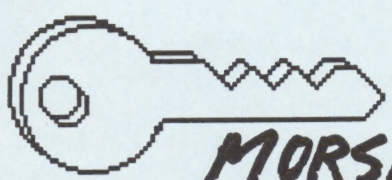


December 8, 1990



"Build your own
MORSE CODE KEY"

by Rene Tucker

New Column

"FROM THE MAILBAG"

by Sandra Higgins Hanna

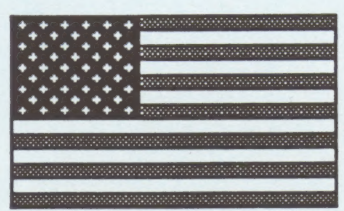


stuff this year's
stockings with
Dal-Ace disks!!

ELECTION
BALLOT
P. 6



DISK SALES





Editorial Policy

The Dal-ACE editorial staff reserves the right to edit your submission for spelling, punctuation, grammar, clarity, and for reasons of space limitations.

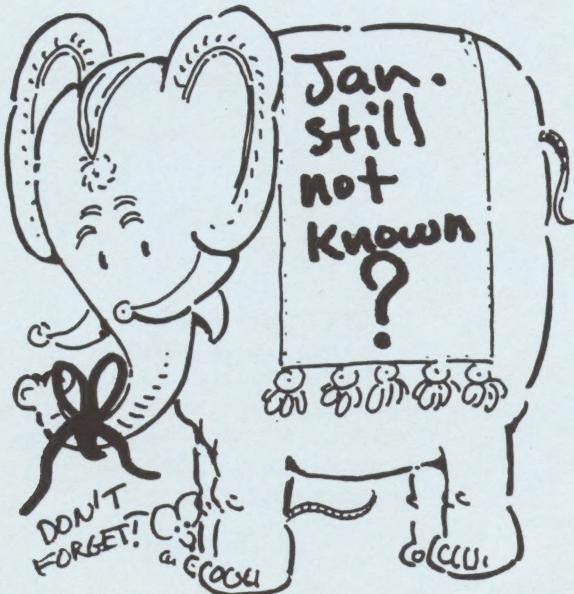
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The purpose of this newsletter is to present information for your consideration. Neither the editor nor Dal-Ace make claims for the validity or usefulness of this material. The reader is the final judge of any product or advice presented.

... from the 'OOP's' file

*Sorry this gets to you without a date for our January meeting. Check the BBS - or call the Infomart to make sure - or call me!
Have a Very Merry Christmas!*



Newsletter Advertisements

Personal ads are free to all current members. Please see the editor for details.

Commercial Rates

Full page \$35

Half page \$25

Quarter page \$15

Business card \$10

For an additional \$10 per full page or \$5 per partial page, you can request that your ad be placed on the inside front or back cover or the center-page spread. This service is first come, first serve.

Ads must be camera ready. Submission deadline for ad copy is the first of the month prior to publication date. That is, November 1 will be the deadline for your ad to appear in the December newsletter. Mail copy to the address on the back page, or contact the advertising manager, editor, or Vice President of Communications. Copy received after the deadline will be run the following month. For contract advertisers, if no new ad is received prior to the deadline, the most recent ad will be run.

Newsletter Submissions

Submissions are welcome in any form. It is requested of any 8-bit user that s/he upload articles to the club BBS or furnish a disk or hard copy to the editor.

Meeting Information

10:00 - 11:00 8-bit SIG

11:00 - 11:30Disk Sales

11:30 - 12:00Main Meeting

12:00 - 12:30New users SIG

.....Newsletter Exchange SIG

12:30 - 2:00.....ST SIG

Infomart Directions

From North Dallas, take either Stemmons (I-35E) or the Dallas North Tollway south. From Stemmons, take the Oak Lawn exit, turn east, and park at the Infomart. If you are using the tollway, exit right on Wycliff, go left on Harry Hines Blvd. to Oak lawn, and turn right. From the south, take Stemmons north, then follow above directions. Infomart is the big, white, steel and glass building south of the other 'marts. GUESTS ARE WELCOME!!!

Dal-Ace

8-BIT:NOVEMBER

Randy Randolph and Rene Tucker demonstrated Code Test. Bas originally a type-in program from ANTIC. Morse Code Receiver is for the Morse beginner and helps the learner identify the sounds (called 'dits' and 'daas') with the corresponding letters. It can be used as a question-answer tool, and a speed test to promote word recognition.

Randy demonstrated Morse Code Receiver, showing his skill as a sender. The program is written by Steve Stuntz--an experienced radio and Morse operator--and programmer for Atari, to help the intermediate Morse Coder to come up to speed to get a liscense. Randy, using Rene's cleverly constructed joystick plug-in attached to a Morse Code sender key, showed how critical pauses were, how operators are identified by the special emphasis each places on specific places, much like the individual styles of musicians.

By the end of the session, several in the audience could identify two or three letters of the alphabet. I think this shows that Morse might not be as hard to learn as all of us--in the beginning--thought. These programs would make a good Christmas gift to a budding Eagle Scout or a good Science Fair project.

Randy Randolph is a liscensed amateur radio operator. Rene Tucker is a constant shortwave radio listener.

MAIN MEETING:NOVEMBER

Over thirty people turned up for the main meeting November 10. Jim Jackson brought the meeting to order.

Rene read the report for the month.

Dave Gramm spoke about Toys For Tots and it was decided that all money raised by the auction would go to 'Tots.

Sandra Hanna volunteered to buy the toys for Dal-Ace with the money we raise.

Please bring either a NEW unwrapped toy or \$3.00 to participate in the auction.

As the topic came around to elections, Rene suggested that the post of Secretary be combined with that of Treasurer. Regulations were Consulted and the suggestion voted on and approved by the majority of members.

Bill Hanna, Jay Wimmers, Debbie Wimmers, Tim Mixon, Marc Salas, Randy Smith raised their hands to the call for officers. A motion to nominate Harold Lewis (in absentia) for Member-at-large was approved. SEE BALLOT

The topic of AUNT also was raised and Jim Jackson told the membership that AUNT had decided to let the matter of merge/reciprocal memberships/newsletter-sharing drop.

Bill and Sandra Hanna volunteered to notify all members paid and recently past-due of the upcoming elections. Sandra volunteered to continue to do the newlsetter mailing.

Nolan Terrel won the Door Prize. Congratulations, Nolan. This was Nolan's first visit in a while.

Also present after a long absence was Eb Forester. Everyone was glad to welcome Eb and Nolan back.

Dal-Ace

MORSE CODE HELP

by Rene Tucker

After the demo that Randy and I gave at the November meeting on using the Atari to assist in learning the Morse Code, I was asked to write a follow-up article. I willingly said "Oh, sure...I'd be glad to"! Now why did I say that?

Anyhow here goes. I've just spent nearly an hour trying to find the Antic Magazine that explained how to use Steve Stuntz's excellent Morse Code practice program and finally found it in my own personal "stacks". For those who might have similar archives you might enjoy re-reading the entire issue as it has several articles on Radio and the Atari. The program that we demonstrated was Morse Code Receiver written by Steve Stuntz. It translates the code into ASCII values which the Atari can display as letters and numerals. By using a joystick or Morse key connected to the joystick port to input the "dits" and "dahs" you'll be

able to see actual letters display across the screen as you operate the joystick or key. The program appears in the magazine as a type-in BASIC program which creates the machine language program Codewrite.exe. In order to practice sending Morse Code with a key just follow the next few instructions and refer to Figure 1 if you need to. A real Morse key is not difficult to obtain and lends some realism to your learning experience. First, mount the key securely on a board that is long enough to support the arm allowing free movement of your wrist as you use the key. Take a length of 2-conductor shielded cable and skin each end about 1/2". Attach each conductor to one of the two screw terminals on the key.

Now, fear not, the most elemental soldering skills will get you through this next part. Take the other end of the cable and solder one skinned end to pin 2 and the other to pin 8 of the joystick connector. The connector I used from Radio Shack had to be modified slightly by bending down the two tabs on each side of

the connector in order to fit properly into the joystick port. A hood may be put over the plug to make it easier to insert and remove the connector.

That does it. Plug it in to Port 1 and start sending Morse Code.

Materials List:

Morse Code hand key

Can be obtained from some hobby or ham radio stores

6' length of 2-conductor shielded cable

1 9-position D-type female connector

low power soldering iron and solder

References: Antic Magazine, November 1985

For more information on Ham Radio programs for all Atari computers write to

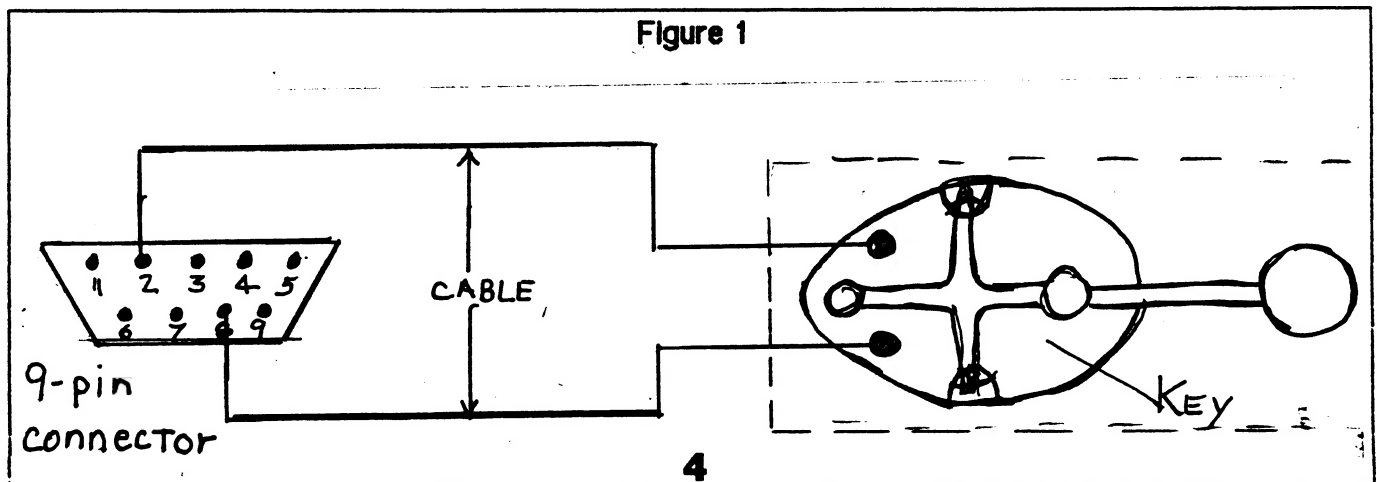
Steven Stuntz

c/o Electrosoft

1656 S. California St.

Loveland, CO 80537

Figure 1



Dal-Ace

FROM THE MAILBAG

by Sandra Higgins Hanna

Reeve Software has decided to put out a new ATARI 8-BIT Magazine. Coverage will be roughly 60/40 Diamond related articles. Subscriptions will be \$20 for 6 issues--a bi-monthly. The first is to be mailed around February. Anyone interested in the magazine should send their checks to:

REEVE Software
29W150 Old Farm Lane
Warrenville, IL 60555
(708)393-2317

Or--would enough of you be interested to warrant the club buying a subscription for our library? Feedback, please.

We have gotten a letter from Phil Comeau, who is an independent developer of software for the Atari ST, and who has sent us a list of very reasonably priced software and games.

The GramSlam Grammar Checker, he says: "improves the quality of your writing, looks for incorrect, awkward phrases, and offers suggestions for improvement." \$15.00

TxFmt Text Formatter: "simple yet powerful formatter that works with any text editor and printer, featuring a rich set of formatting commands and functions, such as even and odd page headers and footers, macros, tables of content, indexes, lists, support for all printer text effects, and mixed text and Degas graphics.

\$15.00

TreeSaver Compressed Print Utility: prints text files and docs in a compressed form; two docs on one page, cutting your paper output in half! \$15.00

PicShow Alphabet Program: "fun and educational for children 2-6. picture association alphabet learning with animation and music, or you can customize your own pictures or sayings. \$20.00

Musicomp Musical Compiler: lets you create music even if you can't play an instrument. enter multipart songs right from sheet music and play them through a MIDI synthesizer or the ST's built-in sound generator--or both at the same time! \$15.00

I could go on but I wouldn't have room for his address, which is:

Phil Comeau Software
43 Rueter St.
Nepean, Ontario
Canada
K2J 3Z9

you get a 10% discount if your order 6-9 of one product. More % as your quantity rises. There is a 10.00 shipping and handling fee, also. Better yet, see the forms and list of software in the library!

Dal-Ace

D A L - A C E

1991

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WHEN YOU NEED HELP...

8-BIT: Donny Arnold 980-4245
before 10 p.m.
Ron King (817)283-0674
from 5-10 p.m.
Rene Tucker 223-6176

ST: Ralph Tenney 235-4035
from 7-10 p.m.

LANGUAGES: Eb Foerster 357-7602
John Saunders (817)566-0318

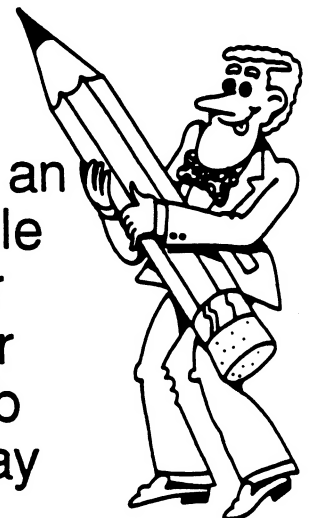
DALACE, INC DALLAS ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

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DALACE membership dues are \$20 per year. Lifetime membership is \$250. This newsletter is written, edited and published by volunteers. Its availability and/or distribution may, at times, be subject to circumstances beyond the control of the club officers. Other user groups may obtain a copy of this newsletter on an exchange basis.

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