DAL-ACE

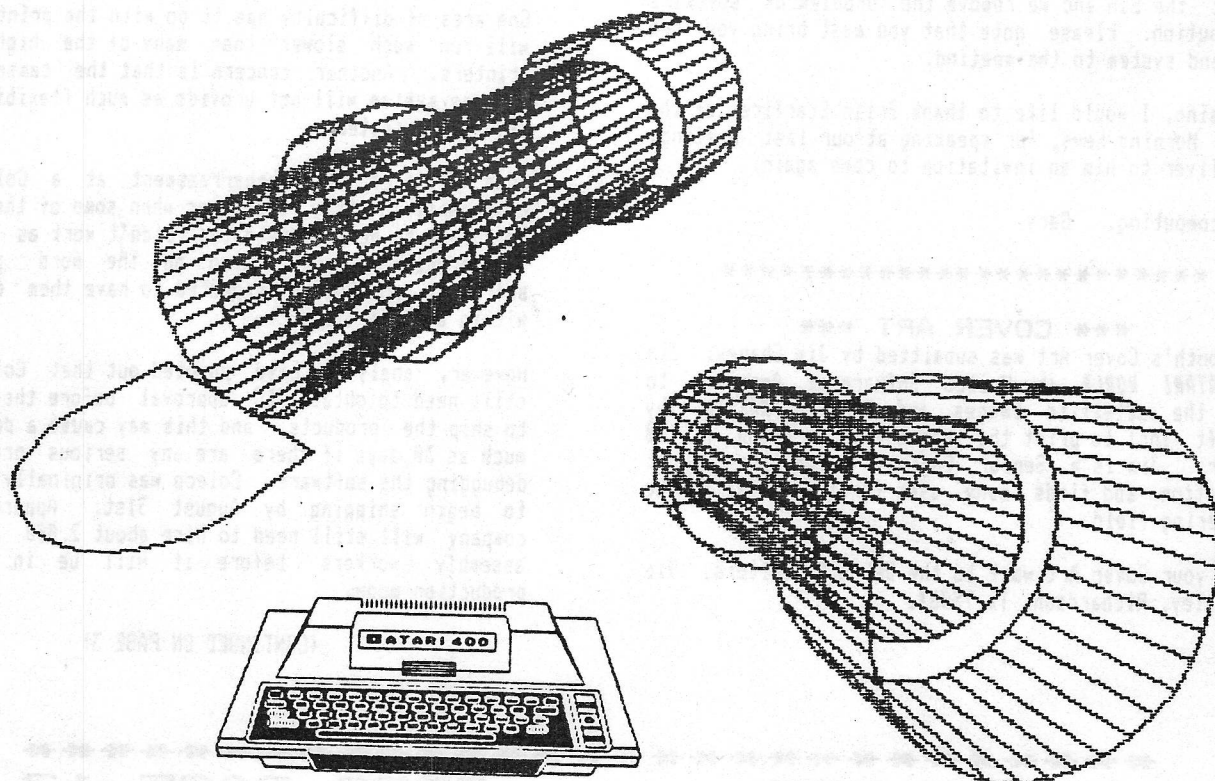## DALLAS ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

VOLUME 4   ISSUE 10   OCT 1983

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

ELECTION !!

No, I don't mean it's that time yet, but it's not far away either. The only reason I bring it up now is so you can start thinking who you would like to see running the club. For those new members, we have our elections in January, but the nominations have to be in to the executive committee by the November board meeting to be placed on the slate. Remember, you can still nominate someone at the January meeting.

ATARI NEWS

It seems that Atari intends (or has already begun) to recall all 1050 disk drives due to a problem with the ROM chip. The problem that I have seen is that certain protected software that uses a protection called *DELETED DATA SECTORS* can't be read on the new drive because it returns the wrong error code to the computer. In typical Atari fashion, they denied any knowledge of the problem. After many complaints, they recalled the drives.

OOPS!!

On the topic of drives, it came to my attention this week that Commodore has recalled ALL of its drives. This information came from a local dealer. It seems that it is a hardware and a software problem.

CP/M NEWS

As most of you know, we have in the club, most of the public domain CP/M software. The problem that we have is: how do we get the software to you? Well, at the first CP/M SIG meeting on September 12, we decided to review one or more of the disks at the SIG meeting and then copy the reviewed disk(s) there. This way you support the SIG and we remove the problem of software distribution. Please note that you must bring your own disks and system to the meeting.

In closing, I would like to thank Brian Starfire, of the Dallas Morning News, for speaking at our last meeting, and deliver to him an invitation to come again.

Happy computing,   Gary

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*** COVER ART ***

This month's Cover Art was submitted by Jim Chaney. Jim used *ATARI WORLD* (by United Software of America) to create the satellite images and *GRAPHIC MASTER* (by DataSoft Inc) to print the images with an Epson MX-100 printer. Jim is a Senior Engineer with the Vought Corporation and finds many uses for the ATARI in the Engineering field.

Submit your Cover Art work to the DAL-ACE Editors, 916 E.Berkeley, Richardson, Tx 75081.

OUTSIDE ATARI
by SANDY GADELL

[NOTE: This column provides information about computer products which are offered by Atari's competitors and is intended to provide DAL-ACE members with additional knowledge to be used in making wise consumer decisions. *OUTSIDE ATARI* appears for the first time in this issue of the newsletter, and will appear as a regular feature each month. Readers who would like to contribute information to this column are strongly encouraged to do so. Well-informed computer users are in a good position to influence Atari to continue to improve its products. This is an example of "User Power" in action, so send your suggestions to the Editors at the address which is listed on the back cover of the newsletter.]

THE NEW ADAM:
WILL IT BYTE THE APPLE...
OR BYTE THE DUST?

If recent news reports are correct, it appears that things at Coleco aren't exactly what you'd call a Garden of Eden as far as the new Adam is concerned. Earnings estimates for the third quarter have been revised downward by stock analysts because of fears that Coleco won't be able to ship the projected 500,000 Adam units in time to meet the Christmas market needs.

Adam is Coleco's much touted word processor/personal computer that was supposed to be available this fall for less than $600 including a printer. Early reviews of the Adam have been cautious because of several real and potential problems.

One area of difficulty has to do with the printer, which will run much slower than many of the higher-priced printers. Another concern is that the cassette-based storage system will not provide as much flexibility as a disk drive system.

Adam suffered some embarrassment at a Coleco news conference in early September when some of the dozen or so models to be demonstrated didn't work as expected. The problems were blamed on the word processing software, and Coleco expected to have them cleared up within a short time.

However, analysts have pointed out that Coleco will still need to obtain FCC approval before they are able to ship the products, and this may cause a delay of as much as 30 days if there are any serious problems in debugging the software. Coleco was originally scheduled to begin shipping by August 31st. Apparently the company will still need to hire about 2,000 additional assembly workers before it will be in its full production mode.

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

What all of this means for Atari users is this. If Coleco is able to solve the Adam problem in time to meet the Christmas market, the low price will be very attractive to shoppers, and Atari's position as competitor will need to be supported verbally by all of us because of the fine products which we know Atari to be capable of offering on a reliable basis. On the other hand, if the Adam computer does not make it to market in time for Christmas, this means that some of the potential Adam customers will turn to such products as the Atari models, and that those of us who planned on buying Atari's as gifts or who have recommended them to our friends as gift-giving ideas should get on the ball and do our shopping early so as to avoid disappointment as the Christmas season approaches.

Rumor tells us that the new Atari models will be available by Christmas. What we need to remember is this. The first time Adam fell, we all got into trouble for it. This time we know better.

[P.S. Rumor has it that Coleco has also come up with a remarkable new cover for the Adam. It's made out of fig leaves!]

* * * * * * * *

OSBORNE FACES FAILURE WITHOUT NEW GRIP ON FINANCES

Unless Osborne is able to sell its case to a new buyer within a very short time, the once highly successful portable computer is likely to be dropped from the competitive marketplace. Osborne is the company that created the portable computer, and experts believe that the problems are largely due to financial mismanagement rather than to the idea of the portable small computer itself.

Financial experts believe that Osborne will have difficulty attracting either a partner or an all-out buyer because it has nothing unique to offer in today's marketplace. Although it was at one time the leader in portable computers and in low pricing, competitors have made great inroads in both of these efforts, and Osborne lacks the resources to come up with something new and different enough to be attractive to the computer-buying public.

* * * * * * * *

LISA NOT EXACTLY APPLE OF THE EYE

Apple Computer, once the leader in the small computer field, is on shaky ground as far as its new Lisa is concerned. The main problem is the same one which other business-oriented small computers are facing -- namely, competition from the IBM PC.
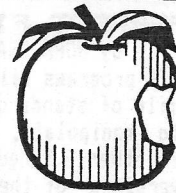
Because of its longstanding reputation for quality and dependability, IBM has enjoyed enormous success since its introduction into the small computer market. For many small businesses, it was exactly what they had been waiting for. They knew IBM, and they didn't know Apple, and as a result IBM is setting the standard for the industry.

What this means for Apple is some serious rethinking about where the best future lies. Lisa has been undersold by IBM, and other Apple models have been undersold by Atari. Apple stocks are reflecting these difficulties, and the responses which Apple makes to these problems will certainly be interesting to watch in the coming months.

****

PRODUCT REVIEW
GEMINI 10X PRINTER
by H. HAFELE

I just recently acquired a new Gemini-10X printer after having used an Epson MX-80 for a long time. I had read the literature and seen the ads for the Gemini for some time and it seemed to be close enough to the Epson to not force me to change any of my software. As you know, once you have acquired software that works, you hate to upset the balance. The software I was concerned about was my word processor, my graphics program (which has a screen dump) and a general purpose screen dump. I am happy to report that they all work.

Now, about some detail. It is rated at 120 cps. I have not timed it but it is faster than the MX-80. It is also quieter, and I really like that. It comes with both friction and pin feed. A print buffer of about 1K, bi-directional printing and a slew of character sets that you can pick from including the ability to download your own set of 96 characters. It also supports neat things like superscript and subscript, double strike, underline, italics, condensed, expanded, and dot addressable print.

About the only thing that I had on the Epson that is significantly different is the printing of inverse characters. On the Epson they came out in italics (very nice), on the Gemini they come out in block graphics. I guess I can't have everything. Last, but hardly least, was the price. The Gemini had more features for the dollar than any other printer I saw and we are talking right around $300 depending on where you get it. If you are looking for a printer then I would recommend this one.

DATA PERFECT FILES TO DOS
by NORM DRAPER

The following *BASIC* programs will convert a *Data Perfect* database into a file of standard Atari DOS format. This allows a person to manipulate, or do special reports using *BASIC* (or other language) programs. I am including two versions of the program. One is for single disk drive owners, the other for two drive owners. The single drive program, as written, will convert any database that is 30,000 characters, or less, in length on a 48K RAM system. The two drive version can convert any size database. The output file consists of fields of data in the length specified when the database was defined to *Data Perfect*.

```
10 REM Convert Data Perfect disk to
20 REM Atari DOS format
30 REM by Norm Draper
40 REM (Single drive version)
50 DIM C$(1),T$(128),A(1),I(1),S(1)
60 DIM L$(FRE(0)-50)
70 PRINT "Insert Data Perfect disk in dr
ive 1":INPUT T$
80 I=1
90 READ A
100 IF A=999 THEN 130
110 POKE 1535+I,A
120 I=I+1:GOTO 90
130 S=32
140 POKE 769,1:REM Set to drive 1 input
150 Z=USR(1536,S,ADR(T$))
160 FOR I=0 TO 127
170 A=PEEK(ADR(T$)+I)
180 IF A=0 THEN 270:REM End of file
190 IF A=2 THEN 240
200 IF A=3 THEN 240
210 C$=CHR$(A)
220 L$(LEN(L$)+1)=C$
230 PRINT CHR$(A);
240 NEXT I
250 S=S+1
260 GOTO 140
270 PRINT "Remove Data Perfect disk"
280 PRINT "and insert DOS 2.0 disk"
290 PRINT "and press RETURN"
300 INPUT T$
310 PRINT "Enter filespec for output fil
e":INPUT T$
320 OPEN #2,8,0,T$
330 PRINT #2;L$
340 CLOSE #2
350 END
360 DATA 104,104,141,11,3,104,141,10,3,1
04,141,5,3,104,141,4,3,169,82,141,2,3,16
9,64,141,3,3,169,128,141,8,3,169
370 DATA 0,141,9,3,32,89,228,96
380 DATA 999
```

```
10 REM Convert Data Perfect disk to
20 REM Atari DOS format
30 REM by Norm Draper
40 REM (Two drive version)
50 DIM T$(128)
60 PRINT "Insert Data Perfect disk in dr
ive 1":INPUT T$
70 PRINT "Enter filespec for output file
":INPUT T$
80 OPEN #2,8,0,T$
90 I=1
100 READ A
110 IF A=999 THEN 140
120 POKE 1535+I,A
130 I=I+1:GOTO 100
140 S=32
150 POKE 769,1:REM Set to drive 1 input
160 Z=USR(1536,S,ADR(T$))
170 FOR I=0 TO 127
180 A=PEEK(ADR(T$)+I)
190 IF A=0 THEN 270
200 IF A=2 THEN 240
210 IF A=3 THEN 240
220 PUT #2,A
230 PRINT CHR$(A);
240 NEXT I
250 S=S+1
260 GOTO 150
270 CLOSE #2
280 END
290 DATA 104,104,141,11,3,104,141,10,3,1
04,141,5,3,104,141,4,3,169,82,141,2,3,16
9,64,141,3,3,169,128,141,8,3,169
300 DATA 0,141,9,3,32,89,228,96
310 DATA 999
```
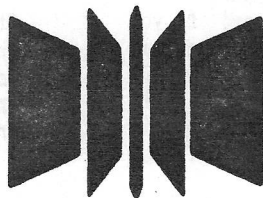
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BEGINNER'S BYTES

<u>True or False:</u> Software is what a computer wears under its hardware.

<u>Answer:</u> False. Software is the set of instructions which you give your computer to tell it what to do. In other words, software packages are computer programs. You can write your own software, and you can also buy it in stores. Most of the store bought kind costs big bucks because it takes a long time to develop it -- also, because the people who write it and sell it found out that the people who buy it are willing to pay big bucks, and nobody needs to be told that twice!

GTIA STAR
GRAPHICS MODE 10

The following program is another illustration of GTIA power! It will only take a few minutes to type in and is well worth the effort. Let's take a quick look at what the program is doing: LINE 10 invokes Grphics Mode 10 and sets the initial value of screen color (SCOLR); LINE 20 starts an endless loop (line 48 jumps to here) by incrementing the basic screen color (SCLOR) by a value of ".5" (try other values here, 2, 4, 6, etc.); LINE 22 checks value of the basic color and keeps it from getting too high (255 is the maximum value that can be "poked" to a RAM location); LINES 24-34 poke the basic color and the next seven colors into the color registers for Graphics mode 10; LINES 36 AND 46 form a "loop" to draw a line on the screen in each of the eight colors (L goes from 1 to 8); LINES 38-40 select a random point on the screen; LINES 42-44 draw a line from the random point to a "fixed" point near the center of the screen (try changing the "fixed" point to one corner of the screen). There is a lot to be gleaned from this little program, so go to it Atarians!

```
10 GRAPHICS 10:SCLOR=0
20 SCLOR=SCLOR+0.5
22 IF SCLOR>248 THEN SCLOR=1
24 POKE 705,SCLOR
25 POKE 706,SCLOR+1
26 POKE 707,SCLOR+2
27 POKE 708,SCLOR+3
28 POKE 709,SCLOR+4
30 POKE 710,SCLOR+5
32 POKE 711,SCLOR+6
34 POKE 712,SCLOR+7
36 FOR L=1 TO 8:COLOR L
38 X=RND(0)*79
40 Y=RND(0)*191
42 PLOT X,Y
44 DRAWTO 40,90
46 NEXT L
48 GOTO 20
```

****
WHAT'S UP?   GOTO PAGE 12
****

**** PERSONAL ADS ****

DAL-ACE members may advertise free of charge! Do you have something for sale? Would you like to get a real bargin? THIS IS THE PLACE! Send you ads to: DAL-ACE EDITOR, 916 E. BERKELEY, RICHARDSON, TEXAS 75081. If it is a "short" one, you can "phone" it to 231-4402. [NOTE: COMMERCIAL ADS EXCLUDED, EDITORS JUDGEMENT WILL BE FINAL AUTHORITY.]

****

WANTED: BASIC cartridge, if you have one that is for sale, please call John Jubin at 234-1633.

****

FOR SALE: ATARI 850 INTERFACE, asking price is $175.00, personal warranty for 90 days, call Sandy Carlisle at (501)224-0930 (Little Rock, Ark).

FUTURE MEETINGS

Starting with October, the meeting themes will center on the various Special Interest Group (SIG) activities. Each group will present a short program on their Special Interest and how they are pursuing knowledge in that area.

OCTOBER--->EDUCATION SIG

NOVEMBER-->CP/M SIG

DECEMBER-->Special program?????

JANUARY--->FORTH LANGUAGE SIG

☆☆☆

BEFORE YOU MAKE A COSTLY MISTAKE

MAKE SOME COMPARISIONS

The ATR-8000 is a total expansion interface that can be added to any ATARI HOME COMPUTER (w/32K RAM or greater). It offers the flexibility to choose from an almost unlimited list of peripheals to fill out your system. Before you buy, compare.

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Double Density	YES	DUAL ONLY	YES	ANTICIPATED
Add-On Disk Drive	YES	NO	YES	NO
Double Side/8' Drive	YES	NO	NO	NO
Printer Port	YES	NO	YES	NO
Printer Buffer	YES	NO	NO	NO
RS-232/Modem Port	YES	NO	NO	NO
CPM 2.2/CPM-86	OPTIONAL	NO	NO	NO

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NEW MAGAZINE AIMS AT
NON-TECHNICAL
FAMILY AUDIENCE

FAMILY COMPUTING, a magazine which hopes to attract readers who have relatively little understanding of computer concepts, published its first issue this past month and was widely available in the Dallas area.

According to Editor-in-Chief Claudia Cohl, adults need to learn about the world of computing right along with their children. Cohl predicts that "30 million families are expected to buy computers for their homes in the next few years," and it is her belief that "the number one motivating force behind this initial purchase is the future of our children."

FAMILY COMPUTING is expected to fill a gap in the computer publications field because of its focus on the non-technical user. Cohl describes it as "a magazine that will serve as a guide while we toddle as eagerly as the very young and step as cautiously as the very old into the world of this new technology."

Each issue of FAMILY COMPUTING will have at least six areas of focus: people, how-to's, consumer information, programming, home applications, and user contributions. Readers are encouraged to share their experiences by sending in articles, programs, games, puzzles, and questions.

This month's issue of FAMILY COMPUTING contains a number of articles which will be of interest to DAL-ACE members. For example, an article entitled "Computer Buyer's Guide: A Look at the Leading Brands," compares the seven best-selling computer brands bought for home use. These are Apple, Atari, Commodore, IBM, Radio Shack, Texas Instruments, and Timex Sinclair. (Portables and business-oriented computers are not included.) The Atari model which is included in the survey is the new 600XL.

Another Atari-related article is entitled "When Kerrie Holton Talks, Atari Listens." The article describes how a quiet teen-ager in New Orleans developed and sold a computer game to Atari for a million dollars. As a result, 18-year-old Kerrie Holton now sits on Atari's Youth Advisory Board, travels around the country at Atari's expense, and has received an Atari 1200XL and a modem so that she can review software and communicate with other members of the Youth Advisory Board.

* * * * * * * *

EDITORIAL COMMENT. It is our opinion that a magazine of this sort has been needed for a long time. Until recently, computer buyers tended to be technically-oriented people who wanted to use computers as hobbies or for developing programs. However, as Editor Cohl has pointed out, the field of computer using has expanded tremendously, and many of today's adults feel very uneasy about becoming involved in the new technology.

These feelings of inadequacy are not surprising, and we are pleased to see that at last someone has come out with a publication which is able to avoid using "computerese" when it addresses the needs of its audience. Speakers of "computerese" sometimes have a tendency to make people feel "stupid" because the computer novices have no understanding of what is being discussed.

Psychologists and sociologists who study the effects of language on people have pointed out that specific language dialects used by a narrow group of people within a culture are often used to include or exclude people from participation in a group. We have observed this phenomenon a number of times, and for that reason we salute FAMILY COMPUTING and its publisher, Scholastic, Inc., for helping more of us learn to speak the language that will allow us entry into the world of the experienced computer user.

ATTENTION
DAL-ACE
TEENS!!!!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ON ATARI'S YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD?

ATARI IS CONTINUALLY SEEKING NEW MEMBERS FOR THE YAB TO REPLACE THOSE WHO FINISH THEIR TERMS. ATARI RECEIVES MANY APPLICATIONS, SO IT'S A GOOD IDEA NOT TO GET YOUR HOPES UP TOO HIGH. HOWEVER, AS WITH ANYTHING ELSE IN LIFE, THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR THE GOOD ONES, AND IT DOESN'T HURT TO TRY. IF YOU ARE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14 AND 17, SEND SOME INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR COMPUTER ABILITIES TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

NOREEN LOVOI
YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD
ATARI, INC.
P.O. 427
SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA 94086
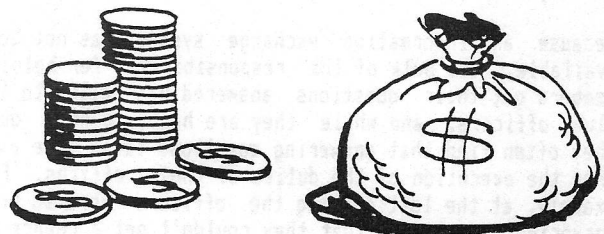
** DISCLAIMER **

The articles and advertisements contained in this newsletter reflect the opinion of the respective author. Members are encouraged to offer opposing opinions on any subject (relevant to computing) at any time.e we will not, knowingly, publish fraudulent or malicious material. The purpose of this newsletter is to present information for your consideration ... you, the reader, are the final judge on any product or advice presented.
--EDS

CLUB LIBRARY STANDARDS

The table presented below defines standard file extension names for all club disk files. These extensions are standardized for the DAL-ACE library disks and do not necessarily apply to disks from other sources. For each extension, the "HOW USED" column gives a brief description of how to transfer the file from the disk into your computer.

EXTENSION	HOW USED	WHICH PROGRAM
.APB	RUN or LOAD	OSS A+ BASIC
.ASM	assembly files	any assembly program
.BAS	RUN or LOAD	BASIC CARTRIDGE
.BIN	from DOS "L" command	DOS
.C	C source program	Deep Blue C compiler
.COM	see .BIN above	
.DAT	loaded from other program	any
.DOC	print using DOS 'C' command or word processor	DOS or wordprocessor
.LST	ENTER from BASIC	BASIC
.MSB	RUN or LOAD	MICROSOFT BASIC
.MUS	music files	MUSIC CARTRIDGE
.OBJ	see .BIN above	
.PAS	PASCAL Source program	Atari or Draper PASCAL
.SYS	system files	DOS
.TXT	see .DOC above	

DAL-ACE ESTABLISHES "ASK THE EXPERTS" SYSTEM

At its most recent meeting, the DAL-ACE Executive Committee discussed ways of helping members gain greater benefits from the expertise which is available within the group. The Committee members are aware that there are many Atari users who would be very happy to help others learn how to use their computers more effectively, but there has been no consistent system for putting the people with questions in touch with those who might have the answers.

Because an information exchange system has not been available, the bulk of the responsibility for helping members get their questions answered has fallen to the club officers, and while they are happy to help out, they often find that answering questions takes time away from the execution of the duties of their offices. For example, at the last meeting the officers were so busy answering questions that they couldn't get a chance to work on some of the problems that had arisen relative to setting up, shutting down, and all of the details which must be handled while the meeting is going on.

As a result, a system has been developed to help redistribute the responsibilities for serving as a resource people for the club. Here are the key features of the system:

At each meeting a sign-up sheet will be circulated. Members who have experience with Atari products will be asked to volunteer to serve as information resources for one month.

Names and phone numbers of these "experts" will be published in the Newsletter for the appropriate month.

Terms of service will run for one month unless the volunteer would like to sign up for additional months, which would be totally delightful for everyone concerned!

In addition, the volunteers will be asked to sit at a special "User Information" table prior to the meeting and on the breaks so that club members will have opportunities to come to them to ask questions.

Specifically, here's how the program will be implemented the first time around. Volunteers will sign up on October 1st to serve as Information Resources for the month of November. Their names and phone numbers will be published in the November Newsletter, and they will continue to serve until the December Newsletter is published with a new list of volunteers. Also, they will sit at the User Information table at the December meeting.

Your club officers will be tremendously appreciative of your willingness to volunteer for these responsibilities. We always tell people that one of the advantages to belonging to the club is to exchange information with other Atari users. In order to make that philosophy really come to life, your help is needed. Don't hesitate to sign up, and if the sign-up sheet happens to be passed down the wrong side of the room, hunt it down and sign up to offer as many months of service as you are able to contribute.

*** DISK REVIEW ***
BASM
BASIC COMPILER AND ASSEMBLER
Review by JIM CHANEY

What is BASM? Is it a compiler or an assembler, or can it really be both? If your definition of a BASIC COMPILER is based on the translation of ATARI BASIC into machine code then, BASM is not a compiler. BASM will not translate ATARI BASIC into machine language. Sorry, but it was not designed to perform that task. It was designed to perform a much more powerful task!

So, is BASM an assembler? YES! BASM is the most powerful assembler on the home computer market! It employs a unique concept that sets it apart from any other system that I have ever worked with. It is this unique approach that lead the folks at COMPUTER ALLIANCE to call their system a "Basic Compiler". The foundation of this concept is the use of macros (predefined assembly modules) that have the "appearance" of BASIC statements. YES, it looks like BASIC and it is as easy to write as BASIC, but in reality, it is treated (assembled) like a macro. Here is a sample:

```
30 FOR NDX=1 TO MAX
40 PRINT "HELLO"
50 NEXT NDX
```

That looks like BASIC! Yes, but in the same program you may have a DEFINITION (BASM feature for language extension) that has only slight resemblance to BASIC:

```
110 GOTO SKIP_PRHEX
120 DEF PRHEX HEXDATA
130 LDA HEXDATA
140 LSR A : LSR A : LSR A : LSR A
150 TAY
160 PUT HEXTABLE,Y
170 LET HEXDATA AND $F : TAY
180 PUT HEXTABLE,Y
190 RETURN
200 HEXTABLE DATA "0123456789ABCDEF"
210 DIM HEXDATA
220 ENDDEF PRHEX
230 SKIP_PRHEX
```

If you can examine the above code and decipher what it may be doing, then you are ready for BASM! Granted, the "PUT" and "LET" may require some learning, but the purpose of the DEFINITION should be fairly obvious. And, more importantly, the POWER of "DEF, ENDDEF" should send a tingle up the spine. And this is only the first hint of the power that BASM brings to your keyboard!

BASM allows you to write programs in a mixture of assembly language, Basic (at least it looks like Basic), macros (called DEFINITIONS), and library units. All BASM code, including the DEFINITIONS, may be written in this mixture of languages. Actually, it is only our preconception of the division between BASIC and ASSEMBLY that makes BASM look like a "mixture". What did COMPUTER ALLIANCE do? They took the best features of

both language types and put them together to define a new language! FANTASTIC!! In this new language the programmer has the unique option of mixing BASIC, which is easy to write, and assembly code, which will most likely be much faster. It has always been my personal philosophy that BASIC should be used for initial program development and that ASSEMBLY be used where speed was needed. So, I finally have a language that not only allows me to mix BASIC and ASSEMBLY, but also compiles the BASIC to boot!

Is BASM all roses and sunshine? I wish it were so! As any reasonable programmer should expect, a new language brings a new "learning" experience. It would be great if the BASM BASIC was exactly like ATARI BASIC with all these nice features added. But, that is only a dream. It is a new language and requires new learning and experience. Here are a few of the more noticable differences between BASM and ATARI basic:

* Dimension (DIM) statements are required for all variable names. Floating point numbers (supported by a BASM library unit) require 6 bytes and integers may be defined as either 1 or 2 bytes. Arrays of numbers can be a bit tricky, but with a bit of learning they can be manipulated with ease.

* The GOTO statement must be directed at a "label" rather than a line number. Labels may be contain as many as 32 characters and may include the underline character (_). "START_OF_LOOP" is an acceptable label.

* The IF statement has 3 formats:
```
10 IF XX>100 THEN PRINT "YES"
20 IF CNT=0 GOTO SKIP_ADDS
30 IF ANS=1 THEN
40 PRINT "YES"
50 ELSE
60 PRINT "NO"
70 ENDIF
```

* The WHILE, ENDWHILE combination is supported! Allows a loop to be performed as long as a particular condition is true.

* The LET statement requires the "LET" and operates as a single byte operator. That is, "LET X = 250 + 10" will not yield "260" (because 255 is the greatest value a byte can represent). "LET X = 250 + 10" will yield "4" (260 is represented in byte fashion by one in the high byte, 256, and four, 4, in the low byte)

Assembly language in BASM follows the 6502 standards and usual macro instructions. There appear to be no limitations on how assembly is mixed with BASIC. I have used a free flowing mixture of the two with no problems (at least YET).

The BASM creation cycle follows the standard Assembler pattern; create the SOURCE code with the BASM text editor, then assemble (compile) to OBJECT format. The "LIST" options in this procedure are rather unique (had

to be, what with the combination of BASIC and ASSEMBLY).
If the ".LST CODE" command is included in the SOURCE
file, then the listing (printer or screen) will contain
the assembly language translation of the BASIC
statements (otherwise, only the original SOURCE is
listed). This allows the intermediate, assembly
language programmer a real opportunity to learn a little
more about 6502 code and the ATARI operating system.

The BASM system will automatically locate the resulting
OBJECT file in the memory above itself (the BASM system
code). This allows a rapid generation, test, correction
cycle. However, if your OBJECT file goes over 15K (in a
48K system) you can relocate it to reclaim the 16K BASM
occupies ($1E00 to $5E00). Your OBJECT file may be
loaded from DOS with the "L" command or renamed
"AUTORUN.SYS" for auto-boot.

Will BASM speed up program development time? YES! I
have been in the business of estimating program
development times for about 20 years. And I have
personally used BASM to develop a program in six weeks
that would have taken six months with any other system.
What is BASM? I would call it a "SUPER, PROGRAM
DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM"! In addition, it is a great teacher
for intermediate assembly language programmers! NO, I
would not recommend it for beginning programmers. It
requires a good, fundamental knowledge of assembly
language for effective utilization. It could be used to
teach beginning assembly, but there are much more
effective ways to accomplish that task.

BASM is published and distributed by COMPUTER ALLIANCE,
2115 DEVONSHIRE, SUITE 132, CHATSWORTH, CA.
(213)368-4089. The list price is $99.95

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BEGINNER'S BYTES

Question: What is a boot error?

A. Wearing Western wear to the White House for dinner.

B. Mistaking Italy for Spain.

C. Medical slang for "Foot in Mouth Syndrome."

D. All of the above.

E. None of the above.

Answer: The correct answer is E. When you "boot"
something up in your computer, you are starting or
restarting the system. If you do it wrong, your Atari
computer will tell you that you've made a boot error.
The term "boot" comes from the word "bootstrap".

?? DECEMBER ??
?? MEETING ???

At the October meeting, the membership will be asked to
vote on a special program to replace the normal December
meeting. This special meeting would be devoted to TOYS
FOR TOTS as a community project. IF THE MEMBERSHIP
APPROVES, the normal December meeting will be cancelled.
In place of that meeting, DAL-ACE would hold a COMPUTER
FAIR with proceeds being donated to the TOYS FOR TOTS
program sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps. IF THE
MEMBERSHIP APPROVES, the COMPUTER FAIR will proceed
along the following guidelines (details to be worked out
by a committee, lead by the club Vice President, Tom
Schaeper):

TIME & PLACE: December 3, 1983, 11:00AM to 5:00PM
(Vendor set-up to start at 10:00AM), Lions Den,
Garland, Texas.

PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENT: The meeting hall will be
arranged with tables to form two rectangles. The
outer rectangle would follow the dimensions of the
hall and be provided with AC power connections.
The inner rectangle would be in the center of the
hall and would not have AC power.

VENDORS: The normal Vendor table charge, $10.00,
would be donated to the TOYS FOR TOTS program.
Contributions to the Contest tables would be
appreciated.

DEMONSTRATIONS: Special demonstrations would be
arranged by the SIG groups.

CONTESTS: Special Atari game tables would be set
up for contestants. The entry fees and prizes have
not yet been determined. Current thinking is 25
cents and software.

SPECIAL INFORMATION: At least one table would be
set up to pass out club information and sign up new
members.

Addmission: The Fair would be open to the members
and the general public. Price of addmission would
be a Toy or CASH donation (to be determined by
committee, current thinking is about $3.00) to TOYS
FOR TOTS. Toys will be placed under a Christmas
tree on the front stage.

VOLUNTEERS: We will need about 30 volunteers and
several sets of equipment (Computer, Monitor, etc).
Sign up at the November meeting, IF THE MEMBERSHIP
APPROVES THIS IDEA.

This event could be a lot of fun and a tremendous
benifit to our club and community. BUT, it is first up
to the membership to approve the idea. Then it is up to
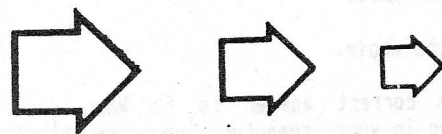each of us to pitch in and make this a BIG success!
What do you think?

WHAT'S U.P.? USER POWER

DAL-ACE
USER POWER

POWER UP WITH USER POWER

POWER UP
by SANDY GADELL

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Power Up is a regular feature in the DAL-ACE Newsletter and is included to provide information about the Public Relations activities of the club. The column made its maiden voyage last month under the title "PRSOS")

Well, folks, there's a tiny shred of bad news from the P.R. Department, but I've decided not to let it wear me down and I know you'll want to join me in maintaining an optimistic attitude, even after you hear about what has happened.

You probably recall reading in last month's Newsletter that the P.R. Department was brand new, that it consisted of only one person, which is me, and that it was almost sure to grow in geometric proportions because so many people were going to volunteer to help out.

Unfortunately, whoever made that prediction (me, again) was dead wrong, which proves that old saying, "Where the need is greatest, help comes latest." However, I am what is known as a cock-eyed optimist, and instead of packing up my marbles and going home, I've decided to go for the gusto in an even more spectacular way.

This month we are launching a six month P.R. campaign which has established the goal of doubling the membership by the time it's over. This campaign is going to be so big and so powerful that it would be just horrendously embarrassing if I had to do it all by myself, so I'm confident that you will all pitch in to help out. Here's how it will all go: everyone is responsible for bringing in a whole great big bunch of new members. If you don't get at least one new person to join the group, we will provide you with information about where to look in the Yellow Pages for help in dealing with whatever problem you have that is preventing you from doing what really needs to be done.

On the other hand, if you do indeed bring in someone, some good news is in store for you. Your Executive Committee is developing a very elaborate plan for distributing some goodies to those who do the greatest good. Some of these arrangements are still in the planning process, but, just for starters, here's what they have in mind. If you bring in five new members between now and the April, 1984, meeting, you will get a $25.00 gift certificate from a store which carries a good selection of computer products.

Also, if you happen to bring in ten new members, the Executive Committee will do something totally fantastic for you. In fact, it's so great that they haven't even made the final decision yet. Instead, a task force is working on it, and we will let you know very soon what it will be. Also, as we move along, other prizes will be awarded for those who bring new members.

Here are the dates for the contest: beginning date, November, 1983 meeting. Ending date, April, 1984 meeting. The contest will officially close fifteen minutes after the start of the business meeting at the April, 1984 session.

One thing you'll want to do as you go about recruiting new members is to have a lot of ammunition about why they should join. There are just tons of good reasons, and we'll help you identify some of them as the contest moves along, but the main one is what we call "User Power." If we are a large group, we can use our consumer power to both influence and support Atari and the dealers. As you know, there is a lot of competition in the computer field, and for that reason Atari and the dealers will want to pay close attention to the needs of the customer. If we become a strong group, we can act in unity to make our wants and needs known.

At the same time, Atari can use our support because we are probably their best salespeople. Aside from an occasional bug or glitch, we think they have some pretty terrific products -- that's why we bought them, keep them, use them, and go to clubs about them -- and we want to do all we can to keep Atari from falling by the wayside when the shakeout occurs. We can do this by encouraging our friends who want to buy computers to take a look at Atari because the user's group is such a helpful organization.

We know that some of the user's groups have a tremendous amount of power, and people pay attention to them. We could offer a lot of help to our people if we had the strength that comes from numbers.

As the contest moves along, we'll be giving you a lot of reasons to continue to recruit new members, but this will be enough to get you started. Remember to tell your new recruits to let the Club Treasurer or Secretary know who it was that recruited them.

*** DAL-ACE HONOR ROLL ***

It is important that we take time and space to acknowledge the services of our volunteers. We all know the officers of our club and the fine job that they do for us. But, how about the volunteers? Who are they? What do they do?

TABITHA SEWELL

Tabitha is the super salesperson for our Club Disks. Her efforts have brought in a tidy sum of CASH for the club treasury! Keep up the great work, Tabitha!

ANN GADELL

Ann volunteered to help with the Club Disk sales last month and did a fine job. Thanks for the help, Ann, keep the green stuff coming in!

ANN SEWELL

First and foremost this lady keeps our president on the ball (you will notice that I am not signing this article). In addition to that heavy burden, Ann has been spending a portion of her spare time duplicating the Club Disks (a thankless job at best). Without her personal effort the club would have missed several hundreds of dollars in revenue! There is no stopping this lady! It was her idea to have soft drink sales at the last club meeting (an idea that was greatly appreciated by many, including the club treasury). Somehow "thank you" seems a bit inadequate, so here is a big BRAVO!

FRANK TAYLOR

Frank is currently compiling a directory of the club Disk Library. A BIG JOB!! We will all appreciate the results of Franks labor. Many thanks, Frank!

DAN HOPKINS

Dan is working on a revival of the clubs Tape Library. Another HUGE task! For those using a Tape system, this is the best news to come along in many moons. Great going, Dan, keep up the good work!

JEFF GOLDEN

Jeff submitted last month's newsletter article entitled "STRINGS". If you didn't try that neat program, you missed a treat! We need all the help we can get for the newsletter. Thanks, Jeff!

HARVEY COBB

Another fine review of education software in last month's newsletter! Thanks for the fine work, Harvey!

JEFF RUTHERFORD

Extra effort from the Education Chairman! An excellent article last month, "LANGUAGES FOR ALL OCCASIONS". We are all looking forward to the next installment in that series.

GARY SEWELL

Extra effort from the "PRES"! Several members had requested information on how to access the Disk Directory from BASIC and Gary came through like a champion, with the "BASIC DIRECTORY" article in last month's newsletter! Thanks, Gary!

And a big THANKS to those that helped out with setting up for the meeting and the clean-up afterwards!! Let the Editors know about other volunteers for next month's HONOR ROLL! Sorry if I missed you in this one, catch you next month!

BBS LISTING FROM DAL-ACE

The following BBS numbers are only local if you are calling from Dallas

```
DALTRUG............289-1386
ECLECTIC...........239-5842
ECLECTIC 2.........239-5782
FANTASIA...........578-7041
HEATHKIT...........742-1380
MAXICOM RCPM.......931-0323
THE MESSAGE XCHG...680-8788
MOUSE-NET (TM).....350-8247
PBSSABBS...........424-3862
PERCOM.............340-9226
THE PULSE..........631-7747
RCPM...............931-8274
RIS BBOARD(RAVE)...363-8503
RPCC BBS...........996-6808
SOFTWARE XCHG......248-7757
TELEDUNJON III.....960-7654
TELEDUNJON IV......241-3547
TEXAS TRADER II....539-1231
THETA LABS.........352-4147
COMPUTER SERVICE...739-2900
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The following numbers are for the entire Dallas, Fort Worth metroplex.

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COMPUTER PORT......469-1688
DAL-ACE............498-1751
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THE FOLLOWING ARE ATARI BBS'S (UPDATED 09/15/83):
NOTES:
L = LIMITED Evenings & Weekends
R = RING-BACK Call, Call-back
# = ORIGINAL of This format
& = 1200 Baud optional
* = 24 HOUR Operation

ST	AC-NUMBER	TYPE	NAME	NOTE
CA	213-783-8373	AMIS	W.V.A.U.G.	*
CA	408-253-5216	AMIS	GFX	*
CA	408-298-6930	AMIS	IBBS	L
CA	415-527-8276	ARMU	SYNAPSE	L
CA	619-447-8143	AMIS	S.D.A.C.E.	L
CA	714-731-6523	?	A.C.A.O.C.	?
CA	714-973-2086	ARMU	ORANGE CTY.	*
CA	805-498-2508	AMIS	THOUSAND OAKS	?
CA	805-528-0957	?	SLO COUNTY	*
CA	916-363-3304	AMIS	A.C.C.E.S.S.	*
CA	916-487-3679	AMIS	S.A.C.S BBS	L
CO	303-221-1779	TARI	POOR RICHARD	L
CO	303-758-2927	AMIS	DENVER	?
CO	303-758-6233	AMIS	DENVER	L
DC	202-276-8342	ARMU	WASHINGTON	*#
DC	202-364-8617	AMIS	ALADDINS LAMP	?&
FL	305-238-1231	AMIS	APOGEE	*
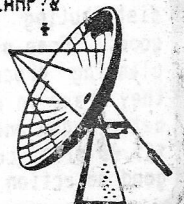
--> SIG <--

"SIG" is the acronym for "Special Interest Group".
These groups are composed of members having a common
interest in a specialized area of the general computing
field. These specialized areas range from languages, to
applications and special features of the ATARI. Join in
with one of the groups listed below and get more out of
your computer! If you would like to start a new SIG,
send your name, phone number, and a description of the
subject to *DAL-ACE Newsletter*, 916 E. Berkeley,
Richardson, Tx 75081. The information will be published
in the next newsletter... you may find that you are not
alone in your special computing interest! Deadline for
all SIG information is the 15th of the month.

--> FORTH <--

The next FORTH language SIG meeting will be held Oct 6th
at 7:30 P.M. in Harry Hafele's home, 10951 Clary Dr.,
Dallas, Tx 75023. Harry's phone number is 348-7745.

--> BUSINESS <--

The BUSINESS applications SIG is currently looking for
more members. If you are interested in applications
such as Word Processing, Bookkeeping, Spreadsheets,
Accounting, or Other business applications; call Rich
Greenlee at 267-7428 (Metro Number) for more information
on this SIG.

--> EDUCATION <--

The next meeting of the EDUCATION SIG will be held the
Wednesday prior to the regular *DAL-ACE* Saturday meeting
at 6:30 P.M. at Software Etc., 14400 Dallas Parkway
(across from Ewing Buick).

--> YOUNG PEOPLES <--

The YOUNG PEOPLES SIG meets at 2:00 P.M. (prior to the
regular *DAL-ACE* meeting, Lions Den in Garland). This
group is composed of our younger members (from 8 to 16
years of age). Contact Chris Magid, 241-7320, for more
information.

--> GRAPHICS <--

Members interested in forming a GRAPHICS SIG, please
contact Sandra Stephens, 827-0493. This sounds like a
great group and a fine time to get in on the ground
floor. The ATARI has fantastic graphic capabilities!

--> CP/M <--

The next meeting of the CP/M SIG will be held Tuesday,
Oct 4th, at 7:30 P.M. in the home of Jim Chaney, 916 E.
Berkeley, Richardson, Tx 75081. Jim's phone number is
231-4402. Charles Marslett will be presenting a
discussion on CP/M disk formats and Jim Chaney will be
presenting an overview of 8080 assembly.

-->TELE-COMMUNICATIONS <--

This SIG meets on the same day of the DAL-ACE meeting
and at the same location (can't miss it) 12:00 noon.
Contact Ernie Runyon (817)485-0871 for additional
information.

NEXT MEETING - NOV. 5, 1983

LIONS DEN - 600 N FIFTH ST - GARLAND, TEXAS
DIRECTIONS: From LBJ (635), take the Garland Road exit
north; Garland Road will make a "right-hand" turn (about
3 miles north of LBJ) and cross N. FIFTH ST; turn left
on FIFTH (going North again); the LIONS DEN will be on
the right (about one and a half blocks north of Garland
Rd). Guests are WELCOME!!

MEETING AGENDA

NOON TO 2:00 SALES (VENDORS & CLUB)
      DEMONSTRATIONS
      NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION
      NEW MEMBER REGISTRATION
      GUEST REGISTRATION
      SOCIALIZING
2:00 TO 2:30 VENDORS CLOSE AND CLEAR
      SET-UP CHAIRS FOR MEETING
2:30 TO 3:00 BUSINESS MEETING
      CLUB SALES
3:00 TO 3:30 GENERAL QUESTIONS
      CLUB SALES
3:30 TO 4:00 TECHNICAL QUESTIONS
      CLUB SALES
4:00 TO 5:00 DEMONSTRATIONS
      CLUB SALES

VENDOR RESERVATIONS

Vendors may reserve *table space* prior to the meeting by
calling Gary Sewell, (1-727-6567) in Allen, Texas. Fee
collections and table assignments will begin at 12:00,
after which the vendors may begin to set up their areas.
Those tables which have been reserved but not yet
claimed by 12:30 may be purchased by other vendors at
that time. Prepaid reservations will <u>not</u> be released.
Space assignments will be on a "first come, first
served" basis, unless prepaid. The current meeting
facility allows for approximately 30 vendor tables.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENTS

Personal Classified ads will be published free of charge
for current members. Commercial rates are $35.00 per
full page and $25.00 for half a page. Commercial ads
must be *camera ready*. The deadline for all ads is the
15th of the month. Mail or deliver copy to DAL-ACE
Newsletter, 916 E. Berkeley, Richardson, Texas 75081.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

All members are urged to submit articles, reviews,
programs, or "whatever" for publication. We would like
to have something for everyone in each newsletter. That
goal is simply impossible if you, the members, remain
silent! Please help us. Submissions will be accepted
on any stable material not requiring *lead* protection or
medical isolation! We prefer submissions on standard
floppy disks (any DOS format). We will return your disk
as soon as possible. REMEBER, THIS IS <u>YOUR</u> NEWSLETTER!
MAKE IT WHAT YOU WANT IT TO BE WITH YOUR <u>CONTRIBUTION</u>!

POWER UP!

DO IT TODAY!

DAL-ACE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.............	GARY SEWELL	1-727-6567
VICE PRESIDENT.......	TOM SCHAEPER	242-2483
SECRETARY............	SUSAN HENDERSON	817-497-3877
TREASURER............	ED KOBUS	492-2922
MEMBER-AT-LARGE......	JIM CHANEY	231-4402
MEMBER-AT-LARGE......	JACK WITHROW	680-8947

DAL-ACE VOLUNTEERS

NEWSLETTER EDITORS....	JIM CHANEY	231-4402
	SANDY GADELL	680-3120
EDUCATION............	JEFF RUTHERFORD	1-727-2945
BULLETIN BOARD.......	ERNIE RUNYON	817-485-0871
DISK LIBRARY.........	JOHN BLASCHKA	620-8210
PURCHASING...........	JACK WITHROW	680-8947
	ED KOBUS	492-2922
PUBLIC RELATIONS......	SANDY GADELL	680-3120

DAL-ACE BULLETIN BOARD 498-1751

DAL-ACE
916 E. BERKELEY
RICHARDSON, TX 75081