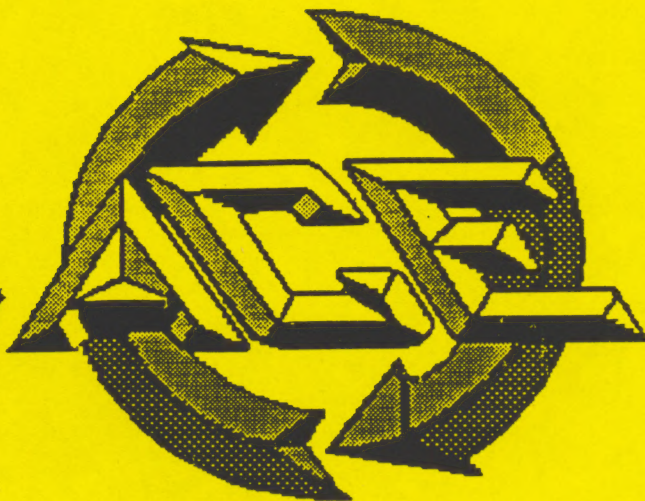# DAL-ACE

JUNE, 1991

Modem Problems?

Ask Jeff ... the answer man!

It's Magic, isn't it?

If you're interested in cracking the case of an Atari and having a "look" — rub the magic modem!

Dal-Ace

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 - 11:30 .....Disk Sales
11:30 - 12:00 .....Main Meeting
12:00 - 12:30 .....New 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!!!
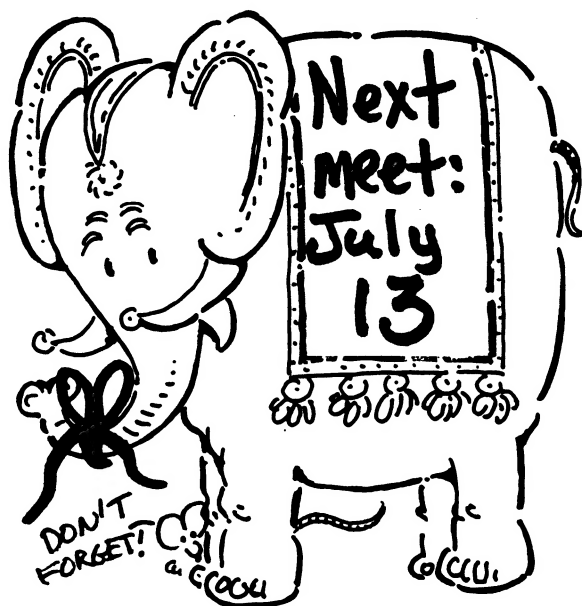
Editorial Policy

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

Disclaimer

The material printed in this newsletter reflects the opinions of the authors. Opposing opinions are solicited. Unless otherwise stated, the material in this newsletter is not copyrighted and no rights are reserved.

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.

Next meet: July 13

DON'T FORGET!

Dal-Ace

May 1991
8-Bit Sig:

Herb parsons came up from downstairs to encourage us to stop by the Megabyte table "because we need your support". Herb went on to say that they have to sell $300 worth of goodies to break even at the Infomart meetings. We all like to see Herb and he likes to see us. He just needs to see our dollars as well! Help keep a good man in business. We all applauded. He's right, you know.

Next, was Herb's anouncement that Atari TTs are at his store now (June 1st).

GATO was picked up without docs by Scott Cray and we all had a good time pushing buttons and being surprised. Scott, ever the intrepid computer adventurer, launched a torpedo and sunk a freighter, actually working undercover as a spy ship for THE BAD GUYS.

Fight Night was also played with. It is a build-your-own-fighters game, but we all found the sound quality below Atari's usuall excellence. Graphics were pretty good, not knock-yer-socks-off, but really, as good as most gameing software for the 8-bit.

SynFile Plus was demoed by Bill Hanna. Terry brought up the fact that the 1.02 version does not need a translator as earlier versions did. Thanks, Terry. SynFile begins when you insert the floppy and open or 'create' a new file. You must keep your created files on another floppy since the SynFile disk is full. You can search your files for either date, name—or as Marc interjected, Chest, Waist, Hips! Cute, Marc! To print out your list, you type in the information you want printed at the bottom (marked fields). You can scroll across spread-sheet style to find other information. It is important to close your file before ending your program. Bill said that the docs with the software were very understandable and recommended it to anyone looking for that type of program.

Lightning Warning: Even though you think you have adequate surge protection, if lightning is very close, it can cook ritht through your surge device. No device can protect 3,000 volts! Unplug your equipment FROM THE WALL when bad weather threatens. This applies to your phone jack for your modem as well. Rene reminded us all that your system doesn't crash the minute your equipment is surged, it is when you turn your equipment ON!!! Soooo. Wait till good weather to turn on your system, she says!

BBS gripe heard— there was only one call all of last month. One. Come on you guys and dolls out there! You're making Jay and Debbie feel pretty lonely!

3

It's magic, Isn't it?

No Virginia, it isn't, but it might seem that way if you have never cracked the case to peer into the mystifying world of chips, slots, and components.

Enter Wizard Dave! Dave very kindly consented to play the part of Mystery Tour Guide through the jumble of parts in your Atari. So, what are we saying? We are saying, that if there is an EXPRESSED interest (by either contacting Dave at (214)625-7143, me at 262-0196 or the BBS(use it or lose it!), we will have Dave wave his magic wand and impart to us Sorcerer's Apprntices, what's what in Atari guts.

I would like to run a Q & A column concerning Atari Guts in the July newsletter. Please submit those questions at our BBS(use it or lose it!)under Newsletter Submissions (title it Guts q&a) or at my number above. If you are like me, a casual user, here is the anonymous forum you need to ask all those questions you couldn't bring yourself to ask at the meetings! We are not taking names on this thing. We'd just as soon not know. Sooooo. Go ahead and ask away.

July, if we receive enough interest (over 6 calls), Dave will be there with Atari Guts everywhere.
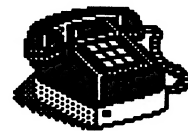
As interest increases, we may want to consider some Magical Surgery—a real computer repair AS WE ALL WATCH! Boy, talk about pressure!!

It all depends on your interest. If you all have suggestions to do other things, let us know as well.

So, we are asking your feed-back on Atari Guts–The Magical Tour. Again, contact Dave, me, or the BBS!!

Thank you for your support.

Modem Problems
by Jeff Golden

If you are having problems logging on to the DALACE BBS while using 850 Express, then the problem may be with your modem cable. However, before tearing into your cables, first be sure that Mode = Ascii, not Atascii.

There are some Atari modem cables out there that only have three pins connected on the DB9 connector. These cables work fine with AMODEM, (DALACE disk #70), but do not work very well with 850 Express. The symptoms are: the modem dials correctly; the BBS answers with some beeps and buzzes; but the CONNECT message never appears and the Express program eventually times out and redials.

There are also some cables that are missing pin 6 or pin 8 on the DB25 connector. These cables will fail in the same way unless pin 2, carrier detect, on the DB9 connector is faked out by connecting it to data set ready, DB9 pin 6.

A better option for those cables with eight crimped-on DB25 pins, (not solder tail), is to punch out the pins in the DB25 connector and reinstall them in the correct locations. A light rap with a punch and a pair of pliers on the end of the pin should do it without damaging the connector/pins too much. Check that the pins are secure after reinstalling them. The worst that could happen is that you might have to buy a new connector.

Dal-Ace

Modem Problems, p. 4

It is also possible that some of the older, cheaper modems may not provide carrier detect on DB25 pin 8. Check your modem manual.

The connections that work for me are as follows:

Male DB9------------Male DB25

pin 1 data terminal rdy	pin 20
pin 2 carrier detect	pin 8
pin 3 send data	pin 2
pin 4 receive data	pin 3
pin 5 signal ground	pin 7
pin 6 data set ready	pin 6
pin 7 request to send	pin 4
pin 8 clear to send	pin 5

The pin numbers are marked in very fine print on both sides of the connectors adjacent to the pins.

DALACE   RECIEPTS FOR   MAY,1991

Recieved from	Checks	Cash
8-bit disk sales		9.00
ST disk sales		
Dues	60.00	40.00
Advertisements		
Other		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	60.00	49.00
SALES TAXPAYABLE	0.00	0.74
NET INCOME	60.00	48.26

DALACE   EXPENSES FOR   ,1991

Paid to: By: Check/ Cash

Paid to	Check	Cash
PRINTING	21.22	13.82
POSTAGE		33.00
SUPPLIES		
TELEPHONE		
STATE TAX		
FED.TAX		
REFRESHMENTS		13.80
MISC.	151.50	
Sub-total	172.72	60.62
TOTAL EXPENSES	233.34	

SUMMARY

INCOME:		109.00
EXPENSES:		233.34
GAIN(LOSS		-124.34

BANKBOOK MONTH

STARTING BALANCE	728.20
DEPOSITS	100.00
CHECKS DRAWN	172.72
ENDING BALANCE	655.48

5

DALACE VOLUNTEERS

EDITOR:

Sandra Hanna 262-0196

Ad Manager: OPEN

BBS Sysop: Jay Wimmers 231-8050

Librarians: 8-BIT- John Saunders

(817)-566-0318

ST: Debbie Wimmers

DALACE BULLETIN BOARD

24 HOURS

(214)231-7746

Volunteer- help make your club a better place to meet.

Announcing...

DALACE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

Marc Salas 717-4615

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Jay Wimmers 231-8050

SECRETARY:

Bill Hanna 262-0196

TREASURER:

Bill Hanna 262-0196

V-PRES. COMMUNICATIONS:

Sandra Hanna 262-0196

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Scott Cray

John Guy 613-4559

Harold Lewis 298-1734

Randy Smith 224-7236

Debbie Wimmers 231-8050

WHEN YOU NEED HELP...

8-BIT: Donny Arnold 980-4245

before 10 p.m.

Ron King (817)263-0674

from 5-10 p.m.

Rene Tucker 223-6176

ST: Ralph Tenny 235-4035

from 7-10 p.m.

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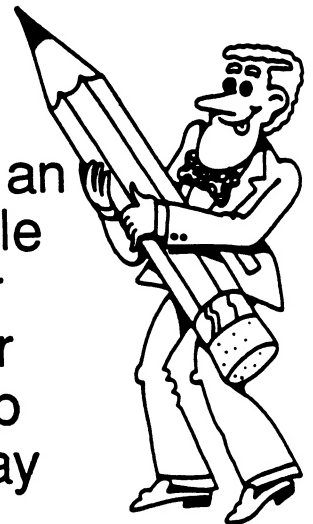
John Saunders (817)566-0318

DALACE,INC

DALLAS ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

DALACE is an independent user education group that is not affiliated with the Atari Corporation. This is the official newsletter of DALACE and is intended for the education of its membership as well as for the dissemination of information about Atari Computer Products.

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.

All material printed in this newsletter may be reprinted in any form provided that Dalace and the author, if applicable are given the proper credit. Likewise, portions of this newsletter may be reprinted from other newsletters and are so noted.
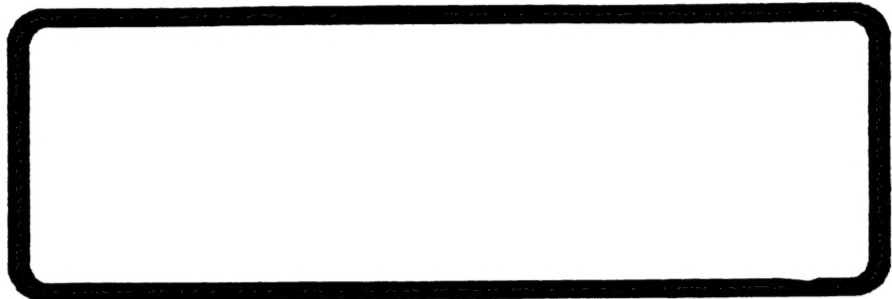
Write an Article For Your Club Today

DAL-ACE

P.O. BOX 851872
RICHARDSON, TEXAS 75085-1872

PM 1
JUL 9
1991

29 USA

Postmaster: Return Postage Guaranteed. Address correction requested.

Is it that time again? If your renewal number has been circled (above), use this handy form to keep your DALACE Newsletter coming!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT. # _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE # HOME _____ WORK _____

HOW YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT DAL-ACE:
PLEASE CHECK ONE

DAL-ACE MEMBER * _____ FRIEND _____ STORE* _____

OTHER _____ *GIVE NAME _____

USER # _____ PASSWORD _____

Make your **$20** *check to:* **DAL-ACE**   *Mail to:* **DAL-ACE**

P.O. BOX 851872
RICHARDSON, TEXAS 75085-1872