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**PENN-JERSEY COLOR COMPUTER**

MAVERICK 885

CLUB

215-760-0456

NOVEMBER

1991

## THE 6809 EXPRESS RIDES AGAIN!

by Peter Unks

After an absence of several months because of technical problems, the 6809 EXPRESS is back again.

The problems had to do with loading the copy (which was downloaded from **The Maverick**) into the editor's Max-10 word processor. Files would load, but would be inexplicably cut off somewhere before the real end of the text. Very distressing! I am happy to report that the difficulty has been overcome.

How, you might ask, was this accomplished?

Seeking a solution involved calling the creators of Max-10. They suggested noise in the transmission contaminating the files. I disconnected every cable, checked them out with great care, then reconnected the computer to the modem and phone line.

That failed to solve the problem.

A Random Access session at last month's meeting offered better solutions. Some bit of code might be hiding in the "packing" of the Xmodem protocol tricking Max-10 into a backspace. I examined the disk with a disk editor and rewrote the appropriate sectors back to the disk minus the "packing". That didn't help either.

I gave up on Max-10 and chain loaded all the files into VIP Writer just as they came down from the bulletin board. Then I saved the whole file to disk planning to finish the newsletter the next day.

As an afterthought I attempted to load this huge file into Max-10 to see what would happen. It worked! I tried this before with individual files with no success. Brains are no substitute for dumb luck!



The Maverick Report  
Rick Hengeveld  
9/2/91

The Maverick continues to grow with several out of state users who have somehow managed to get the Maverick's number! Nearly 200 messages have been posted. And well over 300 callers have been logged to the system! The system currently supports 31 users. We're starting to see an influx of users from the Philadelphia area using the Maverick. So our growth is slow but steady! Those who logon, be sure to scan the download section. There are a few new goodies that have been uploaded.

## TREASURER'S REPORT By Clyde Gano

|                          |         |          |
|--------------------------|---------|----------|
| Statement date           | 7/28/91 |          |
| Bal. on hand             | 6/28/91 | \$215.53 |
| Receipts-                |         |          |
| Sale- 18 discs           |         | 9.00     |
| destroyed ck#249 Bell PA |         | 8.42     |
|                          |         | -----    |
| Total Receipts           |         | \$232.95 |
| Disbursements-           |         |          |
| Hillcrest Shop 6809 EX   |         |          |
| June, July/Aug. CK#250   |         | \$19.20  |
| Bell of PA June & July   |         |          |
| CK#251                   |         | 16.79    |
|                          |         | -----    |
| Total Disbursed          |         | \$ 35.99 |
| Balance on hand          | 7/28/91 | \$196.96 |

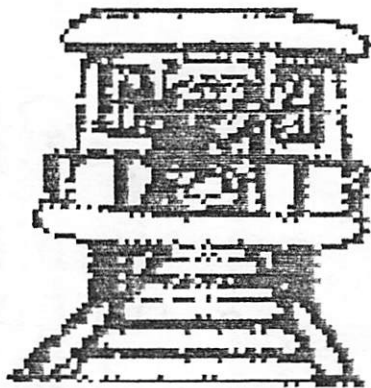
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## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT Rick Hengeveld

It's good to see the 6809 back in print! Summer is slowly coming to an end and it will be back to the keyboards for some of us. Soon it will be time for the membership to start to plan next years activities. So ask yourselves what you'd like to see at the upcoming meetings. We still have to look at compilers this year. Be sure to attend the upcoming meetings as I'm sure you'll find them very interesting.

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**PLAN TO ATTEND THE  
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY!  
DECEMBER 27 1991  
BRING SOME GOODIES  
TO SHARE IF YOU CAN!**



# THE LIBRARY CAR

AL WAGNER

Welcome once again to the PJCCC library car. I trust you've had a good summer. Pull up a couple of crates over here by the potbelly stove I've lit to chase the autumn evening chill. This month my planned discussion will take a side track for a bit and we'll discuss a question that came up at the meeting.

Pete asked about windows and window types. The OS9 that runs on the Color Computer has eight device windows and six different types of windows. A device window is a device just like a disk drive, a printer, an RS-232 port, or any other piece of hardware you could connect. OS9 deals with it in the same way. Device windows have one driver for all the windows and a different device descriptor for each window.

Seven of the eight windows must be created by software. The eighth, actually the first, is different as it is the green screen that is created by the boot and is the screen in which the machine naturally

comes up. The device name for this window is /term. (Note that in OS9 all device names are preceded by a slash.) The other seven windows are /w1 thru /w7. Each of these last seven windows can be brought up in any of six different window types. Pete's confusion, I believe, came from the fact that each of the seven device windows has a default type and he had confused the type with the device number. Its very easy to do when one is just starting out in OS9. The default window types are listed in the OS9 manual in the section on windows on page 1-3. Again these are default types and any window, other than term, can be set to any type.

Pete referred to a particular application program as requiring to be run from a type 8 window. How come I've said that there are only six different types? Microware found it necessary to skip a couple of numbers. I know, you want to know why. Well, there are mysteries that may never be unraveled.

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The list of device window types are listed, again in the windowing section of the OS9 manual, on page 3-13. Type 8 is a graphics window 320 x 192 pixels capable of sixteen colors and requires 32K of memory. That blue screen you may have seen me use at the meetings, is a type 2. It is a text only window 80 x 24 characters capable of eight colors and requires only 4K of memory.

There are two commands to bring a device window to life. (Anything to confuse the beginner.) They are Wcreate and Display. For the most part you can choose your poison as they really do the same thing. The difference is that Wcreate use decimal numbers and Display uses hexadecimal numbers.

Display can be easier to use as the command modifiers are given in hex in the manual. But you will have to convert the size and location of the window from decimal to hex. To use Wcreate, you can use the size and location quite readily, but you must convert the modifiers. I will work with Display as it is the one I got started with, but realize that Wcreate will do the same thing except for hex to decimal conversion and a slight difference in the sequence the modifiers occupy after the command.

First one must use the INIZ /w# command to establish the window. Then one of the above commands is used. The command I use to create a graphics window eighty columns of text wide by twenty-four rows high is as follows (yeah that's right, text! OS9 can display graphics AND text on the same window IF you merge a font file with the device once you create it.): display 1b



20 07 0 0 50 18 0 1 1 >/w1 [cr]. (The brackets are to show the carriage return key rather than the actual letters "c" and "r".) The "1b 20" is the hex code for the command modifier "device window set". The "07" is the window or screen type. In this case, type 7. The "0 0" sets the upper left corner of the window to the upper left corner of the monitor's screen. The "50 18" sets the size of the window, width and height respectively. The "0 1 1" set the foreground, background, and border respectively. Because this is executed in my startup file which executes on the /term window, I must redirect the command to /w1 where I want the action to take place. The redirection takes place courtesy of the > symbol.

In addition to the above device windows there are overlay windows. An overlay window is just as its name implies, a window that lays over existing information on the screen. Where device windows cannot be laid over each other, overlay windows can be laid over anything as long as there is a device window at the bottom of the pile. You can only write to the

topmost window in the pile.

When you open an overlay window, you have the choice of saving the data under the overlay window or not. If you choose to save it, the original data will be written to the screen at the termination of the overlay window. The decision to save or not to save is not as simple as it seems. If you save the data it must be rewritten to a memory location other than that for the screen (this is automatic and you need not be concerned with implementing the rewrite). If your program already has memory limitations stretched to the max, you may wish to recreate the data rather than consume the memory.

I hope those of you curious enough to want to know more on windows have access to The Complete Rainbow Guide to OS9 Level II or another "third party" book on OS9. I will cover windows again a little later on in this series as some other commands need to be gone over before we are really ready to go further. Next month I intend to pick up where I left off in July. I see we are pulling into our station once again. Have a good month and I'll see you at the meeting. If you have any questions that need answering sooner, feel free to stop up at the Maverick BBS and drop me a note. I get up there several times a week to pick up my mail, so I should be able reply fairly quick. Happy computing!



**BASICALLY SPEAKING**  
Rick Hengeveld

I've been reading Al Wagner's articles in the 8809 dealing with OS9 since the Express has been resurrected, and found them very informative. I thought that it would be nice to have an RS-DOS counter part for those that don't speak in OS9. This will be my first attempt, While I certainly don't claim to be an RS-DOS guru, I will try to smooth some of the rough spots for some users.

Since this is the first of this series I intend to keep the subject matter as simple as possible. So we'll discuss the most used disk commands.

BACKUP (Syntax) BACKUP 0T01 or BACKUPD for single drive operation.

This command will copy an entire disk to a another disk. If any files are present on the target disk they will be erased.

Also Backup may not copy some disks due to various copyguard schemes. In such cases you may use the Spit'n'Image utility  
(go to next page)

**DON'T MISS THE  
NOVEMBER 29  
MEETING!**

to copy the disk. While this copy program is not effective against some of the newest copyguards, it is worth a try.

COPY (Syntax)  
COPY"FILENAME/EXT:0"TO"FILENAME/EXT:1"  
This command will copy a single file to another disk. Some notes on the COPY command; First you must use the complete file name including the extension for the command to work also note the placement of the quotation marks. You may decide to alter the file name during the copy procedure, ie.  
COPY"TEST/EXT:0"TO"RENAME/EXT:1" In this case you'll have the file TEST copied to drive 1, under a new name. One further item according to your RS-DOS manual the copy command can't be used on a single drive system, this is not true! If you assign drive 0 as both your source and target drives you may make a copy on a single drive system.

NOTE: Both Backup and Copy commands erase anything in the systems memory.

While it is possible to use a utility program to execute these two functions it is quicker and easier to simply issue these commands from basic if there is only one or two copies or backups to be done. When loading programs from disk you may notice your Coco drives load only a portion of the data and then the drive heads jump around until the rest of the program is found. This is due to file fragmentation. ie. The file is not in one solid block on the disk, it is instead fractured into at least 2 blocks on different areas of the disk. While this won't affect the programs operation it will take longer to load and cause more wear on your drive. Using the backup

command on a disk like this will not alter the fragmentation of the file, however if you use the copy command and move the file to a fresh disk the file will be transferred to a single block thereby making the file faster loading and reducing drive wear. Any disk that is written to frequently is more prone to file fragmentation. By eliminating the fragmentation on the the Maverick BBS I was able to speed drive access by 30% (Estimate) and save a great deal of wear and tear on the drives. If you come across this problem, I'd recommend using DU-3 This utility will copy files, single or an entire disk to a fresh disk, one file at a time and greatly reduce fragmented files.

DU-3.BAS IS AVAILABLE ON THE MAVERICK

Well enough to chew on this month! Next month we'll tackle a few new commands.

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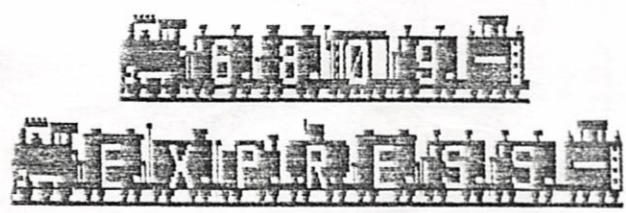
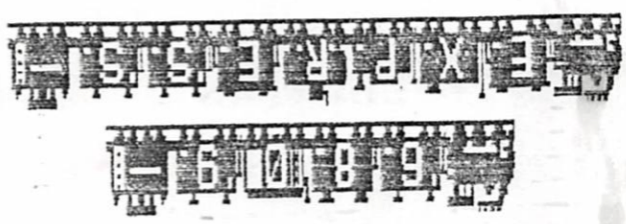
Bud Abbott

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H. Peter Unks, Editor



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