMING. --- MATTHEW COATES (HUNTINGDON)

MATTHEW,

I WILL ANSWER IN 3 PARTS, SO HERE WE GO.....

a) 'ABBOTT' ARE THE SAME AS 'W.E. SOFTWARE' WHO DISTRIBUTED A LOT OF
ORIC SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE. AS FAR AS I AM AWARE THEY SOLD THEIR STOCK OF
ORIC GOODIES TO ALAN WHITAKER AT H.Q.C. IN CASE THERE IS ANYTHING LEFT
WORTH HAVING, THE PHONE NUMBER FOR 'ABBOT' IS 0684 569059/562061 - READERS
MAY FIND SOMETHING THEY NEED.

b) I WAS NOT KEEN ON LOWER CASE ON MY PRINTER AS IT PRINTS AS THOUGH
THERE IS NO TAIL ON SOME CHARACTERS - IT SORT OF LIFTS THE CHARACTERS e.g. -
qwerty, BUT I'LL TRY ANYTHING, SO THE EDITORIAL WILL BE LOWER CASE.

c) I KNOW LITTLE ABOUT MACHINE CODE. I HAVE TRIED BOOKS e.g 'SHIVAS',
BUT THEY LEAVE ME MORE CONFUSED..... COME ON OUT THERE: WANTED: A VOLUNTEER
TO DO ARTICLES/TEACH-INS etc. ON MACHINE CODE. I AM SURE A LOT OF READERS
WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE SUBJECT.

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ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

ORIC ATMS....35 POUNDS OR NEAR OFFER....TEL. 0928 31829 AND ASK
FOR Mr. KNOTT

FOR SALE

HEWLETT PACKARD (TH)INK JET PRINTER..AS NEW..... 75 POUNDS OR NEAR
OFFER....RING ROB KIMBERLEY ON 0926 613162

FOR SALE

ORIC ATMS + 4 BOOKS (1 OF WHICH IS IN FRENCH), 'ORIC OWNER' ISSUES 1-
10, 25 ISSUES OF 'THEORIC', VARIOUS OTHER USER MAGS., AUTHOR, ORION, WORDSWORTH,
FORTH, PROGRAMS FOR RTTY, FACSIMIL, SATELLITE PREDICTIONS, MOON PREDICTIONS,
GAMES ETC.....PRICED AT 80 BRITISH POUNDS OR 800 SWEEDISH KRONA.

ALSO HOMEBUILT COMBINED SERIAL INTERFACE, ONE PROGRAMMABLE 45bps AND ALL
STANDARD SPEEDS AND ONE 1200bps FOR SERIAL PRINTER. SEPARATE PSU WITH BUILT
IN 300 AND 1200/75 bps MODEM. DOCUMENTATION. PRICE IS 55 BRITISH POUNDS OR
550 KRONA.

ALL REPLIES TO LENHART ARNDTSSON, ENVAGEN 60, S-756 52 UPPSALA, SWEDEN.....
.TELEPHONE: +46-18 32 04 16

RAMBLING IN THE ROM - 17

What a day! I think all who attended the meeting at Aylesbury on the 23rd June decided it was a GOOD THING, and our thanks are due to Dave for all the hard work in organising it. It really was tremendous to be able to spend a relaxed (!) day just getting to know all the names we hadn't met before. The turnout was excellent, and to those of you who didn't make it, be sure to come to the next one. And a special vote of thanks from me to Vincent Talvas and Alain Weber for travelling all the way from Paris to attend. 'Nuff said, I've no doubt Dave will be reporting fully on the meeting elsewhere in this issue.

Club Europe Oric

Members should by now have received three issues of the JEOMAG, the printed magazine. If you have missed any, let me know and I'll fill any gaps. In particular I now have the English edition of No.1. The next disc/cassette is the summer issue due within the next four to six weeks.

If you haven't yet joined, don't forget that there is a cheapo subscription available which provides the regular printed magazine and access to Club software, but no disc/cassette magazine, for only £6 per annum. Details from me at the usual address, 3 Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0EE.

Envelope

An interesting letter from Frank Bolton. Spurred on by my reference to the spelling of "disc", and deploring in passing the misuse of apostrophes (the prime offender being "its" and "it's"), Frank queries the use of the word "program" rather than the full spelling of "programme". So back I went to my trusty Chambers. The entry reads as follows:

programme, (esp. U.S., and usu. also in speaking of computers)
program, n.the sequence of actions to be performed by an electronic computer in dealing with data of a certain kind...

So both are permissible, but the more usual spelling for computer use is "program". Incidentally, the pronunciation is identical, and the present and past participles take one form only, "programming" and "programmed". Nowt so queer as language!

Overlay

I don't know if you've ever noticed, but after an Oric DOS V1.1 disc has been repeatedly used to save and delete files, the noise of the drive head chuntering around the disc when loading and saving becomes quite noticeable. The same does not happen with SEDORIC DOS, for the following reason.

The system of generating free sectors in Oric DOS V1.1 is quite original. It rests on the principle of link bytes. Each sector contains the address of the next sector in its first two bytes, so you only need to know the address of the first free sector to

be able to follow them through to the last. Likewise all the sectors of a file are linked.

This system has going for it great simplicity of operation. But there is one substantial drawback. As one SAVES and DELs repeatedly, an insoluble disorder occurs on the disc, which leads to the disc head jumping about the disc (the noise I referred to above), slows down loading, and pointlessly wears the drive head mechanism.

It's for this reason that most systems (including SEDORIC) use a BIT MAP to keep the disc in optimum order.

Back to Oric DOS V1.1. The original sector link is created on formatting the disc, starting from Track 0 through to the last Track, in order. Sector 0,7 points to sector 0,10, which points to 0,13 etc. To understand the mechanics, a short example of what happens when you save 2 files, then delete one. At the start, the list of free sectors is as follows:

Free sectors: 0,05 0,07 0,09 0,11 0,13 0,15 0,17

SAVE a file of three sectors -

Free sectors: 0,11 0,13 0,15 0,17

File 1 : 0,05 0,07 0,09

SAVE a file of two sectors -

Free sectors: 0,15 0,17

File 1 : 0,05 0,07 0,09

File 2 : 0,11 0,13

DELeTe file one -

Free sectors: 0,05 0,07 0,09 0,15 0,17

File 2 : 0,11 0,13

The delete procedure is as follows. The first sector of the file becomes the first free sector, and the last sector of the file is linked to the old first free sector. So the links are restored. As we continue to use the disc, the list of free sectors becomes hopelessly jumbled:

DELeTe file two -

Free sectors: 0,11 0,13 0,05 0,07 0,09 0,15 0,17

So on deleting a file, you recover the sectors as free sectors, but in a muddled order, which can only get worse as you continue to use your disc.

SEDORIC DOS avoids this problem by using a BIT MAP, which although it limits the number of sectors that can be formatted by the system on one disc, does retain on the disc a record of all free sectors, in the form of a map; a new save will therefore use consecutive sectors as much as possible, rather than the distorted wanderings of the links in the Oric DOS system. I know which DOS I prefer!

Back next month

Jon Haworth

"SHOW REPORT"

=====

ON SATURDAY JUNE 23RD, ABOUT 30 ORIC ENTHUSIASTS CAME TOGETHER, BY BOAT, TRAIN, COACH & CAR TO AYLESBURY IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FOR THE FIRST 'ORIC' ONLY MEETING ON SUCH A SCALE.

AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS WERE ALAIN WEBBER & VINCENT TALVAS FROM PARIS, ALAN WHITAKER (H.G.C.), JON HAWORTH, DAVID HALL (BLACKPOOL USER GROUP), ALISTAIR WAY, ROBERT COOK (MIRAGE SOFTWARE), PAUL KAUFMAN (EX ORIC OWNER MAG, ORPHEUS etc), GEOFF PHILLIPS (AUTHOR OF SOFTWARE & BOOKS FOR THE ORIC), IN FACT THE MAINSTAY OF THE ORIC FRATERNITY.

IDEAS WERE EXCHANGED, FRIENDS MADE, DEMONSTRATIONS OF SOFTWARE GIVEN & ON THE SPOT REPAIRS UNDERTAKEN. DAVID WILKIN SPENT MOST OF THE 10 HOURS AT THE MEETING TINKERING WITH & MENDING MACHINES etc.

ROBERT UNVEILED 'GRENDAL' ALISTAIR DEMOED IT & WON TREMENDOUS PRAISE. JON SHOWED US HOW TO 'NIBBLE'.

GEOFF PHILLIPS SHOWED HIS DEXTERITY AT 'TETRIS'.

CAMERAS FLASHED, ALE WAS SUPPED, SOFTWARE WAS BOUGHT, 'BYTE DRIVE' USERS MET FOR THE FIRST TIME AS 'CUMANA' USERS DISCUSSED THE MERITS OF THEIR DRIVES.

ROB KIMBERLEY HAD A MOTION PASSED TO THE EFFECT THAT EACH ATTENDEE WOULD RECEIVE A LIST CONTAINING NAMES/ADDRESSES OF THOSE ATTENDING. (A CONTACT LIST IS DISTRIBUTED WITH THIS O.U.M TO ALL THOSE WHO ATTENDED-ED)

GEOFF PHILLIPS DONATED BOOKS (TO BE USED IN FUTURE COMPETITIONS AS PRIZES --ED)

DURING THE DAY MANY OTHER DEMOS WERE DONE INCLUDING PETE BRAGG (UTILITIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC USE), BOB TERRY (BASE+), D.D. (NORWEGIAN SOFTWARE), 'TETRIX' FROM GERMANY, VINCENT (MLUCH), PETE WEISNER (ACCOUNTS BOOK/ORIC CALC).

GAMES WERE PLAYED; CRICKET, GALACTOSMASH, ROLAND GARRUS, LAST WARRIOR. ONE EMBARRASSING MOMENT CAME WHEN ROBERT COOK & JAMES GROOM WHO HAD BEEN PLAYING 'ICE HOCKEY MANAGER' FROM NORWAY, DECIDED TO BREAK INTO THE GAME. EVERYONE HAD BEEN COMMENTING ON HOW WELL THE TRANSLATIONS WERE DONE INTO ENGLISH. BUT TO OUR HORROR, QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY BANDY LAUGHTER, WE NOTICED FROM THE LISTING THAT THE NORWEGIANS HAD MADE ERRONEOUS SPELLINGS OF SUCH WORDS AS : 'TANKER', 'RUNT', & 'DUCK'. - !! SAY NO MORE !!

I HOPE WE WILL ALL MEET UP AGAIN AT STAFFORD IN NOVEMBER FOR THE 'ALTERNATE MICRO SHOW'. FAILING THAT, IT IS HOPED TO HAVE ANOTHER 'ORIC MEET' IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. ALREADY LITTLE GET-TOGETHERS ARE EMERGING. JON IS MEETING UP WITH PAUL AND GEOFF WHEREAS I KEEP IN CONTACT WITH CHRIS HEARN AND DAVID WILKIN. IT IS BY MAKING CONTACT THAT WE KEEP OUR MACHINE ALIVE.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL FOR ATTENDING ON THE 23rd AND FOR TRAVELLING SUCH GREAT DISTANCES; i.e. BLACKPOOL, FRANCE, CHESHIRE, NORWICH, BIRMINGHAM, HAYWARD'S HEATH etc.etc. UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN - LYKKE TIL

=====

"ALTAI JOYSTICK INTERFACE"

HERE AT 'O.U.M', CHRIS HEARN AND MYSELF HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO USE THE PROGRAMMABLE JOYSTICK INTERFACE FROM 'ALTAI'. A PROGRAM LISTING COMES WITH IT, BUT WE ARE LOST. PLEASE ! PLEASE! CAN ANYONE OUT THERE HELP???

IF WE CAN SORT THEM OUT THEN THES LITTLE GEMS WILL GO ON SALE TO READERS AT A CHEAPO PRICE.

=====

MLUCH

=====

WE HAVE FOUND OUT FROM VINCENT THE REASON WHY 'MLUCH' CRASHES OUT AT THE END OF THE 19th SCREEN. IT IS THE END OF THE GAME AND IT HAPPENS TO MAKE IT HARD TO PIRATE. SO WELL DONE TO HENRY IN PORTSMOUTH FOR COMPLETING THE GAME. IT WOULD OF BEEN NICE THOUGH, TO GET A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE INSTEAD OF NOTHING

NOT PAGE THREE

The Oric, as with most 6502 home computers, uses Microsoft Basic, adding to the core functions such things as sound and graphics routines and machine specific commands. The ROM therefore contains this 'kernel' Basic plus additional Basic routines. Microsoft Basic requires Page 0 of memory (#00-#FF) for storing system information, and Page 1 (#100-#1FF) for the stack. Not surprisingly, therefore, Oric chose to use Page 2 (#200-#2FF) for the machine specific system information. Since the 6502 'sees' peripherals as memory addresses, Page 3 (#300-#3FF) is reserved for external use. We all know that Page 4 is reserved for disc drive use, and Basic programs start at #500, Page 5.

Here then, is the disassembly of Page 2:

200-203	V1.0	V1.1	Workspace
204-207	1.0		Workspace
		1.1	Unused
208	1.0	1.1	Key address code of last key pressed
209	1.0	1.1	Key address code for Shift
			(#A5 left, #A7 right)
	1.0	1.1	Ctrl (#A2), Funct (#A5)
20A	1.0	1.1	Key column address code of
			last key pressed
20B	1.0	1.1	Key column address code for control keys
20C	1.0	1.1	#FF - CAPS on; #7F - off
20D	1.0	1.1	Workspace, counter for columns
20E	1.0	1.1	Keyboard repeat counter
20F	1.0		Workspace for access to GI 8912
		1.1	Unused
210-21	1.0	1.1	Keyboard workspace
212	1.0	1.1	FB code for hires commands
213	1.0	1.1	Pattern command data register
214	1.0	1.1	Pattern command workspace
215	1.0	1.1	Pixel position in byte of hires cursor
216-217	1.0	1.1	Hires cursor position store
218	1.0	1.1	Temporary store of pixel position in byte
219	1.0	1.1	Hires cursor - X coordinate
21A	1.0	1.1	Hires cursor - Y coordinate
21B-21C	1.0	1.1	Circle: relative horizontal coordinate
21D-21E	1.0	1.1	Circle: relative vertical coordinate
21F	1.0	1.1	0 - TEXT : 1 - HIRES
220	1.0	1.1	0 - 48K : 1 - 16K (?purpose)
221-227			Use unknown and undocumented
228-22A	1.0		JMP #EC03 IRQ vector
		1.1	Unused
22B-22D	1.0		JMP #F430 NMI vector
		1.1	Unused

(to be continued)

"THE LISTINGS PAGE"

====

THIS MONTH WE HAVE TWO LISTINGS KINDLY SENT IN BY STAN ELLISON.
 THE FIRST IS ANOTHER VARIATION OF 'FRACTALS', WHICH IS VERY INTRICATE
 AND TAKES A FAIRLY LONG TIME TO RUN. THE SECOND IS 'MODIFIED
 LISSAJOUS FIGURES' AND GIVES SOME PLEASING RANDOM DRAWINGS.
 THANKS TO STAN, AND KEEP SENDING IN THOSE LISTINGS EVERYBODY PLEASE.

"FRACTAL"

=====

```

10 HIRES:P=28:Q=228:R=191:S=128:D=2
20 X=INT(90+(RND(1)*80)):Y=INT(RND(1)*191)
30 ON INT(RND(1)*3+1) GOSUB50,100,200
35 K$=KEY$:IFK$<>" "THEN END
40 CURSETA,B,1:X=A:Y=B:GOTO30
50 A=P+(X-P)/D:B=R-(R-Y)/D:RETURN
100 A=Q-(Q-X)/D:B=R-(R-Y)/D:RETURN
200 B=Y/D:A=S+(X-S)/D
210 IFX<STHENA=S-(S-X)/D
220 RETURN

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"MODIFIED LISSAJOUS FIGURES"

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10 REM*LISSAJOUS FIGURES*
20 REM* TO DECREASE COMPLEXITY, SET LOWER *
30 REM* LIMITS FOR X,Y IN LINES 70,80 *
40 REM* OR VICE VERSA *
50 HIRES:POKEE30E,£40
70 X=INT(RND(1)*10+1)
80 Y=INT(RND(1)*3+1+X)
90 T=0:P=2*PI+0.03
100 M=0:N=0:CURSET127,87,1
110 I=80*SIN(X*T)*SIN(T)
120 J=80*SIN(Y*T)*COS(T)
130 I=INT(I):J=INT(J)
160 DRAW(I-M),(J-N),1
170 M=I:N=J:T=T+0.03
180 IFT<P THEN 110
185 POKEE30E,£00
190 PRINT"PRESS SPACE BAR FOR NEXT FIGURE OR 'E' TO END":GETA$
200 IFA$="E" ORA$="e" THENEND
210 IFA$=" " THEN60
220 GOTO190

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COMING SOON

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'FILL' AND 'ERASE' ROUTINES, NUMEROUS LISTINGS FROM 'THEORIC' MAGS. -
 SO MUCH IN FACT, THAT WITH OUR SPECIAL ISSUE 38, YOU WILL RECIEVE A
 COMPLETELY FREE SUPPLEMENT CONTAINING MANY LISTINGS. IF YOU ARE THE
 LAZY TYPE AND DON'T LIKE TYPING, IT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON CASSETTE FOR
 £1 - MORE DETAILS IN ISSUE 37.

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BITS AND BOBS (Cont.)

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ORIC SOFTWARE FOR SALE (Cont.)

Mike agreed to deduct £2 off the Price of each title and would listen to offers for 2 or more titles. Mike sent me 'ORIC BASE' to load test (The Price sticker on it was marked LASKYS - £14.90). It loaded fine, but there was no manual with it - YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!

WALKIES

At the ORIC meet my original cassette of ICE HOCKEY MANAGER/WRESTLING MANAGER went walkies. I would appreciate it's return.

PHOTOS

Photos taken at the Oric meet are now available from O.U.M at 50pence each:

A) Group Photo, B) Geoff Phillips Plays TETRIS, C) Jon Haworth with his P. D., D) Alan Whitaker meets Vincent & Alain, E) David Wilkin meets Vincent & Alain, F) Nicholas Haworth gets into the act, G) The team from MIRAGE.

ON TEST

CASSETTE LOAD BOX

Owners of the Oric Microdisc System will be aware of loading in cassettes whilst the drive is in Place. This Problem did not occur with Opelco and Cumana drives.

David Wilkin has made up a little box which is connected between the drive ribbon and the Atmos drive Port. I have had it on test for the past month and it works perfectly. Cost including Postage is £12 direct from: David Wilkin, 22 Saxonbury Ave., Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx. TW16 5HD

INTERVIEW

The interview with Geoff Phillips will be Published next month. Meanwhile here is the opening reParte I had with Geoff.

Question

Geoff, what are you working on at Present?

Answer

Dave, I am using a Commodore 64 c/w an ST and an Amstrad CPC. I am using the ST to Program the C64. The C64 will only work when it is upside down. When it is the right way up it crashes.

Competition Winner

The fake letter in issue 35 was the "Cindy of Soho" one. David Wilkin did in fact try dialling the 0898 numbers, but got the unobtainable tone. I have since Posted off to David a copy of the 'Sunday Sport'. The winner was Matthew Shakeshaft, and he will receive "ESCAPE" shortly.

NEW COMPETITION

This month again spot the fake letter and win the book "The Oric Handbook" - Lupton and Robinson.

A big thank you to Geoff Phillips for donating this book.

NEXT MONTH - listings, letters, interview, on test, reviews etc. etc.

"THE BACK PAGE"

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THIS MONTH WE INTRODUCE THE 'MAIL ORDER' SECTION. ALL THE FOLLOWING GOODS ARE AVAILABLE DIRECT FROM 'O.U.M' IN THE FORMAT STATED. WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR ULA's.

MAIL ORDER

CHEQUES/P.O.'s SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO: D.DICK (ORIC USER MONTHLY) OR "ORIC USER MONTHLY" AND SENT TO THE ADDRESS ON THE FRONT COVER. ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE. GOODS WILL NORMALLY BE DESPATCHED WITHIN 7 DAYS, HOWEVER FOR NORWEGIAN SOFTWARE WHICH IS CASSETTE BASED, PLEASE ALLOW 21 DAYS.

SOFTWARE

TITLE	CASS.PRICE	DISC PRICE
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GRENDL (ORDER FROM MIRAGE)		£5.50
INSECT INSANITY (" " ")		£5.50
CRICKET (" " ")		£5.00
GALACTOSMASH (" " ")		£5.50
GRAND PRIX (" " ")		£5.50
ESCAPE	£1.99	£4.00
CHES MADNESS *	£5.50	£7.00
ROCK RUN *	£5.50	£7.00
ICE HOCKEY MANAGER	£4.50	£6.50 *

* DENOTES THAT THE O.N PACK WILL BE SUPPLIED FREE WITH THESE TITLES.
SPECIAL OFFER FOR AUGUST ----- ANY OF THE ABOVE TWO TITLES ON DISC FOR £8.50

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6502A MICROPROCESSOR - £5.00
6522 VIA - £6.00
IC EXTRACTOR TOOL - £1.40
IC INSERTION TOOL - £1.50
DUAL-IN-LINE SOCKETS (STATE NO. OF PINS) - 8 or 14Pin - £1 FOR 8
16,18 or 20Pin - £1 FOR 5
28Pin - £1 FOR 4
40Pin - £1 FOR 3
3 INCH DISCS - £2.60 EACH

'O.U.M' SUBSCRIPTIONS

U.K : 1 ISSUE IS £1, 5 ISSUES ARE £5, 12 ISSUES ARE £11
EIRE/GERMANY/France/NORWAY/SWEDEN : 5 ISSUES ARE £6 OR 12 ISSUES ARE £14

BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE AT £1 EACH OR 6 FOR £5

INSECT INSANITY

'MIRAGE SOFTWARE' NOW HAVE THE RIGHTS TO THAT GREAT ARCADE GAME 'INSECT INSANITY'. THIS GAME HAS SUPERB GRAPHICS AND WAS THE FOLLOW-UP TO 'RAT SPLAT'.

ALSO NEWLY RELEASED FROM 'MIRAGE' IS 'KRYSTAL WORLDS (£2.99 CASS. ONLY). THIS IS A HUGE MULTI-PART TEXT ADVENTURE.

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FROM 'MIRAGE' ARE: GRENDL, THE HAUNT, LEAGUE SOCCER, INSECT INSANITY, GALACTOSMASH, GRAND PRIX, & KRYSTAL WORLDS.

CASSETTE ORDERS SHOULD BE SENT DIRECT TO: R.COOK (MIRAGE), 10 THOMSON AVE, KINGS NORTON, BIRMINGHAM, B38 8YD

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ISSUE. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN ISSUE 37 BY AUGUST 20th. PLEASE. SEE YOU NEXT MONTH - THE ED.