

The
Cats'
4th
life

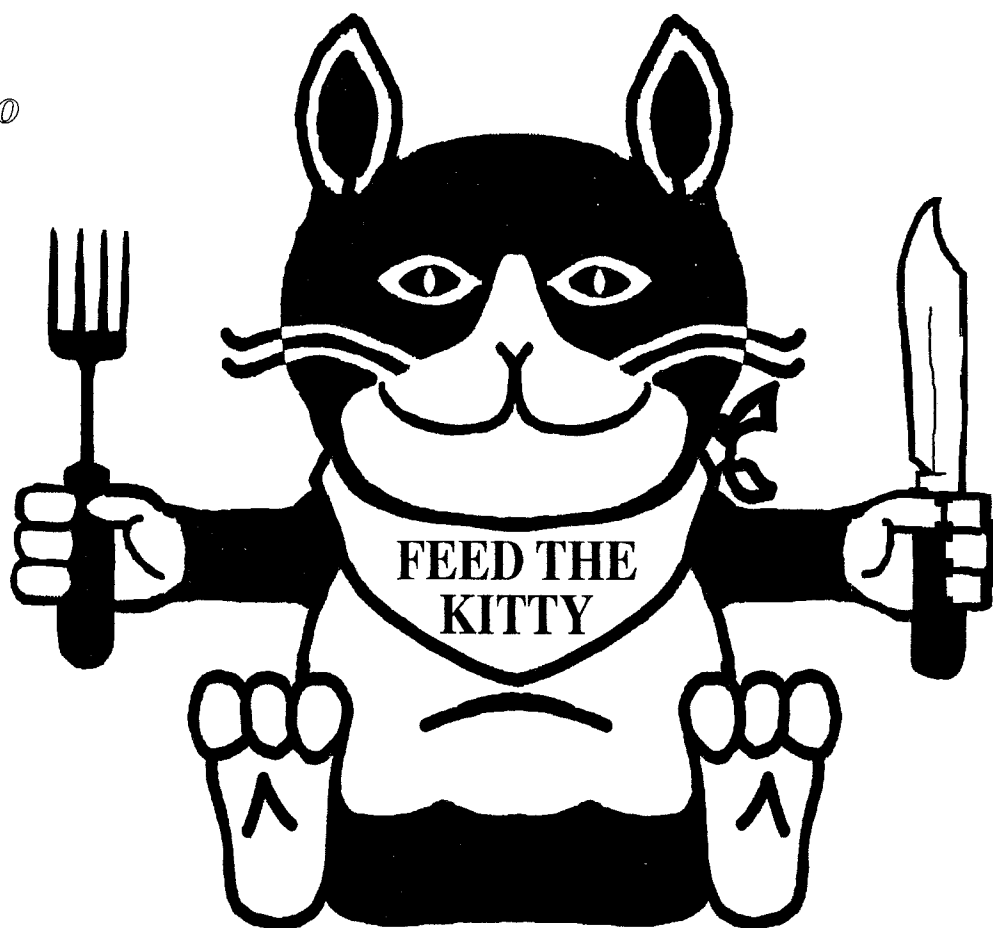
Bonzo's Scrapyard

An occasional newsletter compiled by Dave Caleno

Issue 12

I
♥
Bonzo

I
♥
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 12

Once again we delve into the realms of the Bonzo transfers. The news is only trickling in at the moment, but that is only to be expected with the shortage of tape software being released for the CPC. The main source at the moment appears to be the Amstrad Action cover tapes, although the supplied transfer program with the cover tapes seems to have settled down, so that the software can actually be transferred to disc.

Many thanks to Paul Dwerryhouse of WACCI for the inclusion of the advert in a recent issue of WACCI. Also to Brian Watson for the ad and the additional mention in 8BIT, there may be a bit on the history of the newsletter in the current issue of 8BIT. There should be a mention in the current issue of CPC User from the U.A.U.G., so thanks, in anticipation, to John Packham. I have also had a brief missive from Amstrad Action, so hopefully coming to a bookstore near you, should be an AA with a review of issue 11, so many thanks to the lasses and lads from Future Publishing.

ON TO THE TRANSFER NEWS

OPTION 1 (Bonzo)

- Power Spell (AA Cover Tape 47)
- Ball Bearing (AA Cover Tape 48)
- Columbia (AA Cover Tape 48)
- Cyberboy (AA Cover Tape 49)
- Spaghetti Western (AA Cover Tape 49)
- TUSS (AA Cover Tape 49) needs loader see below

BLITZ 6

The Duel, Test Drive II (Accolade)

TUSS LOADER (I saved this as TUSS1.BAS)

```
10 OPENOUT"d":MEMORY 32767:CLOSEOUT
20 LOAD"TUSS
30 POKE &BCC8,&C9:POKE &BC6E,&C9
40 CALL 32768
```

Samurai Trilogy on the AA Cover Tape 47 will transfer with BONZO OPTION 1, but will not run, I am still looking at that one.

Although reported in the last issue of Scrapyard as a NO GO the game Pictionary is reported in the database as a Main File only transfer using Hackpack. The levels can be transferred using OPTION 1, there are about 50 of them, which come across as ANONAME, BNONAME, etc, but the main game code still accesses the levels from the tape. Anyone out there like to try to get it loading from the disc files? If so let me know, as I have had a few enquiries for a disc version of this particular game.

The only recent AA Cover Tape that does not seem to transfer was the Crossword Compiler on tape 43. I have tried it on both a 6128 and an Expanded 464, but no joy, even with the replacement transfer file from Cover Tape 44. So the best advice is to go to your friendly PD library and get it from them, and save all the hassle and time wasting.

Dave Muggeridge (The Trogg?) has given me a couple of snippets for games listed in the Bonzo database. It appears that when transferring the game SAVAGE to disc it needs the following loader, according to the old Bonzo Newsletters, those edited by Colin Harris, many moons ago.

```
OPENOUT "d":MEMORY 999:CLOSEOUT:LOAD "Filename":CALL 40960
```

It appears that this loader is needed for all four parts of the game, and that

consequently it will take two sides of the disc. The other is for RIGELS REVENGE, which is listed as a Hackpack transfer for some versions. The HP transfer does not include the screen file, but this is needed, as it contains information needed by the game to load. Dave's solution is to HP the game, then get the screen using a Multiface, and then set up a simple loader to run the resulting files.

Well here endeth the transfer news for this issue, not much I know. I have only a few tapes left to try of my own, and so far have not been that successful, so I need any information that you can send me ASAP. If there is anything else you think may be of interest then by all means send it in, someone out there is probably seeking just the info you have.

THE DISC TO DISC BACK-UP DATABASE

As readers of issue 11 will no doubt remember, I received an enquiry from Peter Curgenvan as to whether a disc to disc back-up database would be an idea, as the tape to disc back-up was becoming a bit thin on the ground. Well after a bit of thought, I have started it. The main problem was to decide what back-up programs to use, I have settled for four of the commercial ones. They being Discology, CPC Procopy, Nirvana and XEXOR. I do know that there are now a few in the PD libraries, but as most of these four have been available for some time, I would assume that quite a few people have at least one of them.

Discology:

The latest version I think is 7.3, with different version numbers in English, French and German. Contains a Disc and File Copier plus an Editor program. Can be set up to copy from drives A-A, A-B, B-A, B-B. Also has the option of using the GAP 3 sector copier, which is usually needed for discs from French software houses. One thing I have found with this program if the disc you are trying to back-up has any corrupt sectors, then they will be copied along with the rest. Once you have set up the initial menu screens it plods away quite nicely until it has finished its job.

CPC Procopy:

Another proggy put out by Nemesis, sadly no longer available, as it has gone the same way as the Bonzo programs. As above can be set up to recognize the different combinations of disc drives in use. Also has the facility for allowing GAP 3 to be set for some discs that need this to be done. An early version I have also has a file on it called SPEEDMAS that needs to be run on Speedlok discs to allow the game to run properly. A later version does not give this option, so I assume that it is now catered for in the main program. There is also the usual disc map facilities.

Nirvana:

From Goldmark Systems, now only available on disc. Latest version is 2.1+ (and is probably my favourite). Automatically recognizes 2 drives and can, as above be set up for any drive variation. I would think this is the fastest of all these copiers, and needs very little setting up to use. It will either back-up a disc, or not, there is no alterations to be fiddled with to try and get strange format discs. I will also recognize if you have extra memory expansions fitted to the computer, such as the the rear bank of memory on the 6128 or the 256K Ram Pack, and on a single disc drive with the 256K Ram Pack, will transfer a full side with no disc swapping. Both the disc and the excellent file copiers also work on the Plus machines. There are also other utilities included on this disc including an archiver to tape program, although this will not work on the Plus machines.

XEXOR:

The newest of the four. Again drive variations are catered for, via the various menus. There are various programs on the reverse of the disc to use with different types of disc protection. Has what appears to be a standard

Back-up set up for a lot of normal discs. There is also a lot of extra utilities included to allow for setting up your own special formats to your own discs, all a bit beyond me though. There was I am told a certain alteration that can be made to a keyboard to bypass using some of the extra programs, it was called a 6K CopyMod, but if the service is still available I do not know at the moment. It was to enable the 6K sector discs to be backed up, but that is about all I know about it.

After that very brief resume of the four I have chosen to work with, I will explain the meaning of the letters in the columns following the back-up game name on the database following. The A in a column following the game name shows that the copier is just run in its standard mode, if need be setting up the source and destination drives first. The B means that some setting up needs to be done from the menus, i.e. GAP 3 being set in the case of CPC Procopy and Discology, or one of the utility files has been set up for XEXOR. The C is for XEXOR and for those owners who have had the 6K CopyMod, done to their machines.

If any one wants to send in information of back-ups made using other programs, then please feel free to do so, I will keep a note of them and include them in subsequent issues, but will not add them to this database. The information needed would be the same as for the tape back-ups: the game name, the software house that issued the particular game, the program used to make the back-up and any additional notes that may be needed to achieve a satisfactory working copy.

| BONZO'S SCRAPYARD DISC TO DISC BACKUP A=Straight; B=Disc/GAP3; C=6K CopyMod to k/b | DISC- OLOGY | NIR- VANA | PRO- COPY | XE- XOR |
|---|----------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Adams Family | B | | | |
| Afterburner | | | | B |
| Batman (The Movie) | B | A | B | B |
| Chips Challenge | | | | C |
| Fun School 2 (Database Educ. Software) | | A | | |
| Fun School 3 (Database Educ. Software) | | A | | |
| Gauntlet (US Gold) | B | | B | A |
| Gauntlet II (US Gold) | B | A | B | A |
| Gauntlet III = The Deeper Dungeons (US Gold) | B | A | B | B |
| Ghouls N Ghosts | | | | B |
| Home Entertainment Centre (CDS) | | A | B | B |
| La Compil'action Vol. 2 (Infogames) | | | B | |
| Last Ninja II | | | | B |
| Myth | | | | B |
| Platinum Collection (6K CopyMod to 6128) | | | | C |
| Power Drift | | | | B |
| Prehistorik II | A | | | |
| Purple Saturn Day (EXXOS) | | A | A | B |
| R-Type | | A | A | B |
| Rambo III | B | | B | B |
| Renegade III (6K CopyMod to 6128) | | | | C |
| Robocop (Ocean) | | | B | B |
| Super Cauldron | A | | | |
| Super Space Invaders | A | | | |
| Titus the Fox | A | | | |
| Toobin (Domark) | | | B | |
| Turrican | | | | B |
| UN Squadron (US Gold) | | | | B |
| Wild Streets | | | | B |
| Zap T Balls (Advanced Edition) | | | | B |

WELCOME TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS TO THE SCRAPYARD

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome any new subscribers to Bonzo's Scrapyard. The aim of the newsletter is to keep information up to date of any transfers of tape based software to run from a disc system, using primarily the Bonzo suite of programs, Bonzo Super Meddler, Hackpack and Bonzo Blitz, but also includes transfers made using the program Bankraid III. Bankraid III comes in two forms, one for 6128 users and the other for expanded 464 users, i.e. 464 plus 64K Ram pack and DDI I disc drive. I do not know if Bankraid will work on the later Plus machines as I do not have access to one of these, perhaps someone would let me know about that. Bankraid is the copyright of Neil MacDougall, but he has given permission that the Bankraid programs may be distributed to subscribers of Bonzo's Scrapyard only, it is NOT a Public Domain program, and therefore should not be passed around.

There is a database kept of all transfers made, currently it stands at over 1450 items, this also includes any software that will not transfer. See the section on the back page under the heading "The Bonzo's Scrapyard Team" for the relevant addresses. The object of the transfer is to allow faster loading of software, a few seconds instead of typing RUN" and then going off to make a brew, and for the better reliability of disc loading as opposed to the unreliable tape. The software is intended for use to make a working Back-up copy of the game, and not for the wholesale distribution of copies to all and sundry.

A recent discussion with Mr "Goldmark Systems", Brian Barton, (how are you Cur, sorry I mean SIR, mainly because he is bigger than I am, and I am a devout coward, I'll have to pretend not to be in the next time he drives past my house, heading for that big mole hole that has appeared down the road from me), thoughts were that the days of the cowpersons, is that politically correct nowadays?, that were ripping off games have probably passed and

that the CPC scene now lies in the hands of a more dedicated band of enthusiasts. So long may we all carry on using one of the best little machines around. It may be little on memory but its big on heart.

If anyone has any tape software, other than multiload programs, that they know are not on the database, please send any information on transfers, if successfully transferred to disc or even if its a NO GO, so that I can pass on the news. If you do not want to try them yourself, you can if you wish send them to me to try. But please enclose the tape, instructions, a disc for the transferred game and a jiffy bag with return postage.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?

Goldmark Systems:

Brian Barton has been in touch since the last issue and asked that I clarify that the 8-bit printer port, that can be obtained from Goldmark, is actually built into a 1.5 metre printer lead. The KDS port, if you can find one, and the one from Brunning Software that comes with the Brunword Elite or ROM versions of Brunword are a separate item and you would also need to purchase a separate lead for these. I am also informed the the disc utility program Nirvana, see earlier mention, is now only available on disc, previously there was a combination of ROM and disc version. Goldmark still have on offer their own excellent tape to disc transfer programs, for those who still want these facilities and cannot get hold of the Bonzo ones. I can personally recommend their Speedtrans program for Speedlok games, and would advise anyone contacting Brian to ask for the Utilities Disc II. This disc contains the programs: Samson, which operates much the same as the Bonzo Option 1 program, and gives the opportunity of renaming the tape files as you proceed doing the backup; Delilah, for headerless files, as Bonzo Option 2, 2x, etc.; Playtrans and Firetrans, for Players and Firebird labels, a lot of these are listed on the Bonzo database as Hackpack transfers. There is also a Screen Dump program, with three different variations for different

types of printers (Epson, Citoh, and Shinwa), plus a Screen Compactor program, and a Label Printer program. All in all a good disc of utilities. See the back page for address details.

W H Smith-the booksellers:

At the time of writing these pages, I am still trying to get hold of the latest, April, issue of AA, which was supposed to be on sale on the 20th May. Last weekend, while doing my usual rummage through the book shelves trying to find AA, I asked one of the assistants if it was actually out, Smiths being my only local output since AA decided to do away with their subscriptions, and was told that they are no longer carrying the mag. 'Can't get hold of it on a regular basis, and not much call for it either', was the excuse I was given. Is this a national decision, or is it just a local policy? Speaking to Angie Hardwick of WACCI the other evening, I heard that she had a copy, albeit through her local newsagent, but she thought that Smiths was the local distributor in her area. For those of you who partake of Brian Watson's excellent offering, 8 BIT, the last issue stated that the same attitude by retailers was being applied the one of the Commodore format magazines in his area.

Bonzo History in 8 BIT:

Speaking of 8 BIT, I have sent a small article on the history of the Bonzo newsletters to Brian Watson and hopefully it will be appearing shortly. Brian did tell me that he had a few letters about people being concerned that the content in 8 BIT seemed to be slanted towards the CPC, but I would think that this means the other 8 Bit User Groups and fanzine editors should think about supplying material on their own machines to redress the balance. We are very lucky on the CPC scene, in that we have some very competent people that have put together some excellent fanzines, magazines, call them what you will, over the years and in a lot of cases offered their help to us lesser mortals. I for one thank them all.

WACCI geared up for Convention:

While speaking to Angie Hardwick, as mentioned earlier, she told me that

the Great WACCI Convention in Walsall is now all set. I for one am going, and for those of you that are WACCI members, and have booked your place, I shall hopefully be able to put faces to those that have written and phoned me in the past. From what I hear it sounds as though it will be a good meeting, with hopefully something for everyone to get something out of being a member of the CPC fraternity.

The Back Page:

As you will see on the back page of this newsletter, I have included names and addresses of certain publications and CPC peripheral suppliers. These are to ones that I have had personal dealings with and have found them all to have very good service, and a friendly attitude when you contact them. It is only a personal list and should not cast any aspersions on any other companies. You will probably have your own list of suppliers that give an exceptional service. The only thing I would ask is that we keep using them, as there have been a few very good companies that have now left the CPC scene, and we do need to hang on to the few that are standing by us, despite unfortunately, an ever decreasing sales enclave.

Compilers Quest:

Once again I will mention that I am in need of information from yourselves for anything that you feel could be included in forthcoming newsletters. At present I am scouring my local boot fairs in search of any software that can be added to the Bonzo database, but they are few and far between. So if you have anything that you want transferred to disc, and you don't want to do it yourself, send it to me and I will have a go. If I can help I will. It is probably better to send a letter, although my phone number is on the back page, as it gives me a bit longer to try to find a solution. Well this is the end of another newsletter, so best wishes to you all, and I hope to have the next one ready by the end of July.

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

Name

BONZO (Option 1)

BONZO (Option 2 - Headerless)

BONZO (Option 3 - Speedlock)

PICBONK(X) - alt Option 3 above

(HI)BONKEY - alt Option 3 above

BUNLOCK - alt Option 3 above

OPTION 2X - alt Option 2 above

OPTION 4

OPTION 4X

OPTION 4Y

OPTION 5 (Cassy's)

OPTION 5X (Cassy's)

OPTION 5Y (Cassy's)

OP5ALT (Argonaut Cassy's)

OPTION 6 (Budget labels)

OPTION 7 (Loricels)

OPTION 8 - alt Option 4 above

OPTION 8X

OPTION 9 - alt Option 4 above

OPTION 10A (Appelby - GO!)

OPTION 10B (Appleby - GO!)

OPTION 11A (Hi-Tec - 1991)

OPTION 11B (,,)

OPTION 11C (,,)(try codes 1=0, 2=192)

OPTION 12 - alt Option 2X

OPTION 14A/B (Codemasters)

HACKPACK

HP2

LAST RESORT

BONZO BLITZ (Speedlock)

ANCIENT

ARGLOCK

BLITZBLITZXLBLITZ 4BLITZ 4LBLITZ 5BLITZ 5XBLITZ 6BLITZNUBLITZNULBLITNUXLBLITZODDBLITZOLD

BLODXL

WADAMIGONNAREADNOW ???

8 BIT - The magazine for second-hand sales and wants and general articles for any of the 8-Bit computers, contains many addresses for major sources of software items and for ancillary items for printers etc. A4 format - Bi-monthly. Price £1.00 or send 4 first class stamps per issue, the price also allows you a free lineage advert of up to 50 words.

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 to members. 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 Brunwood Green, Hawarden, Deeside, Clwyd, CH5 3JA.*

Amstrad Action - Still just about available, it seems, although now greatly reduced in size. The magazine seems to be heading in a more serious vein nowadays. A4 format - Price £2.95, available from your local bookseller, supposedly the last Thursday of the month.

WHERE TO GO NOW !!!

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, 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's CPC Service/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.

Contact - Angela/Arthur Cook, *Brympton Cottage, Brunswick Road, Worthing, Sussex, BN11 3NQ.*

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 a 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.* If necessary I can be contacted by phone between 8.30 pm-10.30 pm most evenings - (01634) 724262.

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?* - Nigel has just reorganized the database, deleting entries for the same game, same transfer option, that were included under slightly different names.

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