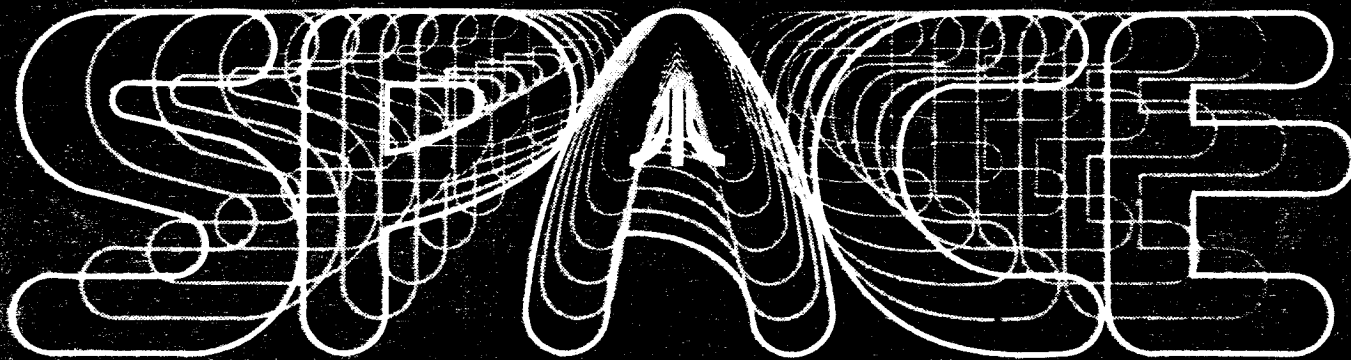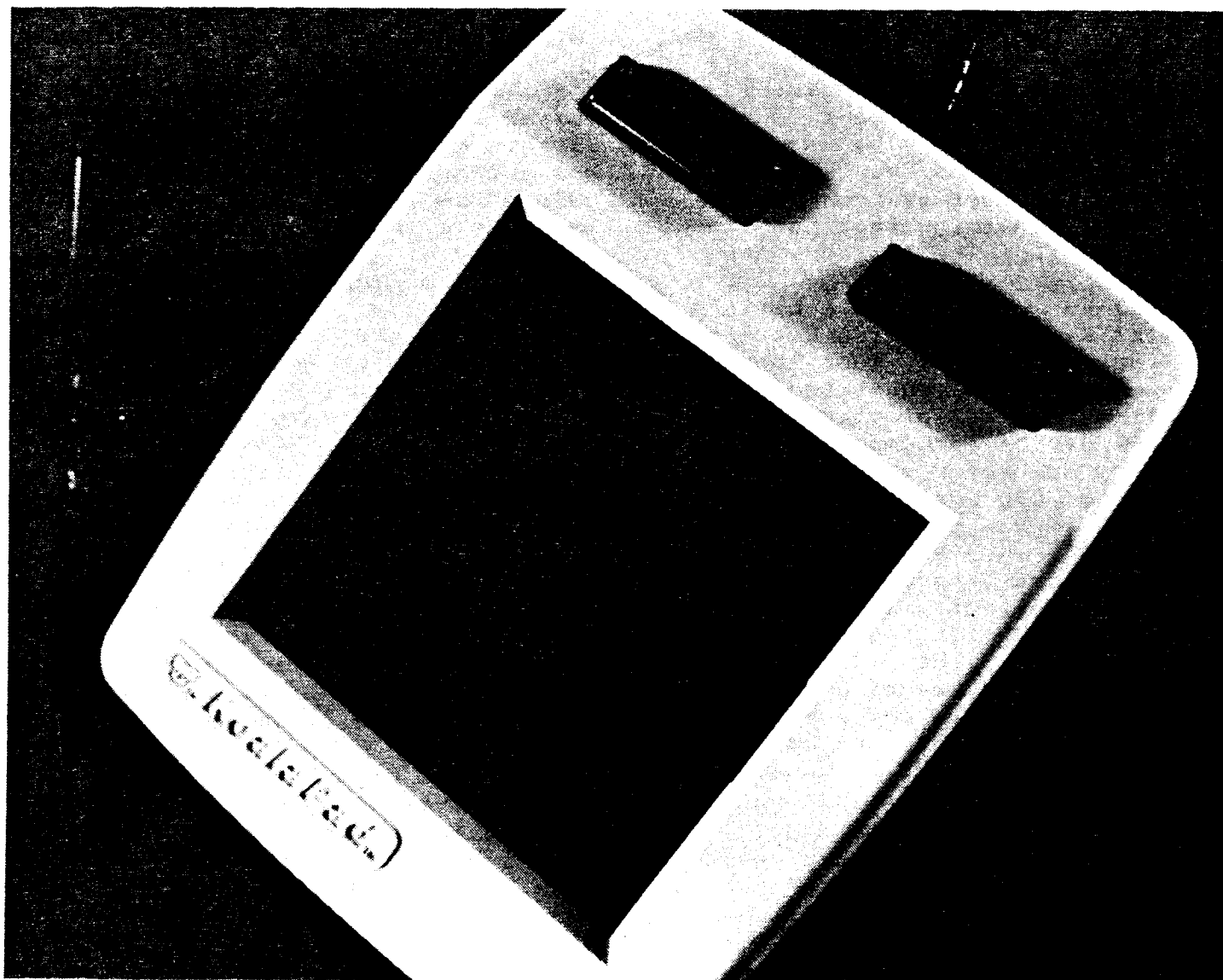# Saint Paul ATARI Computer Enthusiasts

SPACE

An independent computer user group

OCTOBER 1983

**See the amazing new
KOALAPAD & Micro Illustrator**
along with other new hardware/software at the next SPACE Meeting.

Mailing Address – 6807 226th Ave. N. E., Stacy, MN 55079

NOTES
FROM THE EDITOR

What I would like to know is why out of 80 plus members only 2 people have the time to submit any news for this (your) newsletter? If you feel that you could write an article or have any questions about the newsletter please call me (Steve Pauley 560-2917).

The Club also needs someone to contact computer vendors each month about advertising in our newsletter. If more effort is put into getting paid ads, the drain on our treasury can be cut down. If you could help please let Chris or me know.

The following is a list of advertising rates for vendors and/or individual members.

FULL PAGE $18.00   7-1/2" X 10"
HALF PAGE   10.00   3-5/8" X 10"
HALF PAGE   10.00   7-1/2" X 4"
1/4 PAGE   5.50   3-5/8" X 4"

WANT ADS — Now it is possible for members to place 'Want Ads' in this newsletter. The ads maybe for selling used hardware, used software, tutoring services, or just about anything that has to do with ATARI. The rates are as follows:

6 LINES   1.20   216 Letters
1 LINE   .25   36 Letters

All advertisements must be paid for when they are submitted.
Deadline for ad placement is the last Friday of each month.
To place ad or for more info, call the editor 560-2917

OOPS!   'VideoArt', the program that appeared in this newsletter last month had a mistake in the listing and to make thing worse the correction I mention at the meeting was wrong too. Well here is one more try at it. Line 1540 ASM$ string can be typed like this: [Lower case h][Inverse "][Cap P][Space][Cap V][Inverse lower case d][CRTL Period]. Also Greg's last name is spelled Howell — I think.

The Editor
Steve Pauley

NOTES
FROM THE PRES

This month I really should have called this column 'bites from the pres' I will try to calm down somewhat and present the facts. A week or two after our last meeting it seems there was a computer show in town. Now that in itself is not a problem. The problem begins when, out of 80 memberships, there was not one single person in our club that knew of this show. That is what I find hard to swallow. In my last column I specifically requested that anybody having information regarding such things contact me or one of the officers so arrangements could be made to be represented. As it turns out, Twin Cities Computer User newspaper was handing out packetts of information on the user groups in the Twin Cities and we were non-existant. Apparently my fellow members want to be inconspicuous. If this club is to grow and if we are going to be able to help or be helped by other Atari owners we must have more visibility. OK, enough said.

Last month we had one of our best turnouts to date. Many new faces and lots of familiar faces were there. It seems that myself and the librarian were the only ones that could make it. If I got a little windy, chalk it up to losing track of time trying to compensate. We now have 80 members and growing. We gave a months grace on the delinquent renewals, but can't continue this because of the cost involved in having such a graphic newsletter. Please send in those renewals in order to keep receiving your newsletter. We also could use some articles from the members.

It was brought up last month that a special interest group get started for members subscribing to the various Atari oriented magazines. This group would share the typing of the programs in these magazines, to save wear on their fingers and keyboards. Those wishing to do so can make their

wishes known at this coming meeting.

Another hundred 1050 disk drives arrived in the cities this month with more to follow. The 600 should be here very soon also.

The BBS is now relocated. Somehow the new S/W got messed up. We are presently working on it and hope to have it running by the time this newsletter is mailed. In order to have a reliable and powerful BBS we need a couple of new pieces of hardware. For this reason, we will be voting on if we should require a one time password fee from members of $5.00. This money would allow us to buy a doubler for the disk drives and a printer. The doubler would basically double the storage space on the two disks already on the system. The printer is needed to keep track of system activity. Since our club has become more involved with the operation of this BBS, and if we vote to go with the $5.00 one time fee, we will be renaming the BBS. In this light, we will be holding a contest for a new name. Any member can submit an entry, and a prize of some sort will be awarded. Just what that will be, we are not sure yet. Only those members having modems will be allowed to vote on the $5.00 fee issue. They have a vested interest in the BBS. The new BBS number will be made public at this coming meeting, so be there to vote and get the new number.

This month's ANTIC didn't impress me a whole lot, but I'm not really into sports that much. I guess you can't please all the people all the time. ANALOG seems to be the biggy this month. They had a nice tutorial on fine scrolling. In the reader comment section a guy from florida says he has the 'World's Most Souped-Up ATARI 400'. Anybody out there want to dispute that. Read his article on page ten. It really is quite a system.

Well I guess that is about it for this month. See you at the meeting.

Chris Tiggemann, President

KoalaPad

Review by Steve Pauley

Has the joy gone out of your joystick? Have you ever been up a creek without a paddle? Are you tired of light pens with heavy prices? Or maybe your 'Paint' has just dried up? Well....have I got the answer to all your woes. The new KoalaPad from Koala Technologies is in my opinion the most interesting Atari peripheral I have ever used.

I have waited years for a good graphics tablet for my Atari and now it's here. The tablet converts finger or stylus position on the tablet to vertical and horizontal readings that are read through 2 Paddle registers. The tablet has a resolution 228 both ways. The drawing surface area is 4.25 inches square. I found the tablet very sensitive and easy to pick any point on the screen. The tablet also has slots for templet overlays that could be used for menu selection, educational or game applications.

If this is not enough for you, it also comes with a drawing program called 'MicroIllustrator' which I like even better than 'Paint'. If you change the joystick readings to paddle readings in the 'VideoArt' program it will work with the KoalaPad. Programs soon to be released that use the tablet are: 'Spider Eater' teaches kids note recognition, meter and composition a- they zap spiders. 'Programmers Guide w/disk' and 'The Illustrator'

This tablet is so easy to use that there is bound to be many more programs released in the future.

Here is how simple it is to use in your own programs.
```
10 PRINT PADDLE(0),PADDLE(1),
20 PRINT STICK(0),STRIG(0):GOTO 10
```

List price for KoalaPad and MicroIllustrator is $99.95. See a complete demo of this tablet at the next meeting and try it out yourself.

HARDWARE CORNER

This month I was asked to describe the ATARI as a system. This includes the peripherals and associated hardware add-ons.

The 400 is essentially the same as the 800 as far as operating system and internals go. The only real difference is in the keyboard and the lack of the second cartridge slot. Other differences being that the 400 has no monitor jack and all memory upgrades must be made to the single board slot that the mother board allows. The keyboard and memory problems have been solved by many third party vendors. I also heard mention of a unit that recombines the RF signal that comes out of jack that plugs into the TV set. This unit is supposed to give composite video and sound to go into a monitor.

The 410 recorder requires no special interface and works with basic and machine language files.

The 810 disk drive also requires no special interface and works well with all languages and supports a random access file format and a directory. This makes it faster and easier to load and save files.

All the new peripherals that are coming out also do not require any special interface, thus making the 850 unnecessary. If you wish to use a third party printer or modem, you must invest in the 850. This allows 4 RS232 ports and a parallel (8 bit) port. The parallel port would allow you to run a centronics type interface to a printer.

The ATR8000 would also cover everything that the 850 does plus a smart disk drive controller for many different dumb drives. This requires some special software to run the double density mode but works well with ATARI DOS II.

Most of this is pretty general. If any specific hardware is on your mind please speak up at the meeting during question and answer time. See you at the meeting.

Chris Tiggemann

Wordfinder
instructions

A couple of months ago I donated a program, "WORDFIND.3" to the library. Now I would like to explain it better. First, the program is a word finder for all 1-4 letter words. When I started writing it, it was going to be an aid for solving the cryptograms in the newspaper, but I'm sure you will find other uses for it.

Now, how do you use it? When you load it in, it will ask how long the word that you are looking for is (1-4 letters). Next, it will ask if you already know any of the letters in the word. If you don't, it will list all the words that are _ letters long. If you are listing 4 letter words you can stop the listing by pressing any key. But, if you know any of the letters in the word, you can cut down the possibilities very quickly. It will ask which letter of the word you know (1 - how long the word is). After that, it will ask what the letter is. Once it gets this information, it searches and finds all the words with that fit that description.

Here is an example:
HOW LONG IS THE WORD ?'4'
DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THE LETTER? 'YES'
WHICH LETTER IS IT(1-4) ?'2'
WHAT IS THE LETTER ?'x'

It then prints 6 words that fit and lets you continue when you would like. How fast can you do that looking through a dictionary? Sorry, the words are not in files so you could use them in other programs, they are in data statements, I didn't think of disk files until I was almost finished.

by Jonathan Nelson

Editors note: This program is found on this months 'disk of month'.

FROM THE LIBRARY
DISK #23
September 1983

VALNTINE.BAS-Only on valintines day
TREDMAZE.BAS-Slick maze game
ALPHA.BAS   -Good memory game
CONVERT   -U.S. and Metric
LASERGUN   -Destroy the enemy ship
STARMERC.BAS-An adventure game
WORDFIND.3   -Great for crossword gm
ALIENATT.ACK-Strickly awesome
ALIENBAR.AGE-Missile command?
MUNCKINS.OCT-Munch, Munch, Munch
SPACDUEL   -Not the O.K. coral

Mail order cassette - Sherm
Erickson 434-5254
Mail order disk - Bill Sterling
291-7710

The library needs the following:
    1. User written software:
cassette or disk
    2. Any other software that is
not copyrighted.
    A free DISK/CASSETTE of the
month will be given to any SPACE
member who submits an acceptable
program for the library.

```
10 GOSUB 150:REM TIMER PROGRAM OR JUST KILLING TIME
20 IF PEEK(20)<60 THEN POSITION 9,11:? #6;PEEK(20);" ":GOTO 20
30 POKE 20,PEEK(20)-60:POKE 77,0:T=T+1:TA=TA-1
40 HA=INT(TA/3600):MA=INT((TA-(HA*3600))/60):SA=INT(TA-(HA*3600+MA*60))
50 H=INT(T/3600):M=INT((T-(H*3600))/60):S=INT(T-(H*3600+M*60)):SOUND 0,50,10,2
70 POSITION 6,1:IF H<10 THEN ? #6;" ";
80 ? #6;H;":";:IF M<10 THEN ? #6;"0";
90 ? #6;M;":";:IF S<10 THEN ? #6;"0";
100 ? #6;S;:POSITION 6,5:IF HA<10 THEN ? #6;" ";
102 ? #6;HA;":";:IF MA<10 THEN ? #6;"0";
104 ? #6;MA;":";:IF SA<10 THEN ? #6;"0";
106 ? #6;SA;:IF T=BUZZER THEN GOSUB 400
108 SOUND 0,0,0,0:IF T>86399 THEN T=0
120 GOTO 20
150 ? "}":? :? "ENTER STARTING TIME:":? "  HOUR,MINUTE,SECOND & PRESS RETURN"
160 INPUT H,M,S:T=H*3600+M*60+S
200 ? :? :? "ENTER ALARM SETTING:":? "  HOUR,MINUTE,SECOND & PRESS RETURN"
210 INPUT HA,MA,SA:BUZZER=HA*3600+MA*60+SA:TA=BUZZER-T
211 IF TA<0 THEN TA=TA+86400
212 POKE 53279,8:GRAPHICS 18
220 POSITION 5,0:? #6;"---TIME---":POSITION 5,2:? #6;"----------"
250 POSITION 5,4:? #6;"-T--MINUS-":POSITION 5,6:? #6;"----------"
270 POSITION 5,8:? #6;"-ALARM-AT-":POSITION 5,10:? #6;"----------"
282 POSITION 6,9:IF HA<10 THEN ? #6;" ";
284 ? #6;HA;":";:IF MA<10 THEN ? #6;"0";
286 ? #6;MA;":";:IF SA<10 THEN ? #6;"0";
288 ? #6;SA;:POSITION 5,11:? #6;"press start";
289 IF PEEK(53279)<>6 THEN 289:REM START TIMER
290 POSITION 5,11:? #6;"               ";:POKE 20,0:RETURN
400 SOUND 0,100,8,14:IF PEEK(20)<180 THEN 400
430 TA=86400:GOTO 20
```

S.P.A.C.E. Membership Application

Name_____ Phone_____ Date_____

Address_____ City_____ State____ Zip_____

Equipment/System Used_____

Areas of Interest_____

Special Skills, Interests, Info which might be shared._____

Optional
Information: Occupation_____ Employer_____

Dues: $10.00 per year - please inclose check with application.

Mail Application and dues to:
St. Paul ATARI Computer Enthusiasts,
6807 226th Ave. N. E., Stacy, MN 55079

_____ For more information contact a Club officer: _____

Chris Tiggemann President 462-4435   Steve Pauley . . Editor   560-2917
Steve Berglund . Vice-Pres 636-8956   Max Feuer   . . . Treasurer 483-3895
John Benke . . . Librarian 459-6655   Sherm Erickson . Cass.Lib. 434-5254

Saint Paul ATARI Computer Enthusiasts
2547-83rd Court No.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

Next SPACE Meeting:
Friday, October 14, 1983
8:00 P.M.

Minnesota Federal Savings and Loan
Lexington Ave. near Larpenteur
Roseville, MN

ADS By 2nd
FRI Before Meeting