

The Toronto area
SORCERER USERS NEWSLETTER
(I/O)

Hello and welcome to our first Sorcerer Users Group progress report! In the weeks to come we may look forward to several meetings and it is my hope that they will all be as fruitful as our first few sessions.

As you probably know, our meeting on June 20 was arranged for the purpose of laying out a structure for the group over the next few months. The following notes are on those items discussed and accepted by those present. While they are by no means absolute, since this is your users group, they stand now as the only guidelines we have to direct and assist this users group.

1. Regular monthly meetings to be held on Wednesdays have been agreed on with the next one on July 18, 79.
2. This newsletter has been set out to provide a medium of information exchange. This means that it depends on your contributions. Any submissions, untill September of this year may be left at the front desk of The Computer Place, 186 Queen St. W. Toronto, Ont. M5V 1Z1 or mailed to the same. Please mark "Attention Andrew Kieran"
3. In order to utilize a larger pool of knowledge we will attempt to establish information sharing ties with other users group in both Canada and the U.S.
4. By the first of August we hope to have a post office box where mail and newsletter items may be deposited.
5. On the aquisition of a post office box the various computer journals, (Byte, Kilobaud, Interface Age, etc.), will be informed of our existance so that we may become well known to area users who have missed our attempts to notify them.
6. Whenever possible we will subscribe to the newsletters of other groups and encourage them to do the same. This will broaden our "knowledge pool".
7. Contact with Exidy will be made in an attempt to find users in our general area who have still elluded our membership rolls.
8. A software exchange shall be organized so that participating Sorcerer users can develop and exchange programs, either written by them, or by others with permission. Mr. Dieter Pagani, also responsible for having arranged conference space for us, has volunteered to maintain the library in the same building we meet in.
9. While it is our intention to operate as a non-profit group,

an annual fee has been proposed, perhaps \$10.00, to cover the costs of producing and mailing notices such as this. This fee might also cover any materials which the group required.

10. If desired, special interest groups may be set up to allow people interested in any specific aspect of the Sorcerer to exploit that field to the fullest while still maintaining full group membership.

In the more immediate future, commencing on July 18, we will begin a series of Z-80 machine language tutorials. Though they are open to all, those members who are proficient in any machine language aspects are encouraged to assist in instruction and perhaps even lead a tutorial of their own. In our first session Peter Wright of Atomic Energy Canada has agreed to "start the ball rolling" with a seminar on machine language fundamentals.

In this discussion we hope to get a look at some necessary vocabulary at the bit and byte machine level. Peter hopes that by the end of the evening those users who have not as yet experimented with the machine language capabilities of their Sorcerer will have enough background to start writing simple but usefull routines.

The format of our next meeting is up for discussion, but, it appears that the following solution will work best. Since the members of the group have greatly varried skills and background in machine language, our first discussion will start at the usual time, 7:00 pm., but will assume little or no previous machine language use. Those of you with some knowledge in this area may wish to arrive a little later, perhaps a half hour, though participation by all will be encouraged. Any knowledge that you share will be much appreciated.

In response to the question "Is there a text book?", there is a book which some may find usefull and which those giving the lectures will use to assist them. There is no mandatory text required. The recommended one is called "Understanding Microcomputers And Small Computer Systems" and is published by Scelbi for around twelve or thirteen dollars.

In closing, I hope to see everybody at our next meeting on Wednesday July 18 at 7:00 pm. Once again we have obtained a room in the MacDonald Block South of The provincial Government Buildings at Bay and Wellesley. Either a sign or the security guard will tell you which room we are in. Please enter off of Bay St.

A special thanks for help with this newsletter goes to Deiter Pagani, for his planning assistance, Peter Wright, for his seminar and hardware, software help and last, but not least, I thank the people at the Computer Place for the use of their word-processor.

Happy Computing

Andrew R. Kieran