NACC

SNACC MEETING

Sunday, April 2, 1989
4:00 to 6:00 pm

Pizza Palace
Boulder Highway and Nellis
across from SAMS TOWN

4/89

SOUTHERN
NEVADA
ATARI
COMPUTER
CLUB

CB

SNACC OFFICERS

President:	James Marker	451-7631
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8-Bit	Dan Wess	458-2035
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BBS Sysop:	Kelly Hall	453-5562
Newsletter:	Harvey Cannon	459-4089

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PREZ SAYS

Jim Marker
President SNACC

First off I want to welcome all of our new and renewed members. It's a pleasure to welcome you to our great club.

The latest news from Atari is dramatic as anyone who went to our last meeting already knows. For those who didn't attend, here is an quick rundown.

We recently received a letter from Atari telling us about some of their future plans in the U.S.A. The letter also introduced Vince Giammatteo as the new Vice-President and General Manger of Atari Computer Division, welcome aboard Vince.

During the next year Atari in conjunction with Mitsubishi Motors will be visiting Malls around the country, displaying new cars and allowing the public to design their own dream car using the 520 ST, 1040 ST and Mega Computers. Atari representitives will be on hand to maintain the computers and introduce the computers to the Public.

Atari has already begun running 30 sec.and 1 minute spot commercials on T.V. in 25 major cities across the U.S.

From April 21 to 23 1989, Atari is having a convention in Anaheim, California at the Disneyland Hotel. The theme of this show is "World of Atari". Anyone wishing to attend should contact one of the club Officers for additional information.

Now, some news a little closer to home. Atari has contacted Software City about their new campaign to promote Atari computers and hardware and there will be joint advertising campaign forthcomming.

Part of this compaign is a special offer for 8-bit owners interested in upgrading to the ST. By simply taking your 8-bit computer in for a serial number verifcation you will be given a discount toward the purchase of an ST 1040 a Monochrome monitor for $799.00, $999.00 with Color Monitor. You won't have to give up the 8-bit just have the number verfied. An additional discount will be given when you show your currnet SNACC membership card. It pays to be a SNACC member.

For more information contact Software City at 737-8811 also try their BBS at 737-0353.

P.S. When this newsletter goes to print I'll be in Mazatan man. Sitting on the beach soaking up the sun (and ???). So for now and until next month Addios.

Jim

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SXExpress

Atari Corporation has stopped shipping SXExperss!, for use with the SX-212 modem. Atari Customer Service was not aware of why at this time.

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DATAQUE UPDATE

For those not familiar with the Turbo-816, it is an adapter board for the Atari XL/XE computers, which replace the existing 6502c 8-bit processor, with a new 16-bit central processor unit. The Turbo-816 is compatible with most Atari 8-bit hardware and software. With the "Dual-Prom" option installed only a few existing programs have been incompatible. These programs use illegal entry points into the Atari OS and are not compatiable with the Turbo-OS.

The Turbo-816x will come as a kit with everything needed, although for certain installations some additional items will be necessary. Things like IC sockets, a toggle switch, wire, and solder. Tools to install a Turbo-816x include a phillips screwdriver, soldering iron, desoldering tool/solder wick, possibly a pair of plyers, and a flat bladed screwdriver.

This kit has a suggested price of $159.95, but will be sold factory direct initially for $119.95, plus $4.05 shipping/handling.

Due to the additional PROM in the 1200XL the Turbo-816x/12 is $10 additional.

Several hardware devices planned for the Turbo-816 line. Currently being developed or investigated are:

Version for the 400/800 computers
Static Memory Board (32k-256k)
Program ROM board (32k-256k)

Dynamic Memory board (256k-4meg)
80 column Video Adapter Card
Advanced External Card Cage
Parallel Floppy Disk Interface

Software/firmware, planned for the Turbo-816 include:

Programmers Information Kit
Developers Information Kit
Turbo-OS Source Code Info Kit
New 16-bit BASIC Language
New 16-bit C Language
New 16-bit Assembler
New 16-bit Screen Editor
New 16-bit Assembly Code Debugger

Many items will be developed according to demand, with price and availiability adjusted to reflect demand.

The Turbo-816x is a small, 2.5" by 5", board which will mount inside an Atari XL/XE computer and connect via a 40 position ribbon cable to the existing CPU socket. After the old 8-bit processor is removed.

The Turbo-OS is a 28 pin PROM, installed either as a replacement for or in addition to the Atari OS. This is determined at installation. On 1200XL's there are two 24 or 28 pin proms. The "Dual-Prom" option is not available for 1200XL's having the 24 pin PROMs.

If your computer is socketed, installation time should be well under an hour.

ATARI OVERSEAS

With all the bad press Atari has been given about the short supply of ST machines in the US of A. This message from the ST Report may be of interest to loyal Atariest everwhere.

Conf : ST REPORT
Sent : Dec 2, 1988 at 8:50 AM
To   : ALL
From : BARRY FREEMAN
Subj : Reports UK V US

Hi All.. and especially, Ralph.

I get St Report on average about 2 weeks after release in the UK, via one of the other Forem Sysops.

I took note of the continuing complaints (reasonable) that Atari channels too much stock into the Euro markets and not enough into the US. Ok, so we get (got) a lot more ST's than you did in the US last year..perhaps it's because the demand was higher?

I used to work for the Biggest ST distributor in the UK - SDL - and last christmas we sold about 10,000 ST's of various types. Of those, we had over 600 back as faulty! Not a great percentage, and within expectations. Amiga's do FAR worse..about 20% of all Amigas that are sold, turn out to be faulty.

Now, the demand in Europe is great, so don't push Atari to channel more towards the US, pester them to make MORE MACHINES. Don't suggest depriving a flourishing market (Euro) to supply a smaller demand. Atari SHOULD push themselves more in terms of aggressive marketing.

We still don't get enough ST's to satisfy demand here, and comments to the contrary, I see no reason to expect this year to be any different. There will still be more ST's sold here than Amigas, because the ST is the better machine for GENERAL USAGE. The Amiga has better sound and graphics, OK.. but here, more and more people are choosing ST for business, especially for DTP and Music. If Atari stifles supplies to here, to sell in the US it only aggravates the problem.. Don't Blame Atari for marketing in Europe - blame them for NOT marketing in the States.

I like ST Report a lot - it's by far the most impartial reportage on Atari. Keep up the good work.. and if you wish, publish this with my pleasure.

Regards, and Christmas Felicitaions to ALL FoReM Sysops,

                    Barry G. Freeman,
SysOP, Fox's Den BBS UK.. Fnet 1001

EDITOR:
Since this message was posted Atari has started doing a little advertising and from all indications will be making more machines available to the US user. Lets hope this is a sign of good things to come and that our favorite computer will again become one of the BIGGIES in the world of the personel computer.

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MINI AUTO SHOW MALL DATES

The following dates pertain to the Mitsubishi 'Eclipse' shows scheduled for Malls around the country. There will be 150 total. You may wonder why this information is here? Well, Atari will be there too. An Atari ST will be printing the specs on the car, along with a few other things. There is said to be a drawing for an Atari DTP Laser system at each show. Atari retailers have been requested to contact Sig Hartmann if interested in assisting at any of the shows listed.

MARCH 3,4,5
New Rochelle Mall, New Rochelle New York, Garden State Plaza, New Jersey South Shore Mall, Bayshore, New York Sunrise Mall, Corpus Christie, Texas Hamilton Mall, Chattanooga, Tennessee

MARCH 10,11,12
Dover Mall, Dover, Delaware, Red Bird Mall, Dallas, Texas,

March 31, APRIL 1,2
North Glen Mall, Denver, Colorado

APRIL 7,8,9
Bon Marche Mall, Baton Rouge, Louisiana Town & Country Mall, Houston, Texas Viela Italia Mall, Denver, Colorado Mayfair Mall, San Leandro, California

APRIL 14,15,16
Dutch Square Mall, Columbia, South Carolina Greenbrier Mall, Cheesapeake, Virginia

APRIL 28,29,30
Golf Mill Shopping Center Niles, Illinois

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ST WORLD MAGAZINE Presents

WORLD OF ATARI
APRIL 22-23, 1989
DISNEYLAND HOTEL
ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

ATARI Game Machines, 8-Bit, ST and MEGA Systems
Seminars, Workshops, Thousands of SUPER sales...

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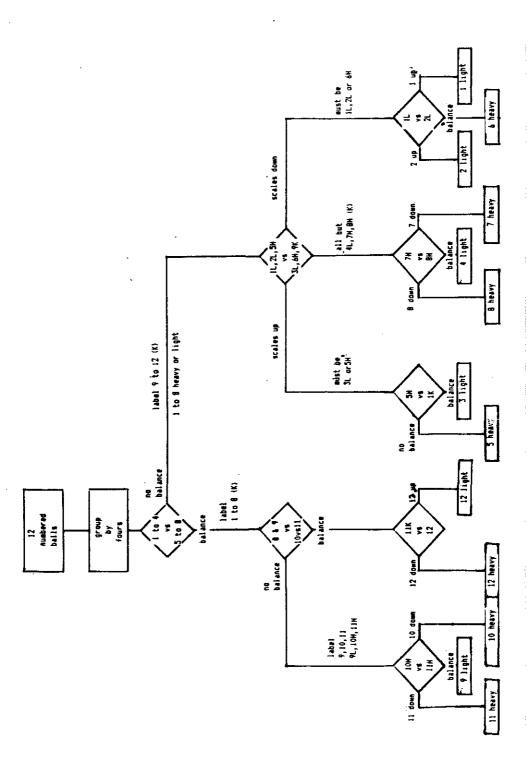
TEASER SOLUTION

SCOTT WOODFORD
SNACC
Ok gang, it's time to solve last month's brain teaser. Before we begin , I want to congratulate those who solved the problem on their own. Good going! I also want to thank Harvey for his suggestion to present the answer in flow-chart form. It's much easier to follow this way.

The problem was to show a method of finding the uniquely weighted ball in a set of twelve, and tell if it is heavier or lighter. Supplied is a balancing scale you may only use three times.

Things to watch for in the chart are the use of "normal" balls as constants, and for one of the tests, balls three and five switch sides. If the scale falls the other way one of these is the odd-ball. Now go ahead and follow the flow-chart. I'll be glad to answer any questions if the chart is confusing.

12 numbered balls

group by fours

1 to 4 vs 5 to 8

no balance — label 9 to 12 (K)

balance — label 1 to 8 (K)

1 to 8 heavy or light branch:

1L,2L,5H vs 3L,6H,9K

scales down — must be 1L,2L or 6H

1L vs 2L
- 1 up → 1 light
- balance → 6 heavy
- 2 up → 2 light

scales up — must be 3L or 5H

5H vs 1K
- no balance → 5 heavy
- balance → 3 light

all but 4L,7M,8M (K)

7M vs 8M
- 7 down → 7 heavy
- balance → 4 light
- 8 down → 8 heavy

9 to 12 branch:

8 & 9 vs 10vs11

label 1 to 8 (K)

11K vs 12
- 12 up → 12 light
- balance
- 12 down → 12 heavy

no balance — label 9,10,11 9L,10M,11M

10M vs 11M
- 10 down → 10 heavy
- 9 light / balance
- 11 down → 11 heavy
- 9 heavy

DOS XE AUTHORS SPEAKS

With the release of DOS XE, to support the XF551 double density double sided disk drive, many of the published reviews have been other the complementary. So when the following message was found in the Hi Sierra Users Group Journal I thought it should be printed as a sort of rebuttal to those less the glowing reviews, my own included. The original message was posted on the ATARI BASE BBS, January 1989.

FROM: BILL WILKINSON

Well... As the author of 95% of DOS XE, I guess I well defend it. Why would you, as an experienced Atari user, want to use DOS XE? I dunno....maybe you shouldn't. You say it looks like a first-year programmer wrote it. Hmmmm... I should let you see the source code just for the message handler. There are about 10K to 12K of messages available, yet they only occupy about 2.3K of memory. You say, "so what... I don't need messages... just give me an error number." Yes... me, too. But now put my 11-year old down in front of Sparta DOS. In 5 minutes he gives up. With DOS XE, he almost CAN NOT make a mistake. You see, one can require the expertise in one of two places: from the user or from the system. If I had it to do over, perhaps I would have given DOS XE a desktop interface... but not in the space allocated to me. (Let me run it on a 130XE..) Finally, what you will NOT see in a demo is all the hidden stuff in DOS XE. Did the person showing it to you mention that you can use batch files yet STILL swap disks in the middle of a batch? That if you are reading from a disk and then swap disks the system complains until you can put back in the original? That you can add disk drive types to the system simply by putting an entry in a table? That user programs can format disks (unlike Sparta, where you must go back to DOS to do so... a real convience when using a word processor) OF ANY KIND? That NOTE and POINT work for random access files (you have to use PEEK and POKE with Sparta). Enough. There is a lot more. And yes, I will definitely admit that Sparta wins when it comes to understanding "foreign" formats. But I suspect that the "expertise/usability" question will go unresolved.. witness the ST, where some people (me!) love the mouse and others hate it to the point of wanting to run PC DOS on the machine.

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(Continued from page 8)
If the original OS and CPU were not socketed, installation will take a little longer. At present only one wire must be added to the motherboard. It connects to an unused pin on the Atari 6502c CPU socket and should the Turbo-816x ever have to be removed, would not effect normal CPU operation.

24 beta test sites are currently in the second stage of testing hardware and software under several configurations.

Stay tuned for more about the latest and possibly greatest mod ever for the 8-Bit Atari computer.

‡ ‡ ‡

EXPRESS (The Cartridge)

Orion Micro Systems of Midlothian, Va. is pleased to announce the latest addition to its product line: The new Express! terminal program in a 64K cartridge. Retail price $69.95

The Express! cartridge is a brand new terminal program written by Keith Ledbetter, the author of the popular Express! series of communication programs. The new Express! cartridge sports 64K of banked memory and is written in 100% assembler language, allowing Keith to pack in features not available with any terminal program for the Atari 8-bit. Even though totally rewritten, you still sense the user-friendly and bullet-proof environment that has always been a favorite feature of the Express! programs. The cartridge will work with any modem having a corresponding "R:" handler available. This includes:
(a) any Hayes-compatible modem used with an 850, P:R: Connection, or MIO,
(b) Atari 1030 modem
(c) Atari XM301 modem
(d) Atari SX212 modem
(e) Supra MPP modem

The Express! cartridge is built around a drop-down menu system identical to those popular on the IBM PC and the Atari ST, and the Atari XEP-80 80-column cartridge is fully supported. When using an XEP-80, the drop-down menuing system is replaced with a text-based 80-column menu. This means you will no longer need two monitors (ie: one for terminal mode, one for the menus). Express! also has a built in full-screen, Action-type text editor, allowing you to edit the capture buffer or compose messages. Other features include cut and paste, line tagging,

find, and search/replace.

The Express! cartridge also allows you to piggyback another cartridge, and you can turn off the Express! cartridge to run the piggybacked cartridge. Or, you can turn off Express! AND the cartridge above it, making the OS think there are NO cartridges in your machine. You may never have to pull the cartridge out of your machine!

DAISY DOT III

Roy Goldman's DaisyDot printer utility series, just keeps getting better and better. And now it's DaisyDot III.

The latest editing features for the DaisyDot font editor are complete. Include are vert. & horz. flips, 4 way scrolling, inverse images, mirrored drawing, adding or deleting columns or rows, flood fills in two patterns, automatic lines, rays, boxes, and circles, options for controlling the the max height for each font and the underline points (indicates how a font will be underlined) and constant X,Y coordinate updates."

One editing feature still to be completed is touch pad support. The author said he has to locate a Koala pad or Atari Touch Tablet before he can complete this feature.

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(Continued from page #)

EXPRESS! CARTRIDGE FEATURES

⟨*⟩ Supports any available DOS, including the SpartaDOS X cartridge.

⟨*⟩ Intelligent and intuitive drop-down menu system, modeled after those on IBM PC's. IBM Turbo Pascal or Turbo C will feel right at home!

⟨*⟩ Supports extra memory of the 130XE or upgraded 800XL's, allowing a 90K capture buffer.

⟨*⟩ Internal SpartaDOS-type DOS shell allows quick access to the most commonly used DOS commands such as erase, rename, dir, type, and wildcard copy and fully supports all subdirectory commands when used with SpartaDOS.

⟨*⟩ Full screen (Action-like) text editor allows you to edit captured text or compose a message without an external text processor.

⟨*⟩ Supports ANY modem with a corresponding 'R:' handler.

⟨*⟩ Works on the Atari 800, 800XL, 130XE, and the XE game machine.

⟨*⟩ Fully supports the XEP-80 80 column card when using SpartaDOS X. By FULLY we mean FULLY! A seperate 80-column menu is invoked when using the XEP-80. No longer necessary to have two monitors hooked up. NOTE: XEP-80 support REQUIRES SpartaDOS X.

⟨*⟩ Supports 300/1200/2400/4800/9600 baud rates.

⟨*⟩ Express's new high-speed screen handler makes capturing text at the higher baud rates (4800 and 9600) a breeze. No more lost characters while capturing text!

⟨*⟩ Supports R1: thru R4: communication ports (great for null modeming).

⟨*⟩ Fully Supports Xmodem, Xmodem-CRC, Xmodem-1k (Ymodem), Ymodem Batch, Ascii and external windowed transfer protocals.

⟨*⟩ Allows running of external, disk-based programs. This means users can write utilities, such as additional transfer protocols, to run with the cartridge (just like the Express Professional BBS system).

⟨*⟩ Supports exiting to DOS without loss of carrier. This allows you to exit the cartridge and run any program, such as ARC, while remaining online.

⟨*⟩ Supports the Hayes extended modem command set (ie: "BUSY") allowing for quick re-dial of busy numbers.

⟨*⟩ Supports 50 phone list entries. Each entry has settings for baud rate, parity, duplex, wait time, translation, and 3 macros and the macros may contain control characters, making it possible to log on with just one keypress! For example, "John Doe^M^Ppassword^M" would output "John Doe" ⟨return⟩, pause 3 seconds, then output "password" ⟨return⟩.

⟨*⟩ There are 7 "generic" macros that are always active, regardless of the current dialing entry that is active.

* * *

SX212 SOFTWARE NOTE

From Znetwire comes word that Atari Corporation has stopped shipping SXExperss!, the offical 8-bit software for use with the SX-212 1200 baud modem. Atari Customer Service was not aware of why at this time.

* * *

SNACC MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Individual membership, $20.00 annually plus one time initiation fee of $10.00.
Family membership, $30.00 annually plus one time initiation fee of $10.00.
Members have full use of the club BBS, disk and printed Libraries and receive a monthly newsletter.
Associated membership is available to those living outside Clark County, Nevada for an annual fee of $12.00.
Direct all membership applications and fees, CHECKS PAYABLE to HARVEY CANNON at the monthly meeting or mail to:

<div align="center">

SNACC
P.O. Box 43628
Las Vegas, Nevada. 89116

</div>

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
SOUTHERN NEVADA ATARI COMPUTER CLUB

Date: _____

Full Name: _____ AGE: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone #: (_____)_____

Type Membership: Single _____ Family _____ Associated _____

New or experienced Atari use : _____

Describe your system:
_____
_____

Special skills or knowledge: _____
_____

How did you learn about S.N.A.C.C.: _____
_____

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NV

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27 MAR
1989

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