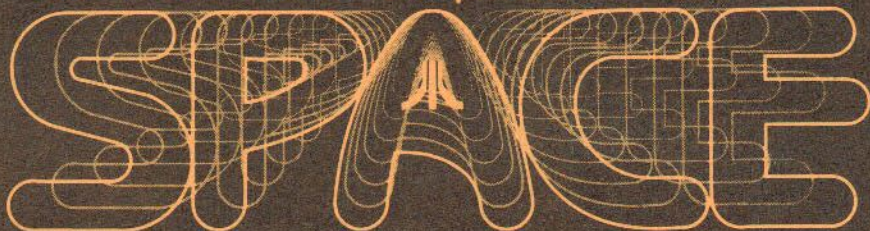# Saint Paul ATARI Computer Enthusiasts

SPACE

An independent computer user group

SPACE Meeting Friday, Oct. 14th at 7:30pm

MAST Meeting Friday, Oct. 21st at 7:30pm

At the Falcon Heights Community Center
2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

MAST+ Programmers Meeting
Monday, Oct. 24th at 7:30pm

At First Minnesota Bank Building - second floor
Lexington and Larpenteur, in back of building

MAST Minnesota Atari ST

DISCLAIMER

SPACE/MAST BULLETIN BOARDS

SPACE/MAST East (XE) - BBS Phone: (612)-774-0135
Sysop: Bruce Haug (Home Phone: 774-6226)

SPACE/MAST West (ST) - BBS Phone: (612)-560-9254
Sysop: Steve Pauley (Home Phone: 560-2917)

⚫ S ⚫ P ⚫ A ⚫ C ⚫ E

President	
Larrry Vanden Plas	636-2415
Vice President	
John Novotny	699-2422
Secretary	
Ernie Costello	455-6515
Treasurer (SPACE/MAST)	
Bob Siede	489-3982
Disk Librarian	
Joe Danko	777-9500
Greg Peasley	473-6510
Paper Librarian	
Jim Scheib	721-4185
Newsletter Editor (SPACE/MAST)	
Steve Pauley	560-2917

⚫ M ⚫ A ⚫ S ⚫ T

President	
Jim Schulz	533-4193
Vice President	
Phil Seifert	545-6765
Secretary	
Dan Stubbs	433-3708
Disk Librarian	
Jim Schulz	533-4193
Paper Librarian	
Neil Palosaari	646-1272
Membership Chair	
Allen Frink	482-7911
Demo Coordinator	
Phil Seifert	545-6765

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES:

🗄 S o P o A o C o E

📇 BYTES from the SPACE PRES
by Larry Vanden Plas

Computers are a wonderful tool. They allow us to compose, edit and transmit our thoughts on paper or electronically. This degree of freedom and ease was not even available to newspapers until recent decades. They alllow us to play games and learn in an encouraging, almost painless manner. We have just begun to tap these capabilities. Using relatively low cost interfaces many tasks around your house can be controlled by a computer operating according to your specific instructions. This does not happen without learning about the computer and how to teach it to serve us. This is where your user group comes in. It may be the source or tell you of the source of the equipment you need. Your fellow members can help you with the question that blocks your path. What you learn from the newsletter, hear in a meeting or find out from a conversation at the meeting can inspire you to make better and more extensive use of your computer. Think about sharing with the group. Perhaps you could volunteer a little more time during the coming year. Perhaps you could tell a friend about the benefits of our user group. The current group of officers have done a terrific job finding and delivering information and programs. Tell them how much you appreciate it.

We recently received word of another HAMFEST on October 29th. Although we were pleased with the response at the last one, we are not planning to have a booth at the next HAMFEST. We are always looking for ways to let those who want to use the best 8-bit computer how to find us. Let us know if you have any ideas.

More 8-Bit News on page 14 ☞

◆ After Last Night (from the VP)
by John Novotny

To not be outdone by the rival computer magazines, its about time we took an indepth look at computer viruses in our own ward. Initially, this column was going to invite everyone to the October SPACE meeting for paint and CAD program demos; however, the response to requests for participants has been few (like none), so forget this. On to viruses then. The topic was inspired by two recent events: 1) a discussion on our BBS about worries of such, and 2) some flakey operation of my own system components (since fixed per Joe Danko's advice to recable).

What ensues therefore has very little depth (especially when considering the length!). I'm sure this is a very sensitive topic for many people, and this is not a very sensitive treatment, so if you are this type, either fortify yourself appropriately or skip this entirely. With that behind us, we all know viruses get passed on to our systems from contact with other systems, like from down loads from a BBS, or borrowed program diskettes. (All indications are that new diskettes are clean, but format them anyhow before using). Some people suspect that viruses may lodge themselves in hardware, and some new hardware may even be infected. A couple of great examples are the infamous 800XL Rev B BASIC, and the cunning XM301 just waiting to zap your system.

Actually, viruses act in more subtle ways, as the following examples point out. Most shoot-em-up type games are infected. The virus generally concentrates in the joystick control code, causing erratic operation when demand for exact control is critical. It seems to diminish somewhat after the game player gets quite thoroughly infected himself, thereby becoming more attuned to the virus in the program. This individual will generally recover, given treatment. However, SPACE currently does not have AMA

permission to divulge this painful and often risky cure. We can tell you this though - its expensive.

Another frequent area of contamination is somewhere in the player-missile registers, the very soul of the 8-bit ATARI. This virus is generally well behaved, until the BASIC program using this area is stopped. Then the virus manafests itself by rapidly fluttering and or vertically scrolling pink streaks over an otherwise normal G0 screen, persisting often into yet another program that fails to defend itself adequately, thus allowing the virus to spread. Powering off generally seems to offer temporary relief from this form of virus.

Well, let's then wake up to the fact that viruses are a way of life, and given proper attention, may be held in check. And this is where we come in (and make a bundle). I propose SPACE establish a licensed repository for infested software (original diskettes or cartridges with documentation only - please), and machines - all brands no older then 1987. Given the restrictions of what can and cannot go into landfills nowadays, it won't be long before curbside pickup of infected computers will cease! SPACE will provide approved quarrentining, but no promise will be made as to recovery. Its a foot in the door - we'll work out the details later.

SPACE September Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order September 9, 1988 at 7:30 PM by President Larry Vanden Plas.

2. Treasurers Report: Bob Siede. August's income was $237, expenses $191, leaving a balance of $339.40.

3. Vice President's Report: John Novotny. John said he has received several responses from public domain publishers, including two catalogs and a disk full of topics. He invited comments and ideas for presenting a meeting featuring graphic applications.

4. President's Report: Larry Vanden Plas. Larry asked for a vote on allowing members to sell items before each meeting rather than a periodic swap meet. The vote was "for" so bring your sale items!

5. Offers and Deals. John said Software Botique at Maplewood Mall has a sale on a small array of Atari software. Bruce said he heard that a liquidation of User Friendly's would be announced in the Minneapolis paper. No other information was available, however.

6. BBS: Bruce Haug. Bruce asked for comments on his idea to promote SPACE membership by featuring a monthly DOM selection on the BBS. Member comments were to go ahead with the idea.

7. New Business. Larry asked for volunteers to form a Nominating Commitee for election of next year's Officers. He pointed out that one of the advantages of serving was that they could avoid being nominated for an Officer postion (if that was their intention). In the absence of any volunteers, Bruce said he would help form a committee.

8. DOM: Joe Danko. Joe explained or demoed this month's selections. A version of Simon looked good-no batteries to wear out either! Some interesting graphics were generated by FRACTAL math plots.

SPACE 8-bit Software Library News
by Joe Danko
Librarians: Joe Danko/Greg Peasley
October, 1988 Disk Of the Month.
DOS   SYS 037
AUTORUN SYS 001
DUP   SYS 042
MENU   052
CAD   DOC 030
CAD   COM 176
HOUSE V3D 006
WHATIS2 COM 043
SUPERKEYDOC 071
SUPERKEYCOM 007
KEYEDIT COM 074
PFKEYS DAT 004
USFORMATBAS 012
MOON   DOC 002
MOON   ADV 003
MOON   PRG 103
XFAST OBJ 007
XF20   BAS 010
HELP   DOC 017
004 FREE SECTORS

CAD.COM:Computer Aided Design program in assembly language. Includes a DOC file and a sample CAD graphics file called HOUSE.V3D.

WHATIS2.COM: Assembly Language file identifier, latest version. Run it to determine the format of an unfamiliar file. It will identify listed basic, saved basic, binary load, etc. This one will identify ARC and ALF files also.

SUPERKEY.COM:Written in ACTION! by Kieth Ledbetter. This is a background handler to give your 8-bit ATARI 17 programable MACRO keys. When one of the MACRO keys is pressed SUPERKEY spits out a whole string of data as pre-defined by you. Includes a DOC file and KEYEDIT.COM to create and edit the MACRO strings. Boot With SUPERKEY.COM renamed as AUTORUN.SYS and it will install the MACRO strings in the PFKEY.DAT file. The PFKEY.DAT file on this disk has <control-4> defined as 'RUN"D:MENU'.

MOON.PRG: Assembly Language text adventure. You have to figure out how to complete the moon mission. Includes a DOC file. MOON.ADV must be renamed as AUTORUN.SYS. When the disk is booted MOON.PRG will be loaded by the AUTORUN.SYS.

USFORMAT.BAS: This ATARI BASIC program will format the disk in D1: in ULTRASPEED format for USDOUBLER or XF551 use with DOS2.5 as modified by XFAST.OBJ. Once the disk is formatted, copy your DOS2.5 files over with a sector copier. I have discovered that XFAST works well with SUPERDOS as the present version of SUPERDOS cannot format ultraspeed interlace in a USDOUBLER 1050.

XFAST.OBJ: Machine language routine to modify the SIO disk routines to handle ULTRASPEED formatted disks under DOS2.5. It may not work with everything. I found out that it doesn't work with the TURBO-BASIC XL compiler runtime file. After it has been configured by XF20.BAS, rename it to AUTORUN.SYS and boot with DOS2.5.

XF20.BAS: Run this ATARI BASIC program with XFAST.OBJ on a disk. It will tailor XFAST.OBJ to match your disk configuration.

If there are no big problems this week, SIDE B of the DOM should contain the re-written disk library database program DISKLIB3. It is actually DISKLIB2 with downward scrolling and editing capability added by me. There should also be complete index files for 1982-1987, 1988 and as many of the SPECIAL DISKS as I can figure out how to index. DISKLIB3 runs with ATARI BASIC and reads up to about 750 records into memory. The database is built by either reading the directories directly off of the target disks or entering data via the keyboard. DL3 has extremely fast machine language search and sort routines and it even stores the number of free sectors on each disk.The error trapping is not air tight so enter data carefully. This DOM will still sell for $4 although it will be 2 sides.

I have no idea, as I write this, who will demo software at the October SPACE meeting. I will be out to Philadelphia again from October 9th through October 27th going to school on one of the latest UNISYS number-crunchers. Greg Peasley will also be gone so I have asked John Novotny to help out with the disk sales. While I am in the Phily area I will attempt to contact the local ATARI user group and attend a meeting if possible. So have a good meeting and for gosh sakes some of you volunteer to be officers of the club.

▼ Is It Vaporware Or What???
by Joe Danko

Call it VOODOO MARKETING or ATARI-EIGHT-GATE but you sure have to wonder if anyone is actually going to sell any of the miraculous products we keep reading and hearing about that will be released REAL SOON NOW.

The list grows longer by the day: ADOS, ATARIWRITER-80, MAGIC BUTLER-80, SX212 EXPRESS, and SPARTA-DOS-X, to name a few. Look out for DIAMOND OS and GOS with bunches of desktop applications to run with them. The latest puff of news describes a technological tour-de-force called TURBO 8-16. This will replace the CPU and ROM in your 8-bit to give you ST-like speed and direct access memory up to 8 Megabytes with no paging while retaining compatability with most of the classic 8-bit software.

I just recieved one of the first copies of the DIAMOND OS from REEVE SOFTWARE. I have just had time to boot it up once and look at some directories. It is interesting but not very impressive with no applications that use the desktop features at this writing. It comes with handlers for a mouse, joystick and a KOALA pad. It did not work with my ATARI-TABLET. There were also no handlers for ramdisk or extended memory such as an AXLON or my 256K 800XE upgrade although the documentation mentioned that memory paging up to 24 megabytes is supported with a 16-bit memory paging register. Just the same, if you have a need to 'point and click' with your 8-bit this system will do it.

I just purchased about $130 worth of 8-bit software at the ELECTRONIC BOUTIQUE and some of it is excellant. If you can, get ACE of ACES. I heard it was being discontinued and then a few days ago I read that it would be released on cartridge. It looks like cartridge is going to be the future for 8-bit games. The SAT PRACTICE program by Hayden is very

interesting but humbling. I am enjoying the graphics/text adventures from FIREBIRD: SILICON DREAMS and JEWELS of DARKNESS.

Do you need a good cheap printer stand? Try using one of those plastic imitation milk crates. It can hold almost a whole case of paper directly under the printer. Speaking of printers, I joined the WHOLESALE CLUB tonight and checked their stock. They have a stack of STAR NX-1000 printers selling for $178 and the wide carriage NX-1500 going for about $250.

▩ Notes from the Editor
by Steve Pauley

Thanks to everyone for writing stuff for the newsletter. Keep up the good work, but remember the deadline!

November Newsletter Deadline for Articles and Ads - October 30th

If you would like to write something for the November newsletter, you must upload it to the SPACE or MAST bbs by October 30th. If you don't have a modem maybe someone else can upload it for you. You can also mail your articles to me on a disk. I can read Atari ST, IBM and Mac disks, but not Atari 8 bit. Give me a call at 560-2917 evenings if you need more info.

Ads should be accompanied with your check for payment. Check inside front cover of this newsletter for rates and sizes.

Help Wanted

Next month is the last newsletter I will be doing so that I can spend more time on the BBS and some programming projects. So we need someone to take over starting with the Dec. issue. It's fun, It's challenging and it takes only 6 hours of your time each month. Here's your chance to help out your computer club.

▩ ByLaw Changes
by Larry Vanden Plas

At the September meeting of the SPACE/MAST officers we reviewed the Bylaws and found a number of minor items that needed change or correction. These are submitted for your consideration below with the current wording and a brief reason for the change. A complete copy of the Bylaws will be available at the meeting. After printing in this newsletter and submission and discussion at the October meeting they will be voted on at the November meeting. If you have comments, but cannot make the meeting contact your officers, send them a letter or leave them a message on the BBS.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP
Section 2

Current: Any computer owner shall be eligible to membership upon payment of the annual dues for the first year.

Proposed: Any computer owner or person interested in computers shall be eligible for membership upon payment of the annual dues for the first year.

Reason: Open membership to all persons interested in computers.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS
Section 3

Current: Prior to the November meetings, the nominating committees shall pool all nominations for treasurer to make a combined list of candidates for both SPACE and MAST.

Proposed: After the close of business for the October meetings, the nominations for treasurer will be closed and the nominating committees shall pool all nominations for treasurer to make a combined list of candidates for both SPACE and MAST.

Reason: Ensures nominations are closed before any voting.

Section 4

Current: The officers shall be elected by paper ballot to serve for one year, or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

Proposed: The officers shall be elected by a secret paper ballot or by acclamation if only one person is running to serve for one year, or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected. However, the results of voting for the SPACE/MAST treasurer will not be announced until after close of voting at the MAST meeting.

Reason: To provide for a secret ballot and to provide for cases when only one person is running. This also prevents the results of voting at the SPACE meeting from influencing the results at the MAST meeting.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS
Section 5

Current: All regular and special meetings of the club shall be open meetings.

Proposed: All regular and special meetings of the club shall be open meetings. Executive Board meetings are not open meetings.

Reason: To clarify that executive board meetings are not open.

Section 6

Current: Club DOM's will be sold at club meetings by the designated DOM Librarian, and the price of this software will be set by the SPACE/MAST Executive board.

Proposed: Club DOM's will be sold at club meetings by the designated Disk(s) of the Month (DOM) Librarian(s), and the price of this software will be set by the elected officers of the respective groups.

Reason: To allow each group to set and change the price of DOM's as may be necessary due to changes in the costs of disks, demand for disks and other factors without needing the approval of the officers of the other group.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Current: These bylaws can be amended at any regular meeting of the groups by two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting and printed in the newsletter.

Proposed: These bylaws can be amended at any regular meeting(s) of the groups by A two-thirds vote of both groups, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meetings of both SPACE and MAST and printed in the newsletter.

Reason: To up-date the wording to reflect the two meetings of SPACE/MAST.

ARTICLE X GENERAL
Section 1

Current: No SPACE/MAST officer is paid for duties performed. With prior Executive Board approval, "out of pocket" expenses are paid upon the submitting of a bill or sales slip to the Treasurer at an Executive Board Meeting.

Proposed: No SPACE/MAST officer is paid for duties performed. With prior Executive Board approval, "out of pocket" expenses are paid upon the submitting of a bill or sales slip to the Treasurer.

Reason: Would allow submission and payment for previously approved expenses outside the board meeting. This reflects the reality that not everyone can make all board meetings. It may, in fact, be more efficient to submit bills at regular SPACE/MAST meetings.

Section 2

Current: No SPACE/MAST officer is paid. Compensation is one (1) free DOM each month. Additional DOM's are provided when there is more than one DOM per month, if the officer provides the DOM Librarian with the blank media. SPACE/MAST officers are not required to pay membership dues. Upon termination of office dues are required. These dues will be calculated on a per month basis if a full term is not served.

Proposed: No SPACE/MAST officer is paid. Compensation is one (1) free DOM each month. Additional DOM's are provided when there is more than one DOM per month, if the officer provides the DOM Librarian with the blank media. SPACE/MAST elected officers are not required to pay membership dues. Upon termination of office dues are required. These dues will be calculated on a per month basis if a full term is not served.

Reason: Restricts exemption from dues to elected SPACE/MAST officers to conform to original intent and actions. Those in appointed positions have paid dues.

Section 3

Current: No SPACE/MAST member shall sell or give SPACE/MAST DOM software to any other person, bulletin board, or computer club. All requests for SPACE/MAST DOM software will be authorized by the designated DOM librarian or SPACE/MAST Executive Board.

Proposed: No SPACE/MAST member shall sell or give SPACE or MAST Disks of the Month (DOMs) to any other person, bulletin board, or computer club. Individual programs maybe share with other persons, bulletin boards, or computer clubs. All requests for SPACE/MAST DOM software will be authorized by the designated DOM librarian or SPACE/MAST officers.

Reason: There is a need to prevent sales competition with SPACE and MAST using SPACE and MAST software, however the current wording is too restrictive.

Section 4

Current: SPACE/MAST does not sell DOM's to non-members. Other computer clubs may trade with SPACE/MAST on a one for one basis; disk for disk, or program for program.

Proposed: SPACE and MAST Disks Of the Month (DOM) may only be sold by those authorized to do so by the elected officers of SPACE or MAST. Other computer clubs may trade with SPACE/MAST on a one for one basis; disk for disk, or program for program.

Reason: Restrict the sale of DOM's, but allow the sale of DOM's to non-members as appropriate, such as encouragement to join, raising of funds.

I hope we have caught most of the potential problems. Perhaps we have made a few mistakes. Let us know your opinions so we can have the most appropriate bylaws for the coming years.

**Did you know
SPACE & MAST members
receive a 25% discount
at Wizard's Work?**

▶ RIBBON RE-INKING
Jim Scheib - 721-4185

The club can re-ink most printer ribbons (black) for a small fee. There is no longer a reason to use a faded ribbon! Ribbons that can be re-inked are: $1.00/ribbon - Spool to spool (all types) - Epson MX-80 and compatibles - Epson LX-80 and compatibles - C. Itoh Prowriter and compatibles (NEC 8023A/C) - Citizen 120 D - Panasonic - small ones that turn counter-clockwise: $2.00/ribbon - Epson MX-100 and compatibles. Other ribbons can be attempted, too. But if you prefer, you can buy an adapter ($8.50 + $3.50 shipping and handling) for the club and receive half that amount in credit towards re-inkings. See Jim Scheib at the SPACE meeting, or Jim Schulz at the MAST meeting. Please pay in advance & be sure to have your ribbon(s) in a plastic bag.

Ⓜ ○ Ⓐ ○ Ⓢ ○ Ⓣ

▤ MAST News from the Pres
By Jim Schulz

It's October and the ghouls are out in force this month... Yes, it's time to return to the world of MAST and check up what's in store for the month ahead. If you haven't stopped by the meeting lately, check us out again!!! There is alot going on in the world of Atari lately and you don't want to be left behind. So let's get going.....

First, last month.... Last month, we had another rousing swap meet. Everyone who came got some good bargains and got rid of some unwanted software and hardware as well. Also we had a number of demos after the meeting including Skychase, Starglider II on both the ST and Amiga, Captain Blood, Black Lamp, Quantrum Paint, Orion's Run, and maybe a couple more.

So, what's in store for October.... Let's see..... This month, we will having telecommunications demos, sort of. This month's demos include the Xpress cable box, new from the author of Flash. This allows you to get the latest news, weather, and sports on your ST through your computer. Also we will be demoing the latest in modem programs, ST Talk Professional. Come to the meeting and see if it is for you. Shadow, the background downloader will also be shown as well. Finally, if it can be arranged, we will be showing of a new large screen monitor for the ST. The company who makes the monitor is local in the cities and talked to both Phil and I this last month for help. The price is a little steep, but if you want a large hi-res monitor, it can't be beat. In addition to all of these, we will demo Typhoon Thompson, ST Planetarium, Multidesk(a utility to add more desk accessories to the desktop), Archnoid II(a very addicting game), and a couple of other goodies as well. So stayed tuned to the MAST board

for a complete list. Also this month, we continue our election process with a report from our nomination committee on the slate of candidates for the November elections. If you are interested in an elected position, see Kent or Dave. We will be electing a president, vice president and treasurer in November.

Also, don't forget the MAST+ meeting the following Monday night. This month, we will be showing off GFA BASIC V3.0, and the Revolver, the new ST disk switcher program. To find out the latest on the MAST+ meeting, check out the BBS.

So what's in store for the months ahead.... November is the annual election meeting to determine who will run the club in the year ahead. December is the biannual MidiMaze blowout to see if you can really beat Phil or Todd at their game. And don't forget the month of February when MAST again celebrates its birthday in grand style for its third year anniversary.

Disk sales..... Blank disks are still available at the MAST meeting and directly from me otherwise. The price is still $1.15 per disk for double-sideds. Also, I still have the pin-feed 3.5" over-the-top disk labels for $2.00 per 100.

Newsletter.... This month, we have a pretty full newsletter, but we can always use contributions. Elsewhere in this month's issue is the constitution changes for this year which will be voted on at the next MAST meeting. We are still in need of a newsletter editor. I have gotten a couple of feelers, but no one is still willing to commit to the job. Come December, we will not have this newsletter if someone doesn't volunteer.

BBS..... Yes, the BBS is up and running. now for 1 1/2 years without a single down day. Yesterday, we hit the 3000 (32 calls per day average) caller under the new BBS software so the board is busy. Steve is starting the process of cleaning out the old downloads to make more room for the future. So expect sweeping changes soon. Also the bulletins will be returning as well as ST Reports and other news bulletins as well. Steve is continuing to make the BBS better so keep watching as it changes.

Bouncer
By the Court Jester

Sure, I would have to have a momentary lapse of sanity. I should have never listened to that Dave Meile. He says, "Give me a disk and I will send you on a trip you won't forget.". How was I to know that he meant it? After some whirring and clanking my disk was prepared.I went home. After all, that is the normal thing to do at 3:30 a.m., isn't it? But how I wished that I never had a streak of curiousity. A regular cat, I am. I turned on my computer not caring how loud it protested and inserted that disk Dave gave me. This was just the start of the most harrying experience of my life.

Suddenly, things went blurry! Everything was spinning and I heard this maniacal laughter in the distance! "Ho ho! I finally got you! You will have to find your way out and there are 40 levels to do so. But don't worry, there are instructions to help you out.". And the voice faded......I found myself in a black & white world. No matter how many times I blinked and rubbed my eyes, the color just would not come back. Where was I? What was the strange object I was sitting in? And where the frick were those instructions that were mentioned? Obviously, this was not going to be a good night.

I waited, visions of many strange objects appeared overhead. Some of them even shooting things. This was definitely a scary sight! Scarier than my bathroom scale in the mornings!! I was so petrified, I waited some more. Aha! I spotted some writing overhead. At last, the instructions so I could free myself for revenge. Oh oh, they were in German. Sprechen und schiessen Sie Deutsch? Uh, maybe keine. Barely being able to follow what was being said, I decide to push the escape key. The world had frozen. Nothing would move. Hey, this was fun! Lets press that key again! Yep, everything had started moving again.

Then I finally pressed the 'P' key and all heck broke loose. Three balls came bouncing at me. Getting closer to the ground with every bounce. This was not a good situation to be in so I did what comes naturally, shoot first & ask questions later. Yep, I got rid of the bouncing balls! But imagine my dismey when 4 more appeared!! Arrrrrrgggghhhh!!!!! Was there going to be no end to this torture?? I could hardly wait til I got back to my world and get my hands on Dave!! Four balls became five......six.....and then...............it happened.   *THEY* came. The ugliest critters I had ever seen and they felt the same about me. Down came the bombs. Carefully, I had to tread my way along the ground to avoid the explosions. It took time, but I finally got the last of them.

But how was I to know they had pets? Flying eyeballs!!! I swear that was what they looked like! And did they shoot fast! Very unpredictable in their movements, but I was up the challenge. After all, when I got back I was going to let Dave examine my joystick from a different perspective (heh heh heh).The place had become a mad house. Others came and shot at me from difficult angles. Quickly I learned not to go into the corners. There I was dead meat (just like Dave was going to be). I could not believe the combinations that were thrown against me, but I persevered against all odds.........for only 25 rounds. At last, I had finally run out of strength to continue the battle. I shut my eyes to die and found when I had opened them again, I was still there and the instructions were flying overhead again!!!I had fainted. This was more than one man could take. When I woke, I was back in front of my computer. I had noticed that I accidently hit the 'Q' key and left that hideous place. Immediately, I wanted to call Dave and let him have a piece of my mind, but I had a better plan. I won't tell him the 'M' key gives him a machine gun for rapid firing (heh heh).
The Court Jester
***** The previous written ramblings were found in the hands of an obviously deranged person. We have not discovered the meanings of the tale told, but did notice there was a diskette from the M.A.S.T. library that contained a program called Bouncer. I wonder what that is...******

Children Will Play
By Phil Seifert

Ok, ok, Steve!!! Here is my article for this month. Now would you please let go of my ear? You know, we could use some help in writing articles for the newsletter from the rest of the members of the group. After all, it is easier to do that than to run for a position within the heirarchy, isn't it? Speaking of which, this month's meeting is our nominations night. So, if you plan on not running for office, you should be there to make sure you are not nominated........just kidding. We don't force people to volunteer for office, but we do appreciate those that do. Participate, the club could only get better if you do.

Lemme see, I did kinda promise to go over some of the excellent PD & shareware games last month, didn't I? Ok, lets start off with one of my favorites, Megaroids. What can you say about this program other than it is a darn good adaptation of Asteroids for the ST. Megaroids was written by the guys who developed Megamax C a.k.a. Laser C. If blasting rocks before they blast you is your idea of fun, make sure you add this one to your collection.

Of course, for the more adventure minded people, I heartily recommend Hack. But be forewarned!! This real-time text graphic adventure game waits for no cowards. There are a few bugs in this game but that shouldn't really stop you from enjoying several weeks, if not months, of game play.

Popular board games are not left out of this crowd either. There is Payday, a

great variation of Monopoly. This game is shareware and only the trading seems to be left out of the distribution copy. Great sound effects and humor really make this game for me.

There are some other great arcade type games I like out there for just monochrome monitors. One that really sticks in my mind is Bouncer. This game from Germany is sheer addictiveness. With 40 levels of play (I currently have only gotten to level 34) there remains a lot of shooting and probably cussing like I do all the time.

Another nice game for just monochrome systems is Puzzle Puzzle from TommySoft. This is a well done jigsaw game. Has anyone actually completed the whole thing? I was and still am highly impressed with this one.

I don't really want to mention this next one. Mainly because Dave managed to get lucky one night and beat me. But I will be nice and give credit where credit is due. I had trouble with my joystick when we played Pengo. Color monitor only and you don't even have to insert your own quarters.

Still waiting for a Pac-Man style game? Hac-Man isn't too bad. I do kind of miss the whocka-whocka-whocka sounds though. You might try giving this one a shot. There are some interesting characters running through that maze.

Of course, every computer system should have the original Colossal Cave Adventure game. This is the one that started them all!! Ok, it may be a primitive parser system and no graphics, but hey! It is tradition. A definite for any computer system that I use.

As you can see, there really are quite a few good games from the PD & Shareware collection. What is really great about this is they are all available from the M.A.S.T. DOM Library. There will be more good games in the future. One I am taking a look at now is Moria, another adventure game. I don't know about you guys/gals but I don't have the time to play them all but I sure wish I did.

On the commercial front, I am waiting for my copy of Arknoid II to arrive. This is one of the best variations of Breakout I have seen. I can hardly wait to receive it. In fact, I put my money out on this one already to make sure that I got one of the copies scheduled to come into Wizard's Work.

Many thanks to Ralph Russell for bringing and showing his arcade game called Skychase at the last meeting (even though he brought an Amiga to the meeting). Skychase will be marketed by Broderbund for the Amiga and the ST. One interesting thing I noticed was the ST version was faster. So much for blitter superiority! On a side note, Ralph if you are reading this, I tried running the demo version of the program on a Mega. It kept telling me there was insufficient memory. I am beginning to wonder if that Mega I was using has a good set of RAMs. There were some other incongruities I noticed with that machine.

Ok, ok, Todd got lucky and chopped my head off at the last meeting. Not literally but in a game called, appropriately enough, Deathsword. Neat game and once I got a joystick that worked right, it was even neater. This one is from Epyx and if you like blood & guts, get it!!

Gee, with so many new programs and my new position, I find it really difficult to find time to play with the other things I like. For example, I have installed my Mark Williams C, but have I done anything with it? Nope, no time. My midi stuff is kinda languishing also, but I have a feeling I am going to be sending for my new KCS Level II pretty soon.

What intrigues me most about Level II is the ability to use the Midi Standard File Format. This means I could share files with other sequencers a lot easier than was possible before. Oh well, guess I will have to do that some other time.

Speaking of my new position, I have had plenty of opportunity to play with IBM's and Macs. All I can say is I really like my ST even more. The IBM has the

powerful business software and the Mac the great desktop publishing software but I like the overall ability of the ST. Especially the speed of the system compared to the Mac! I am finding I am frequently frustrated at how slow the Mac disk I/O is and how the operating system gets in the way most of the time. Sigh, guess the only Mac I would want now is the Mac II. Hold your heads up high because the Atari ST is a great machine. Maybe someday the rest of the world will see that too!

Ok, for next month I plan on the following. Avoiding being nominated at the next meeting ;-), writing another article, attending a laser light show and maybe even playing with the new C compiler. Speaking of which, if you want a good C compiler to play with, take a look at the GNU C now in our library. I will see you all at the meeting.

MAST Disks of the Month
By Jim Schulz

Well, it's time for more disks again. But first, let's look at last month's selection of disks:

#294 - September DOM #1 (Utilities)
#295 - September DOM #2 (Applications)
#296 - September DOM #3 (Games and Communications)
#297 - Demo Disk #32 (Payday Monopoly-like game with digitized sounds)
#298 - GNU C Disk #1 (First half of full featured C compiler)
#299 - GNU C Disk #2 (Second half of full featured C compiler)
#300 - Staccato Music Program (A music player, composer, and game)
#301 - Two Lamps Demo (An animation demo of two lamps w/ 2 Cyber demos)
#302 - ANALOG Disk #14 (Files and programs from ST-Log #22 and #23)
#303 - ANALOG Disk #15 (Opus Spreadsheet from ST-Log #23)
#304 - ANALOG Disk #16 (Source Code for Opus from ST-Log #23) #305 - ANALOG Disk #17 (Source Code for Opus

from ST-Log #23)

That's it from last month... So first some news and on with this month's selection.....

Last month.... No sour grapes or violin music please. Last month was a rotten month for DOM making. As well as the shortage of good public domain software, my disk supply didn't arrive on time. So instead of spending two days finishing up the DOM, I spent two days cleaning off blank disks. The disks are now in so DOMs will flourish this month......

Special continues.... Even though none took advantage of it, the #1 to #200 sale will continue through December 31st. Here is the deal. All disks #1 through #200 will now be $4.00 each. If you buy 25 or more at one time, they are $3.00 each. Sound simple. This also includes updated disks like Uniterm, ST Xformer, or even ST Writer for only $4.00 each. The new disk request form will be ready as well a new doc disk. So stock up for Christmas now or fill the holes in your collection.

Prices.... All MAST DOMs are $6.00 each. In addition, the MAST news disk, the ST News disk and the doc disk are $2.00. Updates on old disks are $2.00 with the return of the original disk. Also, through the end of the year, disks #1 through #200 are only $4.00 each and when you purchase 25 or more at one time, they are only $3.00 each. So stock up this month!!!!

Doc disks.... Sounds like a repeating record doesn't it. Well, you see when I moved, all of the master DOMs got shuffled around. Over the last few months, I have been reorganizing stuff so this becomes more easy to keep track of. All of the disks are now found and scanning has begun. There will be a doc disk this month or I won't be there. Sound good. So bring you $2.00 and get a new DOC disk. Disk descriptions coming soon as well.

ST News.... Yes, these are coming as well. Last month, I ran into a little disk

shortage problem. I spent two days of an already busy MAST prep week cleaning off disks for normal DOMs. I will work on completing the collection this month. No guarantees. If I make it, all 23 disks will be guaranteed for $2.00 each.

So that's the news for October and now on to the public domain software...

ANALOG - Yes, we are still up to date. Last month, we had the Opus spreadsheet program with source. This month, we will spotlight ST-Log's games issue. Starting this month, each issue will be on a single disk and not spread across two disks as before. You asked for it so you get it. Thanks for purchasing the ANALOG disks!!!!

GNU C - Yes, GNU C continues this month with a complete set of source code. The source code was compiled by Chuck into 7 double-sided disks. These will be available at a package price if you want the complete set. The source code includes the c compiler, assembler, linker, archiver and more. The most complete public domain C compiler around.

Updates - This month, we have four update disks coming your way. First, we have a new version of Uniterm with the support disk. Not much has changed here so the update is free with your original disks. Second, Mark Johnson C V2.1. This new update includes a number of bug fixes. Third, AIM V2.51. AIM is the Atari Image Manager. I have not looked at this new update yet, but this just keeps getting better. One of the best picture manipulation programs around. Fourth, ST Xformer V2.2. This now includes full 5.25" drive support as well as info on a new device to hook an 8 bit drive to your ST as well. Lots of other changes as well, but no speed enhancements. Finally, bring your Sheet disks as well. I haven't got it yet, but Sheet V2.0 should be out by the meeting with a number of new enhancements as well.

Communication Programs - If you don't like Uniterm, I am sure that we have

something for you this month. This month, we have three new programs to choose from including VANTERM with background downloading support from SHADOW. Check these new programs out this month.

"Amazing Construction Set" demo - Yes, Steve is finally done, I hope. Steve Pauley, our famous BBS sysop and newsletter editor has finally finished his drawing and maze generation program. This program will generate a maze from any drawn design and allow you to solve it on screen, let the computer solve it or print it to the printer for solving with a pencil. A number of options are included as well including start and stop positioning and a maze filling feature to make a complete design out of fragmented lines. A long-time in coming, but well worth it!!!

Other programs this month.... This month's list is just too long again. So here is a quick rundown of some other programs for this month.... DCOPY, now up to V2.00 with new features including stored ARC files, and new print and list options as well.... Mouse Double V2.0, this new version now allows you to speed up your mouse 3 or 4 times as fast as well as a number of other options.... DC... This is the DC month with a new version of DC Format, and DC Clock as well as a new program called DC Stuffer for adding more desk accessories to the desktop....

Demos, this month's demo is called Catnap about a strange nap that a cat takes and it's dream. Done by Atari.... Finally, Multidesk, this is a 10 minute demo of the real thing. Add more desk accessories to your desktop and try this new program out. Also in the works is a number of new full disk games and more ST Xformer utility disks as well.

Well, that's a sample of what we have for this month with more coming every day. Check out the MAST BBS the week of the meeting of the latest update on this month's DOMs. As always, I do my best to put out as much good stuff as possible given the time that I have available. I will

again be demoing the software at the meeting so check it out before you buy.

If you can't make the meeting and would still like to get ahold of the DOM or would like to get ahold of the DOC disk, my new address is:
5900 65th Avenue North #204
Brooklyn Park, MN 55429

That's it for October. sorts of good stuff coming soon. Requests are always welcome. I hope to see you all at this month's MAST meetings and on the MAST BBS.

ST Related News

Compiled by Jim Schulz

Now here's this month's headlines.... For the complete story on all of these headlines, stop by this month's MAST meeting.....

Neil Harris Quits.... Neil Harris, known to many as the voice of Atari, has quit Atari to work for GENIE, the BBS service. Reasons for his leaving Atari are not known, but a lot of rumors are starting up. Atari's only response to the firing was to cancel an online conference with Sam Tramiel on Compuserve. This conference was to take place now on October 3rd. Based on Neil's leaving, some have started to call this the end of Atari US, most vocal of the group is David Small, author of the Magic Sac and Spectre 128. A list of his reasoning has been posted on many BBSs. Neil has also responded to David's remarks as well in his only official remarks on his leaving Atari. Both of these will be posted at the next MAST meeting.

Glendale Atari Show.... Now that fall is upon us, a number of Atari owners, dealers and developers got together in California to show off what's new for Atari. A number of things were announced. First was the Spectre 128. Yes, the 128K ROM version of the MAC emulator is now reality. It was on sale at the show and seems to be very stable by early reports. Mail

order sales have been brisk and back orders are now being taken. This version of the MAC emulators seems to run about 95% of all software checked. No clock is included in this version of the cartridge. Other product shown included a Genlock for the ST; Film Director, a long awaited animation program, along with Art director now from Epyx; Laser DB, a source level debugger for Laser C; G+PLUS, the GDOS replacement program; Multidesk, the 16 desk accessory per slot program; and Typhoon Thompson, Star Wars, and a promise of an ST version of Karateka and possibly Print Shop from Broderbund. A number of new 8 bit programs were shown as well. More details on all of these at the meeting.

ST Applications is gone.... ST Applications, one of the first ST magazines, has called it quits. According to the editor, ad revenue was down and it was the right time to call it quits. He said that he had just enough money to refund subscriptions costs and break even. All subscribers should be receiving a letter in the mail soon. Thanks for a job well done.

ST X-Press is back.... As one goes, another returns. ST X-Press was back on sale as of the Glendale Atari show. I just recently picked up an issue at Wizard's Works. It is packed full of reviews, articles, and columns with 80 pages of ST information. Their ST public domain library is now in a separate catalog so the magazine doesn't include this filler anymore. Pick up a copy at Wizard's Works or Software Etc.

Atari Bashing.... This word seems to be common lately. In the last week, I have received two letters telling me of the downside of Atari. First, Compute!'s ST finally got around to sending out refund checks. In their letter, they tell of the

continual erosion of ST sales as the reason for the magazine calling it quits. Second, Quickview Systems, authors of Zoomracks, have again delayed the release of Zoomracks III. This time, Atari STs are not selling well and they can't afford to finish a program that won't sell to pay for itself. With both of these letters and David Small's comments, these would be the downside of this month's news. These two letter will be posted at this month's meeting.

What's New!!!!.... The Revolver has just been released. The Revolver is the latest in ST switchers with the idea of switching all of memory including the AUTO program and desk accessories to disk as a file. Then, all you need to do is load the one file and everything is back where you left it. The Revolver also includes a number of other options as well. ...But if you just want more desk accessories, check out Multidesk. Multidesk is a new multiple desk accessory loader. With Multidesk, you can load up to 16 desk accessories per slot. Also you can set the program up so certain desk accessories are loaded with specific programs. Desk accessories can be loaded, checked, and unloaded as well. With the right combinations, thousands of desk accessories can be loaded at once. ...But maybe you want a new desktop instead. Yes, the authors of Neodesk, the desktop replacement program have just announce V2.0. This version does include a text mode with two text sizes as well as multi-column directories. The list of new options is quite long so check the new product postings at the next meeting. ...But maybe you want to program instead. GFA V3.0 is now out. GFA V3.0 adds 300 new commands as well as a resource editor. In addition, two new GFA books are out as well. The GFA compiler is on its way and should be available later this month or in November. Also, a rather strange addon is now available as well. A SQL database addon. More on all of these at the meeting. ...But if you want a data-

base... Yes, DBMan V5.0 is out, sort of. DBMan, the premier DBASE clone, will be available by the end of the month with a new Greased Lightening compiler as well. But if you can't wait, like me, order it now, and call the DBMan BBS and download V5.0. You see the problem isn't the program isn't done, but the manual is stuck in printing. So while we are waiting, DBMan is available and Versasoft is adding more features as well. The most significant feature of V5.0 is a new screen editor. But the list is long again.

So that's the news for this month. If you like this feature, please speak up!!! Coming next month, news of the Sam Tramiel online conference, the recently complete Current Notes Washington Atari Show and preparations for Comdex. And for the latest and most complete information, stop by this month's MAST meeting. See you there.

8 Bit Xtra
With Comments by
Jim Schulz

You asked for it so here it is again..... After last month's news from Compuserve and ANTIC, I got one call myself and Larry got good feedback as well. So.... Here is some more goodies for this month. The following is a list of 8 bit cartridges announced at CES this summer for the 8 bit. As you can see, the list is quite long. Following this list is another list of cartridges that will and won't work on the 800. This second list is from Atari. So software is still coming, but now in the cartridge form. If you want more news, please speak up.... Until next time, happy computing....

The following titles are now, are will shortly be, available for the XE Game System. They will also work in the XL/XE computer systems. Some, but not all, will work with the older 800 computers as well.

These titles are sorted alphabetically by name.

TITLE	CART #	COMPANY	AVAIL.
ACE OF ACES	RX8099	ACCOLADE	2nd Qtr
AIRBALL	RX8109		4th Qtr
ARCHON	RX8092	ELEC. ARTS	NOW
ATARI LAB LIGHT MOD.	AED80014	ATARI	NOW
ATARI LAB STARTER	AED80013	ATARI	NOW
BALLBLAZER	RX8064	LUCASFILM	NOW
BARNYARD BLASTER	RX8086	ATARI	NOW
BATTLEZONE	RX8077	ATARI	NOW
BLUE MAX	RX8081	BRODERBUND	NOW
CENTIPEDE	RX8020	ATARI	NOW
CHOPLIFTER!	RX8096	BRODERBUND	3rd Qtr
COMMANDO	RX8094	DATA EAST	3rd Qtr
CRIME BUSTERS	RX8104	ATARI	3rd Qtr
CROSSBOW	RX8088	EXIDY	3rd Qtr
CRYSTAL CASTLES	RX8102		3rd Qtr
DARK CHAMBERS	RX8101		4th Qtr
DAVID'S MIDNIGHT MAGIC	RX8083	BRODERBUND	NOW
DESERT FALCON	RX8089	ATARI	2nd Qtr
DONKEY KONG	RX8031	NINTENDO	NOW
DONKEY KONG, JR	RX8040	NINTENDO	NOW
FIGHT NIGHT	RX8085	ACCOLADE	NOW
FINAL LEGACY	RX8067	ATARI	NOW
FOOD FIGHT	RX8079	ATARI	NOW
GATO	RX8090	SPECT. HLOLBYTE	2nd Qtr
HARDBALL	RX8084	ACCOLADE	NOW
INTO THE EAGLE'S NEST	RX8114	PANDORA	3rd Qtr
JINKS	RX8112		4th Qtr
JOUST	RX8044	WILLIAMS	NOW
JUNGLE HUNT	RX8049	TAITO	NOW
KARATEKA	RX8095	BRODERBUND	3rd Qtr
LODE RUNNER	RX8082	BRODERBUND	NOW
MARIO BROTHERS	RX8103		3rd Qtr
MEAN 18, ULTIMATE GOLF	RX8100	ACCOLADE	3rd Qtr
MILLIPEDE	RX8048	ATARI	NOW
MOON PATROL	RX8052	WILLIAMS	NOW
NEBULUS	RX8111		4th Qtr
NECROMANCER	RX8108		2nd Qtr
ONE-ON-ONE BASKETBALL	RX8093	ELEC. ARTS	NOW
REALSPORTS FOOTBALL	RX8029	ATARI	NOW
REALSPORTS TENNIS	RX8042	ATARI	NOW
RESCUE ON FRACTALUS	RX8063	LUCASFILM	NOW
ROBOTRON:2084	RX8033	WILLIAMS	NOW
SKYWRITER	RX8059		NOW
SPACE INVADERS	CXL4008	TAITO	NOW
STAR RAIDERS II	RX8078	ATARI	NOW
SUMMER GAMES	RX8099	EPYX	3rd Qtr
SUPER BREAKOUT	CXL4006	ATARI	NOW
THUNDERFOX	RX8113		3rd Qtr
TYPO ATTACK	RX8057	ATARI	NOW

These are all being released by Atari, even though several were originally by some other company. The only third party cartridge software that I hear rumors of is 'California Games' from Epyx, but it wasn't announced at CES, so it isn't on my list. All the information came from Atari press releases and literature I picked up.
Kit Kimes

Continued from page 8

Miscellaneous stuff.... First, I want to remind all MAST members that Wizard's Works, our only full service Atari store in town does offer a 25% discount with your MAST membership card. Wizard's Works supports MAST quite a bit so check their ad this month and stop by and say hi. This is a MAST benefit that isn't mentioned too much, but is quite a good deal so use it and show support our local dealer. ....Second, Kent Schumacher is still taking comments on the Deskjet laser printing service. ....Third, starting this month, we will be posting the latest two or three

ST Reports in the back as well as some press releases from new ST products released or about to be released. ....Finally, I have finally caught up with all of my disk mailings. If you were waiting for an old DOM, or an updated copy of the UIS II, you should have your disk now. I am sorry for the delay.

Oh, what's this.... You want me to open it... Yes, it looks quite full this month... So what's inside??? First, Archnoid II. I really didn't know what I had on my hands until after last month's meeting. ..... Also, Multidesk. They said that it couldn't be done, but now it is!!!! You can now have more than six desk accessories and load and unload them at will. With a number of other options, this is going to be a hot utility. Finally, Revolver. How about a program that switches AUTO programs, desk accessories, ramdisks, resolution and the program as well? If it works as advertised, have we got another good utility!!!

I hope to see you all at the October MAST and MAST+ meeting.

ST. PAUL ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS
& MINNESOTA ATARI ST

SPACE and MAST are independent user groups of owners of ATARI Home Computers. It has been organized by local owners of ATARI computers for the purpose of mutual self assistance and sharing of information. It is open to all interested computer enthusiasts.

Benefits of memberships in the groups include monthly newsletter mailed to your home, BBS access, software demonstrations, group purchases, public domain disk(s) of the month software at low prices, reference book library, educational software library (8-bit only) with over 20 titles, personal contacts/learning, greater information and awareness on the world of ATARI, software at discounted prices from dealers, question and answer session, etc. Come to a meeting to find out more.

SPACE - 8Bit Group The SPACE meetings are devoted primarily to the 8-bit ATARI computers such as the 400, 800, 600XL, 800XL, 65XE and 130XE. There is other ATARI related news and some 16-bit news at the SPACE meetings, as well. The SPACE group meets on the second Friday of each month at the Falcon Heights Community Center, 2077 West Larpenteur Avenue, at 7:30pm. Doors open at about 7:10pm.

MAST - ST Group The MAST meetings are devoted primarily towards the ATARI 520ST, 1040ST & MEGA computers. There will be ATARI related news items covered, but not 8-bit news. The MAST group meets on the third Friday of each month at the Falcon Heights Community Center, 2077 West Larpenteur Avenue, at 7:30pm. Doors open at about 7:10pm.

MAST+ - Programming Language User Sig MAST also has a programmer's group meeting. This group has a more technical discussion regarding programming the ST computers in a variety of languages. The group meets on the Monday following the MAST meeting at the First Minnesota bank on Lexington Avenue near Larpenteur Avenue. Meeting time is 7:30, with doors opening at about 7:20pm. The entrance is in the back of the building and leads to a stairway to the second floor.

For more information, or to confirm a meeting time and location, call Larry Vanden Plas (SPACE) 636-2415 or Jim Schulz (MAST) 533-4193

SPACE/MAST Membership Application

Name_____ Date_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ _Zip_____

Phone_____Equipment/System Used_____

Areas of Interest_____

Check one or both: SPACE____ MAST____

Renewal?____ Address Change?____ Membership Card Given?____

Dues: $15.00 per year - Please enclose with Application.
Mail to: SPACE/MAST, P.O. BOX 12016, New Brighton, MN 55112

S•P•A•C•E / M•A•S•T
P.O. BOX 12016
New Brighton, MN 55112

SPACE/MAST NEWSLETTER