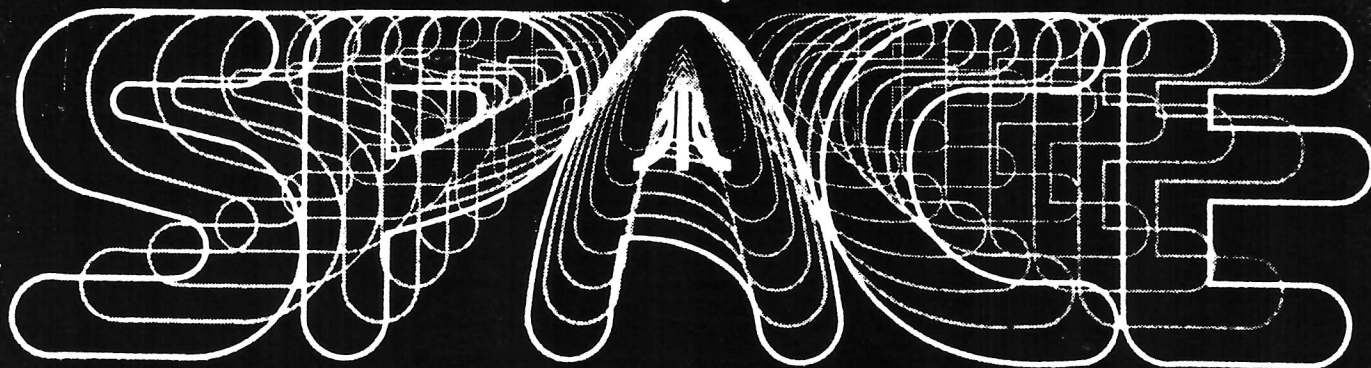# Saint Paul ATARI Computer Enthusiasts

SPACE

An independent computer user group

News from the Prez!
September 1990

Well, the birthday meeting was a smash hit! Thanks to all of those who attended. The Club made a substantial amount of money and now is looking forward to future expansions. Joe Danko and the other officers have shared ideas with me about how we think the Club can expand and we want your input!

September and October are going to be important meetings for this reason and something else ... ELECTIONS! In November, don't forget, the SPACE elections will be held. Please plan to attend the meetings to get more information on these comming events.

I would like to take some time here to talk about Lance Rinquist. Many of you know him, he is at the meetings faithfully with a table of new software, for the ATARI computers and 2600/7800 systems. Lance has some good software, software that is becomming rapidly hard to find. I noticed AUTODUEL, LORDS OF CONQUEST, DROPZONE, F-15 STRIKE EAGLE, and a few other REALLY GOOD titles on his table at the last meeting. Lance has told me that in order to serve the ATARI user better, he has lowered his prices almost to his cost. On some titles, he barley makes $3. I think that this kind of service should not go by unnoticed. We are very lucky to have Mr. Linquist comming, there is literally no place left to buy ATARI software of this kind. COMPUTER STATION has been unable to get ATARI software new for four months and there is no other ATARI dealer here

in Minnesota. All in all it is really up to you, but please, if you see something on his table that you need, consider purchasing it. I have many of these programs and I will start bringing them in for demostrations. Lance is doing his best to support the ATARI community, let us try to help him out, too.

That's really about it for this month. Now that the fall season is here, computers will begin to come back on, and the September through Christmas meetings usually are above average attendances. Please try to come to see what the future holds for SPACE, right now, it looks REALLY BRIGHT! See you all at the meetings, Happy Computing!

Minutes of SPACE Meeting
August 13, 1990
by ??????

The following is what I got from Nathan. I asked him If he had taken down the minutes or had someone take them. Pat Krenn could not make it to the meeting due to prior commitments.

Damm! I knew I forgot something! No, tell you what, just relate the events of the evening.

The main things are:

SIGN UP SHEETS for T-Shirts will be at the next meeting, also there will be a $2 deposit on each T-shirt ordered.

Dave Cole won the BALLBLAZER tournament, the ARCHON tournament was left in limbo cuz of time, the finalists were Nathan Block,Dave Cole and Benjamin Brosdahl.

SPACE SOFTWARE LIBRARY NEWS
September 1990 SPACE Disk of the
Month

The library will be offering software
for sale as usual, at the meeting or
via the US mail. All disks are $3
each. If you can't make the meeting
call Joe Danko at 777-9500 after 6 PM
or mail your request to:
Joe Danko
2766 Chisholm Av. N.
N. St.Paul, MN 55109
Mailed software will cost an
additional $1 for each multiple of 3
disks or so.

BLANK DISKS will be for sale at 30
cents ($0.30) each.

DISK OF THE MONTH

SIDE 1

```
* SPACE    DOM 000   * EPSONR  ACT 027
* SEP90SIDE1  000    * GEM     ACT 051
* XXXXXXXXXX  000    * GEM     COM 044
* DOS     SYS 037    * SPARTA  ACT 026
* DUP     SYS 042    * ACSIEVE C   006
* AUTORUN SYS 003    * ACSIEVE COM 046
* HELLO       026    * CSSIEVE C   006
* DISKFORMMAC 007    * CSSIEVE COM 046
* BOOKDOC TXT 020    * CCSIEVE C   005
* GEM     TXT 007    * CCSIEVE COM 102
* TPNEWS  TXT 054    * SIEVE   DOC 045
* TPDEV   TXT 022    * HELP    DOC
* DD3LABELTXT 043
```

DISKFORMAC
A new MACRO for TEXTPRO that will
convert a SPARTADOS directory listing
to a list of straight file names.

BOOKDOC
This text file explains about a group
of large files available to download
on GENIE that is a very complete book
of instructions for Daisy-Dot III. If
a few people are interested I will
download it. The files fill 5 disk
sides.

GEM .TXT,GEM.ACT,GEM.DOC
SPARTA.ACT,EPSONR.ACT
GEM is a program that provides a menu
interface to send setup commands to

your printer. It is written for a
STAR-MICRONICS GEMINI-10X but it can
be adapted to drive other model with
the ACTION! source code files.

DD3LABEL.TXT
A text file by the author of
Daisy-Dot III explaining the most
efficient methods of printing on
standard 3 1/2 X 15/16 inch labels.

SIEVE files
A group of 'C' source and executable
files to run the 'Sieve of
Erasthanes' popular processing
benchmark algorithym. The stated
purpose of this is to show the
superiority of the latest ATARI 'C'
compiler, CC65. This system is
available for download on GENIE and I
will make it available through the
SPACE library if there is some
interest. It will probably fill
several disks with all the libraries
and utilities and demos.

TPNEWS, TPDEV text files.
News about the upcoming 'final'
TEXTPRO release and the availability
of MAC65 source code for those of you
interested in continuing the
development of TEXTPRO on your own.

SIDE 2

```
* SPACE    DOM 000   * DUP     SYS 042
* SEP90SIDE2  000    * AUTORUN SYS 145
* TURBOBASIC  000    * AUTORUN BAS 002
* DOS     SYS 037    * TRAVERSETUR 168
```

TRAVERSE
This side is devoted to a two-player
board game simulation written in
TURBOBASIC. A cross between checkers,
chess and imagination, it is very
interesting and fun to play. As
originally written it was operated
with the keyboard so I added code to
make it run with the keyboard and the
joystick in port 1 at the same time.
Since it is written with TURBOBASIC
it will only run on XL/XE machines.

OTHER DISKS THIS MONTH

JOYSTICK JEOPRODY
A ones-sided disk with a BASIC
version of the TV game show with 8
sets of questions.

Advanced Music System II PLAYER.
A new AMS player program that
supports the original AMS files as
well as the new GUMBY STEREO files.
The AMS II Player will only find
files that are write-locked.
Side 2 of this disk includes a group
of AMS II music files.

AMS II MUSIC DISKS..4 DISKS..8 SIDES
A mixture of normal and stereo AMS
files. It seems to be all new
material.

Info CHANGES - memo to registered
users
TEXTPRO NEWS - Page #

August 15, 1990

===========
ANOTHER TPX
===========

An interim update of TPX ONLY will be
released in early September.   This
is not a full upgrade but supplies
additional features.   If you do not
have access to the online services
and you want me to mail the package
to you please send a blank disk and a
mailer and I will forward it to you.
TPX v4.55xe is both a test vehicle
for and a bridge to the next full
release.   The next full release,
version 5, will be available at the
beginning of next year.   It will be
sent to you when it is ready.   There
is no extra charge to registered
users for the full upgrade.

Enhancements to the interim version
include...

- Conditional macro branching - both
(Y/N) and menu style

- Full support for macro input mode
throughout the program, including
search and replace

- Change editor fonts at any time to
the ATARI font in RAM or any font on
disk

- Using the SpartaX cart the ENTIRE
PATH IS SEARCHED for all FNT, CNF,
MAC loads and file copies to screen
from the editor - a single directory
can contain all of the TP support and
help files and TP will find them as
long as the directory is in the PATH

- Set toggles from a macro

- SHIFT-CLEAR and CTRL-CLEAR clears
the command line during command input

- Improved bank switch support from
the editor and the menu for 130XE's
and compatibles

- Parameter command to allow the user
to set the amount of free space to be
left in a buffer during a load

- Global filename variables to
simplify cross bank loading from a
macro

- Use the space bar for manual entry
of the SELECT-P filename variable.

And some other things I don't
remember.

The usual bug fixes and adjustments
are also included.   BUGS WILL BE NEW
AND IMPROVED.

Because of the greater interest in
the TextPROxe program supporting
extended RAM the next release will be
based upon this revision rather than
on the PLUS version.   The PLUS
version will be fully updated and
enhanced where appropriate, but the
text buffer will be a bit smaller.
The LOMEM version will not be greatly
modified, the only changes being bug
fixes and alterations to offer macro
compatibility with the new versions.

The usual bug fixes and adjustments are also included. BUGS WILL BE NEW AND IMPROVED.

Because of the greater interest in the TextPROxe program supporting extended RAM the next release will be based upon this revision rather than on the PLUS version. The PLUS version will be fully updated and enhanced where appropriate, but the text buffer will be a bit smaller. The LOMEM version will not be greatly modified, the only changes being bug fixes and alterations to offer macro compatibility with the new versions.

FOR THE FIRST TIME MACRO FILES REQUIRE REVISION TO RUN CORRECTLY WITH THE NEW VERSIONS.

The SELECT+CTRL-A and the SELECT+CTRL-M functions are different in v4.55xe. A macro file to do the required conversions to your old macros is included.

All CNF, print, and font files remain unchanged.

There are also files included for an interactive macro system . The documentation to these files is also included, along with additional support files. The docs are Appendices B and C to the main documentation and are acompanied by an updated TOC file that includes reference to them.

========================
THE FUTURE FOR TEXTPRO
========================

The source code to TP shows the effect of three different programmers. Charles Brannon's original modular code, Mike Collin's clever and compact routines, and my own efforts.

TP began as an enhanced version of the SpeedScript word processor written by Charles Brannon for the now defunct COMPUTE! magazine. (we offered the program free to COMPUTE! - never got a reply to the submission)

Charles Brannon's original code was a fine job, and held up as a skeleton under all of the additions and modifications that transformed it into TP. Charles also wrote a very informative book including the commented SpeedScript source code which proved invaluable in disassembling and modifying the program.

Mike Collins is a computer programmer now working on his masters in computer science in Texas. The disassembly and labeling of the original SpeedScript source code, including the correction of a number of typos from the book, was done by Mike. Mike also wrote almost all of the original code modifications, including the excellent macro and print justification routines.

My own contribution to the development of TP consists of working with Mike on the overall design of the program and developing specific features, such as the file divide. I also wrote all of the current modifications to TP, including TP+, TPL, and TPX. Since my own degree specialization is in history and I consider myself one of the world's worst assembly language programmers this should offer hope to some of you that are wondering if you can modify the source code to TP.

The next release, v5.0, will be the last written by me. Mike finally burned out on the code, and I am getting the same way. Sooner or later you just run out of original (or useful) ideas.

To allow the further development of TP the source to the v5.0 release will be available to REGISTERED USERS ONLY for an additional $12.00 to cover the additional disk and

handling. For those who have not registered TP the source code only is $40.00. If you want the source package let me know in a note that you send back with the mailer so I can inform you when it is ready. This will be a multiple disk package with the source to TP+, TPX, and TPL in ARC form.

THIS CODE IS LARGELY UNCOMMENTED!!

If you would be interested in a package with commented code and limited phone support for an extra charge let me know. If enough folks show interest I will take the time to write a commented list and supply my home phone number for LIMITED TECHNICAL SUPPORT in modifying the program - NO COLLECT CALLS. It can be neat to have your own personal machine language word processor that you can modify for your own purposes.

You need the MAC-65 cart (or the disk based MAC-65 with S-DOS 2.3) and two double density drives, or the equivalent, to modify and compile the TP source.

For all of the folks waiting to write spell checkers, 80 col editors, and other additions to work with TP, or even to put out your own WP, here's your chance.

One of the major features of the final release will be provision to use add-ins that can be loaded at any time. With the source code available these could be written with ASSEMBLER EDITOR or ACTION!

For those that do not want to modify the program or write add-ins there is no reason to get the source package. Your copy of the next release is already paid for and you will receive it in the mail early next year.

I appreciate your support of the TextPRO program. Aside from the additional support that you receive you also have the satisfaction of

knowing that you have paid for what you are using and helped to develop and distribute a better product to the entire ATARI community.

Once again, thanks for the support.

-ronnie-

Information on TextPRO source code

If you are an ATARI 8 BIT software developer and you need an editor for your programs let me know. What I can and cannot do is listed below.

I can...*
Send you the source code you can use to produce your editor* Provide LIMITED ASSISTANCE both on the phone and online to answer questions about the source code.

I can't...*
Write the editor myself - not enough time - I need any time available to work on the ATARI to complete the TP project and the committment to the registered users that have sent me money.
Is a TP type editor what you need? TP was developed from the SPEEDSCRIPT 3.0 program from COMPUTE! Magazine by Charles Brannon. The original code has been modified and added to by Mike Collins and myself. The basic design of the editor has not been changed since SPEEDSCRIPT, i.e.

- it writes direct to the screen
- text memory is contiguous and is moved with every insertion
- no characters are added or removed on saves and loads

TP also does some character conversions that SPEEDSCRIPT does not to insure that the character conversions in the editor are reversed before writing the file back to disk. These conversions are done at the same time as the screen code conversions.

If you know how to work with these limitations or modify the character set and the character conversions to support your program the editor may work well for you. Bear in mind that most, if not all, developers will be much better programmers than I. Programming is a hobby for me. The reason for the technical assistance is not that I can help you with the programming, but because I know TP. In a program with as many routines as this one, and w/o many comments, there isn't a substitute for just knowing how something works. All TP source is in MAC65 format and works through subroutine modules. There is not a single macro in the code. The source for the last version, v5.0, will be sent to registered users with the program package for a small additional fee to cover the disk and handling. This version has a lot of WP stuff hanging on it that a developer probably dosen't want. I have the source to all of the earlier versions also, and some of these would be easier to extract an editor from, depending on your purposes.

What will it cost...
If you are a developer that I know from reputation it will cost you a disk and a mailer. I set no requirements and ask no fees at all. In any case let me know what you need by writing to -

Ronnie Riche
1700 Aycock St.
Arabi, La 70032

or on GEnie

Notes from the EDITOR -
The SYSOP posted a message on the BBS a while ago about the users of the BBS. If memory serves me correct - only about 28 out of 68? usres are club members. so, at the SEPT 14th meeting I'm goint to have a small workshop with the modem.

---

* Orders for T-Shirts must be recieved no later than 12 OCT 1990.
* Do not send cash thru the mail, use check or money order to make payment for your selections.
* Make your check or money order payable to SPACE.
* Send payment and the completed order for to:

      SPACE
      C/O M. SCHMIDT
      11349 Palm St. NW
      Coon Rapids, Mn 55433

* you may pick up your order at the NOV SPACE meeting.

- -

                    SPACE T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

I am ordering _____ white shirts with blue lettering at $6.75 each.
I am ordering _____ blue shirts with white letering at $7.20 each.
I have enclosed a total of $_____

I acknowledge that if the total number of orders from all members fails to reach a minimum of 12 orders for each style, then i will be refunded my purchase price for that style and no order will be made.
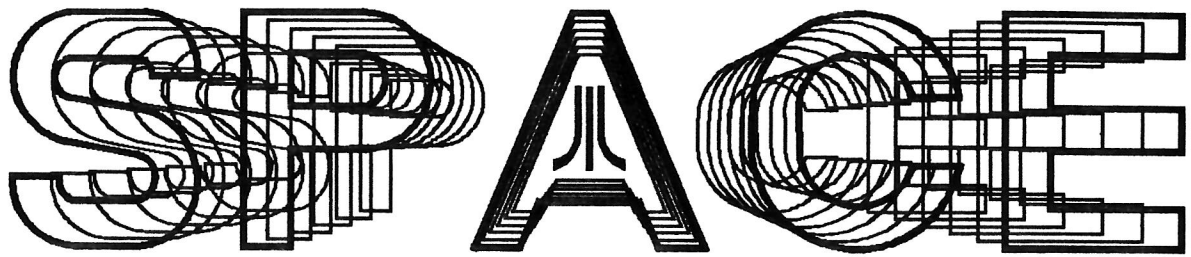
I plan to attend the SPACE meeting in (month) _____ to pick up my T-Shirt(s).
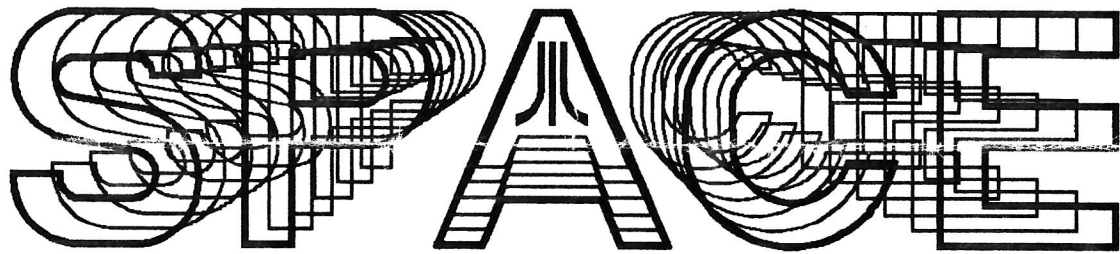
Signature _____ Date _____

HERE ARE THREE SAMPLES I'M SUBMITTING FØR THE T-SHIRT.
IF ANYBØDY HAS ANY ØTHER DESIGNS TØ SUBMIT, BRING
THEM TØ THE MEETING FRIDAY AND THØSE IN ATTENDANCE
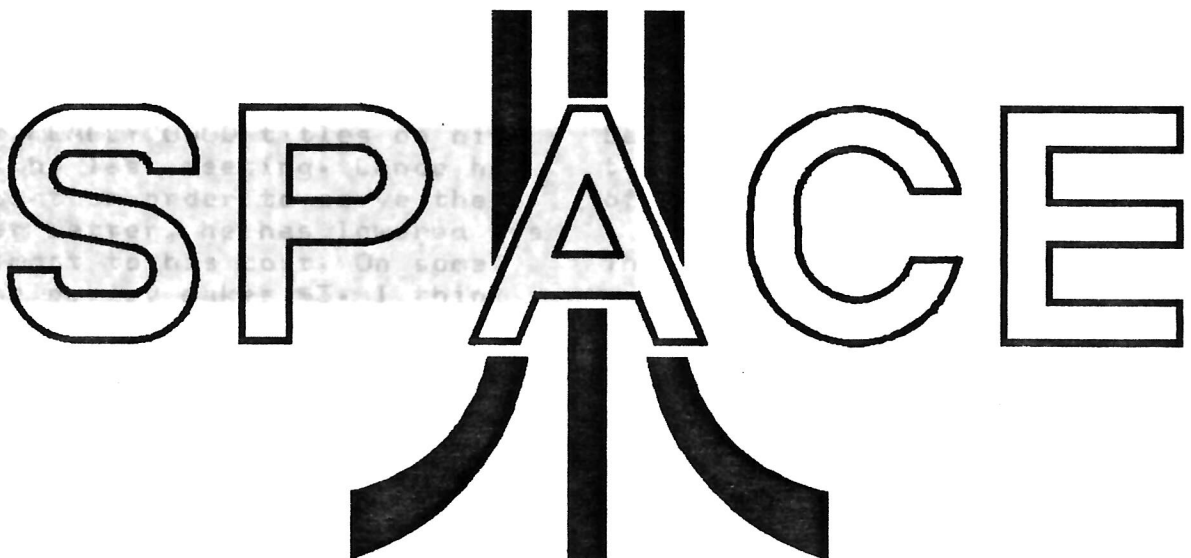CAN VØTE ØN THE DESIGN TØ GØ WITH.

NEWSLETTER EDITØR

SPACE

SAINT PAUL ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

SPACE

SAINT PAUL ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

SPACE

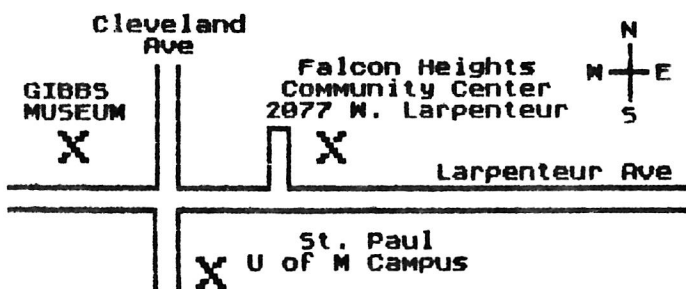## SAINT PAUL ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

President
  Nathan Block   922-8012
Vice-President
  Ken Modeen   425-1290
Secretary
  Pat Krenn   631-3136
Disk Librarian
  Joe Danko   777-9500
Paper Librarian
  Jim Scheib   721-4185
Membership Chair
  Glen Kirschenmann   786-4790
SPACE/MAST Treasurer
  Allan Frink   429-4909
SPACE Newsletter Edit.
  Mike Schmidt   757-4192

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.

Cleveland Ave

GIBBS MUSEUM
X

Falcon Heights Community Center 2077 W. Larpenteur
X

N
W — E
S

Larpenteur Ave

St. Paul
X U of M Campus
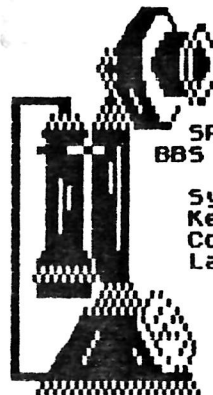
SPACE BULLETIN BOARD
BBS Phone:(612)-425-3962

Sysop:
Ken Modeen
Co-Sysop:
Larry Serflaten

SPACE
P.O. BOX 12016
New Brighton, Mn. 55112

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 554
PM
1990

25 USA

MEETING
SEPT 14th 1990