

REPORT & FILE

Sorcerer Users' Group (Toronto) SUG(T) Newsletter
Vol. 1 No. 1
March 1980

The Board of Directors of SUG(T), met in Fran's Restaurant on Tues. Feb. 26/80 to have an informal discussion on the direction that the group should take in the future. This newsletter is one of the results of that discussion. We hope that this will become a monthly event but more about that later on.

MEMBERSHIP

To date there are approximately N members of which X have paid, Y never show their faces and Z are on the mailing list. In order to balance these figures a little better, the following has been decided:

- membership dues are \$10.00 per year and will apply from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 of each year
- anyone who has paid the \$10.00 dues since the inception of the group is considered paid for 1980
- all those who have not paid their dues by April 15 will be removed from the mailing list
- meetings are open to everybody and anybody, HOWEVER, there will be certain privileges enjoyed by members only which we are trying to arrange for the future such as lectures and tutorials, special group discount rates on hardware/software and anything else we can arrange. Some privileges already instituted are this newsletter and software exchange.
- a membership agreement form must be signed which will set down a few basic rules to be followed. These rules are presently being drawn up and should be ready for the next meeting. There will definitely be some rules regarding software exchange privileges.

THE LIBRARY

A software library is currently being set up. The group's librarian is David LeBlanc. He may be contacted at 925-9917 for information about donations and obtaining software from the library. However, no software will be distributed to anyone who has not signed a membership agreement form.

MEETINGS

Meetings are currently being held on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:00pm to 9:30pm in the staff lounge of Jesse Ketchum Public School, 61 Daven-

Port Rd. (at Bay), third floor. If there is any chance to this, members will be contacted by phone. The board thought that it might be productive to have a theme topic for each meeting in order to try to set some common ground on which to have discussions. Since there seems to be a lot of interest currently on modems, that will be the topic of the next meeting. Please gather as much information as you possibly can on the hardware and software aspects and bring it to the meeting so that we can all share the information.

One word of warning about the meetings:- they must end at 9:30PM SHARP. Everybody must be out of the building by 9:40PM so that we do not lose our meeting space. Also, we must clean up ALL of our mess beforehand.

LECTURES AND TUTORIALS

If there is enough interest shown, I will give some instruction on basic assembly language programming (both 8080 and Z80). However, since not everyone will be interested, these lectures will probably be held on another evening at some location yet to be determined (probably my home depending on the amount of response). I may also give some lectures for beginners on getting acquainted with your computer and BASIC language programming.

I sincerely hope that others will start to do likewise and donate some of their time to teach others a little about what they know. After all, that's what the group is all about - to SHARE with each other. This is how we will all benefit. If you know anything well enough to teach it; a language, an operating system, computer music, graphics, etc., please teach. Call me to arrange a time and a place if necessary.

I think many people will be interested in learning some of the hardware aspects of their computer, what they can do with it and HOW. I know that I am. I would really be interested in learning what happens when I solder two wires together.

NEWSLETTER

I hope you are all enjoying this newsletter and hope that it will prove to be a worthwhile project, but there are two catches; one - we will need to have articles submitted for publication. This is not my newsletter but another vehicle through which we can communicate. If you would like to submit a (short) article, please set it to me at one of the meetings. The second thing is that in order to make the newsletter into a good mini-mag, we will also need some assistance both financially and timewise. This is entirely voluntary and the amount of support given will be evidenced by the quality and quantity of each one you receive. I have no intentions of doing it all myself. Please call me if you are interested in helping out. Remember, there is more to computing than sitting in front of a keyboard hour after hour. You'll be surprised how much you will learn even by working with others on a newsletter.

We have access to a Gestetner printer but we need someone who has access to a stencil maker for the masters.

TIDBITS

Did you know??? that you may now import hardware equipment into Canada DUTY FREE. It's true. The duty has been lifted from COMPUTER REPLACEMENT PARTS. Simply order your new disk drives, printer, etc. and tell them at the other end to classify them as computer replacement parts. However, the 9% excise tax still applies (it will go back up to 12% April 1st.).

Our secretary, Dieter Pasani, is now an authorized dealer for Lifeboat Associates and can give a moderate discount on their software. He also says that he can give the fastest delivery in town. Please call him for details if you're interested.

Also, if there are a lot of you who are interested in buying the same item, call us and maybe we can arrange a discount on large orders.

By the way, the present Directors are:

President - Duncan Lang 461-2224

Vice-Pres - John Ross 691-2810

Secretary - Dieter Pasani 453-5088

We are the ones to contact if you have any questions and want bona-fide information. Also, substitute the above names wherever you see 'contact me, I or us' in this text.

Dieter is presently sending letters to all the other Sorcerer Clubs around to try to set some sort of exchange with them.

Duncan is writing to all the magazines to have us listed under Club News columns.

I am now the (temporary) editor of this rag. I will also be sending a letter to EXIDY to inform them of our existence and to DEMAND that we be kept up-to-date on what's going on down there.

See you at the next meeting - Mar. 12, 1980 at 7:00pm.