

PORT FE

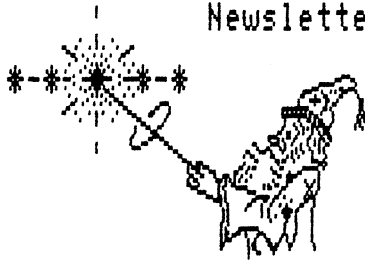
SORCERERS USERS' GROUP

(Toronto)

P.O. Box 1173 Sta. 'B'
Downsview, Ontario,
Canada. M3H 5V6

SORCERER

Newsletter



The Toronto Sorcerer Users' Group was founded in the Spring of 1979, a handful of willing and eager to learn members.

This newsletter shall at all times keep in mind the goal at its conception. To spread the seeds of knowledge.

Articles printed in this newsletter shall be free for all Sorcerer Users' groups to reprint or comment on as they see fit.

Articles submitted for this newsletter must be in no later than the beginning of the 1st of every month.

October 1981 ISSUE

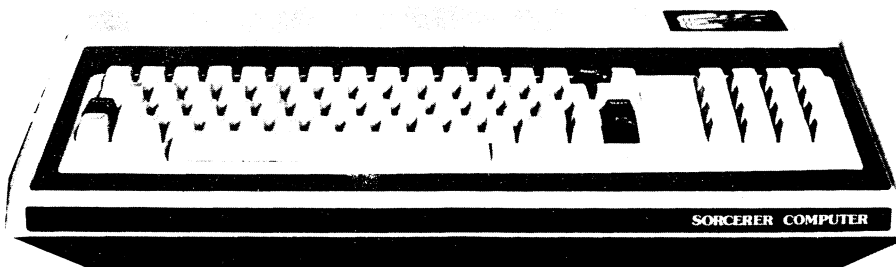
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. - Notice to all members
- Up-coming ELECTIONS
- CP/M SECTION.
2. - Review ENCODE/DECODE
3. - Sorcerer I/O Vector use. (MPI)
4. - ASM Listing (MPI screen dump)
- BBS SYSTEMS
8. - XMODEM Re-written !!!
for the Sorcerer & Hayes Smartmodem
Discus 2D serial output used.
9. - Review - GROTHNIK WARS
10. - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

MEETING PLACE

Location : Bathurst Heights Library - Date: October 14 - 7.00 PM
3170 Bathurst St.

One block north of Lawrence on the west side of Bathurst.



EVENTS During the last meeting.

At the last meeting a rather unexpected motion was put to the floor. A Constitution had been drawn up for the club. It was put to a vote, that we adopt this constitution. The person that made that motion was me! Unfortunately this had to be done quickly, due to the lack of time. Our year is nearly up and the new executive will be voted 'in' at the November meeting.

We all have had a very good year, but there have been times when there was just too much to do. This is the reason for the new Constitution, we will have to endeavour to recruit more members into an active role. Hopefully the new year will allow a more even distribution of duties regarding club activities. The new Constitution was formally passed in Principle and carried by a majority vote of members present on Thursday September 17, 1981.

The new Constitution will allow for an expanded executive and also for additional committee chairmen to be set up. Once the new Constitution is in its final form copies shall be made available when ready. The new executive of the club shall comprise of the following:

OFFICERS

- (a) President
- (b) Vice-President
- (c) Treasurer
- (d) Corresponding Director
- (e) PORT FE Director

COMMITTEES

- PORT FE Editors
- PORT FE Publisher
- Software Chairman
- Awards Chairman
- Membership Chairman

The SORCERERS USERS' GROUP TORONTO shall also be presenting -- (on an International level) -- two AWARDS every year.

1. PORT FE Scholar of the year award.

This award shall be presented to the person whom contributed the most/best articles to PORT FE during the course of the year.

2. Sorcerer program of the year award.

This award shall be presented to the person who has written the most noted program of the year.

There shall also be presented a (members only) award.

3. Outstanding achievement award.

This award shall be presented to the one outstanding member of the club that has contributed more toward any/all of the following:

- (a) Time and effort.
- (b) Software development.
- (c) Hardware development.

The awards chairman shall form a group of judges that shall determine the merits and persons eligible for the different awards. The Outstanding achievement award shall be made by nominations brought before the floor and shall be voted on by secret ballot.

The awards shall be made at the meeting in December.

Nominations for various positions shall be accepted during the meetings in October and November. Trusting as many members as possible shall attempt to join us at these very important meetings.

H.A. Lautenbach

I've just had the opportunity to witness a SAFE being installed on a disk. Yes a safe!!! For those of you who have 'love letters', 'second set of books', 'secret programs', 'payroll', or anything at all, this is the best security system I've ever witnessed.

The file literally requires a combination to unlock the file. Access can be restricted to files at will. Any attempt to decode a file without the code fails. There are two codes required for decoding a file.

1. The main encode/decode access code which only allows you access to try to attempt a file recovery.

This code could (say) gain access to certain disks. Different codes for different subjects or program files. Again let me state that this code only allows you a chance to try a decode/encode.

2. Now for a ten digit file access code. Without this the file is not for human understanding. Nor for any other medium.

Should someone attempt a decode of a file knowing only say the first access code to encode/decode, this would be of no use unless he knew the file access code. If he should be so bold as to try even one decode on the file it could be lost forever. Yes even to the person who knows the proper code.

So I surmise that back-ups are in order of the day here. At least you would know if someone within your trusted ranks tried a funny.

If you want security not even a computer set to the only task of decoding one file could accomplish this task within 10,000 years.

The files created undergo the following:

- . Transposition
- . Inversion
- . Traveling XOR's (element relative)
- . XOR's with hash generated by user combination

The file is coded block by block. Hence, should equipment error cause a bad data write, decoding error will be local only to that block.

With over 10,000,000,000 possible combinations, it is virtually impossible for an individual to attempt a decode.

Because each file can have its own combination, multiple security levels are possible. That is, simply assign sets of files the same combination. In this way, each person can be given clearance to only those files that are permitted.

Should anyone wish to try a decode of a 'coded' file let me know. I would be happy to let you try. In fact I'll even let you have all the time you need and offer my condolences to your next of kin. Be sure to have lots of paper handy too. Oh by the way I'll make it simple, a one line plain ASCII text, no machine language etc...

Now that you see what can be done, think about what useful purpose you could make out of it.

The above is from SUPERSOFT and is available for any CP/M system and TRS-80 DOS.

by: H A. Lautenbach

Sorcerer I/O Vector Use

As some of you may know, the Sorcerer has a very flexible I/O system. You can decide where input and output are going to be routed and you can even write your own routine to sit on these vectors and intercept characters so you can add commands to just about anything. A few programs that I know about that do this are Starbase Hyperion (Quality Software), DPX (Quality Software), and Toolkit (NAS).

I have access to an MPI 88C dot matrix printer that is capable of doing graphics much like the Paper Tiger and I wanted to be able to do dumps of the screens. I made some very minor mods to a Tiger Graphics program and it worked fine but I could not use it very easily. I would have to load in a program then link the routines and then call them with a USR command. At the same time as I was working on this I was also working on some other software for demonstrations that allowed program to execute without user intervention. I figured the best way to do the dumps would be to sit on the keyboard input vector and whenever a ^F came through, dump the contents of the screen to the printer. It worked very well, and I made dumps of a lot of machine code programs as well, without having to do any hard work.

Basically the monitor work area contains pointers for the input and output routines that do character I/O. By modifying these routines using the SET command or changing them under program control, you can place your routines that do the character I/O as well transparent to the user.

The keyboard input vector (invevt or receive) is at MWA+41h and the character output vector (outvevt or send) is at MWA+3fh. To figure out where the MWA (monitor work area) is on your Sorcerer there is a routine called GETIY at (0E1A2H) which will place the MWA in the IV register once it is called.

All my program does, is call the keyboard input routine, check for ^F. If it does see one the program will dump the contents of the screen onto the printer and continue working.

The program works under CP/M for sure, I have not tested it out without CP/M but I imagine that it will work with no or minor mods to it.

The source code for MDUMP is presented below, but it requires Macro-80 to assemble it. To make it work with other assemblers you must make sure the code that is after the .phase pstart instruction, is located at 7f00h. The .phase instruction tells the M80 to assemble the program to operate at 7f30h but to actually sit at 100h+. Then the program can be loaded in using CP/M and executed and not waste a lot of disk space being loaded.

To initiate the program simply type MDUMP and the program will be loaded into ram. The program will be operational at this point, type ^F just to try it out. Then you can load in almost any program and execute it then type ^F, and the screen will go out to the printer. I should note here that the program was tested on a 47K CP/M. The program also gives two other addresses as well when it is loaded. If you type GO 7F00 in the monitor, after you have reset the Sorcerer, it will place the drivers back in, and a call to location 7f18h will dump the screen as well.

by: Jaques Giraud

The following program was modified by Jaques Giraud for the MPI printer.

```

title      MPI Screen Dump
name       ('MPIDMP')
.z80

```

```

;GRPINT - Print Sorcerer screen graphics on paper tiger
;
;      Copyright (C) 1980 by K. Aird
;
;      Assumes printer is connected to the centronics port
;
;      Entry at GPRINT, all registers preserved

```

```

pstart     equ      7f00h
getiy      equ      0e1a2h      ;get mwa in iy
msgout     equ      0e1bah      ;output message
invect     equ      41h         ;keyboard input vector
keybrd     equ      0e018h      ;keyboard input routine
;
;      call      initmsg      ;initialization message
;      call      movprg      ;move the program
;      call      setvct
;      jp        0
;
movprg:    ld        hl,astart
;          ld        de,pstart
;          ld        bc,pend-pstart+1
;          ldir
;          ret
;
initmsg:   ld        hl,msg
;          call      msgout
;          ret
;
msg:       defb      cr,'MDUMP - Exidy Screen to MPI Dump'
;          defb      cr,'Copyright (C) 1981 - '
;          defb      'J. Giraud & Spectra Electronics',cr
;          defb      cr,'Hit ^F to print the screen.'
;          defb      cr,'Type GO 7F00 to set ^F vector.'
;          defb      cr,'Type GO 7F18 to print screen.',cr,cr,0
;
astart:
;
;          .phase      pstart      ;make program at bottom
;                                ;of ram
;
;
setvct::   call      getiy      ;get monitor work area
;          ld        de,nstart   ;jump into nstart
;          ld        (iy+invect),e
;          ld        (iy+invect+1),d
;          ret
;
nstart::   call      keybrd     ;get character
;          ret              z
;          cp        'F'-40h     ;check for ctrlf
;          ret              nz
;          call      gprint
;          ret
;
gprint::   push      af          ;save all registers
;          push      bc
;          push      de
;          push      hl
;          push      ix
;          push      iy

```

```

ld      iy,ptrblk      ;iy -> parameter block
ld      (iy+srow),0    ;first bit row
ld      (iy+rowcnt),4  ;4 rows of 6 bits/block
ld      (iy+blkcnt),10 ;10 blocks
ld      hl,screen     ;start of screen
ld      (blkadr),hl    ;start of current block
call    cret          ;point to start of row
ld      a,esc         ;set density
call    print
ld      a,(density)
call    print
call    setgrp        ;set graphics mode
;
; print one row of 6 scan lines
;
prtrrow: ld      (iy+lastcol),65 ;assume blank line
;
findend: call    getbyte        ;get next scan col
or      a                ;set flags
jr      z,nobits          ;ignore if blank
ld      a,(iy+colcnt)      ;save column count
ld      (iy+lastcol),a
;
nobits:  call    nextbyte       ;move right on bit
jr      nz,findend          ;if not end of row
call    cret                ;back to start for print
;
prtbyte: ld      a,(iy+colcnt)  ;see if rest of row blank
cp      (iy+lastcol)
jr      c,eol
call    getbyte             ;get 6 bits
set     6,a                 ;set bit for graphics
call    print
call    nextbyte            ;move right one bit
jr      nz,prtbyte
;
; point to next line and advance printer 1/2 line
;
eol:     call    nextrow
jr      z,done             ;if last row printed
ld      a,'6'              ;escape
call    print
call    setgrp              ;set graphics mode again
jr      prtrrow
;
; exit graphics mode, return carriage, and return to caller
;
done:    ld      a,cr
call    print
ld      a,lf
call    print
pop      iy                ;restore registers
pop      ix
pop      hl
pop      de
pop      bc
pop      af
ret
setgrp:  ld      a,esc       ;graphics mode
call    print
ld      a,grp              ;set # char/inch
call    print

```

```

; GETBYTE - construct one 6 bit column of dots
;
; entry - IX = screen address
;         IY = parameter block
;
; exit   A = 6 bit col of dots (top dot is bit 0)
;         BC,DE,HL used
;
getbyte: ld      bc,6           ;b=0 c=bit count
         ld      d,(iy+srow)   ;first scan row
;
nextbit: ld      a,d           ;which of 3 screen rows
         sub     8             ;8 bits/screen row
         jr      c,gc1        ;if first row
         sub     8
         jr      c,gc2        ;if second row
         inc     ix           ;because 128 is out of range
         ld      l,(ix+127)
         dec     ix
         jr      getbit
;
gc2:     ld      l,(ix+64)     ;second row
         jr      getbit
;
gc1:     ld      l,(ix+0)     ;first row
;
getbit:  ld      h,0           ;hl = ascii code from screen
         add     hl,hl        ;* 2 bytes/entry
         add     hl,hl
         ld      a,cstable    ;+ base of character set
         add     a,h
         ld      h,a
         ld      a,d          ;+ bit row in character
         and     7
         add     a,l
         ld      l,a
         ld      a,(hl)       ;a=bit row in charset map
         ld      e,(iy+scol)  ;e=scan column
;
shiftbit: rla                ;get bit in carry
         dec     e
         jr      nz,shiftbit
         ld      a,b          ;shift into result
         rla
         ld      b,a
         inc     d            ;next scan bit
         dec     c            ;got 6 bits
         jr      nz,nextbit   ;if not get next bit
         ret
;
; nextbyte - point to the next bit column
;
; entry ix = screen adr
;         iy = parameter block
;
; exit   pointer updated
;         zero flag set if end of row
;         hl clobbered
;
nextbyte: inc     (iy+scol)    ;next scan col

```

```

        dec      (iy+scolcnt)    ;count
        ret      nz              ;if same character
        ld      (iy+scol),1      ;reset scan col
        ld      (iy+scolcnt),8
        inc      ix              ;next character
        dec      (iy+colcnt)     ;count
        ret

;
; cret - carriage return
;
; entry iy -> paramter block
;
; exit pointers reset to start of line
;
cret:    ld      (iy+scol),1
        ld      (iy+scolcnt),8
        ld      (iy+colcnt),64
        ld      ix,(blkadr)
        ret

;
; next row - advance to next row of 6 bits
;
; entry iy - parameter block
;
; exit pointers updated
;      zero flag set if end of screen
;
nextrow: call     cret
        ld      a,(iy+srow)
        add     a,6
        ld      (iy+srow),a
        dec     (iy+rowcnt)
        ret     nz              ;if not end of block
        ld      (iy+rowcnt),4   ;next block of 4 rows
        ld      (iy+srow),0
        ld      hl,(blkadr)
        ld      bc,192         ;advance 3 screen lines
        add     hl,bc
        ld      (blkadr),hl
        ld      ix,(blkadr)
        dec     (iy+blkcnt)     ;decrement block count
        ret

;
; print - output a to centronics port
;
print:   push    af
        jp      0e99bh         ;centronics driver
;
; parameter block defines current print position
;
ptrblk:  defs     7
scol     equ      0              ;scan col (1..8)
scolcnt  equ      1              ;" " count (8..1)
colcnt   equ      2              ;column count (64..1)
lastcol  equ      3              ;" " of last non-blank col
srow     equ      4              ;scan row (0,6,12,18)
rowcnt   equ      5              ;row count (4..1)
blkcnt   equ      6              ;4 row block count (10..1)
;
blkadr:  defw     0              ;address of current block
density: defb     30             ;16.5 char/inch code
;
cstable  equ      0f8h          ;page of character set tble

```



```

screen    equ      0f080h
esc       equ      27
grp       equ      23
cr        equ      0dh
lf        equ      0ah
;
pend:

```

```

    .dephase
end

```

XMODEM Re-written - Sorcerer & Disk Jockey 2D

Within the last two months, a lot of members have gotten modems. This has led to a quest for software that will be compatible with the BBS systems in and around here. (Toronto) (BBS - Bulletin Board Systems)

Since most of the members now have modems (of all types), it remains a little problem. The problem is simple, the Sorcerer must tie in via the serial port. A number of modem programs already do this, and very well.

As I have mentioned a problem exists. The Sorcerer Serial port is you might say also is being used by the monitor keyboard scan routine and therefore must share the port call time for various duties. Since the more sophisticated modems are more complex the problem is intensified. If for example, the UART is told to disconnect the port for serial data transfer the modem will also disconnect. This becomes very apparent only with disk operations.

When attempting to transfer more data than there is memory, writing to disk or during disk buffering of the data, the port is disconnected.

I found it most frustrating that when retrieving data from a BBS system, the modem program disconnected me the first time, especially since the file I was trying to get was 66K long (ASCII Dump) and I had waited already for an hour to get this much information. Anyway, this is why the Ward Christensen program was re-written (not that it was the cause I mentioned above).

The program was re-written by Walter Blady and moral support from me. This ended up to be quite a big job. We had no idea whether the program was even tested in the state that it was in. (i.e., the program was the one I mentioned earlier about getting disconnected from the BBS system) It took three transfers before I had the whole program (in sections). After piecing it together with Wordstar Walter started to change/delete etc. etc.. After about a month Walter said he was ready to give it a try. Well nothing seemed to go right during the earlier trials. A bug here and a bug there, as it were. There were errors in the program - original or ours we couldn't tell. Finally it was working, partially any way. The biggest problem was it was written in 8080 code and was to be assembled using MAC, 8080 we weren't versed with and MAC we didn't have. So Walter at least got versed with 8080 by the time we were through.

After much on line testing and my relatives and friends telling me to get another telephone line put in (which I didn't), also my wife's comments, such as "wonder if my mother is still alive". I survived all that, fortunately. The program took shape and additional features were added, to make it probably the most flexible data transfer system around (ULTRA reliable). Why I say ultra reliable is simple, we made a program transfer under the most miserable conditions possible "hisss, crackle, pop", was how the line sounded. I couldn't understand the other end during initial link up. This always happens on my telephone line after a rain storm. Well the identical modem programs were used. A number of times during the course of the transfer the other program did not acknowledge a correct transfer and my end simply just sent it again until it did. This by the way was a machine language program that was sent and it ran beautifully right away. Now I know that if I want to transfer something even under the worst conditions, it will work and none of this "I'll send it again shall I".

On the next page you can see the menu and some of the options that were instigated.

COMMANDS - IN MENU MODE

*** SMODEM ***

=====

WRT - Write terminal file to disk
 DEL - Erase terminal file from disk
 DSC - Disconnect phone (SMARTMODEM)
 RET - Return to terminal mode-no data loss
 CAL - Auto dial from list (SMARTMODEM)
 XPR - Expert mode (Toggle menu on/off)
 DIR - Directory (drive)
 CPM - Exit to CP/M

K - Kill disk file [fn.ext]

S... - Send CP/M file [fn.ext]

SECONDARY OPTIONS

R... - Receive CP/M file [fn.ext]

=====

T - Terminal mode (fn.ext)

...B - Batch file mode

E - terminal mode with Echo

...S - show as Sent

...R - show as Received

COMMANDS - IN TERMINAL MODE

...V - View as sent/received

=====

...Q - Quiet, no messages

^E - Exit to menu mode

...T - return to Terminal mode

^T - Transmit informal file ***

...E - return to Echo mode

^Y - Save data (toggle on/off)

...D - Disconnect phone

^O - Terminal/Echo (toggle on/off)

^P - List device (toggle on/off) **

^C - Object code (toggle on/off) ***

^X - Cancel send/receive

^Z - End of file

^S - XOFF character (tell BES to wait)

^Q - XON character (tell BES to continue)

** ^P- ie. Printer on/off (during send/receive).

*** ^C- Will allow machine language program transfer
 in the ^T (Transmit informal file) mode.

This gives you some idea as to the power and flexibility that this program has. The CAL directory was expanded for 52 phone numbers (which should be enough ???) for anyone. This program will be made available to members only, free of charge and will be included in our next library tape. For non Discus users, you will have to re-write some of it to make it compatible with your system. I would make only one comment, that is, use a serial card in the S100 for this function. An ASM/MAC file can be made available.

Program Review -- Grotnik Wars by Ross Williams

Great, Great, Great, now we see some of the things that are possible with the Sorcerer. For those of you not familiar with this program, here are my views.

It seems to be almost like 'Star Raiders' on the Atari but with much more action. The 3-D effect is quite astounding. The game was written by Ross Williams with all controls on the numeric keypad and some on the keyboard. I found this was not too bad, but if it were controlled from a joystick, that would be the final touch. Since there is so much happening so fast, your fingers get sore after a couple of hours of playing. This game has to be seen to be described, mere words can't do it justice.

Well with all my talk about joysticks, I did just that. After a few hours of deliberation and a modified joystick I had the ultimate control for this game. Works like a dream, have to fight off my son for a turn!!!

The joystick version is available from Northamerican Software with interface and possibly even joysticks later.

by: H.A. Lautenbach

Northamerican Software
P.O. Box 1173, Station 'B'
Downsview, Ontario
Canada M3H 5V6

SORCERER USERS' GROUP (TORONTO)

Membership Application Form

Covering Jan. to Dec.1981

Membership to the group is not restricted to the TORONTO area. All persons willing to participate are invited to join.

As a member of the Sorcerer Users' Group (Toronto), I enclose the annual membership fee and agree to the following Terms.

1. That I will not, without the authorization of the board of directors, represent myself or take any action as agent, or representative or become spokesperson of the group.

2. That I will not use any software obtained from the SUGT library for any commercial purpose or financial gain. The library shall be available to me should I wish to obtain programs donated by other members. These programs shall not be distributed without the owners consent and/or the consent of the board of directors.

3. That I have the right to vote for the officers and directors of the organization at the annual general meeting.

4. That any breach of the above conditions and any other restrictions that the board of directors may invoke in the future on my part may result in suspension or termination of my membership without refund.

Annual Membership Rates : (Jan - Dec)

Canadian - \$15.00 Cdn - U.S. & Foreign \$15.00 (U.S Funds) PLUS \$8.00 Postage

Payable to - SORCERER USERS' GROUP (TORONTO) - by Cheque or Money Orders.

The SUGT program library is available to all members in the following manner.

You may send \$6.00 for each volume as they become available and we shall supply the cassette/s. Program cassettes shall be sent via Air Mail.

All issues of PORT FE shall be mailed first class, in the case of non local issues, they are mailed via Air Mail. Past issues of PORT FE are only available for the current calendar year. Contact the editor, he will advise the amount of payment for previous issues.

NAME(print):.....
 ADDRESS:.....
 CITY:.....
 POSTAL CODE:.....
 TELEPHONE: Res..... Bus.....

Payments enclosed (membership):..... Library tape/s.....

Signature:.....

Please list the type of equipment you are using etc...

Sorcerer size: 8... 16... 32... 48... other..... S100... Graph board.....
 Disk system - Micropolis..... Discus..... Exidy..... other... Size.....
 Other Equipment

If you belong to any other Sorcerer Users' Group please list it below.

SORCERER USERS' GROUP (TORONTO)

Membership Application Form

Covering Jan. to Dec.1981

Membership to the group is not restricted to the TORONTO area. All persons willing to participate are invited to join.

As a member of the Sorcerer Users' Group (Toronto), I enclose the annual membership fee and agree to the following Terms.

1. That I will not, without the authorization of the board of directors, represent myself or take any action as agent, or representative or become spokesperson of the group.

2. That I will not use any software obtained from the SUGT library for any commercial purpose or financial gain. The library shall be available to me should I wish to obtain programs donated by other members. These programs shall not be distributed without the owners consent and/or the consent of the board of directors.

3. That I have the right to vote for the officers and directors of the organization at the annual general meeting.

4. That any breach of the above conditions and any other restrictions that the board of directors may invoke in the future on my part may result in suspension or termination of my membership without refund.

Annual Membership Rates : (Jan - Dec)

Canadian - \$15.00 Cdn - U.S. & Foreign \$15.00 (U.S Funds) PLUS \$8.00 Postage

Payable to - SORCERER USERS' GROUP (TORONTO) - by Cheque or Money Orders.

The SUGT program library is available to all members in the following manner.

You may send \$6.00 for each volume as they become available and we shall supply the cassette/s. Program cassettes shall be sent via Air Mail.

All issues of PORT FE shall be mailed first class, in the case of non local issues, they are mailed via Air Mail. Past issues of PORT FE are only available for the current calendar year. Contact the editor, he will advise the amount of payment for previous issues.

NAME(print):.....
 ADDRESS:.....
 CITY:.....
 POSTAL CODE:.....
 TELEPHONE: Res..... Bus.....

Payments enclosed (membership):..... Library tape/s.....

Signature:.....

Please list the type of equipment you are using etc...

Sorcerer size: 8... 16... 32... 48... other..... S100... Graph board.....
 Disk system - Micropolis..... Discus..... Exidy..... other... Size.....
 Other Equipment

If you belong to any other Sorcerer Users' Group please list it below.