SLCC OURNAL

San Leandro Computer Club

November, 1990



So you expected turkeys, maybe? Take your pick from page 3.

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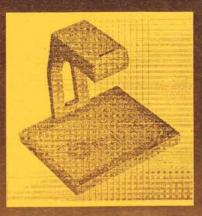
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Editor: DeWayne Stuart (887-3028) (This space for rent!) Lackey: Jim Hood Gofer and General Pain:

Keith Sammons

Many thanks to those who take the time and effort to

contribute to this publication! If we haven't used your submittals in the past - KEEP TRYING. The thrill of eventual publication is worth the agony of a few rejections!

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

November 6

Advertising Rates: Full page for 3 Issues \$100. Single issue prices are Full page \$50, Half page \$30, Quarter Page \$18, and Business Card size \$5.

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RANTINGS AND RAYVINGS

By Ray Thomas

I thought long and hard before agreeing to become the Desktop Publishing Sig Leader. I had a bad experience when I became assistant editor of the Far Western Division magazine of the international barbershop quartet society to which I belong. Part of the job description included taking over publication of the entire (48 page) magazine if the editor was incapacitated.

No problem, I thought—how much trouble could *that* get me into? Unfortunately, that obligation, taken *before* my graphic design and typesetting business grew to its present level, became a monster when the editor became incapacitated, not for one issue, but for an entire year.

I was the editor for just two issues, and the amount of work it took very nearly ran me out of business before they were able to find a replacement.

There is no way this job could evolve into a similar nightmare...is there?

At any rate, I have to do something to pay these guys back for all the time and effort they've gone to in order to help me with my recent problem with the MFD 1080 (Diverse Data Products, Inc., P. O. Box 695324, Miami, FL 33269) "piggyback" disc drive I bought so I could have the ability to use either 3-1/2" or 5-1/4" discs, and to be able to format discs in the pure IBM standard on my machine.

When it started destroying my data discs, I realized I was in trouble. But it was Jim Hood and DeWayne Stewart who helped me to isolate the problem in the disc drive, rather than in the computer itself. It was Keith Sammons who actually loaned me a disc drive to replace it while it was being repaired and arranged for me to buy a used hard disc at a price I could afford so it would never happen again.

My \$20.00 membership fee couldn't have been better spent.

The problem with the MFD1080 came from the fact that Atari didn't respond when they asked for the documentation on the Mega series. It



seems that at least one of the four "off-the-shelf" drives they use turned out to have a "conflict" with the Mega that caused it to destroy the directories on the discs—making them unusable.

Danny Purisch, their technician, told me it was a quick job to fix and, since it was still under warranty, to just send it in. I did.

That was three weeks ago at this writing, and I haven't seen it back yet. I don't think I'm going to have a problem with them, but I'll keep you informed.

DTP SIG MEETING

Jim Ahrens (Imageinaction, 968 Torrano Ave, Suite #1, Hayward, CA 94542) was to have given us a demonstration of Calamus at last month's meeting, but he got mixed up on the dates and didn't make it. But all's well that ends well, because he did it at this month's meeting.

Apparently, Calamus is "menudriven." That means just about everything is controlled by drop-down menus and icons within the program. You click on an icon in the menu bar and a menu drops down. Then you click on another icon in that menu and that either activates the function you wish or you get another drop-down menu and more icons or places to type in specifications.

One good illustration of the value of "networking" in an organization such as this is that Jim had forgotten that the use of the "Escape" button would clear any line in most Atari applications and was using the "backspace" to clear his lines one letter at a time. He was there to teach us about his program of choice, but we

managed to teach him something about it, too. People who don't join such groups as SLCC are "all alone" out there. Too bad.

The screen display this program can put out is outstanding. It looks almost as good as what comes out of the printer. Speaking of which, what comes out of the printer in "native state" (printed from within the program, rather than printing to disc and using the Postscript/Ultrascript capability) with the Atari laser printer is good and sharp.

Since there is so much about this program to learn, we just couldn't get it all done in one session. So Jim will be back next month to show us some more. If you'd like to know something about this program—be there.

GRAPHICS

The graphic above comes from a source you might not be aware of: (Cooper Graphics-RT, 5846 Highway 111 South, New Albany, IN 47150, (812) 945-3622). On a recent trip to Indianapolis to visit my family, I had a long session with my brother Bob and his "computer maven" (Bob is a recent convert to computers, having purchased an IBM clone), who showed me one of their catalogs.

This catalog is a web offset printed newsprint magazine consisting of 32 8-1/2" x 11" pages, filled with graphics. All graphics on all discs are pictured, and the prices are very reasonable. Since the catalog is so expensive to make, send them \$5.00 for the first copy. When you get it, you can buy seven discs of graphics for \$20.00, or order just one.

They can provide them in many formats, mostly for IBM clones, which is OK for ST owners, since we can use them directly. Just order them in IMG format on 3-1/2" discs. You 8-bit guys can ask if they have your format. Since I don't know what it is, I can't advise you. But I'd bet they've got something you can use. Please be sure to tell them where you saw it. They've been very good to me.

Pounding on the 8-Bits

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

by Bob Woolley

Well, here it is, Journal time again! Lots of neat stuff going on out there in 8-bit land, folks....

The most interesting thing I have run into is a setup that allows you to use an IBM PC as a ramdisk and print spooler. This nifty little device plugs into the SIO port on the Atari and requires absolutely no modifications to either the hardware or operating system in your 8-bit. The software in the PC emulates all the disk drive and printer functions on the SIO, using its own PC drives and printers. Your Atari data and code are stored on the PCs disks and loaded into a ramdisk (up to four) in memory for transfer to and from the SIO. You can even boot directly from the PC, with or without Atari drives on your SIO. This transfer should be much faster than either a standard drive or a Happy since the data does not need to be read from a disk (twice as fast according to the data sheets). As an added benefit, the PC can transer IBM data to the Atari as 'part of the process making it extremely easy to move files between the two systems.

I can feel all the "Power Users" out there thinking "why not just use the PC, dummy?". Why indeed? I don't happen to have MAC65 on my PC. Or Print Shop. No PaperClip (I do have some public domain abortion that s*****s). Zork, Basic, BobTerm,,,, Nada. I could probably "get" some of that stuff. I could probably rob old ladies, too. The point is, I have a portable PC for work that I never use at home. Instead of just sitting in my trunk, it could be doing something useful! At work, where I have a 1200XL and dozens of PCs, I am in even better shape. This configuration does not require an Atari printer interface or disk drive, just the old 1200XL and a monitor! In those instances where you would be considering mass storage devices, hard drives or 720K floppies, your PC would do the job for peanuts.

So? How many peanuts? All put together and tested, \$50. In a kit, \$30. As a file with complete instructions and PC software, it's shareware (\$10 is requested)! I ordered one of these wunder - widgets a couple of days ago, so I can't go into too much detail here, but I ought to have it by meeting time and it'll certainly be there with me! For anyone not at our meetings, the designer is:

Nick Kennedy 300 South Vancouver Russellville, AR 72801 (501) 967-3843 Geec... It's November already? Seems like to me that it was just a few weeks ago that my daughter started school again with those words no Father ever wants to hear --"Daaaddyyyyy,,, my word processor doesn't hold enough pages for my papers anymore!!. I need an IBM...."

Ohmygod. AtariWriter was failing me? My own flesh and blood wandering off the Path into the wilderness? She had been using AW ever since grammar school! Lucky for me, I had PaperClip 2.0 and a Rambo. Using all of the 256K in a Rambo, PaperClip 2.0 allows for 112K of text ram AND runs all of the spelling checker dictionary in ram as well. It did require her to learn to use PaperClip, but she seems to have adapted fairly well. The nice thing is that the Rambo is just \$27.50 at American TV and the memory chips aren't \$10 each anymore. Got them for \$1.50 at FRY's. Total cost - \$39.50, somewhat less than a PC.... So, if you find yourself running out of room, try a little PaperClip 2.0 and a Rambo. And, if your disks are getting too small, you can add a US Doubler (also \$27.50 at AmTV) to your 1050 and run PC in DD too!

As long as I didn't have to spring for a PC, I decided to get her one of those neato, new DeskJet 500s from HP. Great 300 DPI print, like the original DeskJet. Higher speed and landscape mode, like the DeskJet Plus. And, in the 500, Times font! I can't say enough about these little jewels. They require no room for the paper to feed in or out, are very quiet and even the ink has been improved recently so it is more water - resistant! If anyone would like a printer driver for AtariWriter or PaperClip, I have them, OK?

One of the nicer modifications available for PaperClip is a public domain file that alters the screen character set, providing a very eye - pleasing, sans serif font. Hopefully, it will be on the Disk Of the Month soon?

Speaking of the DOM, have you been paying attention lately? There have been some really great programs on them in the last few months (the November disk will feature David plotkin's "Miniature Golf Plus" from the final issue of ANTIC). Bob Scholar has been doing a terrific job getting it all together, but would like another input to the process someone who could provide a couple of selections every month would be nice. The problem with having one person collect the DOM is that you only get what he thinks is appropriate. With two or more contributors, we will get a wider range of files that will appeal to more people! It isn't really difficult - lend a hand, OK? There are three reasons to HAVE a Club in the first place. Trading information and hardware. Sharing the workload. And, group buying power!

SLCC Journal

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

Group buying power? Sure. Like the guy at San Jose Computer. Poor fella slipped in the shower and conked himself in the noggin, or something. He's selling stuff "in mass quantities of 12" for practically nothing! One of the really nice things about the 1200XL is the fact that the power supply is just your everyday 9 volt pack. Cheap and reliable. \$4.00 in mass quantities..... The XL/XE supplies are \$8.00.... Need an INDUS power supply? Use a 5200 supply \$2.50! Your old 810 drive mechanism worn out? \$3.00! Need an 810 side board? \$3.00! The Club should really consider stocking up on these things before the men in white coats show up.

Speaking of men in white coats....

What do you suppose Atari would do if they found a dozen, old 1450XLDs in the back room? You know, those really sexy, dual drive XLs that never got out into the market? Stuff some guys would kill for? It would probably depend on who found them, right? For example:

- a. A sales guy. He hands them out on the QT as favors to those key decision makers that he wants to impress. THE POLITICAL SOLUTION.
- b. A bean counter. He places an ad in the Journal (Wall Street, not SLCC) and arranges for Sothby's to auction them off to the highest bidder. THE ECONOMIC SOLUTION.
- c. A marketing person. She sells them as one twelfth year, transferrable, time - share options on a fixed term lease. THE INVESTMENT SOLUTION.
- d. A User Group Co-ordinator. He donates them to the User Groups that have contributed the most for the Cause. THE PHILANTHROPIC SOLUTION
- e. A janitor. He has some nowhere liquidator sell them for whatever he can get to the first 12 people that walk into his place. THE MUSH FOR BRAINS SOLUTION.

Do I have to tell you what they did?

The 8-bit community has to accept the fact that we represent practically no sales opportunity for the current Atari. There is absolutely no reason for them to do anything for us - they are a business, not the Red Cross. But, do they have to do things TO us?

Have we been bad, Atari?

I've been bad, a little, I guess. You know those hardware things I do? I always try them out to check that they work properly. I just need to start doing it before I print them.... You see, I hack the thing together out of my head and make it work. Then, I look at what I did and write up an article about it. Usually, I get most of it in there and it is pretty accurate. Sometimes, a little bit gets left out or maybe a finger - check creeps in. Then, the next time I refer to the text, the thing does not work properly and I fix the instructions. Gotta fix another instructions.....

The 1200XL video upgrade in the July Journal? I was doing it on my daughter's new 1200XL. Didn't work. Great. The part that says CR19 is removed, no substitute? You gotta have a wire in there for CR19. That works. Not so good as I remember, though. I wonder if I can find the original 1200XL I did it on? Maybe my eyesight is worse than I thought.

Anyway, the diode CR19 requires replacement with a wire to work properly. The whole thing goes:

Pull out entirely: C60, CR20, R182, R183, R185, R187, R45, Q7, and Q18.

Replace with a wire: C115, C118, L15, CR19, and R184. Replace R179 with a 47 ohm resistor.

Add a wire from the left pad of R45 to the left pad of CR19.

Add a wire from the right side of R179 to the chroma pin on the DIN connector (the only empty pin). All references to left/right or top/bottom are with the heat sink in the upper right corner.

Last, but not least, I want to list a couple of really neat sources for Atari 8-bit stuff. Some of our "remote" members may need hardware or software and not have a local supply.

B&C ComputerVisions (408) 749-1003 American TechnaVision (800) 551-9995 or (415) 352-3787 Best Electronics (408) 243-6950 San Jose Computer (408) 995-5080 Atari-Ville (512) 736-1405 Gemini Enterprises (201) 267-0988

I have had very good results in dealing with any of these people and between them all, you should be able to find just about anything still to be had for an 8-bit!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

ST HARD DISKS

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AN'S MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 10/02/90

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by Treasurer Jim Hood because the President was at home studying for his final examination, (kindergarten), and the Vice President was busy trying to remember his name.

Jim started by announcing tonight's raffle prizes, which

had been donated by:

WINNERS CIRCLE, MICROWORLD and MAXIS. He finished by giving a totally insipid demonstration of a new game called SIM CITY from MAXIS, this appears to be a very interesting game in which the player sets up a city planning simulation and then has were being shipped to to deal with all the problems developers and that ATARI had that todays modern cities have to contend with such as supplying power, utilities, jobs, etc.

Our grandiose Vice President, Bob Woolley (He thinks) took over the meeting and in-Russell.

admiring John's new slitzy haircut, he brought us all up to date on his latest goodies and observations on things ATARI. His 4096 color board, the new STACY board for easy RAM upgrades, a 1.4 meg. floppy upgrade, to mention but a few. John brought one of his new STACY boards, and during the the next two Bob's (Woolley next half hour or so gave an unplanned demonstration as 8 Bit Disk of the Month. The he dismantled, upgraded and disk includes 6 games, 2

reassembled the JOURNAL Editors new STACY.

V.P. Woolley next introduced Bob (Tiny) Brodie, the friendly User Group Representative from ATARI. Bob brought with him one of the new LYNX game machines and a whole armload of new games to play in it and one of ICD's new \$299 Accelerator boards. The board was extremely small and nicely done, but Bob had just received it and hasn't had a chance to try it out yet. He will let us know next month how it works. (ED P.S. He brought his Stacy by my shop the other day. The ICD board cooks right along. drs)

Bob said that "TT's"(68030) set up a suite at the Glendale show for developers to try out their new software. The U.S. TT's will start shipping during the COMDEX show which is scheduled for November 12th through 16th. All TT's will be troduced surprise visitor John sold as 32 megahertz or upgraded to 32. The U.S. TT's will vary from 2 to 8 megs of After everybody got through RAM. They will have a SCUZI port and a Phillips color monitor with stereo. All will be sold with a 48 Meg hard drive. Bob closed with a hoped for promise of a TT at the next meeting and his usual question and answer period.

> To finish the nights business and Scholar) demonstrated the

utilities and a couple of applications. Some of the games are RAILKING, INCOMING and PLANETARY DEFENSE which is from the now defunct ANALOG magazine.

After a highly questionable raffle drawing, (that I again lost), the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted Jim Moran - Secretary

Classifieds!

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November 1990

SLCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	Main Meeting 8:00 P.M. San Leandr Library	7	8	9	10
11	ST Meeting Library Holiday?	13	14	Publishing Sig 7:30 P.M.	16	17
18	19	Journal Deadline	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	ST Beginner's Sig 7:30 P.M.	29	30	

Special Interest Group (SIG) leaders and their phone numbers are in the Table of Contents.

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 - all for the low, low price of \$20.00 (or \$40.00 if I am outside the US or Canada).

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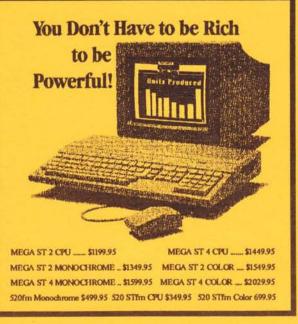
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FROM THE PREZ -

Jim Hood is arranging for a surprise speaker for the November General Meeting; ie, it will be a total surprise if we have a speaker.

John Correia of Walden Software called to say that John Dvorak will be speaking and answering questions at the BayFair store on Saturday, November 10, 1-4PM. Should be interesting.

REMEMBER - THERE IS NO ST MEETING THIS MONTH!

I have arranged with the Library for our meeting dates thru June of next year and, for those who like to plan ahead, the General Meeting will be combined with the ST/Business SIG on Jan 14 due to the New Years Day holiday.

Thanx, KK

San Leandro Computer Club P.O.Box 1506 San Leandro, Ca. 94577-0374

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General Meeting: November 6, 1990