

# VCS UPDATE...

by Lee Pappas

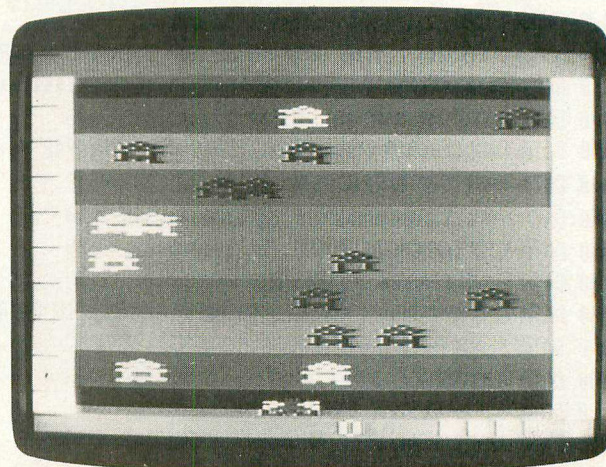
Last issue several new titles for the ATARI™ VCS\* were announced. I have officially lost track as to how many cartridges are now available, nor do I have any idea as to the exact number of games that will be available in the coming months, because there are so many being released. Here is a partial listing of the game programs announced at the summer Consumer Electronics Show in Chicago this past June. Even more astonishing than number of games in production are the myriad of new (and old) companies now producing all of these cartridges.

Soon to be available from ATARI is DEMONS TO DIAMONDS, a kids game designed to increase hand/eye coordination. MATH GRAND PRIX allows children to solve math problems to move their cars around a track. BERZERK is a very good representation of the arcade robot chase game. Transferred over from the home computers, STAR RAIDERS also works well on the VCS. What's really neat about this game is the inclusion of a small, angled control panel with dedicated "buttons" for the galactic map, computer, etc. List price on STAR RAIDERS and BERZERK is \$39.95. Also from ATARI come enhanced versions of HOMERUN and FOOTBALL. HOMERUN is now called BASEBALL — and neither game resembles its previous version. The graphics are very impressive for the 5-year-old VCS. Other games previewed at CES were FROG POND, VOLLEYBALL, a new updated COMBAT, RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK, and ADVENTURE I and II. I have to admit that the graphics on most of these new games are very well done!

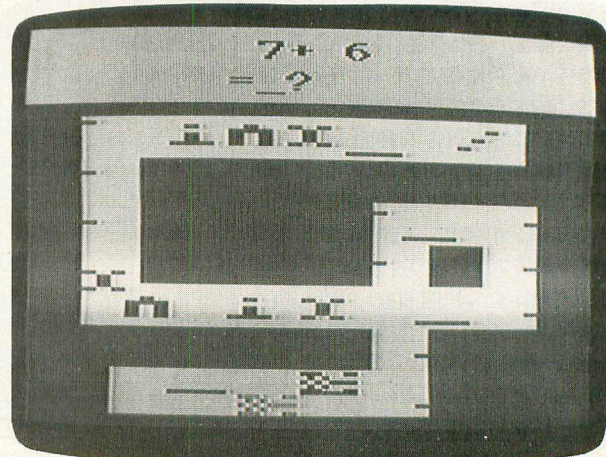
A new company to the VCS market, ARCADIA, has a new approach to the ATARI home game system. A master cartridge plugs into the VCS console, and the software is loaded from cassette. The initial cost of the master cartridge is \$69.95, while the cassettes are priced at \$14.95. The first three titles announced are FIREBALL, COMMUNIST MUTANTS FROM SPACE, and PHASER PATROL. Plans for 1983 are for the release of three new games per quarter.

From the old standby, ACTIVISION, comes MEGAMANIA and PITFALL. In MEGAMANIA you fight off wave after wave of weird objects. Weird...like enemy hamburgers, rotating bow-ties, and cosmic dice. Seek out ancient civilizations in the jungle in PITFALL as you swing through trees, jump pits, and try to avoid cobras and other unfriendly types. These two games follow STARMASER and

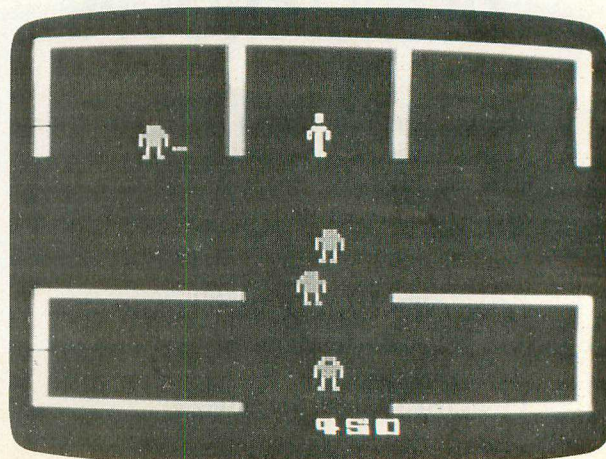
CHOPPER COMMANDER, the latter one of my favorites on the VCS (Thanks, Activision).



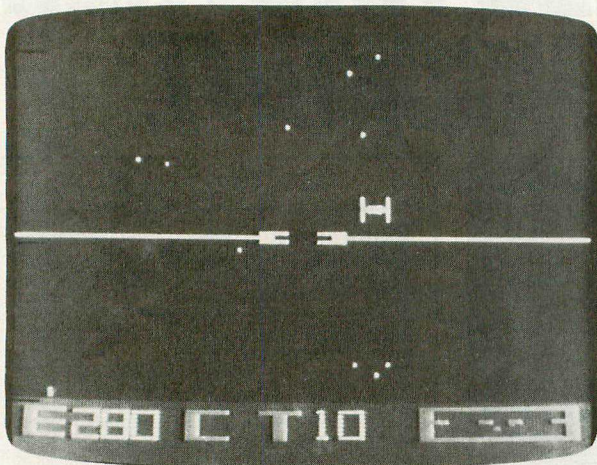
DEMONS TO DIAMONDS™



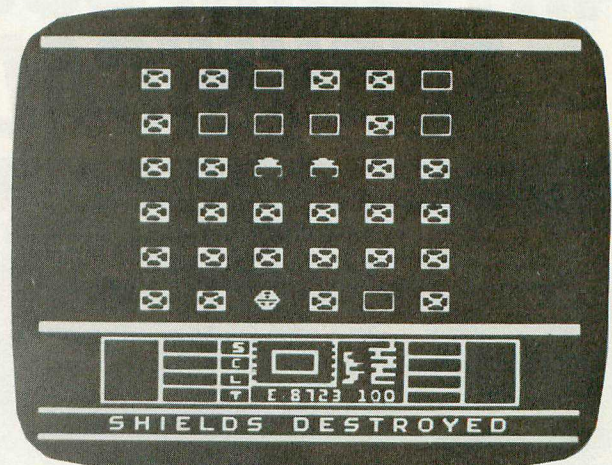
MATH GRAND PRIX™



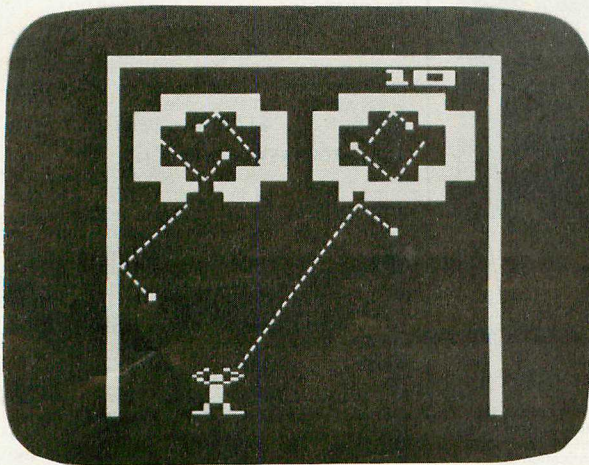
BERZERK™



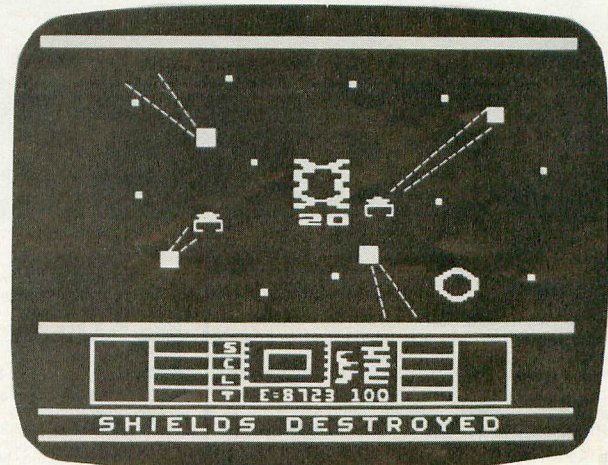
STAR RAIDERS™



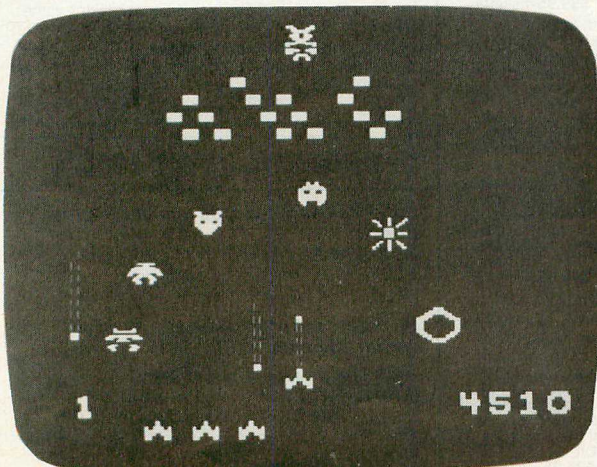
PHASER PATROL™



FIREBALL™



PHASER PATROL™



COMMUNIST MUTANTS FROM SPACE™

SPECTRAVISION is a new company with several new games, including PLANET PATROL and GANGSTER ALLEY. Both games have interesting concepts and nice graphics and sound.

Even 20th CENTURY FOX is getting in on the act with DEADLY DUCK, BEANY BOPPER, FAST EDDIE, and WORM WAR I. The games ideas are good, although the graphics are not up to par with

many of the other competitors now entering the field.

TIGER Electronic Toys has a new division, TIGERVISION, that (you guessed it) manufactures VCS games. Their new games are RIVER PATROL, MARAUDER, KING KONG, JAWBREAKER, and THRESHOLD. The latter two are licensed from On-Line Systems and have been adapted to the VCS. Intelligently, Tigervision didn't try and rewrite the games, but changed them completely while keeping the basic concepts of the games.

IMAGIC, hot on the heels of DEMON ATTACK, has announced SPHINX, COSMIC ARK, ATLANTIS, and FIRE FIGHTER; all with great graphics and sound. Incidentally, DEMON ATTACK will be available for the ATARI computers shortly.

US GAMES also has several new releases, and COLECO's games will soon hit the market, along with their new video game console. Mattel (makers of Intellivision) will shortly be releasing their new cartridges adapted to the ATARI unit. (Take that, George Plimpton!)

If these games aren't enough to satisfy your game habit, time will tell how many cartridges will be available this time next year! □

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