

# fun club news

Spring 1984

# ACTIVISION®

## HOT NEWS!

See inside for the full lowdown  
on five great new cartridges



ENDURO



ROBOT TANK



DECATHLON



SPACE SHUTTLE



FROSTBITE



## And ... CATCH A STAR David Crane hits town!



Read all about our new games  
for Atari Home Computers,  
Intellivision and  
Colecovision, too!





## Gosh, what a year 1983 was for brilliant new Activision cartridges!

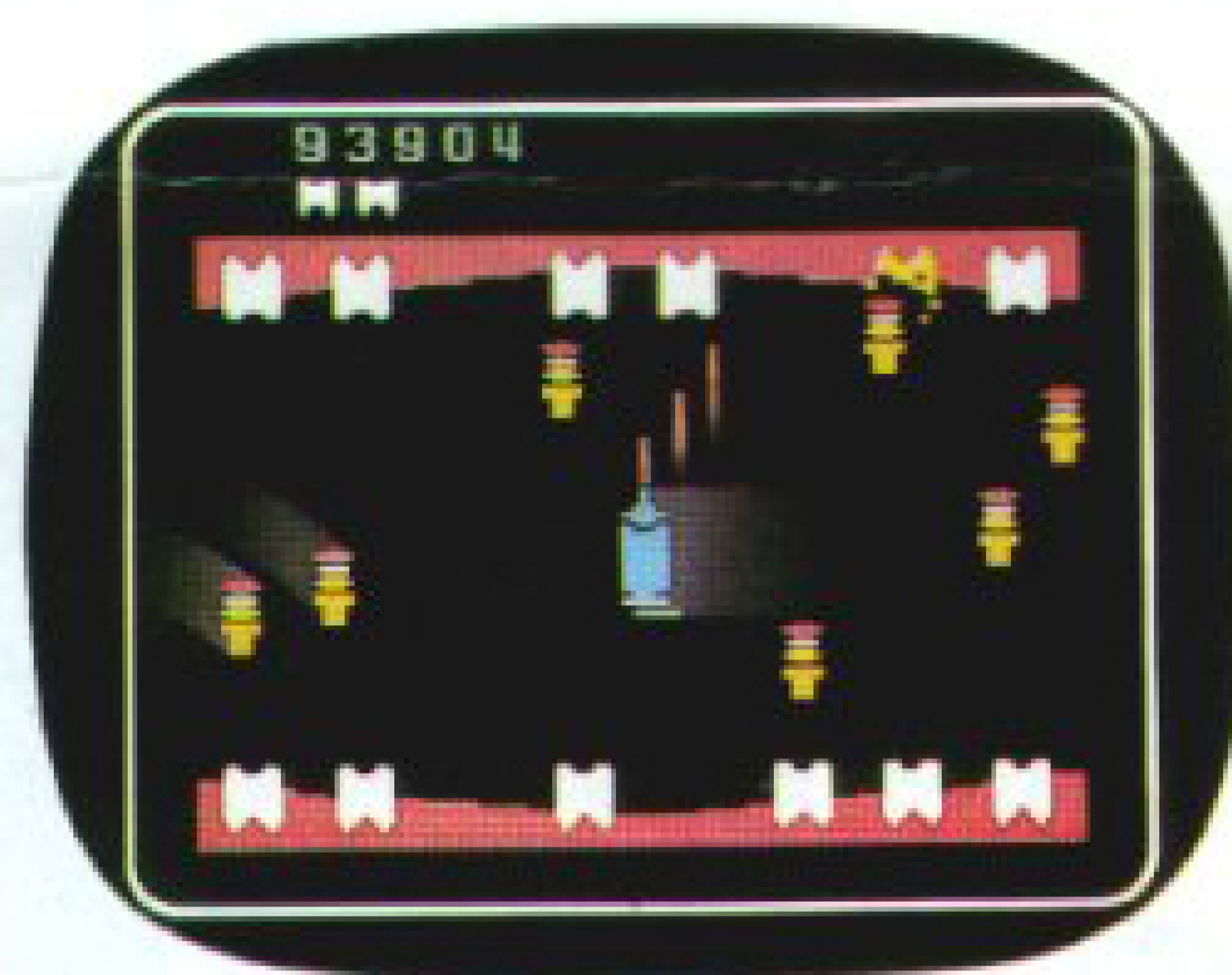
The Fun Club Gang had a ball with all the Activision releases (for the Atari VCS) in the second half of 1983 – hope you did too! If you haven't got round to buying them yet, you should pop down to your dealer and try Oink!, Keystone Kapers and Plaque Attack. They're all really good – and each one's completely unique in appeal and concept: in true Activision style.



**OINK!**



**KEYSTONE KAPERS**

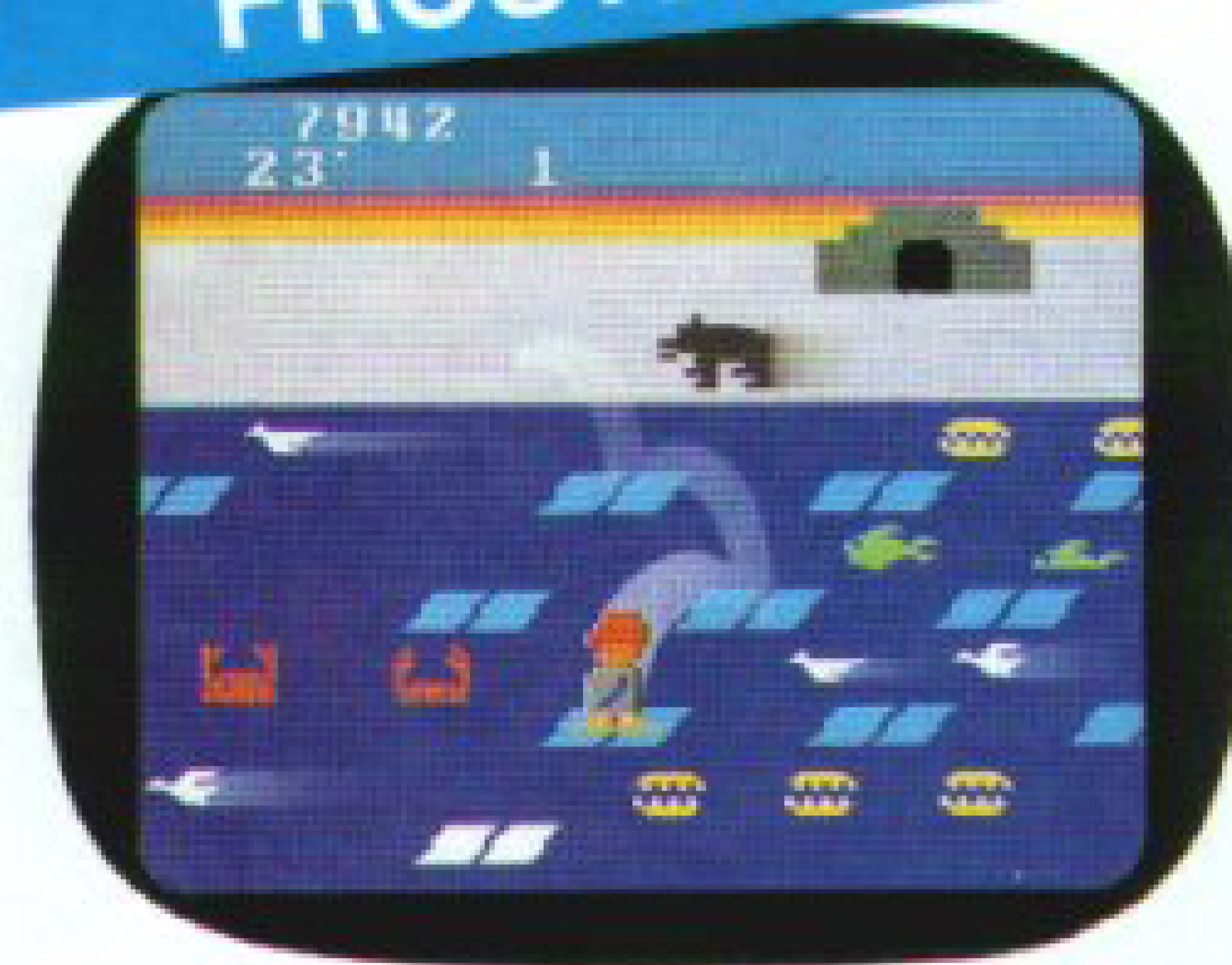


**PLAQUE ATTACK**



**ENDURO**

## FROSTBITE



Frostbite Bailey promises to make the Arctic as popular as Pitfall Harry made the jungle! He's an Arctic explorer who has to build his igloo, and get inside fast – before the temperature drops to zero. But giant clams, king crabs, low-flying snow geese and a ghastly, pacing polar grizzly bear are out to stop him! Teeth-chattering action – from Steve Cartwright.

**For Atari VCS Owners**

Suggested retail £29.95 incl. VAT.

Not just a driving cartridge – everybody's saying it's the best! Race endlessly through snow, ice, fog, scorching heat: from one sunrise to the next. A driving challenge you'll *never* forget, designed by Larry Miller. Wonderful scenes, wonderful colours – this is one of the truly great cartridges of all time.

**For Atari VCS Owners**

Suggested retail £29.95 incl. VAT.

**NEW**  
And here are our late  
**Yes.... 5 f**



# RELEASES

## Best releases for the Atari VCS fantastic new Hits!

### SPACE SHUTTLE



shuttle mission. Blast off . . . check the flight pattern and fuel gauge. Watch the earth disappear. Begin orbiting the planet in search of the six satellites you've been sent to dock with and re-fuel. Again and again you follow the satellites' course. It's moving closer, closer. RENDEZVOUS flashes as you make final contact and dock. Prepare for re-entry. Set the yaw and tilt the nose of the shuttle upward. The atmosphere burns as you re-enter the earth's gravity. Space Shuttle – A Journey Into Space . . . makes video game history.

Activision designer Steve Kitchen worked closely with NASA to ensure all technical details on this enthralling cartridge reflect an accurate space

**For Atari VCS Owners**  
Suggested retail £29.95 incl. VAT.

### ROBOT TANK



Fight a futuristic tank battle in rain, snow and darkness. Radar and damage sensors will help guide you to victory, but battle continues for 24 hours a day. Think like a robot, fight like a robot – and you *may* succeed! Another totally unique concept – designed by Alan Miller.

**For Atari VCS Owners**  
Suggested retail £29.95 incl. VAT.

### DECATHLON



Designed by David Crane, this is a cartridge you just can't get bored with, but you really have to work at it. The faster you can operate the controls, the better you do! Ten athletics events on one cartridge – earn points for each event, the highest total score wins. Run, jump, throw, hurdle, 'put' or vault – these are some of the skills you'll pick up with Decathlon!

**For Atari VCS Owners**  
Suggested retail £29.95 incl. VAT.

## More great games – for other systems

At Activision we never stand still! So we've adapted some of our best and most popular games for other systems. First off the production line are:

### FOR ATARI HOME COMPUTER OWNERS

If you or your friends have an Atari 400 or 800 Home Computer (or an Atari 600), now you can play KABOOM!, RIVER RAID and MEGAMANIA on it. But these aren't just straight adaptations – in every case the action's been increased, the graphics are even more amazing . . . you just try these carts, and you'll see what we mean.

### FOR COLECOVISION OWNERS

For those who bought a Colecovision in 1983 – or over Christmas and the New Year – Activision has brought out two of its all-time hits for *your* system: PITFALL and RIVER RAID. Bold new sounds, terrific graphics, sophisticated action – what more could you want from a video game?

### FOR INTELLIVISION OWNERS

And for Intellivision owners – BEAMRIDER has been added to the stable of Activision cartridges already available for your system. It's lots of fun – space adventurers must ride through 99 sectors of criss-crossed lights to create a gateway back into the universe. Designed by Dave Rolfe, Beamrider is light years beyond other space fantasies . . .





# OUR NEWS— for YOU!

## Our River Raid – Activision takes over London!

When we set up Activision Software Ltd., our own UK marketing operation, we decided to have a party! Actually, in the end, we had two ... because the theme was 'River Raid' – and so many people wanted to join the action that we couldn't squeeze them all on one river craft!

We had lots of fun – hundreds of guests came along to meet Jim Levy, Activision's President (that's him in the shades, going on board), hear about our plans – and of course play all our new games!

We were especially pleased to see a lot of Fun Club Members ... hope you enjoyed the fireworks – for the evening party we actually closed the River Thames and London experienced a giant firework display in our honour. You could say we set the town alight!





## Here at last! DAVID CRANE, SUPERSTAR Meet a top video game designer.

We in the UK were the very first country outside the United States to meet David Crane, one of Activision's most successful designers. We had him over for two days, and for two days we never stopped!

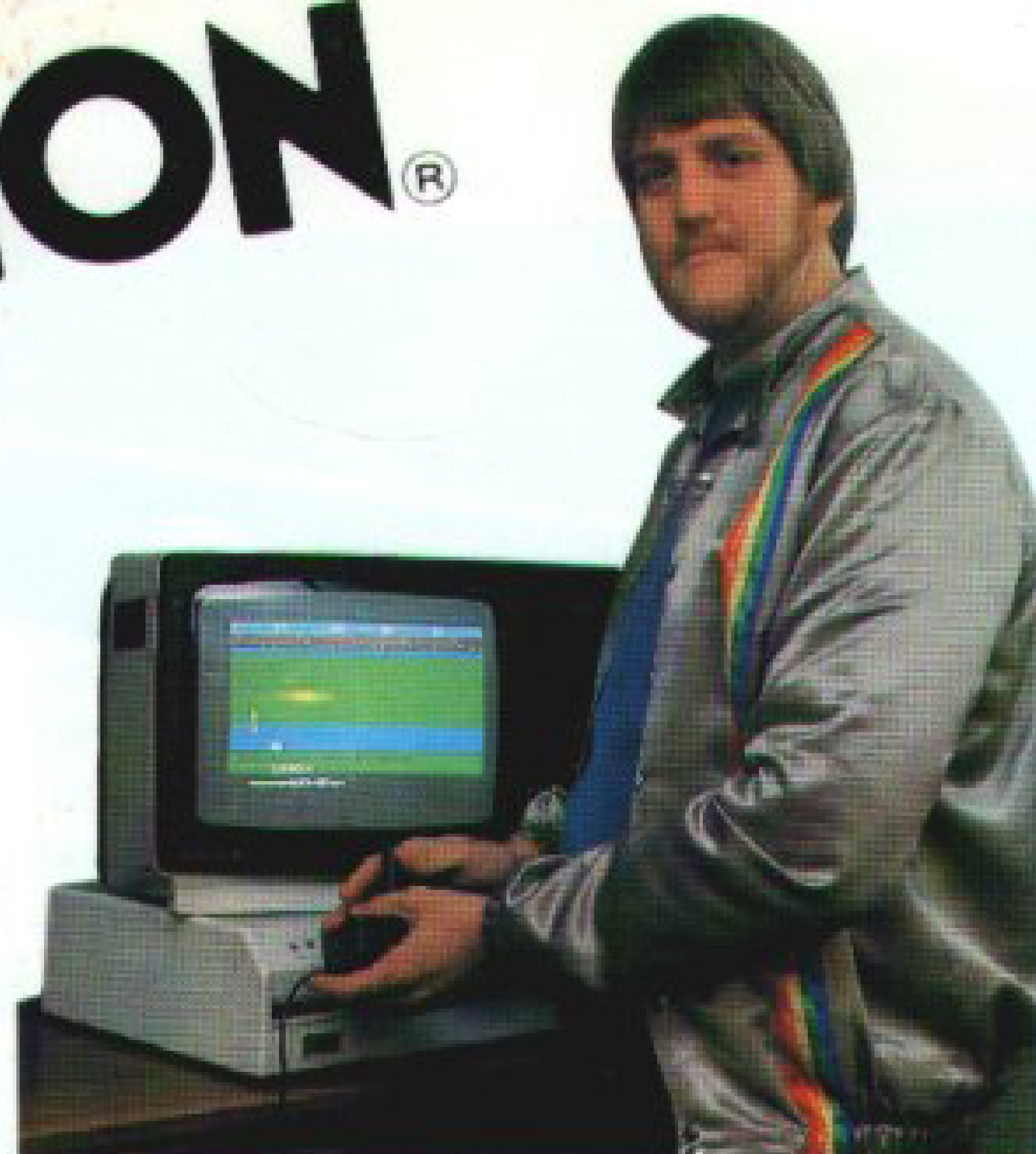
David, one of the world's top designers, is such a celebrity that everyone wanted to interview him – newspapers, TV, radio, and of course the top teen and video games magazines. He kept everyone enthralled with the story of his rise to fame – and got everyone playing Pitfall and Decathlon, which he just happened to have brought along!

For the record, David's only 29 now – and he was lucky, he learned three computer languages while still at school! He evolved his first electronic game at 14, and this Mr Big (he's 6ft 6ins tall!) has designed many of Activision's other top selling games as well as Pitfall – such as Fishing Derby, Dragster and Laser Blast.

David spent an afternoon with our Activision Games Champs – John Barber and Andrew Davis. They asked him loads of questions: they found out it takes between 6 months and a year (or 500/1,000 working hours) to develop a cartridge, and that David receives thousands of fan letters a week – he has a battery of secretaries to do all the replies!

A word or two of advice from David to any of you who think you could make it as a video game designer:

"You must experiment with as many games, and as many systems, as possible. But more importantly, if you are to gain respect for your talents, you must undertake formal training. This means studying things like Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science. And this is the type of job where you must be self-motivated, because no-one can get behind you to crack the whip! If you don't come up with the goods – enthralling, playable games – you're finished."



## WIN AN AUTOGRAPHED COPY OF THE DECATHLON CARTRIDGE!

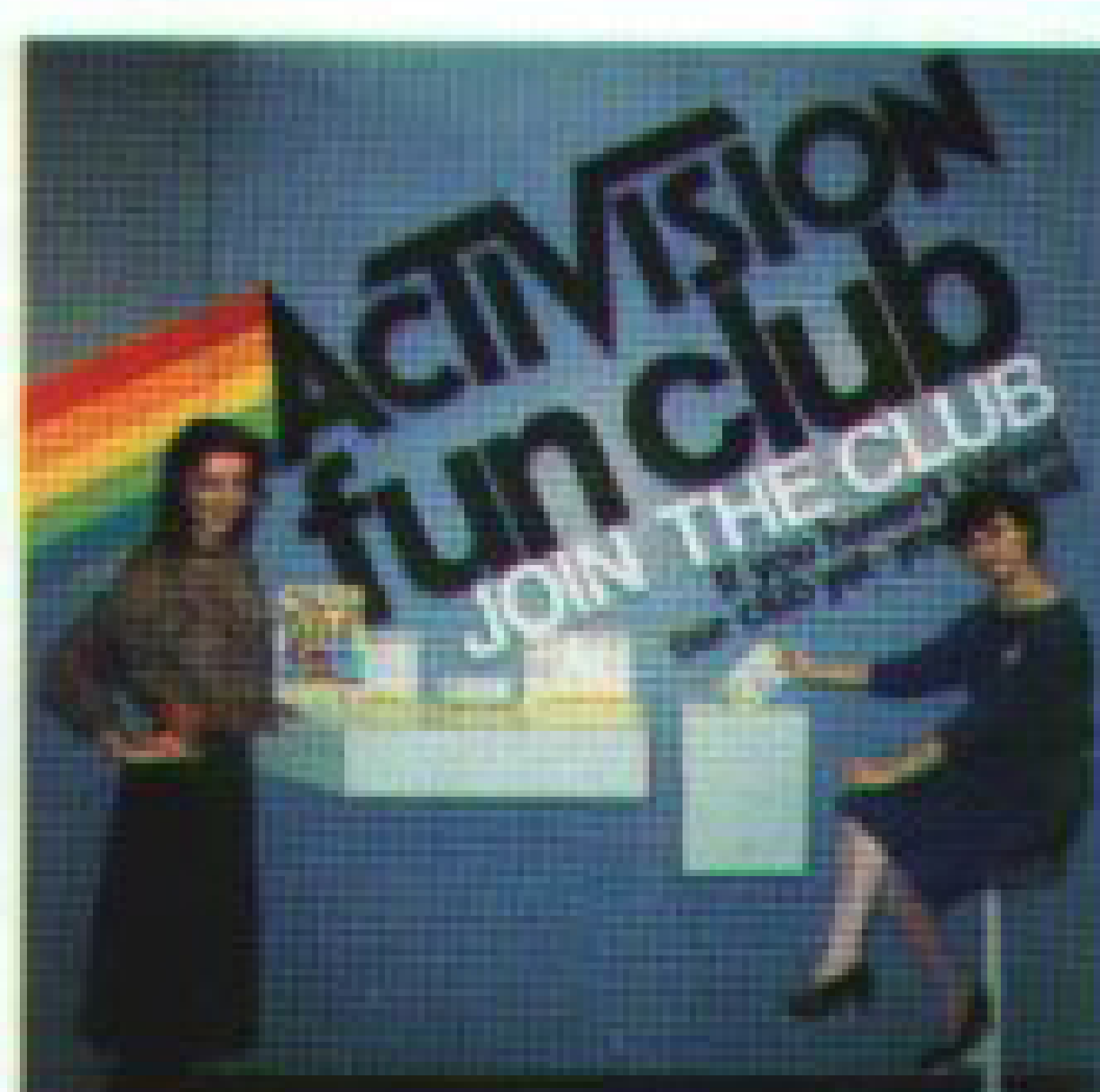
Would you like to win a Decathlon cartridge, which David autographed specially when he was over? Now's your chance! We'll award the cartridge for the best badge design we receive, in a maximum of 3 colours, which portrays the essence of David's Decathlon game –

and of course 'says' ACTIVISION as well. Closing date for entries is 1st post on Monday 30 April, 1984. On your entry also write your name, age, address and Membership Number – and send off to Kathy at the usual address.

### It was good to meet you... at the GHES

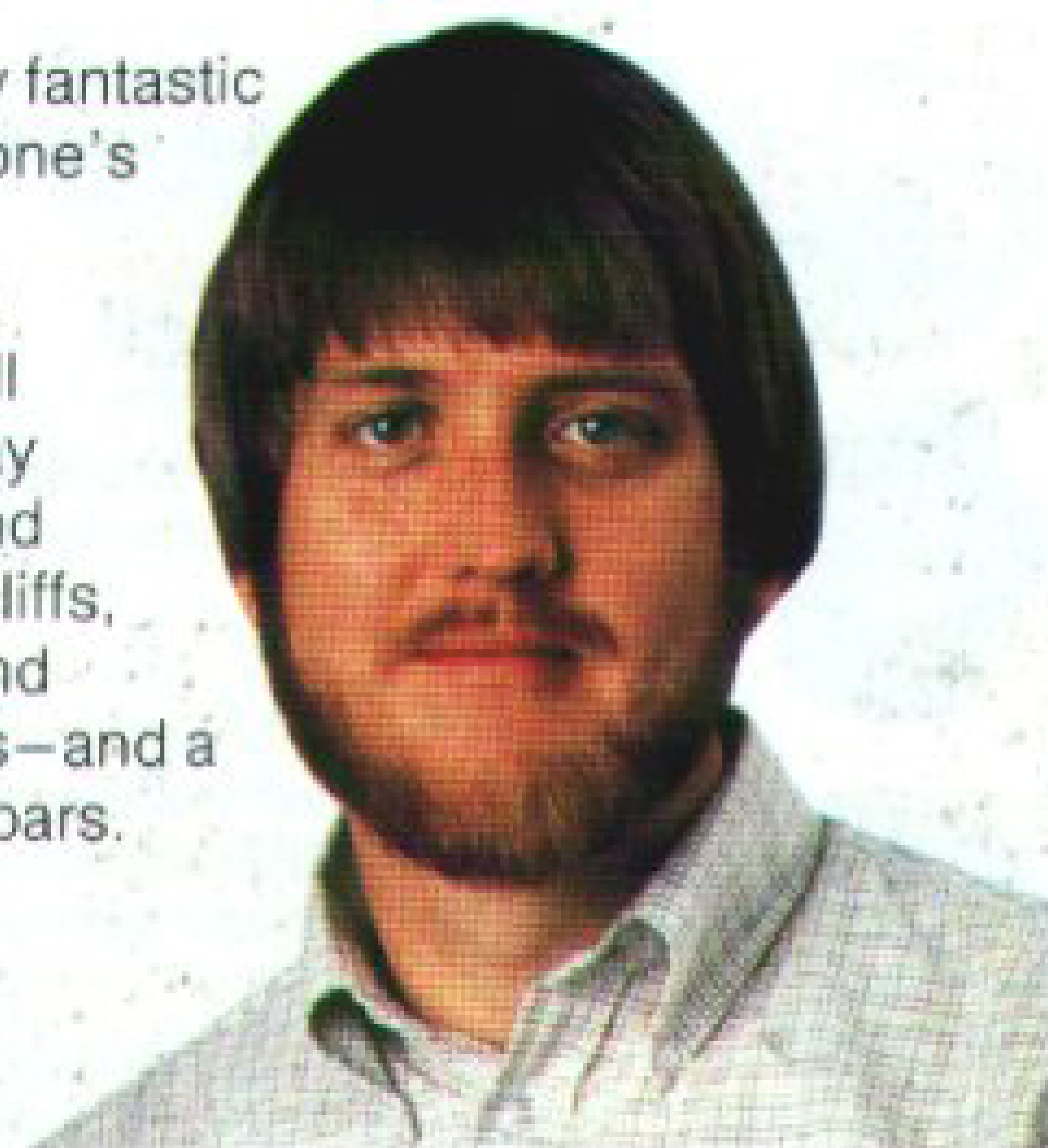
We really enjoyed meeting all the Fun Club Members who came to the Great Home Entertainment Spectacular; and to saying hello to all the people who joined the Club while they were on our stand.

We'll be at other Shows and Exhibitions during the year – so look out for us!



### Have you heard...?!

The word is there are two really fantastic new games coming up soon – one's called H.E.R.O. (stands for Helicopter Emergency Rescue Operation) and the other... well you won't believe this! They say David's working on Pitfall 2 – and it's all to do with caverns, and cliffs, and chasms, and balloons... and albino scorpions, bats, condors – and a rat who guards caches of gold bars. Say no more...





# Members

## Master Gamers – free badges to be won!

You probably know by now that the Activision Fun Club is the only UK video games club to offer a full-scale Performance Award Scheme, which gives everyone who owns an Activision cartridge a chance to win a super performance badge or certificate.

Just to remind you, here's how to apply:

### How to apply for Master Gamer Status

1. Go for a qualifying score, and take a photograph of your TV screen when you achieve it. Ring Kathy at the number below if you are not sure what score you have to beat.
2. Write your name, age and address on the back of the photograph, and send it in to us as quickly as you can. Here's who to write to:

Kathy Leonard, Club Manager  
Activision Fun Club  
7 High Street, Maidenhead,  
Berks, SL6 1JN.

We regret we can only accept Master Gamer claims in writing, with a picture but if you need any advice (or egging on!) telephone Kathy on 0628 26957.

Just one request, please from Kathy: please make certain that your name, address and the cartridge name is on the back of the photos you send in. Sometimes your pictures get separated from your letters – and we have some difficult matching up to do!

### Look at our Scoreboard – You could be a UK Game Champion!

After achieving Master Gamer status (see this page), on any Activision cartridge, your next step is to go for Game Champion! You'll be in competition with every other Activision Master Gamer in the country, and there's no limit to the number of scores you can submit.

We will award immediate Game Championship status, and a personalised certificate suitable for framing, for the highest score received to date on any Activision cartridge available in the UK. It's quite possible you could be a multiple Game Champion – or a Game Champion for just a few hours: new scores are coming in to Kathy all the time, and the Scoreboard is constantly changing.

Follow the same instructions for your Game Championship claim as for your Master Gamer claim – and they must always be in writing, with a photograph please.

## Scoreboard



### DECATHLON

Congratulations to Mark Riley of London who has achieved the Gold Award, with a score of 10,078.



### ENDURO

Gordon Hamilton of Belfast holds the current UK record by 'driving' for 10 days.



### HAPPY TRAILS

Andrew Thomson of St Albans has sent in the highest score to date – 550,566 – on this Intellivision game.



### KEYSTONE KAPERS

Congratulations to B.A. Thompson of Yorkshire who is the first person to achieve a score of 999,999. Well done!



### OINK!

B.A. Thompson is the current UK record holder, with a score of 62,048.



### PLAQUE ATTACK

Another top score for David Ross – who has done the best to date – 77,745.



### RIVER RAID

Congratulations to Martin Lund and Gavin Davidson who have both achieved the maximum score of 1 million!



### ROBOT TANK

B.A. Thompson again – he holds the current UK record, with 64 tanks.

### SEAQUEST

David Ross of the Isle of Wight, has just scored 484,770.



### SPIDER FIGHTER

We received the first maximum score of 900,000 from Mark Dawson of Kidderminster – subsequently we have received three more maximum score claims.



### BARNSTORMING

UK records are held by: B.A. Thompson, Simon Mills, Mahmood Khan – Game 1 – 32.80; B.A. Thompson – Game 2 – 49.98; B.A. Thompson – Game 3 – 52.52.



### CHOPPER COMMAND

Now 25 UK players have joined Lee Etherington and 'rolled over' at 999,999. Well done!



### DRAGSTER

Alan Carter still holds the UK record – 5.61 seconds.



### FREEWAY

Everyone loves this cartridge – and Steven Brown has beaten the UK record, with 36 on Game 3.



### GRAND PRIX

Ray Watkinson and David Ross are both pretty near to the World Record with their timing of 0:29.61 on Game 1. Ray has also broken the World Record on Game 4, with 1:35.38.



### KABOOM

Gordon Keenan and Stuart Taylor have both 'rolled over', and broken the UK record – with 999,999.



### MEGAMANIA

David Ross also became the first person in the UK to achieve the maximum score of 999,999 on Megamania. Subsequently we have received a further 14 maximum scores.



### PITFALL

David Ross and Richard Varnie were the first to achieve the maximum score of 114,000. We have now received a further 13 maximum scores.



### SKIING

Marc Castle of Ipswich is the new UK record holder with 27.36 seconds.



### STAMPEDE

This is a heavy game – top UK score so far is by Sai Ming Wong, at 35,164, on an Atari VCS. How are Intellivision owners getting on – let's have some really high scores...





## HOW TO TAKE A PHOTOGRAPH OF YOUR ON-SCREEN HIGH SCORE

It's easier than you'd think! Just follow these easy instructions:

**DO NOT USE A FLASH BULB!** In most cases the light from your screen is enough. When in doubt, turn on all the lights in the room. Remember, we're not looking for photographic works of art – merely proof of the score you've achieved. Providing that shows up clearly, it's all we need.

**35mm Camera:** there are two methods we've tried with some success – but let us know if you discover another:

1. Use film with an ASA reading of 64, set lens on f22 and expose film for 3 to 5 seconds. Use a tripod.
2. For 100 ASA film shoot at 1/30 of a second using the widest lens opening. Hold steady!

**Instamatic Cameras** – 126 and 110: Insert a dead flashbulb or flashbar as this ensures the camera lens opening as wide as possible. Hold steady!

**Polaroid** – probably the most popular method. Polaroid film has an ASA of 3000 and so light from the TV screen should be sufficient. Hold steady!

## Puzzle Winners

The ten winners of our Word Search Puzzle (in the last issue) are as follows:

Matthew Edwards from Croydon, John Marsh from Brixton, Craig Forrester from Wetherby, Peter Andersen from N2, Peter Osborne from Kings Norton, Trevor Powers from Mansfield, Peter Staunton from Castlebar, Simon Guy from Northolt, D. Sabharwal from Aylesbury and Mark Henn from Highgate.

They've all received their prizes already. Congratulations, everyone.

## Pen Pal

Gary Bond of 7 Swift Lane, Langley Green, Crawley, Sussex RH11 7QZ would like to exchange letters with a female pen-pal (a Member, or a Member's sister?). His interests include computers, sport, going out, travel, etc. Please send Gary a picture when you write, if possible.

Any more Pen Pal requests out there? If you want to write to people abroad, we'll send your names and addresses on to other Activision Clubs round the world.

## Perpetual High Scorers

Kathy and her assistant Lorraine have a little book which contains the names of over 50 UK Members who have obtained five or more badges. We're having a special teeshirt made up for you all and will be contacting you soon for your sizes.

## On-screen pics with 35mm cameras

D.A. Gunn of Burton Latimer got a good result on Kaboom!, and shot his pic with his 35mm camera set as follows (400 ASA film). Aperture set at 2.8, camera set on auto, about 125 shutter speed (on manual). Hope this helps 35mm camera owners.



Racing and driving – always enthralling, always fun!

## Your Letters

Dear Kathy,  
I really must say how I feel about Activision's River Raid, Megamania and Grand Prix. The first, River Raid is my favourite of the three – a cluster of superb colour graphics, excellent sound effects and a startling challenge. Megamania certainly lives up to its rating 'a Space Nightmare', it's also another great game. But the last cartridge (Grand Prix) is the killer, it took me about five hours of solid playing to accomplish Master Gamer status.  
Yours sincerely  
Andrew Taylor, Dudley.

Dear Kathy,  
Who said video games were just for kids? I was given an Activision Grand Prix cartridge for my birthday and I'm still waiting for a go! Can't mothers find other things to do? Whatever happened to the joys of cooking and other household chores? Worse – she's getting better all the time!  
Yours sincerely  
Andy Clarke, Atherstone.

Dear Kathy,  
I think that the Activision Fun Club is the best Club for an Atari VCS owner to belong to. Why? Because what other Club offers free badges, free game Champion Certificates and free competitions? Only the Activision Fun Club. But then you should have the best Club after all you do have the best cartridges, with outstanding graphics and great sound effects. Activision knocks the spots off the rest when it comes to both your cartridges and your Club.  
Yours  
Mr M.A. Allen, SW6.

Dear Kathy,  
Although I haven't been on all the current Activision cartridges, I have played about half of them, and have seen most of the others in action. I must express my utter disbelief at the amazing graphics and detail incorporated within the games. Details such as a shadow of the ball in Tennis, the death march in Starmaster and the skidding sound in Grand Prix make Activision cartridges the best on the market.  
Yours sincerely  
Adrian Evans, Wakefield.

If you've got something to say, write to the Activision Fun Club! Our address is: Activision Fun Club, 7 High Street, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 1JN. Telephone: 0628 26957. Every letter, puzzle or idea printed wins its writer a prize... so pens to paper, everyone!

## FROM OUR POETS ...

We get a lot of poems from Members, and very good they are, too. Ten-year-old Kevin Smith sent us this one:

I think Activision's really ace.  
Shooting spiders or an enemy base.  
In Fishing Derby keep the catch you keep catching.  
Stop the spiders in Spider Fighter and save the fruit they start snatching.  
In Seaquest try to save the divers.  
In Freeway help a chicken to avoid the drivers.  
Help Pitfall Harry to claim the treasure.  
All of the games give enormous pleasure.  
In River Raid shoot the jet.  
For a fantastic experience on your television set.

## A Riddle to try

Thanks to Keith Cartwright of West Bromwich for this riddle! We haven't printed the answer, but if you really can't work it out, ring Kathy or Lorraine and they'll tell you what it is.

My first is in chopper but not in command  
My second is in fishing but not in derby  
My third is in star and in master  
My fourth is not in spider but in fighter  
My fifth is in grand but not in prix  
My sixth is in laser and in blast  
My seventh is not in happy but in trails  
My whole is an Activision adventure game

## ... And Anagrams

These are very clever, and come from Matthew Lilley of Leicester. Sort out the letters into the names of Activision cartridges – the answers are at the bottom of the page:

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. A MAIN GAME | 6. SENT IN          |
| 2. LAP LIFT    | 7. KING IS          |
| 3. SMART TEARS | 8. NO RUDE          |
| 4. DEEP MATS   | 9. BIG RED          |
| 5. AIR DRIVER  | 10. NORMAN B. TRIGS |

1. Megamania, 2. Pitfall, 3. Starmaster, 4. Stampede, 5. River Raid, 6. Tennis, 7. Skiing, 8. Enduro, 9. Bridge, 10. Barnstorming.





# We took them to America!

**Our Champions from the Activision Video Games Pentathlon, John Barber and Andrew Davis, went to the US with their Mums, as our guests, back in the Summer. They had a great time, as you can see from John's letter:**

*Thank you for a wonderful holiday in California.*

*My mother and I and Andrew and his mother were driven by limousine to the Sheraton Skyline hotel where we stayed overnight. Next morning we were given 3M cameras and then we boarded the plane to San Francisco.*

*The first day in America we were met by Judy Siner from Activision who took us on a tour around San Francisco and then to a video games shop where we were given lots of presents including 13 cartridges and had our*

*photographs taken. Then we went on to a huge amusement arcade and Activision paid for us to play on the games.*

*Next day we joined a luxury coach tour to Yosemite which was brilliant. For the next few days we went to different places and stayed at first class hotels. Thursday we went to Disneyland and had a wonderful time.*

*Our holiday ended in Los Angeles where we caught the flight back to San Francisco and then from there back to England.*

*Thanks again.*

*John Barber, Walsall.*

*Our thanks to CGL - who helped make this fabulous trip possible.*



## YOUR ACTIVISION CARTRIDGE CHECKLIST

You know by now just how great Activision cartridges are, and just how much more fun and play value you get by buying them. This is the current list of titles available - if you haven't tried them all, pop along to your local store and have a go!

You'll find Activision cartridges, in most good High Street stores, in Video Games departments, specialist video dealers and a number of the leading mail order catalogues. But if you can't find them in a shop convenient to you fill out our 'Where to Buy' coupon below, and we'll send off the latest full-colour Activision cartridge catalogue and regional stockist list, plus details of how to obtain cartridges by mail order - if required.

Watch for details of lots of new releases - in our next issue!



TO: WHERE TO BUY, Activision Fun Club,  
7 High Street, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 1JN.

Please send me a free full-colour Activision Catalogue and the Regional Stockist List for my area.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (Miss/Master/Ms/Mr)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

FCN/4

### Current Activision cartridges

#### FOR ATARI VCS OWNERS

ENDURO	DECATHLON	CHOPPER
ROBOT TANK	SPACE SHUTTLE	COMMAND
FROSTBITE	OINK!	DRAGSTER
KEYSTONE	PLAQUE ATTACK	FISHING DERBY
KAPERS	SPIDER FIGHTER	FREEWAY
RIVER RAID	PITFALL	LASER BLAST
SEAQUEST	STARMASTER	SKIING
MEGAMANIA	GRAND PRIX	STAMPEDE
BARNSTORMING	ICE HOCKEY	TENNIS
BOXING	KABOOM!	
BRIDGE		

#### FOR ATARI HOME COMPUTER OWNERS

PITFALL	MEGAMANIA	RIVER RAID
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#### FOR INTELLIVISION OWNERS

PITFALL	BEAMRIDER	HAPPY TRAILS
STAMPEDE		

#### FOR COLECOVISION

PITFALL	RIVER RAID
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More fun . . . more action . . . with **ACTIVISION®**

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- for Activision.  
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