NACC

SNACC MEETING

Sunday, July 10, 1988
4:00 to 6:00 pm

Peter Pipers Pizza
Boulder Highway and Nellis
across from SAMS TOWN

7-88

SOUTHERN
NEVADA
ATARI
COMPUTER
CLUB

SNACC OFFICERS

President: Chuck Ferraris   367-2669
Vice Presidents:
      8-Bit   David Scheller   641-8191
      16-Bit   Pete Cahill   451-2617

BBS Sysop: Kelly Hall   453-5562
Librarian: Dan Wess   458-2035
Treasurer: Ron Fred   452-1784
Secretary: Doug Thompson   254-0245
Newsletter: · Harvey Cannon   459-4089

Index

Southern Nevada Atari Computer Club BBS

------------8 MEGS ON LINE------------

ZMag-ZMagST News, 7 Msg-Bases,
Reviews, Library/Database, Hints,
Mods and Lot's of D/L's

BBS EXPRESS! PRO * (702) 438-2208 * 300/1200 BAUD

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Is it too late for the 8-bit? Many people think that the 8-bits are dead. Not only the Atari, but ALL 8-bit machines! The truth of the matter is, the 8-bits are not only alive, but thriving. There are more peripherals out now than ever before, there are more knowledgeable people produceing software that wouldn't even be DREAMED of 5 years ago. There are 8-bit machines breaking the megabyte limit and utilization of memory has never been better. So, before you start selling off your 8-bit think about how comfortable it is to use. Then, when you have dreams of a 12 MHz. machine, look at the price-tag, and remember there's a whole lot of life left in Ole Faithful!!

On to other things... There will be officer elections in a couple of months. So if you want to be an officer, now's the time to speak up!! We are holding board meetings on Saturday following regular membership meeting and all potential officers are invited to sit in. Even if you don't want to become an officer and just want to help the club by contributing your time come to the meeting.... My number is in the newsletter if you have any questions about becoming an officer, or coming to the board meetings..See you at meeting.

                                                    Chuck

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SPECIAL NOTICE

Due to the three day weekend on the Fourth of July the SNACC meeting normally held on the first Sunday of the month will be changed to the second Sunday, July 10, 1988. This way we should not have any conflict with members who may be out of town or spending time with their families during the holiday. This meeting is one of the most important of the year as nominations for next years board of directors will be opened. Everyone should plan to attend. Remember its your club and your voice and vote is necessary to keep SNACC alive and running.

STAR NX-1000 COLOR PRINTER EVALUATION

BY BRETT TALBOT 1988
REPRINTED from Zmag 107

MANUFACTURER: Star Micronics America

SPEED: 144cps draft/33cps NLQ.

COMPATIBILITY: EPSON LX-800/FX/MX
                IBM Proprinter II.

FONTS: 8 NLQ - Courier, Sanserif,
       Orator(2) + italic.
       5cpi to 20cpi in NLQ.
       Double and Quad width & height.

COLORS: 7 in text, over 400 in
        graphics dump.

PAPER FEED: Rear push tractor with
            paper park for single
            sheet loading.

CONTROLS: Full controls on front for
          16 functions.

PRICE: $319 List price
       $230 to $280 discounted

The NX-1000 is the next step in the ongoing evolution of the Star printers. Like its Gemini/SG-10 cousins the NX-1000 retains full Epson compatibility with innumerable features and an attractive price.

The NX interfaces with the ST without necessity to reset any DIP switches. Most Epson, Star, or Gemini print drivers already function with the NX. The front, LED lit, controls for font pitch and typestyles are indeed welcome. The four buttons have 14 other functions when two or three buttons are pressed at once.

This is my third Star printer, and seems even studier that my other reliable Star printers. The push type tractor feed is very welcome now that I don't have to waste a sheet of paper everytime I print! Single sheet paper can be inserted into the printer with the tractor paper still in the machine with the paper park function. Line spacing is very accurate, with no gaps between lines when printing graphics.

Color printing at an affordable price

The NLQ typestyles are terrific. My old Star SG-10 had one NLQ font, and the only special effect available was underlining. Any text feature can be implemented in any of the four NLQ fonts. Courier is the fanciest, and is similar to a nice typewriter. Sanserif looks very similar to the font used on draft text. Orator is larger than the others and has two styles: With the first, lower case letters are shown as small upper case, and is very readable, as is the Orator with true lower case, although true lower case looks funny because it does not have true descenders. There are seven colors in text mode which may be used at any time. If your word processor does not support some or all of the printer's features, some are available using text commands imbedded in double parenthesis, this is a good way to activate color in a word processor such as STWriter or Word Writer ST.

- 3 -

(Continued from page 2)

In graphics, over 400 colors may be printed using any Epson JX-80c printer driver. Colors come out clean and sharp, although users should avoid making dark color printouts which will wear out the ribbon and make the colors come out uneven. I find myself modifying pictures in DEGAS before printing. I lighten the colors and change black backgrounds to white. Graphics print quickly in Black and thespeed seems reasonable for Color. Color mode requires that the printhead changes color three times, and passes over the picture three times as well. The NX-1000 now has logic seeking graphic printing, where the printhead passes only over parts of the picture to be printed.

The 8k RAM buffer holds two to four pages of text, and is great if using a modem. The buffer may be turned off and transformed into a storage space for downloadable draft and NLQ characters.

Outwardly the NX-1000's streamlined appearance is much different from the older models, being a brownish grey instead of that white, the smaller size is perfect for a tight space situation such as a dorm. The printer weights only about 10 pounds, compared to the traditional 25, and has the Centronics port on the side! (Yea!) Current owners will concede that a rear port can cause many paper jams. Comparing the NX-1000 to an older model is like comparing a Ford Taurus to a Chrysler K-car! The sticker on the front of the color

NX-1000 has red, blue and yellow stripes that I think look junky. I understand that they needed to make it look different from the non-color NX-1000, but they chose the worst colors.

One reason why I started buying Star printers in the first place was because they took underwood style ribbons. They cost about two dollars and you can flip them to use the second side. Star has switched to cartridges that cost about $7 for black and $11 for color. Another change is the manual, it is much clearer and comes with several color reference cards and command summaries. The manual no longer suffers from translated-from-Japanese-idis either!!!

When compared to other models, such as Panasonic, Okidata, Epson, and others, I found the NX-1000 to stack up well with the competition. It has the most NLQ fonts (that are REALLY different), the most overall features, and is less expensive. The monochrome NX-1000 can be had for about 70 or 80 dollars less, but I find color more attractive for the small difference in price. Some printers like the Panasonic 1092i-II are about 50cps faster, but the NX-1000 is fast enough for me and does everything I want without hassle. I can whole heartedly recommend the NX-1000 over other printer in the $300 and under price range.

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SNACC BBS NEWS

By Kelly Hall
SNACC SYSop

If you havent logged on the SNACC BBS in a while there have been some changes. We are now running the New BBS Express PROfessional for 8-bit computers. This new program is basicly a shell used to load and control the different modules making up the bbs. When a new module is written it can very easily be added and there are new modules being released almost daily, both from using Sysops and Orion, the program distributer.

Currently there are two on line games, Blackjack and Kingdom. Both save high scores for all to view and can be called from the main menu by typing a (!).

Express PRO written by Keith Ledbetter, of Express Terminal programs fame, rivals any ST BBS program currently out, and is designed with expandability and the future in mind.

Due to the format change all previous passwords are invalid. So when logging on enter - NEW - and re-apply. SNACC members will have 120 minutes per day access to the members message base and download area plus unlimited downloading. Public users have 45 minutes per day and a 10:1 download ratio.

Some important things to know about this new system:

[P] Parameters- Controls your log on Status for, E-Mail, Screen Width, and Commands settings. The "Hot-Key" setting will execute commands with one keystroke.

[@] Scan List- These are your msg base Quick-scan settings which lets you select the msg bases to view with the [Q]uickscan command.

The old program asked for your name and password when you logged on. The new program asks for your USER number and password. The user number will be given to you when you apply for a new password. Your password is your own creation and no longer generated by the program. From then on eveything is about the same as the old program. I still have alot of work to do, but we are up and running and just as reliable as with the old program.

Atascii-Toonz and ZMags are now up with Mods & Tips and News & Reviews still to be done. I passed out some of the BBS menu's at the last meeting and will have them with me at all the meetings. Some commands may change as new modules come in so stay tuned for future updated!

With club elections coming up I was going to pass the Job of Sysop along, but having a change of heart I am going to hang in there a little while longer. With the new program being so flexible, it gives me a new lease on the life of a Sysop. See you all at the July meeting!

                    # # #

SPEED UP YOUR XF551

By Bob Wolley SLCC
SLCC Journal May 1988

The XF551 is a great little drive for any 8-bit Atari user. It can format a disk in four different sizes - 92K, 133K, 184K, and 360K. You need a DOS that can talk the right language to use the higher densities, but a number of programs are available to do the job. I use SpartaDOS on my XF551 and it does very well for me, except for one feature that none of the current DOS programs can handle - high speed data transfer over the SIO buss. An ICD USDoubler modified 1050 has the ability to transfer data at about 3.5 times the normal rate. The XF551 can also increase the data transfer rate to about twice the 19.2KB of a standard SIO device, but you need special code to make it run. At some future date, ICD will distribute a new version of SpartaDOS that will allow high speed XF551 operation. In the meantime use this Basic program to patch SpartaDOS 3.2D and use high speed now. The ICD UltraSpeed will still work on your ICD drives and the XF551 will run twice as fast as normal!

To make room for the new code, I had to delete the existing code that automatically configures DOS to your particular drive configuration. Under normal SpartaDOS, each drive is tested for the ability to run UltraSpeed SIO and the result is saved in memory. For example, if you have a normal 1050 connected as drive 1, then the list would show a parameter of $28 for D1. If D2: were an ICD modified USDoubler drive, the entry for drive 2 would be

$0A. These values tell DOS that D1:is to be run at normal speed and D2: at UltraSpeed. This table is generated each time you boot your system and will accurately reflect the hardware you have connected to your computer. I don't change my drive configuration that often and I bet you don't either, so I overlaid the auto-configure code with the XF551 patch. When you run XF32D.BAS, you will be asked for your drive configuration one drive at a time. The disk in D1: will then have the X32D.DOS file patched with the new code and a static configuration table. This means that the disk created will only be valid for one configuration. If you do happen to change the types or addresses of your drives, you will have to re-run XF32D.BAS, or you may change your computer during SIO. Those of you with MIOs - this only applies to the PHYSICAL settings of the address switches in the drives. Don't worry about changing the LOGICAL configuration of your systems.

I did not put a lot of error trapping in this program (like none), so make sure the disk in D1: is one you want modified when you run. This program MUST be run using SpartaDOS since I POINT directly into the X32D.DOS file. If you do not have version 3.2D, this program is of no value to you, so don't bother using it. Once DOS has been altered, the changes will reproduce in each succeeding generation.

ATARI CORP NEWS

SUNNYVALE, Calif. (JUNE 2) UPI

Atari Corp. said Wednesday its founder Nolan Bushnell will renew his ties to the company he created by helping it develop video games for the home entertainment market. Under an "exclusive" agreement disclosed by Sunnyvale-based Atari, Axlon Inc., a maker of toys and coin-operated games, will design and develop "an unspecified number" of video games for two of Atari's three home entertainment systems, the 2600 and the 7800.

Bushnell, chairman of Axlon, founded the Sunnyvale-based company in 1983 after selling a then-struggling Atari to Warner Communications for $28 million in 1976. "I'm very excited at the prospect of working again in the video game industry, especially with my alma mater, Atari", Bushnell said. "I hope my contribution will add to the strong rebound in the industry."

Sales of video games, which slumped beginning in 1982, have recently been rising on renewed consumer demand and a new focus on games of strategy that test wits as well as manual skills. Atari, which claims 30 percent of the video game market faces strong foreign competition, including Nintendo of Japan which currently dominates the U.S. market.

Bushnell was one of the pioneers of the video game craze, cofounding Atari in 1972 with an initial investment of $250 and later introducing the popular game Pong. PAC-Man, another industry hit, was introduced by Atari in 1981.

After selling Atari, Bushnell launched a chain of pizza restaurants and a venture capital company aimed at Silicon Valley entrepreneurs before founding Axlon five years ago.

Michael Katz, president of Atari's entertainment electronics division, said Bushnell's "experience and expertise will be invaluable", "We're anxious for the first few games to hit the market later this year" he added. Atari has previously promised to launch 45 new video games in 1988.

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For those of us who can't keep it together, this change can be identified by the copyright line after boot up which will read SpartaDOS 3.2x, instead of 3.2d.

When using the modified DOS on an XF551, all DD/DS formats will specify the fast skew format. This only has an effect on DD/DS, not ED or SD. Unfortunately, you cannot get reliable transfer using the UltraSpeed sector skew of SpartaDOS, so don't expect that to work. This means there really is no high speed skew format for the SD and ED mode, but someone could build a custom sequence using SpartaDOS. If they do, maybe they will spread it around. At any rate, the DD/DS format runs just fine. Try it, you'll like it.

SMOKE ???

From the Bay Area Atari Users Group
Newsletter

Basic truth, the chairman of the palomar research club, an amature radio group, has discovered what makes intergrated circuts work.

He says that smoke is the thing that makes IC's work, because every time you let the smoke out of an IC, it stops working. This can be verfied through testing.

I was flabbergasted by the thought of it! Of course!, Smoke makes all things electrical work. Recall the last time you were working on that voltage regulator and smoke escaped from it? Didn't it quit working?

I smile as more of the truth dawns. It's the wiring harness that carries the smoke from one circuit to the other and when it springs a leak, it lets the smoke out of everthing at once and then nothing works.

Take the starter motor on your car for instance. It requires large quanities of smoke to work properly. That's why the wires going to it are so large. It's so simple now that the truth is known. Why didn't someone think of this before?

It is so obvious. You can continue to expand this hypothesis by considering this, *(The following thoughts are intended in fun and should not be taken to heart, Editor)* why are circuits made by British firms more likely to leak then others? Things that are British always leak! British convertible tops always leak. British engines always leak oil, British displacer units leak hydrostatic oil. British tires leak air. The British government leaks defense secrets. So it's normal for British electronic circuits to leak smoke.

Now we can understand why everyone thinks that the answer to everything lies in putting smoke dectors all over the place. Too bad we didn't think up the idea for the smoke detector before that other guy beat us to it. Even the smoke detector proves the law about escaping smoke. Think of it, when the smoke escapes from a smoke detector it doesn't work either, now if we could just figure out someway of getting the smoke detector to detect that it was losing smoke by sensing the smoke, we would have it made. Somebody ought to work on that.

Author Unknown

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COMPUTE MAGAZINE DROPS OUT

In a recent editoral change Compute magazine has dropped coverage and support of the 8-bit Atari. This follows closely another change which deleted the publishing of type in program listings. With these changes Compute is no longer of any use to the 8-bit Atari Community and may as well change its name to AppleDor or something equally as usefull.

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```
100 REM ***XF32D.BAS***
110 REM BY BOB WOOLEY [75126,3446]
120 REM 4/18/88
130 REM CONVERTS SPARTADOS 3.2D TO
140 REM RUN ON XF551 SIO AT HIGH SPEED
150 S$(1),V(16)
160 REM 3.2D **ONLY**
170 PRINT"" **This is a Clear Screen
Character**
180 POSITION 4,2
190 PRINT "This program will convert
the DOS"
200 PRINT "file on a SpartaDOS 3.2d
disk to run"
210 PRINT "an XF551 at high speed on
the SIO "
220 PRINT "buss. It will ONLY run using
3.2d! "
230 PRINT "Put the copy of 3.2d that
you want "
240 PRINT "to modify in D1:and follow
the "
250 PRINT "prompts. (RETURN)
260 INPUT S$
270 OPEN #2,12,0,"D1:XF32D.DOS
280 POINT #2,(3*128)+14,0
290 PUT #2,120
300 RESTORE 680
310 POINT #2,(7*128)+99,0
320 FOR X=1 TO 3
330 READ A
340 PUT #2,A
350 NEXT X
360 RESTORE 690
370 POINT #2,(7*128)+111,0
380 FOR X=1 TO 3
390 READ A
400 PUT #2,A
410 NEXT X
420 FOR X=1 TO 8
430 PRINT "" **This is a Clear Screen
Character"**
440 POSITION 0,8
450 PRINT "    DRIVE ";X;is:"
460            PRINT               "
810/1050=============>A"
470 PRINT "           USDoubler
1050=======>B"
480            PRINT               "
XF551================>C"
490 PRINT "    REPLY A,B or C"
500 INPUT S$
510 IF S$="A" THEN V(X)=40:V(X+8)40
520 IF S$="B" THEN V(X)=10:V(X+8)10
530 IF S$="C" THEN V(X)=40:V(X+8)16
540 NEXT X
550 POINT #2,(11*128)+42,0
560 FOR X=1 TO 1
570 PUT #2,V(X)
580 NEXT X
590 RESTORE 700
600 FOR X=1 TO 54
610 READ A
620 PUT #2,A
630 NEXT X
640 POINT #2,(11*128)+117,0
650 PUT #2,96
660 CLOSE #2
665 PRINT "    ALL DONE!"
670 END
680 DATA 32,167,230
690 DATA 32,194,230
700 DATA 172,1,3,185,158,230,201,16
710 DATA 208,8,173,2,3,9,128,141
720 DATA 59,2,185,150,230,141,4,2,10
730 DATA 76,30,229,172,1,3,185,158
740 DATA 230,201,16,208,11,72,173,2
750 DATA 3,201,35,104,176,2,169,40
760 DATA 141,4,2,210,76,9,229
```

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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 Ron Fred at the monthly meeting or mail to:

<div align="center">

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

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ELECTION TIME IS HERE

As required by in the SNACC Constitution and By-Laws, it's that time of year when we as members of The Southern Nevada Computer Club elect a new set of officers to lead our club thru the coming year. Any regular member, in good standing, may hold a club office. Nominations will be opened at the next regular meeting -(July 10, 1988)- and elections will be held during the August meeting, with the new board taking office effective in September. Nominations will be accepted for the following offices:

> President
> Vice President 8-bit
> Vice President 16-bit
> Secretary
> Treasurer

Appointed Board Positions:

> Software Librarian
> BBS Officer
> Newsletter Editor

Make your nomination at the meeting or give it to any current board member before the August meeting. For SNACC to continue as a viaiable ATARI users group we must have the participation of the members and that means having a board of directors choosen by you the members. Make you voice heard and run for or nominate someone for next years board.

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S.N.A.C.C. Ⓥ

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1986
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