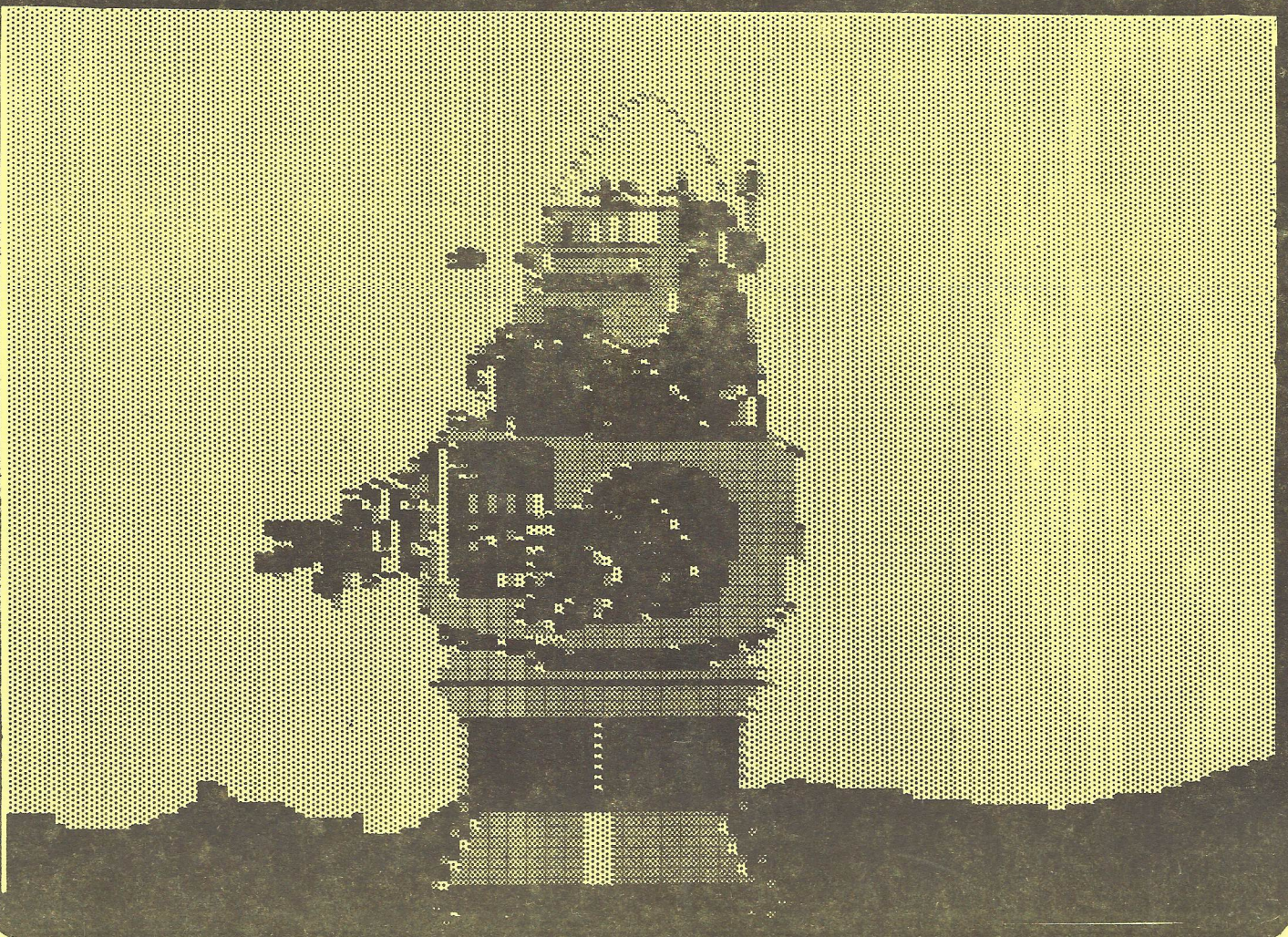


DALLAS ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 7

JULY 1985



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE
Dateline, Dallas: 29Jun83

Welcome to the July meeting of DAL-ACE. Through a strange twist of fate, I'm writing this column this month. What strange twist of fate, you ask?

Gary Resigns

Well, Gary Sewell resigned as the president of DAL-ACE effective at the last board of director's meeting (following the 1 June meeting). According to our by-laws, the Vice President assumes the President's duties until a replacement is found. So here I am!

What are we going to do about this? Well, the board of directors met on 4 June to discuss just that. Our only requirement is to fill the vacancy, sometime! The by-laws say that the vacancy "shall be filled by majority vote of the Regular Members present and voting at any membership meeting." So what we propose is to have a brief round of elections at our meeting today.

Now, I can understand your apprehension about elections on such a short notice. However, we MUST resolve this quickly so that the club can get on with business. Personally it's no fun for me to handle two roles!

The boards' slate of nominees right now is one. Me. Yes, I would like to continue on as the President of YOUR club. We will be accepting nominations from the floor for the president's office and any other offices that may become vacant during the election process. Now, on to other news.

The InfoMart

A big THANK YOU for making our special meeting at the InfoMart on 22 June a success. We were a real presence there. I would love to hear your side of the story, though. Please tell any of the officers what you thought of the place, the parking, the food, etc. After all, this will be our new home beginning Saturday, 14 September!

The Dallas Computer Council

In other news, we are still members of the Dallas Computer Council (DCC). As a refresher, the DCC is a confederation of a few area microcomputer user groups. As of this writing this includes:

Apple User Group
 DAL-ACE (us)
 DALTRUG (Dallas TRS Users Group)
 Epson User Group
 North Texas PC Users Group
 SCOPE (one of the area Commodore user groups)

The purpose of the DCC was to loosely work together and create some synergy (it's a real word, check it out) about people and microcomputers. The purpose was NOT just to get into the InfoMart. However, it came along at a very opportune moment. Much of the DCC's efforts have been consumed and accelerated by the InfoMart project. Instead of remaining a bunch of easy-going people able to come together slowly, we (yes, I've caught the spirit, too) have begun to quickly build a non-profit organization (like DAL-ACE) and hurriedly resolve tactical problems with the InfoMart management. It has been impressive! DAL-ACE will continue to be a part of the DCC and I believe that we will make a very strong contribution.

Badges and Names, Names and Badges

I have an update on badges at the InfoMart. If you recall (or were at the InfoMart on 22 June), everybody MUST wear a badge while in the building. Our original understanding was that complete addresses had to be provided to the InfoMart. NOT ANYMORE! All that is needed is your name, your club, a city and state (which could just be "Dallas, Texas"), and an expiration date. If you had very strong reservations about giving out your home address (like me), you no longer have to worry. We will have permanent badges for all current members at the September meeting at the InfoMart. New members (beginning in September), family members and guests will be issued one-day visitor badges, which work just fine!

Final Notes

During the 1 June meeting, Gary made reference to a possible offer from Atari to buy the new 520ST. Well, we finally received Atari's official offer. Sadly, it was very disappointing and we declined the offer.

I won't delve into it other than to say that there is more information about the offer (and a rebuttal) elsewhere in the newsletter. Please take the time to read it over.

Thanks for reading my perspective of things. And remember, you DO know more than you think! Please contribute to your club.

Dave

Coming Attractions

by Dave Gillen

Hello there. Welcome to the meeting! This is the column you should check first to see what we are planning for demonstrations, speakers, clinics, and other broohaha.

We need your help for many of these things. In the Next Month and Future Topics categories, I need volunteers to demonstrate software and hardware. Please help me! Ever used some package that you thought was the greatest thing since sliced bread? Well, demonstrate it!

If you feel a bit uncomfortable about talking before a group of folks, don't worry! I don't like to do it either and that hasn't stopped me yet! I'll help you out if you help me out. You really do know more than you think!

On with the show.

This Month (13Jul85)

12:15pm, A New Member Get Together. If you're new to DAL-ACE or to computers in general, this is the meeting for you. We hope to answer some of your deepest questions and clear up some of your darkest fears about that expensive plastic box that you bought. This meeting will be held in Meeting Room D.

12:30pm, The business meeting. This will be held in Meeting Room E.

1:30pm, Take a break

2pm, A demonstration of PaperClip. This is a new text processor. This will be held in Meeting Room E.

2pm, A meeting of users of the club's bulletin board. This will be conducted by our SYSOP, Howard Chang. This get together will be held in Meeting Room D.

3pm, The Board of Directors Meeting. This will be held in the Meeting Room D.

Be sure to ask plenty of questions at the demonstrations. After all, this is your club. Finally, a big THANK YOU to everyone that gave some time for the demonstrations.

Next Month (3Aug85)

The theme for next month is Graphics!

In the works are demonstrations of screen painting programs and animation programs. I would also like to have a brief graphics seminar (what are display lists, how are the color registers used...). Of course, I'll need people to demonstrate these programs and to conduct the seminar.

People like YOU!

Future Topics

These themes are in the works for future meetings:

September, Welcome to the InfoMart

October, Hardware

November, The sounds of Atari

Again, if you have something that you want to see or want to show, please call me at home or talk with me at the meeting.

Caveat

All of the above is subject to change at the last minute without notice (yeah, I know but I had to say it). Always check this column for updates or check the "Topics of the Day" sheets that are posted at the meeting.

Thanks and Enjoy.

RAM DISK FOR THE 800XL

Here are some simple instructions downloaded from Compuserve that set up a RANDISK in the 800XL. Note the warning on space limitations.

- <1> BOOT WITH DOS 2.5
- <2> POKE 1802,PEEK(1802)+128
- <3> GO TO DOS
- <4> BINARY LOAD RANDISK.COM
- <5> FORMAT DRIVE B
- <6> WRITE DOS TO DRIVE B
- <7> DELETE DOS.SYS FROM DRIVE B
- <8> GO TO BASIC
- <9> POKE 5439,56
- <10> GO TO DOS

If everything has been done correctly, the DOS menu should appear almost instantly.

COMMUNICATIONS COLUMN

by John Pellet

Newsletter News

If you look at the staff listings you will see that we have a new co-editor, namely me. Mark Maxham will continue to have primary responsibility for the newsletter each month (when he returns from California). I strongly feel that we need a co-editor to help make sure things get done and since no one else has volunteered, I did. Also, this should help provide continuity in this important job.

I want to especially thank Harold Poelchau for his fine article on SYNFILE last month and Pat Moore for his ACE C compiler article in this issue. This "new blood" is most welcome - YOU CAN DO IT TOO! Articles on any subject are wanted dearly.

As Mark mentioned last month, the newsletter format and appearance may be changing in the next few months. If you would like to see something in particular changed, give me a call. I am especially interested in your thoughts on print size and format.

As you should note, we have an ad in this issue from OSS. This marks a first in my memory for out-of-town advertisers. A big thanks to Morris for his efforts!

Disk Library News

The disk library has 2 new disks this month. But, Gary and Ann Sewell have decided that they do not have time to continue doing the club's disk duplication. This means that the club has no disk duplication capabilities! If you have the capability, equipment, and time then lets talk.

The first disk is a telecommunications program for the 1030 modem that works well. If you have a 1030 and have been having problems then please give it a try. There are a huge number of "kludged" programs for the 1030. There is no way anyone can keep up with the many programs. So if you want to improve your 1030, please give this a try. Complete documentation is on the disk.

The second disk contains 1) KDUMP.BAS, a Koala/Atari Artist file printer that works with Epson, Gemini, NEC, or Prowriter printers, 2) TVTEST, a program that generates as close to an NTSC standard color screen as possible on the Atari, 3) HOMETERM CUSTOMIZER which

allows HOMEPAK users to customize the character set and other features of the program, and 4) DOS 2.6f, which may be the best menu-driven single density DOS around. Each program has documentation on the disk.

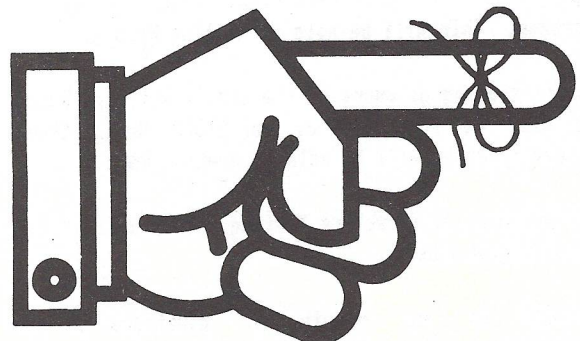
Both disks contain a menu program that will 1) run BASIC programs, 2) run most binary programs, 3) list documentation directly from the menu, and 4) go directly to DOS.

BBS News

Howard tells me that the board now has over 100 issued passwords. That means you, the members, think its worth signing on. But it also means that getting on will be more and more difficult. As the board gets busier and busier should we take steps to improve access by restricting time allowed? Some people log on the board and do nothing except download - they don't upload, leave messages, or even read them. How do you feel about limiting access to these people until they contribute? If you use the BBS please think about these issues and leave me or Howard a message or email.

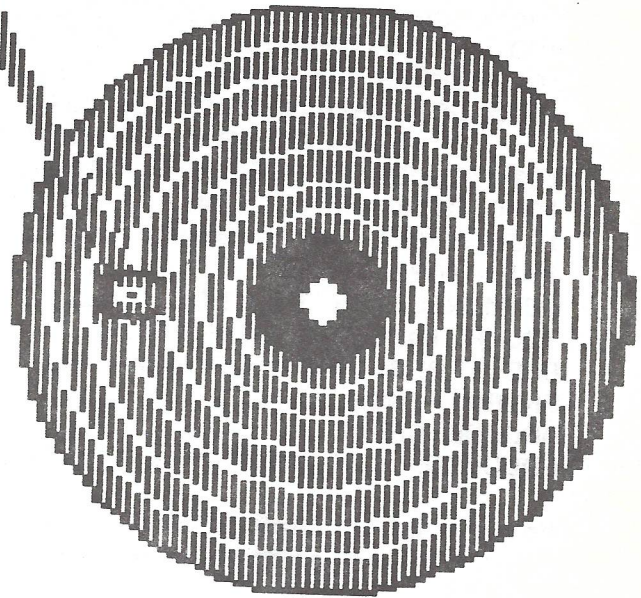
General News

This club, especially the areas above, run on volunteer help. If you have read these columns in the last 6 months every one has asked for volunteers. The BBS asked for help at the Infomart meeting manning the information desk. The member response has been low. If you are not contributing to DAL-ACE then WHY NOT? Think for a minute about what your dues would buy you without the efforts of the volunteers listed throughout this newsletter. And think about helping.



DON'T FORGET!
Contribute an article this month.

COMPACT disc DIGITAL AUDIO



CD-ROM

by John Pellet

What, you may ask, is a picture of an audio compact disk doing in the middle of this "august" computer journal? And what, for that matter, is a CD-ROM? If you know that another name for compact disk is digital audio disk (DAD) then you are on the way. Consider for a moment that a DAD stores 70 minutes of digitally encoded music. Since the sampling rate is 44kHz and the analog/digital conversion is 16 bits, this equates to about 25 megabytes of data. When you add the fact that the DAD is by no means fully packed, you have the potential for storage of over 100 megabytes of text on a single disk. **WOW!**

Think for a moment what you could do with 100 meg of permanent storage. For example, the entire Library of Congress would fit on a couple of disks. The white pages telephone directory would fit on ONE disk. An complete encyclopedia (without pictures), including index, on one disk. Many more possibilities will suggest themselves with a few minutes reflection.

The price will also be incredible. The Library of Congress on disk above has been announced, including CD-ROM player, disks, and software, for under \$3000. While this seems like a lot, consider that when audio CD players were announced, prices ranged from \$1000 and up but are now available for as little as \$200. A price decrease by a factor of 5 in 2 years. Now note that Sony now has a \$1000 CD player with both analog audio and straight digital outputs. It seems very reasonable to conclude that within 3 years we will be able to add 100+ megabyte reference libraries for less than the current cost of a 10 meg hard disk.

The only real flaw in this product is that it is, at present, permanent. That is, typos, bugs, or any changes require buying a new disk. Systems that are "write-once" or erasable are on the horizon but these are several years behind the CD-ROM's. In any case, current production costs on the 4.7" CD are well under \$5 each in large quantities.

In a couple of years, everyone will have more data than they can imagine using now. And be busy thinking up new uses for it. Won't that be nice.

COMPUTER DISCOVERIES

Price List

(Effective 7/1/85)

800XL COMPUTER.....	\$ 49.95
600XL COMPUTER.....	\$ 29.95
400 COMPUTER.....	\$ 24.95
1027 20CPS LQ PRINTER (DIRECT CONNECT).....	\$159.95
1025 DOT MATRIX PRINTER (DIRECT CONNECT).....	\$179.95
(PAPERCLIP <u>FREE</u> WITH PURCHASE OF 1025 PRNTR)	
1020 COLOR PRINTER/PLOTTER (DIRECT CONNECT).....	\$ 39.95
1050 DISK DRIVE (ONLY 3 IN STOCK).....	\$149.95
1030 MODEM (WITH SMART 1030) (<u>ONE ONLY</u>).....	\$ 79.95
1010 TAPE DRIVES.....	\$ 19.95
COMMUNICATOR II KITS (ONLY 2 IN STOCK).....	\$ 49.95
TOUCH TABLETS (ATARI).....	\$ 19.95
BOOKEEPER, WITH KEYPAD (ONLY 2 IN STOCK).....	\$ 19.95
ENTERTAINER KIT.....	\$ 9.95
ARCADE CHAMP.....	\$ 9.95
EDUCATOR KIT (WITH TAPE DRIVE).....	\$ 19.95

*Note: all items above available in limited quantities only
and prices apply only to items in stock.*

130XE COMPUTER.....	\$179.95
To DALACE member.....	\$169.95
130XE COMPUTER, Modified with Ramrod and OmniviewXE..	\$279.95
To DALACE members.....	\$269.95
STAR SG10 120CPS DOT MATRIX PRINTER.....	\$259.95
INDUS GT DISK DRIVE (With DOS XL/RAMDISK for XE).....	\$249.95
PAPERCLIP.....	\$ 59.95
HOMEPAK.....	\$ 34.95
SYNCHROMESH WITH DETAILED MANUAL FOR INDUS DRIVES....	\$ 11.95
RAMROD.....	\$ 44.95
RAMROD WITH OMNIMON.....	\$ 74.95
OMNIVIEW XE/XL.....	\$ 39.95
MICKEY & THE GREAT OUTDOORS.....	\$ 14.95
PAPER, CONTINUOUS PINFEED, LAZOR CUT, 250 SHEETS.....	\$ 8.00
LABELS, 5 X 1 7/16 (DISK SIZE), 100 PER PAK.....	\$ 1.50

Call Morris Stephens
1-214-525-6483

PAPERCLIP IS HERE!
(Thank Goodness!!)

Submitted by Morris Stephens

For years I have been searching for a decent word processor: one which was simple and easy to use, but one which provided the features of the more sophisticated word processors available on the "bigger" machines. I have tried "Letter Perfect", but found it too complicated and too difficult to use. I tried "Text Wizard" and "Atari Writer", but experienced the same problems. I tried "Bank Street Writer", and at last found one simple enough for me to use - it had no commands to have to remember. But, unfortunately, I had little or no control over the printer at all: there was no right justification, no bold print, no NLQ; in fact, no special print modes at all. Then came "HomeText", which is still a personal favorite of mine for short, quick documents. But, finally there came *PaperClip*. Though not quite as simple as "Antic" staff members would lead you to believe: "...virtually as easy to use as Bank Street Writer...", it is certainly easier than "Letter Perfect", "Atari Writer", and most other word processors (other than "Bank Street Writer".)

With "PaperClip", most functions are available by pushing a single key or a combination of 2 or 3 keys. For instance, to underline you hold down the control key and press "U" for underline + "S" to start. Then press the control key + "U" + "E" to end. To print in bold type you press the control key + "B" + "S" to start bold print, and the control key + "B" + "E" to end. To set the margins you press the control key + "M" + "T" for the top margin, "B" for the bottom margin, "L" for the left margin, etc. The logic of it makes it very easy to remember.

A partial list of features includes: the ability to work on and edit two different documents at the same time and even to transfer text between documents; it works with any Atari compatible printer; it has built in "help" files (accessible by pressing the "HELP" key; it prints in 2 column format; supports double density; provides a word count and line count; allows the user to predefine user keys; provides macros, etc., etc. *PaperClip* also includes handlers for 35 different printers, includes a graphics dump utility, and is compatible with SynFile for creating mailing lists, and SynCalc so that spread sheets may be merged with documents. An especially impressive feature is a

graphics translator utility that allows the merging of charts, graphs, and graphics pictures into printed documents.

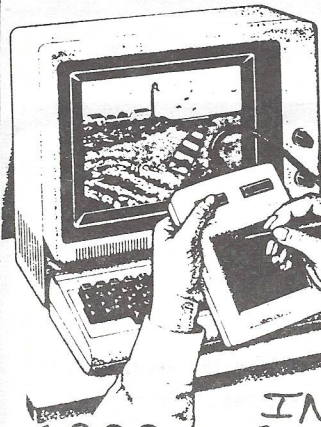
One feature which has been given very little attention but which I find very useful is "microspacing." Microspacing is the process of printing proportional (equal) spaces between words when printing documents with the right justification on. This feature improves the looks of a document considerably, but it is much slower, and while printing in this mode, the printer head moves forward and backward in quick jerky movements that is rather noisy and disconcerting. I am checking with some of the printer manufacturers to determine if there is a "fix" for these problems. Most users may find that microspacing is not worth the annoyances. For formal documents, however, I think it is absolutely essential. (Unfortunately, I was unable to use microspacing while printing this article, as the condensed print is not compatible with microspacing.)

PaperClip is not without its faults. For one, I think the manual leaves a lot to be desired. I'm old fashioned and like to see a manual which is more structured than *PaperClip*'s. I at least would like to see an alphabetical index. And, apparently because of a "bug" in the program, when you press the back space key, instead of backing up one space, you may back up 6 or 7 lines. If you make as many mistakes, or change you mind as often as I do while editing documents, this is more than just a minor annoyance....it's exasperating.

These problems are, by far, offset by the many plusses of the program, and I know of no other wordprocessing program that has so many features that is so easy to use. I can, unequivocally recommend this program to all users regardless of whether they just want a simple letter-writing program or if they want something truly professional.

For more detailed information, please refer to the review in the May 1985 issue of "Antic" Magazine.

PaperClip is currently available locally only at Computer Discoveries, and it is priced at below \$60.00.



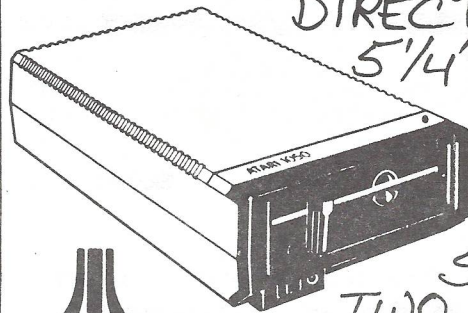
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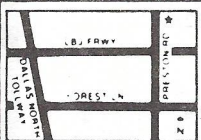
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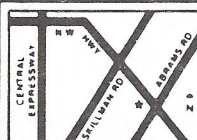
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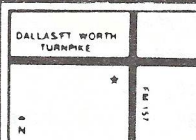
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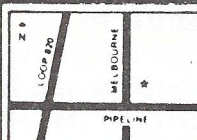
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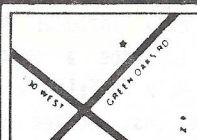
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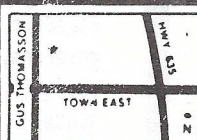
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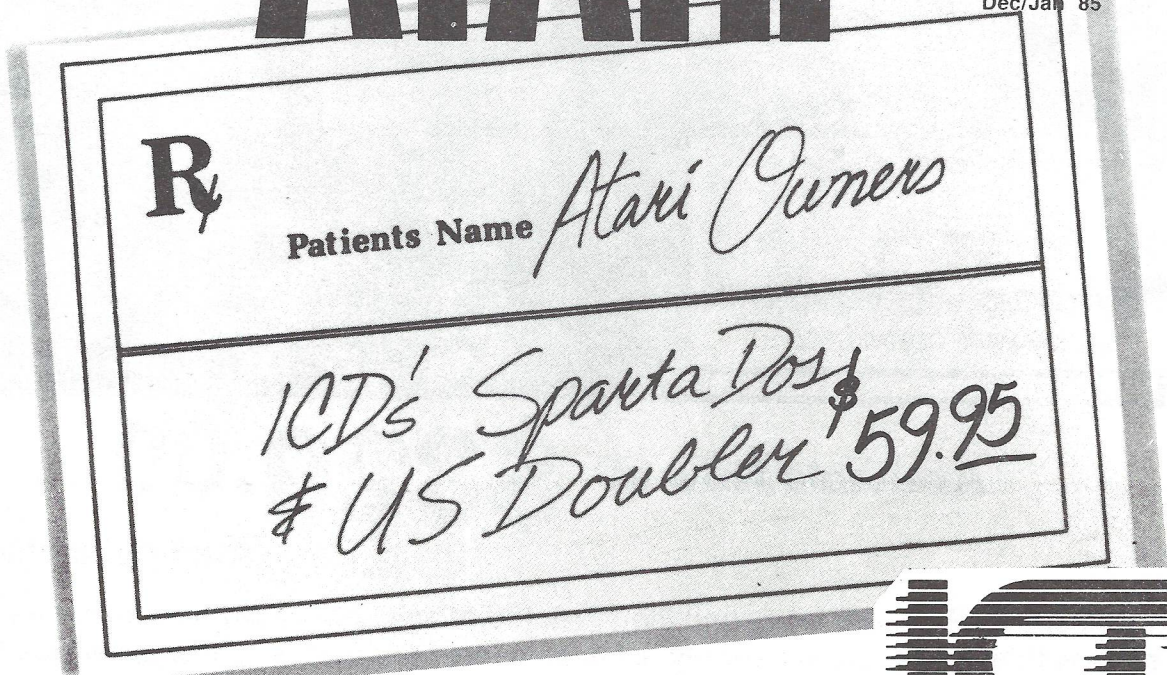
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"IT ADDS NEW LIFE TO THE ATARI"

- Peter Ellison
ROM Magazine
Dec/Jan '85

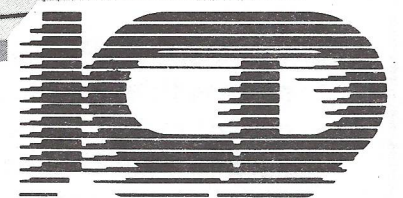


Rather than hearing *our* claims for ICD's SpartaDOS and US Doubler, we think you'd rather know what others say:

"ICD has done something I didn't think was possible... a product so revolutionary it adds new life to the Atari... SpartaDOS is the best I have ever used... (it changed) my Atari's whole concept of what a Disk Operating System should be.

"Besides that, they created two chips (Ultra Speed Doubler) that will make your 1050 disk drive store almost twice as much data on a single disk and run much faster."

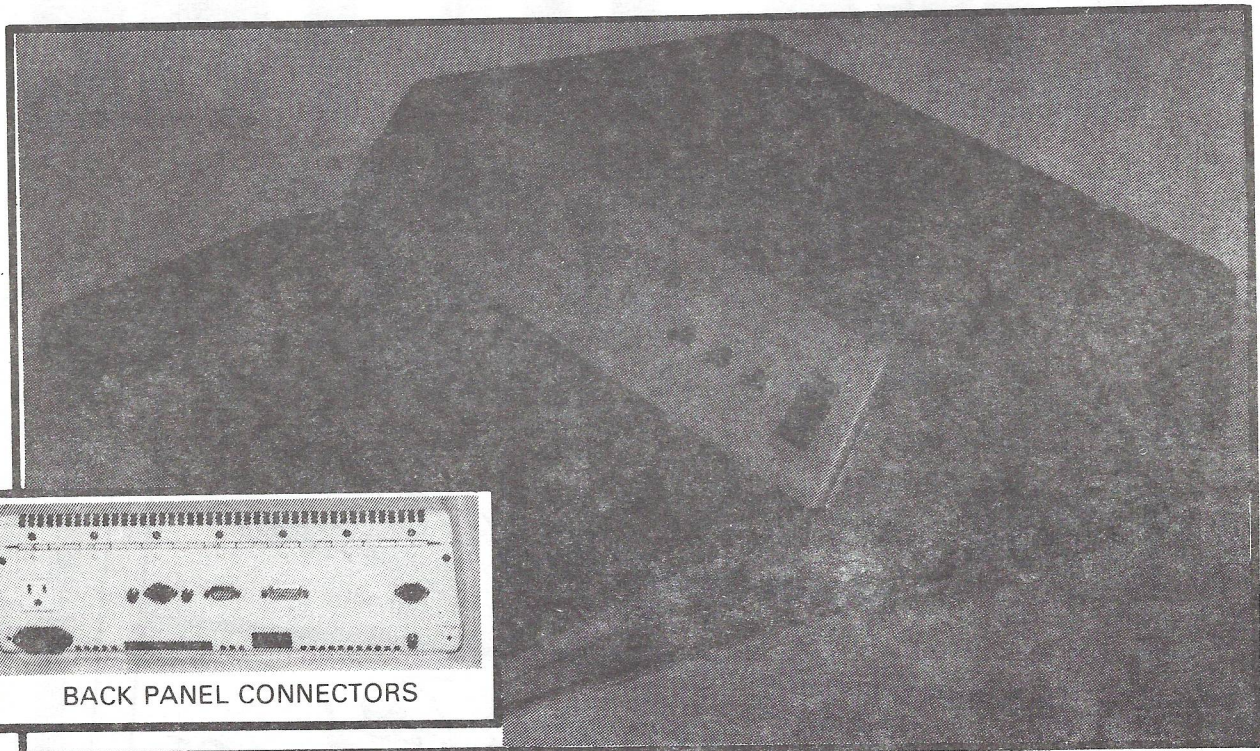
Thanks, Peter. What more can we say?



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**DEALER
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EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTIONS

by Tom Burke

June 1, 1985 Board Meeting

Discussed and agreed that the club P.O. box be used for members not wishing to have their home address polished on the roster.

Moved and passed that the BBS Sysop be reimbursed for the FOREM XL expenditure. FOREM XL is "state of the art" BBS software.

Moved and passed that the club does NOT pay the annual dues of the officers. Every officer pays his or her own dues.

Gary Sewell tendered to the board his resignation as President of DAL-ACE.

A board meeting was called for June 4, 1985.

June 4, 1985 Board Meeting

The board reviewed the By-Laws, especially those dealing with Elected Office Vacancies." Dave Gillen, Vice President, was chosen acting Club President until the July 13 meeting at which time elections would be held.

The Board of Directors nominated Dave Billen for Club President. Additional nominations will be presented to the Membership prior to the July 13 election. Additional nominations from the membership will be solicited at that time.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Submissions will be accepted in any form. However, it is extremely helpful if your submission(s) can conform to the following format:

Condensed print (16-17 CPI).
 Column width: 56 characters per column (3 7/16 inches).
 Column length: 9 inches (6 or 7 LPI - 6 preferred).
 Right margin justification used with text.
 Submitted to newsletter both printed out and on disk.

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

AUGUST Newsletter: Copy should be turned in to one of the editors above by July 13th. FINAL deadline and production meeting will be July 20th at 1:00 PM at Jim Chaney's house, 916 E. Berkeley in Richardson.

The following letter was received after the June meeting.

Dear User Group President:

The new Atari Corp. is very pleased to make available the first shipment of the much acclaimed Atari 520 ST systems to be sold in the United States. Your group has been included in a select list of clubs designated to participate in this historic event. The initial system we are offering consists of a 520 ST computer, a 360 kilobyte single-sided 3-1/2-inch disk drive, and a high-resolution (640 by 400 pixels) monochrome monitor for \$799.95, with shipping prepaid. Software included will be the TOS operating system and the Logo programming language.

These 520 ST systems are covered by a 90-day exchange warranty. In addition, the BASIC programming language will be supplied free of charge when available in late June 1985. Any updates to the TOS operating system will be sent free to user group purchasers for a period not to exceed six months.

In consideration of your continued loyal support for the new Atari Corp., the corporation intends to donate \$50 for every ST system purchased by your user group, which will be paid in the form of a check. These monies are intended to support your ongoing user group operations.

Please determine which members of your group would like to buy an ST system, collect the money, and send a single check to my attention at the address above. We will ship the systems to a central location designated by you shortly after receiving your order. Distribution of the systems to your members will be left to you.

As your members work with their 520 ST computers, we would very much appreciate receiving feedback about any elements relating to the system. Please have members send comments to: ST Response Program, David Duberman, Atari Corp., PO Box 3427, Sunnyvale, CA 94088 or leave a message on the Atari BBS: the telephone number is 408-745-5308.

As this offer is available only through June 25, 1985, it's very important that we receive your order as soon as possible. Thank you for your promptness.

Sincerely,
 David Duberman
 User Group Coordinator

A LETTER TO ATARI RE: 520ST OFFER

This letter was downloaded from Compuserve on 6/14/85. It seems a reasonable position, all things considered....JLP

San Leandro Computer Club
P.O. Box 1525
San Leandro, CA 94577

June 10, 1985

Atari Corp.
1196 Borregas Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94088
Attn: David Duberman

Dear Dave:

We regret to inform you that the membership of the San Leandro Computer Club will not buy any Atari 520 ST computers through your user group offer. The membership did, however, authorize us to explain in some detail all the reasons for this turn of events.

Our membership understood the original user group purchase plan to consist of the 520 ST computer, a 500K disk drive, a high resolution RGB monitor, some available software and a ROM based operating system. Members who chose to accept this offer would tender 600 dollars, beta test the system and report their findings on a regular basis. The membership was delighted with this proposal and over 100 people were ready, willing and able to accept as soon as Atari made the club an offer.

However, Atari next said that the plan would probably be to give User Groups one computer package for each ten sold. A package was understood to be as above, except for the substitution of the monochrome monitor and the package price was to be \$799.

At the June 4 meeting of our club, a straw poll showed approximately 50 members were still interested in such a package.

We are sure you can appreciate then, how disappointed these people became when they learned, moments later, that Atari's official offer was for a 520ST computer with a disk based operating system, a monochrome monitor, and a 360K disk drive for a price of \$749, after a return of \$50.

The offer caused even these people to decline acceptance. They felt insulted because they were being asked to pay the full retail price for an unfinished product and still conduct beta testing; they were disappointed because the RGB monitor was still not

included; they felt cheated that the 500K floppy amounted to only 360K; and they were disgusted that there would be no guarantee of a ROM operating system upgrade when they were being asked to significantly contribute to Atari's ability to produce such a feature for the product. Additionally, they did not want 512K reduced by half with the need to keep their own operating system in RAM.

Lastly, we appreciate your offer to donate \$50 per system to the club, but since the club is in a good financial position, the members would prefer a price reduction.

It is our sincere hope that Atari has not seriously misjudged the market for the 520 ST computer. The membership of the San Leandro Computer Club consists of people from all walks of life who use many different makes of computers for hundreds of varied applications. The universal consensus of the membership, in light of the user group offer, was to wait and see the 520 ST in the retail outlets before deciding if an investment would be a wise move.

In summation, many of our members were willing to gamble on the success of the new 520 ST, but the stakes became too high when they found out they would be paying essentially full retail price for a system having so many unknowns... will it be, really, a 256K machine... how does the price compare with the machine announced in Chicago... will it even make it into general distribution?

We will be sending other User Groups a copy of this letter to encourage discussion of your offer within the Atari community.

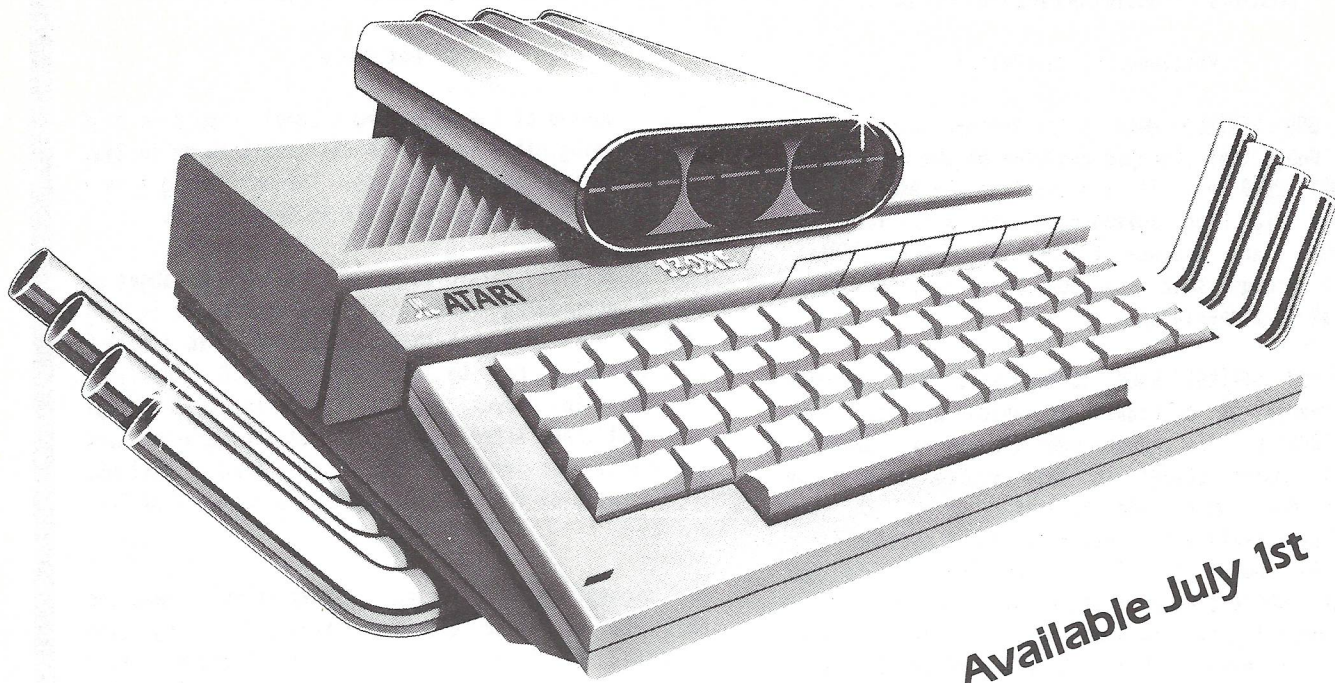
We wish you the best of luck in your marketing endeavors and look forward to a continuing relationship.

Very truly yours,
Bob Barton
President

Jim Hood
Vice-President

cc: Mr. Sam Traniel
Mr. Sig Hartmann
Mr. Jamie Copeland
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BOUNTY BOB STRIKES BACK

Reviewed by John Pellet

BOUNTY BOB STRIKES BACK is the further adventures of Bounty Bob, that intrepid explorer of the many levels of MINER 2049'er. It is brought to the Atari by the folks at Big Five Software. For a limited time, packages also include a copy of MINER 2049'er. Since the package is selling locally for just under \$40, any break is appreciated.

BOUNTY BOB STRIKES BACK (BBSB) will be instantly recognizable as a sequel to anyone who has played MINER 2049'er. The general game play is very similar. The only major change is that you can control the distance Bob jumps - and you need to do so. The game starts supposedly after completing MINER and the first screen is about as difficult as level 3 in the original. While I have finished the 10 levels of MINER 2049'er many times, I am stuck on level 5 of BBSB after 2 weeks of play. Level 5 is called JUMPING 101 - named, I think, after the number of jumps required to clear the screen. So far, at least, I have not encountered anything equivalent to the murderous martini in MINER - no unexpected traps but plenty of puzzles to solve on each level. And Big Five has removed the "feature" in MINER that allowed you to skip levels by typing in their phone number. Now that trick just kills you. In terms of basic game play, if you liked MINER and want an additional challenge, then BBSB will be a welcome addition to your library.

Big Five has implemented the best title and high score screen I've ever seen - especially the high score screen. There are whole games that show less imagination. Also, there is now an option screen that lets you set difficulty, number of lives, score for bonus, sound volume, and more. Unluckily, it does not save choices through a power cycle so you have to repeat it each session - but to do so takes only 30 seconds. Big Five also provides secret messages that enable the "advanced" player to skip the lower levels if you want. Lots of versatility for a cartridge.

In summary, BOUNTY BOB STRIKES BACK is a worthy successor to MINER 2049'er. It extends the limits of cartridge games in 1985 much as its parent did. If you enjoy climb-and-jump games then you'll like this one.

BBSB is available from Computer Discoveries (Morris Stephens) for under \$40.

C COMPILERS COMPARED

by Pat Moore

After looking at the clubs new C compiler on club disk # 54 letting other members of the club know my initial reactions seems the thing to do. The only thing I have to compare the ACE compiler with is Deep Blue C.

Like Deep Blue, this C is not a full C but a subset of the C programming language. What this means is that many of the features that you would find in a full C language will not be available to ACE C. The first thing that the documentation tells you in ACE C is that it is patterned after Deep Blue C but the compilers are different. The main difference that I find is that ACE C has many of the features that were left out of Deep Blue.

The biggest difference that took my attention was the fact that the ACE C offers floats (floating point numbers). The floats are not the same as you will find in a full C however, we can't have everything. The method of implementing floats may be difficult to comprehend at first, however I feel the ability to use floats will be very advantageous. In order to use floats with ACE C, the programmer has to have previously defined a character string such as `char a[6],b[6],c[6]`; This would allow the programmer to use a,b,and c as floats.

Seems every program I want to write needs to use floats. Any financial package has to use floats unless you wanted to round off cents to dollars, which would not leave a very attractive package.

There are several differences between Deep Blue and ACE C other than the use of floats. Such as the documentation states that ACE C compiler runs 10 to 15 times faster than Deep Blue C (and I had trouble keeping up with deep blue). The linker runs 4 to 5 times faster, and execution time of programs is about twice as fast. The increased speed is due in part to the fact that ACE C does not do some of the error checking that Deep Blue does.

The two programs also differ in the way they allow comments to be written. ACE C does not allow tabs to be used as spaces while Deep Blue does. Deep blue does not accept source code with line numbers, while ACE C does. This is an advantage as it allows a wider variety of text editors to be used when writing programs. Almost anything you have available can be used to create source files. ACE C evaluates constants at

compile time. This can speed up run time. The procedure for implementing 6502 assembly code into the C source code is different in the two compilers. I would not say one is better than the other, however if you use Deep Blue you will have to know that you will have to change your habits with ACE. Also ACE and Deep Blue load at different locations in memory.

There are 27 new instructions in the P code for ACE C. These instructions are used by a file called FASTC.COM which speeds up .CCC files.

Over all I can see some definite improvements in ACE C over Deep Blue. I hope that when I actually get down to writing functions with ACE C I will find even more.

As a final word. The C SIG is beginning to get back into the full swing of things. A short meeting at the Infomart let me know that there are still many of our members who are interested in the C language. If you have an interest in C or would just like to learn more about what this powerful language is all about, look me up at the next meeting or give me a call at 557-3713. The C SIG is glad to welcome new members. We will be looking forward to seeing you.

RICHARDSON CIVIC CENTER RICHARDSON, TEXAS

DIRECTIONS: From LBJ (635), take Central Expressway (Highway 75) North to Arapaho Road in Richardson. Turn left (West) on Arapaho Road. The Civic Center is on the left between the Hwy 75 service road and the Richardson Public Library. Guests are WELCOME!!

MEETING AGENDA

12:00 TO 12:30 SALES (VENDORS & CLUB)
DEMONSTRATIONS
NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION
NEW MEMBER REGISTRATION
SOCIALIZING
NEW MEMBER CLINIC
12:30 TO 1:00 BUSINESS MEETING
1:00 TO 1:30 DEMONSTRATION OF CLUB DISK
1:30 TO 3:00 OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS
3:00 TO 4:00 BOARD MEETING

AUGUST MEETING: SATURDAY, August 3, 1985 at 12:00 noon

Meeting Schedule

Mark on your calendars these dates for future DAL-ACE meetings:

Saturday, 3 August 1985, noon
at the Richardson Civic Center

Saturday, 14 September 1985, noon
at the InfoMart

Beginning in September, we will be gathering in our new home, The InfoMart! The exact times are still tentative. Stay tuned to your newsletter for further details.

VENDOR RESERVATIONS

Vendors may reserve table space prior to the meeting by calling Dave Gillen at 272-4273. Fee collections and table assignments will begin at 11:45, 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 not 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 ADVERTISEMENT

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Quarter page (3 1/2" H by 4 1/4" V) ... \$15.00

Commercial ads must be camera ready. Ad deadline is the 15th of the month. Mail or deliver copy to DAL-ACE Newsletter, P. O. Box 851872, Richardson, TX, 75085-1872 or call Mr. Morris Stephens at 214-525-6483.

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DAL-ACE membership is \$16.00 per year. This newsletter is written, edited, and published by club volunteers. Its availability and/or distribution may, at times, be subject to circumstances beyond the control of the club officers. Members will note that their membership renewal month appears as the first three (3) letters on the address label.

Other ATARI user groups may obtain copies of this newsletter on an exchange basis.

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