

*The
Cats'
4th
life*

Bonzo's Scrapyard

An occasional newsletter compiled by Dave Caleno

Issue 12a

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Bonzo*



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Blitz*

BONZO SUPER MEDDLER, BONZO BLITZ AND HACKPACK — TAPE TO DISC + DISC TO DISC BACKUPS

The Scrapyard needs YOUR input

I need any information that you think may be of use or interest to readers concerning tape to disc or disc to disc transfers — if the news doesn't come in then the news doesn't go out, so share what you know and make the cats happy.

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HELLO AND WELCOME TO ISSUE 12a

Why 12a? Its done especially for those of you who are superstitious, as was the style of the old Bonzo Bulletins. While I am sitting here typing in these last two pages, the News pages are usually done, bit by bit, over a period of time as and when any news comes in. These two pages are held back in the hope that some late information will be forthcoming, I look through the window and see that we have all that glorious sunshine still.

I have since the last newsletter received a few tape games to try and transfer, from various people. Although the majority were games already on the database (who hasn't been in touch with Nigel for the latest database printout yet? - its a slapped wrist for some), it was useful to check that the transfer options were correct. So thanks must go to the following people for the loan of their tapes: Roy Everett and Steve, Mark Payne and Richard Latham.

Work pressure, my annual family holiday and the arrival of my second grandson, took a toll of the time during the past couple of months, so I am sorry Richard but I have not had time to try all of the games you sent me yet. Hopefully I shall be able to get back on tack very shortly. That said, the information is still very slow coming in, although that is only to be expected, there are quite a few games that I have seen reviews for in old Amstrad computer magazines, so if you have any of these then lets try and get them on the database. I've had no comeback yet from anyone that requested a copy of the Bankraid program, so there is nothing to add on that score.

At present I have not been able to get a copy of the final issue of *Amstrad Action*, issue 117, so I don't know what was on the tape or what will transfer.

With AA now gone I hope that many of its readers will switch to getting one of the club magazines, *CPC User*, *8BIT* or *WACCI*, or any of the others that are in circulation, as there seem to be new users coming onto the CPC scene and they would probably appreciate the help that has been offered in the past to those of us that have been using the machine for some time, and who also still need someone to give a helping hand or word of advice.

On with the Transfer News for this issue

No Go's ! (So if you can, get a disc version)

California Games (detects as Option 10, but no go); Supertrux (Encore); Gauntlet (Kixx).

Bonzo Option 1 (BSM)

AA Cover Tape 50 (Chuckie Egg, Hercules, etc.)
Treasure (Fernleaf Educational Software)

Option 5 (BSM)

GBA Championship Basketball (Gamestar-The Sports Pack)
GFL Championship Football (Gamestar-The Sports Pack)
(Both of the above may well be the same games as those on the database, marked as Championship Football and Championship Basketball)

Hackpack

Playdays (Alternative) Mainfile and first level only though

Disc to Disc Backups

Thunderblade (US Gold) - Nirvana
Shadow of the Beast (Gremlin) - XEXOR
Spherical - Discology

Well that's all the transfer news for another issue - please keep 'em coming in, I need the info.

STOP PRESS: *Bonzo programs back on sale!*

YES, its true the Bonzo suite of programs are now officially back on sale - details follow further down the page.

Between the last issue of Bonzo's Scrapyard and now, I received a letter from Dave Stitson the editor of *CPC South West*, asking what was to happen to the Bonzo programs. Would they be lost forever, would they be placed into the Public Domain, or what? Well as you know, from past issues of this newsletter, the copyright of the programs resided in the hands of Phil Craven, of Microstyle/Avatar fame, and I assumed that with both companies disappearing from the scene that the programs were lost. Well prompted by Dave's letter, I put podgy fingers to keyboard and wrote to Phil, not really expecting any reply, owing to the bad press he has had over the past couple of years. You can imagine my surprise when three days later, my SSAE that I had sent, dropped through my letterbox. Below is an excerpt from the letter.

"... I'm amazed the Bonzo newsletter is still on the go but not surprised that the incoming information has slowed down somewhat.

Without going into the reasons, I am not willing to put the Bonzo stuff, or anything else, into the public domain, but you do have my permission to reproduce and distribute the following programs, all of which I own: Bonzo Super Meddler, Bonzo Blitz, Bonzo's Big Batch, Bonzo's Flashpack, the adventure games that Colin Harris wrote, Maxidos, CPC Procopy and MS800.

This permission applies to you personally and to nobody else. It may *not* be passed on to the next proprietor of the Bonzo newsletter. In all probability I would give the same permission to a new proprietor, but automatic permission cannot be assumed."

Well there you have it! So I must offer that man my sincere thanks.

I have looked into the costs for reproducing the programs and for reproducing the appropriate manuals, and it looks as though it will be about £8.50 per disc, on 3 inch discs, for the Bonzo ones, along with Maxidos and CPC Procopy, with MS800 being £6.50 as its on a 3.5 inch disc. Prices include P&P.

The discs will be utilized as follows: (1) Bonzo Super Meddler and Hackpack; (2) Bonzo Blitz and the 4 adventure games; (3) Bonzo's Flashpack (Flash Basic Utilities and Demos); (4) Bonzo's Big Batch (Database, Pools Predictor, Sprite/Screen Designer); (5) Maxidos and CPC Procopy.

It will take a couple of weeks for me to get it all together, so please do not send in any orders for the above until the end of September 1995. Cheques, etc., should be made payable to Mr D A Caleno.

If you have anything that you would like to pass on to other readers. then please send it in. If you wish to send it on disc as an ASCII file, or a word processor file, I do have Brunword, Protext, Tasword and Mini Office II.

REMEMBER

The programs mentioned in this newsletter are to make a 'Working Back-Up' of your original programs, for your own use, and not to be used for software piracy

THE NEWS ROUND-UP

AMSTRAD ACTION - RIP

Just after the last issue of *Bonzo's Scrapyard* was produced, Future Publishing went and did it. They pulled the plug on the only news-stand CPC publication. Although it had come in for a fair amount of criticism over the last few months, I for one, will miss it. It not only gave readers the latest information available around the CPC scene, but it also had its regular advertisers for CPC products. Where will they advertise now? Will they bother with the CPC anymore, or will they go the same way as many of the other advertisers, software houses and hardware manufacturers, and leave the CPC scene altogether? I don't expect they will advertise in the more well known Amstrad "fanzines", what a horrible expression (how about "privateer magazines" instead?), such as *WACCI*, the magazine, *UAUG's CPC User*, and *8BIT*, as the overall circulation of these combined would give them nothing like the sales potential that they should have had with AA.

That said I do know that various companies do advertise in the above magazines, and a truly excellent service they provided too. They know who they are, and I for one think they should all give themselves a rousing cheer, and so should we all. We should also make sure that we continue to support them in their future endeavours for the CPC.

ARNOR RETURN TO MIDDLE EARTH

It was with great regret that I have also heard that one of the stalwarts of the CPC, Arnor, have unfortunately gone into receivership. I know that a majority of CPC users have been using their excellent products for many years and that a lot of the articles and *MAGAZINES* have been set using their *Protext* word processor and its associated programs. Indeed many of the users over the years have stated that it is *THE* word processor to use. But no arguments over different programs from me, each to their own. (This newsletter has its text set and original hard copy printed using the *Brunword* Mark II ROM and a Star LC24-10 printer (although the front and back pages are produced on an Apple Macintosh and Quark Xpress), as regular readers will notice I am still getting the hang of this one.) But any

firm that leaves the CPC market must be a sad loss.

PC MART?

A recent phone conversation with Angela Cook, of Merline Serve, and also the latest issue of Brian Watson's *8BIT*, have both informed me that the bi-weekly news-stand magazine, *PC Mart* is to start a column on the 8 bit computers, as of the middle of August. Both of the above are contributing material to this magazine so I would assume that there will be something of interest to we CPC users. Angela you may have noticed was a regular contributor in the final issues of AA.

REVEAL COMPUTER SOFTWARE

One of the contributors to the tape to disc transfers in this issue, Mark Payne, runs his own software company, producing for the CPC, and kindly sent me a copy of a couple of his programs. The main one, entitled, *Music Maker*, looks to be a good program for any budding creators of music files for the CPC. I have not yet had the time to fully evaluate this program, but the initial "play around" with it shows that it could be a useful addition to anyone's collection. The second of the programs, *DinoQuiz*, is a dinosaur quiz. It seems to work on much the same lines as the *Answer Back Quiz* (that I believe is still available from OJ Software, address in any issue of AA), with a question being asked, and an answer to be selected from four options. Getting an answer right allows a dinosaur egg on the screen to gradually hatch, two wrong answers, one after the other, loses a life. It is a program that I thought would be idea for my grandson, no such luck, it has beaten me every time so far. A very good program and one that I will have to get stuck into (to show that grandad knows everything, as far as grandchildren are concerned).

(After the mention of the music program above, I hope the following will be of interest. You all know that the CPC can be attached to a hi-fi system, using the stereo output socket, don't you? If like me there is not a lot of room left to have a stereo system connected, or the family decide that you can't commandeer it, then try using a couple of the speakers that are for use with a portable

CD system. I have tried various types, with small success. I finally bought a cheap set from a local market, cost about £10. The main proviso is that they are able to use a mains converter, much the same as you would normally have to power an external 3.5 inch disc drive, as they run off about 6 volts (it also saves a fortune on buying batteries for them). The other main point I would stress is that you get a set that have volume controls on each speaker, I have tried ones that have controls on only one speakers and was not impressed with the quality, although they were actually more expensive to buy. The sound especially if they have a bass enhancement button is very good, and I was able to get a better impression of the music files for the *Advanced Music System* that were written by Rob Baxter some while ago, and that are now available in most PD libraries. (Please note that to hear the Rob Baxter collection you will need either the *Music System* or *The Advanced Music System* by Rainbird, now only available through the 'for sale' columns of the various privateer magazines.)

BONZO NEWSLETTERS - HISTORY

The August issue of *8BIT* has the first part of the article on the history of the Bonzo newsletters, the second part is due for publication at the beginning of September. To get a copy of this excellent magazine, see the advert in this issue of Scrapyard and also on the back page - send for it today.

SPECIAL OFFERS IN SCRAPYARD - WHAT NEXT?, HE SAYS!

That niiiice lady at Merline Serve, Angela Cook, has given me the opportunity to pass on the following special offers to Scrapyard subscribers. She has the following Bonzo programs for sale: Bonzo Super Meddler/Hackpack; Bonzo Blitz; Bonzo's Flashpack; Bonzo's Doodah; Maxidos; CPC Procopy; Minidos (the forerunner of Maxidos), the original price was £4 per disc, but you can get them for £3 OR (wait for the fanfare) the lot for £15. (My copies of Maxidos and Minidos are each combined with Procopy, so these may be the same.) She also has an original set of the *Bonzo Bulletins* (edited by Colin Harris), originally £15, but now at a bank breaking £10. Also there is a photocopied set of the Bulletins, down

from £8 to a miserly £6. All the above prices have postage costs included. All I can say is: *Angela, what a star you are.*

GOLDMARK ALSO OFFERS!

After my mention in the last issue of Scrapyard, about Goldmark's own tape to disc programs, I have had further details from Brian Barton. Polydisc is the name of the latest offerin.: Side A contains the following programs: Samson, Delilah, Firetrans, Playtrans, Gremtrans, Tronictrans, all as mentioned in issue 12, plus Speedtrans, to cope with a good selection of the Speedlok protected tapes. Side B contains Goldtrans, for use against the infamous GO! loaders, similar to Bonzo Option 10. This utility will need a CPC 6128 ROM'ed machine to work, where only the main file can be transferred, there are a number of "routines" on the disc that will transfer the rest of the code to give a fully disc based version of the game. Also included on this disc is a utility that will allow you to graphically dump any screen to your printer that has been saved with Goldtrans or Speedtrans. The price for this disc is £30, which is about a 40% saving on the price when I purchased my copies. Well done again that man!

Brian also informs me that for those of you who have a PCW with Microdesign or any IBM PC compatible, then he has a selection of over 18,000 pieces of good quality clip art available at reasonable prices (the PC versions can be supplied in any format). If you are interested then contact Brian at Goldmark, address on the back cover, or phone 01707 321711 between 2000-2130.

Please note that with any of the tape to disc transfer programs mentioned, there are still tapes which refuse to be transferred. If an initial transfer will not take place, try to ensure that the game runs perfectly from tape, before giving up. 664 and 6128 owners may have to try different volume adjustments with an outboard tape player.

**HOPEFULLY THE SCRAPYARD WILL BE OUT
AGAIN BY THE END OF NOVEMBER-TTFN**

WADAMIGONNAREADNOW ???

8 BIT - *The magazine for all 8 Bit Computer users.* Yes, if you've got a CPC, SAM, a C64 or a PCW, a Spectrum or whatever . . . if its got an 8 bit heart, 8 BIT is for you. File-swapping, E-mail, DTP, Best Buys, Sources of Software and Hardware, Repairers, Club News, etc. Only £1.25 per issue; Bi-monthly - A4 format.
Editor - Brian Watson, Harrowden, 39 High Street, Sutton-in-the-Isle, Ely, Cambs., CB6 2RA

CPC User - The magazine of the United Amstrad User Group (UAUG). Articles, letters and some games reviews, much of the content is of the more serious side of the Amstrad. They also have their own PD disc and tape libraries, as well as a book library, also has a list of suppliers offering discounts to members, all of which are available to members only. Also has a list of contacts offering help with CPC related queries. A5 format - Bi-monthly. Price (for membership of UAUG, includes the magazine) £8.00 (UK), £11 Europe, 15.25 (Overseas).
Chairman - Tony Baker, 26 Uplands Crescent, Fareham, Hants., PO16 7JY.

WACCI - The monthly magazine of WACCI-The Worldwide Amstrad CPC Users Club. Articles, letters and reviews, majority of articles are of a serious nature. They also have PD and Homegrown disc and book libraries, plus a list of suppliers offering discounts. There is a list of members offering help on various computer related subjects, and a 'Market Stall' section for sales and wants. A4 format - Monthly. Price £1.50 per issue.
Editor - Paul Derryhouse, 7 Brunswood Green, Hawarden, Deeside, Clwyd, CH5 3JA.

WHERE TO GO NOW !!!

Campursoft- Software includes DES, Parados, Micro Design, MD+, and MD Map additions, etc. Hardware: 8 socket ROM Box, expandable to 15 sockets.
Contact - Peter Campbell, Campursoft, 10 McIntosh Court, Wellpark, Glasgow, G31 2HW.

Goldmark Systems - For 8-bit printer port (integral in 1.5 metre printer lead), Page Printer (for Micro Design(+)) and 24 pin printer), Goldmark's own tape-to-disc programs (Polydisc), and Nirvana (disc only) the disc utility program. Other CPC, PCW and PC programs available, check for availability.
Contact - Brian Barton, Goldmark Systems, 3 Oakdale, Welwyn Garden City, Herts., AL8 7QW.

Merline Serve/KAD - For second-hand software and hardware, books and accessories for the CPC, and many of the other 8-bit computers. 'King Arthurs' Domain' PD library has now been reorganized and has a large selection available. The CPC Service is run by Angela Cook and the PD library by 'King' Arthur Cook. They are now the outlet for the 'Radical Software' programs. Send an A5 SSAE for details.
Contact - Angela/Arthur Cook, Brympton Cottage, Brunswick Road, Worthing, Sussex, BN11 3NQ.

Reveal Computer Software- For home-grown software: Music Maker, DinoQuiz.
Contact - Mark Payne, Reveal Computer Software, P.O. Box 1818, Redditch, Worcestershire, B97 4AZ.

Soft Options - For a variety of second-hand computer software and hardware for most 8-bit computers, books, and even music - CD and cassette bargains.
Contact - Ed and Art, Soft Options, 151 Balsusney Road, Kirkaldy, Fife, KY2 5LH.

Wizard Games - Tape and disc software, includes some special offer prices. Check them out for prices on ex-software house 3 inch and 3.5 inch discs.
Contact - Wizard Games, 1 North Marine Road, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO12 7EY.

THE BONZO'S SCRAPYARD TEAM

Bonzo's Scrapyard - The occasional newsletter from yours truly! Any information you think may be of use for inclusion, tape-to-disc, and disc-to-disc back-ups, then please, please, send it to me. The tape-to-disc transfer program *Bankraid III*, is available exclusively through Bonzo's Scrapyard (send an A5 SSAE, disc and return postage). A4 format - *hopefully* quarterly. Price (for Scrapyard) a SSAE plus an extra first class stamp.
Contact - Dave Caleno, Bonzo's Scrapyard, 29 Chapter Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3PX.

Bonzo Database Print-outs - If you haven't already got the latest version of this database of the tape-to-disc transfers - *then why not?*
Contact - Nigel Mells, Shendale, 51 Avondale Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 3HP.

Please note when contacting any of the above, please send a large SSAE if you want a reply