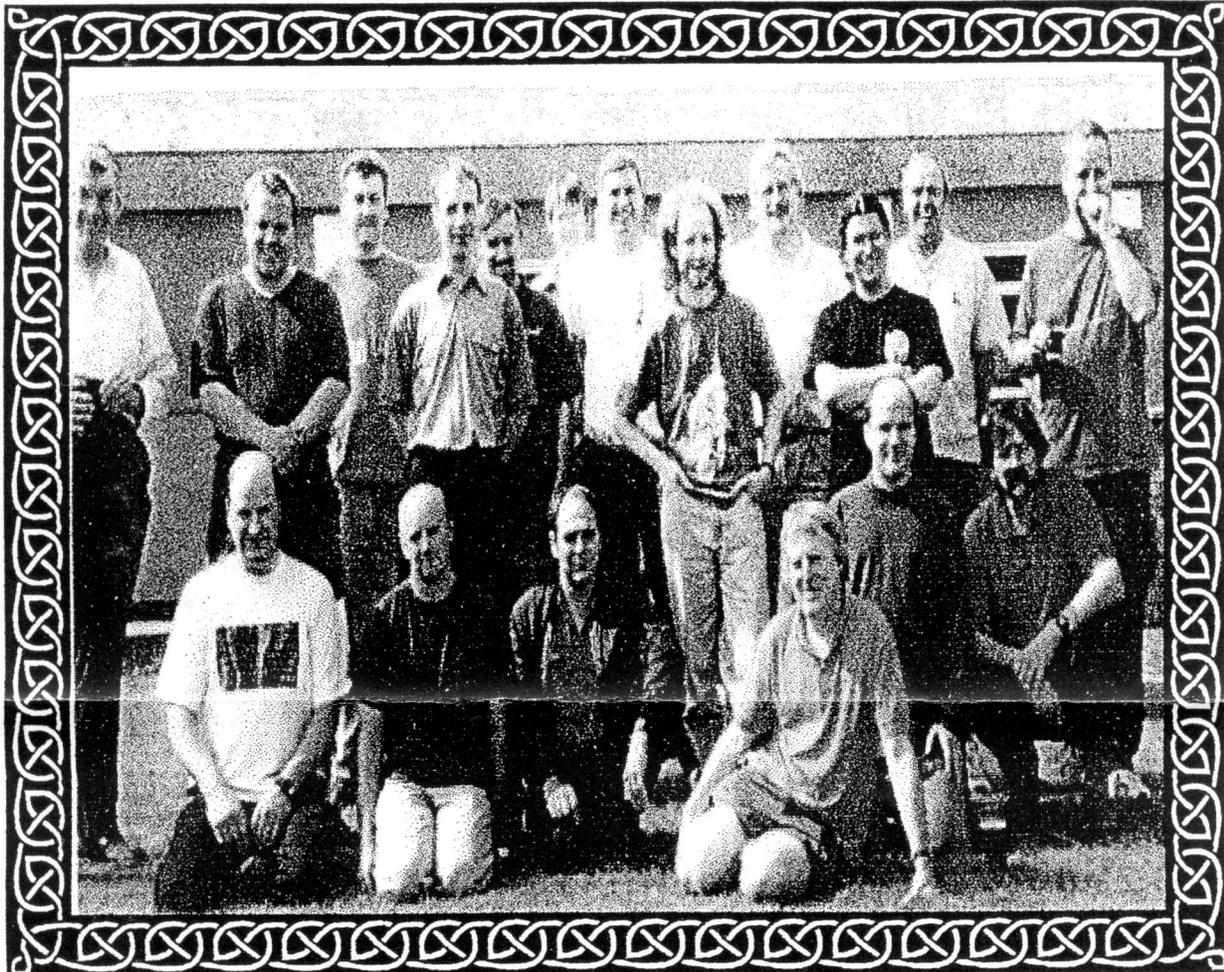


RHETORIC

Issue #2

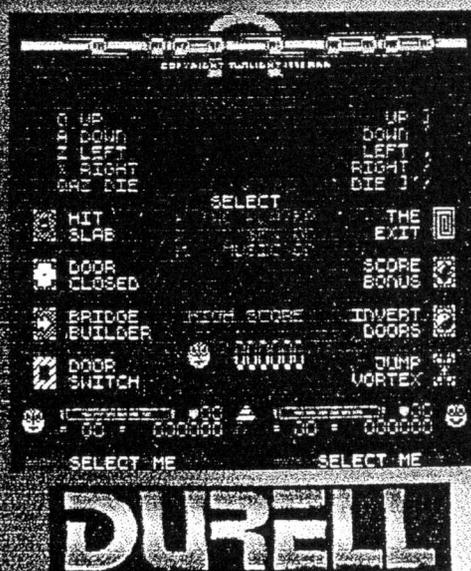
Nov 1999

THE UK's Sole Remaining Oric/Atmos Magazine!



ORIC MEET '99

All Of The Latest Oric News!
Zip N Zap – The Next Installment
Insight Into Durell Software
Hints, Tips, Alternative Micros
Letters & E-mails, Programming & Listings



RHETORIC

Issue Number Two (November 1999)

Resurrection!

Well – It's arrived! Issue #2. It's come a little later than I expected (the magazine has been ready for distribution for a while), but it was thought best that it shouldn't clash with the final OUM magazine, which should be out now. The core group of people that have formed Rhetoric have been in contact a lot recently, and we are in a much more organized state than we were a few months ago. Members of the group have been awarded (or should that be 'press-ganged into?') duties, and have split the thing into various responsibilities. I think I am safe in saying that we feel in a much better situation to be able to provide you, the Orician, an ideal outlet for Oric related news, views and great new software.

We were surprised at the interest in Rhetoric over the past few months, and now feel that the future of this Oric publication is assured for the foreseeable future, and we thank all that have subscribed, and contributed. If an article you have written hasn't appeared in here yet – don't worry – it will be included in future editions.

Its been a great past month or so... JB came down to visit, where we discussed all things Oric, and myself and (now wife) Anita learned some machine code stuff (though I hate to say that she picked it up better than me!). Also, more of the group are in contact now on the net via ICQ, & I have had the pleasure to communicate with other Oric users. The downside is the fact that I was unable to make the meet; I really would have liked to have gone.

Finally, enjoy the read, we hope it prompts you to write a program, write an article, write a letter or just use your Oric more! Oh! And there loads of stuff to look forward to! The first Rhetoric disk will be out soon!



Simon Ulyatt
(editor/cofounder)



from left to right:
Jim Groom (Helpline, Tester, Reviewer)
Steve Marshall (Software Distributor/Founder)
Matt Coates (Treasurer & Accounts)
Jon Bristow [in coffin] (Mag distributor,
chairman, and co founder)

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Please note that the above pictures of Simon Ulyatt, Jim Groom, Steve Marshall, Matt Coates and Jon Bristow are for illustrative purposes only and may not resemble actual Rhetoric people – strange as they are.

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REQUESTS!!

Can someone please do a write up of the Oric Meet?

Also – if possible – could someone do some sort of tribute to Dave and OUM?

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RHETORIC

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Input / Output

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Let's kick off with an interesting article sent to me from JB by email, originally from Dave Goodrum.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MICROSOFT'S NEW TV DINNER PRODUCT

You must first remove the plastic cover. By doing so you agree to accept and honor Microsoft rights to all TV dinners. You may not give anyone else a bite of your dinner (which would constitute an infringement of Microsoft's rights). You may, however, let others smell and look at your dinner and are encouraged to tell >them how good it is.

If you have a PC microwave oven, insert the dinner into the oven. Set the oven using these keystrokes: <<\mstv.
dinn //08.5min@50%heat// - then enter: ms//start.cook_dindin/
yummy\|yum~yum:-)gohot#cookme.

If you have a Mac oven, insert the dinner and press start. The oven will set itself and cook the dinner.

If you have a Unix oven, insert the dinner, enter the ingredients of the dinner (found on the package label), the weight of the dinner, and the desired level of cooking and press start. The oven will calculate the time and heat and cook the dinner exactly to your specification.

Be forewarned that Microsoft dinners may crash, in which case your oven must be restarted. This is a simple procedure. Remove the dinner from the oven and enter <<ms.good/tryagain\again/
again please.

This process may have to be repeated. Try unplugging the microwave and then doing a cold reboot. If this doesn't work, contact your hardware vendor.

Many users have reported that the dinner tray is far too big, larger than the dinner itself, having many useless compartments, most of which are empty. These are for future menu items. If the tray is too large to fit in your oven you will need to upgrade your equipment.

Dinners are only available from registered outlets, and only the chicken variety is currently produced. If you want another variety, call Microsoft Help and they will explain that you really don't want another variety. Microsoft Chicken is all you really need.

Microsoft has disclosed plans to discontinue all smaller versions of their chicken dinners. Future releases will only be in the larger family size. Excess chicken may be stored for future use, but must be saved only in Microsoft approved packaging.

Microsoft promises a dessert with every dinner after '98. However, that version has yet to be released. Users have permission to get thrilled in advance.

Microsoft dinners may be incompatible with other dinners in the freezer, causing your freezer to self-defrost. This is a feature, not a bug. Your freezer probably should have been defrosted anyway.

Cheers for that – though it did neglect to say that ...

...That Microsoft dinners cost £129.95 each.
Simon

Dear Simon,

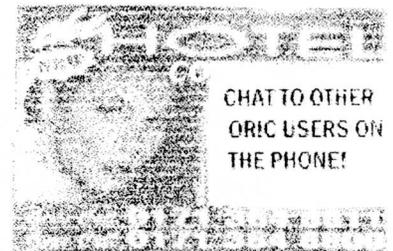
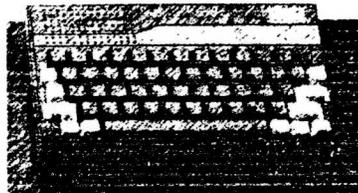
Further to my phone call to you, here are the instructions for Orion {Lothlorien}, Oric Mon {Tansoft}, and Oric Mon {PSS}. Oric Mon has some more pages that I haven't copied, listing the Op-codes, but they are standard.

I also have the instructions for EXMON and ORICADE, if the current three don't help you.

Good luck with Rhetoric – long may it run.

Yours sincerely,
John Foggin.

Dear John,
Thanks very much indeed for those. They will come in very handy for both myself, and any other Oric user who needs them. JB has requested that I publish these in the magazine, which I have to agree is a good idea, and these will appear in future for anyone who needs them. Thanks for your support.
Simon.



The Phone Bar

Explicit Oric Talk

0898 146729 My Joystick is sweaty
0898 156552 Euphorics crashed again
0898 716255 Look at my stack pointer
0898 715244 Feel my atmos keyboard
0898 162355 Should I have a nybble?
0898 156527 My machine code routine is huge
0898 725546 Bit manipulation
0898 432561 My PSU is getting hot
0898 324562 Kinky fun with CURSET

Costs £14.99 a minute (cheap rate) 18p/23p at other times

INPUT / OUTPUT

Simon,
I've recently been converting some of my Oric games from Oric Dos to Sedoric, so they are accessible to more people. I've sent these to Jon Bristow. Some of these games use data files, and were in the Oric Dos sequential file structure, so to make these games convertible to Sedoric I used the STORE/RECALL commands, but in doing so came across some initial problems. Jon suggested the following may be a useful article for Rhetoric. (please see opposite)

Colin R Bradford

*Colin -
Thanks for that useful information.*

Simon

Storing more than you Recall

When working with my Atmos I wrote a program called the 'Oric Text Writer', which was a simple word processor written in Basic, although you could include printer control commands and print text in different colours, sizes, etc, so wasn't that simple. Over the years the program developed into more of a combined word processor and database. You could have multiple lines for headers and footers, do mail merge and print personalised letters, sort the data, add up columns etc. Typical uses were an address book, birthdays records, lists, and a file system for a collection of over 3,000 photographs.

As a result the 'Text Writer' became my universal data handler. Any program or game that required a data file was created using this program, even those requiring numbers.

All of the data was stored in a string array, which was dimensioned to 600 elements when 'Text Writer' was run. This was to ensure there was plenty of scope for large files.

Whilst converting these files from using Oric Dos to Sedoric3, to make them available to more people, I came across a problem. From Oric Dos I had to save the data as a tape file, so they could be accessed from Sedoric. The Basic commands to do this are STORE to save an array as a tape file, and RECALL to load it back in. Whilst trying to RECALL them back in, I kept getting an 'Out of memory' error message, even though I knew the array contained less than a 100 elements, and I had dimensioned the array to RECALL them to 100.

After many hours and attempts I identified what was causing the problem.

All my data had been created with 'Text Writer' using the array T\$(600). When STORE is used it records information about the whole array and not just a list of elements with data in, i.e., if T\$(600) only had the first 6 elements with data, it would still reserve room for 600 when using STORE. When RECALLing into an array, say D\$(10), there would be the 'out of memory' error, but D\$(600) would be okay. Therefore, I had initially to dimension all my arrays to at least 600.

This of course could be a problem if you are short of memory, having to reserve space for unused data elements. This can be got round by using what I call a Trim Text function. Firstly, for data files I always use GRAB to get the extra memory. Using a small program to RECALL the data into T\$(600), identify how many elements you are actually using, say 120, dimension a second array D\$(120), copy the elements from T\$ to D\$, then STORE the array D\$(120). Now programs or games don't have to waste space by dimensioning the arrays to bigger than they need.

My 'Text Writer' now includes the Trim Text function and I have converted all of my data files to Sedoric.

Colin R Bradford



Don't Leave it to someone else..... Write some software!



Hello. My name is Cuthbert and I am a mad vicar. These voices in my head keep telling me to chop people up with an axe unless they send me a letter or an email about Orics. You can send me a letter or email here, c/o my therapist :

Simon (Rhetoric), 32 Peter Paine Close, Butterwick, Boston, Lincs. PE22 0HA, UK + email: Chaosmongers@yahoo.com

Don't let me come knocking on your door!...

