

CLASSIC COMPUTERS**ADAM ADAM****ADAM**

by Faye Deere

We are going to have a convention! Our own ADAM convention, just like all the other computers in town! We have come of age! It will be called ADAMCON 89! Isn't that great?

One of the most positive results of the meeting of the Gulf Coast Adam Users Group at which we met Solomon Swift, was a feeling of comradeship and unity. Watching Sol demonstrate GO-BASIC with the GO-DOS system made us feel proud, and grateful that such a talented member of the ADAM community had returned to put the pieces of his world back together, and to give us such a monumentally important piece of programming. It made you want to stick your tongue out at the pessimistic die-hards that had predicted the death of the ADAM community when Sol dropped out of sight. Instead of dying, wonderful things are happening for the ADAM.

DATES: October 7-10

Cost Estimate: \$179.00 PP DBL;
Spouse: \$99.00; **Child:** \$39.00

Includes: 3 nights hotel/2 Bkfasts/1 Lunch/1 Dinner/Meeting room.

Transfers are not included. It is therefore suggested that attendees who are not driving, share a rental car, which can be arranged by MOAUG. Those flying will receive a 5% discount off the lowest available airfare on American Airlines.

Door prizes will be awarded at a drawing at the closing dinner. Anyone wishing to donate merchandise, programs, or services for that drawing, please let me or MOAUG know. Special speakers and workshops will be featured at the sessions, and a Keynote speaker will be featured at the lunch. Free time will be scheduled for optional side trips. MOAUG will arrange hotel accommodations if you let them know in time.

If you are interested in attending this convention, or have comments or sug-

gestions to offer, contact Monte Neece, 1048 Winter Springs Blvd., Winter Springs, FL 32708, (407) 699-6887.

I have learned a lot of things while trying to teach myself how to program in SmartBASIC. I am hindered by a lack of reading material pertaining to the ADAM Computer, and have to experiment a great deal to see what will work in the first place, it's sort of a hit and miss affair. I try to pass on what I think you might be interested in, and things I have learned that you might not be able to find in the Coleco ADAM manual.

I've been doing a lot of work on our club Public Domain Library, adding programs, checking to see if the old files all work, and updating the library in general. While working with CopyCart+ 2.0, I plugged in the Super Action Game Controller to see if one of the copied games worked. After making sure it did, I went on to other things. I did not unplug the Super Action Game Controller.

I loaded ShowOFF II to do some printing, got halfway through the loading sequence, and my ADAM locked up on me. I tried loading again, and the same thing happened. I was very distressed, trying to figure out what was wrong with my ADAM, and yanked the Controller out of the side port in frustration. Lo and behold! ADAM unlocked! I tried it several times, and got the same results. The moral to this story seems to be; don't leave your Super Action Game Controller plugged in if you plan use ShowOFF II. This may not happen on your machine. I haven't checked out any other ADAM but mine. However, it might be worth remembering.

I talked to Tony Patterson the other day, and he says that he and Solomon Swift have five new programs in various stages of completion that can be used with the GO-DOS system. GO-DOS with GO-BASIC will be released

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shortly, if it hasn't already by the time this gets to print, and many other programs will follow. I'm sure that other programmers will be writing programs for it too, just as soon as they get the system to work with. It's a great system.

This seems to be discovery time. Did you know that you do not have to run a complete program when you tell a program to run? If you type the command, RUN 123, your program will run from line 123 to the end of the program. If you just want to run a section of the program, put a STOP or END where you want to quit running the program, and only the part between those two commands will run. Amazing!

This is extremely helpful when you are trying to debug a program, and the DDT didn't help. A lot of times, your error is way down in the program, and running the front part of the program simply wastes time, serving no useful purpose. Being able to work with just the section that contains the problem makes it a lot easier and faster to find the error.

I know I haven't said too much about CP/M, but I was using the system the other day, and thought you might be interested in a couple of things. CP/M is not a user friendly system, and is quite particular about how you use it. Remember that the drive you boot the system from is always your "A>" drive. You must keep a tape/disk in this drive that has the CP/M system on it. If you try to READ or WRITE to a drive that does not contain a tape/disk, you will get an error message, and you will have to re-boot the CP/M system. Remember, also, that you can put the CP/M system on any tape/disk, even if it has files on it, by using the SYSGEN command. More on CP/M later.

When you are loading a SmartWRITER file, watch the left hand

white marker while the program is loading. It will tell you how many "pages" are in the file. The screen will say "ONE MOMENT - GETTING FILE," and as it loads the file, the white marker will quickly scan the file from the bottom to the top of each page, and then slowly scan each page from the top to the bottom. If you count each sweep of the marker as it scans from the top to the bottom, you will know how many pages are in the file. It's also a good idea to remember that if you have inserted an END PAGE marker, and then add or delete material, your END PAGE marker could end up in the wrong place. Don't add your END PAGE markers until you are sure the file is just the way you want it!—NIAD, November 1985.

A number of our club members have purchased dot matrix printers in the past six months. I'm glad they have, because there are a number of new programs out that require the use of a dot matrix printer.

I have had to tell some of them, however, that there are a few programs out there that were written before the use of dot matrix printers became so widespread. This means that they were meant to be used with the ADAM printer, and can only be used with a dot matrix printer if you use a printer "patch" with them. In some cases, you have to make changes in the original program, as well as using the printer patch. It is not a good idea to try this if you don't have a little bit of programming knowledge and a lot of patience.

Don't get me wrong. MULTIWRITE, NEWSMAKER and SIGNSHOP are excellent programs if you are using an ADAM printer. However, if you are trying to learn how to use a dot matrix printer, and are looking for programs to use with your new printer, maybe the following will help.

David White's SpeedyWRITE 2 (White Co. \$39.95), is the ultimate in

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word processing if you are using a dot matrix printer, and want more than your built-in SmartWRITER has to offer. It takes the place of MULTIWRITE, and has everything, including a whopper of a manual. Since there are four members of our family using four different ADAM computers, I typed up an outline of the manual to help us get used to the program. The manual is a heartstopper for the beginner!

With The Print Works (Walters Software Co. \$29.95), you can design banners, signs, letterheads, and much more. It is much like SIGNSHOP, but

written for a dot matrix printer. PowerPAINT (Digital Express, Inc. \$39.95) is the best all-around graphics program I know of that is written to be used with your dot matrix printer. Like SpeedyWRITE, you can do just about anything with it, as well as combine text and graphics for a newsletter. It could be used instead of NEWSMAKER.

Another excellent program that can be used with your new dot matrix printer or your ADAM printer is ShowOFF I (Digital Express, \$27.95). You can print out low resolution graphics on the ADAM printer, but you must

have a dot matrix printer for the high resolution graphics.

I use ShowOFF II (also Digital Express, \$17.95) to format and print out our newsletter with my dot matrix printer. You can type wide characters, compressed type, italicized type, pica or elite, and much more. You can right or left justify, automatic justify (right and left), and center your type. You can even change the spacing between the lines. It allows you to set up your column just about any way you want it, and I think it is the best thing to come down the pike in a long time

tools and a full software for recording, arranging music, storing synth sounds, analyzing MIDI

Best of all, even is backed by our quality. Which is most respected in music business are the worldwide professional music

So don't take a products that on paper. Invest in a been proven in the



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