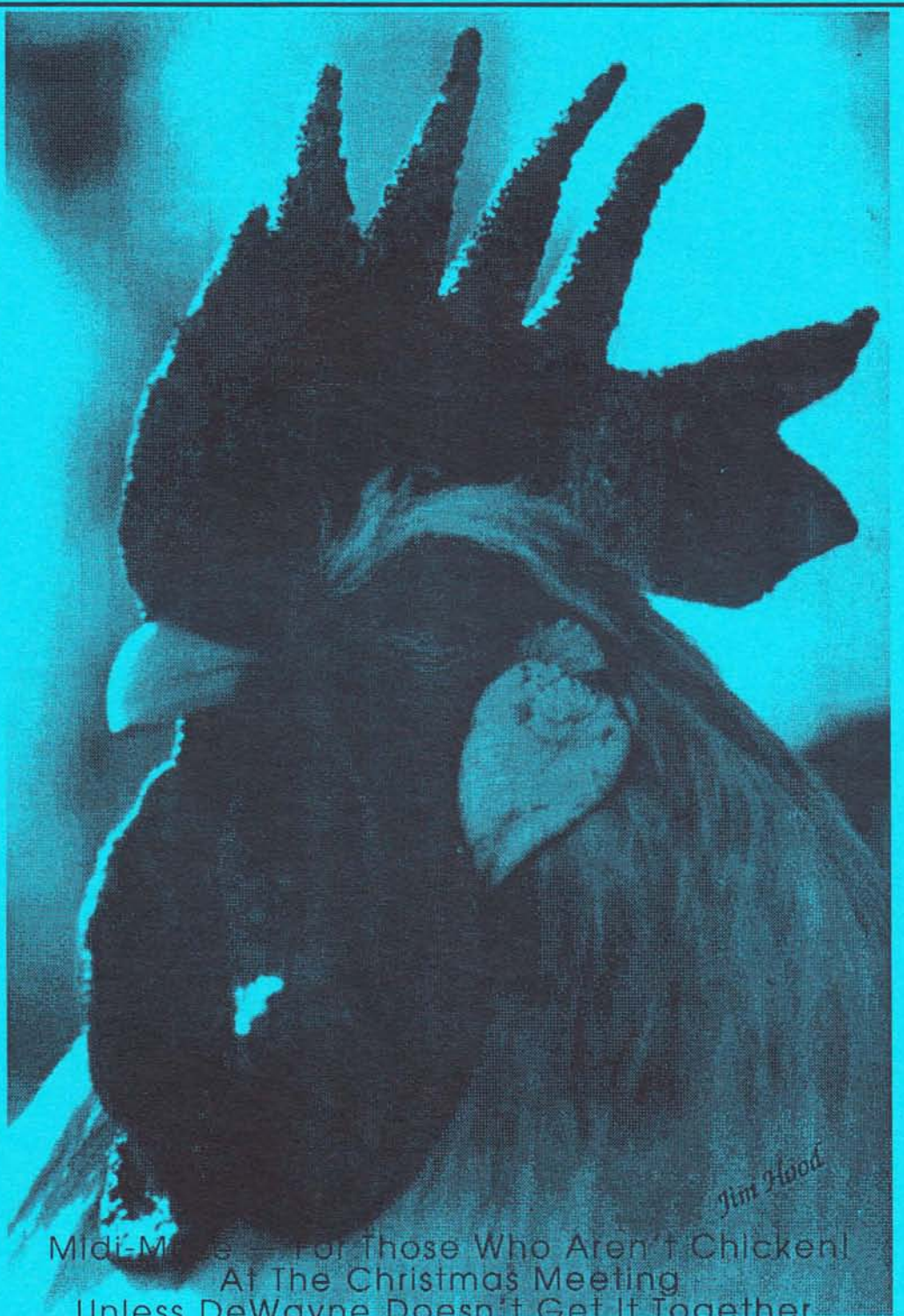
SLCC JOURNAL

San Leandro Computer Club December, 1990



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Unless DeWayne Doesn't Get It Together.

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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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C O N T E N T S

December • 1990

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CALENDAR 10
This month, it's "Fat guys in strange suits...!"

APPLICATION. 10
If You've Got The Money, We've Got The Club

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . . . BACKCOVER
Keith Sammons

Front Cover By Jim Hood

Christmas Party!!

SEE YOU AT THE MAIN MEETING
December 4

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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8/16--Key System (415) 352-5528
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Loose Ends

Jim Hood

In answer to the question on the front cover of the July SLCC *Journal*, no; but apparently neither can anyone else*.

Rumor was that Atari would release the TT's to the U.S. market after Comdex. I know, "after" covers the remainder of eternity, but...

Anyway, a newer rumor is that they didn't pass FCC testing.

Now, are we really supposed to believe that Atari, the only computer company to have its then existing products (Atari 400 & 800) qualify when the FCC originally set the home computing device standards suddenly doesn't know how to build a low emissions computer?

Well, there is also the rumor that our editor has a scam going where the people in the shop next to his feed him every Monday night during football season in return for him not turning on his Stacy during the Monday night ball game, so *maybe* there could be some truth to the noisy machine rumor.

However, I definitely do NOT believe that after testing the TT's, the FCC bought 12 of them to use as white noise generators!

I also think the thing I heard about the Defense Department sending them to Saudi Arabia for use in scrambling Iraq's electronic weaponry is just someone's idea of a joke. (According to *Sixty Minutes*, so are the helicopters we have there.)

Maybe Atari purposely supplied machines designed to fail the FCC tests so they would have more time for some last minute cost reductions to better compete with the latest Amigas and Macintoshes.

Atari did have full color brochures at Comdex on their latest vaporware, including a 16 MHz MEGA ST^E, as well as the 32MHz TT030. There was a matching brochure for the real, live 8 MHz 1040 ST^E too.

I don't know why it should make any difference to me whether the TT and MEGA ST^E are vaporware or hardware. I can't afford either of them now anyway.

I was listening to someone list Atari's shortcomings in the U. S. market – no advertising, poor management, you know, the usual stuff – and I suddenly realized these are the same problems I have with my own work. Geez, no wonder I'm in such bad shape.

OTHER THINGS

I don't know if it's a bug or a feature, but after you COPY an object in PageStream, if you click on PASTE twice before actually pasting your object, you can go around your document merrily pasting away multiple copies without returning to the PASTE command.

Brett Durett and I were fooling around with some pictures in DEGAS Elite. He wanted to cut a block of a particular size, so he hit ESC to get into the Cut Block mode; then he hit HELP and a line of text appeared, which showed the number of horizontal and vertical pixels being included in the block as he moved the mouse around.

He then went into the Block Stretch subroutine and the text was still there, showing the size of the altered block; again as he moved the mouse about.

I said, "I didn't know you could do that!" went home and read through the DEGAS Elite instruction manual a couple of times and still haven't found any mention of that particular feature, which was something that I've always wanted.

Incidentally, the more keyboard commands that I learn for DEGAS Elite, the easier it is to work with.

On the subject of paint programs, Electronic Arts has finally released Deluxe Paint ST. It was reviewed in the October issue of *ST Format* from Britain. They include a demo copy of the program on their disk.

The full program is available from your friendly local dealers. It has a suggested retail price of $99.95.

It is supposed to recognize the increased color palette of the ST^E and the JRI 4096 board.

It runs under TOS, rather than GEM, so I found that I had to use its menu selectors rather than my beloved Universal Item Selector III, but I'm getting used to it.

Incidentally, if you haven't bought Universal Item Selector III yet, for shame! It's great. If it incorporated LDW Power's use of the right mouse button to confirm selections and allowed printing to disk as well as to a printer it would be well-nigh perfect. For this year anyway.

I've had my Portfolio most of this year, so I'll do a short update of my April review.

I orginally didn't take to the layout of the appointment mode of the Diary application. I still have to count on my fingers to enter afternoon appointments in military time, but I have come to like seeing several days' appointments on the screen at once.

A big reason for buying the Portfolio was to be able to keep records in the Worksheet and transfer them to LDW Power. That works fine, but the Worksheet itself hangs up on me sometimes during saves and loses my file, so I usually save to both the A: and C: drives. When I don't double save is when it hangs up. Of course.

I use the Address Book phone dialing feature quite a bit. I like it.

*Can a Frog sell STs to Yankees?

RANTINGS AND RAYVINGS

By Ray Thomas

DTP SIG MEETING

I sometimes wonder about the difference between what people say and what they do. When I asked members to signify their interest in a DTP Sig at a regular meeting, I got about a dozen hands in the air.

Unfortunately, when the meetings began, the best we could muster was four people. And this month's meeting didn't even include all those. The only people who made it were De-Wayne Stuart (there! I spelled his name right that time.) who owns the shop where the meetings are held, Jim Ahrens, who was to give a further demonstration of Calamus, and me.

We had a fine time listening to The Harmonmicats on De-Wayne's humongous stereo system, while learning a few more things about Calamus. But I would rather have had more of those who signified an interest there, as well.

So to give you guys another chance, Jim has agreed to come back yet another time for his presentation. Please be there, so we can keep this needed Sig going.

COOPER GRAPHICS (AGAIN)

I'd better clear up some things about ordering graphics from **Cooper Graphics,** whose share-ware offerings I mentioned in the last issue.

One of the things I said was that you could order them in

IMG format on 3-1/2" discs. Actually, he needs a bit more information than that, as I discovered when I ordered his 7-disc special.

I don't think five days had gone by after my order was sent before the discs arrived. (This guy is ***quick!***) Unfortunately, the discs contained the graphics I ordered, in all the formats he had—in archived (squeezed) form. Which threw me a curve, because I can't "unarc" IBM files on my ST.

There is an unarc program on each disc, but I have to do it on an IBM. He's sending me more discs, but to save him (and you) problems, tell him this when you order: Send the files in "unarced" form, in IMG format, on IBM formatted 3-1/2" discs. If you do this, you'll be able to pop his discs into your ST and import his files with no trouble.

Of course, if you have a DTP program that uses a different graphic format (such as Publishing Partner, whose main graphics format is Degas), just replace the IMG with PI3 or whatever the extender for your format is.

The important thing, which many ST owners don't know (I didn't, until someone took the trouble to tell me), is that our disc formatting is essentuially identical (only two points of difference, which means we can read and write to IBM formatted discs, but an IBM can't read and write to ours. The ST is more "forgiving" than is the IBM. Har, har.) to that of the IBM clone and some later model Macintosh computers.

That similarity in disc formatting gives us a definite advantage when trying to print our postscript files on either an IBM or a Macintosh.

That's right—I said a Macintosh.

Most people—most especially Macintosh people don't know that you can print postscript files through a Macintosh. I'm not exactly sure how to do it, or on what specific Macintosh models. But I've seen it done. I've had it done to my own files.

But one thing I *will* do is find out, and let you know in a future issue.

Cooper is sending me some material for our disc librarian. I'll see that he gets it when it comes in and it will be available, just as is the material on the 22 discs that were sent us by **The King's Domain,** in Graton, California. Check with the ST Disc Librarian for any of this material.

Pleas support these people by ordering some graphics from them. Lots of shareware users don't pay for what they use. Let's make sure we support the shareware concept by doing so.

Pounding on the 8-Bits

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

by Bob Woolley

I got to play with the SIO2PC hardware after the last meeting and it's really a winner! The package came on the day of the meeting, so I didn't get much time beforehand to really wring it out. Now, I have a pretty good feel of how this system will run on an 8-bit. For any of you not familiar with last month's column or meeting, the SIO2PC hardware allows you to use an IBM PC as a disk drive on an 8-bit. It will also emulate the printer, sending the data to the IBM printer, disk drive or screen. The package is public domain shareware or available in kit form ($30) or assembled ($50) from:

Nick Kennedy
300 South Vancouver
Russellville, AR 72801
501+967-3643

I had NO PROBLEM hooking it up. I had NO PROBLEM at all running my systems from just the PC. I had NO PROBLEM moving files from an Atari drive to one of the four SIO2PC ramdrives. I used boot disks, AtariWriter disks, DD disks, and blue disks NO PROBLEM. Sector editors like DiskWiz think they're talking to a real drive. Chipmunk modified disks think it's a real drive. BobTerm downloads at 2400 baud just like a real drive - no little glitches on the SIO to the 850/modem at all. I took an ST DEGAS file and sent it thru SIO2PC as an 8-bit file - NO PROBLEM. I could then view the pic with the new 8-bit DEGAS viewer - NO PROBLEM. I sent it back to the PC as an ST file again - NO PROBLEM. I displayed it on the ST - NO PROBLEM. It runs fast. It runs smart. It runs good. I like it.

I'll bring it to the December meeting, OK? To all those who don't make it to the meeting - have a very Merry Christmas!

The next section of this article was written by Bob Scholar, the 8-bit Program Chairman. His contribution to the Club is building the Disk Of the Month for every meeting - a job that hadn't been getting done since the Duo left for Higher Things. At this point in the 8-bit's life, making up a DOM is considerably more difficult than it has been in the past (not to take anything away from the Duo...). Bob could use some additional help from one or two of our 8-bit members. Nothing heavy, just help. (didn't I do this last month? yep. and I'm doing it every month until we get a winner!!) If you do decide to volunteer, tell Bob, not me. I've been a Space Kadet recently and I'll just scr** it up (grin). OK, Bob, take it awaaayyyy ...

THE 8-BIT DISKS

by Bob Scholar SLCC 8-bit Program Chairman

We've 'published' a lot of great programs on the SLCC library disks this year. The one thing we (or I) didn't do was to tell about them in our Journal. Well, to start with, let's look at our recent disks from Vol 8 no.11 (November) and back.

First - an announcement!! About January 19, 1991 (Saturday), we're planning a joint seminar / study session with ABACUS, the S.F. Atari club, on word processors and, especially, TextPro. Craig Glassner and Dave Merrihew of ABACUS will lead. We'll try to get the San Leandro Library. More later as we firm up the date and place. Bring your questions and WP programs!

SLCC Disk - Vol 8 no.11 (November)

Programs on this disk (*=featured)
Two utilities
* DAISY-DOT II (Roy Goldman)
BILLBOARD (Chris Wareham)

Program comments:
DAISY-DOT II (DDII) can print near letter quality (NLQ) text on a Star or Epson compatible printer. It offers great flexibility in print styles and font selections. A font editor, a utility program and 14 fonts are also included and explained in the 24 pages of docs that come with the program.
BILLBOARD is a separate PD program. It prints out MicroPainter pictures for use with DDII text.

SLCC Disk - Vol 8 no.10 (October)

Programs on this disk (*=featured)
Four games
GINRUMMY 1 player (w/T-Basic)
FORTUNE 2 players (keyboard)
* MINIGOLF 1-8 players (J/S)
HGMINE 1-4 players (Kbd or J/S)
Two utilities
OMNILOAD - Pic viewer/loader
FORMATII - formats 2 disks

Program comments:
GINRUMMY.BAS is an exceptional game for one player.

The computer's a good, but not perfect, opponent. Don't play it in Atari Basic! It will be much too slow! It needs to be run in TurboBasic (T-B). It runs well under either version of T-B.

FORTUNE.BAS (Wheel of Fortune) for 2 players on keyboard. Plays 3 rounds, and then a "big" round- for $25,000. It has 500 puzzles, in 5 categories. It also has provisions for you to make your own using the support file DGEN.BAS. Other versions of WOF are in the SLCC library on Vol 4 no.9 and Vol 5 no.5.

MINIGOLF (Miniature Golf Plus) by David Plotkin is the big game on this disk. It's written in Basic XL with a runtime package; you don't need the Basic XL cartridge.

HGMINE.BAS (Mercury Mine) is a game by Sol Guber from the 10/83 issue of Creative Computing (Vol 9 no.10). It's for 1-4 players with J/S or keyboard, on a 9x13 grid.

OMNILOAD.COM: a compiled Basic utility to load or view any type of picture in any graphic format.

FORMATII.BAS is by Jim Lee, of ABACUS. Follow instructions to format in 2 drives at once.

SLCC Disk - Vol 8 no.9 (September)

Programs on this disk (* = featured)

Six games
* RAILKING 1 to 4 players
* PLNETDEF - arcade action
* TOWERS 1 player - puzzle
* LABYRNTH 1 player - puzzle
  INCOMING - like Missile Command
  LASERSTK - like Battleship

Two utilities (combined)
  TWOCOLMN.CTB, and PRNT3COL.CTB - both run under RUNTIME.COM
  .CTB indicates Compiled Turbo Basic files.

Two application programs
* SPEDCALC (SpeedCalc) + docs.
  SPELLER (Magic Spell) + docs.

Program comments:

RAILKING.OBJ is a PD game or simulation for one to four players; written in ACTION by David H. Neal.

PLNETDEF.OBJ is an arcade type action game from ANALOG #17 (3/84).

TOWERS.BAS is a classic logic game from ANALOG #3. It has docs.

LABYRNTH.BIN is a 3D maze game (or adventure) by Steven Lashower, from ANALOG Computing / Argosoft. Figuring out how it works is the challenge.

INCOMING.OBJ is an arcade type game similar to Missile Command.

LASERSTK.BAS (Laser Strike) is from COMPUTE! #79, by B. Schulak; it's like classic Battleship.

RUNTIME.COM and TWOCOLMN.CTB or PRNT3COL .CTB can make two or three column printouts of text. You need an XL/XE and (for 3 column) a printer with a compressed mode switch.

SPEDCALC.OBJ - the spreadsheet from COMPUTE! #70 (3/86) by Kevin Martin and Charles Brannon. Documentation is in 5 files.

SPELLER.OBJ - from ANALOG #46 (9/86). To make your own checker.

SLCC Disk - Vol 8 no.8 (August)

Programs on this disk (* = featured)

Three games
* ATARTRIS.COM - like Tetris
  CROSFIREH.EXE - arcade action
  TTT3D.OBJ - 3D TicTacToe

One game or demo (a classic)
* LIFE.COM - w/ 'windows', etc.

Three utilities
* A65.COM - M65 Assembler
  VIEWIT25.COM - UNARC utility
  WHATIS.COM - I.D. utility

Program comments:

ATARTRIS.COM - another version of Tetris! It had an attached .TXT file, which gives very good info re game options, etc. I added a chart comparing it with TETRIX (on SLCC's disk Vol 8 no.1 and 2) and FORTRESS (on disk Vol 8 no.6). One or two players.

CROSFIRE.EXE is an arcade type action game - very fast.

TTT3D.OBJ is TicTacToe in 3D.

LIFE.COM is the classic 'game' which has been around a long time - with many variations. This one is very different! It has a new user interface with windows and drop - down menus developed by the programmer, Anthony Ramos. It looks like an ST, Amiga or Mac. You use a J/S to operate it. LIFEDOCS.TXT gives an excellent summary and instructions for play. There are also 7 related files denoted by a .LIF extender.

A65.COM is a simplified MAC/65 macro - assembler with six related files and three DOC and TXT files.

VIEWIT25.COM can display the contents of ARCed or ALFed files.

WHATIS.COM identifies 27 types of different files including KOALA and GIF Pictures, SDX, MAC/65, data and text, Daisy Dot, DISCOM, ARC .....etc. Can also be used on ST or other computer's files.

Next month .... more to come!

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MORAN'S MINUTES

November
General Meeting
11/06/90

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by Vice President Bob Woolley. All the important Officers were in attendance. The President who failed in his third attempt to get into AA meetings is at home studiously cramming for the entrance examination in remedial reading.

DeWayne Stuart (STU) reported that the ICD accelerator board discussed at last months meeting has been installed in Bob Brodie's ST and seems to work very well.

The WALDENBOOK SOFTWARE store at BayFair Mall in San Leandro, is carrying ST software (75 titles) and is willing to special order any titles not stocked.

Donations for the raffle were from Bob Barton (Computer Source), WINNERS CIRCLE and MICROWORLD.

Bob Woolley demonstrated how efficiently his 130 XE used an IBM computer as a disk drive. With the use of an inexpensive do it yourself (shareware) black box ($10) the IBM memory serves the 8 Bit as a very efficient Ram Disk.

Peter Corona demonstrated his newest toy, a Canon Disk camera. This little jewel uses a very small Sony floppy disk instead of a roll of film to store up to 50 pictures. The pictures can be shown on a monitor immediately or stored on VCR tape. The pictures that Pete took at the meeting and showed on the clubs Sony monitor were excellent. Pictures on the disk may be erased selectively and the freed up space on the disk can be reused. Cost about $400.

Chris from BERKELEY MICROSYSTEMS brought an ATARI 204 hard drive that they had just finished upgrading to 80 Megabytes for Jim Hood. Besides the huge increase in capacity, a DMA plug was added for daisy chain use. This neat conversion was done without changing the outward look of the 804. Cost about $500.

This months 8 Bit Disk Of the Month was demonstrated by Bob Woolley. Bob loaded both sides of the DOM into his slave IBM for the demo. The front side of the disk has several utilities and games such as Wheel of Fortune and Mercury Mine. The backside has a golf game by ANTIC magazine.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to make our usual $100 Christmas charity donation.

DeWayne Stuart was again in charge of a highly questionable raffle. (I lost again) *

Being no further business funny or otherwise the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM by our lovely Vice President.

respectfully Submitted -
Jim Moran - Secretary

*(He is right. I didn't win either.)

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December 1990

SLCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Main Meeting 8:00 P.M. San Leandro Library	5	6	7	8
9	10 ST Meeting 8:00 P.M. San Leandro Library	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Midi Sig 8 PM	18 Journal Deadline	19	20 Publishing SIG 7:30 PM	21	22
23	24	25	26 ST Beginner's Sig 7:30 P.M.	27	28	29
30	31	Special Interest Group (SIG) leaders and their phone numbers are listed 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).

Name:_____ Date:_____

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

Home Phone:_____ (Optional) **Membership No.**

Computer(s)_____

Software Interests: ❒ Home Finance ❒ Desktop Publishing ❒ Games ❒ Scientific ❒ Business ❒ Word Processing ❒ Educational ❒ Music ❒ Art

Some interesting ways I use my computer:(Club members are interested in new usages for home, work and play)_____

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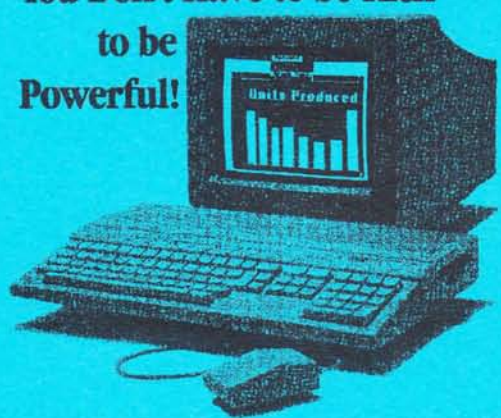

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FROM THE PREZ:

MERRY XMAS! Don't forget the party Dec 4 - bring the kids.

Bob Brodie of Atari and Bill Yerger will be there to compare notes on ComDex. Also, Bob will have in his possession a Mega STE, if not a TT. Wow!! All this plus ice cream and cake!

Our speaker for the ST/Business SIG shall be none other than Joe DeCuir, who was on the Atari 800 and Antic chip design teams, and is now specializing in Telecommunications. I am told that Joe is an interesting and entertaining speaker and is quite willing to reminisce with die-hard 8-bitters.

We are still in need of volunteers to lead SIGs.

Remember in January it will be a combined General/ST/BusinessSIG on the 14th. (My birthday).

Thanx,
KK

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

General Meeting:
December 4th, 1990