

AB30C

THE

COLLEGE AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

THE COLLEGE AFFAIRS

JAN/FEB

1990



ISSUE # 7

VOL. # 4

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL CLUR MEMBERS:
by ALEX PIGNATO

Dear Member:

Do you find that belonging to a computer club is worthwhile? Do you come away from meetings, satisfied with your contribution to the clubs advancement? Have you given back a little of whatever you have received in the way of knowledge, information, friendships?

If you answered "YES" to all of the above, then don't bother reading anymore of this column, because you are a REAL MEMBER worthy of continuing in an ongoing club. If, however you answered "NO" to any of the above, then consider the following:

1. Will you be better off if the club FOLDS?
2. Will you continue to learn new ways to use your computer, both for fun and practical matters, without the club?
3. *Will you miss your COMPUTER FRIENDS, if there is no OL' HACKERS club?*

The reason I am writing this column is because I am just sick and tired of a very small number of people trying to keep the club a viable and worthwhile venture! I for one cannot and will not accept your statement that you are too busy, or that you can't write, or that you can't volunteer your services in any capacity needed, or demo a program which you know backwards and forwards! Stop kidding yourself, 'cause you sure as hell aren't kidding me because I find that the really busy people who have a deep love for the club, constantly manage to contribute! The old saying, still goes "IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE, GIVE IT TO A BUSY PERSON".

One of the reasons for a clubs decline is APATHY, a terrible and infectious disease, which spreads like wildfire. After all, why should "B" do anything, while "A" does NOTHING, and it goes without

saving that "C" seeing that "A" and "B" do NOTHING, therefore "C" also does NOTHING, and so on, ad infinitum! (At this point, I guess I am feeling like "D", the next to do NOTHING). Soon the whole club is on the shoulders of a couple of people and we now see the famous "BURNOUT", (see a prior article for a classic case history) and then NO MORE CLUB! The reasoning follows AS SURE AS DAY FOLLOWS NIGHT!

I for one, (and many other club members) are getting tired of trying to constantly improve the club, and I personally, am considering possibly quitting the club entirely. I have enough projects to keep me busy for the next ten years, and as anyone who has been to my home can attest, I have more than enough utilities, games etc. to keep me busy for many years. What has kept me from quitting up till now is the many *new and wonderful* friends that I have made, *thanks to OL' HACKERS*, and I would miss not seeing them at least once a month!

Wake up guys, or one day you won't have me harping at you to get involved in the OL' HACKERS A.U.G., Inc. in fact, maybe you won't have the OL' HACKERS CLUB either. Hey, maybe that is really not such a bad thing after all. RIGHT? Well, the ball is in your court pal, think hard on what way you want to go! Club or eventually NO CLUB!

Please understand that this article is not aimed at all members. You and everyone else know who fits this mold, and those are the only ones I refer to!

2-1-90

Sincerely Yours,

CAN YOUR NAME GO HERE?

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 1989 MEETING

GENERAL MEETING:

AL FEITCHMAN opened the NOVEMBER meeting and denied he had changed the OCTOBER meeting date to hide it from ALEX PIGNATO. After a rare miss of an OL' HACKERS meeting, ALEX was back with us for NOVEMBER (All's well that ends well). No sooner had AL restarted the meeting when another interruption took place. JERRY GINSBERG, (in his usual uniform, Suit, Tie and Jacket), an original OL' HACKER, walked in, shook hands with everyone, and sat down. JERRY is still ATAKP active and now has 2 ATARI setups, and a private line for his ATARI to access COMPU SERVE etc. so he can relay messages through their FAX machines for business purposes. Now here is another great use for the "GAME MACHINE".

DUES:

Who ever heard of paying your annual dues a month early? OL' HACKERS that's who, for they now know that paying their dues early brings these benefits. Each member who pays at the DECEMBER 9th meeting will receive, 1. A hard copy listing of the 135 club library disks, 2. Any one disk in the library free (pick of the litter). 3. A copy of the new member "WELCOME DISK" modified by ALEX. (and it is loaded with info. and some great programs too.) More later about this "GRAMMY AWARD" type disk.

ATARI SUPPORT DEPARTMENT:

Three companies were noted as being outstanding for their service and repair of ATARI COMPUTER equipment. Lets support them! They are as follows:

1. "BEST ELECTRONICS", 2021 The Alameda, Suite 290, SAN JOSE, CA 95126, Tel: (408) 243-6950 for hardware and parts.
2. "COMPUTER SOFTWARE SERVICES". P.O. BOX 17660, ROCHESTER, NY 14617, Tel: (716) 586-5546, they promise 24 to 48 hour service and two for one repairs.
3. "ISLAND VIDEO", CORAM, LONG ISLAND, has pleased many members with their service and software.

USER GROUPS NEWSLETTER:

From the ACORN KERNAL, ROCHESTER, in their article about Club Finances and Planning for any club, they state that the "NEWSLETTER" is one of the main cogs in the club. If newsletter dates are missed, no information is transmitted to the members and sooner or later all interest will be lost.

From the NYBBLES & BYTES, PHOENIX, AZ, a very professional looking catalog of their Public Domain Disk Library from PAUL PARKS. Thanks Faul! JACK GEDALIUS in his unending quest for good programs, is reviewing the catalog, and will advise us about any goodies?

From the HARDCOPY, LEHIGH VALLEY, PA. RONALD MOTLEY, President, hopes to meet with other USER GROUP OFFICERS and is planning a new regional meeting early in 1990 (approximately the 3rd weekend in FEBRUARY), in the NORTHEAST. USA. A possible mini show could be included sometime thereafter if plans can be worked out!

ANNUAL DINNER:

All indications point to a large member turnout for the DL' HACKERS second annual dinner. Again this year it will be at TIFFANY'S RESTAURANT in BELLMORE, on TUESDAY DECEMBER 5th at 7:30pm. AL BEITCHMAN spent a busy day at the MELVILLE COMPUTER show recently. Some of the door prizes he picked up for the dinner, are a POWER DIRECTOR, two DISK FILES containers (110 file capacity), three RAVEN REIKING KITS, one DISK DRIVE CLEANER (donation from CARLOS HURTADO). By the time you read this it will have been held, ■ hope you were there.

APPOINTMENTS:

HARRY TUTHILL has been appointed by AL as our new "EQUIPMENT MANAGER". HARRY will monitor the use of all club equipment and also coordinate the equipment needed for monthly demonstrations. Knowing how reliable HARRY has been in other jobs, I'm sure we have a winner- in this appointment. Another appointment is yours truly, who will be the new TREASURER, SECRETARY, due to the fact that JIM McGUIRE's job has interfered with his free time as he is on 24 hour standby duty. We hope he still can make most of the future meetings.

CATALOG:

Did anyone see the new fall, catalog put out by "HI TECH EXPRESSIONS"? Inside the back cover is a testimonial by none other than our past president ALEX PIGNATO for their program "PRINT FOWER". (Way to go AL). Lets keep on supporting this company that has always supported the 8 BIT!

DOOR PRIZES:

This months prizes and winners are as follows:

BIT-BYTER #18 w/doc JERRY GINSEERG

ANTIC AUGUST 89 JIM HAMMRRGREN

ANTIC JUNE 89 STAN SCHENFELD

AFX PLAYER GENERA- JACK GEDALIUS
tor w/doc

Doc's for DOS XE CARLOS HURTADO, AL ATKINS, HARRY TUTHILL, STAN SCHENFELD

DEMONSTRATIONS:

ALEX demo'ed his newly modified "WELCOME DISK". This disk is intended to explain club functions to new members. The menu cover such titles as, a Welcome, Meetings, Club Newsletter, Public Domain Library, Publications Library, Meet Other Users, DL' HACKERS EBS, Swap Meet and Four Demonstrations. These are DICE, GUESS THE WORD, 2 songs, DIZZY and AMERICAN MUSIC PROCESSOR (FACE), and thats only on side 1, as for the other demos on side 1, you will soon be able to have the disk! One by one ALEX lead the members through each catagory on the menu.

Next came a demo of "ANTIC'S PERSONAL SPELLING CHECKER". The program can handle up to 10 dictionaries. If desired each dictionary can be tailor made to a type of word processor. This is a program which every member who uses a word processor, should have!

Then came "ALEX's GAMES" which included old favorites such as "PITSTOP" and "FOOL". How about "CASINO" that contained games like "CRAPS", "SLOTS", "HI CARD", and "RUSSIAN ROULETTE".

"MINATURE GOLF" came in the big winner. Almost everyone had a turn by playing at least one hole.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

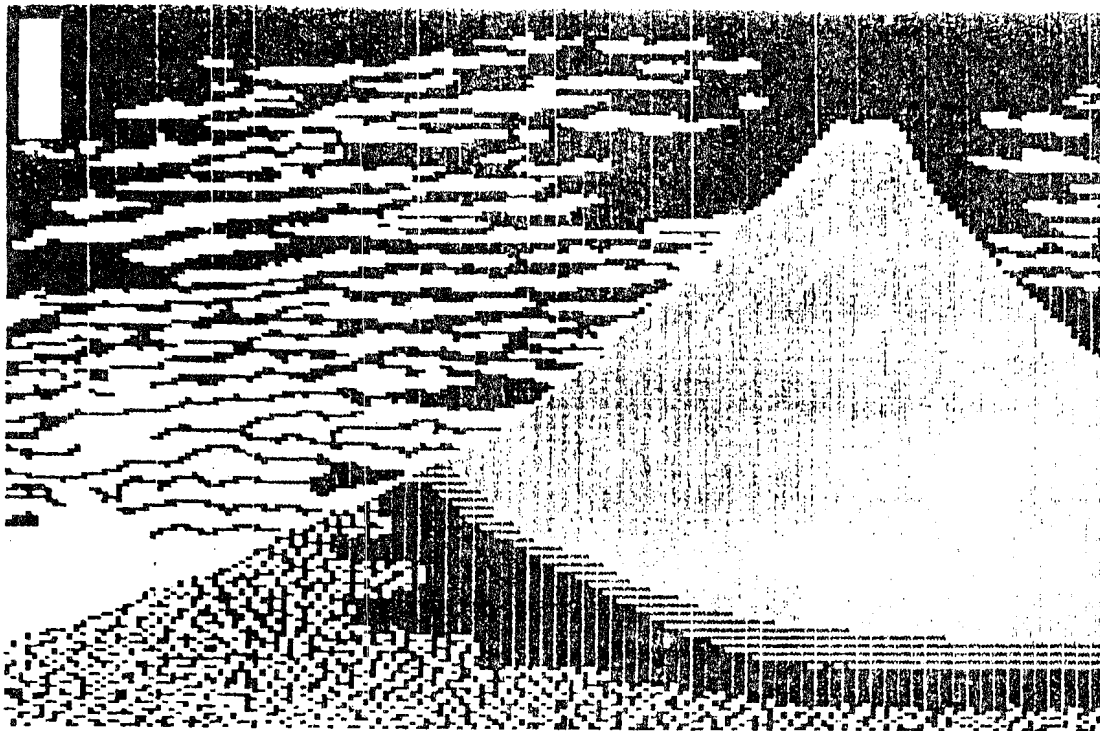
Future meeting dates for the OL' HACKERS are:

DECEMBER 9, 1989 APRIL 14, 1990
JANUARY 13, 1990 MAY 12, 1990
FEBRUARY 10, 1990 JUNE 2, 1990
MARCH 10, 1990

All dates are SATURDAY and are scheduled for 11:30am at the PLAINVIEW/OLD BETHPAGE LIBRARY.

Remember.. the next OL' HACKER ATARI USER GROUP meeting is scheduled for DECEMBER 9th at 11:30am.

Secretary,
AL ATKINS



MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 1989 MEETING

GENERAL MEETING:

AL FEITCHMAN opened the DECEMBER meeting by thanking the members for making the 2nd ANNUAL DINNER a success, and a beautiful affair, and fun 'for all. A splendid meal, super friends and best of all a good time. CHRISTMAS came early as AL had a large bag of door prizes to distribute at the dinner (listing of the winners later).

TREASURY & MINUTES REPORTS:

AL read the JULY to NOVEMBER healthy mini TREASURY report. The minutes were then read with comments. Both were accepted as read.

NEWSLETTER:

With the possibility of the club "NEWSLETTER" ceasing publication in JANUARY, private meetings were held by AL and ALEX, to locate a new editor to carry on. After these discussions to find a replacement for CARLOS HURTADO, a new editor has not been found as yet. ALEX, CARLOS and AL will be close at hand to lend any assistance that might be needed. Are there any EDITORS out there that would consider volunteering? ALAN SHARKIS, JACK GEDALIUS and ALEX are collecting newsletter articles for the "if and when next newsletter"!

POTPOURRI:

MICHAEL BRYANT a new OL' HACKERS USER GAOUF member found us through the "A EXCHANGE". Looking for an ATARI contact he was referred to the club by the A EXCHANGE newsletter. Since MIKE is an active U. S. NAVY man all we can say is "WELCOME ABOARD. MIKE".

The OL' HACKERS has received CHRISTMAS cards from ANDY EUONGIORNO and ICD. ICD is a company that has always been very supportive of the 8-bit ATARI COMPUTERS. AL FEITCHMAN will write to thank them.

In order to spread the word that the ATARI 8-BIT COMPUTER has more value than using it as a "DOOR STOP" a few suggestions were voiced. The following recommendations were made;

- a. A notice of club meetings to be sent to the L. I. NEWSDAY for their weekly activities column notice- AL B. will place the notice.
- b. Print up handouts to be left at the PLAINVIEW/OLD BETHPAGE LIBRARY and computer stores that handle the ATARI.

AL displayed an excellent "Printer Catalog" received from "MIDWEST MICRO" after he saw their add in "COMPUTER SHOPPER". The catalog describes in detail features and operation of various printers, and appears to be the most complete printer catalog put out by any vendor.

HORST DEWITZ submitted his version of a membership identification badge for the members approval. This one looks good and rates serious consideration.

ALEX read an article from the "L. I. LIGHTHOUSE". In the OCTOBER issue, the "8-BIT ODDS-N-ENDS", column written by member JIM HARRIS pointed to the '70s song hit "UNITED WE STAND"! JIM cited ANTIC's magazine and disk only subscriptions, (now bi-monthly), and ANALOG'S combining the 8-BIT and ST-LOG, (rumor has it that the December issue will be the last) as further

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deterioration of our 8-FIT system.. JIM listed two choices, "Give up, you can't beat them. so join 'em. After you throw out that "SCUZZY" old 8-BIT system. spend a few grand on a shinny new IBM, or CLONE. Or choose number two (my choice) UNITED WE STAND! (DIVIDED WE FALL)". "WE DO NOT HAVE TO LET THE 8-FIT FOLD!", JIM said. His method fur carrying on is;

1. Support the 8-bit companies, ICD or BEST ELECTRONICS, and others that support us.
2. Buy as much 8-bit software you can afford.
3. Support your LOCAL USERS GROUP, join a couple if you have the time.
4. Get a modem and support the local BBS'.
5. Learn to work a programming language, a drawing program. a music maker, etc.
6. Use the newly learned program to demo at meetings.
7. Get involved in your USER GROUP.

The OL' HACKERS agree that JIM HARRIS "HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD". We hope our members all take heed, and follow through.

DOOR PRIZES:

Using STAN SCHENFELD'S newly modified "DOOR PRIZE" the door prize segment of the meeting went off without a hitch. STAN had altered the program so that once a number is hit, that number will not repeat. The prize winners were;

BIT-BYTER #17	AL ATKINS
Docs by HORST	
BIT-FYTER #18	STAN SCHENFELD
Docs by HORST	
PAGE 6 #54-6	BRAD JAWORSKI
ANALOG OCT 89	HORST DEWITZ
w/Docs	
ANTIC OCT 89	ALAN SHARKIS
w/DOCS	
ANTIC AUG 89	MARRY TUTHILL
w/DOCS	
ANTIC DEC 89	JIM HAMMARGREN
w/DOCS	
DISK HOLE PUNCHER	JOCK GEDALIUS

Looks like the club ran a "Christmas Special" for the DECEMBER meeting. AINT CHRISTMAS gifts nice!

In addition to all these meeting prizes there was also a drawing at the ANNUAL DINNER. AL had attended a computer show and while there stocked up on even more door prizes. These winners were:

POWER DIRECTOR	CARLOS HURDATO
110 DISK FILES	JIM HAMMARGREN, HORST DEWITZ
RE-INKING KITS	JERRY GINSBERG, JOHN AALTO, HURST DEWITZ,
HEAD CLEANER	JDSEF LEBER

!HEAD CLEANER. donated by CARLOS HURTADO)

ATARI FIT-BYTER USER CLUB:

HORST DEWITZ, USA representative of ABBUC, took the floor and filled in the members on his yearly trip to GERMANY for their annual CLUE MEETING- One hundred and eighty of the six hundred plus members, attended this meeting. Early in the meeting HORST was presented with a gift, a beautifully bound white loose leaf book with pockets for floppy disk. The book contained

fourteen disks. all related to the "PRINT SHOP" and "PRINT SHOP COMPANION" programs. They included a collection of CANADIAN, ENGLISH, DUTCH and GERMAN GRAPHICS, FXCS, and FONTS. HORST immediately donated copies of these disks to the OL' HACKERS PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY.

ABBUC does not have any demo's during their 1st days meeting. They are done the next day in,,smaller groups, depending on the members interest. A couple of EAST GERMAN computer enthusiasts attended this as their first meeting and were surprized when they were allowed to vote (unheard of in the EAST BLOCK). It might be noted that approximately one third of the ABBUC membership are under 21 years of age, including some of their BEST programmers! .

HQRST was repeatedly asked why we do not hold regional user group meetings in the UNITED STATES (why don't we?).

One familiar ABBUC member that HORST met was, JOE KENNEDY, past FHESIDENT of the JERSEY ATARI COMPUTER GROUP. Joe stated he will be returning Stateside JULY 1990. JOE then sent two reviews for our newsletter. one was on "DIGITIZED PICTURES". Horst demoed a sample of these pictures and ALAN SHARKIS volunteered to demo the program during the JANUARY OL' HACKERS meeting.

HORST called, BOB BRODIE, the ATARI GROUP COORDINATOR, on behalf of ABBUC when he returned to the States. ABBUC had expressed an interest in securing "ATARI WRITER 80". EOE? told HORST this "80 COLUMN WORD PROCESSOR" will be available to AFEUC free in FEBRUARY. The program MAY be sent free to bonafide registered ATARI USER GROUPS. USER GRWUF SUPPORT FROM ATARI??'???

DEMONSTRATIONS:

ALEX booted up ANTIC'S new "NAVAL BATTLE" a classic favorite known as "BATTLESHIP". This new version has excellent graphics and sound, and should provide a lot of enjoyment for those who like games.

In order ta find out how good our NAVY is ALEX invited the OL' HACKERS newest member. MIKE BRYANT, to locate and destroy the enemy fleet. MIKE produced a lot of white squares (miss) and very little red squares (hits) on the grid. so as might have been expected the computer won this round (ALEX, was it really fair to start a CHIEF PETTY OFFICER off at the ADMIRAL level, wouldn't a little lower rank have been fairer?)

Nest ALEX demo'ed "DERBY DOWNS" run at "TURBO BASIC" speed, The club bet horses number one and three. of course number two won the race. A lot of possibilities exist for group fun with this game.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

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Remember..the nest OL' HACKERS ATARI USER GROUP meeting is scheduled for JANUARY 13th. at 11:30am.

Sincerely,
AL ATKINS

REMINDER. the yearly dues are due in JANUARY 1990.

EGL Digitizer

A Hardware Review

by JOE KENNEDY ABBUC/JACE

And direct to OL' HACKERS through HORST DEWITZ.

When there's something you want and it doesn't exist, what do you do? Most people just sit and wait for someone to invent it for them so they can go out and buy it. However if you are people like ARND BROX or FRIEDHELM GIESE or KLAUS LANGENKAMPER you design and build your dreams yourself. These three guys wanted to have a video digitizer to use with their 8 bit Ataris. Fortunately there was no digitizer available in Germany at the time so they designed and built one themselves.

What they designed is truly unbelievable. The EGL Digitizer (The first letter of each of their last names. are a clue as to where the name EGL comes from.) allows you to digitize pictures practically in real time and works with all machines that send either an FEAS or BAS signal. In lay terms (my kind) that means that it works with cameras, videorecorders, monitor tuners, etc. The signal is supplied to the digitizer through a standard RCA socket. The digitizer itself is connected to the computer through the cartridge port. The software supplied with the digitizer is in BASIC. Since the digitizer is controlled with very few commands, you can easily modify the software for any purpose imaginable; for instance, your own video security system controlled by an ATARI. Pictures saved with the software are in the normal 62 sector format.

The pictures themselves are drawn through the aid of a short machine language program in Graphics 24!! The highest graphics mode possible on an 8 BIT ATARI. But hold on to your hat! That ain't all! The digitizer reads a picture in approximately 0.2 seconds. That's right it reads at the rate of 4 pictures per second and in Graphics 24! For those old 8 BIT hands who have used Computereyes, remember how long it took to digitize a picture? For those who dun't remember or haven't used it, Computereyes takes about 2 minutes to digitize a picture at its highest resolution and that isn't as good as the EGL Digitizer. (I will note however that Cornputereyes does digitize in several diferent graphics levels, but the shortest is at least 7 seconds too long when compared to the EGL Digitizer.)

As the old saying goes, one picture is worth a thousand bytes. (Okay so it's not that old of a saying!) Next to this review is a picture of my daughter Dana and her friend Doris done with the digitizer. The wording was added with Design Master which can be found in most FD libraries.

Pictures such as this can be converted for use in Newsroom, Printshop, etc. Imagine your own newspaper with real pictures done on an 8 BIT ATARI.

For those who would like a little more technical information the BGL Digitizer reads the analog video signal in real time and saves it in an 8K static CMOS RAM. This RAM is connected to the computer through 8 data lines and a few control lines and is readable through the address counters. There are approximately 4 pictures per second displayed on the screen. The contrast and brightness are adjusted through dials on the digitizer. The BGL Digitizer is constructed out of 22 integrated circuits as well as various semiconductors and has its own power supply. I might add from personal experience, that it performs equally well with U. S. or EUROPEAN video cameras and recorders. I use one regularly now and haven't used my Computereyes since I got my BGL Digitizer.

The FGL Digitizer is only available to members of ABBUC. For details on how to obtain one contact:

Wolfgang Burger
Wieschenbeck 45
D-4352 Herten
West Germany.

It is covered by a 6 months guarantee against parts failure or construction defects. Horst has a demo disk which he could probably be persuaded to show that will give some idea of the pictures obtained with the BGL Digitizer.



SUPERDOS?? WHO NEEDS ANOTHER DOS?

A review by ALEX FIGNATO

Maybe you do! Have you been into the 8 BIT for some time? Still using DOS 2.5, or maybe even (ugh) the OLD 2.0. or worse still the real stinker, DOS 3.0? If so, you owe it to yourself to look into "SUPERDOS", a powerful intermediate DOS from PAUL NICHOLLS, from way down under in AUSTRAL-IR, which sells for a very moderate price of 820.00. and is worth it. U.S. distribution is by TECHNICAL SUPPORT, 205 Peoria Street, Daly City. CA 94014.

The disk comes with full documentation right on disk with its own printing code if you own a printer. otherwise you for a few bucks more you can write to TECHNICAL SUPPORT for the hard copy manual.

Ever wonder what density the disk you want to run is in? This DOS will keep you automatically advised on the top line of the screen. and it supports all three densities, i.e. SINGLE. ENHANCED. and TRUE DOUBLE DENSITY! It also supports and automatically senses and tells you the densities of Disk Drives 1,2,3,4, and RAMDISK 5 (which is also RAMDISK 8).

How about this for a nice touch? Just name your extenders "yourfile-RAM". and on EOOTUF these programs will be read into your RAMDISK. Want more? After programs are loaded into RAMDISK, you can close down all your drives and run any and all the programs from RAMDISK with no device numbers, and behold. no ERRORS. Nice touch isn't it? Did you accidentally delete a program? Want it back? NOT TO WORRY! Hit 'N' from DOS to restore the program. (that is if you haven't written over it). Do you occasionally want to use lowercase letters. numbers, in your file names? So right ahead, SUPERDOS will accept them just like SPARTADOS. You can copy from a cartridge to a disk, TRACE and try to PATCH up damaged files.

A nice feature is that. the main

menu is very much like DOS 2 or 2.5, and as you do different things the screen changes colors, which acts as a reminder and warning that something is about to be done. To those who own U.S. DOUBLERS, it allows for SKEW I/O support. Did I mention that running "AUX.SYS" from DOS 'L' gives you a secondary menu with more options than I can write about in this column. Just ask one of your friends who has this DOS!

I can truly say that there are many times when I find that SUPERDOS does a SUPERIOR job and because of its compatability with the ATARI DOS's 2 & 2.5. I feel that this DOS is AS GOOD or BETTER than SMARTDOS, TOPDOS and MYDOS! I know if your married to one of those you will loudly disagree, but I still feel I'm right!

The version that I have is the old one from 1986, and I have read that updated versions came out called 4.4. and probably 5.0 which is supposed to support the XF-551 drive, as well as the NEWELL 256 memory upgrade fa- XL's

1-19-90



GOD BLESS



AMERICA

GOD BLESS



AMERICA

Do you want your ATARI 8-Bit Computer to fall by the way-side. I know you Don't, so buy your Software DON'T Pirate it. You're only killing your investment.

Bit Byter News

Translated by Horst A. Dewitz
International Correspondent for and
Member of the OL' HACKERS, LIAUG and ABBUCe.V.

Here it is, the middle of January, and I have not had a chance to write this article. Anyhow, a Happy, Healthy and Successful New Year to all of you.

As my fellow Atarians and friends at the OL' HACKERS and LIAUG Users Groups already know, I was again able to attend the annual meeting of the Atari Bit Fyter Users Club E. V. (ABBUC) in West Germany. The meeting took place in November in the town of HERTEN.

The meeting started promptly at 11 AM. After the opening and welcome remarks, WOLFGANG BURGER, President of ARFUC, had a surprise for me, a collection of PrintShop disks (all PD!) and Icon print nuts, neatly bound in a binder. This was a memento for me, as well as a thank you for my efforts on behalf of the club. It was my turn now to introduce myself and to present greetings from AL BEITCHMAN, President of the OL' HACKERS and GREG BROWN, President of NAPCO (Nittany Atari Personal Computer Organization). Gifts of PD software for ABBUC from the OL' HACKERS, NAPCO and LIAUG were exchanged as well. A brief question and answer period followed, demonstrating the interest of our West German friends in our club activities and ATARI of course. The proceedings then continued with club Elections (all officers were re-elected), Treasury reports, Old and New Business etc.. The meeting ended at about 3.30 PM, followed by a computer show/fair. One was able to view hardware and software projects in the making, displays of programming skills, the ABBUC Mailbox (BBS). Also present were several vendors, selling software, hardware enhancements and publications. It made for an interesting afternoon. I again became the focal point for the local and regional press, having traveled the farthest to attend the meeting made it something special for them. The fair ended at about 6.30 PM, after which a few members and I, including the club officers, retired to a local pub for food and libations and more Atari discussions.

ABBUC, at the meeting has 630 members strong nation wide. Attending the meeting were about 180 with, far the first time, two East German members.

As usual any questions concerning the Bit Byters or their programs and text files may be directed to me by phone, at meetings or by Mail (stamped, selfaddressed envelope please.)

Horst A. Dewitz
1653 Wesley Avenue
North Merrick, NY 11566
516 378-0718 (Eves after 7.00 PM)

"SONDERDISK # 6"
BONUS DISK "SPACE TROUBLE II"

Translated by Horst A. Dewitz
International Correspondent for and
Member of the OI Hackers, LIAUG and AEBUC E.V.

Because of ABEUC's sound money management, "Sonderdisk # 6" AND A BONUS DISK was possible for members this month. Being a non-profit organization, ABBUC returns excess funds to its members in the form of these special disks. Keep in mind that ABBUC has no monthly meetings. All club information is dispersed in the form of mailings.

Consider this, just sending a disk to every member involves sending over 600 disks out. Not counting all the disks to affiliated clubs and friends. To go further, they also sent out a professionally printed 37 page hard copy (in GERMAN) of "BOBTERRM". ABBUC's leadership truly deserves a big hand for a job very well done.

"Sonderdisk # 6 "

As usual these disks contain almost all text. Unfortunately this disk contains nothing of interest for the American Atarians, as far as the text is concerned.

Side A

INFO.TXT	Explains side A and B
JHV89.TXT	Annual meeting minutes
BAUPLAN.TXT	Updated list of schematics
USCHECK.TXT	Sample of different order forms
USCASH.TXT	for ABBUC members, who like to order in the USA
USEESTELL.TXT	
USKREDIT.TXT	
KE-SOFT.TXT	Advertising for KE-SOFT Co.
FDLISTE.TXT	Updated PD Library list
PDECKE.TXT	Explains how to play solitaire
(available from <i>the</i> ABBUC library)	
REGIO.TXT	Regional announcements

Side E?

BOBTERRM A modem Program

Bonus Disk SPACE TROUBLE II

The text part does not explain the game. It only sets the scene for *the* game to start. You landed on a hostile

planet, from which you try to escape. The game is played with a joystick. DO NOT write protect the disk, which is copyrighted by the way.

Disk is selfbooting. To guide you through the start up:

When you see this: (Screen display)	Do this:
Turbo Basic 1.5	
Title Screen # 1	Press >start<
Title Screen # 2 (Space Trouble II)	Press >start<
Erklaeruna(J/N)	Press >N<
Eitte Seite 2 einlegen...	Turn disk to side 2, press >enter<

Game screen bottom:

----->

Push	Take	Use	Switch on
Pull	Give	Help	Switch off
Open	Read	What is	Close

Top bar shows responses (I have no idea what may show up.) The area below the commands, shows items taken, so far I noticed "Blech"=Sheetmetal and "Englander" a plumbers wrench. I did not have time to play with this game. Have fun with it anyhow.

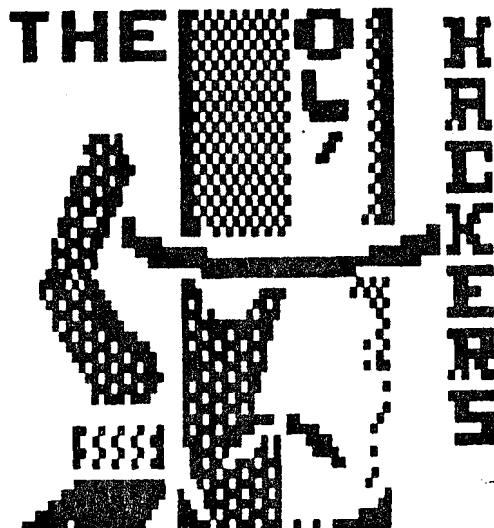
This game illustrates again my long standing belief that users should buy an English-German dictionary, for less than \$20.-- in most good bookstores. It makes German PD software, (available in most club PD libraries), more enjoyable and playable.

Any questions concerning the Bit Fyters or their software will be gladly answered. By phone, at meetings or via US-mail (stamped, selfaddressed envelope please.)

Horst A. Dewitz
1653 Wesley Avenue
North Merrick, NY 11566
516 378-0718 (Eves after 7.00 PM)



WHERE IS YOUR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLE



THE RESIDENT

JOE KENNEDY, ABBUC/JACG

And direct to OL' HACKERS through
HORST DEWITZ.

No this isn't the sequel to "The Graduate" with Dustin Hoffman as a medical student. The RESIDENT is a CARD that plugs into the expansion port on the 800XL or 130XE. On the 130XE the expansion port is the cartridge port plus the small port beside it. The CARD is addressed as soon as the machine is turned on unless "SELECT" is depressed. (The same way that "OPTION" is depressed to lock out BASIC.) Now comes the basis for the name "THE RESIDENT". MICHAEL PASCHER, the developer of this CARD has placed DOS 2.5, TURBOBASIC (written by Frank Ostrowski), three different printer drivers, TURBODRIVE, and a Monitor on this CARD. Imagine booting up with TURBOBASIC and not having to wait for the disk access!!!

When you boot up with THE RESIDENT you will immediately see a menu that lists the various functions mentioned above. At this time you can select whichever combination of these options you require. While the DOS and TURBOFASIC options are just what the name implies, a brief description of the others is in order. The three printer drivers are controlled through the joystick ports. By constructing a cable which MICHAEL describes in his instructions there is no need for an interface to attach a printer which uses a Centronics style plug. The beauty of this is that if you have an ATARI compatible printer already you can attach a second and designate it as device "L:". TURBODRIVE is for use with a chip that is similar to HAPPY. The Monitor is a machine language monitor that can be activated by using the SHIFT-CONTROL-TAP combination of keys. You can then view or change the memory, disassemble the memory, read or write disk sectors and start or continue programs.

Now I have only one printer and it has an interface already and I don't have a TURBODRIVE so I can't tell you personally how the printer drivers and the TURBODRIVE options work. However, a friend has made the printer cable and he tells me that it does work without problems. In reality there are two different cables that can be used. One requires a little electronics but needs only joystick port 2. The other requires no electronics at all but does use both joystick ports. I wasn't able to report personally on the above functions, but I can say that it is a pleasure to boot up and have DOS and TURBOBASIC so fast.

Where do you get The Resident? Well there's only one game in town! It is available only to members of the ABBUC USERS GROUP in WEST GERMANY. That's right!

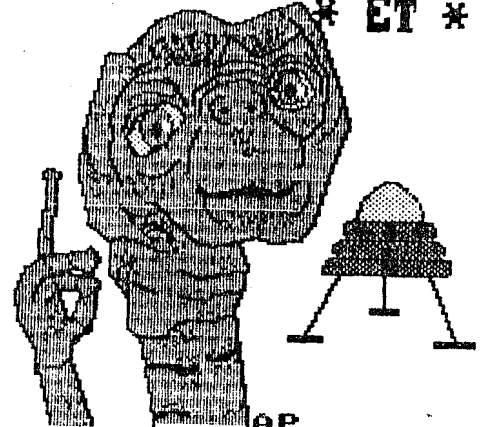
It's the same group that puts out the excellent disk magazine that HORST reviews for your newsletter. For further information contact:

ABBUC
Wolfgang Burger
Wieschenbeck 45
D-4352 Herten
West Germany

or you can contact HORST DEWITZ, who will help you, I'm sure!

And HAPPY ATARI COMPUTING to you!!

OL' HACKERS NEEDS
YOU! PLEASE BE A
VOLUNTEER!
* ET *



BIT EYTER Program Descriptions Disk #
18

Translated by HORST A. DEWITZ.

Side 1

DOS.SYS/DUP/SYS --> DOS 2.5 REFLJC
Color

AUTORUN.SYS --> Loads TITLE-BAS

TITLE.BAS/TITLE.PIC/TIT.DAT -->
Winning title by Frank Schoen

LESER.BAS/WRAP.OBJ --> Text. loader
program for all .TXT files on this
disk, either to screen or printer.
This is the new version by Matthias
Reichl

FILM.COM/BILD.PIC --> A small film by
Friedhelm Giese. These picture were
recorded with the Videodigitizer and
by Page flipping, were played as a
film. Please load FILM.COM from DOS-
function 'L' then press START.

SWING.COM --> A Graphic/Sound demo
from Poland. We brought this back from
Hertogenbosch.

DUF.BAS/AUTO.PRG --> A Ramdisk for the
800XL by Thorsten Meyne. Program works
only with EIEO-DOS. Format disk, write
DOS without DUF file to disk:. Copy
DUF.BAS and AUTO.PRG to disk. Rename
DUF.BAS to DUF.SYS and AUTO.PRG to
AUTORUN.SYS. Now boot disk and you
will have a small ramdisk

Side 2

DOS.SYS/DUP.SYS --> DOS 2.5 ABBUC
color

AUTORUN.SYS --> Loads the menue

MENUE.BAS --> Loader menue by Peter
Sabath

START.TUR/ROWLY.TUR/ROWLYCODES/ROWLYHI

H.DAT/CHAR.FNT --> A game by Christian
Schwarz. Please load TURBO BASIC
first, then *start with* RUN
"D:START.TUR". This **is** a game for 1 to
2 players. and it stores highscores.
To store highscores make sure disk is
not write protected.

TAKE1.TUR/TAKE2.TUR/TAKE.FNT --> A
game by Carsten Strotmann. Please load
with TURBO BASIC. Directions are within
the game.

FOING.TUR --> Small graphic demo by
Frank Stadtkowitz, load with TURBO
BASIC

LOTTOSY.TUR --> Program by Burkhard
Wagner.

PRSHOP.COM --> Print routine for Print
Shop Icons by Mathias Reichl. Load
with function 'L' from DOS.

DISKHELP.COM --> Copy program by
Andreas Prigl. Allows single sector
copy, multi copies are also possible.
Load from DOS function 'L'

STEUER.BAS --> Payroll tax program by
Ralf Holthausen. Directions within the
program.

SOUND.BAS --> Sound demo from the USA.
Follow directions an the screen.

RECHNEN.BAS --> Math program for
children from the Netherlands.

 **ATARI**
Power Without the Price



SIT PYTER News From NEWSLETTER on Disk # 19

Translated by HORST A. DEWITZ
International Correspondent for ABBUC
e. V. ■ OL' HACKERS & LIAUG.

Hello BIT BYTER.

The following is a correction for those of you who have DISK # 18

We are sorry to tell you that we committed an error on disk # 18. The program FILM.COM could not be started from DOS 2.5. When we compiled disk # 18 we tested our programs with BIBO-DQS (a GERMAN DOS). We received many questions and complaints. We are sorry and apologize and hope to avoid future mistakes. Here is the solution:

- 1) From DOS 2.5 load FILM.COM with function "L"
- 2) Use function "M" and give starting address 600
- 3) Press START

The program should run now.

ANOTHER MISHAF:

As we gathered from many angry letters the program DISKHELP.COM obviously was a pirated copy of the original SECTORCOPY 1 program, unknown to us or it would not have been included in our magazine. We regretfully apologize to the unknown author of that program.

NEW 130 XE:

We have news from the USA that Atari has a new modified version of the 130 XE on the market.

Here are the details:

- a) The memory test tests the extra 64k, shown as 4 squares.
- b) The first 48k are tested twice as fast as in the past.
- c) Keyboard test does not show 1 to F4 keys.
- d) Copyright 1983 Atari is being exchanged for Copyright 1985 Atari and is displayed at the end of the keyboard test.
- e) The operating system is on a 27256 EPROM chip and takes only half the memory space of that chip. In the past

16k x 8 ROM (27128) chips were needed.

f) 4 chips of the 4164 series replace the 16 RAM's (4164).

g) There is a new FIA (68B21) chip, compatible with the 6520/6520A chips of the existing computers.

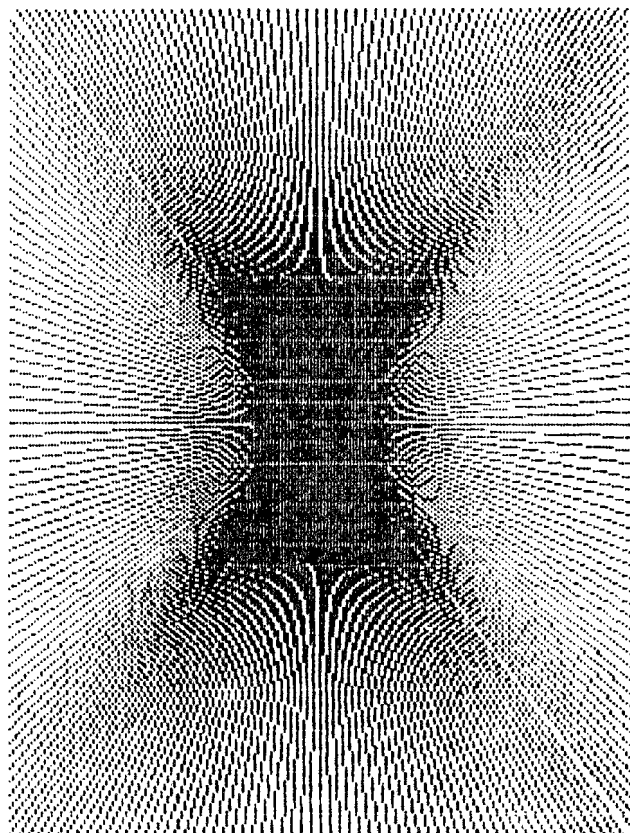
h) The manual (Rev. D) is not spiral bound any more.

Commentary of one U.S.A. club: "LESS CHIPS, MORE MONEY FOR ATARI Crnp. "

MAGAZINES:

First Atari magazine (German-HAD.) and now ANALOG!!!.- Analog will be no more. Last issue is the DECEMBER issue. Another mag lost to the 8 BIT!

Wolfgang.



Final Editor's Message
By
Carlos Hurtado

It; been a great year for me as Editor--In--Chief of this fine Newsletter. I had some very interesting times and I also met new people and made alot of new friends. It was a great learning experience and wish the new Editor lots of luck. I would like to give special thanks to Rlex Pignato and Kris Holtegaard for their support and help, without their help I would be in the crazy ward. T H A N K S !!!!

Here are some of the new happenings around:

1. Lehigh Valley Atari Users group in Pa, are **busy** putting together a Regional Meeting on Feb. 17, 1990, stay posted here for further details. At press time some 5 local users groups plan to be there. Remember the JACG meeting in NJ? A fun time was had by all who attended.

2. The 01' Hackers 2ND Annual Dinner will be held on Dec 5th at Tiffany's in Eellmore, L.I. Ee there or he square! Please see Horst De Witz fur more detail5.

3. WANTED NEW EDITOR!!!!!!!!!! Come Jan. 1990, I cannot continue as Editor, but will be more than happy to help out the new Editor..

4. Rumor has it that our President Al Beitchman picked up alot of goodies at the Ken Gordon Computer show, and plan to give them AWAY at the next 01' Hackers Meeting.

5. Membership dues are due in Jan 30. If you pay your dues on TIME, a special welcome disk will be given to you along with a copy of our current library catalog with over 135 P.D. disks.

6. VOTE? VOTE! VOTE! In Feb. 1990 elections are coming, PAID UP members will vote for new offices.