

THE ADAM

by Paul Pappas

Would you believe a national ADAM convention? ADAMCON 89, the first (inter?)national ADAM convention is scheduled for October 7-10 in Orlando, Florida. Sponsored by the Metro Orlando ADAM Users Group (MOAUG) and coordinated by Monty Neece, ADAMCON looks to be the ADAM event of the year. Representatives from some of the larger ADAM dealers and user groups are making plans to attend (if all goes well, I'll be there myself).

In addition to workshops, seminars, and keynote speakers at lunch, door prizes will be awarded to some lucky ADAM users. The convention schedule is designed to allow free time to attend local attractions like Disney World, Sea World, and of course the beach.

October is as close to an "off-season" as Florida gets, so the cost of airfare and

lodging will be at a minimum, with those flying American Airlines receiving a 5% discount. ADAMCON will arrange for a rental car if you so desire.

Current plans call for a Saturday evening reception, Sunday breakfast, lunch and dinner on Monday. Other meals are left to the discretion of the guests. The estimated cost for lodging and meals is \$179, plus \$99 for each additional adult, \$39 for each child. A \$50 deposit is required, with the balance due by September 1st (please do not send any money until contacting ADAMCON 89 for complete details).

For more information about ADAMCON 89 contact Monte Meece, 1048 Winter Springs Blvd, Winter Springs, FL 32708, (407) 699-6887. Hope to see you there!

The Compass Always Points North

In response to my overview of the Canadian ADAM community, Ron

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Mitchell of the ADAM Friendly User Group (\$25 annual) - [342 Nagel Ave, Orleans, Ont, K1E 1R6] was kind enough to send me additional information about Canadian ADAM user groups.

Metro Toronto ADAM Users Group (MTAG) - [c/o Richard Clee, Box 165, 260 Adelaide St. East, Toronto, Ont, M5A 1N0, (416) 783-0316] publishes an informative bi-monthly newsletter and holds two monthly meetings - east and west (Toronto has over two million people so logistics probably play a factor in the dual meetings). MTAG's newsletter has a broad base of contributors and can run over fifty pages with both basic and advanced articles. Syd Carter of MegaCopy fame is a member and technical guru of MTAG.

Another group is ADAM's Family - [c/o Gerry St. Peter, 6508 34th St. SW, Calgary Alberta, T3E 5M2] publishes a

newsletter and may run a bulletin board. Details are sketchy, but AFUG is attempting initiate a newsletter exchange with AF.

Finally, National Electronics Service Association - [1047 Belfast Rd, Orleans, Ont] has a small number of brand new tape drives for \$16, one of the best prices on either side of the border.

Gerlach Family Software

Ricky Gerlach of Gerlach Family Software - [Attn: Virginia Gerlach, 8 Cedar Rd, Eliot, MA 03903] was kind enough to send me (among other things) a twelve page document entitled "ADAM Graphics - Designing Your Own With SignShop, PowerPoint, and SmartLOGO". This document describes some of the techniques Gerlach Software uses to create graphics, and is released into the public domain. Note that you PowerPoint and SmartLOGO

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these techniques. I will send a copy of this introductory text to anyone who sends me (read carefully) an 8 1/2 by 11 inch SASE with 65 cents postage and \$1 to cover the reproduction costs.

Gerlach Software (until recently based in Germany) has produced ADAM graphics for several years and offers some amazingly detailed clip art for PowerPaint and SmartLogo; several volumes of adult graphics for PowerPaint, SmartPaint, and SignShop; programs designed to teach German and Turkish; an adult graphic game called Peeping ADAM; and a collection of PD volumes including most of the unreleased Coleco titles. Send an SASE for a free catalog.

National ADAM User Group

Barry Wilson of the St. Louis ADAM User Group - [12967 Weatherfield Dr, St. Louis, MO 63146], has expressed an interest in forming an ADAM user group to coordinate activities between local groups. In his own words:

"... We do have local AUGs and some national newsletter organization. But while the local AUGs are responsive to their individual members and usually reflect their views, the national organizations, while serving a very worth while purpose, are not set up so that they can be as responsive

"I am thinking of another national organization to function along side the local AUGs and the present national organizations. This could be some sort of assembly (representatives from each local AUG or other groups, meeting or probably corresponding to make joint decisions affecting ... (the ADAM community). I see a board of governors or some other setup so there would be input from many areas and finally a unified position taken on issues."

"On April 22, 1989, at a gathering of the ADAM clan hosted by Joe Quinn and the Gulf Coast ADAM Users in Mobile, Alabama, I saw with my own eyes that GODOS not only exists, but it exceeds expectations."

"GODOS is a machine-language operating system for the ADAM. As such, it is similar to the EOS that is built into ADAM, the modified DOS that comes with a disk drive, and CP/M 2.2 that was developed by Digital Research. But GODOS is a vast improvement on any of those operating systems. It makes full use of all the latent capabilities of the ADAM that could formerly be accessed only by convoluted programing routines or graphics languages such as LOGO. Built into GODOS are features formerly available on no other ADAM system, such as icons and pop-up menus, accessible through the keyboard or by using the game controller as a "mouse". GODOS stands for "Graphics Oriented Disk Operating System", and it unleashes all of ADAM's music and graphics capabilities. Don't let the word "disk" fool you... GODOS operates beautifully with only tape drives. You do, however, need at least a 64K memory expander to use it."

"... At this point, let's take a closer look at GOBASIC (this is the graphic programming language Sol plans to include with GODOS - Paul). Your first question will no doubt be; "Is it compatible with SmartBASIC?". In a word, no. The addresses will be entirely different. But you can adapt your SmartBASIC programs for use with GOBASIC. And it will be much easier than you think, because you will not have to remember any peeks or pokes. All the functions that you previously could access only by poking differ-

"How to pay for such an organization? Perhaps the interested ADAM users could pay \$1-2 per year as dues. Local AUGs could collect this from their members and send it in ..."

In retrospect, most other computer users have national user groups. Is it time for ADAM to have a strong, unified voice? I don't wish to minimize the inestimable contributions made by the existing AUGs, but I think an international organization is long overdue (if only to provide a standard forum for discussion between opposing points of view)! What do you think? Send your ideas and comments, pro or con, to Barry Wilson.

The Future Is GODOS

News Flash! I just received the following from Patricia Herrington of MOAUG detailing the results of Sol Swifts GODOS demonstration (see last month's "ADAM Forum" for more details). Because of the almost maniacal interest in this subject, I am postponing my NZ-COM review in order to bring you this information as quickly as possible.

ent values into specific addresses are now instantly available to you as commands. There are more than three times as many "English commands" in GOBASIC as in SmartBASIC... 330 in all! For example, if you wanted to change the shape of your cursor, you used to have to poke the ASCII value into a certain address. Now you only have to type in "cursor =" and the ASCII value. There is a command for underlining text, and there are seven built-in character sets (fonts) that you can access by merely typing in the command "textfont" and a number from 1 to 7. (The seventh of these fonts is a user-defined set, which means you can use any of the myriad font sets that were developed for PowerPoint. Most such sets are already in the public domain... widely available and very inexpensive, or you can design your own)."

"There are two commands for "catalog". You can display the standard catalog or you can have your catalog displayed in a double row. There are built-in commands for switching back and forth between the options. You can show deleted files, and you can recover

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deleted files. You can set multiple user-defined pop-up windows wherever you like on the screen, both for the graphics and for text. You can access up to six disk drives, ramdisk, and even a hard drive from within GOBASIC. You can alternate between 32 column text mode, 40 columns, and graphics, and you can use both graphics and text in all three modes. You can insert text anywhere on the screen, not just the bottom of the screen as in SmartBASIC. There are commands for drawing squares, rectangles, and circles (filled or empty) and for erasing all those shapes. For example, you would enter the line [radius= 50: circle 128,96] to draw a circle in the exact center of the screen, with a radius of 50 pixels. The same line, using the command "xcircle" instead of "circle" would erase the circle. The effect on the screen would be that a circle would appear and then disappear."

"If you are one of the many ADAM users who have enjoyed drawing those fabulous graphics in SmartLOGO, you will easily adapt to GOBASIC. If you are one of the many who have SmartLOGO but have never used it much, you can preview the features of GOBASIC by dragging LOGO out and running the demo programs. LOGO has always been a favorite for music and graphics, but it runs much too slowly and takes up too much memory for most people, because it's a "structured interpreter" (doesn't use line numbers). GOBASIC will give you the same effects, but because it is still a line-numbered interpreter, it will take much less memory. Sprite animation is just as good as LOGO "turtle" animation, but faster.

GOBASIC includes commands for flipping sprites in all directions, giving the impression of revolving, direction-changing objects.

"... Sophisticated programming is now within the reach of the average novice programmer, and you can expect to see great strides within weeks of its release. The possibilities are absolutely staggering."

There you have it. A sneak peak at the long long awaited GODOs. What more can I add? Look for more on GODOs in future editions of "The ADAM Forum".

On The Horizon

Looking for an easy way to increase your ADAM user group membership? If I don't already subscribe to your groups newsletter send me a copy and I'll send you a check for a years subscription. Its just that easy (and Dad will love it too [grin]).

I am always happy to hear from fellow ADAM Users. Contact me in care of the Triangle ADAM Users, 2623-A Yanceyville St., Greensboro, NC 27405-4407, (919) 375-6159. Due to the volume of mail I receive, you must enclose an S.A.S.E. if you expect a reply (no exceptions). If you leave a message on the answering machine asking me to return your call, be forewarned I will call collect. I may also be contacted via EMAIL on American People Link (PAPPASPM), CompuServe (72277,3303), or in care of Computer Shopper. Please note I lost my local link to FIDO Net's ADAM GENERAL Echo, but hope to reestablish contact in the future.

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