

SNACC

SOUTHERN
NEVADA
ATARI
COMPUTER
CLUB

SNACC MEETING

Sunday, September 4, 1988
4:00 to 6:00 pm

Peter Pipers Pizza
Boulder Highway and Nellis
across from SAMS TOWN

9-88

SNACC OFFICERS

President:	James Marker	
Vice Presidents:		
8-Bit	Doug Thompson	254-5024
16-Bit	David Scheller	641-8191
Secretary:	Charles Kelley	
Treasurer:	Harvey Cannon	459-4089
Librarians:		
8-Bit	Dan Wess	458-2035
16-Bit	Sid Kenne	435-6681
BBS Sysop:	Kelly Hall	453-5562
Newsletter:	Harvey Cannon	459-4089

Index

New SNACC Board	1
Disk Drive Repair.....	2
Joysticks	3
ICD Update	4

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

NEW SNACC BOARD

The August meeting and elections are a thing of the past and SNACC now has a new set of officers. For anyone who wasn't there here they are:

President:	James Marker
Vice Presidents:	
8-Bit	Doug Thompson
16-Bit	David Scheller
Secretary:	Charles Kelley
Treasurer:	Harvey Cannon
Librarians:	
8-Bit	Dan Mess
16-Bit	Sid Kinne
BBS Sysop:	Kelly Hall
Newsletter:	Harvey Cannon

James Marker, although a relatively new club member has been an Atari user for 2 or 3 years and has expressed an interest in helping the club to grow and return to its earlier status and size. Welcome aboard Jim.

Doug Thompson will be the new 8-Bit Vice president after having served the club as secretary during the last year.

Dave Schuller (STud cowboy) having upgraded to an ST will serve as 16-Bit Vice president.

A new face for this term, Charles Kelley, will be the club secretary. Charles may be known to many of you as the author of many interesting and timely newsletter articles.

As you can see we've added a new office for the 1988-89 year, a 16-Bit Librarian. It was decided that with the amount of 16-Bit information available this would allow us to better support our 16-Bit members and if enough interest is shown a 16-Bit Disk of the month will be produced. Welcome also to Sid Kinne

Not to be left out are a couple of left overs from the previous administration. Harvey Cannon in addition to newsletter editor will be taking over as club Treasurer. Dan Mess will remain as the 8-Bit librarian keeping us supplied with his outstanding DOMs and last but not far from least Kelly Hall will remain the SNACC BBS sysop. Hang in there Kelly!

To new and the old we thank you for your interest and hope the new year is as productive as the last.

Editor

DISK DRIVE PRESSURE PAD REPAIR

The Goofy Guru

The GOOFY GURU could have avoided a lot of problems if he had known about this trick before losing a 1050 disk drive to a less than ethical mail order repair shop.

When the pressure pad on you disk drive goes bad you begin having all sorts of read/write error problems. Yet one minor part of a product found on more desk tops than IBM can supply the perfect repair solution.

The product in question is a BIC pen. Now don't get cheap and use just any old pen you have laying around. You want a new BIC ball point pen. One that hasn't been chewed on yet, chewing will ruin the part you want. You are going to use the little piece (plug) that covers the end opposite the point. It's the perfect size for replacing the pressure pad of just about any single sided disk drive. Just press fit it into the pressure bar on your drive after removing the old pad and no more read/write errors.

The only problem should be with a, Tandon mechanism, 810 drive.

You need to drill a small, 1/8 inch, hole in the same position as the old pad. When drilling this hole place a small board under the pressure arm to protect the drive head, and be careful not to drill to deep. You could also use a small knife to expand the pad hole.

Most drives including the Trak, Indus, MPP 810s, 1050s and etc., already have a hole where the original pad was fitted. What makes this repair possible is a change in the plastic plug on newer BIC pens. You need a fairly hard plastic that won't gouge holes in your disks and is pretty close to the pad originally installed.

A small problem like this could lead to you having to send your drive away for repairs, whereas simply removing the cover and opening the drive is usually more trouble than this repair. Just keep in mind that the cover on Indus and Percoa drives slides off, while most others usually pull off in two halves.

Charles Kelley
! ! !

Business Cards • Envelopes • Letter Heads
Rubber Stamps • Invoices • Binding

FAX
Service
(702) 367-6245
(702) FOR-MAIL
24 HOUR

- Reductions
- Enlargements
- Color Ink Copies
- Collation

Kim's Service Center
3500 Wynn Rd. at Spring Mtn.
Las Vegas, NV 89103

(702) 364-2275
(702) 364-2211
JOHN Y. KIM - Owner

Doug Thompson
SNACC 8-bit VP

We all know that many different models of joystick are available. With many different styles and features. I check out each new model before buying and now own several. In the next few paragraphs I'm going to tell you about five I've tried.

The first joystick most Atari owners own is the standard Atari. As I see it, it was the trend setter. They have a square base, one fire button and a stick in the middle. The price for one of these classics is \$5.00 to \$10.00 depending on where you get it. Unability is like the name says Standard.

Next is the big brother of the standard, the Atari Pro-line. With two fire buttons, a shorter control handle and incorporating a steel rod for improved strength, better performance and reliability. It also has a slimmer design for more comfort and a longer cable for better mobility. The price of this seriously improved joystick is \$13.00. If you take your games seriously this is a good choice at a good price and is the one to get.

The Black Max, by Mico I don't like how it feels, it's as if I bought it at a model store and put it together myself. For a Mico product it's very disappointing and overly expensive at \$20.00. I don't have this one any more, but if you like having a fire button and a trigger on the handle it's ok. rated as the worst of the lot.

Another one by Mico, and more to what I expected is the Mico Command Control Super 3-way. You get three of Micos most popular arcade handles the ball, the bat, or the grip to choose from. All made to slide on and off the metal shaft with ease. You have a choice of using one or both fire buttons on the stick or the base. The Command Control is made very tough like the sticks Mico makes for arcade machines. It has leaf switches, and a rubber diaphragm in the base which make it a real survivor. The price of this toughie is only \$25.00, not bad for a joystick that may outlive you.

My favorite is the Epyx 500XJ. The 500XJ scores higher, faster and easier than any joystick made. It has a base that fits the palm of your hand like a glove with a trigger finger fire button for more speed. And it's strong, with a steel rod in the stick, micro switches for long life and accuracy and the base is strong hard plastic for long life. The price of this hot-rod performance-stick is only \$15.00, and the best buy of all.

Some other joysticks available are: Point Master by, Diskwasher. The Boss by Mico. The Slik Stik, Starfighter, Tac 2,3 and 5 by Suncom.

Well there it is. I hope it helps you decide which joystick to buy next. So stick with it, and happy controlling.

ICD UPDATE

NOTICE to all 8-bit Atari Users:
Downloaded from Zmag 119

This is a report of the progress of the much anticipated SpartaDOS X.

As of 8/11/88 SpartaDOS X (SDX) is 99% completed. Over the next few days we will be finishing the new MENU and tying up a few loose ends. We still have much work to complete on the manual but we expect to be shipping in September. Outside beta testers have been working with SDX for almost 1 month and it has been thoroughly tested in house much longer than that.

SDX includes 64K of the tightest machine code ever written. This is all in our special X cartridge which allows you to plug a language cartridge into the top. SDX has complete control over this cartridge allowing it to turn it on and off as desired.

SDX offers the most free memory of any available DOS! Presently MEMLO can be as low as \$0E22 with no handlers installed in an extended memory machine like the 130XE. 64K machines have MEMLO at \$12D1. Of course handlers push MEMLO up but MEMLO should still be lower than SpartaDOS 2.3!

High Speed data transfer is standard on stock Indus GT drives, Atari XF551 drives, US Doubler enhanced 1050 drives, and Happy 1050 drives. All densities are supported (single, dual, and double) single and double sided drives are supported from 40 to 80 tracks, 3 1/2, 5 1/4, and 8".

Hard drives on our Multi I/O are handled with ease! The files per directory limit has been increased to 1424 files! Support has been added for hidden files along with an archive bit for backup.

SpartaDOS X now also supports the old 800 computer! An Axlon compatible RAM upgrade is required for it to be useful but it will actually work in a 48K machine with BASIC and other relocatable languages. With an AXLON type RAM board, MEMLO is below \$1000! A 48K stock machine will have a MEMLO just above \$3000.

SpartaDOS X batch files now support parameter passing. 16 I/O channels are now included! 9 drive support allows D9: as a RANDISK. Up to 1 MEG Randisks are supported as long as they conform to 'standard' banking methods.

ICD has developed ARC as part of SpartaDOS X! This is very close to the IBM version 5.22 of ARC by SEA. Many of the X cart routines are used for exceptional speed. SDX ARC is the fastest and most efficient file compactor available on an 8-bit computer. As a bonus, our ARC will De-ALF your ALFed files!

Editor: ICD continues to support the 8-Bit Atari. So don't let them down give them our support in return.

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:

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

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.:

This newsletter is published monthly by the Southern Nevada Atari Computer Club, SNACC. An informal association of individuals not affiliated with the ATARI Corp., or any other commercial organization. Any logos, trademarks or company names are used either with permission or as a way of referring to a product or organization. Articles published herein do not necessarily represent the opinion of SNACC or its members. Any article may be reprinted if proper credit is given the author and club unless otherwise noted.



SOUTHERN NEVADA ATARI COMPUTER CLUB
P.O. BOX 43628
LAS VEGAS, NV 89116