Vice - President's Notes

Our club, thanks mainly to the effort of Tom Bennett, will have a booth at the October 29th Nortwest Computer Swap meet at the San Mateo County Fair Grounds. We will be signing up new members and providing a source of information about the swap meet for you. Atari is expected to take part in our effort. Read more about the results next month

Our club has been in existance for 9 months now (since February) so some memberships are running out. Your membership expiration date is being printed on the mailing label for this newsletter. Your membership priveledges (floppies, newsletter, etc.) will go away if you don't stay current on your dues. See Nai Hsien Mao, our Treasurer November 1st.

Our club owns quite a bit of commercial software. We've been doing a lot of thinking about how to easily make this software available for you to check out. 3 E Software in Haward (Kim Ellison) has volunteered to handle the paperwork and be a central location for this effort. So that we could get this project going the following arrangements have been made: Choose the software that you want to check out, Present your SLCC membership card to 3E and sign a charge slip for the retail value of the software. This charge slip will not be put thru unless you don't return the software within the rental period of 3 days. When you return the items, a donation to the club of 5% for games and 10% for business software will be required. (and your charge slip will be torn up). The donation is about half of what most software rental houses charge. You must be a member of the San Leandro Computer Club in order to check out any of the software. Kim will encourage (and accept) new memberships.

Handling the checking out of our commercial software is a little tricky. We must make the software easily available and we must assure that nobody forgets to bring their software back. Restricting the time allows any one item to be borrowed 10 times a month. If any of you have commercial software you would like to donate to the club we would really appreciate it. Doing so will also allow you a free rental. A few of the selections are: Micropainter, Basic Compiler, Filemanager Plus, Text Wizard, Canyon Climer and a bunch of games.

Please call the local computer bulletin boards (BBS) that are supporting/putting up with Atari users. The following electronic bulletin boards are happy to see you Atari-ites and will gladly upload/download programs using AMODEM. These boards are:
1. *SUNRISE OMEGA* in Oakland @ 452-0350
2. *MOTHER BOARD* in Hayward @ 352-8442

Don't forget our discounts ad 3E Software and the Software Centre, both in Hayward.

Another Swap Meet is coming on Saturday, November 5th. It will take place at the Santa Clara County Fair Grounds in San Jose. Yes, this makes two in a row. It runs from about 10 am to 6 pm or so. This is the original Swap meet that has been going on for 3 years or so and always has fantastic bargains. It will probably cost $5 to get in.

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            A G E N D A
   San Leandro Computer Club Meeting
      Tuesday November 1, 1983

   8:00  -     Introduction of officers
   8:15  -     DAVE MAYNARD from Electronic Arts
   9:15  -     Break for Refreshments
         -     Floppy of the Month  - $ 3.  Back issues
                are now available
         -     Tape Library - rental $5 per tape
   9:45  -     General Discussions and Q & A
                  Mid month meetings
                  Software discussions
   10:25 -     Close Meeting
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            C L U B   O F F I C E R S
            President          - Bob Barton
            Vice-President     - Bill George
            Treasurer          - Nai Hsien Mao
            Secretary          - Phil Mitchell
            C O M M I T T E E S
            Speakers           - Tom Bennett
            Software           - Trey Pitruzzello
            Tape Librarian     - Dan Chun
            Newsletter         - Charlotte Fleming
            Assy Language      - Frank Daniel
            Basic              - Nai Hsien Mao (temporary)
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   NOVEMBER  -  1983  Floppy of the Month

   Medieval Combat    - Strategy board game similar to Chess
                        and Stratego
   Mathman            - Educational math game with a twist,
                        a wonderful game if you complete your
                        math assignment.
   Docgen             -  Assists in documenting programs
   5th Dimension      - An detective adventure game
   Supermenu          - A new version of an autoboot menu

   Documentation for the above programs can be reviewed by
   running the DOCGEN program.
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8:07   Meeting called to order by Vice-President Bill George. New members asked to introduce themselves and describe their systems

8:10   Introduction of Officers - explanation of club membership policy

8:15   Treasurers report given by Nai-Shen Mao disclosed total assets of $500 cash in the club account, and aprox. 50 blank diskettes

8:20   Tom bennett introduces Gary Furr representing Data Soft Inc. Mr. Furr gave a candid and interesting discussion on a wide range of subjects from the last great days at Atari Inc. to the condition of the software industry today.

Demonstrations of the following games were given: O'RILEY'S MINE, SANDS OF EGYPT, POOYAN, AND MOON SHUTTLE. These were then donated to the club library, along with copies of TEXT WIZARD, TELE-TALK, COLOR PRINT, AND SHOOTING GALLERY. A demonstration of Data Soft's new word processor "LETTER WIZARD" was also given.

The following Q & A session revieled many interesting bits of news and gossip; Watch for future disks to contain Atari programs on one side and the exact same program for commodore on the other, with Apple and IBM programs to be packaged the same way; Watch for new software lines offering BOTH a disk AND a cassette in the same box, starting at less than $20. (he donated one); watch for a possible special discount on LETTER WIZARD offered to registered owners of TEXT WIZARD (it should come in the mail).

9:30   Break-Floppy-of-the-month distributed

9:50   Disk Librarian Trey Pitruzzello describes this months Floppy offered for sale at the meeting. Cassette Librarian Dan Chun announced the addition of 4 new programs to the tape collection available for rent to the membership.

10:00   Vice-President Bill George entered a motion to the floor, that the club use money from it's Treasuary to purchase an Atari 800 computer (with the basic cartridge) if one could be found for less than $200.00. The motion was seconded, discussed by the membership and passed by more than a 2/3 majority.

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE HOME OF BOB BARTON 10/19/83

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SUBMITTED- A proposal to let 3E Software handle our rental library- Tenative prices are to be 5% of the purchace price on games and 15% on business programs. Replacement charges for damaged returns will be witheld from deposit and limited to clubs replacement cost. Free rentals to be given in exchange for software donations to the library. Membership cards must be shown at time of rental. 3E Software to be Authorized to take new memberships. Complete explanation of final plan to be published in monthly newsletter.-----ADOPTED.

SUBMITTED- TREY will make-up a special edition " BEST OF THE FLOPPIES " to be given away free of charge with any paid membership obtained at the club booth during the upcomming swap meet in San Mateo. Floppies could also be given away in exchange for $5.00 donations-----ADOPTED

SUBMITTED- BOB will follow-up on the matter of obtaining new membership cards, possibly centered around Tom Bennetts new club logo and in two colors-----ADOPTED

SUBMITTED- The club should start selling copies of Analog magazine on floppy disk to club members at the monthly meeting along with the floppy of the month, a copy of the magazine must be shown before the sale. Prices for the floppy of the month and Analog magazine to be: $3.00 if Membership card shown, $5.00 for non-members-----ADOPTED

SUBMITTED- In the name of quality and exchange privleges the disk library will switch to exclusive use of Elephant disks. With no increase in price, but Floppies of the month that are exchanged for current ones must be the original disk, or no exchange is possible.-----ADOPTED

SUBMITTED- Let the general membership vote on the policy of giving free membership to club officers while they serve in office.-----ADOPTED

SPECIAL THANKS TO GO OUT TO KEN MORROW FOR HIS HELP IN OBTAINING AN 800 COMPUTER FOR THE CLUB.

San Leandro Computer Club - CASSETTE LIBRARY

Utilities

Side Program Description

A BANNER Prints banner on any printer.
B GTIA SKETCH PAD Draws,save,and load picture.

A Autonumber by Compute Mag.
B Antic Typo Checksum

A Analog Typo Checksum
B Joystick Port 3 & 4 to Printer

A Hex to Dec. data generator(tape)
B Hex to Dec. data generator(keyboard)

A Machine lanuage back-up boot tapes
B Sorting by alphabets

A Tape Directory Program by Dan Chun.
B Joystick port tester by Dan Chun.

A Amodem Ver.4.0 by Steinbrecher.
B Home Inventory by Stan Ockers.

Education

A Hangman by Softswap graphic and sound
B Scramwrds by Softswap Unscramble words

A Math Fun by Compute Mag.Color and sound
B Multiplication table from 1 to 12 times

A Text- revised version of tiny text use on a 40 or 80 col. printer
B Textinst- Instructions for text

A Mailing list by Antic Mag.
B Typing Exercise by Atari User Group

A United States by Softswap.
B World by Softswap.

A Spelling Bee by Bay Area User Group.
B Spelling List by Bay Area User Group.

A HOME BUDGET By Compute Mag. Household budget. Use with printer.
B SAVING & LOANS By BAUG Computes interest,payments,and future value.

Games

A Bats from Antic mag.
B Skiing from Compute Mag.

A Yahtzee Family game color and sound
B Time Trials Race car driving

A Simmon Color and sound for preschool children
B Spider Draws from Antic Mag. Graphics and no sound

Games

A Filler Up by compute Mag. This will make a boot tape
B Filler Up boot game tape.

A Pack Invaders from Antic Mag.
B Bank Shot a pool game by Stan Ockers

A Lunar Lander sound and graphics by Stan Ockers
B Alien-Shoot with joystick for preschoolers.

A Car Race- revised version of Softside # 37.
B Chicken by Stan Ockers just like Pacific Coast Highways.

A Wildwest by Stan Ockers game requires paddles.
B Baseball use joystick ports 2 and 3.

A Gold Rush by Compute Mag. Search for gold nuggets.
B Speed Demon by Antic Mag. Drive a car in a maze.

A Alpha box
B Jumping Jack.

A THUNDERBIRD Game by compute Mag.1/83.
B VALENTINE Prints hearts on the screen.

THE NEXT MEETING

By Tom Bennett

If you missed last month's meeting, you missed some very interesting comments by Mr. Gary Furr of Datasoft. As the meeting was coming to a close, Mr. Furr was making some ominous statements about the general health of ATARI and their hardware business. Statements like there being a question whether ATARI will be in the hardware business much longer, and general comments to the effect that an inept management is holding back product development had the club very silent. He was attacking the ATARI, making us all wonder if we'll be seeing the promised new products, or whether we will be receiving future support from the many software companies should the hardware line be dropped.

He is talking from an insider's viewpoint, and perhaps a disasterous holiday season in 1983 will be the beginning of the end for ATARI. But I think it will be difficult to put our computers to bed with the many companies developing products for ATARI computers. And there are many machines out there now supported by groups like the San Leandro Computer Club that would continue to go on with or without ATARI.

Gary was very generous to the club by donating a number of programs to the club library. They included copies of Text Wizard, Datasoft's Basic Compiler, Pooyan, and others. I think this type of generosity deserves acknowledgement and our support of future products.

Due to a conflict in scheduling, the ATARI User's Group Support team of Earl Rice and Marc Cator had to cancel for November's meeting. But Dave Maynard, the author of Worms?, has agreed to speak at our next meeting instead of December. And

Marc Cator of ATARI has agreed (tentatively) to speak at our December meeting.

Dave Maynard will introduce us to some of the highly acclaimed products of Electronic Arts like Dave's Worms?, Bill Budge's Pinball Construction Set, Archon, and some previews of new products of EA. I think you will be impressed by the quality and the originality of the product line. (Remember that the November meeting is the first day of the month!)

ET CETERA: I wrote of a new "E" Rom for the 810 disk drive in last month's newsletter, and Gary Furr confirmed that he had heard of such a chip. He thought that the "E" Rom was a modification that allowed certain programs to be easily copied. San Jose T.V., an ATARI sales and service store, said that they thought it allowed additional programs to be copied with SuperDup. They felt they could get us the Roms, but they felt the Happy Enhancement to be a much better product. Should this be the true function of the upgrade, I wouldn't expect ATARI to release it. Gary added that he felt it would not be released because the 810 has been discontinued for the 1050 Disk Drive. "The 810 is dead", he stated.

Nap Forte, a member of the SLCC, gave me a call the other day and was interested in placing an 800 keyboard on his 400. He got a bargain at the Hayward Flea Market on an 800 keyboard, and wondered if anyone in the club could give him a hand in adding the keyboard. I looked up an article that ran in an issue of the San Diego ACE newsletter that described just how to do such project. I have submitted the article to our newsletter, and if it shouldn't get published, let me know whether you would be interested in

such an article, and I'll make you a copy. The keyboard will not fit on the 400 casing, but I've seen some nice external keyboards similar to the IBM PC concept running on ATARI 400's. Nat said he has installed a 64K board in his 400, and would be willing to help others on such a modification.

This brings me to my final topic: the Hardware SIG. I am sure that there are members of the club with interests and perhaps expertice in ATARI hardware. And I know there are club members with CTIA's that would like a GTIA installed, and those that have the "A" Rom that would like to upgrade their OS to a "B" Rom. (Type in the Basic statement PRINT PEEK(58383), hit return, and if the answer is 56, you have the old "A" Rom.) Should you be interested in a Hardware SIG, or would like some help from such a SIG, contact me at the next meeting or call me at 276-4466. I am only a novice in hardware, but there are people in the group that know the ATARI system, so why not share your knowledge with other members of the group?

BARGAIN: San Jose T.V.,(408) 723-2025, was selling some rebuilt 400's for only $35.00. Great price for someone who would like to tinker with a machine!

EVER SINCE TIME MAGAZINE SELECTED IT 'MAN OF THE YEAR'...

..IT REFUSES TO TAKE ANY COMMANDS !!

ADD A 800 KEYBOARD TO YOUR 400
by Nestor Sanchez

Membrane (KB) keyboards have their place but their justifications are few. "Damage from liquid spillage" is uppermost in the priorities of a salesman's pitch coupled with "its just like your microwave oven." Beyond that, one will have a difficult time producing positive facts in its favor.

Psychologists state that a passive resistance touch is preferable as one is more certain of the results of motor function than a touch that relies on an uncertain amount of finger pressure. This reason for replacing the membrane keyboard is the most compelling of all and I am positive once you have tried both systems you will also be convinced. Additionally, your words per minute typing speed increases markedly. Another great benefit of the separate KB is that the computer itself can be placed out of the way while the KB is used in a convenient area, desk top, etc. This is accomplished with the use of an umiblical cord ribbon connection at any length you prefer. When attached, the KB will perform all the functions of the computer except for the power switch and attachemnts.

HARDWARE REQUIRED

1 - Keyboard
1 - 25 conductor cable (Radio Shack #278-661 or equiv-$6.95)
1 - 25 pin connector (Radio Shack #276-1565 or equiv-$4.99)
1 - 25 pin socket (#276-1559)
1 - 25 pin connector (Short stub type-Pro Am Electronics-approx $5.00 ea)
1 - 25 pin socket (Short stub type-Pro Am Electronics)
4 - Switches-push button, miniature, momentarily on, Pro Am Electronics-$.49 ea.)
1 - Box (KB housing) $9.99 (Lee Wards Artist Brushbox) or equiv., may be fabricated from 1/8" plywood.
4 - Rubber feet pads-Ace hardware, $.20 each.
4 - Bolts/nuts - 3/4" #8 (KB attachment to box)
4 - Small screws & nuts (see connectors & box wall for desired sizes).
1 - 18 pin attachment (for KB furnished socket) from Pro Am Electrinics.

PROCEDURE

See figure for wire diagram.

1. Make memory board in computer accessable by removing any cartridges and removing 4 screws from bottom of computer. Use caution because keyboard and speaker become free. Keyboard and speaker can be removed and reinstalled later and this is recommended.

2. Choose an area to mount the short stub socket on the inside wall of the computer case. (Note-the larger Radio Shack connectors are desireable on the umbilical ribbon but are not desireable in small areas.) An adaquate area for installing the stub socket is under the speaker.

3. Cut a section of ribbon from the original (6 ft) piece to extend from the board connection to the connector (approximately 13 to 14 inches).

4. Solder one end to the board and opposite end to the connector as shown in the diagram.

5. Cut 12 inches of remaining ribbon for use in KB box later.

6. Install the remaining large connectors (male & female pin/socket) to the remaining ribbon.

7. The purchased box size is 14" x 5" outside and 3/4" deep inside. Top = 14" x 5" x 3/8". (Note: there are other boxes commercially available in metal. Some have KB cutouts.) Install KB by centering in box bottom & mounting with four bolts through box bottom, lining up with the mounting holes in the board. Cutout cover to fit key outline. A coping saw is suggested.

8. Mount short stub pin connector to backedge of box.

9. Solder 25 conductor cable on pin socket as follows:

a. Mount 4 switches on cover with caution for clearance on underside.

b. Wire one side of each switch together for a common ground and connect to ground as well as pin 22, which is the computer's ground.

c. Wire other side of switch to connector as shown in diagram.

10. Put computer back together and hook up cables. KB should work normally.

(69)

(Ed note: Any questions, call Nestor at -488-3325)

SAN LEANDRO COMPUTER CLUB

NOVEMBER 1983

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 0800 PM GEN.MEETING S.L. LIBRARY	2	3	4	5 1000 AM SWAP AMERICA SNTACLRA FARGND
6	7	8 0800 PM ASSY' MEETING BOB'S HOUSE	9	10	11	12 0800 PM SOFTWARE COMM. BILL'S HOUSE
13	14	15 0800 PM BASIC MEETING NAI SHEN'S	16	17	18	19 0700 PM MSIG MEETING PHIL'S HOUSE
20	21	22 0800 PM EXEC.COMMITTEE	23	24 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	25	26
27	28	29	30			

NEXT MEETING:

November 1   8:00 pm
San Leandro Community Library

TO:

SPEAKER:

Dave Maynard

From

ELECTRONIC ARTS