

SPACE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 1991

NEWZ FROM THE PREZ OCTOBER 1991

Greetings members! Many things have taken place this summer for the club and many more things are yet to come. Next month are elections and then December is upon us and Christmas festivals will abound. We WILL be planning the Christmas meeting in October, so if you would like to contribute ideas, please come.



A very interesting situation has come up. SPACE has the opportunity to get into the software business. I am in contact with a software distributor that has 7 different ATARI titles he will sell to us rather cheaply. ATARI software is harder and harder to find and SPACE might want to get in on this unique opportunity. Distributors usually only sell to organizations with an official store front, so I was quite suprised when I was told his company would sell us the software. We will be discussing this at the next meeting.

Going along with that, I also have some more interesting news. A gentleman contacted me last month with some ATARI equipment he wanted me to sell. Among all the items he gave me was a very rare educational package in its complete entirety. The package is called "DORSETT EDUCATION SYSTEMS" and it consists of a master cartridge and MANY educational tapes complete with booklets and studying guides. I talked to the person who owned it and he said it cost him \$1600. Obviously the value has dropped dramatically, but at the same time, a complete education package like this could be of great value to OUR club. I will be bringing the package to the meeting and hope the club will consent to purchasing it. Price can be discussed and brought to a formal vote. I personally think the club can NEVER have too many software titles and hopefully can add this to the library.

ATARI Corporation is planning a very large warehouse sellout to take place November 23rd and 24th in Chicago. The event is to be entitled the "Chicago Computerfest" and apparently ATARI will be closing out all its ATARI 8-BIT stock. An address to get more information is the following:

Chicago Computerfest by ATARI C/O LORCE
P.O. Box 8788 Waukegan, IL 60079-8788
Phone: (708) 566-0682



That is about all for this month. I hope YOU, the member, will make a special effort to be with us for the last remaining meetings of the year. They will be the most important ones. You will want to make it to the October meeting because everyone will get a FREE DISK from me, just for coming, no strings attached. SO, please come to the October meeting. See you there!

BE SURE TO ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING - OCTOBER 11th

Minutes of the SPACE Meeting: September 13th, 1991

The meeting was called to order by President Nathan Block at 7:34 P.M. The officers and volunteers of the club were introduced. President Nathan Block then asked for the Sysop Larry Serflaten to report on the BBS. The BBS went down on Thursday morning and the hard disk was not responding. Thursday evening the BBS seemed to be working; recommendation is reformat and reload the hard drive. Larry also asked for approval by the club to purchase the following software for the BBS:

Chess @ \$15,
Gadgets @ \$15,
Topic-of-the-Day @ \$15
(or Gadgets/Topic-of-the-Day for \$25),
Networking Software @ \$10, and
BBS Express upgrade @ \$20.

A vote was taken and all software was approved for purchase by the club for the BBS. Larry also related that he has a "Map of the Atari 400/800" listing available to any user who wants it. President Nathan Block then complimented the officers and volunteers on their good work; the treasury has over \$1000 in it.

Roger Myer suggested that help text be added to the BBS as well as some screens/pictures to guide users; Sysop Larry Serflaten and Roger Myer will get together on this. Vice-President Ken Modeen reminded the membership that elections will be in November for officers. All offices are available for nominations which will begin at the October meeting. Please consider running for a position.

President Nathan Block then asked if any member is looking for software. Amos said he is looking for a MIDI interface for the Atari; also, SIDEPRINT - a page printing program which used to be in old SPACE BBS library. Vice-President Ken Modeen said he will research the old BBS library to determine if SIDEPRINT is available. Nathan related that he used to have a MIDI interface, but has since sold it. B&C Computervisions has a new one for \$187. Mark Vallevand shared a list of software proposed by Data Queue. A member said that he had an Assembler Editor cartridge and "Mapping the Atari"

book available for \$25 and Flight Simulator II and a Scenery Disk Set for \$30; call 942-5510 if interested.

Disk librarian Joe Danko reported that this month's D.O.M. contains a fun game called SNOWFISH and other interesting software. Please purchase a D.O.M. and help support your club. Lance from Video 61 reported that he has "War Game Construction Set" from SSI available for purchase. Mark Vallevand said he is looking for Atari 1050 disk drives to purchase; Joe Danko said he is willing to sell his drive. Mike Schmidt reminded the members that the HamFest on October 12th is after the next meeting. It is held at the Hennepin Technical College in Brooklyn Park. Mike Schmidt and Mike Weiss have manned the SPACE table in the past; other volunteers are needed as well as anyone who has something to sell. Mike said bring any items to sell to the next meeting and he will market them at the HamFest for you.

A committee is being formed after the meeting to start planning the Christmas Party meeting; talk to President Nathan Block after the meeting if interested in helping out. President Nathan Block related that he received a "BIG" SURPRISE this week. Eight monitors were received and are available for \$35 each; anyone who has not yet purchased one of these monitors can get one this evening. The club voted to save one as a door prize at the Christmas Party. Seven members wanted monitors so all were sold. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM by President Nathan Block. End of the minutes for the September 13th, 1991 SPACE meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Krenn,
Secretary.



SPACE St. Paul Atari Computer Enthusiasts
Disk Library News for September, 1991
Joe Danko and Glen Kirschenmann - Librarians
by Joe Danko

There have been more hard disk adventures for the software library and lucky librarian (me). Along with the speed and convenience of a hard drive comes the responsibility of keeping the precious data organized and, most of all, secure. I have done well with the organization and failed miserably with the security. While checking out a cranky disk from Georgia, it seems that some wild code went out and partially formatted my hard drive. Of course, it required several weeks of diagnosis and general horsing around to discover this fact. I thought I had a hardware problem. Thanks to the patience of Mike Schmidt, hardware was eliminated and Rich Mier's advice was absolutely correct. It seems that Atari hard drive controllers are vulnerable to out of control programs and there is a shortage of data recovery software sophisticated enough to recover from this sort of thing. Thus I was forced to low level format and lose all my data with my latest backup disks dated sometime in March. Needless to say I lost all my September DOM material. The SPACE Index program and the Math and Statistics re-issue will have to wait. Also, my old hard drive problem of slow seeks has returned! The whole episode has been educational. It looks like I need to disable or write-protect the hard drive when testing unknown software. The other possibility, although remote, is the unknown disk from Georgia may contain a virus. Viruses are so rare on the Atari 8-bit that no software exists to check for infections.

SPACE Library software for September, 1991:

DRAW7XE *requires BASIC and 128k memory*

This is a complete 2-sided disk with a Mode 7 graphics drawing/editing application. The program files are booted on Side 1 with Basic enabled and requires a joystick and a 130XE or other XE/XL system with at least 128K bytes of memory. Side 2 contains complete documentation that is displayed or printed by the program.

TEXTPRO version 4.56f: Absolutely the most powerful and flexible text/word processor available for the Atari 8-bit system.

This a reminder that the library has this final version of TEXTPRO available which is capable of the following features:

1. XL/XE systems with 128K or more memory have three 15K byte text buffers.
2. Text fonts can be reloaded on the fly.
3. A new macro system with increased capabilities.
4. Other additional features.

September, 1991 Disk of the Month

SIDE 1

SNOWFIGHT.ORG

SNOWFIGHT is a very interesting game that is supposed to be a re-issue, but I have never seen it before. I almost rejected it because I could not get it to play but the operation rules were finally discovered almost by accident. It is a two-player only joystick game.

See the SNOWFIGHT.DOC for help in operating the game.

ALFBACK.COM, ALFREST.COM, ALFBACK.DOC

This is the SPARTADOS hard disk backup/restore program I have been using (not enough) with the library. It works reasonably well but lacks sophistication. It will do continuous backups where you just keep feeding disks into the floppy drive until data is all copied along with an index of directories and filenames. The restore program works only if the index is readable.

RD.COM, RDF.COM, RD.DOC:

This is an improved PSI ramdisk driver for use with SPARTADOS and XL/XE systems with expanded memory. This driver has enhanced capability to partition the expanded ram for dual use as ramdisks and extended program space and the formatting emulates a true disk drive.

BOB11.SX, BOB12.SX, EXPRESS50.SX, SX212HND.COM/DOC, READ.ME

A collection of MODEM handlers for use with various terminal programs and the SX212 300/1200 baud modem. (which is still for sale at DAMARK for \$20).

TKFREEZE.DOC

A textfile describing the latest version of "the FREEZER". This is a switch and accompanying logic to allow an ATARI XL/XE system with a ramdisk to be rebooted while retaining the contents of the memory chips.

SIDE 2

This side is dedicated to some recent additions to the large library of utilities and macros for use with TEXTPRO version 4.5x. Thus the reminder about the TEXTPRO version 4.56f that is available.

Game Review: by Rich Mier

Alternate Reality,
The City

Graphics-----8	Sound/Music----10
Playability-----6	Overall-----9

Alternate Reality, is the first in a would have been series of games that had an unfortunate end with the second part, the Dungeon. However, what Datasoft could pull out of your "little" 8-Bit will make you want to play on, just to see if you have met up with all the enemies, or heard all the music! Even if you don't like RPG's, I suggest this game.

The Game,

The game starts with a beautiful Intro that tells the story better than any instruction book could.

You have been captured by beings from an alien world, who have taken you to their planet. On this planet the beings have you and a plethora of other beings that can only be described as "Things". Thieves, Robbers, Gladiators, Iaps, Gremlins, and thats not even the tip of the iceberg! (cont'd next page)

In all the encounters you have, you can do many things. There are three different menus, depending on if you have surprised them, both seen each other, or are disengaged. Each has it's own unique options plus choices that all share.

The object of the game is rather simple, survive. This will be hard enough. But should you be fortunate enough to survive a night and a day, keep on, the reward is seeing you character build levels, and get better weapons.

(cont'd next page)

Overall,

I recomend this game highly, it has a "real time" element that is usually foreign to Role Playing Games. The first time you see the sunset it will probably take you by surprise, because, like the rest of this game, it is unexpected.

Hints!!

1) When the numbers are rolling for yor Character, watch for Intelligence, this will be the best you can get, because a Trick kills anything without a second chance (if you hit them)!

2) Start out small, trick only small things, run from the rest.

3) Some people tell you to save alot, I would have to disagree, saving in this game is for when you quit only. One of the bad parts about this game is, if you die, you're dead. (Unless you have a certain program that is!)

4) The best weapon is the Magical Flamesword. The best armor is the Crystal Plate. The best shield is a Magical Tower Shield.

5) Try not to mix potions, they can have hazardous or fatal effects. (A potion of Treasure Finding mixed with anything will create a DEADLY Poison!)

Have fun!!

If you have a game you want reviewed, leave me Mail on SPACE, as Roger Mier, Greyhawk, or Warp 10 as PHLOD, or call me at 636-9625. I'll see what I can do.

Here is this months installment of Wordsearch. This month it is Computers.

Title: COMPUTERS

T F V K I B T Q F J Q U S E V X X D Q I
L Y V R L R E R O D O M M O C J I D Y T
U U A N G J S E F H P T N S D L Q Z L R
U T K Y S U P N E J H A Q A P M O C I D
A R N I K Z P Y Y C P G L S D T L A V E
R G X E A S C A D M B I Q V R R F R E L
M A G M F Z S C I N N T C R S I D O F P
U A U Y R R E P S S A N H R M C B O T P
S Y C P R G V I B P K T Y L I L I L Z A
B U K I G G Z P X A S F W D L B B W S R
W M N D N E R X J A T Z V E E D A U O Z
L Z O I K T T P C C B G B B M X U A V A
I F S C I Q U Y W X D D R K Y T Y B V R
Z K P F P H B S R E R I A G P F N C N B
A C E T Y V F Q H A D E T O T S H A U R
U N I S Y S P T K J E M S Y C A Q H P I
N V F K T A V C F G B L D N H G D F K Q
S K H A R S A S R G J W L A P I T L S I
R Y D Q X P P S G W Y T O S Z M T C H G
T G U I W D I M R V Q M G I I A Q M C F

PACKARDBELL	COMMODORE	MACINTOSH	GOLDSTAR
COMPAB	UNISYS	SPERRY	ATARI
AMIGA	EPSON	SANYO	TANDY
ALTOS	APPLE	IBM	

Here is the solution to the September Wordsearch:
Title: Cities

L U A P T N I A S - - - - - A - -
- - - - - S I L O P A E N N I M - R - -
- - - - - H - - E - - E - D - -
- - - - - R G - T K - - - L - E - N
- - - - - A - - N A U - - - A - N - O
R - - - - M - - S L I - L - - D - H - T
I - - - L - A - R D - W - U - R - I - B
C - - L - K - A - - I - D - D E - L - N
H - I - Q - E - Y - - P - E - D - L - I
F W - N - B - E - - - - A - R U - S - M
I - A - E - S - - - - - R - A - - - D
E - - T - M - - - - - N L - - - O
L - I - A - - - E L L I V E S D R - - L
D H - R - - - - - - - - - O - - B
W - - - - - S T I L L W A T E R - C - -

WHITE BEAR LAKE	MINNEAPOLIS	BLOOMINGTON	COON RAPIDS
LAUDERDALE	ARDEN HILLS	STILLWATER	SAINT PAUL
RICHFIELD	ROSEVILLE	REDWING	WILLMAR
DULUTH	RAMSEY	ANDKA	

**NEXT
MEETING**

**NEXT
MEETING**

IT'S ...

AN ATARI BLOWOUT

S A L E

OCT 11

OCT 11

SELLER: Nathan Block

Free Disk Just For Coming!!!

Disk Drives:

ATARI 810 (Stock)
1050 (U.S. Doubled!)
ATARI XF-551

Computers:

ATARI 800 (48K)
ATARI 130XE (320K)
ATARI 800XL

Neat Stuff:

1 MEG MIO Light Pen 1020 Plotter
XEBEC 1410A Hard Disk Controller
ATARI XMM801 Dot-Matrix Printer
SpartaDos X (Cartridge)

Basic XE

Mac 65 and Toolkit

Software:

PaperClip (V 2.1) Synfile + XE Magic
SynCalc SX Express! XLent MegaFiler

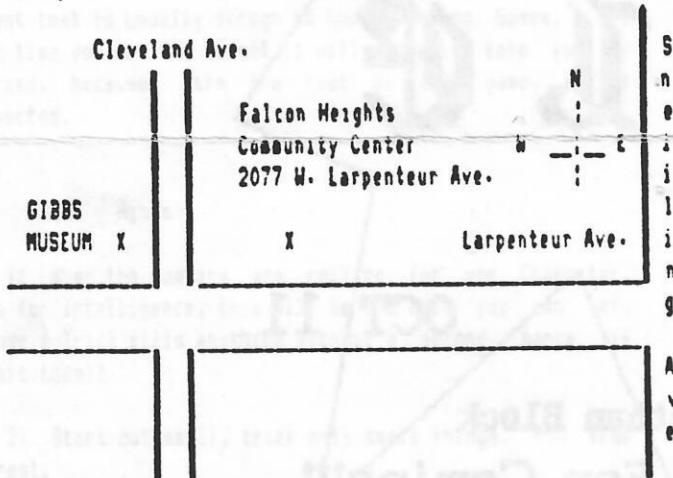
MANY MANY MANY MANY MORE!!!

Magazines and Books, too!

DISCLAIMER

President :	Nathan Block :	922-8012
Vice-President :	Ken Moeen :	425-1290
Secretary :	Pat Krenn :	631-3136
Disk Librarian :	Joe Danko :	777-9500
Paper Librarian :	Jim Schieb :	721-4185
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SPACE Newsletter Editor :	Michael 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.



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