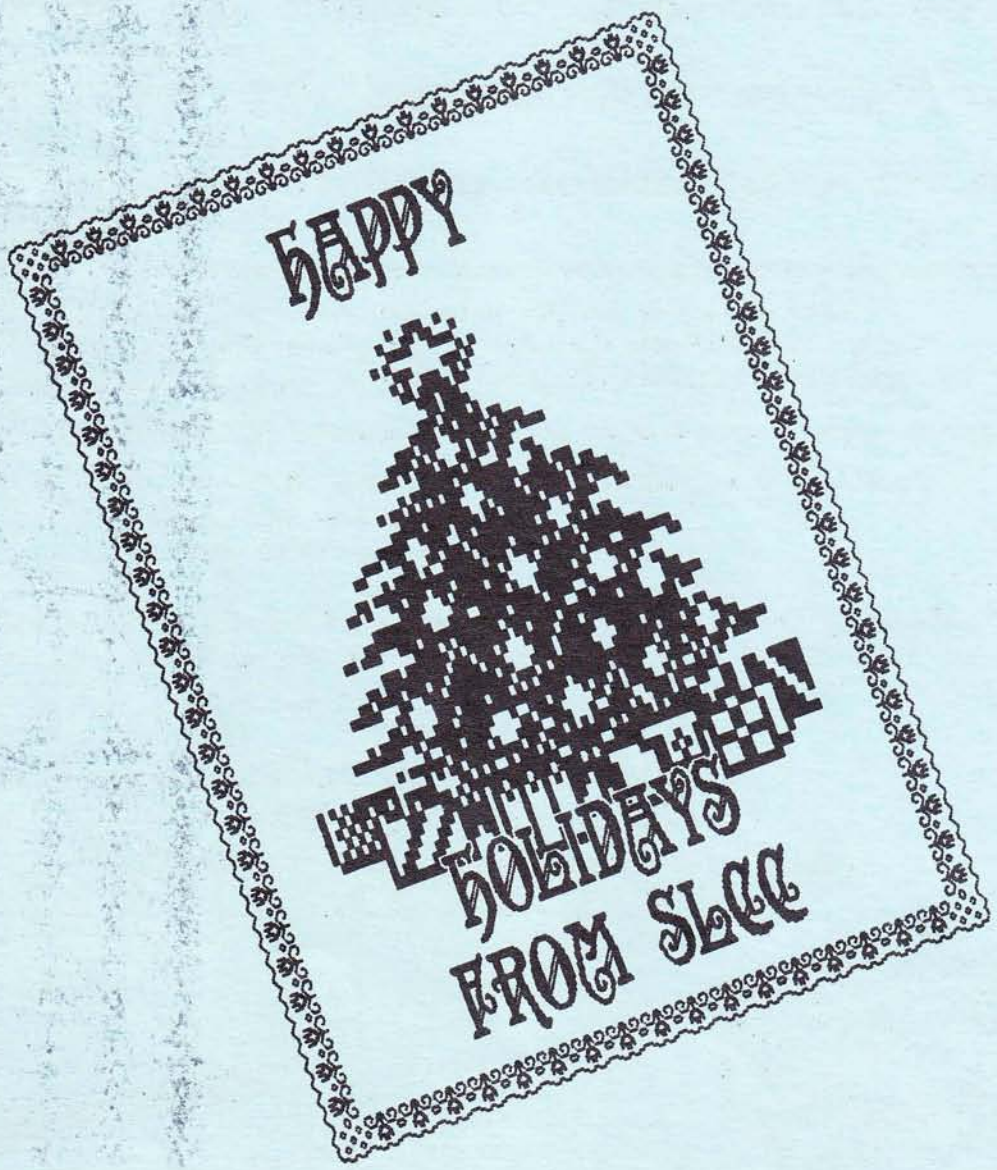
SLCC Journal

San Leandro Computer Club December 1986



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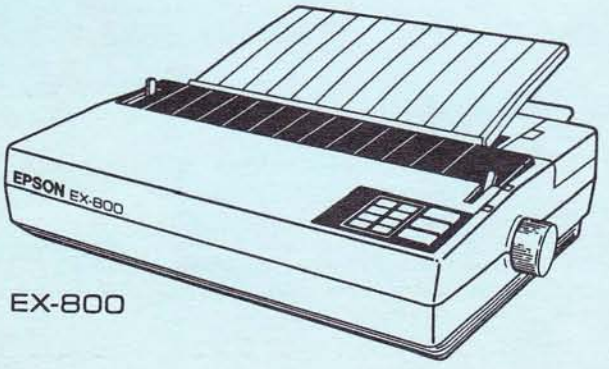

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SLCC Journal

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SAN LEANDRO COMPUTER CLUB
P.O. BOX 1525
SAN LEANDRO, CA 94577-0152

An independent, non-profit organization of Atari microcomputer users with no connection to Atari Corp.

Membership fees of $20.00 per year provide access to the club print and magnetic libraries, subscription to the *Journal* and participation in club activities.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY

DON'T FORGET THE CHRISTMAS PARTY THIS MONTH FOR ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THERE WILL BE A SHORT MEETING WITH A GUEST SPEAKER AND THEN PARTY TIME. -- $1 FOR NON-MEMBERS
- - - - - CAKE - ICE CREAM - SODA - RAFFLE - - - - -
DECEMBER 2 1986

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Help the Children

SLCC is looking for volunteers to help at Oakland Children's Hospital. Hi Tech Expressions have made their PartyWare software available to the kids, but they need some help in learning how to use it. The programs are menu-driven, and very straightforward. If you have a few hours to spend bringing some cheer to budding computer users, call Bob Barton 352-8118.

SAN LEANDRO COMPUTER CLUB
MINUTES - GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 1986

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by President Bob Barton.

The President informed the club members that the publication of the JOURNAL was in serious trouble due to lack of help. It has become almost impossible due to this lack of help to make each month's deadline. If the members wish to continue the newsletter we will have to have a group effort to spread the work out. The need currently is for an editor and assistant editor as well as assistance in typing, labeling, stamping, etc.

The work involved in the editor and assistant editor jobs could in most cases be done in 15 to 20 hours a month depending on content of the newsletter. The club is currently having all the copying and assembling done by Copyrama printing services which saves the many, many hours that it has taken when done by the JOURNAL staff in the past. Any interested members should contact one of the club officers for any further details.

Need of a better printer with graphics ability for use by the JOURNAL staff was discussed and will be acted on at a latter date after the various printers available have been investigated.

The discussion on the purchase of an ST system which was started last month was continued with a report on probable cost of various systems. After considerable discussion the following motion was made and seconded:

MOTION - That the Executive Board be empowered to purchase a 520 ST color system with a double sided drive and arrange to upgrade it to one megabyte. All at best price. Motion passed. It was understood that the ST system would be used by the JOURNAL staff for production of the JOURNAL when not needed at meetings or shows. The reason a 520 system was selected was to take advantage of its ability to be used with a regular TV monitor during meetings.

The chairman spoke on the need to purchase bulk disks for the use of the club and requested permission to do so. After discussion of the current $300 limit that the Executive Board has to work with between meetings the following motion was made by Jim Hood:

MOTION - That the purchase of bulk disks be exempted from the Executive Board $300 limit. Motion passed.

Tonights raffle was for a copy of BRODERBUND'S Print Shop, Print Shop Companion and an EPYX joystick.

Lois Hansen spoke on the education SIG and Mike Morrow spoke on the Pascal SIG. Both cited the need for participation and encouraged members to contact them for further information.

The software chairmen Cliff and Mark demonstrated this month's 8 bit floppy which includes a game DEATHZONE, OMNILOAD a picture loader which loads all types of pictures, a database program and a hardware modification for 800 and 1200 XL's among others. The back of the disk features COMPUTER CANVASS a full feature drawing - animation program.

It was decided after discussion that during next month's meeting we should have a party to celebrate another successful year.

MOTION - That cake and soft drinks be provided for the December meeting. Motion passed.

After a short break the meeting continued with the raffle of the Broderbund prizes. President Barton asked for volunteers to assist at the local Childrens Hospital with a computer program. Details will be printed in the December Journal.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Jim Moran - Secretary

Hardware Mod

Absolute Safety for M/L Subroutines

by Bob Woolley, SLCC

This hardware modification should be attempted only by those who have had some experience working with electronic boards and integrated circuits. If you are not confident of your abilities, ask for assistance from your User Group or a good TV/VCR technician.

The object of this change is to enable the RAM at location $D600 thru $D7FF that cannot normally be accessed. The RAM chips are "on" the buss during each machine cycle unless the -CI line from pin 16 of U3 is low. This added circuit forces this line "on" during access to $D600 thru $D7FF addresses, which is all that's required to use the existing memory at that location.

Disassemble your 800XL and find the trace that connects pin 16 of U3 to pin 10 of U18. At a suitable location, completely cut thru this line. Use a small piece of double-sided foam tape to secure a 74HC20 IC to a clear area of the main board near U2. Mount the chip on its back so that the pins point upward and make sure that you know which is pin #1!! Using 30 gauge wire-wrapping wire connect from this new IC to the board:

-Pin 7 to the nearest ground (pin 8 of U2 will do)
-Pin 14 to a nearby +5v point.(pin 16 of U2....)
-Pins 6, 9 and 10 - wire together
-Pins 1,2,4,and 5 to pin 16 of U3
-Pin 12 to pin 9 of U2
-Pin 13 to pin 7 of U2
-Pin 8 to pin 10 of U18

FOR 1200XL OWNERS: Cut the trace between pin 16 of U14 and pin 1 of U11. Mount the HC20 near U16.

-Pins 1,2,4,and 5 go to pin 16 of U14
-Pins 12 and 13 go to pins 9 and 7 of U18
-Pin 8 goes to pin 1 of U11

All that really changes are the IC numbers and one of the pins (pin 10 of U18 becomes pin 1 of U11).

Try the board now, before you put it back together. Just plug in the power and monitor cables and boot Basic. If it shows "READY", it is OK. <If it does not work, check your changes very carefully. If all else fails, you can remove your additions and solder a wire from U3, pin 16 to U18, pin 10 - that will return the board to normal.> Now, you can put everything back together and try the memory at $D600-D7FF. You will have 512 bytes all for your own use!!!

Whadzituzedfer?? How about increasing the number of drives allowed on DOS 2.0? Normally, this would require a 128 byte increase for each drive in your LOMEM pointer - which decreases the amount of available RAM for your programs. Instead, put the drive buffers up in your new $D600 pages.

HoweduIdewthat?? MORDRVS.BAS - Run this program to generate an M/L file called MORDRVS.OBJ. Boot DOS 2.0 without BASIC and (L)oad MORDRVS.OBJ. Then write DOS files (H). Now, this copy of DOS 2.0 will only boot on a drive with the $D600-$D700 hardware modification, but it will allow access to D1: thru D5: and provides four file buffers instead of three (which means you can open four files at once, now). All this and MEMLO is still $1CFC - you lose no program space.

```
100 REM ***** MORDRVS.BAS *****
110 REM *****      BY       *****
120 REM ***** BOB WOOLLEY *****
130 REM **** SLCC  11/8/86 ****
140 REM
150 OPEN #1,8,0,"D1:MORDRVS.OBJ"
160 FOR I=1 TO 89
170 READ A
180 PUT #1,A
190 NEXT I
200 CLOSE #1
210 END
1000 DATA 255,255,242,7,55,8,142,13
1010 DATA 19,14,12,19,176,13,169,0
1020 DATA 157,17,19,157,41,19,157,49
1030 DATA 19,240,22,160,1,152,174,13
1040 DATA 19,157,17,19,165,67,157,41
1050 DATA 19,165,68,157,49,19,32,112
1060 DATA 8,202,16,210,169,0,133,67
1070 DATA 169,214,133,68,76,64,8,169
1080 DATA 252,141,231,2,169,28,141,232
1090 DATA 2,76,126,8,99,8,101,8
1100 DATA 76,43,8,9,7,10,7,4
1110 DATA 31
1120 REM * 89 BYTES
```

Atari 825 Printer Graphics Conversion Kit Using Six Easy Steps Only $30

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DECEMBER 1986

SAN LEANDRO COMPUTER CLUB

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 MAIN MEETING 8 PM-S.L. PUBLIC LIBRARY	3	4	5	6
7	8 ST SIG 8 PM CALL BOB! 352-8118	9 ASSEMBLY SIG 8 PM CALL FRANK! 471-8133	10 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 8 PM CALL BOB! 352-8118	11	12 JOURNAL DEAD-LINE CALL JERRY! 233-9158	13
14	15	16 ATR8000 SIG & BBS SIG 8 PM CALL MIKE! 482-5061	17 EDUCATION SIG 7 PM CALL LOIS! 482-0674	18 BASIC SIG 8 PM CALL GUY! 582-5561	19	20
21	22 ST SOFTWARE SIG 8 PM CALL BOB! 352-8118	23 PASCAL SIG 7PM CALL MIKE: 570-7478 ---- VIP SIG 8PM CALL CHUCK! 632-1367	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Rubber Stamp
Point-by-Point Precision Printer Powerhouse

by Micheal D. Morrow

RUBBER STAMP from XLEnt Software was written by Len Dorfman and Dennis Young (who also wrote TYPESETTER) and Randy Dellinger.
It has been on the market for some time (copyright 1985). List price is $29.95, and the program runs on any 8-bit machine with 48K or more. It is part of a printware system from XLEnt which also includes TYPESETTER, PAGE DESIGNER and MEGAFONT II+.

Rubber Stamp is a group of 4 programs which function together to create graphics screens in either GR.8 or GR.7+. The software incorporates graphics and text editing on the same screen although only one function can be active at a time.

The one physical screen is actually 4 logical screens (called pads) with individual editing functions which can be applied to one without affecting the others. These functions are very logical and consistent. There is a ruler along the top and bottom of the screen to help with placement of objects.

A 16x16 pixel font editor is included as well as a special program which places this higher resolution font on the screen. There is also a program for converting Print Shop icons for use by Rubber Stamp.

Only Epson and ProWriter printers are automatically supported, but there are user commands which allow Gemini and Mannesman Tally printers to function properly.

Other functions include screen save and load, icon save and load and selection of the text or graphics editor. Uncompressed screens developed with Koala and Atari Artist software are loadable.

There are nice 'extras' such as Row and Column indicators on screen. There is a mini-menu bar visible at all times. Prompts appear on screen when a function requires additional input from the user.

The text editor allows instantaneous switching between 3 built-in fonts, and custom character sets can be loaded singly. It also allows for true screen wrapping rotation of one of the 4 pads on the screen. This is a very nice feature which allows for minor or major alignments between the pads. And, it is fast.

Height and width of characters may be changed to 1 of 4 values and the characters may be skewed to produce an italic look.

Characters may be added to the screen with X-Ray (overlay) writing or block replacement. The overlay functions allows for creativity by adding more than one character at the same position without erasing ones which are already there. The 16x16 pixel editor even allows for proportional spacing which can produce a very pleasing and natural look to text.

There are also several pad control functions which operate on a whole pad and do various things with it. A pad can be overlaid on top of another pad without erasing what is already on the target pad. This can be done as a test, and then later undone if it doesn't look just right. Pads can be shifted and rotated individually, they can be expanded to fill the whole screen, inverted and switched with one another. Pad edge markers can be turned on or off as desired without affecting drawing on the screen. The entire screen can even be rotated in multiples of 90 degrees.

There are more functions which are useful in preparing and printing your screens which are too numerous to mention here.

I find that the functions work well and predictably. The only problem I found was a minor one with clipping. Sometimes a square would have only one off screen vertex clipped and the software would draw a triangle instead of a square. Further pushing off screen would cause two corners to be clipped and no figure to be drawn at all.

The tone signalling "function complete" or "error" sounds like a cricket chirping and has an irritating quality about it after only a little while.

On a scale of 10 I would give this program an 8. However, I would recommend that if one needs to do page layout often, it would probably be easier, faster and generally better to do it with a computer with more resolution, speed and capabilities but this program will perform it's intended function well.

Back Fence from page 8...

of both the 520 and 1040 that looks like something is missing from it). Hear tell that at least one company is in the process of putting a version of BASIC on a ROM cart for the ST.

Another company is rumored to be working on a RAM disk that would run from the ROM cart slot. Only problem with that last one is that there are no true write lines going to the ROM slot. (Not surprising - ROM is, after-all, READ ONLY. Why provide a write line to a Read Only device?)

One must speculate, though, that there may be some way to write without real write lines. Reading and writing are imaginary activities anyway. Why not imagine that you can write to ROM? Otherwise, we're talking about a read only RAM disk here and that's not a lot of use. (I wrote a "write-only" program once - believe me, it's not useful). Anyway, it'll be good to see some products come out that make use of that wonderful hole in the side of the ST cabinet.

4096 AND COUNTING...

Rumbles are emanating from the vicinity of the Borregas Avenue Bit Bashing Club about one, two and four Meg ST's about to be released. This is a whole new design. Detached keyboard, card cage for expansion boards (How clever! Who would have dreamed...).

I heard something the other day about a "2048-ST". I am presuming for the moment that this is a name that the user community has come up with in parody of the 2 Meg version of this new box. If not, the 4 Meg version will be the "4096-ST" internally expandable to the "16384-ST". C'mon, guys.

Other words from inside have to do with the widely rumored and unsubstantiated Atari laser printer. It's hung up in development because of problems getting the fonts on the screen to come out of the printer. Seems like with GDOS that shouldn't be much of a problem. But we must remember that there *are* non-GEM programs. Some of them may output to a laser printer. <Shrug>.

Auction
Workhorse for $1

WORKHORSE FOR SALE

A recent donation to the club has put us in the position of having an oversupply of workhorses. Right away the President say's we can't afford it and must get rid of it. So - we decided to have a first class raffle at the December meeting. It will be either before or slightly after we have our year end party.

Despite the fact the President is a bit conservative when it comes to money he assures us that he will send the old workhorse to doctor Dan Chun for a complete physical reconditioning including new shoes (graphics upgrade). So -- if you happen to have a use for a workhorse (ATARI 825 type), come to the December meeting/party with a pocket full of dollar bills.

By now you of course realize that the December raffle will have as its main prize the faithful ATARI 825 printer. This printer, like the last one we raffled, was given to the club by a member who no longer needed it. The printer is in fine condition.

Many thanks, MEMBER.

The Back Fence

.....by Quinn.....

IS IT BEFORE CHRISTMAS YET?... Here it is almost December already. The second Christmas sales season for the ST and after-market products. But where are the after-market products? There are a lot of them out there, to be sure. But there still seems to be a paucity of product. Still no definite word on Microsoft Write which was supposed to be available by now. Ditto on the MS-DOS coprccesser (latest smoke signals say shipping before Christmas - but not *which* Christmas).

If they don't get that thing out pretty quick, they're going to lose their market to the software PC emulator from Paradox. (Don't laugh, it *could* happen).

But there is progress being made. GDOS, the addition to GEM that allows for device independece, is supposedly done and going out the door. Only problem is, it's hard to tell where it's going once it goes out the door. Presumably to developers. Don't know if it will be available to us user folk. Not sure what we'd do with it if it were.

GDOS provides a means of driving an output device at its best resolution, regardless of the resolution or characteristics of any other device (e.g. a monitor). That is, it gives the ST device independence. We'll only need one printer driver per application instead of one driver per device. Not only will that save us some bytes, but it will save the developers some bucks (which can only be good for users).

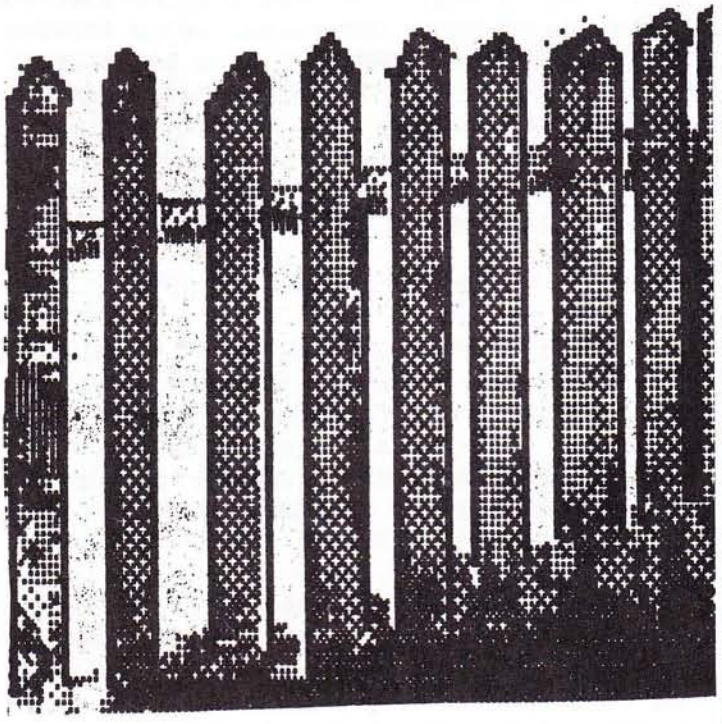
THE DIGITIZER TREE IS BLOOMING...

GDOS will be a big help in getting better use out of the new crop of video digitizers coming out. Michtron showed a *color* digitizer at COMDEX. (The way I understand it, it doesn't use a color camera. It's still monochrome, but it uses a filter wheel and makes multiple passes to get the color images. Crude, but effective.) ComputerEyes is also releasing a digitizer for the ST. Supposed to get much better images than the Hippo Digitizer. I haven't seen any yet, but I'm anxious to do a comparison.

NO LACK OF CADD...

Another product that's supposed to be "available" that I can't find on the shelves of my local neighborhood dealer: First CADD, a new Computer Aided Design/Drafting package from Generic Software. This is supposed to be a "real" CADD package that does dimensioning and all that neat stuff.

That is not to say that CAD-3D (from Tom Hudson and Antic) is not "real" CADD...it's just missing a few little things. Then there is always Easy-Draw (which is missing a few other things) and The Graphic Artist (which does not even pretend to be CADD).



First CADD is based on a package which has been successful in the IBM PC world. Now that it can run on a real computer with lots of memory, there's no telling how far it can go. I just wish I could find the darn thing! <Sigh>.

YOU MEAN SOMETHING ACTUALLY GOES THERE?...

There is finally some rattling around about putting something in the ROM cartridge slot. (That's the opening on the left side

...continued on page 7

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MIGRAPH!

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Here's the desktop accessory you've been waiting for! FAST combines several tools all in one handy program: ST DOS, ST Editor, a Card File plus a calculator, calendar, ASCII table and clock. Many of FAST's parameters can be set to meet individual needs and it operates in all three resolutions. Once installed, it is accessible from within any GEM program.

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Getting Any Smarter?

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We have assembled enough public domain programs for another educational disk. This disk is double sided and contains programs for all ages. A couple of these programs, SECRET CODE and CRYPTO, are real tough ones designed for the education of the educated. SECRET CODE makes up a number which you must guess within so many tries and CRYPTO is an aid in solving cryptographs.

Some of the other programs on this disk range from math practice and math functions to shape and color recognition. One of the more interesting programs deals with recognition of words from word and graphic hints. Last but not least an educational TRIVIA game.

--James Moran
Disk Librarian

December Meeting

Bill Walden, the author of "FAMILY HISTORY", a genealogy program, for the ATARI 400, 800, XL and XE series, will be returning as our guest speaker for December. There are a lot of features in this program that make it an outstanding database program. He will have some of the software available at a reduced price for club members.

For the January meeting, I am trying to get a representative from ELECTRONIC ARTS. I'll let you know more in the January Newsletter.

I wish everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope that you have your Christmas shopping (Dream) list made out for Santa. Good luck in getting what you want from Santa for your ATARI. May I suggest the "disk of the month" as an item on your list. You might even be thinking of getting a new 520ST or 1040ST.

Dick Scott

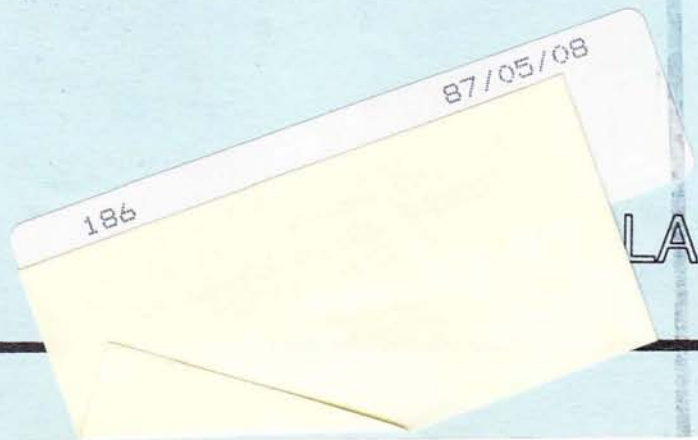
SLCC Journal

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

Next Meeting:

December 2, 1986 8pm
San Leandro Community Library
300 Estudillo Avenue

TO:



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