

SLCC

JOURNAL

SAN LEANDRO COMPUTER CLUB December 1989



MICRO WORLD

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Have we got some prices for you! Once again the holidays are upon us and we here at Microworld hope you are set for the best Atari Christmas ever. We have exotic games like Skrull, Wicked, Kult, and Darius from overseas. Old standbys like Falcon, Dungeonmaster, and more at 25-35% off. We have more new games than you can shake a stick at, such as STRIDER, SLAYER, ALTERED BEAST, MANIAC MANSION, DYNAMITE DUX and dozens more at 20-30% off for the holidays. After all, MICROWORLD is the **ONLY** store which primarily supports the ST/TT line of computers. We have over 2000 products on our shelves for YOUR computer. If you want to see ATARI grow and be around for the future, come in and BUY THINGS. I know this is a philosophy basically alien to the minds of Atari owners, but we must realize it is money that makes the software and hardware keep coming! Incidentally, if you are merely frugal, check out our 520 SPECIAL to the right or how about some Game Compilations like ThrillTime: Thundercats, Buggy Boy, Space Harrier, Ikari Warriors, Beyond the Ice Palace, Bombjack, Battleships, and Buggy Boy for \$40 that's \$5 a GAME! How about it?

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Many thanks to those who take the time and effort to contribute to this publication!

San Leandro Computer Club

P.O. Box 1506
 San Leandro, CA 94577-0374

An independent, non-profit organization of Atari microcomputer users. Membership provides access to the club print and magnetic libraries, subscription to the **Journal** and participation in club activities. See membership application elsewhere in this issue for details on an opportunity you can't pass up.

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 SEE YOU AT THE MAIN MEETING
 December 5th

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Editorial Note

I would like to offer a personal note on recent events. First of all, my gratitude goes to Jim Hood and Bob Woolley for coming to the rescue and taking over *Journal* responsibilities for the past couple of months. The earthquake has left me working long overtime hours without many days off (more on that later). Jim and Bob have done a marvelous job, almost as if they've done it before. Thanks a lot guys. My appreciation also goes to Darryl May for continuing to send a great assortment of files and news updates from his sentinel outpost in the Rockies.

Jim Hood made some very astute comments about the recent Bay Area quake in the last issue of the *Journal*. I'd like to add a few of my own.

The aftermath of the earthquake has doubled the size of the staff that I supervise at the City of Oakland building permit issuing area. Which brings to mind the fact that we have immediate openings for an entry level provisional appointment called Permit Technician (starting at \$14.58 per hour). This is a promotional position leading to Building Inspector. A construction and or construction related educational background is desirable. If you have any questions on this give me a call. As well as staff increases across the board, assignments have been shuffled in anticipation of the doubling of volume due to the Billion dollars worth of repair and development work in the wake of this little shaker.

Depending on where you live and the places you travel in the Bay Area, you might not think that the 7.1 was that significant of an event. The nature of my occupation and the people that I work with have not afforded me that sheltered view. My focus is on the damage to property, businesses and the lives of those who will be feeling the effects for years to come. And then there are those for whom I have gained a new respect. Like the Firemen and volunteers (the real heros) that risked their own lives by crawling on their bellies between the collapsed sections of the Cypress structure minutes after the quake, searching for life, only to emerge empty handed with their clothes soaked in a mixture of blood and oil. And then there were the teams of inspectors and volunteer engineers that inspected virtually every building in the area to determine their safety even as after-shocks continued to threaten collapse. I've taking a lot of kidding about my profession in the past, but I feel a new sense of pride knowing that I'm part of a group that is in part responsible for the difference between the 50,000 killed in the Armenian quake a year ago and the 50 killed in this one. I can only hope that we have learned a lesson and will recommit to the seismic upgrade of older buildings in preparation for the big one yet to come.

One of the scariest events for me since the quake was a 3.7 centered in Oakland on the Hayward fault. It had me up and running for the door. I can't imagine what would have happened if it would have been 7.1 or 7.5 as is expected in the near future. The engineers that I work with were really surprised by the action of the 7.1. Some unreinforced buildings were untouched while standing next to new reinforced buildings that suffered major damage. It is apparently impossible to predict and therefore engineer for all the possible harmonic frequencies that these quakes can set in motion. Not only can we not predict the occurrence of quakes, but we don't know what they will do when they do occur.

F.K.

Love Child of 8-Bit Beginner Boogie

Dave is getting creative again.... a little too creative towards the end (heehee)

by Dave Morel

Hi, Bunky. Lemme ask you a question: How many times have you said to yourself that you wished you had some way to make a text window in GRAPHICS 0 like the ones in GRAPHICS 1 through 8? That many times, huh? How strange. I've never ever not even once wanted something like that.

But what the hey, different strokes, etc, and if that's what you really want then I'm gonna make your day by telling you exactly how to get it. Ready? All you gotta do is POKE 703 with a number from 0 to 255 other than 24 and you done done it. Do all your printing to the upper screen first, though, because you won't be able to afterwards. And naturally you POKE 703,24 to bring things back to normal. Actually, I suppose something like this would come in handy if you had a lot of items to choose from and several INPUTs to make.

Hey, as long as we're sorta talking graphics, here's a neat demo I found in the August, 1987, issue of Antic magazine. They say they saw it in our own San Leandro Computer Club newsletter, and that the SLCC gave credit for the program to the Queensland, Australia, Atari Computer Enthusiasts. Antic says this is an impressive effect, and they are right.

```
10 TRAP 10:GRAPHICS 42:C=2:DATA
0,2,4,6,8,10,12,14
20 RESTORE 1:FOR X=705 TO 712:READ
A:POKE X,(C*16)+A:NEXT X
30 IF R=0 THEN FOR X=1536 TO 1562:READ
A:POKE X,A:NEXT X:GOTO 60
40 GOTO 80:DATA
104,162,0,172,193,2,189,194,2,157,193,2,232,224,8
50 DATA 144,245,140,200,2,96,65,65,65,65,65,65
60 FOR Z=1 TO 10:FOR X=1 TO 8:COLOR
X:PLOT 0+L,0+L:DRAWTO 79-L,0+L:DRAWTO
79-L,191-L:DRAWTO 0+L,191-L
70 DRAWTO 0+L,0+L:L=L+1:NEXT X:NEXT Z
80 FOR E=1 TO 31:X=USR(1536):FOR T=1 TO
32:NEXT T:NEXT E:C=C+1:R=1:GOTO 20
```

The GRAPHICS 42 you see in line 10 is not a misprint. This is the same as GRAPHICS 10+32. What the +32 does is display the previous graphics screen in the present graphics mode.

Why would the programmer want to do this? Well, at first he doesn't care one way or the other. But if you'll look at line 20 you'll see that he's POKEing several addresses with computed values. When any of these values becomes larger than 255 an error occurs. Rather than do an IF/THEN to correct this, he set a TRAP at line 10. There he arranges to make his computed values small again and puts us back in GRAPHICS 10, but since he's using a +32 he can continue with the old display and not have to start over.

A pretty smart cookie, this guy, and because of that now we know what a +32 does, and, as an added bonus, we've come across the idea that we can deliberately allow an error to happen and use it to our advantage in a program. How sweet is life.

By the way, you already know that adding 16 to a graphics mode closes the text window, don't you? Well, of course you do. But do you know what happens if you do a +48? If not, probably the easiest way to explain it is to show it, like so:

```
10 GRAPHICS 3+16
20 COLOR 1:PLOT 18,0:DRAWTO 18,23:PLOT
0,20:DRAWTO 39,20
25 REM We don't draw anything again in this
program.
30 FOR DELAY=1 TO 800:NEXT DELAY
40 GRAPHICS 3+32
50 ? "We ain't drawing nuthin.
#";COUNT:COUNT=COUNT+1
60 FOR DELAY=1 TO 800:NEXT DELAY
70 GRAPHICS 3+48
80 GOTO 30
```

Gosh darn. I'd meant to close out this month's article with a short BASIC program that would get you into the Lotto computer and give you a six-out-of-six winner, erase your name from the IRS computer so you'd never again have to pay taxes, and cause the US Air Force to drop tactical nukes on your enemies--but it seems I'm out of space. Not to worry, though. At the next meeting Bob Woolley is gonna demo a hardware mod that will do all the above AND scrub your back and feed the cat. I, for one, am looking forward to seeing it.

Update From Darryl May

The following is from the Front Range Atari Users' Group newsletter:

EARTHQUAKE TAKES LIFE OF VETERAN COMPUTER EDITOR JOHN ANDERSON

John J. Anderson, a 32 year old senior editor at Mac User magazine, was killed in a building collapse in San Francisco when the earthquake struck at 5:04pm on Tuesday October 16th. Anderson, a New York City native who was reared in Bergen County, N.J., was one of the early members of the computer press, joining "Creative Computing" magazine as an associate editor in the spring of 1982. There, he was best known for his regular "Outpost: Atari" columns. When "Creative Computing" was discontinued in 1985, Anderson joined the staff of "Computer Shopper". His last position was on the editorial staff of "Mac User" magazine. He is survived by his wife, Lauren Hallquist, and two children, Peter, 4, and Kate, 1, of Boulder Creek California, and by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Anderson of Cresskill, N.J.

Davis Publications has generously set up a trust fund to benefit John's two young children, offering to match any outside contributions. Those who wish to contribute may do so at the following address: Ziff-Davis Publishing Co.; Anderson Trust Fund; c/o Nancy Woods; 1 Park Avenue; New York, NY 10016. On behalf of John's wife and children, and in light of his long service to the Atari community and to the greater community of home and personal computer users, your generosity is appreciated.

(And now the notes from Darryl)

Atari Developers ban together to form the "Atari Association of Developers". The AAD is an independent association that seeks to strengthen the developer support structure and is devoted to the exchange, expansion, and coordination of developer information and related activities. The group has a category in the Atari Developers RoundTable on GENIE. "Developer Helping Developer" is the associations' motto.

The phones have been disconnected at Creative Microsystem Inc, the maker of the CMI Processor Accelerator.

Atari Stock on a downward swing reaches 8 5/8 on October 27 then bounces up to 10 on November 10th.

In the mail I got my copy of Easy Draw 3.0. I haven't gotten around to checking out what this new version contains.

Bob Chopick and Joe Ceklosky are currently working on LASEROFF, a device to allow those with hard drives and the Atari SLM804 Laser Printer to turn off the SLM804 while not affecting the operation of the hard or floppy drive. Normally turning off the SLM804 will effectively shut down the DMA and floppy ports. They only have beta-versions of the switch box and are considering possible ways of distributing the device. Your response will determine how far this project goes. Anyone who is interested in this device should leave Email to J.CEKLOSKY on GENIE or write to: Bob Chopick at 153 Staub Road; Trucksville, PA 18708.

Word on the street is that "The Games: Summer Edition" from Epyx is a winner and the import Weird Dreams is a dog. "The Games.." features graphics, sound, realistic game play, and humor all in a beautiful package. There are eight events, 24 nationalities with flags and national anthems, world records, medal totals, overall champions, award ceremonies, and opening/closing sequences in the flavor of the Seoul games.

Paradise Computer Systems and SGS Software have just released version 1.2 of the SGSnet software. SGSnet has been shipping for over two months. SGSnet uses the built in MIDI ports to transfer shared data at 31,500 baud using connector boxes attached to each system. A starter kit includes everything you need to network two STs is \$160. Some of the features added to version 1.2 are better program compatibility, time slicing of all network requests, more forgiving of long floppy drive access or SLM804 printing, separate "kernel" and accessory program to save memory, and a new faster cack program.

Michtron is now selling a PC emulator called PC Speed for \$400. PC Speed runs with a Norton factor of 4 and can be installed in any ST. Some soldering is required to install the hardware board on top of the 68000 CPU. On a monochrome monitor it imitates Hercules and on color monitor it imitates a CGA system. The system uses a NEC V30 8MHz zero wait state microprocessor and supports Hard drives, external drives (both 3 1/2 and 5 1/4), the Serial Port up to 2400 baud and the parallel port. Up to 704K of RAM can be used. The MS-DOS system can be saved on a Hard Disk partition, and PC Speed can be booted from this partition. PC Speed's Memory : 256K of DOS memory for a 520ST, or 704K of DOS memory for a (1040ST or MEGA). The following floppy disk formats are supported: 180KB (40 Tracks, Single-Sided), 360KB (40 Tracks, Double-Sided), 360KB(80 Tracks, Single-Sided), and 720KB (80

(Update from Darryl continued next page)

Tracks, Double-Sided). Future improvements include: EGA Monochrome emulator, SLM804 support, MIDI support, Extend memory driver, External PC keyboard, 8087 emulator with the 68881 Math Co-processor, and fast CMP 8080 emulation. Michtron can be reached at (313) 334-5700 or check with your local dealer.

D.A. Brumleve has released Kidpublisher Professional (v6.0), a \$25 color non copy protected program. Recommended for Ages 5-11. The new Kidpublisher Professional features: an (expanded, improved, and completely rewritten) version of the freely distributed careware program called "Kidpublisher", a faster word processor with word wrap and an underline function, an automatically loaded user definable font set (four sets included), an expanded drawing program with features such as LINE, BOX, CIRCLE, FILL, and the all-important UNDO, autobooting disk for completely independent use by children, extra labels for use on the child's disk copies, automatic loading of any (title, story, or picture) previously saved to disk, movement of text cursor with mouse or arrow keys, drawing with mouse or arrow keys, controlled keyboard repeat rate to prevent accidental over deletion by heavy-handed young typists, picture icons and color coding to speed program learning time. The familiar consistent kidprg(tm) format, a title-page option with automatic centering of (title, author, and illustrator), and limited alert boxes and options for ease of use (in contrast to children's desktop publishing programs available for other computers), allows the child to draw his own pictures, type his own words, express his own creativity; no adult drawn graphics are provided to discourage personal expression! D.A. Brumleve can be reached at P.O. Box 4195; Urbana, IL 61801-8820.

About 100-150 disks of SoftLogik's \$10 upgrade package for PageStream 1.8 contain a key virus. This virus can be clobbered with any of the virus vaccination programs.

Apple declares an 11 cents per share dividend for the 4th quarter ending

September 29th, 1989.

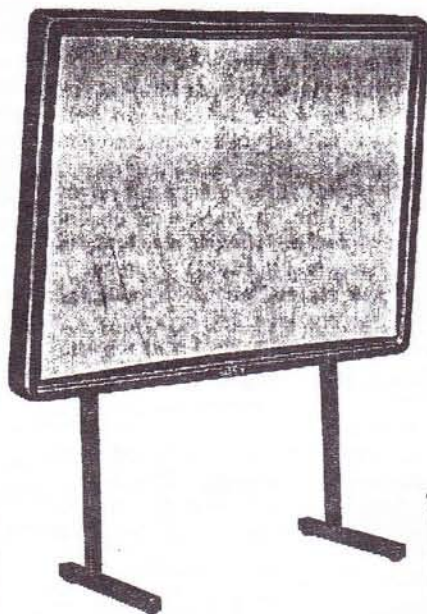
Commodore loses \$6.5 million in the 1st quarter because of a sharp decrease in C64 sales. Amiga ads on TV and in magazines are predicted to reach 95% of the public and each person should see the TV ads 20 times before the campaign ends. 7 page ads in Time magazine have been spotted in the last two weeks. The TV ad is a little silly but the magazine ad makes for very interesting reading. At first glance I thought the print ads were from IBM.

Atari Portfolio ads in magazines have appeared in a number of technical magazines including the November issue of Scientific American on pages 11 and 12.

Atari tries and fails to unload "The Federated Group" to Fretter, Inc., a large-volume specialty retailer of consumer electronic home entertainment products. Fretter currently operates 55 stores in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Massachusetts. A definitive agreement could not be reached between Fretter and Atari. Accordingly, the negotiations have been terminated.

The November/December issue of Atari Explorer magazine contains a review by yours truly. Can you find it?

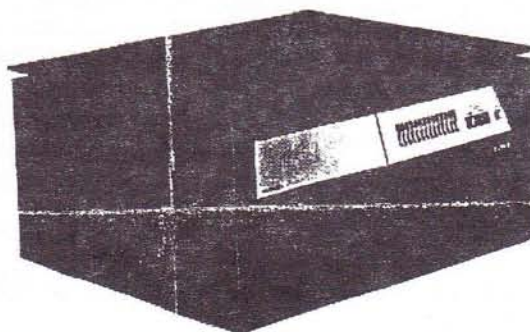
↓ Projector was Migraph hand scanned from folded xero-graphic copy at 300 dpi. Text added with PageStream.



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"The Dream"

An open letter to Atari, dealers, and users.

The Atari engineering department continues to produce astounding machinery. The STE and TT are well improved machines in a mature environment. Atari is also doing very well fiscally. A lot of Atari's current financial success is due to the Atari Portfolio. The world's smallest MSDOS computer has captured the imagination of computer aficionados world wide.

Both the STACY Transportable and the TT have a very classy feel and give an experienced user the feeling of almost unlimited power. At last Atari's video resolution is second to none in the microcomputer market. If the TT does indeed release in a timely manner at less than \$2000 and if the STACY is priced at \$1495 for the basic floppy system, the pledge of "Power without the Price" will be truly fulfilled.

In fact Atari has a virtual plethora of equipment and third party support for this equipment is substantial. From Parsec boards, to Mac and IBM adaptors, to Calamus, Pagestream, and Ultrascript, as well as music sequencing and sampling, point of sale systems, and even dedicated industrial control Mega ST's, there is no dearth of niche development for our machine which has somewhat disappointing sales figures.

This brings us to the crux of the problem. In my opinion the Atari ST/TT line is the broadest base of technically superior hardware available from any company. But every major computer company has an Achilles' Heel. IBM's is their graphic performance. They just aren't fun machines, and there are too many graphic standards. The Mac's is price coupled with a black and white standard which is dominant on their machines. The Amiga's problems are poor resolution and some doubt about the financial stability of Commodore. Tandy has a poor image due to their Radio Shack heritage and current IBM compatible technology. Atari has one major problem. Marketing. All of our minor problems stem from this basic flaw.

The public attitude needs to be changed. Atari has tried various outside agencies including recently a division of Chiat Day, the advertising agency credited with Apple's success. They lasted about thirty days. Frequently Atari has mounted in house campaigns. These have been dismal. Some of the promotions have been enticing, all of the hardware is desirable, and potentially well supported. The one thing Atari has not been able to come up with is a campaign to inspire the masses.

I suggest that perhaps because of the owners coming from Canada, they misunderstand some aspect of the American market. We must certainly compliment the Tramiel family on what they do well. Atari is financially stable, and it was on the verge of ruin when they took over it. The ST consistently offers the most bang for the buck and is in my opinion the wonder machine of the decade.

On the other hand, the American dollar is spent on fads. The hula hoop, Davy Crockett, Nehru jackets, Pet Rocks, and Apple Macintoshes are all fads. The Atari ST has not become a fad because it has not been advertised properly.

I know this may sound self aggrandizing, but after four years as an Atari ST dealer, having to battle to survive as Jack Tramiel did in the marketplace, yet more in touch with users, user groups, developers and the American public than any Atari corporate officer. In fact I studied American Culture through graduate and post graduate school and have a degree in Anthropology. That I chose an economic life of marketing Atari is partially a testimony to the culture change computers are wreaking in our lives and partially due to Atari's accessibility, both in ease of use and availability for less money. What makes Atari inaccessible is the lack of knowledge of their product by the American public.

I say we can change that. One way is by supporting "The Revolution", Don Thomas' ideas on the users selling the brand. The second is hiring me as consultant or marketing specialist for Atari. In one year's time we can double Atari's dealers and quadruple Atari's ST sales in the U.S. with judicious advertising at a percentage of gross specified by Atari. Jack Tramiel and Sam Tramiel told me 10%. I submit that under my direction Atari can spend 8-10% on advertising, reach 10 times as many people, quadruple sales, and create the public image necessary to set the ST as a new standard firmly in the American economy.

If you feel as I do that Atari's major shortcoming is in its public relations, from the general public, through dealer and user group organizations, then I am asking you to write Jack Tramiel, the chairman of the board to give us, the Atari users a chance to market their machine with me as the coach with certain powers in their company. This is not some kind of a takeover or assertion of democracy in action. After all, Atari is a family run company. I'm just suggesting that this one aspect of business could be managed better by me as someone coming up from the ranks. After all, when queried about marketing at COMDEX last week, Leonard Tramiel said, "What marketing?"

If you support this move to better market the ST/TT line please write: Jack Tramiel, Chairman of the Board

Atari Corporation
1196 Borregas Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

and say: I'd like to see Atari ST/TT machines more widely sold and used. I think Bill Yerger has some good ideas. Why don't you give him a try?

Thanks,

Bill Yerger, owner Zephyr/Microworld

cc: Atari Explorer, AIM, STXpress, STart, Current Notes, STInformer, STWorld, STLog, Atari, Genie as "The Dream"

SHOW TIME

The author of this article about Comdex is unknown to me. The article came on a disk from Darryl May with a bunch of other goodies. It has been edited to fit our space. If anyone knows the author, let me know so that proper credit can be given. Thanks ...Ed.

Comdex has to be one of the most fantastic conventions that I have ever attended. While I was there to specifically see the Atari booth and what was new for Atari, I did some sight seeing though the whole convention center. I didn't see any of the 5 hotels that were hosting Comdex, so I am sure that I missed more than I saw.

To the news at hand, Atari news that is.

Atari had a large 2 story booth with 20+ cubicals located just inside the front doors of the West Hall. Atari Corp. was well represented from Jack and Sam to William Smith (S CA Sales rep) to Ken Badertscher (K.BAD). In attendance was Atari Canada. Many other Atari employees were there to give friendly help to anyone.

NEW stuff: The STe TT Mega File 44 Stacy Portfolio Monitorm 19" monochrome monitor.

In the booth representing third party vendors were: Antic, Gadgets by Small, Fast Technologies, JRI (John Russell Innovations), Soft-Logik, ISD, Migraph, Abacus, Michtron, and many others.

Probably getting the most attention was the Portfolio. Many who had never considered an Atari were excited over the Portfolio and were walking through the booth looking at everything. There have been hundreds of requests for developers' kits and as Atari is not developing software there was no new software showing for the Portfolio. Upcoming is software to transfer between the ST and the Portfolio.

Next was the TT desktop model using the 68030 cpu. It supports 5 resolutions on one multisync monitor. Several vendors were running ST software on it and did it fly. DynaCADD really zips on this.

The STe was running games using the extended color palette and the light gun. Two new ports on the left hand side are for new joysticks and on the back are 2 RCA jacks for stereo output. It sounds great.

The Stacy (ST laptop) was there in at least 2 configurations, a one meg model and a 4 meg model with a 40 meg HD. One thing that kept coming up was how great the display works. Lets hope the FCC will release this before Christmas as it will take off.

I only saw 2 Mega File 44s and nobody seemed to be talking about them. Gadgets had one running with the GCR and they seemed pleased.

Monitorm monitors were all over the place. They look great. We are talking big. Touch-Up, Calamus, and Pagemaker (yep, it works in Mac mode with GCR) were a sight to see.

Of third party vendors, the first I ran into was Gadgets by Small. Spectre and the GCR are back ordered until the second week of December according to Sandy. GCR on the Mega 4 with a Monitorm monitor and the Fast Tech T16 is a Mac SE killer at less than half the price. And if STacy with a GCR isn't a Mac Lap killer then there never will be (all for 1/3 the price of a Mac). Also Atari's display is sharper. One of the Mac mags was going to do a photo shoot of Gadgets...congratulations Dave, Sandy and Doug.

Soft-Logik had version 1.8 of PageStream running on a high resolution color (COLOR) monitor. Image Systems makes the adaptor board for around \$800 and doesn't include the monitor.

ISD had Calamus on the Monitorm and also gave a small demo of Outline - an impressive program. Nathan Potechin, President of ISD, is in the process of developing an image Postscript driver for Calamus so that today's users don't have to wait for printer technology to catch up to outline font technology. ISD was also running DyanCADD on the TT with output on a 6 color pen plotter. All 6 colors were visible on the TT's high resolution multi-sync monitor.

Migraph was demoing Touch-Up and on the Monitorm it was beautiful. Fast Technologies had the 16 MHz accelerator and a new board that allows installation of the PC boards.

Abacus had a book on the Portfolio and looked like a good walk through of all the Portfolio's functions.

JRI had four new boards. Genlock for the STe, flicker free with more colors. For the 1040 and 520FM there are memory upgrades using Simm RAM, expanded color to match the STe and the ability to connect a Genlock all on one board. Super VHS Genlock is now available for the Mega. A new JATO accelerator board includes a 68881 co-processor slot.

Michtron was showing PC Speed and PC add on board for the Atari.

IBP was showing the 190ST, an ST clone in a rack mounting with loads of expansion including a VME bus.

ATY Computer (415) 482-3775

3727 13th Ave., Oakland CA 94610
(East of HWY580, between E38th St. and Excelsior)

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Sat and Sun 12p.m. to 5p.m.

Pounding on the 8-Bits

Buy your own / Share what you know / 8 bits are plenty

by Bob Woolley SLCC

AAAAARRRRRRGGGH! Did anybody call San Jose Computer for a pair of 1020 gears as I suggested in the last Journal?? They may start selling them if enough people call, but I got mine from Best Electronics, not San Jose Computer. Best Electronics has been a fantastic source of "hard" parts for Atari products. They have a very good selection of things that can save your life. You know, all those little things like 810 door latches and stuff. Sometimes, a broken \$2 part that can be easily replaced wipes out an expensive piece of equipment, so keep BE in mind!

Best Electronics
2012 The Alameda, Suite 290
San Jose, CA 95126
408+243-6950.

Not that San Jose Computer should be forgotten. They are selling currently 1020s (new) for \$15, 1025s (used) for \$59, 1200XLs (used and *new*) for \$49 (*\$69*), and all three for \$99!. They also have 600XLs without power supplies for \$20!!! (whota deal)

San Jose Computer
640 Blossom Hill Rd.
San Jose, CA 95123
408+224-8575.

And, as long as I am plugging "good folks" -

American Techna-Vision
15338 Inverness St.
San Leandro, CA 94579
800+551-9995 or 415+352-3787

and -

B&C ComputerVisions
3257 Kifer Road
Santa Clara, CA 95051
408+749-1003.

Between these four dealers, you can get anything your little 8-bit heart desires!

Except, maybe, an EPROM Burner that will program 256K and 512K devices....

For years, the best burner around was the ProBurner. It was easy to use and could do any of the EPROMs used in Atari 8-bit equipment. But, it did not work too well in anything but an 800 (my experience), and, worse yet, had no provision for 12.5 volt ICs. Since most of the big, CMOS, EPROMs are 12.5v (even 64K and 128K sizes) you are limited in what you can program. Not such a big problem back when big EPROMs cost an arm and a leg - now, however, the cost of 256K (32Kx8) and 512K (64Kx8) EPROMs has dropped to the point where it is practical to use them in hardware modifications. But, how do you do them in a ProBurner that tops out at 128K and 25v?

Enter the Super E-Burner, sold by an outfit called CSS (716+586-5545 @\$149). It not only does 12.5 volt devices (as well as older 21 volt and 25 volt units) up to 512K, but it programs at incredible speed!

All EPROMs are produced such that no more than 50ms (.05 sec) is required to imbed the data permanently in each lattice address. But, that is the maximum pulse timing - the typical value may be as little as 1ms and using 50ms (as the ProBurner does) may be wasting time. The SEB uses short pulses and tests the data. If it is OK, then the next address is selected. If not, the data is re-burned and re-tested. This saves one heck of a lot of time. The ProBurner takes 6+ minutes to program a 27128, while the SEB usually finishes in less than 30 seconds (including a verification pass).

The unit is contained in an external case with a flat cable that plugs into your cartridge port. It is powered by a small wall-type supply that supplies

the programming voltage only - you don't need to plug it in to read or verify an EPROM. The software is menu driven and very easy to use (although I haven't tried it on my XEP-80 ... the acid test). One very handy feature is that you plug the ICs in and out while you are running. You can select a 2764, for example, burn it, and then select a 27256 and burn that, all without ever re-booting the system. Couldn't do that on the ProBurner! There are a couple of switches that you have to set for the different addressing sizes and voltages. **I strongly suggest that you try to program anything that you are not sure of at 12.5 volts first** Programming a 12.5 volt device (they aren't always marked) at 25 volts will ruin your day. Burning a 25 volt device at 12.5 volts may not work, but it doesn't trash your part, either. AND, last but not least, the SEB works great on my 1200XL!

The only negative comment I have heard about the SEB is that it does not have a monitor - you just specify the filename and it gets stored into the EPROM starting with location 0000. This may not be so bad once you get used to it. I don't miss it at all, now.

Great little box. Get one!

(Whafor?, he asks)

How about a software only FREEZER? You know, a coldstart switch that will re-boot your computer without requiring you to drop power or lose the contents of your ramdisk? That's one of the first things I did - on my 1200XL using the 800XL OS. Just change the data starting at \$FC98 to \$4C \$77 \$E4. This will produce a cold start when you hit the CNTL-F4 keys. Originally programmed to switch character sets, it now jumps to \$E477, the coldstart vector. Of course, only the 1200XL HAS an F4 key.....

If you ARE interested in getting a 1200XL, plan on fixing the video (Sept '89 Journal) and using the 800XL/130XE OS (making changes to the OS requires re-calculating the checksum bytes at \$FFF8-9). And, you may want to stick another ANTIC/GTIA chip set in there.

(???

Remember the dual ANTIC modification that I had at the meeting a few months back? I have finished the second prototype to the point where it sits inside the 1200XL nicely, now.

(So?? Whatizit?)

"It" enables a second ANTIC and GTIA chip (which have their own memory) to produce a background screen timed to your normal screen. This second screen can alter both the intensity and color of the displayed foreground pixels. Using this system, 16 intensities of a single hue (color) can be output in 160x160 resolution. Or, up to 7 different hues in multiple intensities. Or, four shades of a single color in 320x192 resolution. Or, two hues in two shades at 320x192. The modes may be mixed - i.e. GR.0 foreground and GR.11 background (such a mode could be used to highlight text blocks in 16 different colors at once on a GR.0 screen). I haven't tried them yet, but scrolling, P/M graphics, and even DLI's should be functional on both sets of chips. Lots of possibilities here..... Stay tuned!

The Dynamic Duo stopped by the other nite, home from the Grind for Thanksgiving. Was great to see them..... Sure wish someone would pick up where they left off. Even a late DOM is better than what we have now. I'm sure that many of you 8-bitters feel that you couldn't do a good enough job to be 8-bit DOM chairman, but look, how hard can it be? - the 16-bit group manages to make it happen! The Club is not great because of a couple of people doing great things - it's great due to a number of people just doing.

SCANNING AROUND

With Jim Hood

Scattered about are some Migraph hand scanner samples, captured in Touch-Up and printed with PageStream. Some prattle is also interspersed.

Migraph Hand

*A clever new device
makes it easy and convenient
to add images
to your documents*



Creating, capturing, and modifying "computer artwork" is now much simpler thanks to a new device from Migraph. The Migraph Hand Scanner is, as the name implies, a small hand-held device that literally allows an image to be scanned into the memory of your ST. Bundled with *Touch-Up*, Migraph's image-editing software (reviewed in the July/August 1989 issue of *Explorer*), the Hand Scanner digitizes images in a choice of four resolutions—100, 200, 300, or 400 dots per inch.

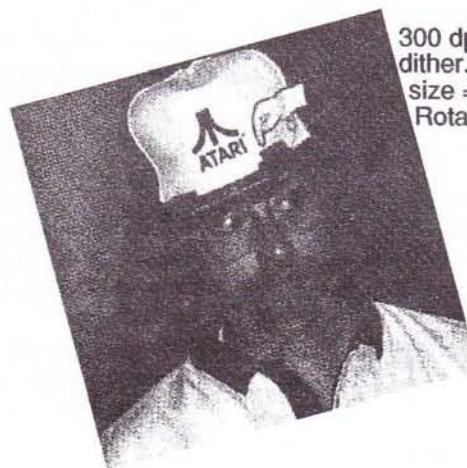
The scanner system includes an ST cartridge interface, a power supply for the scanner, and the scanner itself. Installation is simple. (I'll repeat Migraph's warning: Installation of any cartridge interface should be done when the computer power is off. Failure to do



300 dpi Line Copy from Pamela Rice Hahn's Review in the November/December Atari Explorer. Read her article for operating details. IMG file size = 115,458 bytes.

Sig Hartmann Resigns

We told you back in the August issue that it couldn't be far off. Sig probably planned to resign at the end of September, but you know how things drag on at Atari. We commend him for being good to his word and resigning when Atari didn't deliver new products by their announced dates. We also wish him well in his future endeavors.



300 dpi. Small dither. IMG file size = 36,200. Rotated 15°.

Winner's Circle Dropping Atari

More rumors. A couple of different sources indicate that Winner's Circle may drop the ST at the end of this year. Talk has it that Andy at Winner's Circle has never been that hot on the ST; carrying it mainly to bug Bill at MicroWorld. Andy supposedly is disappointed with hardware sales and has despaired of Atari getting their STacys and TTs to market. [Haven't we all?] This will give him more room for selling Amigas. Until Commodore goes bankrupt next year.



Scanner set @ 400 dpi, Touch-up @ 300 dpi. IMG file size = 16,173.

SLCC Christmas Donation

Our President, Keith Sammons, presented Library Director, David Bohne and Administrative Assistant, Barbara Hutchins, a club check for \$200.00. The money will go to the San Leandro Library Gift fund.



Push awhile then pull awhile.

or

Wiggle your way down.



And Still Only \$20.00

The December 5th meeting will be our combined holiday and club birthday party. The SLCC will be seven years old come February. Memberships were \$20.00 then and are \$20.00 now. That's because your officers can't give themselves raises like your Congressmen can. I got elected to the wrong thing.

By the way, the club constitution says that if you're over 65, you don't have to pay dues and if you are under 18, your dues are half price. Let us know if we've been cheating you.

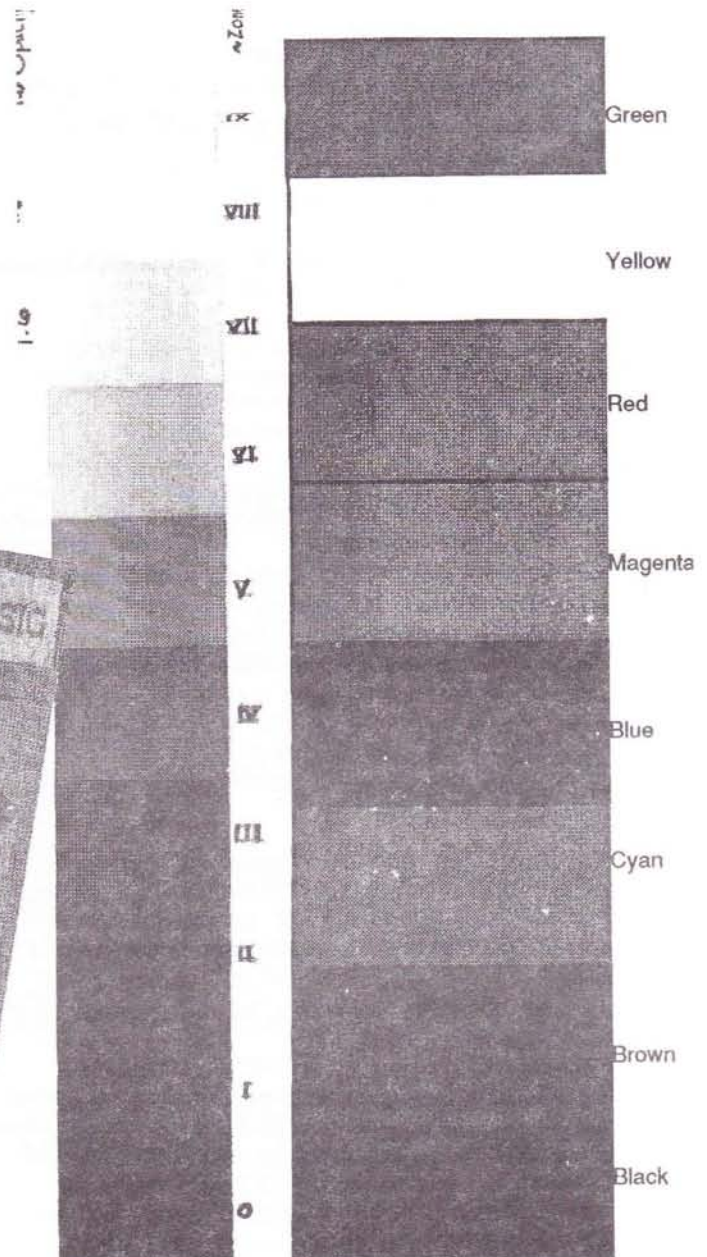
Soft-Logik Donation

Soft-Logik has given the club two copies of **PageStream Version 1.8**. One is to be kept for club use, the other is for **raffle or auction**. Bring money to the next meeting if you are interested in glomping onto this great program.

Thanks to Soft-Logik!!



GRAY SCALE AND COLOR CONTROL PATCHES



Scanned from the Kodak Color Dataguide at 300 dpi. IMG file size = 150,272.

MORAN'S MINUTES

General Meeting November 7, 1989

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM by President Sammons, with all Officers present.

Announcements

There are now three phone lines on STU'S PLACE BBS.

782-4402 (2400 Baud),
887-2158 (300-1200 Baud),
785-5367 (300-1200 Baud).

Spectre GCR, the Mac emulator, is now shipping. Several members reported receiving them.

We will have our regular Christmas/Birthday party at next month's regular meeting on December 5th. As is customary there will be cake, ice cream and soft drinks. Members' families are welcome.

The members in attendance at tonight's meeting are almost evenly split between 8 and 16 Bit owners.

Bob Brodie, ATARI User Group Representative, reported that Sig Hartmann, ATARI VP, has retired. Bob also mentioned that COMDEX was starting next week and that he had some tickets available.

The President stated that the Business SIG would be held as the second half of the ST SIG. Possibly there will be a 7:30 starting time for the ST SIG. [Ed. note: Not for the present.]

The article for 8 Bit beginners that Dave Morel wrote for last month's JOURNAL will be reprinted in the ATARI EXPLORER magazine. (Dave will probably charge us for his articles in the Journal after this.)

Business

A motion made by Peter Norman, seconded by many, that the club make a \$200 charitable donation to an organization chosen by the executive board. Motion Passed.

Demonstrations

Don Safer found an interesting 8 Bit simulation type game called TRAIN DISPATCHER that he brought to demo. It shows a graphic simulation of several train tracks with various colors showing the progress of trains along the tracks. Considering the price, a good one!

Bob Woolley searched through his hoarded pieces and parts and found a 1020 printer/plotter that worked properly and brought it to complete his demonstration started last month. This plotter is available through San Jose Computers and B & C Computers for about \$15. The little plastic gears that regularly break can be bought for 2/\$5. Color pens and paper are available through Radio Shack. For the very low price this little plotter does a great job and can give many hours of pleasure. An extra good buy for 8 Bit owners.

After a short break the night's raffle was held which resulted in Jim Hood unloading some more of his junk collection. [Ed. note: It's the club's junk, Hood is too cheap to give away his own.] Bob Woolley was so appalled at the selection that he donated his demo 1020 printer. Somebody said they thought Hood might break out some really good stuff for the raffle at the Christmas party next month.

Peter Norman, after watching the forgoing demonstrations, decided that the membership deserved better so he proceeded to demonstrate his recently acquired copy of COMPUTER EYES for the ST. Despite the handicap of having to use Woolley's green Tweety Bird as part of his demo, Peter put on a good show which demonstrated some of the abilities of COMPUTER EYES.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10 PM.

Respectfully submitted - Jim Moran - Secretary

December 1989

SLCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 Main Meeting 8:00 PM San Leandro Library	6	7	8	9
10	11 ST & Business SIG 8:00 PM San Leandro Library	12 Telecomm. SIG 8:00 PM	13	14 Business SIG 8:00 PM	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Journal Deadline	23
24	25	26	27 ST Beginners' SIG 7:30 PM	28	29	30
31						

Membership Application for the San Leandro Computer Club

Yes, I would like to receive 12 months of the SLCC JOURNAL along with other membership benefits, including software discounts, training, technical assistance and much, much more for one low, low price. I have filled out the application below and am including my check for \$20.00 (or \$40.00 if I am outside the US or Canada). I can hardly wait!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (ZIP)

Home Phone: _____
(Optional)

Membership No.

Computer(s) _____ Hard Disk(s) _____

Monitor(s) _____ Modem(s) _____

Disk Drive(s) _____ Printer(s) _____

Other: _____

Programming Experience: ☐ Professional ☐ Average ☐ Learning ☐ Hate It

Programming Languages: _____

Interests: ☐ Business ☐ WordProcessing ☐ Hardware ☐ Education ☐ Music
☐ Home Finance ☐ Art/Desktop Pub. ☐ Scientific ☐ Games ☐ Other

Christmas Party!

It's time for our annual Christmas Party, with cake, ice cream and good times. Be sure to bring your husband, wife or significant other and, most of all, the kids!

See you there!!

SLCC

JOURNAL

P.O. Box 1506 San Leandro, CA 94577-0374

**Next Meeting:
December 5, 1989
8:00 PM**

**San Leandro
Community Library**

FIRST CLASS MAIL