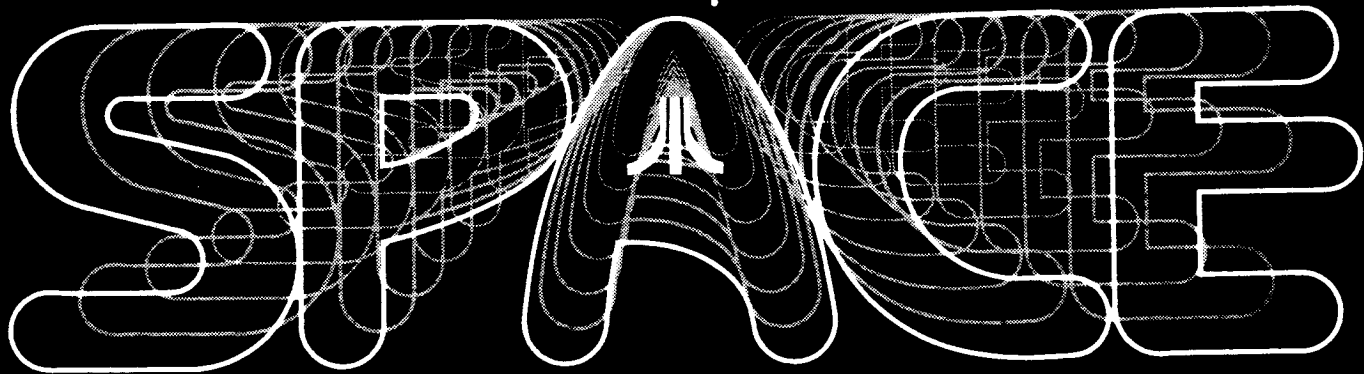# Saint Paul ATARI Computer Enthusiasts

SPACE

An independent computer user group

Bytes From the Pres.

This is my second "Bytes" and already I'm going crazy. There's just a lot going on in ATARI-land. So, there's a lot to cover in a newsletter. Much of the stuff is the kind of thing that anyone (even a beginner) can do, such as rumors, demos, magazine info, etc. So, give us a hand and get us some articles, help, etc.

First, I'd like to thank Jon Nelson for an excellent newsletter last month. This was Jon's first newsletter and he did a fine job. Let's be sure to give Jon some help with those articles. Either give Jon the articles at the meeting or call him to get the articles to him. Articles should be on disk using a common word processor. Deadline is two Mondays before the meeting. Keep up the good work, Jon!

Second, I'd like to thank Joe Danko for taking an interest in some hardware offers at the last meeting. Joe will go into more detail (than I did) at this meeting and perhaps organize a group purchase of some sort.

Third, I'd like to thank Frank Haug in advance for working on the cassette and disk of the month listings. He is compiling a listing of all past programs with a one line synopsis of each. This will be issued as a handout at a future meeting.

The BBS is up and running, but on the old software. You will have to get a new password by calling the BBS at 544-9058 and using the "P" option as explained by the BBS. Phil Seifert of TAIG is still working on new software to overcome shortcomings in the old version. Phil asks that users be sure to delete their old messages on the current BBS.

A New Star

At the last minute, SPACE was called upon to be on radio KSTP-AM's "Computer Talk" show. Since I was tied up, Bruce Haug got to be on-the-air live during Commodore's usual week. Bruce came through with flying colors (or was that rainbowing colors?) and showed those C64'ers a thing or two. I'm sure Bruce will let us all know about his radio guest-star role at the meeting. Bruce should also have an update on our ex-local Atari representative, Charlie Danielson.

400 Keyboards

The chicklet type keyboards for the 400's are here. Price is $12.25. There are only keyboards for those who ordered them. Bring your money with you in order to receive yours. I think Bob Krack deserves a lot of thanks for handling this. If some of you missed out, please let us know. Perhaps we can ask Bob to handle another purchase, if necessary.

September Demos

Demos this month should be very good. Jim Glish, of Control Data Corperation, will be giving us a demo of the "Learning Phone". This is the new cartridge program to be released by Atari later this year for access to CDC's PLATO network. Jim will demo several lessons and notefiles. For

more information, read the articles in the July and October issues of _Antic_. I've also got a Synapse demo disk with two soon to be released games on it -- "New York City-The Big Apple" and "Alley Cat". I've also sent for a light pen demo that utilizes Micro-Illustrator software. This is the same software used by Koalapad and Atari Touch Tablet. I'm not sure this will arrive in time for the meeting. I'm sure the dealers will also have some programs to demo.

Mainframe Micronet

I called up Mainframe Micronet database on 429-6929. This is a very good database BBS. I recommend all of you with modems to give them a call. You can get a lot of information while logged-in. I will have a few copies of their handouts at the meeting. You can also arrange for Micronet to send you information with option 13. In a nutshell, Mainframe offers information on weather, video, theater, restaurants, books, sports, arts, etc. Advertisements and user groups are also supported. Try them out.

Misc.
I am interested in having a swap meet in October. How about it?

That's all for this month.

Bob Floyd
The Pres.

WANT ADS

Now it is possible for members to place 'Want Ads' in this newsletter. The ads may be 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

The following is a list of advertising rates for vendors 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 5"
    1/4 page   5.50   3-5/8" X 5"

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.

Magazine Mania
By Bob Floyd

What's happening to our ATARI magazines? I'm not sure it's safe to subscribe anymore. A few months ago, I lost money on _Softside_ when they filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Maybe I'll recover a few dollars of this. And now, it appears _Hi-Res_ has bit the dust, along with my subscription. I only got issues #3 and #4 of my subscription (although I got #3 twice) after I had purchased #1 and #2 at the newstand. I really liked _Hi-Res_. Their last issue, #4, started featuring Commodore too. Maybe this was their demise. Perhaps Atari subscribers asked for refunds? Does anyone know?

The September issue of _Compute!_ features a description of the industry in turmoil in the "Editor's Notes" column. Robert Lock, the editor, reports that the December, 1983 issue of _Compute!_ had 393 pages, 215 of which were advertising. In comparison, the September, 1984 issue has only 164 pages, 60.5 of which are advertising. This illustrates the "shakeout" going on in the computer industry. Magazines are feeling the pinch in reduced advertising revenues. Hopefully, the magazines can adjust. _Compute!_ says that they have come up with a good formula for the future. I hope so since I like it a lot.

Analog seems to be doing fine, but has shrunk in size from a high of about 150 pages to 98 in the October issue. The content is still excellent. They are taking a "wait and see" and "we'll report it" attitude on the recent changes at Atari.

However, _Antic_ is apparently taking a new stand. _Antic_ has also shrunk from about 146 pages to 92 in October. The difference here is that they appear to be taking a leadership role in the changes at ATARI. First, they are trying to fill the void due to the demise of APX. _Antic_ is contacting all APX authors so that they can market their programs. They will also market new APX-type software. Second, _Antic_ is setting up a user group BBS for product reviews, teleconferences, etc. Third, _Antic_ is preparing to offer "selected products directly by mail." All subscribers will receive catalogs. Listings will also be updated in each magazine issue. They are also adding new features such as disk subscriptions, a

removable program listings section, a new typo program, etc. It sounds like a good plan to me.

(Incidentally, Antic does not offer special deals on disk subscriptions to user groups. Individuals must subscribe separately. Analog is still the best deal in town.)

EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE LIBRARY

Here is a listing of what is currently in the SPACE educational software library. Bill Sterling is handling this, too. Arrangements are the same as the paper library above.

Visicalc
Agent USA
Trains

Because of the cost of software, we are not purchasing these. Instead, we depend on donations from the venders and members. Often times, educational software has a limited lifetime because you're done with it once you've learned from the program. So, if you have an educational program you no longer use, please donate it to our library. We'll trade you a disk or cassette of the month for it, which is better than nothing.

PAPER LIBRARY

Here is a listing of what is currently in the SPACE paper library. To use the library, see Bill Sterling at the meetings in the back of the room or phone him in between meetings. Policy is that you can keep the book for a week and then must make arrangements to get it to anyone who is waiting. If no one is waiting, you may keep it until the next meeting.

De Re ATARI
ATARI Technical Users Notes
ATARI Demo-Packs 1 to 8
ANALOG Magazine
ROM Magazine #4 & 6
ATARI Games & Recreations
Picture This
Computes First Book of ATARI
Computes Mapping the ATARI
24 Game Programs in BASIC
Hi-Res Magazine #3
Best of Creative Computing
Your ATARI Computer

The last 5 listings are new. The last item may not be ready for this meeting. Donations are gladly accepted - you will receive a disk or cassette of the month in exchange for your donation. If you have any purchases to suggest, please write them down and give them to one of the officers at the meeting.

Rumors, Etc.

Have you heard these rumors? Here's the latest and the greatest XL-ent rumors from "Pokey" the Bookie.

1) Wall Street Journal , 8/23/84 approximately: Atari is suing Commodore and Amiga over a "super-set of chips" for a next generation computer. Atari had given Amiga one-half million dollars towards developing the chips. Later Amiga returned the money and said the technology didn't work. Then Amiga sold the technology to Commodore. So says Atari, anyway. (Some of you may remember that Amiga was the hit of last June's CES.)

2) ABC World News Tonight, 8/26/84: Atari will introduce a new low end computer to compete with the Commodore 64 in January, 1985.

3) Unknown, but reliable, 8/27/84: Atari will compete in three markets: video games, family computers, and small business computers.

4) Analog, 10/84: Analog thinks Atari will cut the price of the 800XL and software substantially for the Christmas season and sell a bunch.

5) Antic, 10/84: Antic also thinks Atari will sell a bunch of 800XLs at prices below Commodore 64s for Christmas.

6) Unknown and unreliable: There will be a new 800XL with a new sound chip (music synthesizer quality), built-in disk drive, 128K RAM, and the 16 bit version of the 6502 microprocesser. (Maybe they could sell it for $1000 with a $1100 rebate, too.)

Have you heard any good ones lately? Well, let us know at the meeting!

DISK OF THE MONTH

--THIS MONTH'S PROGRAMS--

DNSDUP	Down side up
STSRT	Sorter
TIMEALL	Timer
ASCR	Auto. screen editor
* DWRT	Disk read/write
* DRMSG	Data file
* EX1.DAT	Data file
* FRMTR	Formatter
* ABMAK	
* FILELIST	Reads file, prints on screen
TAPETIME	Cassette timer
TPDP2	Great tape copier
CHGEN	
EPSILON	
MAZE	Maze game
FLASH	Math flash-cards
CLOWNS	

* Asterisk indicates disk-only program.

TIPS 'N' TRICKS

One trick I like to use is editing strings within a program using the keyboard. The best way I have found (using BASIC) is to PRINT the string to the screen and then POSITION the cursor to the beginning of the string minus one X-coordinate. Then you don't have to re-enter a string to change it. Plus, you have the editing keys at your disposal. An example would be as follows:

```
100 POSITION 3,18:PRINT A$
110 POSITION 2,18:INPUT A$
```

The only hazard I've found, pointed out by Frank Haug, is that SHIFT-CLEAR can erase the whole screen.

Bob Floyd

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Disk Lib: John Benke - 459-6655
Paper/Educ Lib: Bill Sterling - 291-7710

Editor: Jon Nelson - 484-9027
Treasurer: Max Feuer - 483-3895
Cass Lib: Bruce Haug - 774-6226
Bulletin Board - 544-9058

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Roseville, MN 55113

Next SPACE Meeting:
Friday, September 14, 1984
8:00 P.M.

Minnesota Federal Savings & Loan
Lexington Ave. near Larpenteur
Roseville, Minnesota