SPACE

NEWSLETTER for July, 2007

President's Corner
by Michael Current
July, 2007

25 years. TWENTY-FIVE YEARS! That's right, this month we celebrate a quarter century of the Saint Paul Atari Computer Enthusiasts. We can thank our club's Founding Fathers, Tony Walsh, Steve Howard, and Chris Tiggemann, for starting SPACE in April of 1982, and here we are, 25 years later!

We are marking this occasion in our customary way: potluck party! Bring a dish to pass to this month's meeting, and let's all enjoy this moment with your fellow Atarians.

If you have not had a chance, you really need to check out the new SPACE web site. Nolan has put a great deal of work into it, and while there are still a few glitches to iron out, I really think he has done a fantastic job with the site redesign.

I wish to briefly point out here that next month's A-T-A-R-I column by Paul Alhart will be the last. Why is this? Because after next month, we will have re-printed every A-T-A-R-I article he wrote! More on this next month.

Finally, this month may be an apppropriate time to give some thought and discussion to the future of SPACE. (Perhaps in the formal meeting, perhaps over the eats!) Our membership count is relatively low, and more importantly, recent meetings have seen very few people showing up. Financially we are okay for now; the main damper of late has been the size of the meetings, and the resulting minimal DOM sales. Do we still want to hold monthly meetings? Are there any viable alternatives? While we all wish SPACE to continue indefinitely, all things change, and even end, including SPACE, so we should not be afraid to bring up such topics to assess where we stand. We need not be slaves to tradition. SPACE can only be what we, the SPACE members, want it to be. We need your input and participation!

Thanks, keep using that Atari, and come to your next SPACE meeting and birthday party, Friday July 13, 2007.

Treasurer's Report
by Greg Leitner
For June 2007

I hope everyone reads their Newsletter in time for the next meeting. You already should know that the July SPACE meeting is also our birthday month. Since only four members attended the June meeting we didn't get a lot of input for the birthday dinner. I guess we will just do the normal pot-luck again. Tony and I will bring the pop, napkins, plates, utensils and a main dish to share. Everyone else can bring anything you choose.

We really need to discuss the future of SPACE. Glen and I almost called it a night at 7:40 at the June meeting when two more members arrived a little late. It turned out to be a good thing that they were late as an ST user brought his system in to donate at about 8:00. So we ended up with the Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Dom chairman as the four members present for the June 2007 SPACE meeting. With gas prices being so high I wonder if we should meet only every other month or maybe once a quarter. I don't know how you all think about this but it is very discouraging for me and Glen to be there every month and all the other members to come whenever it fits their schedule. We need feedback about the future of SPACE.

I was going to have an auction at the July meeting but a few things changed my mind. For one, I don't know if enough members will show, two, we only have ST stuff to auction and no one was interested at the last auction and three with the nice ST system we had donated to SPACE, I can't bear to see it go for $1.00. We need to have more members present and I just don't see it happening even for the birthday meeting.

Here is the breakdown for the SPACE treasury for June:

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Beginning balance as of June 1, 2007:    799.59

Receipts for the June meeting:
   Memberships                            30.00
   Doms                                   15.00

Total receipts for the June meeting      45.00

Expenses for the June meeting:
   Newsletter-for twelve months          67.08
   Web-site-for four months              40.00

Total expenses for the June meeting     107.08

Ending balance at June 30, 2007:        725.51
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We had catch up expenses for the June meeting but we are now in good shape until the room rental bill arrives which could be any day now. I never know when Falcon Heights will remember to bill us, and when they do it will be for six months ($150.00). We are still okay for now but we really need the membership renewals and dom sales to keep us strong. I bought the only dom last month and it is really a shame that Glen puts so much of his time producing the dom and no one shows up to buy them.

If I sound like sour grapes I am sorry, but I could be doing other things with my wife on these Friday nights instead of waiting around to see if anyone other than Glen is going to show up for a SPACE meeting. I need some feedback from you guys to determine how to handle this problem.

Please don't forget the Birthday meeting next month, and please bring a dish to share. I really hope to see a lot more of you next month.

Secretary's Report
By Steven Peck
For June 2007

Well, we did not have much attendance in June for the SPACE meeting, but there were surprises this time. We got some ST stuff from Mr. Ron Dennis, a person from Georgia. He gave us a hard drive, a power center, an Atari 1040STf, and a slew of ST disks. We were not sure if he was going to make it, but he did. Thanks, Mr. Dennis for your donation. It is appreciated.

Lance also e-mailed me. He told me that Allen Noble is doing fine and that he may come back to meetings later this year. Hopefully that happens.

Nolan told us about the web site. I got a chance to look at the site myself and it looks very nice. I want to extend my thanks to those involved in making the web site updates.

That is my report for now. Thanks for reading.

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BBS Corner
By Nolan Friedland
For July 2007

If anyone has any comments, suggestions, ideas, or submissions for the BBS Corner column or the SPACE BBS web site, you may email them to me, Nolan Friedland, at the address shown on the back of this newsletter under the "CLUB OFFICIALS" section.

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A-T-A-R-I
Answers-Tips-And-Relevant Information
Paul V. Alhart
1997.1

Who Ya Gonna Call?

You say that gremlens have been been taking 'bytes' out of your disks and you need help restoring them. Who Ya Gonna Call?

Or your latest programing efforts have hit a snag because you need to know what O/S address in your 1400XLD holds that data you need. Who Ya Gonna Call?

Maybe you need to upgrade or sell off some of your hardware. Who ya Gonna Call?

Need a cable to hook that new modem to your 850, or a hard drive to use with your BlackBox? Who Ya Gonna Call?

What are the pin outs for the interface connector on your Indus disk drive? Who Ya Gonna Call?

Do you just want to talk to other Classic Atari users to see what they are up to? Who Ya Gonna Call?

I recommend you call FIDO. No, not the neighbors dog. Call a FIDO Net BBS. Fido Net is a network run on private BBSs. It started out as a small local network in the midwest, and now has almost 40,000 nodes or member BBSs from almost every country in the world. The message areas include some 800 topics. They run the gambit from A to Z. Atari to Z80 you might say. Not every Fido BBS carries every message area, or "echo" as they are called, due to memory and drive space limitations. Most SysOps will add any echo that BBS users request though. If you don't see what you want, just ask. All of the echos work pretty much the same. The Atari 8-bit echo is where you'll find me hanging out, as well as many prominate names in the Atari community, and that's the one I'm going to talk about.

First make sure you are on the right echo. There are a couple of Atari ST echos as well as the Atari 8-bit echo. The #1 rule on the Atari 8-bit echo is that you only talk about the Atari 8-bit and related topics. You can send messages to a spicific person or to ALL. Its kind of like InterNet E-mail except that everyone else on the echo can, and will, read your message as well. That's half the fun. You"ll learn what other Atari users are up. And don't be afraid to butt right in with your own comments or opinions as well.

Fido mail is generally sent bbs to bbs, sometimes taking messages a couple of days to bounce to their ultimate destination. The BBS I call uses PlanetConnect, which is a satellite reception system. A company in the east transmits all of fido's message and file echos and it is received on a dish at this end. The SysOp keeps what he wants and just dumps the rest. Like I said, most BBSs don't carry every echo available.

Since FidoNet is run on private BBSs, they all have their own "personality" as well as their own unique options and features. They do come and go from time to time too. For instance, when the SysOp of my local Fido BBS had the nerve to move to another state a couple years ago, he just pulled the plug on the BBS. I was lost. After finding another Fido board in the next town, I started making a list of other Fido boards that presently carry the Atari 8-bit echo from information found in message taglines. The following is the list I have compiled to date. Remember there are almost 40000 Fido BBSs around the world, so this is just a short list to get you started. Find one near you and call it. The SysOp should be able help you locate other Fido BBSs in your area. I hope to talk to you there soon.

Location	BBS Name	Phone #
Bham, Al.	Family Smorgasboard	205 744-0943
Gadsden, Al.	Toy	205 494-9613
Montgomery, Al	StarScan ???	334 279-7313
Jonesboro, Ar	Wizard"s Domain	501 932-6961
Mesa, Az	Star*Link	602 464-4817
Phx, Az	Battlestar Galactica	602 269-1209
Sierra Vista Az	Danish Tower BBS	520 459-6514
Az	PC Heaven	520 445-8472
Escalon, CA	Beemer Board	209 983-0625
Los Angeles, Ca	Masatek	310 518-9524
Sunnyvale, Ca	Atari Base	408 745-2196
Ca	Driven Element	408 267-2335
Oildale, Ca	Got Milk Inc	805 399-9459
Palmdale, Ca	Miles Enterprises	805 264-0200
Santa Maria, Ca	Tower	805 937-4093
		805 937-4492
Ca	Computer One	818 763-0678
Canoga Pk, Ca	22 Acacia Ave	818 704-8838
		818 704-6646
Rancho Cucamonga, Ca	Star Tours II	909 989-7745
Riverside Ca	Prime Connection	909 274-9637
Riverside Ca	PC Widowmaker	909 688-8427
Citrus Heights, Ca	Mind Keep	916 723-1657
Ca	Odyssey Line	916 428-9808
Ca	Deap Space Franchise	916 721-1701
Chico Ca	Madman	916 893-8079
Sacramento CA	Humanx Commonwealth	916 737-1844
Sacramento, Ca	Vortex	916 332-7141
Ca	Rest Stop	916 498-1721
Margate, Fl	TechLands	305 977-0098
Miami, Fl	Metro Data Gp.	305 378-2571
		305 378-8809
Fl	Brass Pounder	305 472-7715
Casselberry, Fl	TJ's	407 695-0594
Deltona, Fl	Sky-Net	407 574-0670
Fl	MoonRose HQ	407 568-8774
Fl	Twilight Zone	407 831-1613
Kissimmee, Fl	Osceloa Express	407 348-5295
Orlando, Fl	RUSH Room	407 831-6077
		407 331-2874
Fl	GIFfer	813 969-1089
Fl	??	813 960-7267
Deltona, Fl	NeverEnding	904 789-8383
Fl	Computer Country	904 769-9431
Beverly Hills, Fl	Gator Gulch	904 746-6542
DeFuniak Springs, Fl	Rainbows End	904 892-5635
Ft Walton Beach, Fl	221B Baker St.	904 862-8643
Ft Walton Beach, Fl	Baker St.Irregular	904 862-6917
Panama City, Fl	Bejue	904-722-9217
Martinez, Ga	Far Side	706 868-9726
Ga	Animal House	706 321-9126
Savana, Ga	E-Pages	912 927-4857
Ga	ZAP	912 788-5258
Ga	Southside	912 757-0576
Danville Il	Jewel of the Night	217 446-9294
Springfield, IL	Fantasy Land	217 535-1005
Bartonville, IL	Midnight Serenade	309 697-2752
Chicago, IL	Greg's Place	312 376-0081
Collinsville, IL	Garage	618 344-8466
De Plaines, IL	River Styx II	708 432-2659
IL	FamilyNet Intl.	708 230-9068
IL	Electric Estates	815 886-0494
Indianapolis, IN	Zoo	317 356-5519
IN	Dedicated to Atari	317 356-5519
IN	Mail Room	317 644-5029
Plainfield, IN	Party Towne Pub	317 839-5793
Louisville KY	LiveWire	502 933-4725
New Orleans, LA	French Quarter	504 891-1388
Ma	Echo	508 883-3894
Hingham, Ma	Fun-House	617 749-0526
Great Hills, MD	Hafa Adai Exchange	301 994-9460
		301 994-9462
Columbia, MD	MetroNet	410 720-5506
Pasadena, MD	Dollar Saver	410 360-0640
Mi	Abacus	517 645-0093
		517 645-0239
Mi	Horseman's	517 769-2230
Mi	DeVaSTaTioN	616 527-6299
Saginaw, Mi	Four Flags	616 684-3822
Minneapolis, MN	FlightLine	612 544-5118
MN	City Lights	612 633-1366
MN	Warehouse	612 379-8272
St. Louis, MO	Ajax Cat Grinder	314 282-4216
MO	ChatMaster	417 886-2737
Independence, MO	Dugout	816 795-0774
Great Falls, MT	Milo's Bloom County	406 454-2682
Brandon, MS	Cell Block	601 992-5567
Madison, NJ	CryptNet	201 593-9035
Bridge, NJ	Hologram	908 727-1914
Old Bridge, NJ	Republic	908 679-2680
Las Vegas, NV	Rebel BBS	702 435-0786
Reno, NV	Library Com	702 785-4191
Rome, NY	Catfish Mecca	315 336-8948
Utica, NY	W.A.A. BBS	315 797-3054
NY	Blue Oyster	315 732-8598
Seaford, NY	Arena BBS	516 579-2069
Waterford, NY	InterState	518 233-0572
NY	Veliss	716-826-0762
		716-826-6383
		716-826-0279
		716-826-3911
		716-825-5956
NY	NeoNexus	716 624-8106
Bronx, NY	Fordham Jesuit BBS	718 817-5500
Bronx, NY	Haven	718 904-9054
NY	Overnight][	718 980-5838
NY	DarkSide of the Moon	914 736-1253
Akron, OH	Remote Access	216 253-9247
Akron, OH	Rubber City	216 376-0885
Akron, OH	Wind-Aided	216 864-0313
Zanesville, OH	Unknown BBS	614 264-1912
Edmond, OK	Medicus	405 478-8250
Owasso, OK	Ham Radio Emporium	918 272-4327
Tulsa, OK	South Forty	918-756-7006
OR	Puddle City	503 289-9429
Ivyland, PA	DSC	215 443-7390
Pgh, PA	Genealogists	412 681-5688
Whitehall, PA	Father & Son	610 439-1509
Shickshinny, PA	Full Throttle	717 542-7287
PA	Revelstone	717 263-9689
Charleston, SC	Roost	803 767-4201
Irmo, SC	Dreadnaught Class	803 781-0243
Columbia, SC	ViewPoint Online	803 788-8194
Kingston, TN	Soft Touch	423 376-7623
TN	Final Frontier	901 835-4136
TN	Night Falcon's Plains	615 446-9900
San Antonio, TX	Last Chance	210 822-7519
San Antonio, TX	Another Brick	210 662-8367
TX	ST:ING	210 509-3272
Richardson, TX	Lunatic Fringe	214 235-5288
Garland, TX	Road Kills Domain	214 240-0408
Houston, TX	STarship	713 682-7474
TX	HACE	713 458-9923

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Origins by Tony Walsh
Reprinted with minor corrections from the July 1996 SPACE Newsletter

I am one of the original members of SPACE. I, Steve Howard and Chris Tiggemann started SPACE back in April 1982. At that time, TAIG was the only ATARI club in Mpls. TAIG meetings were in Chaska and they had about 150 members. We wanted a smaller club in the northern part of the Twin Cities. Steve, Chris and I were talking one day at work (UNIVAC) and the idea came up to start another ATARI club. But no one was willing to be president. The ball started rolling when Steve reluctantly volunteered. Chris volunteered to be vice president and I took the librarian job. We had several monthly meetings before we made the public announcement. Many people had expressed interest during those early months so we new the club had a chance to survive.

One of our first projects was to pick out a club name. Steve wanted the words "Saint Paul" in the name. I wanted "ATARI" included. Chris liked the ring of Twin City ATARI Interest Group or TAIG. So we made a list of words and started trying different combinations. It seemed like magic as SPACE was one of the first combinations that everyone liked. And we also agreed that our "temporary" name would be reviewed by the general club membership and they would pick a new permanent name. For some reason, our "temporary" name became permanent.

The first public meeting was in June 1982. I can't remember where the meeting took place - about 8 people showed up. After that meeting, we encountered some problems. Steve resigned and the meeting room was to small. That was a critical time as it seemed like our club foundation had vanished. Chris and I found out that Steve had volunteered, just to start the club and he had no intention of being the president. Steve was an author and he really wanted to write and publish the news letter. Out of nowhere, Ed Finegan stepped forward and replaced Steve. Ed found a new meeting hall on Lexington and Snelling - Minnesota Federal conference room. Our July meeting was a success with 13 people showing up.

At our August meeting, we had 17 ATARI enthusiasts. Steve published our first news letter that month. And I started gathering software for the library. TAIG had 35 disc's of public domain software. I made a deal with Phil Seifert of TAIG to purchase their DOM and redistribute that software in SPACE. Ed surveyed the 17 members and found 8 had the 810 Disk drive and 9 used the 410 Program Recorder for loading software. That meant I had to build 8 DOM's and 7 COM (Cassette Of the Month) each meeting.

The DOM's were easy to build as it took just a few minutes to copy the disc's. The COM's took a full day. I used 60 minute Radio Shack cassette tapes for the COMs. I wrote a basic program that copied all the DOM programs to my 410 Program Recorder. I would start a copy and return in 30 minutes, so I could flip the COM or start a new one. I was lucky if I got the job done in one day because the 410 Program Recorder was not too reliable. I also printed labels with counter numbers that approximated the start of the program.

To load a COM program, you used the 410 counter to position the cassette. Then by pushing the PLAY button, you listened for a long silence in the tones. That meant you must have found the gap between programs. You typed in "LOAD C:" and waited for the computer to beep. Then you quickly depressed PLAY on the 410 and hopefully the program would load. The 410 was a "poor man's" loader and it was not too reliable. That meant the above process was sometimes repeated 3 or 4 times before you got a good load. It was near impossible to load a big program. And we found my 410 counter was different than everyone else so that added another problem. I swapped many COM"s because some worked for some people, and not others. What a time we had with our new toy!

It was really encouraging to go to each meeting. We usually signed up 5 to 10 new members each month. And TAIG really grew - from Aug. 1982 to April 1983 there membership grew from 185 to 358 people. I don't have any numbers for SPACE - my guess is about 100 in April 1983. By this time SPACE and TAIG limited COM's to 5 programs per side because of reliability problems. And by now most people were using disk drives as the price dropped from $459 to $229. We charged $4 for DOM or COM. 5.25 inch disc's, in those days, were $2.25 each. ATARI 800 sold for $499 and the 400 went for $200. An ATARI 400 full stroke keyboard was $125 to $250. The 410 Program Recorder sold for about $80. And the 850 interface went for $250 if you could find one. My Epson, state of the art, MX-80 dot matrix printer cost $459 and for $80 more, I could buy EPROM's that printed graphics. The Anchor Signalman 300 baud modem sold for $99. The popular

magazines were COMPUTE!, 250 pages at $2.50 and Creative Computing at $2.50. COMPUTE! really supported ATARI and they usually devoted about 100 pages. They had type in software and informative articles from ATARI founding fathers like Chris Crawford. All that cost put quite a drain on our pocket books - no wonder the wife was afraid of bankruptcy.

I remember starting many "new" events. SPACE birthday parties, swap meets, paper library, and the 65K upgrade. In Feb. 1983, Steve Berglund figured out how to add memory to his ATARI 400 and I organized a 65K upgrade SIG (Special Interest Group). $85 got you 65K installed on your ATARI 400. Remember that up to this time, most of us had 16K machines which ran 90% of software available. Now my 400 could compete with those 800's with 48K. I think this was one of the first memory upgrades and it seemed we started an avalanche - all you saw advertised after that was memory upgrades. It did not take long for software to catch up with the 65K. And in about 6 months, all you saw was large programs and 48K machines.
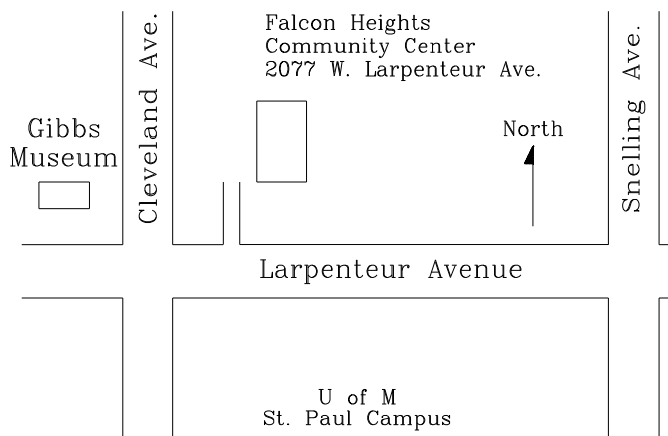
Looking back in my notes I see names like Glen Kirschenmann paid $4 for Aug. 1982 COM. In Sept. 1982, Glen submitted COMPUTE! type in software to the library. Sherm Erickson in Nov. 1982 was working with the mail order cassette library. In Jan. 1983, Sherm wrote an article for the news letter explaining the COM mail order procedures and charges. At the Feb. 1983 meeting, Sherm and Rich Mier were working with Preppie! and cassette backup. Sherm and Rich also offered their computers and TV's for club demonstrations.

Our club has come along way since 1982. Somehow, the club survived! I have always though the ATARI 400/800 are well though out and well documented computers. And they are a fast (machine language), 8 bit machines. They keep living on. I hope to see many of you at the SPACE meetings for years to come.

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CLUB OFFICIALS

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Saint Paul Atari Computer Enthusiasts (SPACE) meets on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Falcon Heights Community Center at 2077 West Larpenteur Ave. Doors open at 7:00 PM.

S.P.A.C.E.

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DISCLAIMER

You can find the Club's home page at:

http://Space.atari.org

Articles for Publication must be received by the Newsletter Editor two weeks prior to the Club's next Scheduled meeting.

SPACE BBS

BBS:
telnet://spacebbs.no-ip.com/
Sysop: Nolan Friedland
http://spacebbs.atari.org/

Supporting:

ATARI 8-Bit Computers

ATARI ST Computers

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